



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, November 20, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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### POLITICS

#### **1. Artur Baghdasarian not to take over Aghvan Hovsepian's post [Noyan Tapan, 11/18/09]**

"Information published in press, including Day.az website and Haykakan Zhamanak daily lately, according to which, RA National Security Council Secretary Artur Baghdasarian will replace Aghvan Hovsepian on Prosecutor General's post soon, does not correspond to reality." A report by RA NSC Secretary's Spokesperson Gayane Gasparian mentioned this.

According to G. Gasparian, A. Baghdasarian takes one of Armenia's four highest posts and certainly, does not pretend on lowering of his post.

#### **2. Council of Europe ready to support in process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Secretary General of Council of Europe Turborn Yagland at a press conference after the ceremony of passing the chairmanship from Slovenia to Switzerland stated that the Council of Europe is ready to display necessary assistance to the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey.

"As to the normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey, I can say that if these countries need any support from the Council of Europe we are ready to provide it. In this respect no one has applied to us. The two countries are members of the Council of Europe and this fact is important for the two countries and for the whole process. I greet this normalization," Yagland said, adding that Council of Europe hopes that the normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey will help to the regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

#### **3. Foreign Minister of Slovenia says solution of Nagorno Karabakh conflict corresponds to the interests of all, including Council of Europe [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Foreign Minister of Slovenia Samuel Zhbogar at the ceremony of passing the chairmanship from Slovenia to Switzerland at the Ministers' Committee stated that the settlement of the "frozen" conflicts,



particularly the quick solution of Nagorno Karabakh conflict corresponds to the interests of all, including Council of Europe.

“First I must say that all the “frozen” conflicts, particularly the Karabakh conflict must be solved as soon as possible. “Frozen” conflicts in short period of time may turn into hot conflict thus we must find solution to the conflicts. Council of Europe does not participate in the Karabakh conflict regulation process, OSCE Minsk group is dealing with the issue. In parallel with it Armenia and Azerbaijan must too find solution to the issue,” Slovenian foreign minister said.

#### **4. Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents to meet November 22 in Munich [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev this year for the sixth time will meet November 22 in Munich, in the residence of French consul general, Armenpress reports citing the statement released by the French Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The statement says that the principles laid in the basis of peaceful and lasting regulation of Karabakh conflict were presented to the parties November 2007 in Madrid by foreign ministers of Russia, France and US assistant secretary of state.

The statement also says that within the frameworks of “G8” summit held last July in Akvila, French, U.S. and Russian presidents reminded that the proposals are on the table of negotiations and the parties were invited to come to final agreement over those proposals as soon as possible.

“The presidents’ statement also presented the main elements of the proposals”, the statement, where the 6 basic points are presented too, says.

#### **5. Giro Manoyan: Armenia should declare as soon as possible that it is not going to ratify protocols [Noyan Tapan, 11/19/09]**

In the opinion of Giro Manoyan, the Head of the ARFD Armenian Cause Yerevan Office, no positive shift will be recorded in the issue of ratification of Armenian-Turkish protocols for some more months as the issue is not being discussed at the Turkish parliament, neither the documents have been submitted to the RA Constitutional Court.

In G. Manoyan's affirmation, the policy carried on by Turkey in the region prompts that Turkey will not move forward quickly in the normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relations and will undertake certain steps only on April 24.

In G. Manoyan's opinion, Armenia had better instead of taking a waiting position declare right now that it is not going to ratify the protocols. Estimating the Armenian-Turkish relations in the period after the signing of the protocols he said that there is no progress, on the contrary, a regress was recorded as before the signing the sides restrained themselves and now they have exact positions, and the Turkish side constantly links the process of normalization of relations with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

#### **6. Armenian National Assembly Speaker receives members of the Ago group [Armenpress, 11/20/09]**

Armenian National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received today members of the Council of Europe's Ministers' Committee's Monitoring Commission (Ago group) headed by the Romanian permanent representative in the Council of Europe, Ambassador Stelian Stoyan.

NA public relations department told Armenpress that greeting the guest, the NA speaker presented members of the group the developments followed after the 2008 elections and steps undertaken to overcome the consequences of the March 1-2 tragic events.

During the thorough discussion of the developments of the past one and a half year, the sides agreed that there is a serious progress in the sphere. They also noted that for its consolidation it is necessary to continue the work, encouraging the trust of the people toward state establishments.

The sides also referred to the issue on normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations without pre-conditions.



## BUSINESS

### **7. Till now 3.5 million AMD have been provided to constructors as a budget guarantee [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Armenian government decided today at its session to provide budget guarantees to “Norashen” construction company so that the latter be able to get 500,000 USD credit from the “Prometey” bank to finish the construction works of the block of flats which has already kicked off.

Presenting the bill, Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan noted that in this deal as a loan the building and its territory will be taken. The minister reminded that this is a regular budget guarantee with the provision of which it is aimed to activate the construction sphere.

Referring to this decision Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan noted that the support of the government to constructors is one of the most criticized topics by the opponents. “As if the constructors are our enemies and as if they are guilty for the crisis,” T. Sargsyan said.

He considers the statements that the executive has already directed hundred of millions sums to that sphere absurd. “Till now only 3.5 million AMD have been provided which is a small sum especially in such strict terms. The provided sums do not correspond to the criticized calculations and the means of the Russian credit are not vanishing. We provide guarantee and the banks give money and manage the risks,” the prime minister pointed out. He reminded that guarantee is given only for finishing the already launched construction. Tigran Sargsyan said that besides promoting the construction the government tries to activate the demand in the real estate market. With that aim 12 billion AMD has been sent to the National Hypothec company.

### **8. VivaCell-MTS to have its own fiber-optical network in Armenia soon [Noyan Tapan, 11/19/09]**

VivaCell-MTS and GNC-Alfa CJSC on November 17 signed an agreement that will allow VivaCell-MTS to build its own high-speed, fiber-optic backbone network.

According to the press service of VivaCell-MTS, under this contract, VivaCell-MTS will acquire the optical dark fibers in GNC-Alfa's Fiber Optic Cable system laid between Yerevan and Armenian-Iranian border. The GNC-Alfa's Fiber Optic Network Cable is interconnected to Iran's long-distance fiber-optic network and is providing further access to the worldwide telecommunications networks. Thanks to the agreement, VivaCell-MTS will have an independent and reliable nationwide network having international access for voice and high speed data and Internet services.

Under the contract, GNC-Alfa will provide operation and maintenance of the acquired fibers. The high-speed, fiber-optic network will provide Armenia with high digital communications online speeds. Higher education and R&D institutions may use the system for educational and research purposes. It has a big potential for increasing international collaboration and sharing resources.

"In Europe and the Western hemisphere optical fiber channels have become widespread in the telecom networks and transform companies to cutting-edge technology players. VivaCell-MTS' own fiber optical network will provide high-bandwidth access for Armenia. Yerevan and major cities will be put directly on line with Middle East, Far East, Europe and the rest of the world. The fiber optical network will offer new services," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

## DIASPORA

### **9. “Americans for Artsakh” organization has conducted an event devoted to the activation of awareness about the events taking place in Armenia and Artsakh [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

In the Armenian Embassy in Washington “Americans for Artsakh” organization has conducted an event dedicated to the activation of awareness about the events taking place in Armenia and Artsakh.

Press service of NKR Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that NKR Permanent Representative in USA Robert Avetisyan presented the history of Karabakh conflict and the current situation in the republic.

At the event it was noted that today Caucasus occupies a significant place in political life, and the detailed awareness of the public about Artsakh is of great importance from the viewpoint of supporting it to maintain its strength and identity.

“Americans for Artsakh” organization’s Executive Director Sara Ludwig informed the guests about their projects, particularly noting that trainings for the employees of governmental institutions, young leaders and for other groups are intended to conduct in Nagorno Karabakh Republic.



## ARTS

### **10. Moscow State Academic Symphonic Orchestra to give a concert in Yerevan [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Moscow State Academic Symphonic Orchestra will hold a concert November 25 and 27 in "Aram Khachaturyan" concert hall. An official from Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that the concert will be conducted by the art director of the orchestra Pavel Cogan.

The first concert day works by Glinka, A. Khachaturyan and Glazunov will sound. On November 27 the orchestra will perform the second symphony of Aram Khachaturyan, the concert for violin and orchestra, conducted by Art Director of Armenian State Youth Orchestra Sergey Smbatyan. Michael Simonyan from USA will come forward as a solo performer.

Yerevan concerts of Moscow symphonic orchestra are conducted under the high patronage of Armenian First Lady Rita Sargsyan with the support of Armenian and Russian Culture Ministries and Yerevan Conservatory after Komitas.

### **11. Ruben Matevosian performs concerts in Tehran [Noyan Tapan, 11/19/09]**

Renowned Armenian singer Ruben Matevosian performed concerts of gousan (Armenian national bard) and variety songs between November 7 to 16 in Tehran, at Armenian Club's, Nairi Union's Sukerian and Sasun district's Nairi halls. According to Alik, Ruben Matevosian's concerts proceeded to the accompaniment of Aram Merangulian Folk Instruments Ensemble of RA Public Radio and Television and received a warm welcome by the spectators.

## SOCIAL

### **12. Conceptual solutions for hotel complex to be built instead of former Youth Chamber summed up [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Armenian Union of Architects is summing up the conceptual solutions intended for the hotel complex instead of Yerevan's former Youth Chamber.

An official from the Yerevan municipality told Armenpress that the issue on reconstruction of its nearby road its expansion, ensuring of transport entrance from new Saralanj highway are purposeful to be discussed in the pre-context of the discussion of construction project documents, while working out the area's construction and renovation plan-scheme.

By now the works on preparing the territory for the construction have been carried out and have already been completed.

The construction works of the complex will start after the end of the tender process, reaching agreement over the project documents and giving permission to the construction company.

### **13. Director of the "Khosrov Wood State Reserve" non trade organization Samvel Shaboyan assassinated [Armenpress, 11/19/09]**

Director of the "Khosrov Wood State Reserve" non trade organization Samvel Shaboyan born in 1958 was assassinated November 18 at about 11.50 pm.

Armenian police department told Armenpress that the criminals drove their car in parallel with the "Toyota Prado" service car of Shaboyan and opened fire in the direction of the later. The bullets hit Shaboyan who was sitting on the right place of the car.

The examination of the car disclosed 30 places of shots on the right door of the car. Works are being carried out to reveal the criminals. A criminal case has been evoked, preliminary investigation is being conducted.

### **14. The authors of the assassination of the head of the "Khosrov Wood State Reserve" Samvel Shaboyan arrested [Armenpress, 11/20/09]**

The authors of the assassination of the head of the "Khosrov Wood State Reserve" Samvel Shaboyan have been arrested, the crime has been disclosed and the gun seized.



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Head of the criminal investigation department of the police, Colonel of the police Hovik Tamamyanyan said that the murder was committed by Vedi resident born in 1978 Karen Petrosyan, and resident of Yerevan Vahram Khachatryan who helped in committing the murder.

"The criminals are arrested and the investigation continues. This is one of the exclusive cases which has been quickly revealed as a result of the operative work. All the participants of the murder have been revealed," Tamamyanyan said.

Referring to the murder of the deputy chief of the police Gevorg Mheryan, H. Tamamyanyan said that active work is being carried out to reveal the crime.

## **15. NKR president participates in handing over keys of newly built dwelling house [Armenpress, 11/20/09]**

President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan took part today at the solemn ceremony of handing over keys from a newly built dwelling house in Stepanakert to families of servicemen of the NKR Defense army, NKR President's office press service reported.

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