



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 23, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. Alek Yenigomshian: Establishment of relations between Armenia and Turkey is dangerous for Armenian people [Noyan Tapan, 11/21/09]

"The Armenian Genocide remains non-recognized by Turkey, Western Armenia remains seized and Diaspora's rights violated so far," Monte Melkonian Fund Director Alek Yenigomshian stated at a November 20 discussion. He said that under the Armenian-Turkish going on conflict establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is dangerous for the Armenian people. According to A. Yenigomshian, the normalization of the relations is only beneficial for the Armenian ruling administration in the respect of expanding their own business, as well as rising in the outer world's opinion.

He added that to avoid the prospect of establishment of Armenian-Turkish relations Armenia should first of all solve its domestic, social and moral-psychological problems. "Our main problem is country's domestic rehabilitation," A. Yenigomshian mentioned noting that the current opposition is not able to solve that problem, therefore progressive, patriotic forces "should become organized."

Sardarapat movement steering committee member, film director Tigran Khzmalian said that in the last decade Turkey has big problems with national minorities. "What we currently name Turkey is an abstract notion as the most part of the Western Armenia is populated with Kurds," he said. According to T. Khzmalian's observation, a program should be worked out that will permit to find common interests with Turkey's national minorities, including Hamshen Armenians.

According to Coordinator of the Consolidation of Armenian Volunteers initiative Zhirayr Sefilian, in the past months the authorities tried to prove that allegedly the most part of the Armenian people is for normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations. "We should find a way to show the real picture, to voice people's real view and to do it so that no one will question those views any longer," Z. Sefilian said.

2. Administrative court grants Nikol Pashinian's application [Noyan Tapan, 11/21/09]

The RA Administrative Court presided over by Judge Artsrun Mirzoyan on November 20 granted the application of Nikol Pashinian, editor-in-chief of Haykakan Zhamanak (Armenian Time) daily, against the Ijevan regional passport unit of the Passport and Visa Department of RA Police.

To recap, the head of the passport unit Medora Chapukhian refused to give N. Pashinian a reference about his permanent residence in Armenia for at least the past 5 years. The reference is necessary for registration of N. Pashinian as a candidate to run in the by-election to the National



Assembly by the majoritarian electoral system. The by-election is scheduled to be held at electoral district No 10 in Yerevan on January 10, 2010. According to a letter of M. Chapukhian, N. Pashinian, who is accused of organizing mass disorder on March 1, 2008, was wanted by the police in the period of 26 February 2008 to 7 July 2009 and he did not reside in Armenia during that period.

NT correspondent was informed by N. Pashinian's advocate Lusine Sahakian, that the court has ordered the police to destroy the indicated latter and give N. Pashinian a reference about his permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia in the past five years.

3. Armenian FM rejects Azerbaijan's claims that issue on returning of refugees to Nagorno Karabakh discussed in the process of normalization of Nagorno Karabakh conflict [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan rejects Azerbaijan's claims that in the process of normalization of Nagorno Karabakh conflict the issue on returning of refugees to Nagorno Karabakh was discussed.

E. Nalbandyan said today at the meeting with the reporters that today this issue is not included in the agenda, such issue may be discussed after the final settlement of the conflict, when relevant security guarantees will be ensured and the return of more than 400,000 Armenian refugees will be taken into consideration.

Referring to the issue that the NKR authorities are stating that they were not officially presented the Madrid principles, Nalbandyan said that it is necessary to believe the NKR authorities. "Armenia has presented the Madrid principles to NKR authorities or not is another issue. Officially the NKR authorities have not been presented the Madrid principles," he said.

As to the information in press that after the meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries is expected to take place, Edward Nalbandyan said that it is possible that the meeting takes place during the conference of the foreign ministers in Greece but there is no concrete arrangement over it.

4. Kazakhstan ready to provide its territory for conducting negotiations around Karabakh conflict [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

Kazakhstan's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Constantine Zhigalov delivering a speech at today's scientific conference on state administration system improvement stated that Kazakhstan is ready to provide its territory for conducting negotiations around Karabakh conflict, "Kazinform" news agency reported.

According to the vice-minister, positive trends have been noticed in Karabakh conflict regulation. We positively assess the mediatory efforts of Russia and of President Dmitry Medvedev first of all, particularly toward conducting a number of Armenian-Azerbaijani high-level meetings, Zhigalov said and added that Kazakhstan in its turn intends to play an active role toward that direction.

5. Co-chairs register progress in Munich negotiations between Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

"A very important progress has been registered in the negotiations," OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs stated after the November 22 negotiations between the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents in Munich. "At the same time we disclosed a certain difficulty," French co-chair Bernard Fassier said.

The negotiations between the parties took place in the residence of the French consul general in Munich and lasted for about four hours, which according to Fassier "shows how long and deep the negotiations were between first of all the two presidents and then between them and OSCE Minsk Group mediators"

Noting that the Munich negotiations were the sixth during this year, B. Fassier considered that fact an unprecedented one in the whole history of these negotiations, adding that it witnesses the dynamics and seriousness of the negotiations.

"Today's meeting was particularly long-lasting as thorough, very constructive negotiations took place between the two presidents about all the elements over which there is no agreement yet," he said.

"These discussions gave the presidents an opportunity to determine the right elements of the progress. Today's negotiations gave an opportunity to also determine those difficult issues which have not been solved yet," B. Fassier said.

According to him, the two presidents assigned the mediators to solve those difficult issues.



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At the same time in response to the question about the most important issue over which a progress has been registered, Fassier said that they have arrangement not to publicize the details of the negotiations. "It must be done by the presidents, but we agreed that in today's negotiations an important progress has been registered."

At the meeting with the reporters the co-chairs also referred to the recent statement of Ilham Aliyev that in case of not registering progress in the negotiations the issue will be regulated in a military way. "War cannot be an alternative in any case. We have told the presidents in a strong and clear way that in Moscow, Paris and Washington, our governments are of the opinion that war is not an alternative as it cannot ensure a solution," Fassier said.

Russian co-chair Yuri Merzlyakov noted that this or that statement may be agreed with the circumstances of inner-political life. "We have told the presidents that during this sensitive period of negotiations, it would be better to avoid voicing extreme accusations against each other especially about the possibility of military solution," he said, expressing hope that the parties will take into consideration this position of the co-chairing countries.

6. Secretary of the Armenian National Security Council receives US ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

Secretary of the Armenian National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan received today US ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch.

Spokeswoman for the secretary Gayane Gasparyan told Armenpress that the interlocutors discussed a number of issues on Armenian-US cooperation.

With the request of the ambassador Arthur Baghdasaryan presented the functions of the National Security Council as well as the process of reforms going on in different directions.

The interlocutors also referred to regional issues, including to normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.

BUSINESS

7. CBA chairman considers 2010 draft state budget realistic [Noyan Tapan, 11/21/09]

"I consider the 2010 draft state budget of Armenia as realistic. I think this is the best document that the government could submit under conditions of the global financial and economic crisis," Chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) Arthur Javadian said at the November 19 sitting of the National Assembly, when presenting the CBA's conclusion about the 2010 draft state budget.

The official conclusion of CBA notes that the draft presents in detail the vision of improving the investment environment and the tax and customs administration and assisting the development of infrastructures, and it also indicates the necessity to continue the anticrisis measures. It was mentioned that in case of efficient coordination of the monetary and fiscal policies, it will become possible to ensure macroeconomic stability and keep inflation within the target interval of 4+-1.5%.

A. Javadian said that in the opinion of international experts, the share of the shadow sector in the Armenian economy makes up 30-40%, whereas in the CBA's opinion, its share is 25-30%. In his words, the draft budget "fully reflects the fight against the shadow sector". It was stated that the government plans to collect 13 billion drams through administrative measures, but there are also other measures to be used by tax bodies and other state departments to fight the shadow sector. "I believe that the actions the government is currently taking in this direction are satisfactory," the CBA chairman said, adding that "it is not an easy job".

8. Tigran Sargsyan participates in the "Fruitful Armenia" fifth conference [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan participated today in the "Fruitful Armenia" fifth conference in the "Marriott Armenia" hotel complex.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that greeting the participants of the event and considering the conference very important and symbolizing, the head of the Armenian government noted that "Our fifth meeting witnesses that "Fruitful Armenia" conferences are effective. The circumstance, that the fifth meeting is dedicated to talented young people, who have what to say, is quite symbolizing. We highly underscore the innovative ideas in the agriculture which our young people are taking forward taking into consideration the international experience as well. We are ready to support, assist you in this work as we need fresh ideas."



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The conference will be conducted from November 23-24.

DIASPORA

9. Armenian club reopens in Calcutta [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

On 22nd November 2009 the Indian Armenian community celebrated the reopening of the Armenian Club. After Sunday church service the members of the community went over to the club to attend the blessing ceremony. The Armenian Club has been a place of leisure for about hundred years and will continue to serve the community in the future.

The club had been under renovation and its reopening was a moment of pride for the community members. Very Reverend Father Khoren Hovhannisyan, pastor of the Armenians in India and the manager of the Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy began the jubilations with the blessing of the club.

The Mother Church of Holy Nazareth provided the much needed support for the renovations of the Armenian Club.

On behalf of the Armenian community Fr. Khoren thanked Peter Hyrapiet, the president of the club and the members of the church committee for their dedicated endeavor in the renovations of the club.

“Those who say that the Indian Armenian community has lost its dynamism should follow up the events which are being organized by us and they will change their mind. I believe we are on the right track and under the guidance of Holy Etchmiadzin we should continue to strive forward with more vigor and sincerity. We must further remember that at the end of the day it's the quality and not the quantity that really counts,” said Fr. Hovhannisyan.

ARTS

10. Famous composer Robert Amirkhanian celebrates 70th birthday [Noyan Tapan, 11/21/09]

A concert dedicated to the 70th birthday of the renowned composer, recipient of a Surb Mesrop Mashtots order, People's Artist of Armenia Robert Amirkhanian took place in Yerevan on November 18. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan with his spouse attended the event.

Popular singers and bands took part in the concert organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Union of Composers and the Union of Musicologists of Armenia.

In the words of R. Amirkhanian, his creative activity is valued not by the number of years, but by his songs which are reflected in Armenian eyes (NT: "Armenian Eyes" is a famous song by R. Amirkhanian).

11. Laura Hayrapetyan representing Armenia at junior “Eurovision 2009” occupied the second place [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

Laura Hayrapetyan representing Armenia in “Eurovision 2009” junior international song contest taken place November 21 in Kiev has occupied the second place with “Barcelona” song gathering 116 points. She shares her position with the Russian representative, Ekaterina Ryabova, who came forward with “Little Prince” song gathering as many points as Armenia. Representative of the Netherlands, 14 year-old Ralph Macenbakh has occupied the first place with “Click, Clack” song gathering 121 points.

Armenia received the highest 12 points from Georgia, Russia and Cyprus, 10 points from Belgium, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Sweden. 12 points from Armenia went to Ukrainian representative Andranik Alexanyan, 10 points to Russia and 8 points to Netherlands.

Representatives of 13 world countries (Armenia, Russia, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, Cyprus, Macedonia, Malta, Rumania, Serbia, Holland, Sweden and Belgium) has taken part in the contest.

SOCIAL

12. The former chief of the police of Gyumri charged in abuse of power [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

Shirak Shahnazaryan, the former chief of the police of Gyumri, has been charged in abuse of power.



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An official from the Armenian Special Investigation Service told Armenpress that according to the acquired evidences, at about 11:00 pm, July 24, 2009 S. Shahnazaryan received in his office citizen G. Varpetyan and listening to the latter's complaint, abused his power and committed violence against the citizen causing body injuries of different degrees. Afterward S. Shahnazaryan assigned his employees to take him to duty sector, to search and arrest illegally, keeping the citizen closed in one of the cells for about 7 hours.

S. Shahnazaryan is charged with the second part of the 309th Article of RA criminal code. The preliminary investigation continues.

13. Armenian healthcare minister says London's expert laboratory confirmed the existence of A/H1N1 flu in Armenia [Armenpress, 11/23/09]

London's expert laboratory has confirmed the existence of A/H1N1 flu in Armenia. The medicals of the first 5 cases registered in Armenia had been sent to that laboratory, Armenian Healthcare Minister Harutyun Kushkyan told today journalists. According to him, one more case has been added to the 21 registered in the republic. Nevertheless, according to the minister, the current epidemic state in the republic is calm, measures directed toward preventing the further spread and penetration of infection are being carried out, particularly at passage oversight points and at "Zvartnots" airport. The majority of the patients has already recovered and has been signed out; the life of the rest patients is not endangered.

The minister assured that there is no reason for panic; relevant drugs are reserved in Armenia, and a new cluster of drugs will soon be imported. In case of H1N1 symptoms it is just necessary to apply to doctor and follow his/her instructions.

World Health Care Organization intends to send the vaccine against this infection to Armenia in January of the running year. The minister also assured that the experience of other countries is being examined on purpose of importing the best influenza vaccines to Armenia.

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