



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### IN THIS ISSUE

1. **AGBU Continues Supporting The Republican Interschool Chess Tournament**
2. **Armenian-Turkish protocols submitted to RA Constitutional Court**
3. **Sargsyan-Aliyev meeting takes place. OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs call on Aliyev to give up belligerent rhetoric**
4. **Turkish organization launches campaign to oppose to Armenian lobbying**
5. **Azerbaijani conflict specialist says nobody believes in Aliyev's statements on starting a war**
6. **Armenian economy and finance ministers and head of the government's staff to soon get Armenian Republican Party-membership cards**
7. **Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan receives Argentinean Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekyan**
8. **5th conference "Fruitful Armenia" held in Yerevan on November 23-24**
9. **Armenia presented in Calcutta "Confluence of culture in one world" celebrations**
10. **"Berd" dance ensemble to perform in Russia and London**
11. **Armenian Diaspora minister receives the Armenian participants of "Eurovision 2009" junior international song contest**
12. **This year Armenian National archive has digitalized over 500 documentary films**
13. **Armenian Culture Ministry's restoring architect to leave for Georgia to participate in the projecting works of Mughny's St. Gevorg Church**
14. **Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II is in Moscow on a three-day visit**
15. **Over 900 people have found shelter in the capital's temporary asylums for homeless people since 2006**
16. **Armenian healthcare minister assures there is nothing alarming in Armenia connected with A/H1N1 flu**

### AGBU NEWS

#### **1. AGBU Continues Supporting The Republican Interschool Chess Tournament [Azg, 11/25/09]**

For the third consecutive year the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) renders assistance to the Republican Interschool Chess Championship, which is organized by the RA Education and Science Ministry, RA Chess Federation and the AGBU.

The main goal of the tournament is to support the development of chess in Armenia, discover new young talents and help maintain Armenia's leading position in the world chess championships. About 15,000 schoolchildren from all the regions of Armenia and Artsakh struggle for the finals.

Currently, the 4<sup>th</sup> republican interschool chess tournament is underway. On November 24, at 11:00a.m., the second round of the tournament kicked off at the Armenian Chess Academy in Shengavit district of Yerevan. On that occasion Vice President of the RA Chess Federation Smbat Lputyan, Shengavit governor Sarkis Hovanissian, and Director of the AGBU Armenian Representation Ashot Ghazaryan visited the Armenian Chess Academy, which had hosted on that day the winners of the first round of the tournament from all the Shengavit schools.

"This is a very important event. We are trying to keep the children away from the streets, instill new interests in them and help develop new skills. These children will continue our traditions and the path laid by such giants of chess as Tigran Petrossian, Levon Aronian, Smbat Lputian, and Rafayel Vahanian", said Ashot Ghazarian, Director of AGBU Armenian Representation.

"We are raising the popularity of chess in the republic, increase its role and meaning in the society. I would like to thank AGBU, which has already donated more than 4000 chess sets to the schools of Armenia, and that creates a solid basis for the future development of chess in the republic", said Smbat Lputyan, Vice President of the RA Chess Federation.

Thanks to the financial assistance of the AGBU this year the participants of the tournament will receive 2000 chess sets and 80 chess clocks. Another 300 chess sets and 70 chess clocks will be given to the winners of the second and third rounds of the tournament. The winners of the finale, scheduled for May 2010, will receive computers thanks to the AGBU assistance.



## POLITICS

### **2. Armenian-Turkish protocols submitted to RA Constitutional Court [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/09]**

The two protocols on normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations were accepted by the RA Constitutional Court in the November 19 evening. According to the Regulations, they should be studied and submitted to the Constitutional Court Chairman within 15 days, and the latter within 10 days should convene a meeting where the reporter, the procedure - oral or written, the examination day will be decided.

### **3. Sargsyan-Aliyev meeting takes place. OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs call on Aliyev to give up belligerent rhetoric [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/09]**

A meeting of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev took place in Munich late November 22. The tete-a-tete talk of the two presidents was followed by negotiations with the participation of the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Following the meeting, the OSCE Minsk Group mediators made a statement for reporters, saying that the discussion of the problem passed in a constructive atmosphere. According to them, for the first time, the discussion involved issues that have never been touched upon previously. The meeting lasted four hours.

On the eve of the negotiations the Azerbaijani president had made a strange statement, according to experts. "This meeting must play a decisive role in the negotiation process," Aliyev had declared, stressing: "If the meeting produces no results, our hopes related to negotiations will be exhausted and we will have no option but to prepare for war".

After the meeting, the Co-Chairs called on the Azerbaijani president to give up his belligerent rhetoric. In particular, the French Co-Chair Bernard Fassier said that they in Paris, Moscow and Washington see no alternative to the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh problem and they are convinced that a military solution to the problem does not exist.

Bernard Fassier said: "We have informed the sides about the definite position of our countries: at this sensitive stage, it is necessary to refrain from any statements that may hinder the negotiations. We clearly underlined that a war can by no means be an alternative to the problem's solution".

Radio Liberty reported that the mediators also said that Presidents Sargsyan and Aliyev had commissioned them to continue their work on the resolution of the problem. According to the Co-Chairs, the next meeting of the negotiation process will be held between the foreign ministers of the two countries in early December, prior to the annual meeting of the Council of OSCE Ministers.

### **4. Turkish organization launches campaign to oppose to Armenian lobbying [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/09]**

The ASIMED Turkish organization (Turkish Association for Fight Against Unfounded Genocide Allegations) has launched a campaign to oppose to the Armenian lobbying of America.

According to armenews.com, organization's head Savash Egilmez declared that within 28 days they are going to send 450 DVDs on the events of 1915 to the U.S. House of Representatives, President and media. A letter will be also sent to President Obama with an appeal "Do not let Armenians lead you into error."

It should be mentioned that before Turkish Prime Minister's visit to Washington to take place in December ANCA launched a month's campaign to persuade the Congress, White House and media that additional pressure should be exerted upon Turkey to achieve recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

### **5. Azerbaijani conflict specialist says nobody believes in Aliyev's statements on starting a war [Armenpress, 11/24/09]**

In regard to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's threatening statements on "prolonging the process connected with Nagorno Karabakh issue", "on "the inadmissibility of the created situation, on "stopping the negotiations" and on "the possibility of solving NK conflict in a military way", Azerbaijani conflict specialist Elchan Mehdiyev told journalists that "all these statements are intended for the inner audience," the Azerbaijani "Azadlg" newspaper reported.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

---

“Azerbaijan cannot put an end to the negotiations over the NK conflict regulation. Ilham Aliyev’s war rhetoric is addressed only to the inner audience. This is a statement aimed at deceiving people in the last 15-16 years. Neither the Azerbaijani people, nor the Armenians and international public believe him,” the Azerbaijani conflict specialist said.

## **6. Armenian economy and finance ministers and head of the government’s staff to soon get Armenian Republican Party-membership cards [Armenpress, 11/25/09]**

Armenian economy and finance ministers Nerses Yeritsyan and Tigran Davtyan as well as head of the government’s staff David Sargsyan presented applications for becoming members of the Armenian Republican Party.

Secretary of the party’s parliamentary faction Eduard Sharmazanov assessed this step as logical as the ministers are members of the political team headed by the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan and before the November 28 assembly decided to become members of the party.

“I consider it normal, it is a decision of each one. It is also logical as we are members of the same political team. As member of the Republican Party I am happy that the party is being filled with professionals, and I think that our party work will more consolidate our statehood and will help in solving those issues which the society faces,” Sharmazanov said.

In the coming days the ministers and head of government’s staff will get their Party-membership cards.

## **BUSINESS**

## **7. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan receives Argentinean Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekyan [Armenpress, 11/25/09]**

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today Argentinean Armenian well-known businessman Eduardo Eurnekyan.

Presidential Press Office told Armenpress that Eurnekyan presented to Serzh Sargsyan the process of implementation of investment programs in Armenia and further activity.

Eduardo Eurnekyan pointed out that the difficulties created as a result of the global crisis did not have any reflection on the programs connected with Armenia and all the initiatives are in process.

Serzh Sargsyan highlighted the end of the complete construction works of the new complex of Zvartnots airport which will give an opportunity in 2011 to serve over 3 million passengers as well as effectively implement the works intended in post communication sphere.

Armenian president particularly pointed out the efforts contributed by the businessmen toward the development of farm and food re-processing markets. Serzh Sargsyan pointed out that Armenia encourages applying of innovations and fresh ideas in the agricultural sphere.

## **8. 5th conference "Fruitful Armenia" held in Yerevan on November 23-24 [Noyan Tapan, 11/23/09]**

The 5th conference "Fruitful Armenia" is being held in Yerevan on November 23-24. According to the Information and PR Department of the RA Government, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan made a speech at the November 23 sitting of the conference.

Welcoming the participants and calling the conference a significant and symbolic event, he said: "Out fifth jubilee meeting bears evidence of the fact that the Fruitful Armenia conferences are successful. The fifth meeting is dedicated to talented youth who have much to say. We attach great importance to the idea of recent innovations in the agricultural sector, which will help promote our gifted youth - based on international experience. We are prepared to assist with your work as we need fresh ideas".

## **DIASPORA**

## **9. Armenia presented in Calcutta “Confluence of culture in one world” celebrations [Armenpress, 11/25/09]**

On 24th November 2009, Armenian College & Philanthropic Academy of Calcutta participated in the “Confluence of culture in one world” in celebration of The Year of Youth.

The program was organized at Gorky Sadan, the Russian Centre of Science & Culture in Calcutta. The Armenian College Choir conducted by Anzhela Manukyan, took part in the ‘Rhythms and



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

---

Melodies of the World' segment of the three day long celebrations. They performed on songs composed by Komitas, T. Mansuryan and R. Amirkhanyan that embodied the heart and soul of Armenian culture and tradition.

The main aim of the confluence was to foster friendship and peace amongst the youth of the world. Many countries from all over the world – Bangladesh, China, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uzbekistan took part in the confluence. Armenian College Choir represented Republic of Armenia at the youth confluence.

## ARTS

### **10. “Berd” dance ensemble to perform in Russia and London [Armenpress, 11/24/09]**

“Berd” dance ensemble will soon present the Armenian dance art in Russia and in March of 2010 in London. Chief Stage Manager of the ensemble, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Chairman of “National Union of Dance Art” Karen Gevorgyan told Armenpress that once again they will highly honor Armenian culture during the regular tour performances. The ensemble has lately returned from the two-month trip to Italy, France and Switzerland, where it gave nearly 40 solo concerts. “They were unforgettable days both for me and the dancers”, Karen Gevorgyan noted.

During its creative activity “Berd” has traveled in over two dozen countries of the world, participated in nearly 500 international festivals, has come forward with over 1000 solo concerts and has had a spectator of about one million. According to K. Gevorgyan, Armenian people like to “watch good dance, to communicate with good art and pure culture”.

“Berd” dance group has been established in 1963 in Yerevan. The founder and the constant art director of the ensemble is Armenian honored figure of culture Boris Gevorgyan. “Berd” has become a laureate also achieving the festival’s main award during its first international tour, at the international festival of folk dances held in 1967 in Latvian capital Riga. In the further 1970-1980 years the ensemble participated in international festivals held in Poland, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Bulgaria, Algiers, Austria, in state-governmental events, in Armenian cultural days and deserved governmental, international and main awards for many times.

In the history pages of “Berd” 2000 year is especially singled out, when “Berd” presented Armenia for the first time at the international contest of folk and ethnic dances held in French Dizhon town by taking the victory among the dance groups of over 25 countries of the world and deserved “Golden Medal”.

### **11. Armenian Diaspora minister receives the Armenian participants of “Eurovision 2009” junior international song contest [Armenpress, 11/24/09]**

Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan received today Luara Hayrapetyan who represented Armenia at “Eurovision 2009” junior international song contest and the dance group performing with her. The minister addressed complimentary words to Luara who occupied the second place in the contest and noted that the whole Diaspora stood for her. “You overcame this trial with honor. There was such a great courage and flexibility in your little body that sometimes we hesitated whether it was a twelve-year old girl standing there on the stage or not”, H. Hakobyan said and added that L. Hayrapetyan can be a vivid example for all children.

Luara who lives in Russia presented her impressions to the minister and noted that this contest was a great and obligatory experience for her. Luara attached the greatest importance to participation and she considered the fact of sharing the second place with the Russian representative quite satisfying.

The minister admonished Luara to learn to write and read in Armenian and to come to Armenia by “Come Home” project and to take a two-week rest at homeland.

### **12. This year Armenian National archive has digitalized over 500 documentary films [Armenpress, 11/25/09]**

Armenian National archive has digitalized over 500 documentary films in the running year. An official from the National archive told Armenpress that the digitalization process has started since the beginning of this year. Before that relevant French equipment has been obtained and experimental works have been carried out. The French professionals have arrived in Armenia and got acquainted with the work of the equipment. The latter enables to digitalize even the tapes which are considered incendiary



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

---

and negative. Before the digitalization those tapes have not been used and it was not known what content they had. On the whole, 2112 documentary films are kept in the National archive.

In near future the National archive intends to obtain family films screened on 8 mm tapes by an amateur camera. All those wishing to hand the tapes, will receive the digital copies -DVD variants after some period of time. Many people have got films screened by an amateur camera, which contain trustworthy information on different issues.

## RELIGION

### **13. Armenian Culture Ministry's restoring architect to leave for Georgia to participate in the projecting works of Mughny's St. Gevorg Church [Armenpress, 11/24/09]**

Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan has expressed her concern over the breakdown of Mughny's St. Gevorg Church in Georgia to her Georgian counterpart with the request to clarify the ministry's position and to inform about the undertaken measures.

Media and Information Department of Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that Georgian Minister of Culture, Protection of Memorials and Sport Nicoloz Ruruay said that the church is really in desperate condition, and the ministry has already undertaken relevant steps toward the reconstruction works by inviting to Georgia also Armenian restoring architects who will participate in all the rounds of the works.

After this conversation Armenian Culture Vice-Minister Arev Samuelyan assured Nicoloz Vacheishvili, director of Georgian Organization for Cultural Heritage Protection that already today the church's fortification works have started, the project works following them will be implemented by "ARCHITEKS" restoring architectural studio. Armenian Culture Ministry's restoring architect will leave for Georgia November 25 to participate in the project works.

### **14. Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II is in Moscow on a three-day visit [Armenpress, 11/25/09]**

His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II paid November 24 a three-day visit to Moscow where he will consecrate the cross of dome of a small church built in the vicinity of the Moscow church complex.

Catholicosate press service told Armenpress that during the visit the Catholicos will meet with the All Russia and Moscow Patriarch Kiril.

## SOCIAL

### **15. Over 900 people have found shelter in the capital's temporary asylums for homeless people since 2006 [Armenpress, 11/24/09]**

Over 900 people have found shelter in the capital's temporary asylums for homeless people since 2006.

Arpine Hakobyan, the chief specialist of the Department of the issues of disabled people and the elder of the Armenian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs told Armenpress that the police officers and the employees of social territorial centers accompany the homeless to the asylum.

The specialists carry out relevant works with them, as a result of which they return to families, find job, and the elders are placed in boarding-houses.

According to A. Hakobyan, in case of possibility the homeless people receive treatment on place, in the opposite case -in medical institutions. Earlier 30 homeless people could dwell in the asylum, but after the reconstruction 60 people were given an opportunity of dwelling there. Despite that, A. Hakobyan says that they assist the applicants if need be and the number of the residents is growing from time to time.

The asylum intended for the homeless has been operating since January of 2006.

### **16. Armenian healthcare minister assures there is nothing alarming in Armenia connected with A/H1N1 flu [Armenpress, 11/24/09]**

In Armenia the number of people infected with A/H1N1 flu has reached to 25, the majority of which have been recovered and signed out from hospital. Armenian Healthcare Minister Harutyun



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

---

Kushkyan said at today's meeting with journalists that currently 2 patients receive treatment at the hospital, their state is good and they will be signed out in 2-3 days after ending the treatment. "At this moment there is nothing alarming, everything is under control, and I hope that so will be continued", H. Kushkyan said. The minister affirmed that one death case has been registered, but the ill person was admitted in exceedingly bad state with cardiovascular, pulmonary and breathing insufficiency and infected with periodical A flu. "In case another type of flu is confirmed we will inform about that. But his main illness was of chronic nature", the minister noted.

---

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

*Please be advised that the AGBU Armenia News Bulletin is for general reference only and should not be reprinted in any form without the explicit written permission of AGBU. All rights reserved.*

*Established in 1906, AGBU ([www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org)) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.*