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ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

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THEMA



REFORMATION OF THE PENSION SYSTEM WERE DISCUSSED AT THE WORKING MEETING INVITED BY THE PRESIDENT OF ARMENIA

Reformation of the pension system and possible solutions to the existing problems were discussed today at the working meeting invited by the President of Armenia. President Sargsyan said that with initiating a substantial reformation such as this one, the state is required to discuss all the pertinent issues, find proper solutions, and to assess possible risks. Serzh Sargsyan underlined that all state structures, which are involved in the reformation of the pension system, should display the utmost persistence in devising and implementing these reforms. The Deputy Finance Minister Vartan Aramian and Deputy Minister of Labor and Social issues Artem Asatrian gave clarifications regarding issues and concerns raised by the President of Armenia at the previous meeting, which were based on relevant studies, mid-term and long-term assessments. In particular, the participants of the meeting discussed possible outcome of the pension

system reforms for the state budget, tax burden for businesses, and levels of income taxation. They also spoke about the efficient management of the accumulative pension fund, deposit security guarantees, and accessibility of the services related to the introduction of the system for the public. At the conclusion of the meeting, President Serzh Sargsyan once again underscored the necessity to discuss the concept of the pension system reformation with different social groups – workers, students and the others: “The concept may be well designed, however only walking it through with the people will make it possible to get a need amount of confidence to implement it. Clarifications provided by the mass media are not enough. A significant change such as this one may raise many questions, thus the society should be provided with the opportunity to raise these issues and receive inclusive answers. Only then the citizens will trust the new system,” the President of Armenia said.

www.president.am

“Quote of the week”

“Today relations between Armenia and Russia are based on a firm foundation. I am sure that we will continue to strengthen relations”

SERZH SARGSYAN
PRESIDENT OF RA

Upcoming Events

June 9: PM Tigran Sargsyan to participate in the opening ceremony of DigiTech

June 10: PM Tigran Sargsyan to participate RF Day in Armenia

June 26 - July 6: International Open Chess Tournament in Jermuk

July 11-18: The seventh annual Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival

USEFUL LINKS

- www.president.am
- www.gov.am
- www.parliament.am
- www.mfa.am
- www.panarmenian.net
- www.matenadaran.am

PRESIDENTS OF ARMENIA AND RUSSIA HOLD OFFICIAL MEETING

On May 31, Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan met with heads of parliamentary delegations of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member-countries, who arrived in Yerevan to participate in a visiting meeting of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly. Serzh Sargsyan noted that Armenia attaches importance to integration processes within the CSTO. "Armenia's National Assembly has already approved 30 out of 31 agreements signed within the CSTO," the President stressed. Even large countries are sometimes unable to tackle numerous challenges, he said, adding that the process of integration implemented within the Organization is very important for such countries, as Armenia. Chairman of the CSTO Par-



liamentary Assembly, Russian State Duma speaker Boris Gryzlov noted that the meeting of the CSTO PA in Yerevan is the first visiting one. Participants of the meeting also stated that the meeting will serve as a new stimulus for the CSTO PA, the RA President's press service reported.

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RA PRIME MINISTER VISITS EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO CHILDREN'S DAY



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan participated today in the Armenian State Museum of Folk Art in the opening of an exhibition of folk works dedicated to the International Children's Day. Armenian governmen-

tal press service told Armenpress that the exhibition is conducted under the high patronage of the Prime Minister. It is organized with the support of the Armenian Culture Ministry, Armenian State Museum of Folk Art, Artists' Union, Araratian Patriarchal Diocese and with the sponsorship of "ArmenTel" CJSC. Tigran Sargsyan walked around in the halls of the museum and got acquainted with the works of the self-taught art figures presented in the branches of painting, sculpture, wood-cutting, embroidery, etc.

www.armenpress.am

ARMENIA, CHINA TO DEVELOP COOPERATION IN HEALTHCARE SPHERE

On June 2, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Karine Kazinian met with Vice Commerce Minister of China Fu Ziyang. During the meeting, Karine Kazinian gave positive assessment to Armenia-China relations, expressing confidence they could be taken to qualitatively new level. Fu Ziyang, in turn, noted that current level of bilateral political dialogue and

mutual support promotes strengthening of trust atmosphere between Armenia and China. Parties discussed expansion of collaboration in various spheres, including cooperation in healthcare. RA Healthcare Minister Harutyun Kushkyan participated in the meeting, RA MFA press service reported.

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"GLENDALE HILLS" TO CONSTRUCT ABOUT 1300 APARTMENTS IN LORI PROVINCE

Within the frameworks of a state program on dwelling construction, "Glendale Hills" CJSC will construct apartments in 24 rural communi-

ties of Lori province and Spitak town for the families left homeless as a result of the 1988 earthquake.

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HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **MAY 31:** Cross to be fixed on Holy Cross Church in Akhtamar **AH**
- **JUNE 1:** Armenia to develop relations with Canada **AH**
- **JUNE 1:** Establishment of Atatürk monument in Buenos Aires insults Argentinean society **AH**
- **JUNE 1:** Arsen Gevorgyan, Harutyun Dermishyan win bronze at international judo tournament **AH**
- **JUNE 1:** Russia appoints new Military Attachn to Armenia Armenia **AH**
- **JUNE 2:** Lebanon to develop trade and economic relations **AH**
- **JUNE 2:** Head of OSCE Office in Yerevan discusses justice sector reform with RA Minister of Justice **AH**
- **JUNE 3:** Armenia, Romania to develop bilateral cooperation **AH**
- **JUNE 4:** Eurovision over, passions continue (analitics) **AH**
- **JUNE 5:** 39,7% agricultural production growth observed in April 2010 in Armenia **AH**

VIC DARCHINYAN WANTS TO DEFEND TITLES IN ARMENIA

After a victory over Eric Barcelona at Parramatta Leagues Club for IBO Bantamweight world title, Vic Darchinyan (34-2-2, 27 KOs) will take on Fernando Montiel in September 2010. "The bout had to take place earlier but was postponed due to my thumb injury. Montiel is a strong boxer. He has WBO and WBC belts, and I will fight for them," Darchinyan told reporters in Yerevan on June 4. He also said that he want to defend his titles in Armenia, although is will not be an easy task to persuade the organizers. Asked bout future plans, Darchinyan said that upon completion of his boxing career, he is going to be a promoter and help Armenian boxers.

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RA PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE PRESENTATION AT BARCAMP CONFERENCE IN YEREVAN



On June 5, BarCamp 2010 IT conference in Yerevan featured presentations on issues including geolocation, website monetization, information wars and security, use of web tools in education. As one of event organizers Alexey Chalabyan, told PanARMENIAN.Net reporter, increased

interest for internet entrepreneurship has been observed this year. On June 6, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan will deliver a presentation in a capacity of a blogger. Alexey Chalabyan anticipates bar camp to become an annual event based on the interest aroused. The conference is held with the assistance of Armenian government, Microsoft, iCon Communications, Marketing solutions SP and Institute for Political and Sociological Consulting. Last year, the event brought together bloggers, new media professionals, IT specialists, companies engaged in Internet and digital technologies, journalists and students.

Full story www.panarmenian.net

SYNOPSYS REPORTS \$338.1 MILLION REVENUE FOR SECOND QUARTER OF 2010



Synopsys, Inc., a world leader in software and IP for semiconductor design, verification and manufacturing, today reported results for its second quarter of fiscal year 2010. For the second quarter of fiscal 2010, Synopsys reported revenue of \$338.1 million compared to \$336.8 million for the

second quarter of fiscal 2009, Synopsys press service told PanARMENIAN.Net “Synopsys again delivered solid results this quarter,” said Aart de Geus, chairman and CEO of Synopsys. “While the customer backdrop remains cautious, we continue to execute well on our strategy to address customer needs ranging from mainstream to the most advanced silicon design flows, all the way to the rapidly growing IP and systems space. This quarter we made particular progress in the latter, where we believe we have an especially promising outlook.”

Full story www.panarmenian.net

RA PRIME MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN ACTION ON REFUSE COLLECTION AT HRAZDAN GORGE



On June 5, the International Day of Environmental Protection, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan participated in Clean Motherland action foreseeing refuse collection at Hrazdan gorge. “Clean Motherland is an important project. We should take action to implement this initiative also in Armenia’s regions,” stressed Sargsyan. The Prime Minister also referred to the problem of cleanness of Hrazdan gorge’s territories owned by enterprises. He said that it is important to toughen measures against those citizens, who do not respect their Motherland.

A representative of the Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection reported to Tigran Sargsyan on programs implemented on June 5. The June 5 action marked the start of Three Bridges project, a part of Clean Motherland national program developed by an interdepartmental group. The program envisages implementation of ecological projects throughout Armenia. Clean Motherland program is coordinated by the Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection in partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Yerevan Mayor’s Office, Miasin and Clean Yerevan NGOs, World Wildlife Fund, youth wing of the Republican Party of Armenia, as well as professional structures and enterprises operating at Hrazdan gorge. New refuse bins, as well as plates of Hrazdan gorge’s flora and fauna are scheduled to be set as part of the program. Control over the cleaned territories will be implemented upon completion of the program, the press service of the RA government reported.

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CBA, POLICE TO EXCHANGE DATA ON VEHICLE INSURANCE ISSUES



Armenian government has approved the concept of cooperation between the Central Bank of Armenia and Police envisaging database exchange. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan hailed the measures aimed to raise public awareness on the new law on vehicle insurance taking effect January 1, 2011. CBA President Arthur Javadyan said for his part that the bank has already developed a program including workshops and video materials to present the law to the public.

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INDIA TO FINANCE ARMENIAN FILM ON GENOCIDE

Director of Armenia’s National Cinema Center Gevorg Gevorgyan said that India displayed interest towards creation of a feature film on the Armenian Genocide by 2015. According to Gevorgyan, Prokash Sharma independent production center expressed readiness to invest unlimited funds, if the Armenian side submits a ready script, as the film should comply with the world standards to secure wide distribution. “Albert Mkrtychyan is collecting materials for the film. Supposedly, he will become the film director. However, the film may have several directors. We also invited foreign script writers,” Gevorgyan stressed.

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ARMENIAN CHURCH SUES GETTY MUSEUM OVER BIBLE PAGES



The Armenian church has sued the J. Paul Getty Museum to demand the return of seven pages ripped from a sacred Armenian Bible dating back to 1256. The Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America filed the lawsuit Tuesday in Los Angeles. The lawsuit alleged the church had the Bible authenticated in 1947 or 1948 and it was returned with the pages missing.

It states the identity of the thief was never determined. A spokeswoman for the Getty said the museum legally acquired the pages, which is known as the Canon Tables, in 1994 from an anonymous private collector "after a thorough review of their provenance."

"A notable Armenian scholar who also was the primate of the Armenian Church of America acknowledged key details about the Canon Tables' provenance in a 1943 article, including the fact that they were owned by an Armenian family in the United States," spokeswoman Julie Jaskol said.

The seven illustrated pages by T'oros Roslin were once part of the handwritten Armenian Bible known as the "Zeyt'un Gospels." The rest of the sa-

cred book is located at the Mesrob Mashotots Madenataran museum in Yerevan, Armenia.

The church's lawsuit contends the missing pages became part of a private collection of a family in Wattertown, Mass. They were loaned to the Pierpont Morgan Library, now known as the Morgan Library and Museum, in New York in 1994 for an exhibition.

Michael Bazylar, a Chapman University law professor and member of the plaintiff's legal team, said Thursday that attorneys hope the pages can be returned during negotiation rather than litigation.

"We contend these seven pages are stolen property, and they can never get title," Bazylar said. "We are asking for the return of the seven pages back to the church." Jaskol, the Getty spokeswoman, said the ownership of the pages has never been questioned until now, and that "the Getty believes the lawsuit is groundless and should be dismissed."

Bazylar believes this is the first case filed in the United States for the return of cultural or religious objects taken around the time of World War I, when historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks.

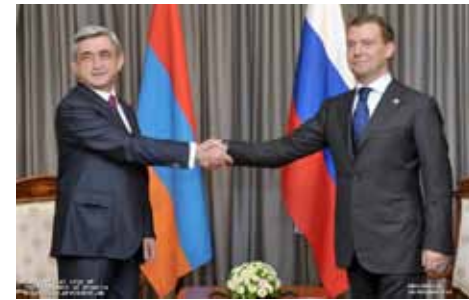
The event is widely viewed by scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century.

Turkey denies that the deaths constituted genocide, saying the toll has been inflated and those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

"It's a matter of historical identity and preservation of the Armenian culture," said Western Prelacy board member Levon Kirakosian. "It's important everyone realizes that."

Full story www.washingtonpost.com

ARMENIAN-RF FRIENDSHIP MAY SERVE EXAMPLE FOR OTHER STATES – LEADER



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said a high level of mutual understanding and trust with Russia could serve an example for other countries. Sargsyan met with the Armenian community of South Russia in Rostov-on-Don, the presidential press service reported on Wednesday. "Today relations between Armenia and Russia are based on a firm foundation. I am sure that we will continue to strengthen relations," Sargsyan said. In his opinion, "It's a reality, an obvious advantage and a favourable condition for the development of our communities [Armenian community – Itar-Tass] because there is an excellent friendship between a new homeland, Russia, and the historical homeland, Armenia." Moreover, Russia and Armenia "have reached a high level of mutual understanding and mutual trust that may serve an example for others", the Armenian president stressed.

www.itar-tass.com

GAZPROM INVOLVED IN IRAN-ARMENIA OIL PIPELINE

Gazprom is involved in the construction of the oil pipeline between Iran and Armenia through its Armenian daughter company Armros-Gazprom. A joint Iranian-Armenian team is conducting a feasibility study. The pipe will be laid from the Tavriz oil refinery to the Armenian town of Eraskh, where an oil storage terminal will be constructed. Armenia, Iran and Russia will jointly implement this project, which under preliminary estimates will cost USD 200-240 million. The existing Iran-Armenia pipeline infrastructure will be used.

www.messenger.com.ge

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