



TIGRAN SARGSYAN PARTICIPATES IN THE SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH WORKSHOP RELATED TO THE WATER SPHERE POLICY
PAGE 3



NATO WEEK STARTS IN ARMENIA
PAGE 4

ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

June 14 - 20, 2010

THEMA



ARMENIAN, RUSSIAN, AZERBAIJANI PRESIDENTS MEET IN ST. PETERSBURG

Trilateral meeting between Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev was held on June 17 in Konstantinov Palace, Saint Petersburg. Armenian presidential press service told Armenpress that the meeting started with participation of the three presidents, and then the foreign

ministers joined them. After the meeting Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan noted that the achievements gained through negotiations were registered at the meeting. An agreement was reached to continue the negotiations on the basis of those results. The presidents assigned the foreign ministers to continue the active negotiations.

18 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

SERZH SARGSYAN EXTENDED CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF AZERI DIVERSION VICTIMS

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan extended condolences to families of Azeri diversion victims. "I deeply commiserate with the families of 4 soldiers killed. We'll give our best efforts to make up for the irreparable loss suffered." As the President noted, he was informed about Azeri side's subversive attack on

June 18, right after the incident occurred. An Azeri recon element attempted to penetrate into Arstakh territory in the environs of Chaylu settlement, Mardakert region, on June 18, at 11.30 pm. As a result of retaliatory measures, the armed group was neutralized, leaving one dead and armament on the spot. The Armenian side lost 4 killed. 4 were injured.

18 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

"Quote of the week"

"THE CREATION OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS INFRASTRUCTURE IS INNOVATION IN MEDICINE"

ASHOT CHILINGARYAN
DIRECTOR OF YEREVAN PHYSICS
INSTITUTE ASHOT CHILINGARYAN

Upcoming Events

June 21-23: President Serzh Sargsyan pay an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany

June 21: World Music Day to be organized in Yerevan

July 1-2: VII CIS and Baltic Region Bond Congress

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

July 11-18: The seventh annual Golden Apricot Yerevan

USEFUL LINKS

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

SERZH SARGSYAN VISITS BRITISH EMBASSY TO CONGRATULATE THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited on June 16 Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia and congratulated the ambassador and the staff of the embassy on the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, presidential press office reported.

16 June, 2010, www.armenpress.am

RA FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS GEORGIAN PRESIDENT ON CURRENT STAGE OF KARABAKH CONFLICT SETTLEMENT



On June 14, during his visit to Georgia, RA foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian met with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in Batumi. Georgian President gave high assessment to friendly relations between the two states,

10-15% GROWTH EXPECTED IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN 2010

A 10-15% growth will be fixed in construction industry in 2010 as compared with 2009, Armenian Minister of Urban Development said. "Despite the crisis, the construction industry tends to revive this year," Vardan Vardanyan said. He also informed that the Ministry negotiates new agreements with private investors. "A \$10-million agreement will be

ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER AVAILABLE HOUSING FOR YOUNG FAMILIES PROGRAM TERMS

Armenian government will reconsider Available Housing for Young Families program terms. As RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan stated at National Youth Policy Board sitting, initial instalment amount, credit payment terms as well as interest rates required need reconsidering, governmental press service reported. Commenting on low number of applications submitted, the Prime Minister noted, "Banks

TIGRAN SARGSYAN RECEIVES UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE AFFAIRS MARGARET SEKAGGYA

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received on June 15 UN special rapporteur on Human Rights Defense Affairs Margaret Sekaggya. At the event present was UN permanent coordinator in Armenia Dafina Gercheva. Governmental press service told Armenpress that welcoming the guests the prime minister highly assessed the cooperation with the UN agencies and Armenia. During the meeting the interlocutors referred also to the general situation of human rights protection in Armenia. Tigran Sargsyan highlighted the applying of international experience in Armenia and the assistance of the UN office in doing it

15 June, 2010, www.armenpress.am

stressing that the dialogue established with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan enables further progress in bilateral collaboration. The parties discussed implementation of bilateral agreements, economic cooperation program, as well as Georgia's Armenian community issues and ways to resolve them. RA Foreign Minister briefed Georgian President on current stage of Karabakh conflict settlement. Prior to meeting with President Saakashvili, the Foreign Minister presented perspectives of bilateral collaboration as well as priority tasks in RA foreign policy to Georgia's Armenian community, RA MFA press service reported.

15 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

concluded on implementation of a construction project in Yerevan," Vardanyan said. "There are projects which can't be accomplished due to financial problems. But if an enterprise submits a package of essential documents, the government can consider the application and render relevant assistance," he concluded.

14 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

were showing rather conservative attitude to the issue of crediting, given credit recurrence risks they will have to bear. Which means we have to pay special attention to crediting criterions to promote participation of youth in the program." "RA government is ready to increase financing as well as attract international donor organizations for successful program implementation," the Prime Minister stated.

19 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **JUNE 15:** World Bank Yerevan Office Announces Civil Society Fund 2010 Winners **AH**
- **JUNE 15:** RA Deputy Prime Minister met WB Armenia Country Manager Aristomene Varoudakis **AH**
- **JUNE 15:** Armenia, Austria have potential to be explored **AH**
- **JUNE 16:** RA National Academy of Sciences announces best scientific works authors **AH**
- **JUNE 16:** Regular Absurd Statements of Azerbaijani Representative in New York **AH**
- **JUNE 17:** CBA issues 2 gold and 4 silver commemorative coins to honor prominent Armenians **AH**
- **JUNE 17:** RA government to allocate AMD 62mln to purchase grand piano **AH**
- **JUNE 19:** British Petroleum Azerbaijan closes down **AH**
- **JUNE 19:** RA Public TV Art Council to select Eurovision participants **AH**

1624 FAMILIES TO BE HOUSED IN 1988 EARTHQUAKE ZONE

Armenian Minister of Urban Development Vardan Vardanyan stated that 1624 families in the 1988 earthquake zone will be housed this year. "1056 families will receive apartments in Gyumri, 306 - in villages of Lori region, 220 - in Spitak, 42 - in Stepanavan," he said, adding that the issue is in the limelight of a relevant governmental commission. The Minister also noted that upon completion of construction works, specialists are invited to issue a conclusion on the seismic stability of the buildings. "There are apartments distributed by a draw," he said.

14 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

ASHOT YEGHIAZARYAN - AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL

June 15, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan signed a decree on appointing Ashot Yeghiazaryan Armenian Ambassador to Brasilia (residence in Brasilia), the presidential press service told Armenpress.

16 June, 2010, www.armenpress.am

CO-PAYMENT SYSTEM TO BE INTRODUCED IN ARMENIAN MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

Armenian Healthcare Ministry representative Ara Ter-Grigoryan, stated that the RA government has approved a pilot program envisaging introduction of the system of co-payments in a number of Armenian medical institutions, starting with Arabkir medical center.

"The program will last 6 months and will first of all refer to people who undergo treatment by government order," he said.

"A part of the sum will be paid by the gov-

ernment, the remaining part - by the client. The project has two goals: to determine the real amount of payments in the hospitals and avoid secret bargains. It will first be launched in Yerevan and then in regions of Armenia," he said, adding that the payment system in maternity hospitals and polyclinics will remain unchangeable.

The Ministry will conduct monthly monitoring to decide whether the project should be prolonged.

15 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

YEREVAN TO HOST NATO DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISE IN SEPT. 2010

Armenia attaches importance to cooperation with NATO, both for development of political dialogue and implementation of defense reform, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister said. "Starting with 1990-ies, Armenia-NATO cooperation has undergone a number of stages. Ensuring sustainable development, we collaborate in the framework of IPAP, interact to combat terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," Arman Kirakossian said during the seminar on Improving Public Perceptions on NATO

Operations and Security/Defense Sector Reform.

"Realizing the significance of responding to challenges, Armenia participates in peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and will continue contributing to international security," he said.

The Deputy Foreign Minister also informed that Yerevan will host Disaster Response Exercise in September 2010, bringing together experts and representatives of state agencies from over 50 countries.

15 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

SERJ TANKIAN TO GIVE SOLO CONCERT IN ARMENIA AUG. 12, 2010



The world-famous American Armenian musician and the lead vocalist for System Of A Down, Serj Tankian, will perform with a premier concert in Armenia at Yerevan's Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concert Complex on August 12, 2010.

During his first ever solo concert in Yerevan,

Tankian will perform songs from his Elect the Dead album with six of his band members accompanied by classical musicians from Armenia.

The concert is organized by Fugitive Studios (USA) and Deem Communications (Armenia), with support and exclusive partnership of Armenia's mobile operator, VivaCell-MTS. "The program has not been finally drawn up yet, so Serj Tankian can perform his older songs as well, if he wishes," Raffi Niziblian, the Founding Director of Deem Communications, told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter. The organizers promise an unforgettable action.

17 June, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

YEREVAN PHYSICS INSTITUTE TO BE REEQUIPPED INTO NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY

During the June 17 meeting, the Armenian government approved the conclusion of international experts' commission on re-equipment of Yerevan Physics Institute into national research laboratory. Armenian Minister of Economy Nerses Yeritsyan said that

the commission described the national laboratory as center of superiority in the nuclear physics. "It will be unique in the region, with an accelerator operating and theory of physics studied there," he said.

17 June, 2010, full story www.panarmenian.net

TIGRAN SARGSYAN PARTICIPATES IN THE SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH WORKSHOP RELATED TO THE WATER SPHERE POLICY



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan participated on June 16 in a scientific-research workshop related to the water sphere policy. Governmental press service told Armenpress that the goal of the workshop is to present the medial results of the sphere reforms initiated by the government and discuss the challenges relating to the water sphere policy. Representatives of the sphere's state and private sector, international donor financial establishments, experts participated in the event. Armenian government asked the World Bank to work out a document on "Water Sphere Policy", analyzing the situation of the sphere, the experience of state-private activity in Armenia, lessons picked up from the international practice. Welcoming the participants of the workshop Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said in his speech that in the implementation of economic reforms Armenia reached a new harbor. "It is necessary to specify a number of basic issues which we have revealed and asked the World Bank to provide consultation. Particularly, it has been spoken about strategy of organization of drinking water supply". The prime minister said also that the reforms are quite positive, noting that the results of drinking water supply are impressive. Referring to the implementation of capital investments in the communities and equal territorial development the prime minister said that during the recent years a great attention has been paid to the sphere and investments have been made and will continue to be made for upgrading the infrastructures. At the end of the meeting the head of the government thanked all the organizations which during this period of time tried to assist in the organization of water supply works. On the basis of the results of workshop and conclusions suggestions about water sphere policy will be summed up and will be presented at the next workshop which is scheduled for autumn.

16 June, 2010, www.armenpress.am

RUSSIA'S MEDVEDEV DISCUSSES KARABAKH ENCLAVE PROBLEM



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev had a conversation with Presidents Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia here Thursday to discuss the most crucial problems of settling the conflict around the Armenian-

populated enclave of Nagorny Karabakh. "The sides noted the bridging of their positions on a number of contradictory provisions of the text on basic principles of the Karabakh conflict settlement," Medvedev's press secretary Natalya Timakova said. "The Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia reiterated readiness to continue dialogue aimed at completion of work on the document mediated by Russia, the U.S. and France as co-chairmen of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe," she said.

17 June, 2010, www.itar-tass.com

FOUR ARMENIANS AND ONE AZERI KILLED IN KARABAKH CLASH

Skirmishes, sometimes fatal, erupt frequently along front lines near Nagorno-Karabakh, a small mountainous region under the control of ethnic Armenians who fought a six-year separatist war with support from neighboring Armenia. The ethnic-Armenian controlled military said in a statement its soldiers repelled an Azeri attack late Friday, in which four ethnic Armenian soldiers were killed and four wounded. In Baku, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry confirmed a clash took place and an Azeri soldier was killed. An estimated 30,000 people were killed and 1 million displaced before a ceasefire in 1994 but a peace accord has never been agreed and the ethnic Armenian leadership's independence claim has not been recognized by any country.

19 June, 2010, full story www.reuters.com

ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ARMENIA

Armenia's central bank states that in 2010 the country's economy will grow by a minimum of 3-4%.

Industry will grow 5-7%, construction 1-3%, services 2.5-4.5%, agriculture 2-4%. It should be mentioned that Armenian GDP increased by 7.2% in the first four months of 2010 compared to January-April 2009.

It can therefore be said that Armenia has overcome the consequences of the world economic crisis, despite the blockade.

16 June, 2010, www.messenger.com.ge

TIME-TRAVELING IN ARMENIA



The cracked streets and crumbling buildings of Kars, Turkey, bear feeble witness to better days long past. But it's also the last stop on the journey to Ani, the magnificent abandoned Armenian capi-

tal, which sits in the province of Kars, on the Turkish side of the Armenian border. To historians, Armenia is a borderland between East and West, on which the tide of cultural division has washed back and forth since the days of Rome and Persia. To theologians, the country is a window through time; this oldest national church is a witness to a Christian tradition both ancient and unique. To students of early-Christian history, it's both. Since Ani's heyday in the 10th and 11th centuries, Seljuk, Georgian, Mongol and Timurid armies have breached its walls.

18 June, 2010, Full story online.wsj.com

NATO WEEK STARTS IN ARMENIA



NATO week started in Armenia, the country's Foreign Ministry said in a statement June 14, according to RIA Novosti. "The NATO week is one of the most important events held in Armenia this year. It is aimed at familiarizing Armenian society with the key activities of the North Atlantic alliance," the ministry said. NATO representatives are expected in Armenia. Meetings and other events, including video conferences and international seminars, are on the agenda. The NATO week will be held in Armenia for a fourth time. It will last until June 18. Cooperation between Armenia and NATO develops in line with an Individual Partnership Action Plan signed in December 2005. The plan envisions security consultations with NATO, developing Armenia's military doctrine, and improving the country's defense budget planning. Armenia participates in NATO's peacekeeping missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

14 June, 2010, www.finchannel.com

OSCE TO MONITOR CONTACT LINE BETWEEN ARMENIAN, AZERBAIJANI TROOPS AT KARABAKH BORDER

A group of OSCE representatives will monitor on Wednesday the contact line between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops at the border between the two countries, the Armenian Defense Ministry's press service has said. The monitoring will reportedly be held in line with the mandate granted to Kazakh Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev's envoy to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Kazakhstan currently holds the rotating chair of the OSCE. The monitoring will take place near the village of Bardzruni in Armenia's Vayots Dzor province, at the border with the disputed Nagorny Karabakh region. Armenia and Azerbaijan frequently accuse each other of violating the ceasefire agreement in the disputed area.

16 June, 2010, en.rian.ru

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