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# ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

July 13 - 18, 2010

## THEMA



### ARMENIAN, RUSSIAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES SIGN AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION

On July 17, Russian Deputy Prime Minister, President of the National Olympic Committee Alexander Zhukov and Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan signed a bilateral agreement on cooperation between the two countries' Olympic Committees. The Armenian Prime Minister told a joint press conference that cooperation in social, healthcare, educational, sports and pension reforms fields was discussed with the Russian side. Mr. Sargsyan noted that the bilateral relations' development is aimed at usage and construction of sports complexes in Armenia, which will be attractive for Russia. "The negotiations will be successful. There are traditions, which allow saying that the Soviet-era experience will contribute to the development of professional sports and tourism," noted Sargsyan. For his part, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister noted that an interesting process of reforms in the social field is under way both in Russia and

in Armenia. "My visit is basically aimed at establishing closer ties for sports development," noted Zhukov. He noted that Armenia has been famous for its sport traditions since the Soviet times. According to Zhukov, trainings of sportsmen in high-altitude regions of Armenia have always yielded positive results during Olympic Games. "We should use the opportunities offered by Armenia. Besides, we are ready to welcome Armenian sportsmen in Russia for joint trainings and offer the experience of our coaches," said Zhukov. The Deputy Prime Minister also noted that Armenia made an interesting offer on implementation of an investment project for creation of a sports complex at Lake Sevan. According to Zhukov, the new facility will be a good supplement to the existing well-known sports complex in Tsaghkadzor. Sargsyan added that the two countries actively cooperate in the construction industry as part of preparation for 2014 Sochi Olympic Games.

July 17, 2010, [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"TODAY WE OFFER LIBERAL TERMS FOR PURCHASE AND USAGE OF CASH REGISTER MACHINES, WHAT IS AIMED AT DECREASING CORRUPTION RISKS"

RUBIK KOCHARYAN  
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE  
RA STATE REVENUE  
COMMITTEE

### Upcoming Events

**July 29** : FC Rabotnicki of Macedonia will play against Armenians FC Mika

**August 12**: Serj Tankian gives solo concert in Yerevan

**August 19**: President of RF arrives Yerevan

### USEFUL LINKS

- [www.president.am](http://www.president.am)
- [www.gov.am](http://www.gov.am)
- [www.parliament.am](http://www.parliament.am)
- [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am)
- [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)
- [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)
- [www.matenadaran.am](http://www.matenadaran.am)

### SERZH SARGSYAN: VISIT OF DMITRY MEDVEDEV TO ARMENIA TO MARK NEW STAGE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS



On July 17, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received Russian Deputy Prime Minister, President of the National

### TIGRAN SARGSYAN IN THE MOVEMENT



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan visited July 18 Armenian province of Gegharkunik where the "Miasin" ("Together") youth move-

### INCREASE IN NUMBER OF HOME COMPUTERS IN ARMENIA RESULTS IN GREATER NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS ON COMPUTER GAMES AND INTERNET

On July 17, children's neurologist Shushan Asatryan and psychologist Mariam Dilbandyan said that the increase in number of home computers in Armenia has resulted in a greater number of dependents on computer games and Internet. According to the experts, children and teenagers are the most vulnerable groups from this point of view. They added that parents often apply to them with health

### U.S. TO PROVIDE \$50MLN AID TO ARMENIA UNTIL 2013

On July 15, the Armenian government approved signing of an agreement with the U.S. government on provision of assistance under the Program of Competitive and Diversified Private Sector. Armenian Minister of Economy Nerses Yeritsyan said that a \$7.7mln grant will be allocated to Armenia to implement works in three directions: development of

Olympic Committee Alexander Zhukov. Referring to the Armenian-Russian relations, the two men noted that they are developing in compliance with the spirit of a strategic partnership. Serzh Sargsyan expressed confidence that the upcoming visit of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to Armenia will mark a new stage in the two countries relations. According to Zhukov, the existing effective dialogue between the two countries is a sound basis for implementation of new programs and further development of the bilateral cooperation, the RA President's press service reported.

July 17, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### CAMP OF "MIASIN" YOUTH

mentis conducting its annual gathering. Governmental press service told Armenpress that the prime minister toured in the camp, was presented the activity of the "Miasin" movement. He got acquainted with the conditions of the camp, visited the computer center. Tigran Sargsyan also was presented the business programs developed by the young people. They suggested the prime minister create an Assistance Fund for young Businessmen. Tigran Sargsyan delivered a speech at the event. He presented the economic situation in the country. In the evening the prime minister returned to Yerevan.

July 19, 2010 [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)

problems (both physical and psychological) of their children as a result of long time spend at computer.

The specialists believe that the time, which children spend playing computer games, should be strictly limited, while children below 3 years should not have access to computers.

July 17, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

the private sector, assistance to the financial sector and improvement of infrastructures. The program will be implemented through the assistance of USAID. It will be completed by September 30, 2013. Meanwhile, the Minister added that the program may be expanded before its completion, while the total amount of investments may reach \$30mln.

July 15, 2010, Full story [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **JULY 14:** RA President, Polish Foreign Minister stress importance of launched Warsaw-Yerevan flight **AH**
- **JULY 14:** Arman Pashikyan ties game with Pavel Ponkratov in Sevana Lich chess tournament **AH**
- **JULY 15:** RA Foreign Minister briefed Belgian students on directions of Armenia's foreign policy **AH**
- **JULY 15:** Assembly underscores key issues in U.S.-Turkey-Armenia relations **AH**
- **JULY 15:** Meeting between Armenian and Turkish Foreign Ministers in Almaty not scheduled **AH**
- **JULY 16:** Spanish Businessmen Received at RA Government **AH**
- **JULY 16 :** Armenia forms negotiation team for EU-Armenia Association Agreement **AH**
- **JULY 17:** International sambo tournament kicks off in Yerevan **AH**
- **JULY 18:** Sledgehammer instigators planned to assassinate outstanding public figures **AH**

### TIGRAN SARGSYAN RECEIVES GUNNAR WIEGAND

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received on July 19 the director of the European Commission's Unit for Relations with Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia Gunnar Wiegand. Welcoming the guest the prime minister pointed out the importance of the launch of negotiations between Armenia and EU on signing the association agreement. The interlocutors discussed the details of implementation of the comprehensive development program of state bodies within the framework of the "Eastern Partnership" program. In that pre-context they highlighted the effective activity of the EU Advisory group with Armenian state bodies which will promote the successful implementation of reforms in the governance system. Gunnar Wiegand conveyed to Tigran Sargsyan the greetings of Catherine Ashton and invited the prime minister to visit Brussels—the European Commission.

July 19, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## 'LUYS' FOUNDATION'S STUDENTS RECEIVED AT RA GOVERNMENT



On July 16 RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received the students of Luys Foundation at RA Government. The students are currently in Armenia for partaking in the Luys Develop Armenia Program (LDAP). Within the framework of the program the students will visit the cities of Gyumri, Jermuk, as well as Sevan's Tsaghkunk and Artsakh's Vank communities. They will endeavor to use their knowledge in the direction of designing development projects and scenarios for Armenia. The Governmental press service told Armenpress that in his welcoming speech Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan mentioned that the Luys Foundation is aimed at supporting talented young people by giving them the opportunity to continue their education in the leading universities of the

world. He said he is sure the number of the students, who take advantage of the opportunities of the Luys Foundation, will increase this year. 'It is too important to us to form a new atmosphere, which is called the Armenian World, and due to which we will create favorable conditions for you for self-development and self-realization,' the Prime Minister said. He underscored the importance of the role the Luys Foundation and the Armenian National Competitiveness Foundation play in the formation of the 'Armenian World'. As to the role of knowledge in the modern world, he said that 'in the industrial society the base of the economic system was the production of goods and services, and in post-industrial societies the basic process is the mental activity'. 'Knowledge changes the content of the process of organizing the society,' he added. Executive Director of the Luys Foundation Jacqueline Karaaslanian, Anahit Bakhshyan and Father Mesrop Aramyan, members of the education board, addressed welcome speeches as well. A Q&A between the students and the Prime Minister followed.

17 July, 2010, [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)

## RA GOVERNMENT OFFERS LIBERAL TERMS FOR EXPLOITATION OF CASH REGISTER MACHINES

Vice-Chairman of the RA State Revenue Committee Rubik Kocharyan said that the terms for exploitation of cash register machines will be simplified for Armenian enterprises. "Since the beginning of 2009, rather strict requirements have been set for cash register machines operation. Specifically, enterprises were obliged to sign contracts with relevant enterprises on maintenance of their cash register machines," Kocharyan told a briefing

on July 15. "Today we offer liberal terms for purchase and usage of cash register machines, what is aimed at decreasing corruption risks," noted Kocharyan. According to him, around 40,000 machines are registered in Armenia, while their owners will be allowed either to choose a maintenance company or repair machines on their own initiative.

July 15, 2010, [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## POWER GENERATION INCREASED BY 12% IN ARMENIA IN 2010 FIRST QUARTER

Power generation increased by 12% in Armenia in the first quarter of 2010, RA Minister of Energy and Natural Resource said. "Domestic usage of electric power increased, mostly due to mining industry and economy needs," Armen Movsisyan told journalists on July 14. "Despite

the rise in prices for natural gas, the tariffs for consumers were not changed thanks to putting into operation new power unit of Yerevan heating plant," he said.

July 14, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## FOURTEEN MEDICINE PRODUCING COMPANIES ARE OPERATING IN ARMENIA

Fourteen medicine producing companies are operating in Armenia and about 300 medicines of local production have been registered. Still in 2008 only 28 medicines of local production were registered in Armenia. CEO of the Armenia's Medicine Producing and Importing Union Samvel Zakaryan said today at a news conference followed after signing Memorandum on Cooperation with the Union of Armenian Employers that producing medicine in the country is of strategic significance. It is especially important during wars, natural disasters when medicine producing company manages to ensure crucially necessary medicine. Zakaryan said medicine producing companies export more than 50% of their products and the rest consume in the local market. The medicine produced in Armenia is being exported to Russia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan. "There are European countries which demand certificate that the produced medicine corresponds to specially set standards – starting with the air cleanness to high-level specialists. Armenian medicine is produced in accordance with those standards, they just do not have certificates. For acquiring them certain steps are being implemented," Zakaryan said. The union is also carrying out "Get to Know Medicine Producer" action as part of which a number of events will be carried out: the goal is to make the public recognize the local medicine..

June 23, 2010 [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)

## MEDVEDEV EXPECTED IN ARMENIA AUG. 18



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will arrive in Yerevan to participate in the summit of leaders of CSTO member countries kicking off on August 18.

As a diplomatic source told PanARMENIAN.Net the Russian President will attend the opening ceremony of Honor Hill in Gyumri, where Russian officers killed in Russian-Turkish wars are buried.

July 16, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)



## POLAND'S FM MEETS OPPOSITE NUMBER IN YEREVAN



At the meeting, Radosław Sikorski spoke of the need to boost economic ties between Poland and Armenia, as well as facilitating visa procedures for Armenian citizens wishing to trav-

el to Poland and the European Union. Both foreign ministers left the meeting pleased, underlining the good relations between the two countries, citing examples of budding cooperation between Warsaw and Yerevan: a new Polish-Armenian economic committee, and the introduction of scheduled flights from between the two capitals. Sikorski stated during the meeting that Poland will try to make it easier for Armenian citizens to apply for visas to the country as well as to the EU under the Schengen Agreement on borderless travel within the European Union. [July 14, 2010 full story www..thenews.pl](http://www.thenews.pl)

## ARMENIA'S ECONOMY EMERGING FROM CRISIS

Deputy Finance Minister of Armenia Vardan Aramian has stated that by the end of 2010 Armenia's economy will grow by 4.8%. He added that 2009 was quite a difficult year for Armenia's economy but the Government took all necessary measures to improve, stabilise and stimulate it. GDP fell by around 19% in 2009.

Aramian also added that the country's Government is supporting the most important segments of the country's economy, in particular metallurgy, allotting USD 44 million for this field. The Government is also stimulating the development of the construction business as well.

[July 15, 2010 www.messenger.com.ge](http://www.messenger.com.ge)

## WORLD BANK SUPPORTS FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF ARMENIA'S RURAL ROADS NETWORK

The FINANCIAL -- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors on July 15 approved a US\$ 40 million loan for the second Additional Financing for the Lifeline Road Improvement Project (LRIP-AF2) for Armenia.

According to World Bank, this project will assist the Government of Armenia in its on-going efforts to improve accessibility of the country's main road network for the rural population and to create employment. It will also help Armenia to further mitigate the impacts of the global economic crisis on the country's economy and the well-being of its population. The second additional financing will further scale-up

## CONSTRUCTION ON IRAN-ARMENIA OIL PIPELINE TO BEGIN IN AUTUMN

Construction work on the Iran-Armenia Oil pipeline will begin in the autumn, Armenian Energy Minister Armen Movsiyan said July 14. "It is estimated that the oil pipeline will cost \$160-180 million, and Armenia and Iran will split financing for the project fifty-fifty. There is an agreement with the Iranian side that Iran will invest in the project and Armenia will pay its part as it receives dividends", Movsiyan said at a news conference. He noted that only the state was investing in the pipeline at the current time. "After the pipeline is built, a tender will be announced for private companies, who have not invested in the construction, to operate it", he said.

[July 15, 2010 full story www.oilandgaseurasia.com](http://www.oilandgaseurasia.com)

activities under the on-going project to improve the condition of 190 km of roads. Over the years, insufficient investment in the rehabilitation and maintenance of lifeline roads has made the road quality poor, and left some roads difficult to use and others completely impassable. The poor conditions and inadequacy of the lifeline roads connecting rural communities to the main highways affect many aspects of rural life: it means that business opportunities are lost, children find it hard to get to school, and it is difficult for people to get urgent medical attention when they need it.

[July 16, 2010 www.finchannel.com](http://www.finchannel.com)

## FACTBOX-FIVE FACTS ABOUT TURKISH-ARMENIAN TIES

Muslim Turkey and Christian Armenia remain bitterly divided over their troubled history and their border is closed despite peace accords signed last year. In a gesture to help heal wounds, Turkey will open a 10th century Armenian church in eastern Turkey on Sept. 19 for a one-day religious service that could become an annual event. Here are some facts about Turkish-Armenian history and ties:

1. The Church of the Holy Cross was built between 915 and 921 A.D., during the reign of Gagik I of the Armenian kingdom of Vaspurakan; it is regarded as one of the finest architectural examples of the once thriving Armenian civilisation in Turkey; there were some 2,000 Armenian Christian churches in Turkey, but only 45 are left standing today following the turmoil that accompanied the final days of the Ottoman Empire.
2. Armenia, backed by many historians, says some 1.5 million Armenians were killed during World War I in what amounted to genocide at the hands of Ottoman Turks; Ankara rejects the genocide label and says large numbers of both Armenians and Turks died; some 70,000 or so Armenian Christians live in Turkey, mostly in Istanbul; in the late 19th century, the Ottoman Empire's Armenian minority numbered some 2 million.
3. Brokered by the United States, Russia and the European Union, Turkey and Armenia signed accords in 2009 to establish diplomatic ties and open one of Europe's last closed borders; Ankara and Yerevan have accused each other of trying to re-write the texts; in April Yerevan froze ratification of the accord after months of deadlock from both sides.
4. The conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh between Azerbaijan and Armenia has loomed over attempts to end the hostility; Turkey demands that ethnic Armenian forces pull back from the frontlines of Nagorno-Karabakh as a condition for ratifying the deal; Ankara's condition is aimed at placating Muslim ally Azerbaijan, an oil and gas exporter which lost control over Nagorno-Karabakh as the Soviet Union collapsed.
5. The rift between Turkey and Armenia has poisoned ties between Ankara and its close ally the United States; Turkey briefly withdrew its ambassador to Washington in protest earlier this year after a U.S. House committee approved a non-binding resolution labelling the 1915 events as genocide; in a visit to both countries earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was a U.S. priority to help Armenia and Azerbaijan settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to bring stability to the Caucasus.

[July 16, 2010 www.af.reuters.com](http://www.af.reuters.com)

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