



ARMENIA WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 55% OF ITS WHEAT BY 2014
JUNE 2010
PAGE 3



TURKEY SUED IN CALIFORNIA OVER ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
PAGE 4

ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

July 27 - August 2 2010

THEMA



RA PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF "YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION" PROGRAM

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met on July 28 with the representatives of "Future is yours" NGO and of "Youth against Corruption" program implemented by the latter. The goal of the program is formation of intolerant attitude against corruption and civil activeness among young people. Five-day classes have been conducted for 300 young people of 6 Yerevan higher educational establishments by the specialists of "Future is yours" NGO, during which the participants of the program gained knowledge about the phenomenon of corruption, its manifestations, causes and consequences, about fighting against corruption and preventive measures. Discussions, disputes and quizzes were organized during the classes. During the meeting with the Prime Minister the participants of the program had an opportunity to address the questions they are interested in, to present the flaws in higher and post-graduate edu-

cation, etc. T. Sargsyan, speaking of the mentioned issues, noted that serious changes will be made in near future in the system of higher and post graduate education. There is a serious working team which is engaged in it. "Higher educational establishments, both state and private, must operate in an equal competitive field. The state's attitude toward them must be the same," the Prime Minister said. "We must intensify the licensing stage. Certain standards must exist," T. Sargsyan added. But it is not enough. Higher educational establishments must have the guarantee of the accreditation institute. The Armenian Accreditation Institute will cooperate with relevant structures of different countries throughout the world. Today, only the American University of Armenia has an international accreditation in the republic. The Prime Minister noted that as a result of the reforms positive shifts will be registered within 4 years.

July 26, 2010 www.armenpress.am

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"I BELIEVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE TO ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN THAT WE EXPECT THEM TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH TO SETTLE THE KARABAKH CONFLICT."

PETER SEMNEBY
 EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Upcoming Events

August 12: Serj Tankian gives solo concert in Yerevan

August 19: President of RF arrives Yerevan

USEFUL LINKS

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

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION BRIEFS ON ITS VISION OF INVESTMENT PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTATION IN ARMENIA



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received a delegation of Egyptian ARTOC Group investment company. Tigran Sargsyan attached

PETER SEMNEBY: EU HAS OUTLINES OF WHAT COULD BECOME VIABLE SOLUTION TO KARABAKH CONFLICT

EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby said that any voting on the Karabakh status can take place only after a long process. Now it is necessary to reach an agreement on the principles of how the settlement process should develop to create guarantees for all the sides, he said. Referring to the efficiency of the OSCE Minsk Group, Semneby noted that the EU continues supporting the OSCE Minsk Group's activity. "I believe that the international community needs to demonstrate to Armenia and Azerbaijan that we expect them to negotiate in good faith to settle the

LEVON ARONIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN AUGUST 7-8 QUICK CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Grandmaster Levon Aronian will participate in Mainz quick chess championship due August 7-8. Armenian chess player is a reigning champion at Mainz Rapid. At Miguel Naidorf Memorial in Warsaw, Hrayr Simonyan of Armenia took 25th place among 92 participants, having gained 5 points out of 9 possible. Julian Radul-

RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE IN RA TO DEFEND RUSSIA'S INTERESTS, PROVIDING ARMENIA'S SECURITY?

Russia and Armenia intend to sign a protocol envisaging introduction of amendments to the contract on Russian military base on the territory of Armenia. According to draft protocol, beside defending the interests of Russia, Russian military base will be assigned with the task of protecting Armenia's security in cooperation with RA Armed forces. To achieve the goals set, Russia will

importance to expanding cooperation with the Egyptian company and clarifying the scope of investments, the RA government's press service reported. Member of the delegation, Chairman of the Board of Cushman & Wakefield company John Cushman briefed on his vision of opportunities for investment implementation in Armenia. The parties referred to outlooks for investment programs implementation in Armenia. Specifically, details of implementation of Smart Village program near Yerevan was in the focus of the meeting. Besides, the parties stressed the importance of cooperation between the Armenian government and ARTOC Group.

July 26 2010 www.panarmenian.net

conflict. We already have the outlines of what, to my opinion, could become a viable solution to the conflict. Now it is necessary to convince the sides to accept these principles," said Semneby. As for the Armenian-Turkish normalization and its tie with the Karabakh conflict, he said that there is no a formal tie between the processes. However, according to Semneby, one cannot deny that whatever takes place in one of these processes, it has an impact on the atmosphere of confidence, and this should be taken into consideration, Interfax reported.

July 23, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

ski won tournament gold with 7 points. Hrant Melkumyan and Zaven Andreasyan have gained 4,5 points each after the 7th tour of Balaguer international tournament, dropping only 1 point behind tournament leader, armchess.am reported.

July 26, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

assist Armenia in provision with up-to-date military equipment. As the draft protocol stipulates, "Russian military units will be stationed based on parties' mutual agreements, May 15, 1992, Collective Security Treaty; August 22, 1997, Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Agreement and in accordance with RA and RF legislation."

July 30, 2010 www.armenpress.am

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **JULY 26** Armenian students are invited to participate in ARPA Institute Invention Competition **AH**
- **JULY 26:** Why prices for ice-cream grow in Armenia? **AH**
- **JULY 26:** Negotiations on Association Agreement with EU open in Yerevan **AH**
- **JULY 26:** VivaCell-MTS organizes training for telecom journalists of Armenia **AH**
- **JULY 26:** ArmenTel company is third among 300 largest taxpayers of Armenia **AH**
- **JULY 27:** Indian Industrial Federation representatives to visit Armenia in October **AH**
- **JULY 28:** ANCA: Bryza raised more questions than he answered **AH**
- **JULY 31:** Reconstruction of ancient oil mill adjacent to Tatev monastery to be completed by autumn 2011 **AH**
- **AUGUST 1:** Armenian Minister of Defense awards 2 draftee soldiers with Vazgen Sargsyan medal **AH**
- **AUGUST 2:** 38.2% growth recorded in brandy production in Armenia in January-June 2010

RA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNDP TO LAUNCH IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO JOINT PROJECTS IN SEPTEMBER

On July 30, Armenian Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan received UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative (UN RC/UNDP RR) in Armenia Dafina Gercheva. Armen Ashotyan and Dafina Gercheva hailed the continuous cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Science and Yerevan office of the UN, saying that the results of this cooperation will be observable soon. Referring to readiness of the UNDP to assist the Ministry in development of its communication strategy, Armen Ashotyan said: "It is a very important project, as establishment of a public dialogue and participation of wider groups of population in this process will secure achievement of the desired results in large-scale reforms in the field of education and science.

July 30, 2010

full story www.panarmenian.net

ARMENIA WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 55% OF ITS WHEAT BY 2014 JUNE 2010



On July 29, the RA government approved a program on development of seed production in Armenia for 2010-2014 at the amount of AMD 558mln. Armenian Minister of Agriculture Gerasim Alaverdyan told a briefing that elite sort of wheat will be purchased from Stavropol region of Russia (950t) and local producers (500t) through the funds allocated to the Ministry. According to him, a working group visited Stavropol region to familiarize itself with the quality of wheat to be imported, as well as with the entire process of its re-

production. Moreover, as per instruction of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, governors of all regions of Armenia have submitted lists of those lands, which are appropriate for cultivation of this sort of wheat. Gerasim Alaverdyan noted that the program basically aims to expand cultivation areas of wheat up to 115,000-120,000 ha, on which 400,000t of wheat will be produced per year. "This will allow increasing the level of wheat provision in the country from 37% to 55%," he said. Alaverdyan noted that around 650,000t of wheat are used in Armenia, while most of it is imported. According to the Minister, wheat seeds will be provided to enterprises for free, and in a year of reproduction the enterprises will be obliged to return the harvest at 1/2 ratio. Force majeure will be foreseen in agreements to be signed with enterprises. "Besides, an interdepartmental commission will be established to implement and oversee the program," said Alaverdyan.

July 29, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDS \$40 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE FOR ARMENIA

On July 29, the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. The Committee recommended \$40 million in assistance for Armenia, which is \$1 million below last year's level of \$41 million, and equal to the Administration's request of \$40 million, Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) reported. "In light of Turkey's ongoing blockade of Armenia, and its refusal to normalize relations without preconditions, the importance of U.S. assistance to Armenia cannot be understated," said Congressional Relations Associate Bianka Kadian-Dodov. The Senate Committee action comes after the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs adopted its version of the bill last month, which included \$44 million for Armenia and \$10 million in assistance to Nagorno Karabakh. "The Assembly will continue to work with both the Senate and House to ensure the best possible outcome for Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh," said Assembly Executive Director Bryan

Ardouny. The Senate Bill also called for "confidence-building measures and other activities in furtherance of the peaceful resolution of conflicts" for the "Southern Caucasus region." In addition, the Bill provided \$25.5 million "to support people to people reconciliation programs, which bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds from areas of civil strife and war." The Committee also required a report regarding Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act directing the "Secretary of State to submit a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, analyzing the effectiveness of the restrictions on assistance for the Government of Azerbaijan as contained in section 907 of Public Law 102-511, and the exceptions to such restrictions on assistance provided under this heading, in furthering a resolution to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Such report shall also include specific recommendations for increasing opportunities for reconciliation between parties."

Full story

July 30, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

TIGRAN DAVTYAN SAYS ARMENIA'S ECONOMY RETURNING TO PRE-CRISIS CONDITION

Armenia's economic policy and its further way have become a subject of discussion today by corresponding state bodies. On the initiative of the International Monetary Fund Finance Minister Tigran Davtyan, Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan, CEO of "Synopsis" company Hovik Musayelyan and others met to discuss the tendencies of Armenia's macro-economic developments, past difficulties of the economy, the current situation and the prospects of the future.

July 26, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS ISSUE STATEMENT



The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassador Igor Popov of Russia, Bernard Fassier of France, and Robert Bradtke of the United States, released the following statement.

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs met with the members of the Minsk Group July 28 in Vienna, Austria. They briefed the Minsk Group on recent developments in negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, including: discussions held in St. Petersburg June 17, 2010 by the presidents of the Russian Federation, Armenia, and Azerbaijan; the meeting of the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries with the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia July 17, 2010; and the joint statements issued by the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries in Muskoka and Almaty. The Co-Chairs stressed that the efforts made so far by the sides of the conflict have not been sufficient to overcome their differences, and that additional actions are needed to reinforce the ceasefire and demonstrate a spirit of compromise. To assist the parties in their efforts, the Co-Chairs plan to visit the region in early September. GM Hrair Simonyan scored 2.5 points out of 3 possible at Miguel Najdorf Memorial held in Warsaw, Poland, with participation of 92 chess players. Simonyan is only half a point behind the leaders, armchess.am reported.

July 29, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

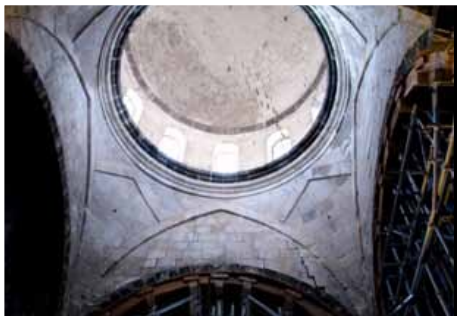
TURKEY SUED IN CALIFORNIA OVER ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Lawyers for two Armenian men have sued Turkey and two of its major banks, claiming they and others were victims of genocide and seeking what could amount to hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in California, names the Republic of Turkey, The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and T.C. Ziraat Bankasi as defendants. The suit seeks class action status on behalf of all Armenians and Turkish citizens “who were deprived of their citizenship, brutally deported, (and) had their property seized” by the Turkish government. Los Angeles attorney Brian Kabateck, who filed the suit on behalf of L.A. resident Garbis Daoyan and Queens, New York resident Hrayr Turabian, said he believes this is the first lawsuit dealing with the Armenian genocide that names the Turkish government as a defendant. The Armenian genocide refers to the death and displacement of many people who lived in the Ottoman Empire before and after World War I.

Turkey accepts that many Armenians were killed by Ottoman forces, but denies the number was as high as the 1.5 million some researchers believe died. The government has long denied the idea that genocide occurred. The U.S. government has never formally called the events a genocide, but just this past March, a U.S. congressional panel voted to label it genocide in a non-binding resolution. That act caused the Turkish government to recall its ambassador. Kabateck said he has successfully sued companies such as New York Life Insurance Co. and France’s AXA in the past, getting nearly \$40 million in damages for victims’ heirs. He said the suit was filed now for reasons that include the documentation of original land deeds establishing ownership of property in Turkey. And he said it was filed in southern California due to the large numbers of Armenians who live in the area.

July 30, 2010, ca.reuters.com

SCAFFOLDS DEFACING HISTORICAL IRANIAN CHURCH



The former Iranian government set up the scaffolds and buttresses over 30 years ago to restore the ceiling and the dome of the church. The restoration remained incomplete after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and so far nothing has been done to remove the temporary supports. Experts believe that the dome and ceiling will collapse if the scaffolding and buttresses are removed. In addition, the growth of agrarian plants in the gaps between the giant stone blocks used in construction of the ceiling and dome is threatening the site. The St. Thaddeus Church, also known as the Black Church (Qara Kelissa), is one of Iran’s most interesting and notable Christian monuments, located near the Chalderan region in Maku, West Azerbaijan Province.

One of the 12 disciples, St. Thaddeus, also known as St. Jude, (not to be confused with Judas Iscariot), was martyred while spreading the Gospel. He is revered as an apostle of the Armenian Church. As legend has it, a church dedicated to him was first built on the present site in 68 CE. Nothing remains of this original church, which was extensively rebuilt in the 13th century, but some sections around the altar may date back to the 10th century. Most of the present structure dates to the 17th century and is built with carved sandstone. The oldest sections are made of black and white stone. The Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew traveled through Armenia in 45 CE to preach the word of God. Many people were converted and numerous secret Christian communities were established there. Around that time, Abgar died after ruling for 38 years and the Armenian kingdom was split into two parts. His son Ananun crowned himself in Edessa, while his nephew Sanatruk ruled in Greater Armenia. About 66 CE, Ananun gave the order to kill St. Thaddeus in Edessa. The king’s daughter Sandokht, who had converted to Christianity, was martyred with Thaddeus.

Full story July 28, 2010 www.chnpress.com

ARTISTS INVITED TO HELP ESTABLISH MUSEUM FOR GRIGORIAN’S ARTWORKS

Painter Janet Lazarian has made a heartfelt appeal for the establishment of a museum to permanently house artworks by deceased Iranian-Armenian artist Marcos Grigorian. Grigorian (1925-2007), who is recognized as the pioneer of Iranian modern art, died from a heart attack at his home in Armenia in 2007. His works are currently being kept at the Museum of Literature which is now part of the Middle East Museum in Yerevan. “Grigorian took his collection of artworks to Armenia almost 20 years ago and displayed them at the Museum of Literature,” Lazarian told the Persian service of ISNA on Wednesday. This was supposed to be a temporary show as he was not planning to store his collection there forever but he died before he was able to remove it, she said, adding, “The museum is a place for books and the location where Grigorian’s works are on display is too small.” This is while it was previously reported in the news that Grigorian had donated 5000 of his artistic creations to the government of Armenia. She continued, “At first, Marcos was determined to convert the second floor of his home in Yerevan into a museum and transfer the items there, but he died before he was able to realize his wishes. “Two years ago, Armenian Ministry of Culture asked for permission from the heirs to convert Marcos’ house into a museum and transfer his collection there, but it would seem the request was rejected. “The heirs did not give the government permission since they felt the house is not in a desirable location. They claimed that they plan to sell the house and would purchase another located in the center of the city specifically for Marcos’ artwork,” she added. The heirs (niece and nephew of Marcos) reside in the United States and are due to travel to Armenia to sell the house. In Armenia, the houses of artists and authors are converted into museums after their deaths, and in Yerevan alone, there are 35 museums of Armenian scholars, she noted. Tehran’s Art Center will be playing host to a commemoration ceremony for Marcos this year in autumn. Grigorian’s artworks encompass a wide range of themes. His first paintings depict the violent despair of the victims of Auschwitz. Later, turning to sculpture, his works were dominated by such themes as Persian bread, abgusht (a type of Persian soup) and wheelbarrows full of straw. He is also renowned for sculptures that he crafted from a combination of clay and straw. Grigorian was also fond of teahouse paintings. Some of his works are now on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Tehran’s Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Kerman.

July 29, 2010 www.tehrantimes.com

"Armenia Highlights" is compiled in association with  & 
DISCLAIMER: Views expressed in "Armenia Highlights" do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Armenia.