



ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER: INFLATION REMAINS A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO ARMENIAN ECONOMY PAGE 2



THE ARMY OF CRIME (2009) PAGE 4

# ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

August 24 -31 2010

## THEMA

### ARMENIAN PRESIDENT VISITS STEPANAKERT SCHOOL N 11 AND JUNIOR CREATIVE CENTER



Within the frameworks of the working visit paid to Artsakh, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited the newly constructed Stepanakert School N 11 and the junior creative center, accompanied with NKR President Bako Sahakyan, other high ranking officials of Artsakh and Executive Director of “Hayastan” all-Armenian fund Ara Vardanyan. Armenian presidential press service told Armenpress that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, before the start of the new academic year, has got acquainted with the conditions of the mentioned establishments. In Stepanakert School N 11 the high ranking officials have been presented that the educational establishment constructed for 560 pupils is ensured with all the necessary conditions – library, gym hall, sport ground, medical

point, computer classes, etc. The territory of the school has been renovated, a green zone has been designed, and external illumination works have been carried out. In School N11 Serzh Sargsyan answered to a question of a teacher, which concerned the Azerbaijani political path of speculating the regulation issue of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in the United Nations and in other international organizations. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan also walked around in the junior creative center, in different departments of which 1000 children are occupied. Afterward the President visited Stepanakert central park, which will be presented to Stepanakert people and town’s guests with “singing fountains” and in a more beautiful appearance. The ceremonial opening of the park is intended on the eve of the NKR Independence Day.

August 30, 2010 [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)

### “QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“11.4% INDUSTRY GROWTH WAS REPORTED; WHILE THE SECTORS OF METALLURGY, BUILDING INDUSTRY, INSTRUMENT ENGINEERING AND JEWELRY INDUSTRY SHOWED 20% INCREASE. 6.1% UPSURGE WAS OBSERVED IN THE SERVICES SECTOR”

TIGRAN SARGSYAN  
RA PRIME-MINISTER

### Upcoming Events

**September 1:** Armenia Marks the day of science

**September 16-17:** Yerevan to host Fruitfull Armenia winemaking forum

**September 21:** Armenia celebrates the Independence day

### 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)

## ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER: INFLATION REMAINS A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO ARMENIAN ECONOMY



A slump in agriculture sector affected GDP drop in Armenia (to 4%). However, much better results are observed in other sectors of economy, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan stated. "11.4% industry growth was reported; while the sectors of metallurgy, building industry, instrument engineering and jewelry industry showed 20% increase. 6.1% upsurge

was observed in the services sector," RA Prime Minister noted at the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia board of trustees' sitting. "Decrease in unemployment level was observed; salaries in private, as well as governmental sectors are showing tendency of growth." Submitting the list of tax, customs and social payments to the budget over January-July, the Prime Minister stated them to be above figures planned, which allows for preservation of macroeconomic stability and cutting of budget deficit. "Inflation remains a serious challenge to Armenian economy," Tigran Sargsyan concluded. Discussion of directions to stimulate national competitiveness growth was also on sitting agenda. [August 29, 2010 www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## ARMEN ASHOTYAN: 'THE REALIZATION OF THE SYSTEM OF SENIOR SCHOOLS IS THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE REFORMS ON PUBLIC EDUCATION'

According to the policy, the Government of Armenia adopted 2008, senior schools must exist with separate networks. RA Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotyan said at today's press conference, held before the August consultation of principals of public schools, that the creation and full operation of senior schools will give an opportunity to ensure a higher level of education. The senior school is the last level of public education; the state is obliged

to ensure a higher level of education via providing additional investments and creating corresponding conditions. Minister Armen Ashotyan mentioned that any personal fight against the state policy is inefficient. 'The Ministry of Education and Science operates with the dictum-factum principle; the inappropriate improvidence will lead to no good,' the Minister said. 91 senior schools are currently operating in the Republic. [August 30, 2010 full story www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)

## A NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE SPHERE-RELATED ISSUES RESOLVED AT GOVERNMENTAL SITTING

At August 26 sitting, Armenian government offered all interested companies a chance to implement official checkup of motor vehicles. Taking into account the compulsory liability insurance for exploitation of motor vehicles, RA government approved the form, contents, order of filling and replacement of damaged bills and declarations. Also, Armenian Police was instructed to submit guidelines for maintenance and exploitation of traffic lights and other technical means by December 1, 2010. [August 26, 2010 www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## ARMENIAN SCHOOLS TO BE RATED

Education reforms were in the focus of a meeting chaired by Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, the governmental press service reported. On the threshold of a new school year, Education Minister Armen Ashotyan briefed on the problems persisting in schools and ways to resolve them. Mechanisms of external and internal rating will be introduced in schools in compliance with RA Law on General Education. [August 24, 2010 www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **AUGUST 25** : RA government approves scientific technical council schedule **AH**
- **AUGUST 26**: RA governments approves amendments to customs code **AH**
- **AUGUST 27**: Azerbaijan not to participate in NATO exercise in Armenia **AH**
- **AUGUST 27**: Aram I will not participate in Holy Cross church mass in Akhtamar **AH**
- **AUGUST 28**: Azeri army junior lieutenant gives himself up to Karabakh forces **AH**
- **AUGUST 30**: Armenia-Russia agreement threw Azerbaijan off balance **AH**
- **AUGUST 30**: Chief coaches satisfied with performance of Armenia's judo and freestyle wrestling teams at Singapore Olympic Games **AH**
- **AUGUST 30**: \$350 000 to be spent for Travel without Borders project implementation **AH**
- **AUGUST 30**: Samvel Khachatryan: Gor Minasyan has won Armenia's first silver medal of Olympic Games since 1996 **AH**

## ARMENIANS MUSTN'T PARTICIPATE IN TURKISH SHOW ON AKHTAMAR ISLAND

Professor Ruben Safrastyan, director of Oriental Studies Institute at Armenian National Academy of Sciences, believes that Armenians mustn't participate in Turkish show on Akhtamar island, while Turks pursue Genocide denial policy, with thousands of landmarks of Armenian history lying in ruins. "During the liturgy, a movie will be filmed 'showing Armenians' gratitude to Turkish government for the opportunity to serve annual masses at St. Cross church'. As a descendant of Van inhabitants, I find it unacceptable to participate in the event where a cross, to be put on top of a dome, will be taken off the next day," Safrastyan emphasized in a conversation with a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter. The holy mass, to be served for the first time in 95 years on the island of Akhtamar was rescheduled for September 19, instead of September 12, a date set for national referendum on constitutional amendments in Turkey. [August 30, 2010 www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## CSTO SUGGESTS INCREASING TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS' LIST FROM 32 TO 40

At August 24 sitting, CSTO coordinated amendments to the list of terrorist and extremist organizations in CSTO member states in accordance with Security Council Secretaries Committee draft resolution. Terrorist organizations' list is to be increased from 32 to 40.

Draft resolutions of CSTO authorized bodies on formation of collective reaction system in extraordinary situations, as well as its operation plan were also coordinated

at the sitting. The plan aims at collective response of OSCE states to natural or anthropogenic disasters, where the injured party is unable to eliminate consequences without outside help.

Plenipotentiary representatives of CSTO member states participated at the sitting, headed by Russia's representative, ambassador at large Igor Lyakin-Frolov, RIA Novosti reported.

August 24 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## ELITE SEEDS OF RUSSIAN WHEAT TO BE DELIVERED TO ARMENIA IN MID-SEPTEMBER



Armenian Minister of Agriculture Gerasim Alaverdyan said that the Ministry has launched implementation of the program on development of seed production. Meanwhile, elite wheat seeds from Russia will be delivered to Armenia in mid-September, Alaverdyan told journalists in Yerevan.

"Negotiations are held with Russia on delivery of 950t, while local producers have another 500t," he said. To imple-

ment the program, a working group has been formed, which is in Shirak region to study areas, which are appropriate for the development of seed production. According to Alaverdyan, seeds will be provided to those villagers, who offer at least 3ha of relevant land plot. "We have already received applications for 18,000ha, out of which 5,000ha will be chosen," he said. As part of the program implementation, it is expected to gain harvest at 1/2 ratio during the first year, while volumes of import will be decreased during the next 2-3 years. "The local production of elite wheat seeds is envisaged to be brought to 3000-3300t against 2000t," the Minister said. As a result of the program implementation, it is expected that the volume of wheat production will make 300,000-350,000t per year against 150,000-160,000t, what will allow increasing the level of wheat provision in the country from 37% to 55%.

August 30, 2010, [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## NEW SYSTEM OF PENSION REFORMS BEING REGULATED

A governmental team has been set up by the Armenian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which will regulate the new system of pension reforms. Head of the Financial Market Development Department of the Armenian Finance Ministry told Armenpress that the new system will positively influence on development of the financial market. It will create an opportunity to get pension from several sources – voluntary, compulsory, accumulated on own, etc.

August 27, 2010, [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)

## RA HANDBALL FEDERATION READY FOR PRIME MINISTER'S CUP

The second international handball tournament - Prime Minister's Cup - will kick off in Vanadzor on September 2, bringing together teams from Armenia, Iran, Georgia and Belarus.

President of the Handball Federation of Armenia Sargis Grigoryan said preparations are completed.

"The players are training and are eager to win," chief coach Edik Ohanyan said, for his part

August 30, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## IFC DEVELOPS ACTIVITY IN ARMENIA

Armenia has been an IFC member and shareholder since 1995. IFC has been active in the nation over the years, with cumulative investments totaling \$87 million in 18 projects across a range of industries. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010, IFC's commitments in Armenia climbed to a record \$35.3 million, in response to the global financial crisis. IFC complements its investment activity in Armenia with an active advisory program that focuses on banking development, sustainable energy and investment climate.

IFC investments in Armenia increased from \$5 million in 2009 to \$35 million as of June 30, 2010. "It is a considerable growth, given the fact that we had been providing consultative assistance rather than financial until recent times," Mr. Thunell said. During the visit, he met with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. Mr. Thunell also visited Ameriabank to meet with the bank management. He was accompanied by a group of IFC officials.

Mr. Thunell has advanced growth of IFC's business and its mission to create opportunities in emerging markets and improve people's lives. As part of his visit to Armenia, Mr. Thunell visited Ameriabank to be presented with an account of how IFC funds are being spent under the bank's lending projects, including how they are being utilized by end-borrowers. The partners also discussed options for further cooperation. The attendees highlighted that Ameriabank has on-lent the IFC funds successfully and in a time-efficient manner. The IFC facilities provided to Ameriabank include a 10 million US dollar credit limit for international trade finance and a \$15 million renewable energy (small hydro power plant) loan.

The trade finance facility enabled Ameriabank to promote clients' foreign trade transactions in Armenia. Ameriabank joined the IFC Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP) as an issuing bank to secure clients' import and export operations. This program covers, among others, small and medium enterprises. Participation in GTFP makes the bank eligible to cooperate with over 300 other GTFP member banks worldwide. Highlighting the importance of promoting the renewable energy sector for overall economic development, Ameriabank is actively engaged in its financing through various programs, the press service of Ameriabank reported

August 28, 2010

Full story [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## ARMENIA NOT AFRAID OF AZERBAIJAN'S S-300S

What does Armenia's military think of Russia selling its S-300 air defense system to Azerbaijan? Bring it on. Armenia has hosted Russian S-300s for at least a decade, and Russia has trained some Armenian officers in the system's use. So Armenia's defense minister Seyran Ohanian says that experience will allow them to thwart any Azerbaijani attempt to use them: "I must point out that the acquisition of Russian S-300 air-defense systems [by Azerbaijan] cannot directly influence the correlation of forces between Armenia and Azerbaijan, because their use by Azerbaijan against the Armenian Armed Forces would be fruitless under all possible scenarios," he said. "The reason for that is simple: we are very familiar with those systems, we have been exploiting them for quite a long time, and we know the possibilities of reducing the effectiveness of such systems." Ohanian was likely referring to at least two batteries of S-300s that were deployed by Russia at its military base in Armenia in the late 1990s.

Top Russian military officials announced in early 2007 that Moscow has further upgraded Armenia's air defenses and trained Armenian military personnel to operate the air-defense systems. The Armenian military confirmed that, saying the training began in 2005. Ohanian added that even if Azerbaijan does acquire S-300s, it would need "quite a lot of time" to develop an integrated radio-technical system for them.

August 25, 2010

Full story [www.eurasianet.org](http://www.eurasianet.org)

## MKHITARYAN MAKES SHORT MOVE TO SHAKHTAR

Midfielder Henrik Mkhitaryan has left FC Metalurh Donetsk for city rivals and UEFA Champions League contenders FC Shakhtar Donetsk in a reported 6m Euros transfer. The 2009 Armenian player of the year has signed a five-year contract with the Pitmen, who top the Ukrainian top flight eight matches into the 2010/11 campaign. Capped 14 times by Armenia, the 21-year-old started his career with home-town club FC Pyunik, helping them to four successive league titles between 2006 and 2009 with 30 goals in 69 games. He joined Metalurh last summer, featuring 29 times in his first term, and began this season with three goals in seven matches.

August 30, 2010

Full story [www.uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com)

## THE ARMY OF CRIME (2009)



The closest person to a protagonist in the gripping historical mosaic "Army of Crime" is the eminent Armenian poet Missak Manouchian (Simon Abkarian). A militant Communist and hero of the French Resistance, executed by the Nazis in 1944, he is the noblest figure in a sprawling, semi-fictional movie that has enough characters to fill an entire neighborhood.

As the story begins in 1941 in occupied Paris, Germany has just invaded Russia. Manouchian, along with fellow Communists, is rounded up and detained at a nearby camp from which he is released after signing a document disavowing his politics. A reflective soul, scraps of whose poetry are heard in the film, Manouchian does not believe in killing. And the scenes of his rendezvous with his beautiful, adoring French wife, Mlninne (Virginie Ledoyen), who risks her life to bring him food while he is interned, lend the movie a faint romantic blush.

August 19, 2010

Full story [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

## VISITING A MEDIEVAL MONASTERY IN ARMENIA

Geghard, Armenia - The medieval monastery of Geghard in Armenia's Kotayk province appears almost camouflaged, being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs. Geghard was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000 and although the monastery has been in place since before the 4th century, the main cathedral was built in 1215. It takes the eyes a moment to adapt to the darkness of the cathedral's interior, which is lit up by a stream of light from a hole in the cupola above. Visitors strike matches on the grey walls, some of which are part of the cliff face, to light beeswax candles but even they fail to illuminate this dark space which is devoid of relics, country was part of the Soviet Union.

August 24, 2010

Full story [www.earthtimes.org](http://www.earthtimes.org)

## GAREN NAZARIAN BRINGS ARMENIA TO THE WORLD AT THE UN

The United Nations, a center of world diplomacy located in New York City, itself one of the most international cities in the world, is a plum posting for any diplomat. Naturally, many of those who ply their trade at the United Nations have had distinguished careers. Ambassador Garen A. Nazarian, Armenia's present representative to the UN, is no exception. He rose quickly through the ranks, beginning at the end of the Soviet period, to hold a number of key positions in the Armenian Foreign Ministry in a period of post-independence rapid development and innovation. His career is worth exploring not only for its own sake, but also for understanding the development of modern Armenian diplomacy. The first anniversary of his service at the UN is an opportune occasion for such an examination.

August 23, 2010

Full story [www.mirrorstator.com](http://www.mirrorstator.com)

## ARMENIANS IN IRAN - MANY LEAVE FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, OTHERS STAY TO PRESERVE IDENTITY



Tehran resident Anjik has seen her three sons emigrate to the United States in recent years, and now her daughter plans to go as well once she gets married.

Anjik, 60, is a member of the Armenian community, which counts itself the world's oldest Christian nation. Although their homeland lay within the Ottoman Empire, there have also been Armenians in Iran for centuries. Recent years have seen a surge in migration, though emigrants are generally driven by the search for a better life rather than discrimination. As a substantial minority, the Armenians enjoy special status under the Iranian constitution and the right to pursue their own traditions and faith. Anjik says emigration to America has become easier of late, thanks to a scheme where members of Iran's religious minorities can file immigration applications via the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, HIAS, and then follow up at the Austrian embassy in Tehran.

August 28, 2010 full story

[www.english.globalarabnetwork.com](http://www.english.globalarabnetwork.com)