



TIGRAN SARGSYAN SAYS RA GOVERNMENT EFFECTING SERIOUS REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE (interview) PAGE 3



NATO WANTS NORMALIZATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS PAGE 4

ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

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THEMA



POST-CRISIS ARMENIA: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES FORUM LAUNCHED IN DILIJAN

Post-crisis Armenia: Challenges and Perspectives 2-day forum was launched in Dilijan on September 11, 2010. The forum will focus around 3 aspects: innovation, export orientation, formation of coalition to trigger changes. Discussion on simulation of investments, economy growth and poverty reduction is also included in the agenda. The event is organized by the Armenian government with the assistance of World Bank. A delegation of high ranking Armenian officials, headed by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, as well as a WB delegation, led by Vice President for Europe and Central Asia Region Philippe Le Houerou are invited to participate along with world-class specialists and professors of economics. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is also expected to attend some discussions. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met with WB Vice President for Europe and Central Asia Region Philippe Le Houerou in Dilijan resort (Tavush region, Armenia), which hosted Post-Crisis Armenia: Challenges and Perspectives international forum on September 11-12. Wide range of issues concerning further co-

operation between the WB and Armenia was in the focus of the meeting, the RA President's press service reported. The Armenian President hailed cooperation between Armenia and the WB. "On one hand, the WB implements programs in Armenia. On the other hand, it brings advanced experience to Armenia, what is of keen importance for us," said Mr. Sargsyan. He estimated highly the work done during the forum, as certain ways were offered for problems resolution. For his part, the WB Vice President noted that despite his busy schedule, he decided to participate in the forum. He said that during his previous tenure, he often used examples of the WB's successful cooperation with Armenia, as a sound reason during negotiations with donors around funds allocated for the WB programs. "I have held the current position for a year. I studied portfolios of our programs in the region and can state that Armenia has the best portfolio of programs in the region," he said. The two men expressed confidence that the accumulated experience of effective cooperation between the WB and Armenia will allow implementing larger programs in future.

September 11-13, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"WE HAVE AN AIM TO ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF PRODUCING 30,000 TONS OF ELITE SEEDS WITHIN THE FORTHCOMING 5 YEARS."

TIGRAN SARGSYAN
PM OF ARMENIA

Upcoming Events

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

September 19-23: PM tigran Sargsyan pays an official visit to China

September 21: Armenia celebrates the Independence day

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 AND TINA KAIDANOW EXPECT OSCE MINSK GROUP'S EFFORTS TO RESULT IN KARABAKH CONFLICT SETTLEMENT



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State on European and Eurasian Affairs Tina Kaidanow in Yerevan. Mr. Sargsyan noted that the frequency of U.S. officials' visit to Armenia is important in terms of the Armenian-American relations development and bilateral dialogue in all spheres. According to the President, Yerevan views the high level of relations with the U.S. and their further

boosting as an important factor for Armenia's economic development, as well as for establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus. The parties expressed satisfaction over Armenia's cooperation with the U.S. in military, political, educational and cultural fields, attaching importance to facilitating economic cooperation, as well as trade and economic contacts between the two countries. Besides, Serzh Sargsyan and Tina Kaidanow referred to the Karabakh conflict resolution. The RA President hailed the U.S. involvement in the OSCE Minsk Group. The parties stressed the necessity of continuing the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen's efforts, expressing hope for the needed result within this format, the RA President's press service reported.

September 13, 2010
www.panarmenian.net

IRAN AND ARMENIA TO SIGN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT



Iran and Armenia will sign a free trade agreement (FTA) during Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan's upcoming visit to Tehran. During the September 9 meeting held between Armenia's Ambassador to Tehran Grigor Arakelyan and Iranian Commerce Minister Mehdi Ghazanfari, the two sides discussed possible ways to boost bilateral trade cooperation, IRNA reported. Tehran presented the draft FTA to enhance the two-way transactions to Yerevan in August 2009, Tehran Times reported. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian will pay a visit to Iran in September, while RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan is expected to arrive there in the second half of October.

September 13, 2010
www.panarmenian.net

ARMENIA, TURKMENISTAN CONSIDER THERE ARE OUTLOOKS FOR COOPERATION IN LIGHT INDUSTRY



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received newly appointed Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Armenia Ata Serdarov. Mr. Sargsyan congratulated the Ambassador on the appointment, expressing hope that his activity will be aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation. The Prime Minister attached importance to the activity of the Armenian-Turkmen inter-governmental commission in terms of boosting trade and economic bilateral relations, the RA government's press service reported. Specifically, Mr. Sargsyan hailed the work of the second inter-governmental sitting in April 2010. The parties said that there are outlooks for implementation of joint programs in light industry, specifically, in textiles production. Referring to boosting cultural ties, the Armenian Prime Minister attached importance to organization of mutual days of culture.

September 15, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **SEPTEMBER 9:** Three Armenians, including one citizen of RA, killed in terrorist act at Vladikavkaz market **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 10:** Spyur information center to provide information on organizations of Diaspora **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 10:** Venezuelan ex-minister of finance advises Armenia to focus on export **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 12:** IT companies discussing prospects of animation market development in Armenia **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 13:** Yerevan to host Armenia-Lebanon business forum in November **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 13:** Russian football clubs show interest in Armenian fullback Robert Arzumanyan **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 14:** Azerbaijan tries to destabilize region by spreading lies **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 14:** About 50 Armenian websites attacked by Azerbaijani hackers in 2010 **AH**

ARMENIA RANKED 98TH IN 2010-2011 GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

The head of Economy and Values Research Center Manuk Hergnyan announced the results of 2010-2011 Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The WEF report covers 139 states worldwide, with Armenia ranked 98th, against 97th place last year (with 133 states assessed). "In the context of competitiveness, Armenia has returned to the stage of natural resource-based economic development," Hergnyan noted. The report indicates improvements in healthcare sphere, employment ratio, and facilitation of transactions for business enterprises among positive tendencies in Armenia. Ineffective antimonopoly policy is described among negative tendencies. Switzerland remains the world's most competitive economy, followed by Sweden, U.S. and Germany. Among CIS states, Ukraine and Azerbaijan slipped in the ranking (89 and 57th places respectively). Improvement was reported in Tajikistan and Kirgizia (116 and 121st places respectively). Georgia is ranked 93rd, Kazakhstan - 72nd, Russia- 63rd.

September 9, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

IRELAND PLEDGES TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESOLUTION OF PROTRACTED REGIONAL CONFLICTS IN ITS CAPACITY AS OSCE CHAIR



The forthcoming OSCE Summit in Astana in December offers a unique opportunity to renew key security and confidence-building commitments agreed by the 56 OSCE participating States, including the landmark

Vienna Document, said Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin in an address to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in Vienna today. Looking ahead to Ireland's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2012, Minister Martin said: "The OSCE plays an important role in conflict prevention and resolution, particularly in relation to the protracted conflicts in the region. As Chair, we will work hard to contribute to the resolution of these conflicts, drawing on our experience in this area in the context of the Northern Ireland peace process." *September 9 2010 www.panarmenian.net*

ARMEN YERITSYAN: ARMENIA WANTS TO JOIN INSARAG



Armenia 2010, a consequence management field exercise organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EAD-RCC) kicked off near the town of Arzni, Kotayk region, with participants from NATO and Partner countries as well as representatives and observers from other international organizations

and nations. "I am glad to welcome all participants in our country, which is situated in a seismic zone. The devastating 1988 earthquake is not forgotten and now Armenia makes another step to lower seismic risks," RA Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Yeritsyan said. "The first three days after an earthquake are most important, as during this period it's still possible to rescue people. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia stands ready to response to disasters. Armenia wants to join the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), which numbers 50 member countries, but we still have much to do for the purpose," he said.

September 12, 2010

full story www.panarmenian.net

PUSHKIN MUSEUM IN MOSCOW HOSTS EXHIBITION OF ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN ARTISTS

An exhibition of Russian and Armenian artists, including Martiros Saryan and Yervand Kochar, was opened in Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the museum.

Armenia's delegation led by RA Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan participated in the opening ceremony of the exhibition. The exhibition, titled: Two Colors of Rainbow – Reflection of Two Destinies..., will last until November 14, the press service of the RA Ministry of Culture reported.

September 14, 2010 www.panarmenian.net



TIGRAN SARGSYAN SAYS RA GOVERNMENT EFFECTING SERIOUS REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE

Mr. Prime Minister, the Russian 'GasProm' company announced about raising the tariff of gas supply 2011. What kind of measures is the Government undertaking for relieving the consequences of the rise in gas tariff?

The issue was discussed during the visit of President of Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev to Armenia. The issue is always on focus of the RA Government, and the corresponding bodies always hold consultations on it. A concrete task is assigned to the board of 'ArmRosGazProm' company to continue the talks for making the gas tariff policy and methodology foreseeable. Within several months the company board will provide concrete information on the results of the talks with the Russian side.

Mr. Sargsyan, economic declines have been registered in the agriculture. What can you foresee for the near future?

In the first seven months of 2010 the agricultural sphere was not in a good state; because of weather variations we suffered serious losses in the fruits-vegetables production. The agricultural decline was quite enormous and all the general macroeconomic indices went bad because of agriculture. It is too difficult to foresee the weather conditions of spring and autumn sowing; however it is evident that we are effecting reforms of utmost seriousness in the agricultural sphere. For the first time in the recent 10 years we adopted a program for seed farming. Despite Russia's embargo on wheat exportation, we will import 1000 tons of high-quality wheat. We selected those companies, which are able to be engaged in seed farming in the provinces. We have an aim to achieve the level of producing 30,000 tons of elite seeds within the forthcoming 5 years. This will ensure 15-20% rise in productivity. We hope that the issue will be solved completely within that period. We have adopted a program of organic fertilizer production, using the local research potential. In this sphere we implemented pilot projects in all the provinces; the results were positive. Due to this project our dependence on imported fertilizers will be reduced. Besides, the Armenian fertilizers will be twice cheaper than the imported ones. We established regional support centers for holding consultations with villagers. The systems of irrigation is being improved as well. It was the first time the program of agricultural reforms was put to public vote. A program for supplying the agricultural sphere with equipments was adopted as well.

September 10, 2010

full interview www.armenpress.am

PRO PATRIA

RUSSIA BOOSTS MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH ARMENIA

Russia and Armenia have agreed to deepen their already close military ties, signing a deal that will strengthen Russian influence in the South Caucasus and could have profound implications for the unresolved Karabakh conflict. Amendments to a bilateral 1995 defense treaty were signed during Russian President, Dmitry Medvedev's, visit to Yerevan on August 19-20. The amendments, publicized by both sides, extended Russia's lease on a Soviet-era military base headquartered in the northwestern Armenian city of Gyumri by 24 years, until 2044, and enhanced its role in the South Caucasus state's security. The approximately 4,000 troops stationed there will now not only protect the "interests of the Russian Federation," but also "ensure the security of the Republic of Armenia" jointly with the Armenian army. According to Armenian President, Serzh Sargsyan, this agreement will expand their "sphere of geographical and strategic responsibility." "The activity of the Russian military base was until now confined to the external border of the former USSR. That restriction has now been removed from the treaty's text," Sargsyan told a joint news conference with Medvedev (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun, August 21).

September 10, 2010

full story www.georgiandaily.com

MACEDONIA HOLDS ARMENIA 2-2 IN EURO QUALIFIER

Ilo Naumovski scored an injury-time penalty for Macedonia to snatch a 2-2 draw against Armenia on Tuesday in a qualifier for the 2012 European Championship.

Naumovski scored moments after Armenia's Edgar Manucharyan had put the host up 2-1 with a stoppage-time goal.

Yura Movsisyan opened the scoring for Armenia after tearing through Macedonia's defense in the 40th minute.

But Mario Gjurovski leveled for the Macedonians a minute later, after the host missed a couple of early chances in the Group B match.

September 9, 2010 www.usatoday.com

NATO, INCLUDING TURKEY, EXERCISES IN ARMENIA

NATO's disaster-preparation exercise in Armenia has begun, and the Turks taking part did not, in the end, cross the border: More than half of the exercise participants are Armenian rescuers and firefighters employed by Yeritsian's ministry. Ten others represent neighboring Turkey, with which Armenia has no diplomatic relations. With the Turkish-Armenian border remaining closed, the Turks had to travel to Armenia via Georgia. Turkish officials indicated in July that Ankara might temporarily reopen the frontier for the exercise. Officials in Yerevan dismissed such possibility as public relations stunt. NATO's website describes the exercise's scenario: On 11 September 2010 at 09:05 a.m., an earthquake of 7.2 Richter Scale (equal to the moment magnitude) occurred in the Kotayk region of the Republic of Armenia. The hypocenter was located in 10 km depth, and the epicentre was located 8 km north-east of the city of Abovyan. A high number of casualties have been reported (first estimations amount to 12,000 dead and 17,000 wounded) and thousands of buildings have been destroyed. The cities of Charencavan and Abovyan, as well as the adjacent rural communities are amongst the most affected areas. The water supply and drainage systems of the region are no longer functioning. Means of communication, gas and energy supply systems, as well as infrastructure and means of transport are heavily affected. Fires have spread, the hospitals of the region have been destroyed and humanitarian organisations cannot operate anymore. Thousands of citizens have lost their homes. The international airport of Yerevan was affected by the earthquake but is still usable... One Armenian analyst quoted by Regnum.ru, David Karabekyan, is not impressed, and thinks Russia should be doing this exercise, not NATO and especially not Turkey (translated from Russian by google): "Why in the territory of Armenia should be a disaster? Why on [nuclear power plant] Metsamor, where every effort is made to ensure reliable security? Is it not logical that the event of an accident at the plant, which is a Russian company, using the victim engaged in Russian rescuers, not the armed forces of NATO? "Why Turkey gets a free access to the strategic object?". One might ask, too, what NATO is doing conducting disaster relief exercises, but that is another discussion...

September 13, 2010 www.eurasianet.org

ARMENIA IN OCTOBER: SWEET!



People here can look forward to a sweet treat next month. The world's largest chocolate bar will be up be divided up and handed out on Oct. 16 in Yerevan's main square. The Guinness Book of World Records certified the 4,410-kilogram chocolate bar at a ceremony Saturday. It was made by the Grand Candy factory — which is celebrating its 10th anniversary — and contains all natural ingredients, including 70 per cent cocoa mass. The chocolate bar is 560 centimetres long, 275 centimetres wide and 25 centimetres thick.

September 11, 2010 www.thestar.com

GROUNDBREAKING FOR ARMENIAN MEMORIAL IN BOSTON

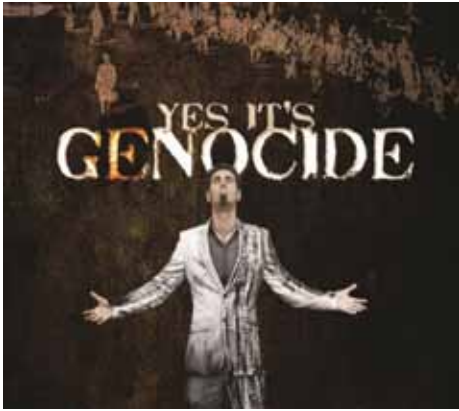


His Holiness Karekin II will offer a blessing. The governor and the mayor plan to speak. And many will celebrate the long-awaited ground breaking today for the Armenian Heritage Park on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. The patch on the greenway, next to the wharf promenade, will soon be transformed into a park that honors the history of immigrants building the US. Trees will surround a labyrinth of granite pathways, winding inward to a jet of water. A 12-sided sculpture will change shapes periodically and will pay tribute to the nation's immigrant experience. The park, a gift to the city from the Armenian American community, will also commemorate the 1915-era Armenian genocide that took about 1.5 million lives as well as other genocides. Karekin II, the global head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, will mark the celebration at 2 p.m. on the Greenway near Faneuil Hall.

September 6, 2010

www.boston.com

TANKIAN, ANCA, AYF LAUNCH 'YES, IT'S GENOCIDE' CAMPAIGN



Grammy-winning multi-platinum singer/song writer Serj Tankian has teamed with the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) and the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) in calling on President Obama to honor his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide and take decisive action to end the genocide in Darfur, with the September 9th launch of the "Yes, It's Genocide" campaign. The effort, named in honor of the song of the same name to be released on September 21st on Tankian's "Imperfect Harmonies" album, encourages Tankian fans and anti-genocide activists to visit anca.org/yesitsgenocide and send a free ANCA Webmail to Presi-

ERDOGAN'S NEW CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZES ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, TURKISH NATIONALIST SAYS

At a press conference, Oktay Vural, Vice-Chairman of the Nationalist Movement parliamentary faction, was severely critical of the constitutional amendments proposed by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan. He claimed the draft amendments contain anti-Turkish elements. The Haberfax news website reports that the nationalist believes the draft amendments actually recognize the Armenian Genocide and provide for the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus. The Justice and Development Party, Turkey's ruling party, drafted 29 amendments to the country's constitution, which was adopted after military coup on Septem-

ber 12, 1980. The amendments provides for judicial reforms, particularly reforms of the Constitutional Court and Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors. The amendments also provide for the institution of criminal proceedings against the military by civil judicial bodies, a trial of the military coup organizers. The amendments transfer the right to initiate proceedings on dissolution of political parties from the Curt of Cassation to Parliament. The draft also institutes the post of ombudsman and grants civil servants the right to sign collective contacts and hold strikes.

September 10, 2010 www.asbarez.com

RUSSIA REASSURES AZERBAIJAN OVER NEW PACT WITH ARMENIA

Russia's new military agreement with Armenia poses no security threat to Azerbaijan, President Dmitry Medvedev insisted on Friday during a visit to Baku which he said will help elevate Russian-Azerbaijani relations to a "new level." Medvedev reportedly said after talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, that they had a detailed discussion on the agreement that extended Russia's lease on a military base in Armenia by 24 years and upgraded its security mission. The deal took the form of amendments to a 1995 Russian-Armenian defense treaty. "Maintaining peace in the Caucasus is very important for Russia," Russian news agencies quoted Medvedev as telling a joint news conference with Aliyev. "We are interested in seeing peace and order here. The Russian-Armenian agreement to prolong the deployment of the Russian military base in Gyumri should be viewed in this context."

September 11, 2010 Lousapatz weekly N 851

AZERBAIJANI-ARMENIANS SETTLE IN THE US AFTER POGROMS

(CONTINUATION)

Liana Gazarian, who arrived in August 1994 in the US, stated that there probably were a maximum of around 200 Armenians in Bowling Green, Ky., which has a total population of 68,000. They arrived starting in the early 1990s, and some came as late as five or six years ago. At present, only about 150 Armenians remain. There is little for teenagers to do there, and many Armenians moved away. It was a good place initially for immigrants, as it was not as confusing as large American cities, and there were people from the refugee settlement programs to help them. Gazarian said, "Coming to Bowling Green to me looked like heaven. I never felt isolated. I never complained. If you are alive and God saved you and did not let you get killed, you should appreciate what you have." Interestingly, when Gazarian arrived in 1994, among the prior immigrants "they only had one lady who was a Russian speaker and knew some English, but otherwise we had to communicate with hand signals and otherwise." It is a friendly place.

September 13, 2010

[full story www.mirrorspectator.com](http://fullstorywww.mirrorspectator.com)

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September 9 2010

[full story www.armeniadiaspora.com](http://fullstorywww.armeniadiaspora.com)

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