



**RUSSIAN WHEAT SEEDS  
DELIVERED TO ARMENIA  
PAGE 3**



**TURKEY TREADS CAUTIOUSLY  
ON QUESTION OF ARMENIAN  
PAST PAGE 4**

# ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia**

**SEPTEMBER 24-29 2010**

## THEMA

**ARMENIA'S VIRTUAL  
EXHIBITION HALL  
AWARDED PRIZE FOR IN-  
NOVATIVE SOLUTION AT  
EXPO 2010 SHANGHAI**



Armenia's virtual exhibition hall at Expo 2010 Shanghai was awarded a special prize for innovative solution established by the chief sponsor of the exhibition, Dassault Systemes S.A., a leading company specializing in 3D software. Armenia-projected virtual exhibition hall will be available on the internet for years to come. To mark the Independence Day of Armenia, the Armenian flag was raised at Shanghai Expo 2010 exhibition on September 21. Following the ceremony, the Armenian delegation, led by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan was invited to the official reception hall. At Expo 2010, Armenia was represented by the City of the World pavilion, featuring Apricot Garden and Gold & Silk highlights.

Armenian pavilion, featuring models of famous architects worldwide, aims to invite people to construct the City of the World. In Apricot Garden, visitors can embrace the blossoming apricot trees, taste the unique apricots of Armenia and enjoy the magical sounds of Armenian Duduk flute made of wood from the apricot tree. In Gold & Silk, visitors can discover many interesting facts about ancient trade relations between Armenia and China, enjoy the unique mastery of Armenian jewellers. Over 2 million visitors have been welcomed into the Armenian pavilion since the exhibition launch.

*September 27, 2010*  
[www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"AZERBAIJAN CONTINUES TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON NONUSE OF FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE. THIS GOES AGAINST THE UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS."

EDWARD NALBANDYAN  
RA FOREIGN MINISTER

## Upcoming Events

**October 5:** Armenia marks Teachers day

**October 8:** Prime Minister of Lebanon visits Armenia

**October 11:** President of Slovenia Danilo Türk Visits Armenia

**October 16:** Armenia Celebrates the Day of Alphabet and Translation

## 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)

## ARAM ISABEKYAN'S PERSONAL EXHIBITION IN ARTISTS' UNION OF ARMENIA



The personal exhibition of Aram Isabekyan, rector of RA State Academy of Fine Arts, opened today in the Armenian Artists' Union. About 106 paintings and 30 graphic works were exhibited. Hovik Abrahamyan, speaker of the National Assembly, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Armenian Healthcare Minister Harutyun Kushkryan, NA member, Chairman of "Prosperous Ar-

menia" party Gagik Tsarukyan, many cultural and public-political figures attended the exhibition. Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, congratulating the guests on opening of Aram Isabekyan's personal exhibition, noted that Aram Isabekyan is an artist and intellectual with distinct civic position, a person who brings up generations. "Visiting this exhibition you will be sure, too, that the upbringing of our young people is in trustworthy hands and his art will encourage all of us in that regard," Mr. Sargsyan noted. Karen Aghamyan, chairman of Armenian Artists' Union, noted that today is a holiday for everybody, as a very interesting exhibition opens. Artist Aram Isabekyan noted that the works painted over 42 years are exhibited. He expressed gratitude to all those who have supported him to hold this exhibition and issue his album. The exhibition will be open till October 6.

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

## NEW TERMINAL TO OPEN IN ZVARTNOTS AIRPORT IN 2011



The civil aviation in Armenia is dynamically developing, according to Sahak Hakobyan, head of the General Department of the Civil Aviation.

"Air transportation volumes increased 10% over the past 8 months. As of September 22, passenger flows increased 13.5% compared with the same period in 2009," Hakobyan told reporters in Yerevan.

He also informed that a new terminal meeting all international standards will open in Zvartnots Airport in 2011. Asked to comment on the Airport's recent ban on Armavia national carrier's flights, Hakobyan said state agencies are not empowered to interfere into a conflict between two entities.

September 29, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## TIGRAN G. MARTIROSYAN WORLD WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPION

Armenia's Tigran G. Martirosyan claimed double gold in both clean and jerk and total in men's 77kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships in Antalya, Turkey. Martirosyan combined 173kg in the snatch and 200kg in the clean and jerk to win gold with a total weight of 373kg. China's Lu Xiaojun won silver with 370kg. Egypt's Tarek Yehia finished third with 356kg.

September [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)



## HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **SEPTEMBER 24:** Ratna Sahay gives high assessment to implementation of IMF program in Armenia **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 25:** RA NSC discusses border security issues **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 25:** OSCE MG Field Assessment Mission scheduled for October 4-14, 2010 **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 27:** Armenia, Belarus to boost cooperation in various fields **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 28:** RA budget expenditures grew 7.1% in January-August 2010 as result of state debt servicing **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 28:** Bako Sahakyan: NKR independence and security are not subject to compromise **AH**
- **SEPTEMBER 29:** 25-year-old Armenian Marina Avetian wins Miss Tourism **AH** ageant in Turkey
- **SEPTEMBER 29:** Armenia's food industry can preserve **AH** its traditions to world
- **SEPTEMBER 29:** Henrikh Mkhitaryan makes debut in UEFA Champions League

## BAN KI-MOON: WITHDRAWAL OF SNIPERS WILL STRENGTHEN TRUCE BETWEEN KARABAKH AND AZERBAIJAN

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the sidelines of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. At the request of the UN General Secretary, Mr. Nalbandian briefed on recent trends in the Karabakh conflict settlement, the RA MFA press service reported. Ban Ki-moon noted that he supports the withdrawal of snipers from the contact line, what will considerably strengthen the truce between the parties to the conflict. Edward Nalbandian said he is of the same opinion, expressing hope that Azerbaijan will accept the offer made repeatedly. Referring to developments around the Armenian-Turkish normalization within a year, Nalbandian expressed gratitude to Ban Ki-moon for the UN's unbiased assistance in this process. Edward Nalbandian left New York for Boston to deliver a speech at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and to meet with representatives of the Armenian community there.

September 26, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)



## YEREVAN HOSTS 8TH AWARD CEREMONY TIMED TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY



On September 28, Yerevan hosted the 8th award ceremony timed to the Freedom of Information Day. The ceremony was organized by the

Freedom of Information Center (FIC). Golden Key nomination was set to award organizations, media and citizen who abode by their right to receive information. Rusty Lock award was extended to organizations and media whose work lacks transparency. At the ceremony, the head of FIC Shushan Doydoyan specifically noted the progress in information freedom reported over the last 5 years in Armenia. Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, who also participated in the ceremony, emphasized the importance of openness and transparency in the work of governmental institutions.

September 28, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## NALBANDIAN, ZBOGAR DISCUSS SLOVENIAN PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING VISIT TO ARMENIA

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian met with his Croatian counterpart Gordan Jandrokovic on the sidelines of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two men noted that the two countries Presidents' mutual visits last year have created good prerequisites for development of the Armenian-Croatian economic, political and cultural cooperation. The same day, Minister Nalbandian met with Slovenian Foreign Minister Samuel Zbogar to discuss details of Slovenian President Danilo Turk's official visit to Armenia next month.



At Mr. Zbogar's request, the Armenian Minister briefed on latest developments in the Karabakh conflict settlement process, RA MFA press service reported.

September 23, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MARKED IN KUWAIT AND INDIA



Armenia's Independence Day was marked in Kuwait and India.

On September 23, Kuwait hosted a reception with participation of representatives of the Foreign Ministry of Kuwait, Armenian community, as well as ambassadors to this country and diplomats, the RA MFA press service reported.

On September 21, Calcutta hosted an event dedicated to the 19th anniversary of Armenia's independence. Besides, an exhibition of works by students of Armenian gymnasium was organized and a film about Armenia screened.

September 25, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## AZERBAIJAN ASKS CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS TO ASSIST RETURN OF AZERI SUBVERSIVE DEAD BODY



Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill conveyed Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Clerical Office Sheil-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade's request to Catholicos of All Armenians His Holiness Karekin II to assist return of the dead body of Azeri serviceman Mubariz Ibrahimov, who was killed at Chaylu settlement during an Azerbaijani subversive attack.

"His Holiness Karekin II informed Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan about the request," head of the information services of Holy Etchmiadzin, Rev. Father Vahram Melikyan said.

"Unlike Azerbaijan, Armenia observes humanitarian law norms and transfers bodies to the opposite side. It stands ready to consider any request of the kind," he said.

September 27, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## RUSSIAN WHEAT SEEDS DELIVERED TO ARMENIA



1000 tons (16 vans) of Russian wheat seeds have been already delivered to Ayrum station in Armenia. By 8 pm, the cargo will reach Masis station, Railvneshtans press service told PanARMENIAN.Net. The Armenian government has approved the seed farming program for 2010-2014 in July 2010.

September 27, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

# PRO PATRIA

## TURKEY TREADS CAUTIOUSLY ON QUESTION OF ARMENIAN PAST

The Turkish government wants to improve relations with Armenia, but is it ready to leave behind decades of nationalist dogma and fully confront the country's past? From the vantage point of the ancient castle, perched atop a rocky outcrop, you can see the whole of the city of Van, spread out between the dazzling blue of the great lake and the jagged mountains to the east. It is a featureless sprawl of ugly apartment blocks that you might find in any provincial Turkish city. Nothing suggests that it has any history going back more than a few decades. If you then look to the south, directly beneath you is an area of rough grass, crisscrossed by a maze of paths, with just a few fragments of buildings still visible. People walking on the street in Van. The story of how the Armenians vanished is not discussed in Van today. This is Old Van, a city that, until its destruction, had been continuously inhabited for more than 3,000 years. And a large part of the people who inhabited it were Armenians - it had once been at the heart of a great Armenian empire. Today there are almost none. The only two buildings still standing there are mosques. Of the dozen or so churches, there is no trace. The story of how the Armenians vanished from their historic homeland is not discussed in Van today. The city proudly describes the waves of invaders who have passed through - Parthians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, Seljuk Turks - but the Armenians who dominated the city just a century ago are hardly mentioned. At least half of the original population died in what many historians call the modern world's first genocide. This is not surprising really, when you consider that the Ottoman Empire's biggest minority was driven out of Anatolia in 1915 on ghastly death marches. At least half, maybe much more, of the original population died, in what many historians call the modern world's first genocide. Today the inhabitants of Van are mainly Kurdish, some probably the descendants of those who killed and seized the property of the Armenians. The current Turkish government is the first one to seek some kind of accommodation with its Armenian past. It needs to if it is to fulfil its ambition to be a regional power and to be part of the European Union.

September 25, 2010

Full story [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

## LAS VEGAS—SCOTT ASHJIAN IS ONE OF THOSE VEGAS CHARACTERS.



He wears a platinum Rolex and slicks his hair back, Mad Men-style. He got his start in car washes, went into asphalt and now has a company that floods the Internet with flattering information about people worried they look bad in Google searches. He keeps a Playboy-themed pinball machine in his office, drives a \$160,000 black Mercedes with a night-vision system, and carries a pistol under his suit jacket. And he just might be the man who determines the outcome of the highest-profile Senate race in the country. So volatile is the mood of the electorate, and so strong the anti-establishment anger, that Mr. Ashjian — a political unknown who barely bothers to campaign — may well tip the scales in favor of beleaguered Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, in his race with Republican challenger Sharron Angle.

September 28, 2010

full story [online.wsj.com](http://online.wsj.com)

## PAET DISCUSSED VISA-FREE MOVEMENT FOR ESTONIANS WITH ARMENIAN AND THAI COLLEAGUES

Paet and minister Piromya signed a co-operation protocol between the ministries of foreign affairs of Estonia and Thailand. According to Paet, Estonia also wishes to conclude with Thailand an agreement on avoiding double taxation and a partnership agreement on culture and education. "It is also important for Estonia to reach the state where Estonian citizens would be released from the obligation to hold visas in travelling to Thailand," said Paet, adding that according to his Thai colleague, the Government of Thailand will soon discuss the option. Minister Piromya also displayed interest in partnership options with Estonia's IT sector and with Estonian ports and railroads. During the meeting with the Armenian minister of foreign affairs, Paet proposed that Estonian citizens be waived of the visa obligation.

September 24, 2010

Full story 2010 [www.baltic-course.com](http://www.baltic-course.com)

## 'IMPERFECT HARMONIES' SURGES AHEAD

Departing further from the well-known sounds from his band System of a Down, Serj Tankian's "Imperfect Harmonies" is a personal adventure. The orchestral album has strong jazz and electronica elements, and is very experimental in nature.

"Imperfect Harmonies" sounds something like an amalgam of Tankian's voice and the Trans-Siberian orchestra. The album relies heavily on strings and other orchestral instruments. It can get a bit repetitive at times and it's not something too many listeners may be immediately fond of. But if you give it a few listens, you'll uncover the catchy melodies and solid songwriting in the album.

The album opens with "Disowned, Inc." The song starts strong with an upbeat, an-



gry string and guitar-driven melody. Then, it quickly fades into a jazzy verse, with little electric sounds here and there. The song is an excellent demonstration of the varied music to come, and is immediately catchy. "Borders Are..." begins with a piano and string intro that picks up with a fast beat and gradually builds up to an intense, fast-paced string driven climax fit for a car chase. As the song picks up, the instruments begin to meld together well and create a genuinely epic mood.

"Deserving?" begins with a somber acoustic guitar and string intro. The song eventually picks up pace, and the beat — combined with Tankian's vocal melody and signature style — begins to make the song take on a Muse-like nature. Once more, the song has another catchy melody and is well-executed.

"Beatus" is a quirky electronic-based track. The first half of the song is mellow, with piano, guitar and recorder-based melodies. Though catchy, it's a track that listeners may easily forget.

September 28, 2010

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



# DIASPORA

## SECURITY TIGHTENED AT THE WELSH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE EXHIBITION

Security measures have been put in place at the Welsh National Assembly building (Senedd) to protect an exhibition of the Armenian Genocide. The exhibition is the first of its kind to be held at any legislature in the world, and is being hailed by the Armenian diaspora as a major step forward in their campaign to get international recognition for the Genocide. In 2007, Hrant Dink, the editor of a Turkish Armenian newspaper, was assassinated in Istanbul after writing articles that were critical of Turkey's failure to come to terms with its past.

A year later, a memorial cross erected outside Cardiff's Temple of Peace was smashed the night before a gathering to commemorate the first anniversary of Dink's murder.

On Saturday, the photographic exhibition about the dark moment in European history opened on the first floor in the Senedd.

Usually, such exhibitions are unmanned, but because of the perceived threat from Turkish opponents, those wanting to see it will have to be accompanied by security volunteers.

The events involved massacres and deportations in forced marches under conditions designed to lead to the death of the depor-

tees. The total number of resulting Armenian deaths is generally held to have been 1-1.5 million. It is acknowledged by many historians to have been one of the first modern genocides, with scholars pointing to the systematic, organized manner in which the killings were carried out.

John Torosyan, a leading member of the Welsh Armenian community, said: "There is no doubt that Wales is leading the rest of the UK in the long overdue recognition for the Armenian genocide.

"That is clearly demonstrated by the unveiling of the Khatekar [memorial cross] at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff – the only monument in the UK on public grounds – in November 2007, the Holocaust Memorial Day event in January 2010 in which the Armenians were mentioned for the first time in 10 years, the message of sympathy we received from First Minister Carwyn Jones in April this year, and now this exhibition." The exhibition, which is sponsored by Plaid Cymru AM Dai Lloyd, has been put together by Armenian historian Vardan Tadevosyan. He said: "This is an exhibition about the genocide which took place, but also tells of the links between Armenia and the UK."

September 27, 2010 [www.massispost.com](http://www.massispost.com)

## REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF ARARA: SEPTEMBER 19, 1918

Armenians throughout the world remember August 5, 1920 as the 90th anniversary of the short-lived independent Armenian republic formed in Cilicia under French mandate. During the same period, Armenians memorialize the 92nd anniversary of the Battle of Arara, on September 19, 1918, when the Armenian soldiers who comprised the Legion Armenienne (Armenian Legion) defeated a combined German-Turkish force to spur the final victorious campaign of the Allies in the Middle East during World War I. The Legion Armenienne (1916-1920) was an all-volunteer regiment, organized under an agreement between England and France with the Armenian National Delegation President Boghos Nubar Pasha. Leaders of the Armenian Diaspora raised a volunteer fighting force of about 4,500 soldiers, commanded by French officers, who participated in the wartime operations on the Palestine front as



part of the combined Anglo-French forces fighting against the Turkish-German army. In exchange for this support, France promised to give autonomy to Cilician Armenia. The Armenian Legion received its military baptism in the Battle of Arara on September 19, 1918. The Legion was ordered to seize a key front-line position at the heights of Arara, located south of Nablus, Palestine (present-day Israel).

September 27, 2010

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

## TURKISH NATIONALISTS TO PRAY IN MEDIEVAL ARMENIAN CHURCH



Members of Turkey's main nationalist opposition party are reportedly planning to gather in an 11th century Armenian cathedral Friday for a politically motivated Islamic prayer that is bound to infuriate Armenians, RFE/RL reported.

Turkish newspapers reported on Tuesday that authorities in the northeastern Kars region have received a formal permission application from the local branch of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP).

They said its chairman informed dozens of local MHP activists and supporters that the prayer service will take place at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in Ani, the ruined capital of a medieval Armenian kingdom located near the city of Kars, on the existing Turkish-Armenian border. Built in 1001 A.D. by one of the most celebrated architects of medieval Armenia, Trdat, the church was the largest building in the walled and once prosperous city. It is one of the few surviving examples of the ancient Armenian civilization that existed in what is now eastern Turkey until the 1915 Armenian Genocide. According to some historians, it was converted into a mosque after Armenia was invaded by the Seljuk Turks in the late 11th century. Official Turkish sources still refer to it as Fethiye Mosque. Some Turkish newspapers suggested that the MHP's intention to use it as a Muslim worship site is a response to the September 19 mass in the 10th century Holy Cross Armenian church in Van. However, party leaders attributed the politically explosive move to domestic politics and, in particular, their tense relations with the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) led by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

September 28, 2010

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

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