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ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

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THEMA



SERZH SARGSYAN: TATEV REVIVAL PROJECT -SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT IN GOVERNMENTAL STRATEGY FOR BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN REGIONS

The world's longest reversible passenger aerial tramway will impart a new charm to Vorotan River Gorge, giving indelible impressions to the tourists, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, who became the first passengers of the tramway today, stated. "The aerial tramway is of exceptional importance to Tatev and adjacent territories," the President emphasized. On October 16, 2010, the Tatev Revival Project was launched in Tatev, Syunik province of Armenia, marked by the official inauguration of the world's longest reversible passenger aerial tramway. Titled the Wings of Tatev, this engineering miracle spanning 5.7 km over the deep and picturesque Vorotan River Gorge, connects the two stations between two villages just as the Tatev Revival Project will bridge the past legacy of the Tatev monastery with the promising future of the region. The President characterized Tatev Revival Project as a significant component in governmental strategy

for balanced development of Armenian regions, also stimulating economic, scientific and cultural life of Syunik. Tatev Revival Project, with its development perspectives, has already caught the interest of foreign investors, according to the Executive Director of the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia (NCFA). "NCFA will set strict demands to the investors, limiting the number of constructions nearby the monastic complex," Bekor Papazyan said in his opening remarks. The Tatev Revival Project was launched in Tatev, Syunik province of Armenia, marked by the official inauguration of the world's longest reversible passenger aerial tramway on October 16, 2010. The Executive Director of NCFA characterized the event as the first step in implementation of a major project, capable of promoting tourist inflow. The \$50 million Tatev Revival Project aims to combine the monastic and touristic significance of the complex, in order to develop the region into an attractive destination nestled in a prospering local community.

October 16, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"INFLATION SUPPRESSION WILL BE AMONG BASIC CHALLENGES, FOR WHICH A CREDIT AND TAX-BUDGETARY POLICY WILL BE PURSUED"

TIGRAN SARGSYAN
RA PRIME- MINISTER

Upcoming Events

October 22-23: PM Tigran Sargsyan leaves for Yekterinburg

October 25-27: PM Tigran Sargsyan leaves for Islamic republic of Iran

USEFUL LINKS

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

RA GOVERNMENT TO SAVE UP TO USD 15MLN FOR STATE DEBT SERVICING



On October 14, the Armenian government approved signing of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which envisages introduction of changes in the agreement signed between the two structures earlier. Armenian Minister of Finance Tigran Davtyan said that, under the crisis conditions, Armenia managed to urgently attract from the IMF a disbursement at the amount of SDR 202.4mln under a Stand-by Arrangement in 2009. According to Davtyan, in July 2010 the IMF Executive Board decided to change the terms of SDR 74.8mln (over USD 100mln) loan envisaged for Armenia. The Minister added that 5 years had been envisaged for its repayment earlier, while the introduced changes have prolonged the term to 10 years with a 5-year grace period at 0% rate. "These are unprecedented conditions for state debt servicing, while we will manage to save USD 10-15mln as a result of the debt restructuring," said Davtyan. *October 14, 2010, www.panarmenian.net*

LEVON ARONIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN MIKHAIL TAL MEMORIAL

Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian (2783) will participate in Mikhail Tal Memorial to be held in Moscow, Russia, from November 5 to 14, 2010. Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), Pavel Elyanov (Ukraine), Alexander Grischuk (Russia), Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan), Boris Gelfand (Israel), Alexei Shirov (Spain), Sergei Karjakin (Russia), Hikaru Nakamura (U.S.) and Wang Hao (China). The Mikhail Tal Memorial is a chess tournament played in Moscow each year since 2006, to honor the memory of the former World Champion Mikhail Tal who died in 1992. It is usually played in the first half of November, with many of the world's strongest players competing. *October 15, 2010 www.panarmenian.net*

ARMENIA TO PERFORM AT POSITION 10 AT 2010 JUNIOR EUROVISION



During a draw at the Minsk Arena, where the competition will take place on November 20, the running order for the 2010 Junior Eurovision Song Contest was determined. According to the information posted on 2010 Junior Eurovision website, the show will be started by Lithuania, followed by Moldova, the Netherlands, Serbia, Ukraine Sweden and Russia. In the second half, at positions 8 to 13, artists from Latvia, Belgium, Armenia, Malta, Belarus and Georgia will perform. FYRMacedonia will perform at number 14, whose artist will thus end the show. Armenia will be represented by Vladimir Arzumanyan with the song "Mother". *October 15, 2010 www.panarmenian.net*

UNION OF ARMENIANS OF RUSSIA MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Days of Union of Armenians of Russia (UAR) and World Armenian Congress (WAC) will be held in Armenia and Artsakh to mark the 10th anniversary of the UAR. On October 15, representatives of the two organizations led by chairman Ara Abrahamyan will arrive in Stepanakert.

On October 17, the delegation will be in Gyumri, where a book exhibition and screening of a film dedicated to the UAR anniversary will be organized.

On October 20, a concert will take place in National Opera and Ballet Theater in Yerevan. *October 15, 2010 www.panarmenian.net*

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **OCTOBER 14:** Azerbaijan fires 500 shots at NKR forces positions **AH**
- **OCTOBER 14:** Sargsyan, Putin discuss bilateral cooperation **AH**
- **OCTOBER 15:** International arbiter Sargis Demirchian certified by Guinness World Records **AH**
- **OCTOBER 15:** Armenia-Cyprus relations praiseworthy **AH**
- **OCTOBER 16:** Armenian language class hours to be increased in Armenian schools of Georgia next year **AH**
- **OCTOBER 16:** Serzh Sargsyan congratulates Goris residents with town's 140th anniversary **AH**
- **OCTOBER 18:** Armenian, Lithuanian Prosecutor Generals discuss cooperation in struggle against crimes **AH**
- **OCTOBER 19:** Armenia, Lebanon to strengthen economic ties **AH**
- **OCTOBER 20:** Microsoft Learning Gateway educational platform to be launched in Armenia in January 2011

DUBLIN HOSTS ARMENIAN LITURGY



Thanks to the efforts of archimandrite Vahan Hovannissian, Armenian Apostolic Church was officially registered in Ireland. As reported by the press service of the Armenian community of Ireland, a liturgy was offered and nine children were baptized on October 17 through assistance of Armenian Honorary Consul in Ireland Ohan Yergaynaharsian as well as Margaret and Aida Safarian. Clergy and a choir from London performed Armenian sharakans for the first time in Ireland. During a meeting that followed, it was decided to form a community council to deal with organization of religious ceremonies, seminars and other events aimed to consolidate the community. *October 19, 2010 www.panarmenian.net*

TIGRAN SARGSYAN: GDP GROWTH TO MAKE 4.6% IN ARMENIA IN 2011



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said that, according to calculations of the Armenian government, the state budget revenues will amount to AMD 850bln, while expenditures – AMD 998bln in 2011. The state budget deficit will not exceed 4% next year, Sargsyan said in the Armenian parliament during discussion of the bill on 2011 state budget submitted by the government. According to Sargsyan, the GDP growth will make 4.6% in 2011. “Inflation suppression will be among basic challenges, for which

a credit and tax-budgetary policy will be pursued,” said Sargsyan. He noted that the 2011 state budget will be basically focused on provision of a long-term macroeconomic stability in the country and economy diversification. “We will also stimulate export of Armenian goods. To achieve the set goal, we will turn Zvartnots airport into a free economic zone to attract world brands to Armenia, implement sale and export of Armenian agricultural products on site. As a whole, the growth in agriculture will make 10% in 2011 after the drop in 2010,” said Tigran Sargsyan, adding that tourism development is another goal of the government that is envisaged by the state budget. He noted that in 2011 reforms will be continued specifically in the tax administration field. “We will continue introducing an electronic system in the field to minimize direct contacts between tax payers and employees of the tax service,” concluded Tigran Sargsyan.

October 18, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

IRANIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGENCY TO OPEN ITS BRANCH IN ARMENIA



Investors Servicing Director of the Armenian Development Agency Valery Shabanov said that the Armenian-Iranian business forum will serve as a new impetus for boosting the bilateral relations. An Iranian delegation of 22 companies dealing with various fields arrived in Yerevan to participate in the forum. The delegation includes representatives of the industrial field, who will meet with representatives of Armenian companies, as well as the RA Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, Transport and Communication, Urban Development, Economy, Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Armenian Development Agency (ADA). Currently Iran is the second after Russia (1000 companies) by the number of enterprises with Ira-

nian capital (818 companies) in Armenia, Shabanov said in his opening remarks. “There are favorable conditions in our country for unhindered inflow of Iranian investments, as the Armenian authorities pursue a free economic policy with liberal laws,” he said. He noted that the Armenian Diaspora of Iran also contributes to the development of bilateral relations. Referring to expansion of trade and economic ties, Valery Shabanov noted that there is a great potential, which needs to be facilitated. The trade turnover between Armenia and Iran amounted to USD 153mln in 2009, out of which 134mln makes the share of import, while USD 19mln – export. Aluminum, iron, steel, organic and non-organic components were exported from Armenia to Iran. While plastics, items made of it, glass, etc were imported from Iran to Armenia. Representative of the Iranian Trade and Investment Agency, Director of ENN simplex Seyed Babaei noted that the visit of the Iranian delegation is aimed not only at promoting Iranian products in the Armenian market, but also at briefing Armenian entrepreneurs on Iranian investments.

October 9, 2010

full article www.panarmenian.net

SERZH SARGSYAN: WE DON'T HAVE TO PERSUADE OURSELVES THAT INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF ARTSAKH'S RIGHT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION HAS NO ALTERNATIVE



“I view the 5th All-Armenian Journalists Conference entitled “Challenges of the 21st Century: Information Security and Armenian Journalism” and held in the capital of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic as an important initiative and thank you all for bringing to life that wonderful idea,” Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said during a meeting with journalists from Diaspora in Goris. The Armenian President noted that precise and timely information has become a powerful weapon in the 21st century: its pinpointed application may become decisive for the course of events. “From this point of view in all our activities, aimed at the realization of national goals, we attach utmost importance to the Armenian-language journalism and to the publications by our journalists in the world’s leading mass media. The role of the Armenian journalism is greatly stipulated also by the necessity to assist in addressing national issues, particularly, for the task of the world-wide preservation of the Armenian identity. Journalistic mission is indispensable for the establishment, strengthening and development of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh - second Armenian state - as well as for its international recognition. It should be not forgotten that victories won on the battle fields must be enforced by the victories on the diplomatic arena. At the same time, the role of the Armenian and Diaspora mass media, as well as publications by the Armenian journalists in foreign media is essential for withstanding adversary propaganda and introduction of the issue to the international community. The conference held in Stepanakert presented an excellent opportunity to thoroughly study Artsakh, to learn it from inside, to comprehend Artsakh’s problem and appreciate the worries of the people of Artsakh. I am confident that you will write many pages and create numerous stories on this account,” said Mr. Sargsyan. He also noted that further progress in the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide can also be expedited only through the increased involvement of media.

October 17, 2010

full article www.panarmenian.net

ARMENIAN PM VISITS IRAN LATE OCTOBER



Iranian ambassador to Armenia Ali Saghayan said Prime Minister of the country Tigran Sargsyan is to pay a visit to Iran on October 25. Sargsyan officially invited by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi is accompanied by a trade delegation during his two-day visit, Saghayan told ISNA. The delegation is to attend an economic-trade conference to be hosted by Tehran. Sargsyan is to raise bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments with Rahimi, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

October 17, 2010 www.isna.ir

IRAN, ARMENIA TO EXPAND ENERGY TIES

Iranian Energy Minister Majid Namjou met with Armenian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Armen Movsisyan in Yerevan on Thursday to discuss outlooks of bilateral cooperation. The two sides discussed a range of joint projects, some of which are at the stage of implementation.

Besides, construction of the third Iran-Armenia power transmission line started the same day. The 400KV transmission line is estimated to cost 107.9 million euros which will be financed by the Iranian Export Development Bank. On October 15, the two ministers signed a memorandum of ecological norms observance on the common border and Aras River, as well as draft agreement on construction, management, exploitation and transfer of Meghri hydropower plant. Armenia and Iran are going to construct two hydropower plants on Aras River. "The two projects are only a part of numerous programs that we intend to implement with Armenia in the energy field," said Majid Namjou.

October 17, 2010

[full article www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com)

ARMENIA TO CHANGE TAXATION OF KEY IMPORTS



The government of Armenia recently passed a bill in Parliament which outlines a new regime of taxation for imported fuel, tobacco and alcohol. Such a move was in accordance with international trading rules, Armenia Liberty.org reported. Importers of the aforesaid products currently pay only fixed taxes pegged to the physical volume of their deliveries. By contrast, local tobacco and alcohol manufacturers are subject to regular taxation that covers all businesses operating in Armenia. This includes payment of value-added and excise taxes, which appears to give them some competitive edge over their importing competitors.

October 17, 2010

[full article www.neurope.eu](http://www.neurope.eu)

WORLD'S LONGEST ROPEWAY TO OPEN IN ARMENIA



The world's longest ropeway will open on Saturday in southern Armenia, the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia has said. The 5.7-kilometer (3.54-mile) ropeway will run to the 9th century Monastery of Tatev in Syunik Province, some 280 kilometers (174 miles) away from Yerevan. The monastery, which has played an important role in the history of the region, being its major spiritual, political, cultural and educational center, was seriously damaged during an earthquake in 1931 and is now being reconstructed. The cost of the reconstruction is estimated at \$45 million. Visitors will have to spend just 11 minutes in a ropeway cabin to reach a promontory located more than 100 meters above the Vorotan River, on which the monastery is situated.

October 16, 2010 [full story en.rian.ru](http://en.rian.ru)

IFC HELPS ARMENIAN BANK IMPROVE RISK MANAGEMENT WITH INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

IFC and Ameriabank on October 15 signed an International Swaps and Derivatives Association master agreement, the international standard for risk management transactions. Under the agreement, IFC will provide Ameriabank with U.S.-dollar interest-rate swaps and multiple-currency swaps. This will enable the bank to better manage its interest-rate



risks on borrowed funds as well as currency risks for its euro deposit base, and allow it to provide a wider range of deposit products to customers," IFC said. "This transaction will help strengthen our risk-management capacity, which is particularly important in the post-crisis period," said Artak Hanesyan, Ameriabank's General Director and Management Board Chairman. Thomas Lubeck, IFC Regional Head of the Caucasus, said, "This is our first swap agreement in Armenia and we are happy to be providing this high-level of financial technology. It will provide Ameriabank with important risk-management tool and improve the bank's sustainability." Ameriabank became an IFC client in mid 2009, when the bank joined IFC's Global Trade Finance Program. Building on the partnership, in December 2009, IFC provided Ameriabank with a \$15 million senior loan for onlending to small hydropower plants that will boost renewable energy supply and decrease greenhouse-gas emissions in Armenia. IFC has supplemented the investment with advisory services to help the bank assess and review projects focusing on environmental and financial aspects. Armenia became a member of IFC in 1995. Since then, IFC invested \$87 million in 18 projects across a range of industries, including financial markets, general manufacturing, energy, mining, and chemicals. IFC Advisory Services focuses on developing the country's the financial sector, sustainable energy, and regulatory simplification.

October 16, 2010 www.finchannel.com

SD HUNCHAKIAN PARTY MEETS WITH US AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA MARIE L. YOVANOVICH

Glendale CA -- A delegation of SDHP Western Region of the U.S. headed by Chairman Vasken Khodanian along with SDHP Central Committee member Harry Sarafian met with U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanotvich on October 12, 2010. During the hour-long meeting, wide ranging topics were discussed, with primary emphasis being placed on the current political situation in Armenia. The SDHP delegation was concerned that since the 2008 elections, the Armenian authorities had done very little to address the repeated violations of human rights, the trampling of democratic principles and the rule of law in Armenia. In that respect, the delegation urged the U.S. State Department to continue to stress upon the Armenian authorities the need to release all political prisoners, establish an environment conducive to free and fair parliamentary elections by first and foremost facilitating the return of the independent A1Plus TV Station back on the air. The delegation was also concerned that by not meeting with the opposition during her last visit to Armenia, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton might have sent the wrong

message to the Armenian authorities and the opposition alike. The ambassador assured the SDHP delegation members, that the United States is consistent with its policy toward the establishment of democratic principles in Armenia and that it is doing more toward that goal that what the public might be aware of. She also commended SDHP for championing democracy in Armenia. On the issue of Nagorno Karabakh peace process, the delegation reiterated its belief that the right to self determination should be the guiding principle in the negotiations and to that end, the NK representatives must return to the negotiation table as an active participant. The delegation also pointed to the dishonest and insincere approach exhibited by the Turkish government during its negotiations with the Armenian side, thus deepening the distrust and misgivings between the two countries. Other issue discussed during the meeting with Ambassador Yovanotvich included the state of US financial assistance to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. All sides agreed to the need of regional stability based on democracy and the rule of law.

October 16, 2010 Lousabats N 856

MENSOIAN: AKHTAMAR: AM I MISSING SOMETHING?



Beginning in 2006 when Turkey announced the proposed restoration of the Holy Cross Church (Sourp Khatch) on Akhtamar Island in Lake Van and continuing through Sept. 19, 2010 when the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul held religious services there at the invitation of the Turkish authorities, Akhtamar represented a carefully choreographed public relations offensive by the Turkish government. Akhtamar should provide sufficient proof

that Islamist Prime Minister Erdogan's mindset with respect to Armenia and Armenians is no different than that of the anti-Islamist Ataturk who was given carte blanche by the victorious World War I allies to bring "order" to central Anatolia, allowing him to continue the Ottoman Turkish-inspired genocide of the Armenian nation. In return for bringing order to Anatolia, Ataturk's ill-conceived reward came in the Treaty of Lausanne, which created the present-day Turkish republic at the expense of a free and independent Armenia. Article 42 of the treaty was offered as a sop to compensate the devastated remnant population of the Armenian nation for the genocide that took some 1.5 million innocent Armenian lives and the loss of Armenia's historic western provinces. Specifically, Article 42 required "(t)hat the Turkish government...grant full protection to the [Armenian] churches..."

October 14, 2010


full article www.armenianweekly.com

REMEMBERING THE MEKHITARISTS: 50 YEARS LATER



It is here where a cadre of Armenian Catholic Fathers has gathered since the late 18th century to preserve Armenian culture and literature, preach to the faithful, heighten the spiritual and intellectual development of the Armenian people, and educate its youth. It is here that a prominent religious order has contributed greatly toward bringing Armenians to the forefront of European thought through publications in Latin, French, German, Italian, and English. It is here where Armenians famous and not-so-famous visit from around the world to satisfy their inhibitions, see antiquity in progress, peruse through an enormous library of books and coins, marvel over some of the greatest artwork ever presented, and tour an imposing "garden of paradise" with rich horticultural blessings. It is here where I had the privilege of spending a year's time while still a teenager looking for adventure. A freshman at Boston University at the time, I was at the crossroads of indecision. I had already changed my major once from chemistry to accounting, and was failing miserably. Things weren't going particularly well on the home front. I had broken off with a girlfriend, and could no longer tolerate my father's luncheonette business after being weaned in it. To put it bluntly, I needed a change in my life. It came one Sunday shortly before Christmas after serving Mass as a deacon at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Harvard Square. Father Luke Arakelian, pastor at the time, came up with a proposal that got me thinking. He offered to send me to Vienna in a pilot program to study Armenian language and religion with the priests. Not to be ordained as one, simply to enhance my skills. It would mean a year's hiatus from college. Two other youth were also tapped for the venture, me being the older one. If it worked, others would follow from America. Recognizing the urgent need of propagating Armenian heritage among our youth, a program of Armenian education was launched in America during that year in 1960. Essentially, we would be trailblazers inside a monastic environment few our age had ever ventured for any length of time.

October 15, 2010 full story www.asbarez.com

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