



ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER,
IRANIAN VICE PRESIDENT
DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTU-
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ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

October 22-28 2010

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A TRILATERAL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF ARMENIA, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND AZERBAIJAN TOOK PLACE IN ASTRAKHAN



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PRESS OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF

A trilateral meeting of the Presidents of Armenia, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, held today in Astrakhan (RF) at the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev in the framework of the NK peace process, has been concluded. The Presidents discussed the details of the NK peace process so as to continue the negotiations up until the OSCE Summit in Astana and reach agreement on the basic principles. Based on the principle of humanity, it was also agreed to exchange prisoners of war and remains of the dead. Before the trilateral meeting, Presi-

dent Sargsyan visited the Armenian memorial in the center of Astrakhan and laid a wreath at the cross-stone monument installed on the site of the Armenian church, which was erected here back in 1706 and demolished in 1930s, and in commemoration of the 290th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Astrakhan. At the ceremony, the President was accompanied by the spiritual leader of the St Ripsime Church of Astarkhan, Priest Ter Sebeos Ghalachian, representatives of local authorities and the Armenian community of Astrakhan. **October 27, 2010** www.president.am

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“THE RAILWAY WILL ESTABLISH A MAJOR TRANSIT NETWORK BETWEEN IRAN AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IT WILL ALSO LINK ARMENIA TO OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES “

MOHAMMAD REZA RAHIMI
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF
IRAN

Upcoming Events

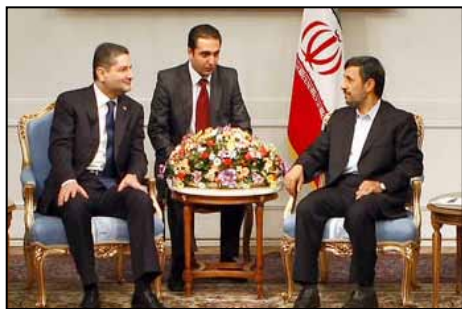
October 29: PM Tigran Sargsyan will participate in “DigiTech-2010” exhibition

November 13: Concert of Placido Domingo in Yerevan

USEFUL LINKS

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

ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER, IRANIAN VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST



On October 25, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met with Iranian First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi as part of his two-day working visit to Iran. Matters presenting mutual interest were in the focus of the meeting.

15 MATTERS AGREED DURING SITTING OF ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE



On October 23, the 12th sitting of the Armenian-Russian intergovernmental committee on economic cooperation kicked off in Yekaterinburg.

Besides, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met with Russian Minister of Transport Igor Levitin prior to the sitting. Implementation of the protocol of the committee's 11th sitting, legal-contractual field, current trade and economic relations, as well as their development outlooks were

KHACHKARS PARK OPENED IN GYUMRI

Khachkars Park was opened in Gyumri to feature copies of medieval Armenian khachkars (cross-stones) destroyed in Old Jughha. 20 khachkars created by sculptors of Gyumri have been already set there. However, their number will be brought to 100 in future. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, who is on a working visit to Shirak region, visited the Park. Azerbaijani servicemen destroyed the old Armenian cemetery near Old Jughha in 2005-2006.

October 23, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

The bilateral meeting continued in an extended format with participation of members of the delegation led by the Armenian Prime Minister, the RA governmental press service reported. Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan departed for Tehran on a working visit on invitation of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi. The Armenian delegation includes government staff chief David Sargsyan, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movsisyan, Education Minister Armen Ashotyan, Healthcare Minister Harutyun Kushklyan, Agriculture Minister Gerasim Alaverdyan, Economy Minister, Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan and other officials. [October 25 2010, www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

in the focus of the sitting, Tigran Sargsyan told a press conference after the sitting.

He added that the Armenian-Russian economic cooperation continues developing successfully. The Prime Minister noted that 15 matters were agreed during the sitting and they will contribute to implementation of bilateral programs.

Mr. Sargsyan noted that Armenia is ready to create a free economic zone at Mars plant, as well as adopt relevant contractual legal norms for implementation of other investment programs.

Russian Minister of Transport Igor Levitin noted for his part that four agreements are being drafted to develop ties between various regions of Armenia and Russia, what is important for boosting the trade and economic cooperation, the RA governmental press service reported.

October 23, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

VISUAL COMPUTING MASTER PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN YSU

Visual Computing master program was launched in Yerevan State University on October 25, 2010, welcoming students from YSU and other higher education institutions of Armenia. Visual Computing is a new trend allowing to interact with and control work by manipulating visual images either as direct work objects or as objects representing other objects that are not necessarily visual themselves. The visual images can be photographs, 3-D scenes, video sequences, block diagrams, or simple icons. The program graduates will have the master's degree of YSU and Rostock University.

October 25, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **OCTOBER 22:** Placido Domingo to perform in Armenia **AH**
- **OCTOBER 22:** Stepanakert hosts National Liberation Movement of NKR: 1988-2009 book presentation **AH**
- **OCTOBER 23:** Vahagn Gevorgyan wins bronze at Student Sambo World Cup **AH**
- **OCTOBER 23:** Khachkars Park opened in Gyumri **AH**
- **OCTOBER 24:** Armenian citizen killed in car accident in Moscow **AH**
- **OCTOBER 25:** Football Federations of Armenia, Yemen discuss organization of a friendly **AH**
- **OCTOBER 25:** 19.2% growth recorded in Armenia's state budget revenues in January-September 2010 **AH**
- **OCTOBER 26:** Boris Grebenshikov believes joint performance with Jivan Gasparyan to be incredible experience **AH**
- **OCTOBER 27:** 130 delegates from 22 countries gather in Yerevan for international forum of translators

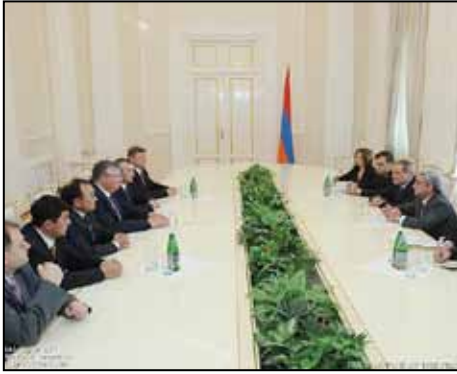
RECONSTRUCTED CHAMBER OPENS IN ARMENIAN PARLIAMENT



The opening ceremony of a reconstructed chamber in the Armenian National Assembly took place on October 22 with participation of President Serzh Sargsyan, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan and members of parliament. Speaker Abrahamyan thanked the Armenian President for assistance. "Reconstruction and technique are important for the efficient activity of the parliament," he said. "The oval shape of the hall symbolizes equality and cooperation but doesn't mean absence of competition and discussion. Parliament is a platform for political debates but not for offenses. An atmosphere of mutual respect and trust should reign here." His Holiness Karekin II consecrated the hall and congratulated MPs on its opening.

October 22, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

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



On October 26, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met with CIS customs services officials. The guests arrived in Yerevan to participate in the 52nd session of CIS customs services officials. Armenian President welcomed the idea of holding the session in Yerevan. President Sargsyan gave high assessment to the work of customs services aimed at deeper integration of CIS states' economies and increase of international turnover, presidential press service reported.

October 26, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

WINGS OF TATEV AERIAL TRAMWAY RECEIVES GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS CERTIFICATE



of Tatev, the world's longest reversible passenger aerial tramway. The 5 752-meter long aerial tramway was officially registered by the representative of the Guinness World Records, who arrived in Armenia for the ceremony. As the director of the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia Bekor Papazyan stated at the ceremony, Guinness certification is an important aspect in the development of tourism in the county. 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.

October 23, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

On October 23, the village of Tatev in Armenia's Syunik region hosted a ceremony of official Guinness certification for the Wings

STEPANAKERT AIRDROME TO BE PUT INTO OPERATION IN MID-NOVEMBER

The airdrome in Stepanakert, Artsakh Republic will be put into operation in mid-November 2010. "Currently, assembly operations are being accomplished. The air terminal will be built by the end of November; the entire complex will be enabled in spring 2011. Until this time the airdrome will operate in the simplest regime," head of the civil aviation department at the NKR government Dmitry Atbashyan told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter. The price for Yerevan-Stepanakert-Yerevan flight will be presumably AMD 16 000-20 000; the maximum price will not go beyond 25 000. Flights to CIS coun-



tries are also envisaged in the future. Atbashyan also noted that a number of foreign travel agents show interest in the airdrome.

October 25, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN DURING HIS WORKING VISIT TO SHIRAK MARZ



Mr. President, our sugar is already being imported to Georgia. Would you say that our product will create strong competition on their market?

Frankly, I didn't study the Georgian market thoroughly; however I am confident that this factory, which will be exporting high quality and competitive sugar not only to Georgia but also to other countries, will obtain its own permanent spot in markets. Moreover, the state will be constantly delivering on its obligation in this region: we will be encouraging our farmers to grow sugar beets. Obviously, the more sugar beets Armenia will be producing, the more stable the prices will be since it's not enough to have a sugar plant, it is also essential to have raw material. If this factory works on the raw material imported from South America, the price of the end product will depend on the price of that raw material. We don't want to go down that way.

Mr. President, recently there have been many publications regarding the situation in the army. What do you think, what's your position on all that?

I detest all that, not the fact that the army is being much talked about, but the fact that the army is being disparaged and it is made for political, narrow personal or partisan ends exclusively. Our army has never been void of incidents; there has never been a year without casualties among the soldiers or officers or without tragic accidents because our army is a huge structure and our army is on active duty and, finally, any army is the indivisible part of the society. Army is the mirror of the society and all failings and problems that exist in the society to a greater or lesser degree will always be present in the army - be it in Armenia, the United States, India, or elsewhere. Undoubtedly, the army is a much more organized, much more disciplined, much more enhanced structure than any other structures and our demands with regard to the army are much higher than those with regard to other structures. From this point of view, of course I am concerned with all those incidents that are taking place in our armed forces. However I don't for a moment doubt that every day, every hour our army becomes more combat ready, our army continues to improve and I am confident that every Armenian ought to be proud of our army.

October 23 2010, www.president.am

'NO LIMITS IN IRAN-ARMENIA ECONOMIC TIES'

“Iran sets no limitation for promotion of ties and cooperation with Armenia,” IRNA quoted First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi as saying on Monday. The Iranian official described the implementation of an earlier agreement between the two sides on construction of a railway connecting Iran to Armenia as “a major step toward mutual progress.” The remarks were made during a meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan in the Iranian capital city of Tehran. “The railway will establish a major transit network between Iran and neighboring countries. It will also link Armenia to other neighboring states through Iran,” he added. Rahimi praised amicable relations between Iran and Armenia and called for more efforts to further promote bilateral cooperation. “Iran is ready to expand its economic, trade and economic ties with friend and neighboring country of Armenia,” the vice president went on to say. He urged the two countries to make efforts to increase the level of trade exchanges. “Iran and Armenia can carry out their trade exchanges by the use of the two countries’ national currency which will increase the value of their money,” he said. Rahimi pointed to the recent achievements made by the Islamic Republic in various fields of science and technology, expressing Iran’s readiness to share its expertise. Sargsyan, for his part, said Iran and Armenia enjoy great potential for promoting joint cooperation in line with the two countries’ national interests. The Armenian prime minister, heading a politico-economic delegation, arrived in Tehran on Monday on an official two-day visit to discuss regional issues with senior Iranian officials. Sargsyan is scheduled to take part in the joint meeting of Iranian and Armenian businessmen on Tuesday.

October 17, 2010 www.presstv.ir

ARMENIAN ARCHEOLOGISTS: 5,900-YEAR-OLD SKIRT FOUND

An Armenian archaeologist says that scientists have discovered a skirt that could be 5,900-year-old. Pavel Avetisian, the head of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography in Yerevan, said a fragment of skirt made of reed was found during recent digging in the Areni-1 cave in southeastern Armenia. Avetisian told Tuesday’s news conference in the Armenian capital that the find could be one of the world’s oldest piece of reed clothing. Earlier excavation in the same location has produced what researchers believe is a 5,500-year-old shoe, making it the oldest piece of leather footwear known to researchers. Boris Gasparian, an Armenian archaeologist who worked jointly with U.S. and Irish scientists at the site, said they also found a mummified goat that could be 5,900-year-old, or more than 1,000 years older than the mummified animals found in Egypt.

October 26, 2010

www.washingtonpost.com

ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN EXCHANGE ACCUSATIONS OVER KILLED SOLDIER

A Nagorny Karabakh soldier was killed in an apparent exchange of fire with Azerbaijani servicemen on Tuesday, the Defense Ministry of the unrecognized republic of Nagorny Karabakh said. The incident occurred just hours after a group of officials from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) carried out a scheduled monitoring of the situation at the contact line between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops in the disputed area. “A 20-year-old private from the Nagorny Karabakh defense forces Arut Grigoryan was killed on October 26 by automatic gunfire from the Azerbaijani side,” the ministry said in statement on Wednesday. Armenia denounced the incident, but Azerbaijan said its servicemen simply returned fire coming from the Armenian side. Armenia and Azerbaijan frequently accuse each other of violating the 1994 ceasefire agreement in the disputed area. Shooting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani troops sometimes result in soldiers’ deaths. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorny Karabakh, a predominantly ethnic Armenian region, first erupted in 1988, when the region claimed independence from Azerbaijan to join Armenia.

October 27, 2010 www.en.rian.ru

RESTORATION OF A UNIQUE ARMENIAN MONASTERY

It was once a beacon of light for an entire country, home to 500 monks, a seat of learning and spiritual fulfilment. Little remains of the glorious past of the 9th century Tatev Monastery in southern Armenia. But that could soon change thanks to an ambitious restoration project. During the Middle Ages, Tatev was one of the country’s most important spiritual centres. The university created in the 14th century excelled in sci-



entific, literary, and religious studies. At its height, Tatev was at the forefront of education. Philosophers, theologians, musicians and artists, the greatest Armenian thinkers of the day would congregate at the university. Within its imposing walls, three churches and various monuments make up the present complex. Now, the Tatev Revival Project – a public private initiative – plans to restore the monastery, reviving both its monastic and its scholarly tradition. The restoration will include work on the famous swinging column, a feat of medieval engineering. Built in 904 AD, the eight-metre high pillar is crowned with a cross-stone. But its beauty lies in its pivoting-base which allowed it to tilt. An earth tremor or the sound of the hooves of enemy horses pounding the ground would be enough to set it in motion, alerting the monks to danger. But the column could not prevent the destruction created by a massive earthquake in 1931 that destroyed much of the complex. “After the earthquake, the monastery was partially restored on several occasions,” explains Pegor Papayian, head of the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia. “But in the 1980s, in the final years of the Soviet era, there was a full restoration effort. And that was unfortunately largely flawed. There were structural mistakes and there were water leakages.”

October 25, 2010 www.euronews.net

ARMENIAN AWARD-WINNING HUMAN STORIES ON US PUBLIC TV

Two top Armenian documentaries – both award-winning human stories – are being shown on public television (PBS) in the US over the next two Sundays. On Sunday October 17, Public Television stations around the country showed “The Last Tightrope Dancer in Armenia,” a warm, thoughtful, beautifully-shot story about the dying art of tightrope dancers, and the continuing competition and camaraderie between two old masters, and the hopes they place on one young artist. This year in Golden Apricot film received The Best Armenian Film award, as well as “Best Feature Length Documentary” and special award for Search of Original Scenario of Nonfiction Film at the “Russia” Documentary Film Festival in Yekaterinburg. Film already has been shown on NHK (Japan), SVT (Sweden) and other European channels. On Sunday October 24, the same public television stations will screen “A Story of People in War and Peace,” a passionate film that follows the lives of soldiers and nurses who spent years in the trenches during the Karabakh war. The film has already screened on BBC,

ARTE and other international channels, and has won over 20 awards including the FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) prize. For its director, Vardan Hovhannisyan, the film also garnered a Best New Documentary Filmmaker Prize at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

“The Last Tightrope Dancer” is the acclaimed work of two young filmmakers — Inna Sahakyan and Arman Yeritsyan. Both have produced several documentaries over the last decade. Sahakyan has directed more than 10 social documentaries for Armenian television and worked as assistant director on “A Story of People in War and Peace.” Yeritsyan has directed a number of award-winning documentaries including, “Under the Open Sky” and “Goodbye Fellini.” Both films are produced by Bars Media, which was established by Vardan Hovhannisyan in 1993. Bars Media specializes in making documentaries about human stories, culture, history and other social issues. The studio currently develops documentary films in Africa, Russia and Afghanistan.

October 23, 2010 Lousabats N 857

WILMINGTON STUDENTS LOBBY FOR GENOCIDE RECOGNITION

I’m sitting on top of my Armenian world today. That’s because something I might have said to some students resulted in positive action. Youth must be served. In this case, it’s youth who’s doing the serving. For the past three years, a small group of us representing the Armenian Genocide Curriculum Committee of Merrimack Valley has been stomping in and out of local high schools, bringing our story to the classroom. Not once have we been denied access. It’s proven much more effective than preaching to our own choir. In most cases, the students and teachers are captivated by what transpired during the genocidal years of 1915-23. But one high school in particular went the extra mile and implored our political elite to take measures toward genocide recognition and pass the word to their colleagues, some of whom continue to remain nebulous on the subject. You never know what you’re going to get when you cold-call students in today’s educational world. In some schools, you

might find an occasional student wandering off into another world. Wilmington comes well prepared; I understand there’s a waiting list to enroll in this course. And those who learn of the Armenian Genocide are not only sympathetic to our cause, they want to do something about it. They want to be heard. As Armenians, we welcome a different voice, especially when it comes from the next generation. Here’s a letter to U.S. Congressman John Tierney (D-Mass.) from junior Lauren Powers, one of several at this school enrolled in a course called “Facing History and Ourselves.” “I feel it’s impossible for Armenians to move on as a people if the world doesn’t recognize this terrible tragedy,” she writes. “There are many groups today that make joint efforts to try and get through to the government but apparently, this genocide doesn’t even deserve a postage stamp. Last year, my class wrote to the U.S.

October 28, 2010

full article www.armenianweekly.com

CNN INTERNATIONAL TO FEATURE THE DEFENSE OF MUSA DAGH



CNN International will feature this weekend a report covering the heroic defense of Musa Dagh during the Armenian Genocide. The segment, produced by Yerkir Media for broadcast on CNN, will mark the 95th anniversary of the famed resistance against the Turkish army in 1915. Reporting the story will be Yerkir Media correspondent Gayane Avetisyan. It will feature footage from a recent commemoration of the anniversary in Armenia, as well as interviews with Musa-Dagh descendants living in Armenia. Armenian communities around the world that trace their heritage to this once thriving city in Asia Minor celebrate the anniversary every year, with a unique festival and reenactments of the resistance. Of the hundreds of villages, towns, and cities across the Ottoman Empire whose Armenian population was ordered removed to the Syrian desert, Musa Dagh was one of only four sites where Armenians organized a defense of their community against the deportation edicts issued by the Young Turk regime beginning in April 1915. By the time the Armenians of the six villages at the base of Musa Dagh were instructed to evict their homes, the inhabitants had grown suspicious of the government’s ultimate intentions and chose instead to retreat up the mountain and to defy the evacuation order. Musa Dagh, or the Mountain of Moses, stood on the Mediterranean Sea south of the coastal town of Alexandretta (modern-day Iskenderun) and west of ancient Antioch. With a few hundred rifles and the entire store of provisions from their villages, the Armenians on Musa Dagh put up a fierce resistance against a number of attempts by the regular Turkish army to flush them out. Outnumbered and outgunned, the Armenians had little expectations of surviving the siege of the mountain when food stocks were depleted after a month. Their only hope was a chance rescue by an Allied vessel that might be patrolling the Mediterranean coast. When two large banners hoisted by the Armenians were sighted by a passing French warship, swimmers went out to meet it. Eventually five Allied ships moved in to transport the entire population of men, women, and children, more than four thousand in all.

October 22, 2010 www.asbarez.com

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