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ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

November 9-15 2010

THEMA



PREMIER'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS COMPLETED

On November 13, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan-led delegation wrapped up their one-day working visit to Brussels. First, the Prime Minister had a private meeting with deputy chairman of the European People's Party, member of the European Parliament Khayim Mayor Oreja. The Prime Minister's next meeting was in the EU Commission where Tigran Sargsyan met with EU high commissioner for trade Karel De Gucht to discuss the current status and the outlook of EU-Armenia trade relations. The head of government gave details of Armenia's economic position and described the pace of reforms. The ongoing cooperation was said to enjoy a solid institutional groundwork covering all those priority areas dealt with by the government of Armenia. In this context, European Union's assistance was emphasized as a pledge for successful reform and capacity building efforts. Stressing the importance of the EU-Armenia deep and comprehensive trade

agreement, the interlocutors exchanged views on their vision of talks. The need for stepping up reform in Armenia was emphasized on either side. In conclusion, Tigran Sargsyan forwarded President Serzh Sargsyan's invitation for Mr. De Gucht to visit Armenia at his convenience. Next, Tigran Sargsyan welcomed the representatives of leading Belgian diamond-processing companies to his place of residence in Brussels to discuss investment opportunities and the government's support for this sector. It was agreed that bilateral relations should be given an institutional character. The Prime Minister's working visit was wrapped up with a visit paid to headquarters of "Armenia's European Friends" organization, where Tigran Sargsyan got acquainted with its activities, took part in a workshop on Armenia's home and foreign policies, attended by EU special envoy to South Caucasus Peter Szemnebi, representatives from a number of Armenian and foreign organizations accredited in the Kingdom of Belgium, as well as by scholars and analysts. N

November 13, 2010 www.gov.am

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"IN THE EVENT OF A
THREAT, WE WILL BE
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PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR
ALL "

SERZH SARGSYAN
PRESIDENT OF RA

Upcoming Events

November 16-17: President Serzh Sargsyan makes a working visit to Moscow

November 19-20: PM Tigran Sargsyan will participate in EvrAzes

USEFUL LINKS

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

CHRONICA

PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN MAKES A WORKING VISIT TO THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

President Serzh Sargsyan has left on a working visit to the defense lines of our country and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

President Sargsyan and the President of NKR Bako Sahakian, accompanied by the RA Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanian and other high ranking officials, visited defense lines and observed first-hand combat



readiness of the troops, and the ongoing works of army-building. The leaders of Armenia and Karabakh were present at the military exercises, conducted observation of the defense area, and participated in the opening ceremony of the apartments built for the military staff. Later, the President of Armenia conducted a working meeting with the participation of the Army High Command.

November 13, 2010, www.president.am

ARMENIA'S LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IS 14 YEARS OLD



Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan attended a gala meeting of the Armenian Communities Union dedicated to the 14th anniversary of Armenian's local

self-government system. A number of community heads were handed Anania Sharakatsi medals conferred upon under a presidential decree. Similarly, several local self-government experts were presented with the President's appreciation letters for efficacious work and contribution to the establishment and development of communities in the Republic of Armenia. November 10 is marked as local self-government day in the Republic of Armenia.

November 3, 2010 www.gov.am

THE VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA EDWARD NALBANDIAN TO INDIA

On November 10 started the Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister Edward Nalbandian's official visit to India. In New Delhi Minister Nalbandian met with Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India, Chairman of the Upper House of Indian Parliament (Rajya Sabha). Welcoming the Armenian Foreign Minister, the Vice President of India said that his country is ready to undertake efficient steps for development of comprehensive cooperation with friendly Armenia. Mohammad Hamid Ansari also added that Edward Nalbandian's visit is a good opportunity to summarize the results registered in the bilateral relations, as well as work out new projects of cooperation. Minister Nalbandian expressed gratitude for the warm reception and mentioned that the leadership of Armenia attaches great importance to the further reinforcement and expansion of relations with friendly India, one of the most important countries in the world. According to Minister Nal-

bandian, his visit to India is aimed at that. Both sides underlined the necessity of intensification of political dialogue between the two countries and in that context they stressed the importance of the organization of reciprocal high-level visits. The Vice President of India and the Foreign Minister of Armenia discussed the steps undertaken towards deepening of bilateral economic and cultural ties, as well as opportunities of intensification of contacts between the Armenian and Indian business people, further deepening of interaction in the spheres of high technologies, education, culture, agriculture and healthcare and expansion of legal framework. Upon the request of the Indian Vice President, the Armenian Foreign Minister presented the problems in the South Caucasus and Armenia's position on their solution. Edward Nalbandian and Mohammad Hamid Ansari exchanged views on several regional and international issues. The sides stressed that the peaceful resolution

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **NOVEMBER 9:** Serzh Sargsyan: it is important to establish direct ties between regions of Armenia and Russia **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 9:** Seyran Ohanian: Armenian armed forces will continue coercing Azerbaijan into peace **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 10:** U.S. Ambassador to Armenia awards Synopsys Armenia for corporate citizenship, innovation and exemplary business practices in Armenia **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 10:** Nalbandian v Murray in Paris Masters **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 11:** Armenia, NKR develop cooperation in tax field **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 11:** Preliminary agreement on experimental cultivation of Syrian wheat in Armenia reached **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 12:** Armenian winemakers stored 135 thousand tons of grapes in 2010 **AH**
- **NOVEMBER 15:** Sasuntsi Davit book published in Bulgaria **AH**

of existing problems has no alternative. On the same day, the Armenian Foreign Minister had a meeting with Suresh Goel, the Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations. In the course of the meeting, they had a thorough talk on a wide range of issues related to the cooperation between two countries in the humanitarian spheres. The issues related to the opening of the Indian Cultural Center in Armenia, the cooperation between the MFA Diplomatic School of Armenia and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, intensification of educational exchanges, the opening of chair for Indian researches at one of the universities of Armenia and holding of Indian cultural year in Armenia was discussed. In New Delhi Edward Nalbandian gave an extensive interview to the Indian popular newspaper "Asian Age". The Vice President of India and the Foreign Minister of Armenia discussed the steps undertaken towards deepening of bilateral economic and cultural ties, as well as opportunities of intensification of contacts between the Armenian and Indian business people, further deepening of interaction in the spheres of high technologies, education, culture, agriculture and healthcare and expansion of legal framework.

November 11, www.mfa.am

RES PUBLICA

RA GOVERNMENT ALLOWS JERMUK INTERNATIONAL TO POSTPONE VAT PAYMENT



During the November 11 sitting, the Armenian government allowed Jermuk International company to prolong the term for VAT payment in case of equipment import at the amount above AMD 300mln as part of an investment program. Under the investment program, the company envisages establishment of a modern plant in Yerevan for soft drinks

GORAN BREGOVIC: SEEING SO MANY OF MY FANS IN ARMENIA MAKES ME FEEL PROUD OF MYSELF

Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex will host the concert of a famous Serbian musician Goran Bregovic and Wedding and Funeral Orchestra on November 15. The concert will be held in the framework of Yerevan Perspectives 11th music festival. "Seeing so many of my fans in Armenia makes me feel proud of myself," the musician told November 15 news conference in Yerevan. As he noted, Alcohol concert program to be featured in Yerevan was no different from ones performed in New-York, Paris and London. The two-part program includes the most popular of the musician's works: Gas-Gas, Maki, Maki, Kalasnikov, Ederlezi,

and natural juice production. The plant will start operating in July 2011. Armenian Deputy Minister of Economy Karine Minasyan said that the plant will be supplied with modern equipment, while investments as part of the program will amount to AMD 5bln, including AMD 2.8bln for purchase of the equipment. "At least 120 new jobs with an average salary of AMD 120,000 will be created as part of the program implemented by the company," she said. Karine Minasyan noted that the total volume of investments as part of the program implemented by the government made AMD 30mln, as a result of which 1,050 jobs will be created.

November 11, 2010

full story www.panarmenian.net

Mescina. Perspectives XXI International Music Festival was renamed into Yerevan Perspectives International Music Festival by request on European Festival Association. The festival is held under the aegis of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture. Goran Bregovicin (born 22 March 1950) is one of the most internationally known modern composers of the Balkans. He currently splits his time between Paris and Belgrade, where he settled down during the Yugoslav Wars. Bregovic has composed for such varied artists as Iggy Pop and Cesaria Evora. He rose to fame playing guitar with his rock band Bijelo dugme. Among his better known scores are Emir Kusturica's films (Time of the Gypsies, Arizona Dream, Underground).

November 15, 2010 www.panarmenian.net

RA MINISTER OF FINANCE: SUBSIDIZED LOANS WILL REACH VILLAGERS SOON



On November 11, Armenian Minister of Finance Tigran Davtyan said that the Armenian Ministry of Finance has submitted to the government an offer on implementation of structural changes in the Ministry's department for financing agriculture. During the November 4 governmental sitting, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan criticized the activity of state in-

stitutions. As per a program approved by the Armenian government, residents of Armenia's frontier regions have the opportunity to receive interest-free loans. However, the function was implemented with serious omissions for two years. Thus, the Prime Minister instructed Tigran Davtyan to submit a relevant decision to the government on implementation of structural changes within 10 days. The Minister said that the head of this department has been dismissed. "On November 10, I met with the structure leadership and strictly instructed to take immediate measures so that the subsidies reach certain villagers," said Davtyan. According to him, the procedure for provision of loans to villagers will be simplified as well.

November 11, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS VAZGEN I ERECTED IN HOLY ECHMIADZIN



On November 11, Holy Echmiadzin hosted a memorial inauguration ceremony. The monument was erected in memory of the Catholicos of All Armenians Vazgen I. The monument was created on the initiative of co-chair of the Armenia-Russia interparliamentary cooperation committee, head of the Russian Commission for Natural Monopolies, Nikolai Ryzhkov. The memorial is authored by the honoured art worker of Russia, sculptor Friedrich Soghoyan. His Holiness Vazgen I (September 20, 1908—August 18, 1994) was the Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church between 1955 and 1994, in one of the longest reigns of the Armenian Catholicos. A native of Romania, he began his career as a philosopher, before becoming a Doctor of Theology and a member of the local Armenian clergy.

November 11 2010, www.panarmenian.net

MINAS AVETISYAN'S FRESCOS TO BE PLACED IN ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT PREMISES BY WEEKEND

Two restored frescos, authored by the outstanding Armenian painter Minas Avetisyan, will be placed in board room of Armenian government, Armenian Culture Ministry official Sona Hautyunyan said. As she told a November 9 news conference, the public will be given a chance to see the frescos, entitled Meeting and By the Khachkar, the restoration of which will be completed in a week. The restoration, performed by the Italian expert Fabrizio Jacobini, took about 4 months. The government allocated AMD 20 million to restoration work. "The work is to be given some final touches. With only slight amendments introduced, the works of the great master fully correspond to their original appearance," Mr. Jacobini remarked.

November 11, 2010, www.panarmenian.net

SYRIA'S ARMENIAN QUARTER



The 90th birth anniversary of the first Iranian female astronomer and physics professor, Alenush Terian, was celebrated at the Ararat Club in Tehran. The ceremony was attended by some Iranian MPs and over 100 Armenian people to pay tribute to Iranian mother of astrology and the establisher of the solar observatory of the Institute of Geophysics at the University of Tehran. At the ceremony, the Tehran MP Hassan Ghafurifard made a short speech about his acquaintance with Terian who was his professor at the university. He said that she had visited her at the elderly house once. "She always said I have a daughter who named sun and the moon is my son," he added saying that it is his honor that he is the guest of this celebration. After that, the representative of

ARMENIA READY TO SOLVE KARABAKH CONFLICT 'ONCE AND FOR ALL' - PRESIDENT



Armenia will never attack first, but is ready to solve the Nagorny Karabakh conflict "once and for all," President Serzh Sargsyan said on Monday. "In the event of a threat, we will be able...to solve the

northern Tehran Armenian inhabitants in Majlis Yureg Vartan called Terian as one of luminaries which Iranian Armenian is proud of her. "The presence of luminaries like Terian is a witness to Armenian accompaniment with Iranians all through the history," he added. The message of the Iranian Archbishop Sabuh Sarkisian on the occasion of Terian's birth anniversary was read out at the ceremony as well. Born in an Armenian family in 1920 in Tehran, Alenush Terian graduated in 1947 from Tehran University Science Department and she began her career in physics laboratories of the same university and was elected as the chief of laboratory operations in the same year. She graduated in 1856 in atmospheric physics from Sorbonne University. She came back to Iran and she became an assistant professor in thermodynamics physics at the University of Tehran. She studied solar physics observatory for 4 months by a scholarship of German government and finally became the first female professor of physics in Iran on 1964. In 1966 she became a member of the geophysics committee of Tehran University and in 1969 finally was elected as the chief of the solar physics studies in that university and began to work in the solar observatory which she was one of its founders. She was retired on 1979. Photo: Mother of Iranian astronomy Alenush Terian blows out the candles on her birthday cake during a celebration at the Ararat Club in Tehran on November 9, 2010. (Mehr/Majid Asgaripur)

November 11, 2010 www.tehrantimes.com

problem once and for all," Sargsyan's press service quoted him as saying at military drills in Nagorny Karabakh. The exercises were also attended by Bako Saakyan, the president of the Azerbaijani breakaway region. Sargsyan also said Azerbaijan's leaders "are preparing their people for war while we [are preparing our people] for peace." Armenia will continue stocking up on arms and developing its armed forces, he added. The Nagorny Karabakh conflict erupted in 1988, when the ethnic Armenian region claimed independence from Azerbaijan and sought support from Armenia. It has been de facto independent since a 1991-94 war that killed more than 30,000 people on both sides.

November 15, 2010, www.en.rian.ru

IRAN TO HELP RESOLVE KARABAKH ISSUE

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has offered Tehran's assistance in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, saying the issue should be resolved through dialogue. "We believe that the Karabakh issue will be resolved through dialogue and the commitment of both sides to justice, and Tehran is ready to negotiate with them within this framework," Ahmadinejad said in a joint press conference with his Azerbaijani coun-



terpart Ilham Aliyev on Wednesday. Ethnic Armenian forces took control over 16 percent of Azerbaijan during a war with the country in the early 1990s. The conflict left an estimated 30,000 people dead and one million displaced before the two sides agreed to a ceasefire in 1994. However, a peace accord has never been signed and the dispute still remains unsettled. Ahmadinejad said the Iran and Azerbaijan share the same views regarding all regional and international issues, adding that the "role of the two countries in maintaining the stability of the region is unique," Mehr News Agency reported. The Iranian president referred to issues concerning the Caspian Sea and said, "We believe that all the littoral states should benefit from this sea fairly and justly." Pointed to the great political relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, Aliyev called for the expansion of economic relations and said, "We believe we can use existing capacities to increase the volume of trade transactions." The Iranian chief executive arrived in the Azeri capital of Baku on Wednesday to attend the third meeting of the leaders of Caspian littoral states in order to negotiate the legal regime of the sea and to discuss relations with Azeri officials. The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed body of water on earth by area, variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea. November 15, 2010 www.presstv.ir

ARMENIA FUND TELETHON TO AIR NOVEMBER 25 – PROGRAM TO BENEFIT WATER PROJECTS IN ARTSAKH



Los Angeles, CA — Raising funds for drinking water and irrigation projects in Artsakh, Armenia Fund's "Water is Life" International Thanksgiving Day Telethon will air live from Hollywood on November 25, 2010, 8:00AM-8:00PM PST coast-to-coast and around the world. Airing for 12 hours, Telethon 2010 will reach every continent, entering Armenian homes through satellite, cable and the internet.

The Telethon will bring together Armenians from all walks of life regardless of their political or religious views and affiliations around one purpose: to bring life to Artsakh villages by giving them round-the-clock access to clean drinking and irrigation water. The shortage of water is a serious problem in Artsakh affecting more than 70,000 people living in 200 villages. On average, each family spends 40% of their daily lives carrying water from a source 2-5 miles away. That water is not always

clean – 88% of all diseases are related to tainted drinking water.

Today, more than 100,000 acres of agricultural lands are dry due to the lack of irrigation water and people in the villages are unable to grow crops and have incomes. Water is a serious economic engine and the driving force behind agriculture. Armenia Fund's pilot projects in the Tavush region of Armenia have proven that every \$1 invested in improved water access yields an average of \$12 in economic returns.

In the United States alone the potential audience for the Telethon is around 55 million households in the states of Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

In Southern California, the Telethon can be viewed on KSCI Channel 18, KVMD, ARTN/Shant and USArmenia networks for full 12 hours. In the Glendale/Burbank/Pasadena/La Canada areas in addition to ARTN/Shant (388) and USArmenia (386), the Telethon broadcast will also be shown on AABC (384), HighVision (381) and Horizon Armenian TV (385) channels. The live 12 hour webcast can be viewed at www.ArmeniaFund.org.

November 9, 2010 www.masispost.com

PUBLICATIONS: ARMENIA AND ARMENIANS IN INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The latest issue of the Armenian Review, titled "Armenia and Armenians in International Treaties," is a compilation of nine articles that, as suggested by the title, deals with Armenian diplomacy, and specifically treaties, from the 4th century CE to the present day. These articles are some of the papers presented at a conference held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in March 2009. The volume also includes three book reviews. In his article titled "Cilician Armenia and its Fifteen Peace Treaties (1185-1337)," Claude Mutafian focuses on the treaties signed between Cilician princes and their neighbors from the 10th-12th centuries. Mutafian, who has specialized in the Medieval period and the Cilician Kingdom of Armenia, writes about the "extraordinarily efficient diplomacy" through which Armenians "managed to keep a State for nearly three centuries." He divides this into four historical periods and provides an overview of the de jure treaties between the Armenians and their neighbors, the Seljuk Turks,


the Mongols, the Mamelukes, and Cyprus. Keith David Watenpaugh, in "The Origins of Armenian Genocide Denial and League of Nations' Humanitarianism 1920-1922," examines the early days of Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide, beginning with its confrontation with the League of Nations. "...The events of the Armenian Genocide if acknowledged at all are situated in a broader structure of measures taken to defend the Turkish nation and the proto-Turkish state against external threats or internal enemies," writes Watenpaugh. Lusine Taslakyan discusses the various international environmental agreements signed by Armenia, 18 of which are conventions. In 1993, Armenia ratified the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD); the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992; the Kyoto Protocol in 2002; the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994; the Ramsar Convention in 1993; and the Aarhus Convention in 2001.

November 9, 2010 www.armenianweekly.com



In a letter of condolences addressed to Pope Benedict XVI and the Syriac Catholic Archbishop in Baghdad, Catholicos Aram I condemned the blast and hostage taking that occurred last Sunday at the Our Lady of Salvation Syriac Catholic Church in Baghdad, and expressed his sorrow for the loss of more than 50 innocent lives. Later, referring to the recent Vatican Middle East Synod he said: "Christian unity and witness is an urgent priority today. Christianity has been an integral part of the Middle East, the history and culture of the region. It has existed with Islam in spite of all difficulties. Christianity will continue to dialogue and cooperate with Islam in order to build peace in the region." Thousands of Assyrian-American protesters, dressed in black, rallied in Los Angeles, Detroit, Phoenix, Chicago and other cities across the US to condemn the killings and call on the United States to provide better security for Christians in Iraq. One demonstrator in Chicago held aloft a placard that read, "Save Iraq's Most Vulnerable Population." Others held graphic photographs from inside Iraqi churches after they'd been attacked. An organizer, Natasha Shino, said Christians are being forced to flee their homeland. The Chicagoan says Iraqi Christians believe the U.S. can do more to protect them. According to the Metro Detroit, Andre Anton, one of the Chicago rally organizers, said that there will be another rally in Washington, DC in order to get the attention of U.S. lawmakers.

November 9, 2010 full story www.asbarez.com

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