



ARMENIAN CITIZENS TO FEEL THE IMPACT OF REFORMS
PAGE 2



SCIENTISTS DISCOVER 'OLDEST' WINERY IN ARMENIAN CAVE
PAGE 4

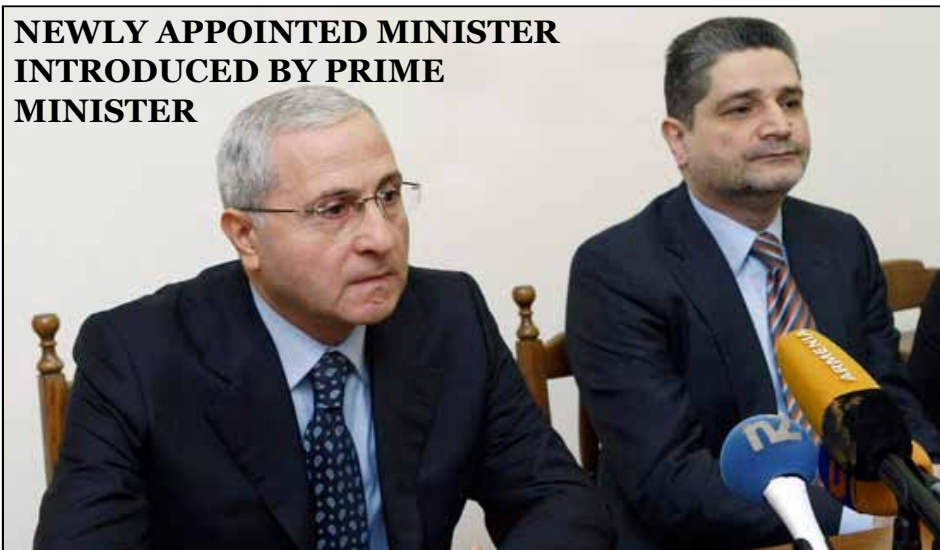
ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

January 10-17 2011

THEMA

NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER INTRODUCED BY PRIME MINISTER



Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan called at the Ministry of Agriculture to introduce to the staff newly appointed Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan. To begin with, the head of government offered his Season's congratulations wishing every success to the Ministry of Agriculture, in particular. "The 2010 indices failed to meet our expectations affecting the macroeconomic performance in general. Last year's' unprecedented fall in agriculture caused a number of adverse consequences: greater fluctuation of prices of farm products and higher inflation, as a whole. This had a serious impact on our farmers' living standards. At the same time, the ministry has much to do in terms of reforms and institutional transformations. For this very reason, I do believe that the farming sector most of all needs success in 2011," Tigran Sargsyan noted. The Prime Minister further said that

the newly appointed minister is well known and well versed in the field of agriculture. "We used to work with him year after year, especially regarding the procurements. He headed one of largest food processing enterprises of Armenia which was the first to upgrade its production technologies. We all understand that the success of an enterprise is mostly conditioned by the management's capacity and experience." The Prime Minister expressed hope that the new minister will be quick to come into full working activity so as to implement the proposed reforms. Tigran Sargsyan thanked ex-minister Gerasim Alaverdyan for his past efforts. Thanking the President and the Prime Minister of Armenia for confidence, Sergo Karapetyan assured that he will do his best to reach the expected results by coping with the problems and tasks specified in the program of the government.

December 10, 2011
www.gov.am

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"TURKEY HAS BEEN PURSUING THE SAME POLICY IT DID BEFORE 2008, BEFORE SIGNING THE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EXPECTS TURKEY TO RATIFY DOCUMENTS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS AND OBSERVE AGREEMENTS, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO MAKE PROGRESS."

EDWARD NALBANDYAN
FOREIGN MINISTER OF RA

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 13-17: *Tsaghkadzor resort will host the Armenian ski championship*

JANUARY 22-23: *President Saakashvili will pay visit to Armenia*

JANUARY 24: *RF, Armenia, Azerbaijan FMs to meet in Moscow*

JANUARY 28: *Armenia celebrates the National Day of Army*

USEFUL LINKS

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

PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN LEFT ON A STATE VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



Upon the invitation of the President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias, President Serzh Sargsyan and First Lady Rita Sargsyan left on a state visit to the Republic of Cyprus. Today, Presidents Sargsyan and Christofias will hold a private talk

which will be followed by the meeting of the delegations in the extended format. The parties will sign a number of documents aimed at strengthening and development of the bilateral relations. In the afternoon, at the Chamber of Commerce President Serzh Sargsyan will attend the opening of the Armenian-Cypriot business forum with the participation of the representatives of the business communities of the two states. The President of Armenia will meet also with Archbishop Chrisostomos II, the President of the House of Representatives Marios Garoyan, and representatives of the Armenian community of Cyprus.

January 17, 2010 www.president.am

ARMENIAN CITIZENS TO FEEL THE IMPACT OF REFORMS

This year's first cabinet sitting was held today, chaired by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. Extending Season's congratulations to the members of government, the Prime Minister wished them efficacious and fruitful work ahead. Tigran Sargsyan congratulated newly appointed Minister of Agricul-

ture Sergo Karapetyan and expressed hope that those challenges facing the sector will be coped with successfully during the year.



Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Armen Movsisyan was offered birthday congratulations. The meeting approved the government's program of action and its priorities, as well as the underlying principles for the year 2011. Highlighting the adoption of the program, the Prime Minister gave a broad description of the priorities (Tigran Sargsyan's introductory remarks and the summary description of 2011 activities are posted separately on the website). The government approved the 2011 program of State support for small and medium-size enterprises, which emphasizes the role of SMEs in ensuring growth and higher living standards for the population, generating new jobs and so on. Tigran Sargsyan deemed it necessary to harmonize the set of SME-related programs, especially as 5-6% increase is envisaged for this sphere in 2011. In this regard, we are in for an exceptional year. Lending interest rates have been reduced by 2-3% in the banks while resources available to this end have increased. Now the bankers are interested in having as many borrowers as possible since they have sufficient spare liquidity. To ensure reliability and due control over eventual frauds in the system of mandatory vehicle insurance, the meeting endorsed the procedures applicable to the exchange of information between the MVI system and the database of the road police service as well as the inventory of information eligible for sharing. Head of Police Alik Sargsyan was told to personally monitor this highly important measure considering that the MVI campaign will soon yield the expected result. The Executive backed the 2011 program of tourism expansion, aimed at keeping on turning Armenia into a tourism-friendly country for travelers worldwide. The meeting backed the proposal on signing an arrangement between the governments of Armenia and Russia on cooperation in the field of military courier and postal services. The government amended a previous decision to order the use of all-resistant self-pasted stamps in the service of cash-registers. Owing to this amendment, domestic taxpayers will no longer need to turn to tax authorities for replacement of cash-register seals. The meeting considered a legislative initiative proposed by a group of MPs concerning the celebration of November 10 as Local Self-Government Day in Armenia. The Executive appeared to have no objections against the proposal in principle.

January 13, 2011, www.gov.am

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **JANUARY 10:** Agriculture production dropped 14,4% January-November 2010 AH
- **JANUARY 11:** Military training to be among Armenian Defense Ministry's top priorities in 2011 AH
- **JANUARY 12:** Easter to coincide with Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in 2011 AH
- **JANUARY 13:** Bako Sahakyan emphasizes importance of providing apartments to families of perished freedom fighters AH
- **JANUARY 14:** Shakhtar fans believe Henrik Mkhitaryan will score club's first goal in 2011 AH
- **JANUARY 15:** Public Television of Armenia to start film adaptation of Perch Proshyan's Bread Issue novel in 2011 AH
- **JANUARY 16:** Judoist Arsen Galstyan beats Azerbaijan's Ilgar Myushkiyev in Baku-hosted championship

INFLATION WILL RETURN TO THE TARGETING GAP

According to the Armenian Central Bank's forecast, 4-5% of economic growth is projected for the first three quarters of 2011. 5-7% actual economic growth is expected in the first nine months of 2011 in the sphere of industry. 2.5-4% growth is expected for the same period of 2011 in the sphere of services. Rather higher risks in the fields of construction, as well as in the sector of services are connected with rapidity of implementation of large-scale investment programs. According to forecasts, inflation will gradually reduce and return to the targeting gap in the second half of the year reaching 3.7% in the third quarter of 2011. Central Bank's monetary-credit policy will be of conservative character. Under the influence of de-dollarization measures growth of monetary mass will take place at a brisk rate. Correspondingly 15.4% and 17.2% growth of money and monetary mass will be registered. Further decrease of dollarization of economy is expected, and in regard towards it the volume of credits in foreign currency will appreciably reduce in the banks as compared to the volume of AMD credits making correspondingly 23.6% and 13.1%

January 11 2011, www.hbpress.am

SEYRAN OHANYAN: TITLE OF KARABAKH WAR VETERAN IMPOSES CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS



Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan presided over a meeting of the law enforcement bodies on the results of 2010 that was held in the RA Defense Ministry.

Commenting on the recent incident in the army, which resulted in the death of a young man, Ohanyan noted that the title of the Karabakh war veteran imposes certain obligations. Naturally, the public expects officers, who participated in the war, to display exemplary behavior, said Ohanyan. He added that the Ministry will continue being intolerant towards any violation of the law to ensure development of the successes gained at the expense of soldiers' life. Armenian Deputy Minister of Defense, Major General Vladimir Gasparyan and newly appointed Military Prosecutor Gevorg Kostanyan also delivered speeches. www.panarmenian.net January 15, 2011

KAREN KARAPETYAN: ALL PROGRAMS BETWEEN YEREVAN CITY ADMINISTRATION AND EBRD SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED CONSECUTIVELY

Mayor of Yerevan Karen Karapetyan met January 11 with EBRD Director for Caucasus, Moldova and Belarus, Mr. Paul-Henri Forestier to discuss the programs implemented by the Bank in the Armenian capital.

Welcoming the guest, Mayor Karapetyan praised the bank's activity and said that all projects should be realized in consecutive order.

For his part, Mr. Forestier presented a program on Yerevan Metro safety, which envisages modernization invest-



ments. The two men also referred to parking policy and Nubarashen dump problems.

www.panarmenian.net January 12, 2011

EVENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS OF ALL GENOCIDES TO BE HELD IN LONDON

An event in Solidarity with the Victims of All Genocides and in commemoration of slain editor of Istanbul-based newspaper Akos, Hrant Dink, will take place on January 19, 2011 at the Turkish Embassy in London. Prior to the event, a Hrant Dink Commemorative Conference on The Persecu-



tion of Indigenous Peoples, Unrepresented and/or Occupied Nations, Minorities and 'Others' (in Turkey, Pakistan, South America and Iraq) will be held on January 18 in the House of Lords, Westminster. The speakers will be Eilian Williams (Tribute to Hrant Dink and his worldwide significance), Haci Ozdemir (Perspectives on "Disappearances" worldwide), genocide scholar Desmond Fernandes (The targeting of Kurds and 'Others' in Turkey) and Kasim Agpak, member of the Kurdish Federation in the UK and a representative from the International Platform Against Isolation. The Conference is sponsored by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff and Baroness Cox. www.panarmenian.net January 17, 2011

NALBANDYAN AT THE ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE, SUMMARIZING THE FOREIGN POLICY



Dear journalists,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to congratulate you for the Christmas and wish you Happy New Year. I wish the 2011 to be a year of prosperity for you, your families and our country. Today, traditionally, our press-conference is dedicated to the summarizing of the 2010 foreign policy. Probably you are acquainted with my interview given to the Public Television at the end of the last year where in some sense the past year's foreign policy is summarized. You can find the transcript of the mentioned interview on the web-site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In my address I will concentrate on the most important events, and you can further find more detailed information in the Annual Report issued by the Ministry which will be distributed to you. Based on the guidelines given by the President of the Republic, the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2010 were aimed at ensuring favourable external conditions for the development of the state, strengthen its image, raise the efficiency of the protection of Armenian and its citizens' interests abroad, present Armenian approaches in the international arena, deepening the involvement in international organizations and processes, further strengthening cooperation with partner and friendly states as well as settle relations with countries, with which some problems exist. Thanks to the Armenian diplomacy's efforts, in the process of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement, it became obvious that the Armenian approaches are in line with the approaches of the international community, which was reaffirmed in the five-sided joint statement during the OSCE Summit in Astana on December 1, in the Muskoka Statement by the heads of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries in the sidelines of the G8 Summit on June 26, in the Astrakhan Declaration adopted by the Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan on 27th of October, in the statement by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group during the Almaty meeting of the OSCE Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 17th of July. www.mfa.am January, 14 2011 full story

IRAN, ARMENIA TO BOOST ENERGY CO-OP

Officials of Iran and Armenia reviewed exports of oil products from the Islamic Republic to that country.

The swapping of natural gas and electricity, as well as building a pipeline to transfer gasoline and diesel oil from Iran to Armenia, were top on the agenda in the officials' meeting.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Alireza Zeighami, who is leading a delegation to Armenia, met the Armenian Energy Minister Armen Movsesian.

Zeighami said that in their three-day meetings the two sides discussed details of the gas deal which will last for 25 years.

By 2014, a 365 kilometer, 8 inch pipeline will transfer oil products from Tabriz to Yerevan.

In the meeting they also reviewed matters regarding the 400kW electricity line which was recently inaugurated by prominent figures of the two neighboring states.

Iran and Armenia's cooperation covers a vast range of fields, including a natural gas pipeline, oil pipeline, railway tracks, Aras hydro-electric power plant, high voltage power line and other significant projects

January 16, 2011 www.tehrantimes.com

YEREVAN ACCUSES BAKU OF FOILING OSCE PEACE EFFORTS ON KARABAKH



Azerbaijan is working to thwart efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh issue, an Armenian government spokesman said on Monday. "The continuous violations of the ceasefire by the Azerbaijani side and the two Armenian servicemen injured in the past few days indicate that Azerbaijan is attempting to disrupt the efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group to secure a peaceful settlement to the Karabakh conflict," said David Karapetyan, press secretary for the Armenian defense minister.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry dismissed Armenia's ceasefire violation assertions as "false." Armenia said on Thursday it would boycott renewed discussions on the Karabakh conflict at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE). The talks have been promoted by PACE President Mevlut Cavusoglu, who seeks to resurrect a PACE subcommittee to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict during the assembly's winter session later this month. Armenia has been involved in a bitter dispute with neighboring Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh since 1988, when the ethnic Armenian region broke away from Azerbaijan and sought support from Armenia. The OSCE Minsk Group is co-chaired by Russia, France and the United States. Other countries besides Armenia and Azerbaijan in the group include Finland, Turkey, Sweden, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and Belarus.

January 17, 2011 www.en.rian.ru

FIRST SUKHOI SUPERJET 100 PRODUCTION AIRCRAFT NAMED AFTER GAGARIN

The first Sukhoi Superjet 100 production aircraft, that has been named after Yuri Gagarin, will connect Moscow with the capital of Armenia – Yerevan, said a report posted on the website of Russia's Roskosmos federal space agency.

"The Sukhoi Superjet 100 which is the seventh produced and the first production aircraft, was bought by Armenia's Armavia Airline. The customers named Superjet after first

cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin," the report said.

"We have a tradition to give names to all planes," the deputy director general of the airline, Aram Yegoyan, said. "We plan to begin operating Superjet early in February. Before that it must get all necessary certification documents, while our pilots must undergo training," he added.

January 17, 2011 www.itar-tass.com

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER 'OLDEST' WINERY IN ARMENIAN CAVE



Forget France. It turns out, the real birthplace of wine may be in a cave in Armenia. An international research team says it has found the world's oldest winery in a paper published Tuesday in the peer-reviewed Journal of Archaeological Science. "It's the oldest proven case of documented and dedicated wine production, stretching back the horizons of this important development by thousands of years," said Gregory Areshian, co-director of the excavation and assistant director of the University of California Los Angeles's Cotsen Institute of Archaeology. Areshian says that clay pots and vats discovered at a sprawling cave system in southern Armenia near the border with Iran shows signs of an organized effort to press and distill grapes during the Copper Age, about 6,000 years ago. The roof of the cave had collapsed long ago, sealing in the rudimentary winery and preserving the remnants under an airtight layer of rock and other debris, leading to the remarkable find. The team, led by Hans Barnard from UCLA, found a simple wine press, vats with residue, remnants of grape vines and seeds, and a small cup that might have been used to sample the goods. The press and wide shallow vat are similar to foot-stomping type equipment used by people throughout the region even up into the 19th century. The wine might have tasted similar to modern vintages as well. Botanists examining the find say it was the species *Vitis vinifera*, the same one used to produce the vast majority of wine today. Areshian says the wine would be comparable to a modern unfiltered red wine, and may have had a similar taste to a merlot.

January 12, 2011

full story www.cnn.com

21ST ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIANS' MASSACRE IN BAKU COMMEMORATED

The 21st anniversary of Armenians' massacre in Baku is marked today. On 13-19 January, 1990, Armenians in Baku were brutally massacred and the exact number of people murdered there is still unknown. According to some unverified data, about 300 Armenians were assassinated in a week and another 30 thousand displaced.

According to "Radio Liberty" aired information on 13 January of 1990, rivers of blood were flowing in the Lenin Street of Baku. Russians living in Azerbaijan's capital were shocked to see those bloody scenes of revenge against Armenians. They witnessed thousands of Armenians being murdered and thrown from balconies, many were burnt alive. The eye-witnesses say men and women, young and old were attacked because they were Armenians.

In the aftermath of January massacres of 1990, the economic rights of Armenians were violated, they were robbed and deprived of their homes. Armenians left their properties that cost hundred million dollars and are still left without any compensations.

Russian "dpni.org" web site writes that after January 19, the criminal groups of Neymat Panakhov (Panakhli) were walking in the streets of Baku. All the international information sources reported about ethnic massacre but the crime was done.

The massacre stopped only after the occupation of the Baku by Soviet troops, which, if considered the fierce resistance they faced, could not but be accompanied with numerous victims on both sides.

January 14, 2011 www.massispost.com

THE ARMENIAN SIDE OF CHER



Say what you want about Kim Kardashian and the other sisters. But for my money, Cher continues to be my dream girl. Always was. Always will be. Not that I have a love affair with the woman. An infatuation for beauty and talent mixed is more like it. And durability. To continue going this strong in Hollywood and Las Vegas at the ripe age of 64 probably takes a lot of makeup but more passion for the entertainment world. She's still a class act, a true Armenian American icon. That is why I shall be in her corner come Academy Awards time. If she doesn't get an Oscar nomination for her role in the current production of "Burlesque," I shall cancel my subscription to Hollywood Maga-

zine and demand an investigation. Her role as the club owner and den mother to a host of showgirls is truly impeccable. I marveled at her Academy Award-winning performance in "Moonstruck." And I found her just as remarkable in such other films as "Mask," "Witches of Eastwick," "Tea with Mussolini," and "Silkwood," which earned her an Oscar nomination. Here's what one critic has to say about this present campy musical. "It takes a legend to make a star. Without Cher, 'Burlesque' wouldn't work." The musical side is just as impressive, going back to the TV days of Sonny Bono. She's sold more than 100 million records. Her concert tours are still sold-out. In truth, Cher knows no hiatus. Though I'm a tad older than Cher, she was always the one I would showcase whenever outsiders asked me to identify any prominent Armenians. "Well, you know Cher," I would respond, calling to mind her given name, Cherilyn Sarkisian. "No kidding, Cher's Armenian?" they would reply. "I had no idea." The year was 1985, precisely 25 years ago.


January 12, 2011

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

WOODROW WILSON'S ARBITRAL AWARD FINAL, BINDING AND STILL VALID, SCHOLARS SAY

On November 16, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) hosted an event on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Woodrow Wilson Arbitral Award, at the Woodrow Wilson House in Washington. The event featured two speakers. Ara Papian, the head of the Modus Vivendi Research Center, who has served as ambassador of Armenia to Canada and as spokesperson for the Armenian Foreign Ministry, and Dikran Kaligian, who has taught history at Clark University, and Regis, Westfield State, and Wheaton colleges, and is the managing editor of the Armenian Review. Following a cocktail hour, accompanied by Arpa Vartanian on the piano, the executive director of the ANCA, Aram Hamparian, introduced the guests. Among them were representatives of the Embassy of Armenia, former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Marshal Evans, as well as Virginia State Senator Patsy Ticer, Donald Wilson Bush, a member of the Wilson family and founder of the Woodrow Wilson Legacy Foundation, as well as representatives from the community and various offices and organizations, including the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Armenian Relief Society, and Hamazkayin and the Armenian Youth Federation. His Eminence, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Eastern United States, offered his prayers. "President Wilson holds a special place in the history of the Armenian people... He was our voice when we were unable to speak. And now we are proud to be his voice in promoting his ideals of freedom, justice, peace, and democracy. We are especially mindful and thankful for the unprecedented American assistance that rescued the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, many of whom were later welcomed in the United States of America," said Choloyan. About 90 years ago, on Nov. 22, 1920, at the request of the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers, President Wilson issued an Arbitral Award, under the Presidential Seal, to establish a Turkey-Armenia boundary pursuant to the Treaty of Sevres. Through this legal document, Armenia was granted the provinces of Van, Bitlis, Erzurum, and Trabzon.

January 14, 2011 www.asbarez.com

"Armenia Highlights" is compiled in association with 

DISCLAIMER: Views expressed in "Armenia Highlights" do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Armenia.