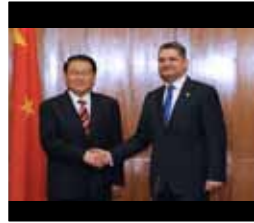




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# ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia**

**April 12-18, 2011**

## THEMA

### OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



**A**t the invitation of the President of the Republic of Slovenia Danilo Turk, President Serzh Sargsyan arrived today to Ljubljana on official visit. After the official welcome ceremony for the President of Armenia, Presidents Sargsyan and Turk held a private meeting which was followed by the meeting in the extended format with the participation of the official delegations of the two states. The results of the negotiations were summarized at the joint press conference of the Presidents of Armenia and Slovenia. “In the last year and half, we have managed to accomplish considerable work aimed at the expansion of the field of our cooperation: A business forum was held in Yerevan last year, a number of documents was signed, including those pertinent to economy. Today they will be augmented by the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Area of Tourism. On this visit, I am accompanied by a group of businessmen who are now negotiating with their Slovenian colleagues. I am hopeful that jointly taken steps will yield positive results in the end of

this year,” President Sargsyan said at the meeting with journalists. He also spoke about current regional problems, approaches and steps taken by Armenia towards their resolution. “Recently, I heard a statement by the President of Slovenia Danilo Turk that membership of Croatia to the European Union is very important not only for Croatia itself but also for Slovenia and the entire European realm as well. I followed the statement with great attention and a bit of envy: these two neighboring countries used to have serious tension. However, they have been able to transcend rigid mindset and solve the problems in a civilized way, through the negotiations, taking into account common regional benefits. Unfortunately, in our region the situation is somewhat different. Evidently, for some countries advancement toward Eurointegration doesn’t necessarily signify a peaceful, prosperous, free and secure development. One of our immediate neighbors has misapprehensions regarding the European way, perceiving the European realm exclusively as a convenient market for selling oil and gas. [April 13-14, full story 2011 www.president.am](http://www.president.am)

### “QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“ACTIVE CONTACTS OF THE RECENT YEARS HAVE REVEALED A NUMBER OF NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CO-OPERATION, SUCH AS MINING, CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, WHERE, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENTS“

TIGRAN SARGSYAN  
PRIME MINISTER OF RA

### Upcoming Events

**APRIL 19:** “To the new economic perspectives in the Armenian-Russian strategic relations“ *Armenian-Russian interregional forum to be held in Yerevan*

**APRIL 24:** *Armenia marks the day of Armenian Genocide*

**JUNE 4:** *St. Petersburg’s Petrovsky stadium will host EURO 2012 Russia vs. Armenia*

### USEFUL LINKS

- [www.president.am](http://www.president.am)
- [www.gov.am](http://www.gov.am)
- [www.parliament.am](http://www.parliament.am)
- [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am)
- [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)
- [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)
- [www.matenadaran.am](http://www.matenadaran.am)

## A MAJOR PROGRESS IS EXPECTED IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.

On April 13 the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan visited “Unifish” fish-breeding company in Ranchpar community of Ararat region. The head of the government toured the company, learned about the implementation process of the water meter installation instructions in the fish-breeding sectors. The Prime Minister were exported last year, and this year it is expected to export at least 800 tones of fish. “Today, when we get acquainted with the plans and indexes of the fish-breeding companies, we assume that it is possible for those volumes to be larger.” Speaking about the issue of installation of water meters in the fisheries sector, the Prime Minister said that the works of installing modern water meters are in progress. “As a result both we and they will not be worried that the used water registration is implemented in a non appropriate way. Having such a complex economy, the installation of the water meters is a necessity.”



was presented the production opportunities of the company, as well as the prospective development programs. After the tour, answering the reporters' questions, the Prime Minister noted that the export capacities of the fisheries sector will increase at least twice in 2011. The Prime Minister said that last year 400 tones of fish products

*April 13, 2011 [www.gov.am](http://www.gov.am)*

## THE ARMENIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER EDWARD NALBANDIAN PARTICIPATED IN THE EXPANDED MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEVOTED TO AFGHANISTAN



Armenia will continue to provide her support for the establishment of peace, security, stability and internal solidarity in Afghanistan. On April 14, the expanded meeting at the level of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Council devoted to Afghanistan took place in Berlin. The foreign ministers of over five dozen countries, which are members of the NATO and take part in the international forces in Afghanistan, attended the meeting. Addressing a speech in the ministerial meeting, Edward Nalbandian reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to continue her contribution to the efforts undertaken towards the establishment of peace, security, stability and internal solidarity in Afghanistan. The Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister also expressed gratitude to the German authorities for the effective cooperation in the issues related to the deployment and service

of the Armenian brigade in Afghanistan. Edward Nalbandian also met with Christoph Heusgen, the chief foreign policy and security adviser of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The sides had a thorough talk on the ways for the further deepening of the Armenian-German friendly relations. They also discussed a wide range of international and regional issues. The sides touched upon the process of implementing the agreements reached during the visit of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to Germany last year for giving a new content to the cooperation between the two countries. The sides mutually mentioned that two countries established a high-level political dialogue, effectively developing cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats, established a firm legal framework; expand business contacts and cooperation in cultural and educational fields. Upon the request of Christoph Heusgen, Minister Nalbandian presented the recent developments in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. The next meeting of Edward Nalbandian was with his Australian counterpart Kevin Rudd. The Ministers stressed with satisfaction that their meetings in the frames of international forums has become traditional and it is a good opportunity to discuss many issues of mutual interest.

*April 14, 2011 full story [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am)*

## HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- *APRIL 12: Kim Kardashian upset over use of her photo on Cosmopolitan Turkish edition cover* AH
- *APRIL 13: Turkey's position on Protocols remains unchanged* AH
- *APRIL 14: Massachusetts Governor named as "Friend of the Armenians" for 2011* AH
- *APRIL 15: Sen. Boxer once again calls on U.S. President to recognize Armenian Genocide* AH
- *APRIL 16: Hrachik Javakhyan named best boxer at Yerevan-hosted international tournament* AH
- *APRIL 17: Armenian astronomers, journalists discuss science journalism development* AH
- *APRIL 18: Boston International Film Festival to screen "My Uncle Rafael"* AH

## SAMVEL KARAPETYAN SAYS AZERBAIJAN ENEMY OF CIVILIZATION

Azerbaijan is an enemy of the civilization, scourge of civilization: Azerbaijanis destroy our monuments and attack first, Samvel Karapetyan, monument specialist, director of the Research on Armenian Architecture NGO, said at a meeting with journalists adding that the destructive approach towards Armenian monuments as a state one has been vivid in Azerbaijan since the Soviet period, when the labels of Armenian monuments were veiled and the monuments were destroyed. Presenting the third issue of “Vardzk” journal, which provides information on the state of the Armenian monuments in Azerbaijan, S. Karapetyan noted that the very Armenian monuments – chapels, churches, cemeteries with cross-stones – are endangered. The other monuments are mainly preserved, but the Armenian records on them are being removed. Photos of Armenian historical monuments in Azerbaijan are taken by non-Armenians, for example, by Belgian photographer Frederic Berlemont, besides Azerbaijanis themselves agree to place photos at our disposal for great sums of money. The monument specialist informed that the Armenian monuments in Azerbaijan were destroyed both during the war and after it and they were destroyed as well in areas, which were far from military zones, so the military actions cannot be a justification.

*April 14, 2011 [www.hypress.am](http://www.hypress.am)*

## PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATES ARMENIAN POLICE ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan participated in a ceremonial session timed to the 10th anniversary of the Armenian Police.

Having congratulated the police officers, the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of current police reforms, characterising them as a high priority on Armenian government's agenda. As he stated, solution of the issues Armenian Police faces at present will help increase people's trust for police, decreasing corruption risks and boosting the quality of service. "The Police proved their ability to discover and resolve those issues in a timely manner," Mr. Sargsyan stressed.

*April 15, 2011 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

## ARMENIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES FEAST OF PALM SUNDAY APRIL 17

On April 17, one week before the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of Palm Sunday (Tsakhkazard), celebrating the Triumphant Entry of Christ into Jerusalem. The Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II announced Tsakhkazard as the day of the blessing of children. Jesus comes into Jerusalem riding atop a donkey and the people gather to meet Him with reverence, thus fulfilling the words of the prophet from the Old Testament. The Gospel of St. Matthew, in relating the story, refers to the prophecy, "All this was done, that it might be fulfilled, that which was spoken by the prophet, saying "Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you! He is humble and sitting on an ass,

and a colt, the foal of an ass." (Mt 21:4-5). On His arrival, a large crowd of people gathers to greet Him, and spread their cloaks on the road before Him, while others cut branches from palm trees and place them on the path. The crowd exclaims: "Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the Name of the Lord" (Jn 12:13). On Palm Sunday, churches are decorated with branches from willow trees and palm trees. Following a solemn morning service, the blessed branches are distributed to the faithful. This passage from the Gospels reminds each of us about the Coming of Christ, and teaches us to live in a manner that can make us worthy to stand before the Lord and exclaim: "Hosanna (Praise God)! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

*April 16, 2011 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

## ARMENIAN IT MANAGERS TO BE TRAINED AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

An annual contest for the best IT sector manager was announced in Armenia, with the 3 winners to be granted a possibility of study at U.S. Stanford University, Synopsys Armenia CEO Hovik Musayelyan stated. As the representative of the Armenian government Vardan Nikoyan said at government's press center, the contest was organized under the aegis of Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. As Nikoyan stressed, the IT sector, announced as a priority sphere by the Armenian government, is highly important in achieving economy growth. VivaCell-MTS, the contest sponsor, provided a financing of AMD 19 mil-



lion for the contest. The Company CEO Ralf Yirikian emphasized the importance of the project, expressing hope for Armenian IT experts to use their knowledge in their native country. Contest terms will be provided by sending a message at [bestit@gov.am](mailto:bestit@gov.am).

*April 18, 2011 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

## STEPANAKERT AIRPORT OPENING PLANNED IN MIDDLE OF SUMMER: PHOTOREPORT



Installation works are currently in progress at Stepanakert airport, the head of NKR Civil Aviation Department stated. As David Atbashyan told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter, special attention is given to the concrete runway. "We're taking our time to provide quality work. I believe the opening will take place in the middle of summer," Atbashyan said. Director of the State Civil Aviation Administration of Azerbaijan Arif Mammadov announced Azerbaijan would shoot down the aircraft that would be landing at the Stepanakert airport. The Azeri side has already managed to complain to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Azeri threats to shoot down planes bound for Stepanakert will not frighten Karabakh, according to the head of the central information department at the office of the Artsakh President. "The threats are a proof that medieval psychology is prevalent in Azerbaijan. Those who issue them do not simply lack in self-possession, but openly support Nazi values," David Babayan stressed.

*April 12, 2011, [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

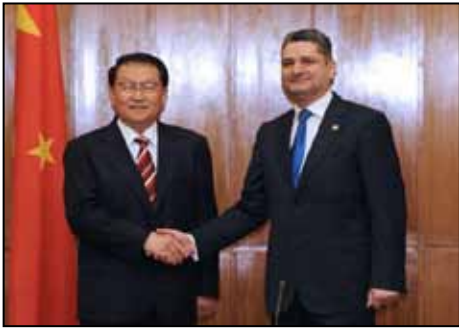
## DIASPORA MINISTRY RESPONDS TO MONEY LAUNDERING ACCUSATIONS

Armenian Diaspora Ministry would have never allowed any corruption attempts, Deputy Diaspora Minister Stepan Petrosyan stated, commenting on accusations of money laundering. Earlier, the executive director of One Nation, One Culture foundation Tamar Poghosyan accused the Ministry of a money laundering attempt. "The Diaspora Minister disallowed the money allocated by the state budget to the Foundation from being spent in unproductive manner," the Deputy Minister said, explaining the cause of Ms. Poghosyan's claims and the stir that raised. As Petrosyan stated, Ms. Poghosyan concluded an AMD 25 million contract for stage services within One Nation, One Culture festival framework.

*April 18, 2011*

*full story [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

## LI CHANGCHUN MEETS ARMENIAN PM TO DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES



Li spoke highly of the development of bilateral relations. He said that cooperation of mutual benefit between the two countries has been strengthened in various fields, especially in trade and the economy. China has already become the second-largest trading partner of Armenia, Li said, adding that people-to-people exchanges between Armenia and China have also increased. The senior official of the CPC (Communist Party of China) expected that cultural and arts exchanges would be strengthened to boost mutual understanding and friendship of the two peoples next year when the countries mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Li said that China will always stick to friendly cooperation on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. He said, too, that China believes that all countries, big

or small, strong or weak, are equal and all have the right to choose ways of development in accordance with their respective status quo. "China attaches great importance to the traditional friendship and friendly cooperation with Armenia," Li said, adding that China is willing to join hands with Armenia to promote the comprehensive development of bilateral relations. Li also briefed the Armenian prime minister about China's 12th Five-Year Plan. Sargsyan said that Armenia also attaches great importance to relations with China and the two countries have been deepening political mutual trust and bettering the foundation for further cooperation. "There is no historical or contemporary obstacle in the development of bilateral relations, so Armenia hopes to tap further the potential in trade and economy in the Armenia-China cooperation," the prime minister said. Sargsyan listed some fields of priority for future cooperation between Armenia and China, including mining, chemicals, building materials, infrastructure, hi-tech research and tourism. After their meeting, the prime minister and Li witnessed the signing of an agreement on trade, economy and culture cooperation between the two countries.

April 13, 2011 [www.english.cntv.cn](http://www.english.cntv.cn)

## TURKEY MISREPRESENTS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



On the eve of April 24, Day in Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, Turkey spares no diplomatic efforts to prevent third countries, particularly France and the United States, from recognizing the Armenian Genocide, an expert in Turkic studies Levon Hovsepyan told journalists on Monday. To achieve their goals the Turkish authorities even resort to blackmail, he said. Hovsepyan added that Turkey tries to present the Armenian Genocide as a psychological problem, and to convince that Turkey itself suffered human losses in World War I. Official Ankara states that the prob-

lem could be resolved by means of a dialogue with Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora. Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoglu even "went to extremes" by saying that the problem can be resolved through establishing contacts with the Armenian Diaspora, said Hovsepyan. Davutoglu also stated that the international community is using the Armenian Genocide as a chance to partition Turkey. Hovsepyan believes that under the circumstances, any talks about contacts with the Armenian Diaspora are illogical. "Turkey simulates a discussion on the Armenian Genocide, however, it does not influence official Ankara's position," the expert said. "Turkey continues its blackmail policy. The Turkish authorities use all possible means of exerting pressure to prevent the United States from recognizing the Armenian Genocide, and France from adopting a law punishing for denial of the Armenian Genocide."

April 11, 2011 [www.europaplus.tv](http://www.europaplus.tv)

## SIX BANKS SIGN ARMENIA'S FIRST TRADE FINANCE AGREEMENTS WITH ADB



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on April 14 signed trade finance agreements with six banks in Armenia, a move that is expected to further bolster the country's trade sector and help ensure sustainable economic growth in the Central Asian country. The trade finance agreements, the first signed by Armenia's banks with ADB, were signed with Ameriabank CJSC, Anelik Bank CJSC, Ardshinvestbank CJSC, Armeconombank OJSC, Converse Bank CJSC, and Unibank Armenia CJSC. All the agreements were made under ADB's Trade Finance Program which provides guarantees and loans through banks to facilitate international trade in ADB's developing member countries. "The trade finance agreements are expected to promote the continued expansion of the trade sector, which is a key component of Armenia's economy, and this should translate to more jobs and steady economic expansion," said Lakshmi Venkatachalam, ADB's Vice-President for Private Sector and Cofinancing Operations who attended the signing ceremony. Armenia has emerged from the slump caused by the global financial crisis, with contributions from major exports such as copper, chemicals, and jewelry, and improved gains made by industry, construction, services, and remittances aiding the country's recovery last year. ADB is forecasting a gross domestic product growth of 4.0% this year, according to its flagship Asian Development Outlook 2011 report released in early April. In 2010, the economy expanded 2.1% after contracting 14.2% in 2009. From the time it was launched in 2004 up to the end of 2010, the Trade Finance Program has supported 2,433 international trade transactions worth \$5.2 billion in 14 Asian countries. In 2010 alone, the program supported 783 transactions. Out of the trade deals supported last year, 277 were conducted by small- and medium-sized enterprises. ADB — rated at triple A — plans to further expand the reach of the Trade Finance Program in 2011 and 2012.

April 14, 2010 [www.finchannel.com](http://www.finchannel.com)

## ARMENIAN NEWSPAPER AGOS BANNED FROM TURKISH PRISON



Inmates in Turkey's prisons, including recently arrested journalists Ahmet Sik and Nedim Sener, have been unable to receive copies of the Armenian weekly Agos because officials say it is published in a "foreign language." The two reporters filed a complaint about not receiving copies of the paper, which is published partly in Turkish and partly in Armenian, that had been sent to them at Silivri prison. Administrators of the high-security facility responded to the complaint, explaining that, "The Agos newspaper is listed among the publications banned by the Justice Ministry, thus it cannot be brought into prisons."

The Justice Ministry said Wednesday, however, that the paper is allowed in prison. The newspaper, which has been publishing for 15 years, was accepted into the Parliament Library last week. "We have received complaints since 2008 that Agos was not being received by prisoners in Tekirdag's F-type prison. We even made news about this," said the paper's editor-in-chief, Roper Koptas. "Then we thought the ban had been lifted, as we were not receiving complaints anymore." This assumption was proven wrong when Sik and Sener did not receive the paper, Koptas said, adding that whether or not it is banned in prisons is still not clear. "We believe this is a big mistake," he said. After learning about the journalists' failure to receive the newspaper, Agos contacted both the prison director and the chair of Parliament's Human Rights Monitoring Committee, Zafer Üskü, but failed to get a clear answer from either.

April 14, 2011 [www.massispost.com](http://www.massispost.com)

## MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO MARK GENOCIDE AT ANNUAL CAPITOL HILL OBSERVANCE



Members of Congress will be joined by human rights advocates and Armenian Americans from across the country in calling for U.S. support for a truthful and just resolution of the Armenian Genocide at the annual Capitol Hill observance set to take place in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room on April 13 from 6-8:30 p.m., reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). Organized by the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in cooperation with the Embassy of Armenia, Office of the Representative of Nagorno Karabakh

and Armenian American groups, the observance honors the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide and repeats the call on Congressional leaders and the Obama Administration to end U.S. complicity in Turkey's international campaign of genocide denial. Now in its 17th year, the annual event has attracted hundreds of U.S. legislators and served as an important venue for Armenian Americans and human rights advocates to share with elected officials their expectation that U.S. policy rise above Turkey's threats and reflect the core values of the American people. This year's venue for the Genocide Observance is the Kennedy Caucus Room, where some of the most historic of Congressional hearings have been held—from the review of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 to Senate consideration of Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court. Sen. Bob Dole was honored by the ANCA at the Genocide Observance held in this room in 2001.

April 11, 2011 [www.armenianweekly.com](http://www.armenianweekly.com)

## IS ALIYEV CALLING FOR AERIAL STRIKES AGAINST KARABAKH?



Azerbaijan's President said that the international community should follow the Libyan scenario and punish Armenia for allegedly adhering to UN resolutions, a day before the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen kicked off another tour of the region. In an interview with the Russia-24 TV, Aliyev said that the UN Security Council has adopted four resolutions "on withdrawal of Armenian occupation troops from the Azerbaijani territory, with none of them implemented." "When we see the UN Security Council's resolutions put into practice just a few hours after they are approved, while resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh have not been implemented for 17 or 18 years, a natural question arises: what is the reason for such efficiency and, on the other hand, passivity in our case?" added Aliyev. In drawing parallels between the Karabakh conflict and UN Security Council actions against Libya, is Aliyev urging the international community to bomb Karabakh? In his interview, Aliyev also called on Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to play an active role in the process "We hope for a more active involvement by the mediators, particularly the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and Russia, as a regional country and our neighbor," said Aliyev. The U.S., Russian and French diplomats co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group met with Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian in Yerevan at the start of their latest round of shuttle diplomacy. The Armenian Foreign Ministry reported few details of the talks, reported RFE/RL.

April 11, 2011 full story  
[www.asbarez.com](http://www.asbarez.com)

"Armenia Highlights" is compiled in association with [Pandemonium Network](http://www.pandemonium.net)

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