



TIGRAN SARGSYAN: "PAN-ARMENIAN GAMES A REAL PROOF OF OUR UNITY" PAGE 2



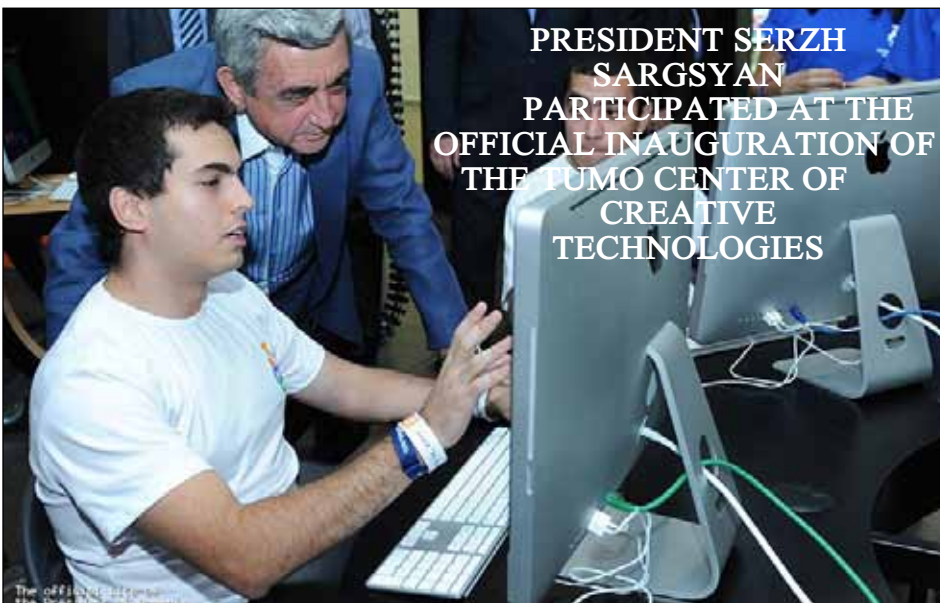
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ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

August 8-16, 2011

THEMA



PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN PARTICIPATED AT THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE TUMO CENTER OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

President Serzh Sargsyan participated today at the official inauguration of the Tumo Center of Creative Technologies which is located in Ajapniak community of Yerevan. The President of Armenia toured the Center and familiarized with its working conditions. In his welcoming remarks Serzh Sargsyan noted that inauguration of the center of creative technologies in Armenia holds strategic significance. According to the President of Armenia, exposure of the intellectual ability of the Armenian youth and resulting amplified competitiveness is a crucial task for our country. President Serzh Sargsyan also noted that Armenia has scarce natural resources and should first of all manage these resources carefully and second, should be able to provide intellectual services to our society, to the region and to the world which would be impossible in the absence of such centers. President Sargsyan said that he was exited with the opening of this Center and expressed confidence that the program would have very

concrete results and importance for Armenia. Serzh Sargsyan noted that this mission of Mr. and Mrs. Simonian deserves not only commendation but also encouragement because along with its practical significance it serves also as a good example for all those who through their hard work have achieved success in their own field, and now the time has come for them to share a small part of their success with the Motherland. At the Tumo Center, President Sargsyan met also with the composer and singer-songwriter of the world famous System of a Down group Serj Tankian. The Armenian-American rock musician assured that he would continue his efforts aimed at the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He also expressed hope that the System of a Down soon would give a concert in Armenia. The President of Armenia wished Serj Tankian artistic success and thanked him for his pro-Armenian activities. President Serzh Sargsyan was also present at the concert dedicated to the opening of the Tumo Center.

August 14, 2011 www.president.am

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"I AM CONVINCED THAT OUR VICTORY CONSISTS IN OUR UNITY. WE CANNOT BE DEFEATED WHEN WE ARE UNANIMOUS"

**TIGRAN SARGSYAN
PRIME MINISTER OF RA**

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 3: St. Petersburg State Orchestra will perform concerts in Armenia

SEPTEMBER 2-3: Serzh Sargsyan will participate in CIS summit of the member-countries' Presidents, in Dushanbe

NOVEMBER 28-30: Catholicos Karekin II, Grand Mufti Allahshukur Pashazadeh may meet in Etchmiadzin

USEFUL LINKS

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

TIGRAN SARGSYAN: "PAN-ARMENIAN GAMES A REAL PROOF OF OUR UNITY"

A ceremonious opening for the 5th Pan-Armenian Games was held at the Republican Stadium of Yerevan after Vazgen Sargsyan. In attendance were Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan, Chairman of the World Pan-Armenian Games Committee Ishkhan Zakaryan, other officials. Welcoming the participants and all our and outsiders due to our unity." According to the Prime Minister, it is symbolical that the Pan-Armenian Games are held ahead of the celebrations of Armenia's and Artsakh's 20th anniversary of independence bringing together in Homeland thousands of our compatriots. "I am often asked what the Armenian world looks like. Here it is extending from Australia to Canada, from South America to the Middle East. The Armenian world is mobilized, strong with the will of victory," the Prime Minister said convinced that the Pan-Armenian Games are one of the most effective means of strengthening and development our identity and originality. According to the Premier, this originality of ours' has been calling in Armenians from the Diaspora since they were launched 12 years ago. "Dear compatriots, each of you is strong and, together, you are invincible. Each of you is set to win. But first let us understand what a victory is. I am convinced that our victory consists in our unity. We cannot be defeated when we are unanimous," Tigran Sargsyan emphasized. The head of government said to be convinced that something more valuable is at stake than mere athletic achievements. Tigran Sargsyan wished the athletes every success and all the best. The Pan-Armenian Games bring together some 3200 participants from 125 cities of 30 countries involved in 10 different sports events: football, basketball, chess, futsal, volleyball, swimming, athletics, badminton and ping pong. The Games will be held in Yerevan, Abovian and Artashat through August 21, 2011.



compatriots, Tigran Sargsyan stated in part: "The Pan-Armenian Games have grown into a nationwide festival by teaching us to celebrate victories together. Over the few days ahead, Armenians all over the world will follow closely your performances and everyone will be pleased with your achievements. The Pan-Armenian Games are a unique tournament in this respect as there are no losers and winners." According to the Prime Minister, it is symbolical that the Pan-Armenian Games are held ahead of the celebrations of Armenia's and Artsakh's 20th anniversary of independence bringing together in Homeland thousands of our compatriots. "I am often asked what the Armenian world looks like. Here it is extending from Australia to Canada, from South America to the Middle East. The Armenian world is mobilized, strong with the will of victory," the Prime Minister said convinced that the Pan-Armenian Games are one of the most effective means of strengthening and development our identity and originality. According to the Premier, this originality of ours' has been calling in Armenians from the Diaspora since they were launched 12 years ago. "Dear compatriots, each of you is strong and, together, you are invincible. Each of you is set to win. But first let us understand what a victory is. I am convinced that our victory consists in our unity. We cannot be defeated when we are unanimous," Tigran Sargsyan emphasized. The head of government said to be convinced that something more valuable is at stake than mere athletic achievements. Tigran Sargsyan wished the athletes every success and all the best. The Pan-Armenian Games bring together some 3200 participants from 125 cities of 30 countries involved in 10 different sports events: football, basketball, chess, futsal, volleyball, swimming, athletics, badminton and ping pong. The Games will be held in Yerevan, Abovian and Artashat through August 21, 2011.

August 13, 2011 www.gov.am

NKR DEFENSE ARMY'S POTENTIAL INCREASES BY 20%



On the 20th anniversary of Artsakh Independence, NKR Defense Minister Movses Hakobyan summarized the achievements and gaps of the first half of the year. Speaking on the path the NKR Defense Army passed during the past 20 years, Movses Hakobyan said the Armenian army was formed on the basis of the voluntary detachments that were created during the war and experienced the real difficulty of war. "From 1992 to 1994 we not

only withstood the pressure by the opponent, but also forced the opponent to enter into negotiations and sign a ceasefire agreement," he said. Nonetheless, in the result, the Defense Army also had some losses, as the region of Shahumyan, district of Getashen, a part of the regions of Martakert and Martuni remained under the control of the Azerbaijan army. As to the past half, the Artsakhi Minister of Defense said the reform program launched 2010 went on in the army. Particularly, according to the minister, the army gained new arms and as a result the army's potential increased by 20%. "The program will be continuous and we will not allow the Azerbaijani army to let us behind in the issue of arms," Movses Hakobyan said. He added that in the past half the relevant service of the RA President's Staff conducted a sudden check in a division of the Defense Army and gave a high assessment.

August 12 2011, www.armenpress.am

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **AUGUST 8:** B.Sahakian to sailors of "Armenia": This new victory of will and spirit has already taken its place in the history of our people
- **AUGUST 9:** ArmenTel expands 3G network in Armenia
- **AUGUST 10:** Property rights in focus of construction of North South transport corridor
- **AUGUST 12:** The next disinformation by Azerbaijan: Armenia has not confirmed its participation in Eurovision 2012 yet
- **AUGUST 16:** Jose Melkonyan wins swimming races at Pan-Armenian Games

VIC DARCHINYAN "I'M DEDICATING THIS VICTORY TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF ARMENIA"



There are many difficulties of organizing such a meeting fight. First of all, there are financial difficulties, but still there are people who contributed to the professional box. Vic Darchinyan said month ago he told about the idea of organizing such a fight to the Presidential apparatus of Armenia and received approval. Athletes from different countries of the world will be present on the day of fight. Vic Darchinyan doesn't underestimate his opponent Evans Mbambo. Darchinyan said that it would be wrong to underestimate his opponent, because it may interfere the fight. Vakhtangn also said that psychologically it does not matter where the fight is held. Gone are the times when the location of the ring had a psychological impact of the fight. So, psychologically, it does not matter for a professional boxer. He is provided by Victory and will do everything to ensure the victory. I'm dedicating this victory to the 20th anniversary of Independence of Armenia", - concluded the famous boxer.

August 11, 2011 www.armradio.am

S. TANKIAN: "I WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARDS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION"

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met Armenian-American world-known rock-singer Serj Tankian yesterday at the opening ceremony of Tumo center for creative technologies. According to the information by press service of Armenian President, Armenian President and the rock-singer spoke about Serj Tankian's social activities and career. Armenian-American singer assured he would continue his efforts towards Armenian Genocide recognition. He also hoped that "System of a Down" band would stage in Armenia soon. Armenian President wished Serj



Tankian all success in his future career and thanked for his pro-Armenian activities. Armenian President also attended the concert devoted to the Tumo center opening.

August 15, 2011 www.times.am

ARMENIAN CHURCH IN ANI TO BE PUT ON UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



Turkish authorities announced intention to put an Armenian church in Ani on the UNESCO world heritage list. Head of the Turkish Culture Ministry's Kars province department Hakan Doganay said that the church will be reconstructed with the funds raised from tourism, Nouvelles D'Armenie reported citing Anadolu Agency. About 23 000 tourists mostly from France, UK and Japan visited Ani in the first six months of 2011.

August 15, 2011 www.panarmenian.net

SERGEY MIKAELIAN WINS 24KM RACE AT ROLLER SKIING CHAMPIONSHIP



Armenia's Sergey Mikaelian finished first in the 24km distance race of the FIS Roller Skiing World Championships taking place in Aure, Norway. Covering the distance in 35:18.0 minutes, Mikaelian left behind his rival Anton Budilov from Russia. Representative of France came third. Mikaelian was third in the 10km classic race.

August 11, 2011 www.panarmenian.net

ELINA DANILEYAN CLIMBS TO 10TH PLACE AT GRAND PRIX



Armenia's Elina Danileyan has climbed to 10th place with 3.5 points at FIDE Women Grand Prix

series standings after the victory over Alisa Gallyamova in round 9. In round 10, the Armenian grandmaster will face Russia's Alexandra Kosteniuk, who is currently 11th. China's Hou Yifan tops the standings with 7 points, followed by Tatiana Kosintseva (Russia, 6 points) and Kateryna Lahno (Ukraine, 5.5 points).

August 13, 2011 www.panarmenian.net

ARMENIA TO HAVE TWO UNITED KINGDOM AMBASSADORS



Mr Jonathan James Aves and Ms Katherine Jane Leach, a husband and wife team, have been appointed Her Majesty's Joint Ambassadors to the Republic of Armenia in succession to Mr Charles John Lonsdale, who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Aves and Ms Leach will take up their appointment during January 2012. Both Mr Aves and Ms Leach will be permanently resident in Yerevan and alternate in exercising the functions of Ambassador on a four-monthly rotation, the press office of the British embassy to Armenia said. Mr Aves and Ms Leach joined the FCO in 1996 and 2000 respectively, following careers in academia and public opinion research. Together they have many years' experience and knowledge of the history, languages and culture of the South Caucasus and the wider region. Their FCO careers have covered a range of policy areas including security policy, EU trade and development, energy security and human rights. Most recently they had a joint posting to Tokyo where Mr Aves coordinated the UK's political input into Japan's 2008 G8 Chairmanship and Ms Leach coordinated UK and Japanese positions in advance of the UN climate change summit in Cancun and worked with UK and Japanese business to promote low carbon prosperity. In 2011, Mr Aves worked on the UK's input into the UN Human Rights Council on issues such as Libya, Syria and Iran. On their appointment as Joint Ambassadors to the Republic of Armenia, Mr Aves and Ms Leach said, "We are delighted to be appointed Joint Ambassadors to Armenia. We believe that our combined energy and experience will give a fresh impetus towards making the traditionally warm bilateral relations between the UK and Armenia even closer. We believe that when our two countries work together they can make a real contribution to our mutual prosperity and security."

August 15 2011 www.panarmenian.net

RUSSIA AND AZERBAIJAN DISCUSS THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH ISSUE



The situation in the Caucasus and the general state of several countries and their people depend on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan, Dmitry Medvedev and Ilkham Aliyev have focused on how to solve the conflict at their meeting in the Russian resort of Sochi. The Azeri President arrived in Sochi on a working visit, and his Russian counterpart described the city as an appropriate place for discussing bilateral relations, regional and international issues and global economic problems. Both leaders noted that political and economic dialogue between Moscow and Baku is gaining momentum. However, the regional conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh remains unsolved, the Russian President emphasized: "The Nagorno-Karabakh will be a key topic at the meeting. I would like to hold a frank discussion on what to do in the future and on how the events will develop by taking into account the last meeting in Kazan with the involvement of the Armenian President and previous meetings. We are close neighbours and the general state of the entire region, our countries and our people depends on how the situation develops," Dmitry Medvedev said. The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan

"We are close neighbours and the general state of the entire region, our countries and our people depends on how the situation develops"

have met more often on Russia's initiative in the trilateral format. In the past years, Russia has played the role of a mediator in their dialogue. Both sides of the conflict, Yerevan and Baku, welcome Russia's involvement. The three presidents, Medvedev, Sargsyan and Aliyev have met nine times at the negotiating table since 2008. This, according to the Azeri leader, has produced results: "We value highly your personal involvement in this process. Perhaps, Azerbaijan is more interested in solving the conflict as soon as possible than others so that the displaced people could return to their native places of residence, and peace and order could be established. I believe the resolution of the conflict at the earliest meets the interests of all sides," Ilkham Aliyev said.

Medvedev and Aliyev returned to the discussion of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the next day after the third anniversary of the

Georgian aggression against South Ossetia. During an interview, Dmitry Medvedev said that Ilkham Aliyev and Serzh Sargsyan consider the event a very serious lesson. They admitted that it would be better to conduct an endless dialogue on the fate of Nagorno-Karabakh, a possible referendum or a peace treaty rather than fight for five days. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict broke out in February 1988 when the enclave in Azerbaijan declared that it would secede from the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and join Armenia.

August 9, 2011

full story www.english.ruvr.ru

IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH, PEACE ELUSIVE 20 YEARS AFTER SOVIET FALL

This is where the first war set off by the Soviet collapse took place. And it may be where the next one breaks out. Twenty years ago, Armenians and Azerbaijanis, unleashed from Soviet control, waged a bitter struggle for this mountainous region in the South Caucasus. A cease-fire was reached in 1994, after about 30,000 people had been killed, leaving Nagorno-Karabakh outside Azerbaijan's control, as an unrecognized, de facto republic in the hands of ethnic Armenians. Since then, no one on either side has had the will to hammer out a settlement. Tension has been put to use by those in power — in Azerbaijan, in Armenia proper and here in separatist Nagorno-Karabakh. Democracy, human rights, an unfettered press, a genuine opposition — these are the sorts of things that get put aside in times of crisis. And here, the crisis has been going on for two decades



ades and shows little sign of letting up. "The development of democracy has fallen hostage to the conflict," said Masis Mayilian, Nagorno-Karabakh's former foreign minister and a one-time candidate for president. "This is very handy for totalitarian regimes." A renewal of the war would be a disaster for all concerned, unless it were very quick. On this they agree. The two sides are much more heavily armed than they were in 1991, especially Azerbaijan. It might be very difficult for Iran, Turkey and Russia to remain uninvolved — and impossible to confine the fighting to Nagorno-Karabakh itself. A major supply route used by the United States to provision troops in Afghanistan would be disrupted. But resistance to a peace settlement along the lines of a proposal sponsored by the United States, France and Russia has been stiff. "We share the wish that there be no war," said Robert Bradtke, the U.S. diplomat involved in the talks. "But do the parties have the political will?"

August 11, 2011

full story www.washingtonpost.com

CHESS NOTES



Three big international events were coming to resolution on the world canvas late last month. They were the world team championships, with a venue at Ningbo, China, featuring 10 of the strongest world teams; a tournament at Biel, Switzerland, consisting of six players headed by Magnus Carlsen as first seed; and Dortmund, Germany, another six-player tournament in which

Vladimir Kramnik was first seed and Hikaru Nakamura second. The United States had a very strong team, headed by Gata Kamsky in China, but lacking Nakamura. It conducted itself well, but dropped matches against Russia, Ukraine, and China. Russia was seeded first, even though it was lacking Kramnik, and only managed to finish fourth. The US team managed to draw with this year's winner, Armenia, and finished in a creditable tie for fifth with Hungary. China finished second, unable to catch Armenia, which had been seeded only fourth. Armenia, which also won in 2006 and 2008, consisted of players well known here, Levon Aronian, Sergei Movsesian, Vladimir Akopian, and Gabriel Sargissian, but its reserve was the little known Robert Hovhannisyann.

August 8, 2011 www.articles.boston.com

DR. SEBOUH ASLANIAN TO SPEAK ON NEW JULFA ARMENIANS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Dr. Sebouh D. Aslanian, the newly-appointed Richard Hovannisian Term Chair of Modern Armenian History, established by the Armenian Educational Foundation at UCLA, will speak on Wednesday, September 14, at 8:00 p.m., at Harvard University's Center for Government and International Studies, Auditorium S010, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA. Aslanian's lecture, "From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa," will draw on his recently-published book of the same name, issued by the University of California Press. Aslanian's lecture is co-sponsored by the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard, the Harvard Armenian Society, the Zo-

ryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). The lecture will be Aslanian's first since his appointment to the Hovannisian Chair at UCLA. Drawing on a rich trove of documents, including correspondence not seen for 300 years, Aslanian's groundbreaking study *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean* explores the emergence and growth of a remarkable global trade network operated by Armenian silk merchants from a small outpost in the Persian Empire. Based in New Julfa, Isfahan, in what is now Iran, these merchants operated a network of commercial settlements that stretched from London and Amsterdam to Manila and Acapulco. Aslanian brings to light the trans-imperial cosmopolitan world of the New Julfians, the effects of long distance trade on the organization of community life, the ethos of trust and cooperation that existed among merchants, and the importance of information networks and communication in the operation of early modern mercantile communities.

August 15, 2011

full story www.massispost.com

JEFFREY: PROTOCOLS TO HAVE 'PROFOUND EFFECT' ON TURKEY-US RELATIONS



The fate of the Turkey-Armenia protocols will have the most "profound effect" on Turkey-U.S. relations, said former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey James Jeffrey in a January 2010 State Department cable released by WikiLeaks. In discussing U.S. expectations vis-à-vis Turkey's follow-through on the UN or U.S.-imposed sanctions on Iran, Jeffrey said that the Iran issue "...will have a profound effect on [U.S.-Turkey] relations second only to the fate of the Armenian protocols over the next year." After Turkey refused to sign the Turkey-

Armenia protocols, the U.S. was quick to say that the proverbial ball was now in Turkey's court. That statement first received much attention when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Armenia and made the statement at a press conference there. State Department circles and officials have publicly, and privately, reiterated that point, firmly believing that the ill-conceived protocols were—and are—the only way to address the centuries-old Turkish-Armenian question, including the Armenian Genocide. Jeffrey also said "Major challenges with us [the US] in the coming months include the direction of Turkish-Israeli relations, the fate of the Protocols with Armenia, and the Turkish posture vis-à-vis Iran." In a very frank tone, Jeffrey delineated the obstacles and challenges facing U.S.-Turkey relations as the AK party fortified its positions within the Turkish government and society.

August 11, 2011

full story www.armenianweekly.com

DID CLINTON DISCUSS 'WILSONIAN ARMENIA' IN TURKEY?



“We—the United States and Turkey—owe Armenia what was promised them by President Woodrow Wilson,” the Moscow-based Regnum news agency quoted Secretary Hillary Clinton as saying during her meetings last month in Turkey, according to the news agency's "source in the region." According to the same Regnum source, during her meetings with Turkish officials last month, Clinton also allegedly outlined a new Middle East and Caucasus map after an envisioned end to the Karabakh conflict. This map, which supposedly not only includes the deployment of peace-keeping forces to the Karabakh conflict zone, also envisions exchange of territories and transport routes. The Regnum source indicated that aforementioned discussion was about granting Armenia a corridor to the port of Trabzon, following a possible ratification of the Turkey-Armenia protocols. Regnum also discussed a possible territorial exchange with Azerbaijan, to be overseen by US Ambassador to Baku, Matthew Bryza. The Regnum source said that process would be the creation of a "Greater Azerbaijan." Essentially, what this anonymous Regnum news agency source is saying, is that Karabakh would be given back to Azerbaijan, with a guarantee that Armenia would have access to a sea port. Fact or fiction? It's food for thought.

August 11, 2011 www.asbarez.com

"Armenia Highlights" is compiled in association with [PanArmenianNetwork.org](http://www.PanArmenianNetwork.org)

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