

Sargsyan hopeful Turkey border will reopen

by UPI

ISTANBUL, Turkey -- Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan says he is hopeful his country's border with Turkey will reopen by Oct. 7, in time for a World Cup soccer qualifying match.

The border has been closed since 1993. Sargsyan would like it to officially reopen in time for a match between the countries' national soccer teams, the Hurriyet Daily News reported.

The match is scheduled Oct. 7.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul was allowed to visit Armenia last year to watch the two teams play in a World Cup qualifying match, a move Sargsyan labeled part of his country's "good intentions."

"We showed goodwill and I hope the Turkish side will also appreciate our good intentions," the Armenian official said.

Turkish State Minister Kursad Tuzmen said the border should remain closed until the two sides resolve their Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, a dispute over Armenia assuming control of Azerbaijani territory in 1993.

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