

“Erebuni-Yerevan 2799”: “Yerevan - City of Love”



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Karabakh conflict: Armenia to keep working with Co-Chairs towards a peaceful settlement

President Serzh Sargsyan received the newly appointed OSCE Minsk Group U.S. Co-Chair Andrew Schofer.

The President of Armenia congratulated Ambassador Schofer on his appointment. Emphasizing that the newly appointed U.S. Co-Chair assumed his diplomatic mission in rather a difficult period of the NK conflict settlement process, Serzh Sargsyan wished him every success in the exercise of this important mission.

Hopeful that the OSCE Minsk Group's mediation efforts would continue successfully for the sake of an exclusively peaceful resolution of the conflict in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, President Sargsyan stressed that Armenia is prepared to continue endeavoring to that end together with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.



President receives EU Council's Political and Security Affairs Committee delegation

President Serzh Sargsyan received a delegation from the EU Council's Political and Security Committee (PSC), led by Committee Chairman Walter Stevens.

The delegation comprised ambassadors from twenty-eight EU countries accredited in Brussels and members of the Committee. The aim of the visit is to discuss the current status and the prospects of EU-Armenia relations in the light of the new EU-Armenia framework agreement, get a first-hand view of the situation on the spot, as well as address issues on the agenda of the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit, exchange views on common political and security issues and challenges in the South Caucasus region.

Greeting the guests, the President of Armenia highlighted the importance of meetings and discussions held in the given format, which, to the President's conviction, provide a good opportunity for taking up issues of mutual interest.

Noting that 3 days ago European Commissioner for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn was in Armenia, and a day prior to that the last modernized border checkpoint as refurbished with the assistance of the European Union was commissioned in the north of Armenia, attended by Head of EU Delegation.



tion to Armenia, Ambassador Peter Switalski, President Sargsyan underlined that the intensity of contacts testifies that the EU is playing an important role in Armenia's foreign policy.

Stressing that the EU attaches great importance to the relations with Eastern Partnership-member countries, including Armenia, the PSC Chairman said to be glad that Armenia has initialed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the EU,

which in fact shows that it is possible to sign an agreement and develop partnership with the European Union being a member of the Eurasian Economic Union. He emphasized that European Union's policy within the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative is not directed against anyone.

With reference to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Walter Stevens stressed that the EU supports the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs.

The PSC Chairman said the EU keen to ensure the continuity of Armenian reforms, including that of economic transformations, the implementation of a more efficient management following the Constitutional reform, as well as the efforts made to strengthen justice, human rights and democratic institutions.

During the meeting, Walter Stevens expressed gratitude for giving shelter to over 20 thousand Syrian refugees in Armenia.

Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meets in Sochi

President Serzh Sargsyan participated in the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Sochi.

Issues related to information communications, customs regulations, competition, natural monopolies and industrial cooperation, as well as international activities were included in the meeting's agenda.

A pivotal topic was the discussion of the main directions for implementation of the digital agenda of the Eurasian Economic Union up to 2025. The meeting outlined the main directions of the Union's international activities in 2018. The Presidents were informed about the process of ratification of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, which will come into force on January 1, 2018.

The members of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council got acquainted with the status of competition in cross-border markets and the report of the Eurasian Economic Commission on the measures taken to prevent violations of the general rules of competition in 2016.

The meeting also discussed the Eurasian Economic Council's recommendation on



the development of a "road map" for gradual harmonization of the national laws regulating natural monopolies. Another issue on the agenda was the cooperation of the Eurasian Economic Union Member States in the field of space and geo-informational services based on national sources of remote sensing data. The Heads of State were expected

to approve the nominees to the posts of the chairman of the Court of the Eurasian Economic Union and his deputy.

A key agenda item was the chairmanship in the Union bodies – the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Armenia's President offers condolences over Las Vegas shooting

President Serzh Sargsyan sent a condolence cable to President of the United States Donald Trump over the acts of violence in Las Vegas.

"With deep sorrow I learned about the appalling manifestation of violence in Las Vegas that claimed dozens of innocent victims and hundreds injured.

In this terrible moment of sorrow and loss, I extend my deepest condolences and sympathy to you, to the friendly people of the United States and the victims' families, wishing them fortitude and courage, and the wounded a speedy recovery.

We pray with the people of the United States for the peace of the souls of the slain and the full recovery of the injured," the condolence message of the President of the Republic of Armenia reads.



"Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" Held under Slogan "Yerevan - City of Love"

By Gourgen Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

...Your author who was born, bred and has permanently been living in Yerevan, in fact have had big difficulties to recollect such festive, picturesque and encompassing celebration of traditional "Erebuni-Yerevan" City Day that probably could be compared with the City's 2750th birthday celebrated in 1968.

Everything on that Day, the 14th of October was interesting and touching, but in your correspondent's opinion the most attractive event both for the young and the old was start of the simultaneous flight within the frames of the international ballooning festival "Discover Armenia from the Heaven" that is being held for the first time in Yerevan from on October 14-17 in the scope of the "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" Program.

**Yerevan Mayor
Taron Margaryan's
address on Yerevan Day
14.10.2017**

Dear Yerevanians,

Today the capital city Yerevan is becoming 2799 and I congratulate all of us on the event. Today Armenians worldwide are celebrating the birthday of beloved capital under the slogan "City of love" with unhidden pride that our ancient but always young home is becoming more and more stable due to our joint efforts and it proudly stands before the world making its position and role stronger among sustainable developing capitals.

Today Yerevan is recognized in the world as a safe, comfortable, proportionally developing, warm and kind, hospitable city. It is a fact confirmed by the professional assessment of a number of authoritative

that nothing can change it. I am sure that each of in our place, within our possibilities, abilities and skills will go on doing our best for Yerevan so as to make it better and more comfortable and with honour pass it to subsequent generations.

And today, let's celebrate the 2799th anniversary of "Erebuni-Yerevan" altogether and wish our City of love-Yerevan to go on its way uninterruptedly for thousands of years.

Happy birthday, Yerevan!

TARON MARGARYAN
Yerevan Mayor

In the eve of the festive events Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan received delegations from sister cities arrived in Yerevan especially to participate in "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" celebrations from Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Rostov-upon-Don, Kras-



Aeronauts from Armenia, Russia, Bulgaria, Belarus and Lithuania, photographers and cameramen gradually rose to the festive sky of Yerevan on 14 balloons.

Notably, this international fest organized by the Yerevan Municipality and the company "Skyball" is held with the assistance of partner organizations.

And one more interesting detail: Mayor **Taron A. Margaryan** visited in fact all the places where festive events were held, - no matter big or smaller ones.

So enjoy that Day's nice images signed with infos provided by Information and Public Relations Department of the City Hall of Yerevan (Head – Arthur Gevorgyan).

organizations assessing all of us that way. Yes, all of us, because each achievement of Yerevan is the result of our coordinated teamwork, our endless devotion and caring attitude to our city.

Yerevanians have always been and are the permanent participants of any program and initiative aimed at Yerevan development. With our confidence, courageous work and exclusive ability to love our hometown each of us take all efforts so that everyone visiting the capital of all Armenians could see, listen to, feel and love Yerevan.

Dear Yerevanians,

Times and generations certainly change but the love, warmth and care for Yerevan stay an invariable value and I believe

nodar, Tbilisi, USA, France, Serbia, Croatia, other:

And by the noon of 14 October a solemn reception was organized for foreign guests at the City Hall.

**"Erebuni-Yerevan 2799":
"Yerevan-city of love" program
has started with the traditional
parade of water trucks
14.10.2017**

The start of the festive events of "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" held under the slogan "Yerevan-city of love" has traditionally been given with the parade of water trucks.

The procession of festively decorated water trucks started from France square and

passing Mashtots avenue reached Republic square signaling the beginning of the festive day.

Employees of the Department of Communal Services of Yerevan Municipality, of operative services and "Sanitek" company as well as about 70 units of special machinery were involved in the process of making "water refreshment" of Yerevan streets. The parade of trucks was greeted by townspeople with encouragement.

Good morning, City of love-Yerevan!

YerevanART is held in Saryan Park: "The painting for my Yerevan" 14.10.2017

The diversity of Yerevan palette will be presented in one of the cultural corners of the capital-Saryan park. Within the frames of "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" program the art event YerevanART called "The painting for my Yerevan" has started here.

cycling and marathon were organized too. About 80 participants of the competition started from Argishti street, moved along Italy street and reached Republic square through Nalbandyan street and Sayat Nova avenue finished at Matenadaran. The cyclists moved along their route with the flags of Yerevan attached to their bicycles.

A surprise for book lovers: "A Book Night" at the Misak Manushyan Park 14.10.2017

Surprisingly, this year, in the scope of "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" celebration, at the Misak Manushyan Park "A Book Night" was organized due to joint efforts of the Yerevan Municipality and "Bookinist" bookstore.

A rock concert at the Azatutyan (Freedom) Square and a jazz concert at the Charles Aznavour Square were held within the Yerevan Day.

revan-city of love" as Yerevan is always full of love, warmth and mutual respect. Thanks to this love, mutual respect and warmth Yerevan is becoming more and more confident and comes up before us and the world strengthening its place and role among dynamically developing capitals. And these are not merely words said on the event of the City Day. Today Yerevan is recognized in the world as a safe, comfortable, proportionally developing, warm and kind, hospitable city. It is a fact confirmed by the professional assessment of a number of authoritative organizations assessing all of us that way. Yes, all of us, because each achievement of Yerevan is the result of our coordinated teamwork, our endless devotion and caring attitude to our city. Taking the opportunity I express my deep gratitude to you, dear co-citizens. I am grateful to you for with you trust, hard work and unique ability to love hometown you do our best so that everyone who visits the capital of all Armenians could see, listen to, feel and love Yerevan.



During the day the students of art and cultural centers of the capital as well as modern Armenian artists of different generations inspired with the colours of festive Yerevan are creating the painting on which today's Yerevan will be depicted in their artistic expression.

For the pupils of art and culture centers of Yerevan and for all art lovers master classes will be provided in Saryan park and the exhibition revealing features of Yerevan painting which has been replenished with thematic collections will be presented as well.

Traditional festive events-cycling race and marathon 14.10.2017

Among the festive events dedicated to "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" celebration, a

Taron Margaryan: I am grateful to you for with your trust, hard work and unique ability to love hometown you do your best so that every one who visits the capital of all Armenians could see, listen to, feel and love Yerevan 14.10.2017

Within the frames of "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" celebration the concert called "Yerevan-city of love" was held in the area of "Cascade" complex. In his greeting speech addressed to townspeople, the members of official delegations and guests of the capital Yerevan Mayor in particular said:

"Today the capital of all Armenians is celebrating its 2799th anniversary. We are celebrating the event under the slogan "Ye-

Dear co-citizens,

Next year we are celebrating the 2800th jubilee of foundation of our dear capital. Not every generation has the opportunity to mark such a date. But the most important is that we have an excellent possibility to stand before the world and prove once again that Armenia is the homeland of all Armenians of Diaspora and Yerevan is the capital of Armenians worldwide.

I am grateful to you for your caring and loving attitude to Yerevan.

Let's enjoy this day together and say from the bottom of our hearts:

Happy birthday, City of Love! Happy birthday, Yerevan!

The festive concert was finished with the song "Yerevan-city of love" dedicated to the capital.

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Modernized Bavra border checkpoint opened



President Serzh Sargsyan traveled to Shirak Marz to take part in the official opening ceremony of the modernized Bavra border checkpoint.

The launch of the Bavra checkpoint ushers in the start of the program of modernization of Armenia's northern customs gateway. This checkpoint is the third modern building commissioned recently following the modernized checkpoints of Bagratashen and Gogavan. Bavra checkpoint was built with the financial support of the European Union and the European Investment Bank and implemented by the United Nations Development Program. The total budget made available for the Bagratashen, Bavra and Gogavan checkpoints modernization projects amounted to 54.43 million euros.

The process of modernization of State border checkpoints in the Republic of Armenia

started as early as in 2010 in accordance with the presidential decree "On approving the RA Border Security and State Border Management Strategy," followed by the relevant Action Plan.

The newly built checkpoint's construction started in 2013. Established on an eleven hectare-wide site, the checkpoint is equipped with a helicopter platform and has all necessary infrastructures. The President of Armenia toured the premises getting acquainted with the conditions and services provided at the checkpoint.

The President was told that the one-stop-shop e-system as adapted to the modern standards made it possible to concentrate on the spot the activities of all border service providers and ensure smooth exchange of information between the relevant services.

The introduction of modern infrastructure

will have a positive impact on the commodity turnover and passenger turnover of Armenia with Georgia, as well as with third countries, opening up new opportunities for transit shipments to Iran and from Iran towards the European, EAEU countries and Georgia. It will help increase the flow of tourists from Georgia to Armenia and vice versa and expand interstate trade.

The checkpoints' modernization will also help enhance the living standards of the local population, considering the fact that temporary jobs had been made available throughout the checkpoints' construction and permanent jobs will be provided following their commissioning in the process of daily economic activities.

The President was told that the local population will also enjoy better conditions for communication. Along with the gasification of the newly constructed checkpoint, six communities of in Shirak Marz were supplied with gas.

The official opening ceremony of Bavra's new border checkpoint was attended by the representatives of State border management agencies, as well as representatives from international organizations, diplomatic corps, including the Head of EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Peter Switalski, UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, UNDP Resident Representative Bradley Busetto, Head of the European Investment Bank's regional office in the South Caucasus Sebastian Housson de Sampini. In attendance was a delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister of Georgia Dimitri Kumsishvili.

Armenian Parliament ratifies agreement on Joint Group of Forces with Russia

The Armenian National Assembly voted 87 to 7 on October 5 to ratify the agreement on Joint Group of Forces with Russia.

The agreement was signed in Moscow on November 30, 2016.

The Agreement determines the purpose, the order of formation, deployment and use of the joint group of forces. The forces are meant to ensure security in the Caucasian region of collective security.

Among the main tasks of the group is the timely detection of the preparation of an armed attack (aggression) against Armenia and Russia and the repelling of it; covering of the land border of both countries within the established limits of liability; participation in the protection of the Armenian and Russian borders in the aerospace, as well as participation in the air defense of troops and critical facilities of both countries deployed in the region.

The decision on the deployment and use of the forces shall be taken jointly by the Commanders-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Armenia and Russia.



Armenia has provided shelter to about 22 thousand refugees from Syria

An Armenian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ashot Hovakimyan is attending the 68th session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that takes place in Geneva October 2-6.

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees made opening remarks at the session.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ashot Hovakimian in his speech reaffirmed Armenia's support for the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and touched upon global challenges with regards to refugees, emphasizing Armenia's willingness to continue the effective cooperation with the office of the High Commissioner towards addressing the needs of displaced persons and providing the necessary assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.

Deputy Foreign Minister touched upon the problem of Armenian refugees who migrated from Azerbaijan, who were forced to leave their homes and become refugees due to the policy of ethnic cleansing pursued by Azerbaijan. Deputy Minister also condemned Azerbaijan's aggression against Artsakh in the beginning of April last year, which was accompanied by gross violations of international humanitarian law.

Ashot Hovakimian also touched upon the problem of refugees from Syria, noting that Armenia provided shelter to about twenty two thousand refugees, making our country on per capita basis the third largest recipient of Syrian refugees among states in Europe. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs highly



appreciated the close cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Armenia and the Armenian authorities in receiving and integrating refugees.

Deputy Foreign Minister noted that, in addition to efforts of the Armenian authorities, a support of the international community and donor organizations is needed.

Responding to the statement of the Armenian delegation, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi expressed gratitude for receiving a large number of refugees from Syria.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ashot Hovakimyan had a meeting with Olga Algayerova, the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the United Nations Econom-

ic Commission for Europe (ECE). In the course of the meeting both sides expressed satisfaction with the level of stable cooperation between Armenia and the UN ECE and the successful course of a number of programmes. Ashot Hovakimian noted that Armenia takes active steps in conforming the country's further development to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

Ashot Hovakimian also had a meeting with George William Okoth-Obbo, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, with whom they discussed a number of issues related to receiving refugees in Armenia and their further integration into the socio-economic life of the country.

PM calls consultations on international cooperation in fighting corruption



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan called a consultative meeting to discuss issues of international cooperation in the

fight against corruption and the process of fulfillment of Armenia's commitments.

The Prime Minister was briefed on the results of implementation of the fourth-stage recommendations issued by the Council of Europe's Anticorruption Team (GRECO).

The meeting reviewed the process of implementing the Anticorruption Action Plan and the EU Budget Assistance Program for the 3rd stage of the Istanbul Anticorruption Action Plan of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Reference was also made to the commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia ahead of the 2nd stage of evaluation of the UN Convention against Corruption.

Prime Minister Karapetyan instructed to continue making systematic interdepartmental efforts aimed at complying with the commitments assumed within the framework of international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

MEP Frank Engel on Azerbaijan and Hungary's decision to extradite Ramil Safarov



In an interview with the Budapest Beacon MEP Frank Engel has spoken about revelations that the Azerbaijani Laundromat has been used to bribe European politicians, Hungary's connection to the laundromat, and Hungary's controversial decision to extradite convicted axe-murderer Ramil Safarov back to his native Azerbaijan.

Engel explained that this scandal's effect in the European political establishment will be seen once PACE has concluded its internal inquiry, which is expected to finish by the end of this year. He also added that the Azerbaijani Laundromat proves once again that you could buy politicians.

During the interview, the MEP admitted that he closely followed what the Laundromat revealed about the case of Ramil Safarov.

"Well, under normal circumstances I would have said I could not believe it. Under normal circumstances... But since I knew what kind of Hungarian government had come into office in 2010, I wasn't that surprised. And my first thought, of course, knowing Azerbaijan, was that they (the Hungarian government) had been bought," said Engel.

"This man, Safarov, had committed

a heinous crime on Hungarian soil. He was convicted by a Hungarian court to serve a criminal sentence in a Hungarian prison for a long time. The Hungarians were not just going to hand him over to the Azerbaijanis — before the return to power of Fidesz. [Former prime minister] Gordon Bajnai will tell you the same thing," he continued.

Engel stated that when the former Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány was in power and was told by Azerbaijan that Azeri authorities would make Safarov serve the sentence announced by the Hungarian Court, he didn't believe it and did hand the man over.

Then Viktor Orban had come to power after a visit to Azerbaijan and it was under him that Safarov was handed to Azerbaijan. "Nobody can tell me this had nothing to do with money. There would be no reason why the champion of Christianity in Europe, Viktor Orbán, would forsake his nation's friendship with the first Christian nation on Earth, which is Armenia, if he and his government were not paid for doing it, if they were not paid for risking the Armenian element in order for some other elements to arrive [Safarov murdered an Armenian in Budapest]," said Engel during the interview.

He explained that after the transfer, rumors were being spread about 3 billion Euros being invested in Hungary by Azerbaijan.

"Obviously, now, when we suddenly discover interesting flows of Azeri money to a Hungarian bank account at precisely the relevant time back in 2012 between — in the wider sense — Azerbaijan and Hungary, I must say that even if the amounts are nowhere near the 3 billion that I heard about at the time, but are the 8 or 9 million Euros that we are talking about now, and which are difficult to contest for the Hungarian authorities, it pretty much looks like pocket money received in return for a favor. But who received it is of course something we do not know," said Engel.

The recent revelations of the Azerbaijani Laundromat now show that a constant inflow of money from Azerbaijani sources to Hungarian networks took place immediately after Orban's visit to Baku, according to Engel.

"The transfers stop a year or so afterwards, the companies are dismantled, and interestingly, the Hungarian dimension of this seems to have taken place within a bank which — as far as I gather — belongs to a very close associate of the Prime Minister of Hungary," he continued.

Engel then elaborated on the present Azerbaijani hostilities toward Armenians and what the reasons for Safarov's murder was. He emphasized that Safarov has become a hero and a propaganda agent for the Azerbaijani government since he returned.

"The people of Karabakh are under daily threat by the likes of Safarov and their commanders, and are in urgent need of protection," added in the interview.

Engel concluded by claiming that something was sealed between Azerbaijan and Hungary in 2012 that included Safarov and more beyond that.

Armenia committed to a global fight against terrorism



Armenia is committed to a global fight against terrorism and remains firmly engaged in global and regional activities to this end, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the UN Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said as members of the Sixth Committee continued to discuss measures to eliminate international terrorism.

"Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization. At the same time, we should acknowledge evidence pointing at extremists and terrorists targeting specific communities based on their religion or ethnicity. The atrocities, perpetrated by the Islamic State, Al Qaeda and associated groups, individuals, undertakings and entities, particularly against ethnic and religious groups are premeditated and grave identity based crimes of a massive scale. The suffering of Yazidis, Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities and groups must not remain unaddressed," Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said.

"Despite a great deal of activities in the realm of the fight against terrorism not enough has been achieved to address the conditions, which breed the spread of terrorism, nor in ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism. We should also recognise the normative and operational challenges to countering terrorism compounded by the actions of terrorists aimed at undermining the very foundations and fabric of societies and national institutions, which they target," he said.

"We are confident that the UN Secretary General's holistic prevention agenda and the recent creation of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism will considerably strengthen the UN capacities and its impact on preventing violent extremism that leads to terrorism. We also particularly underline the important role of the media, civil and religious society and educational institutions in efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding for promoting tolerance, co-existence and an environment, in which terrorist narratives and incitement of terrorism are firmly and effectively denied," Amb. Mnatsakanyan said.

"Armenia is committed to a global fight against terrorism and remains firmly engaged in global and regional activities to this end. Armenia is a State party to 13 UN Conventions related to the fight against terrorism, 4 Council of Europe conventions, the CIS Treaty on Combating Terrorism and the Protocol on Joint Anti-terrorist Actions. Last year the Government of Armenia has adopted the 2016-2018 National Strategy on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing," Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said.

He reiterated Armenia's full commitment to the international efforts to counter terrorism.

Turkish policy of violence lies at the root of Armenian Genocide denial – Dogan Akhanli

Turkish regime's policy of violence as a means of rule lies at the root of its denial of Armenian Genocide, says dissident writer Dogan Akhanli said in an interview with the EU Observer.

He is currently stuck in Madrid after Spanish police arrested him while he was on holiday on the basis of a Turkish Interpol request.

Turkey's attempt to silence dissident writer Dogan Akhanli has backfired by giving him a bigger platform.

Akhanli was born in Turkey but fled to Germany in 1991 after being persecuted for his views on the Armenian Genocide and on Turkey's repression of its Kurdish minority.

He also spent four months in a Turkish jail in 2010 after visiting the country.

"Turkish power cannot forgive me because I questioned the basic problems of Turkey," he told the EU Observer.

The writer said his novels had not made him a celebrity. "I'm not a best-seller," he said.

But he said that "Turkish persecution makes me more known year by year and



makes my words bigger. It is actually a very stupid policy".

He said Turkey's latest attempt to deprive him of his freedom had inspired him to write a new book.

"I'm trying to write a report about my political-literary journey into the Turkish past, which is also my own past," he told this website from Spain.

"I will take a very subjective view of my unfinished persecution, but I will also reflect on how to deal with the history of violence

in German, Spanish, and Turkish society," he said.

Akhanli said the Turkish regime had embraced violence as a means of rule. He said this lay at the root of its denial of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and of its killings of Kurdish separatists. He also said the regime's nationalist ideology created a dangerous environment.

He recalled that Turkish generals "publicly threatened" Hrant Dink, a dissident journalist, in 2007 prior to Dink's murder by a nationalist fanatic.

"Under the Erdogan government, the history of violence is not just a story. It is not passive. It is killing people before our very eyes," he said, referring to Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Akhanli said the EU ought to do more to promote democracy in Turkey.

"He [Erdogan] cannot continue to rule Turkey in the long term with only the support of the rural population. EU countries should side with the secular, democratic forces, not with the despot," Akhanli said.

Hayravank Monastery: “Outstanding Little Church Overlooking Lake Sevan...”



By
**Gourgen James
Khazhakian**

**Chief
Correspondent**

Hayravank (also called Ayrivank, Hayrivank, etc.) is a 9-12th century monastery located just northeast of the village of Hayravank along the southwest shores of Lake Sevan in the Gegharkunik Marz (Province) of Armenia. Notably, very often the name of the church is confused with another Armenian church, Geghard that is also called Ayrivank sometimes. But these two churches are completely different in terms of location and peculiarities.

The monastic complex consists of a church, chapel, and gavit (entrance hall).

Church and Chapel

The main church called St. Stepanos is in the form of quatrefoil cruciform; it was built in the late 9th century. In the 10th century, a small chapel was built there as well. You could enter the church from gavit via a small portal that was supposedly added between in the 12-13th centuries. There is a second entrance through the church's exterior on its south side. Exterior walls of the structure differ from the construction of the rest of the complex in that rubble masonry has been incorporated into the façade. The oldest inscription of the Monastery dates back to 1211. It tells about the first restoration of the church. The original drum and dome had collapsed completely, and a profound restoration was done between 1977 and 1989. The interior of the church is rather simple, but very thrilling when the sun hits the narrow windows of the

above the lintel. Another portal leads into the gavit from the southern wall. Two thick columns situated at the western half of the building and two semi-columns at the eastern wall support large arches and a cupola above. The cupola consists of a short octagonal drum (only seen from the interior) as well as a short octagonal conical dome above decorated with “Harlequin Patterned” stonemasonry. The pattern alternates with reddish and a lighter grayish colored tufa. This example is considered to be one of the earliest examples of polychrome decorative masonry that was to become widespread in the following centuries in sacred buildings throughout Armenia. An oculus at the peak of the dome lets light into the room below.

In the words of a tourist from the Armenian Diaspora, “Hayravank is the monastery on the other side of the lake that I had wanted to find for years but I could not get



Around the Monastery numerous khachkars and gravestones - a small cemetery could be found. Close to the site, the remains of Bronze Age through medieval fortification walls and foundations of a settlement could be seen. During archaeological excavations a black vessel of the Early Bronze Age was found in the area. Metal and stone weapons, tools, clay idols, numerous vessels, fireplaces and two tombs, all from the Iron Age were also found there.

church. The rays of the sun attack the interior creating a thrilling sensation of holiness for every single visitor.

Gavit

The gavit is located at the west of and adjacent to the church; it was added in the 12th century. A main portal leads into the structure from the western wall, and has an arched tympanum with a worn inscription located

a straight answer as to its location before Julie explained it to me according to a map she found and some tips an acquaintance gave her. The structure is about the same size more or less as the ones found at Sevanavank monastery, which is hugely popular among tourists. There is a fabulous view of the lake from there, quite different from that at Sevanavank. I noticed while I was driving that at nearly every turn around the perimeter of the lake the view changed considerably...”

Legends

As a truly ancient church, Hayravank Monastery also has a legend connected to its name. This time Armenians were fighting against the infamous Turkic ruler **Timur** who was conquering Armenia at that time. As he approached the Monastery, he left nothing on his way but corpses and ruins. The priest serving at the monastery could not take the scene and threw himself off the cliff into Sevan. But he did not die. Instead, he ran on the surface of the water.

Timur was shocked by the scene and as a respect to such a divine act, he promised to make only one wish of the priest come true. The priest asked Timur to let the people of the village enter the church and he wouldn't touch the people that the space inside the church could take. The church was very small, so Timur agreed, being sure that the priest won't be able to save too many people.

So people started to enter the church. After some time there was nothing left outside. Timur got angry thinking that the priest was cheating. He rushed into the church and saw it completely empty. He also noticed how the priest transformed the last person into a dove, who flew from the church window. The priest's name was **Hovhan**, and the church was named Hovhanavank, later becoming Hayravank ("Hayr" meaning "Father").

This legend was written by His Holiness Catholicos **Ghazar A Jahkeci**. According to him, the priest transformed his people into doves with the help of a relic of Christ's cross, which was later moved to Sevanavank Monastery.

Another legend explains the alternative name of the church, Ayrvank ("Ayr" having the meaning of "cave"). According to it, the White Fortress is located 1km away from Hayravank Monastery. Despite the distance, there was an underground tunnel connecting these two buildings.

Vardavar

Hayravank Monastery is a popular destination especially in summer, on Vardavar Holiday. Vardavar has its roots in pagan culture of Armenians. However, and this is an important and interesting fact, as Armenia adopted Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD, the pagan holidays were also converted and given new meanings. It is currently called the Transfiguration of Christ by the Armenian Apostolic Church. Special tours are organized by travel agencies, that take visitors to Hayravank and then celebrations at the Lake Sevan.

During the holiday of Vardavar, there are many people visiting Hayravank. The

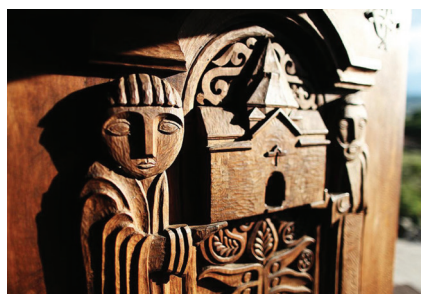
church is still small, with very narrow steps leading to the entrance. Some people bring animals for *matagh* that was considered to be a sacrifice to pagan gods before Christianity. Now, *matagh* is a gift to God, and the meat of *matagh* has to be distributed to the poor. So imagine many people with animals and flowers entering the small church. This time they are definitely not going to turn into doves, so be careful not to miss your chance to see this beautiful church from inside.

Excavations

Hayravank is important not only as a religious center, but also as a site for discoveries. Excavations were carried out at the church site in 1952 and 1970s. A whole settlement and dwellings containing items of Bronze and Iron Ages were discovered there.

As it was mentioned above, the discovered items included a black polished vessel, different kinds of weapons made of stone, iron and gold, tools, idol statuettes made of clay, and other objects.

To note, both Hayravank and Sevanavank



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Monasteries are considered the ones of the best examples of Armenian architecture. They are usually visited by tourists as well as locals who enjoy Lake Sevan. The Hayravank Monastery is located on the quietest part of Sevan, out of the usual noise of beach hotels etc. As the level of Sevan water rises annually, Hayravank will get even closer to the Lake.

While Sevanavank Monastery is well-

known, Hayravank is located closer to the Lake, thus acquiring a magical atmosphere and a strong bond with the beloved Lake of all Armenians.

And, as usual, and the last but not the least – reviews from tripadvisor.com...

cw f

Brasschaat, Belgium

Overlooking Lake Sevan

Situated on a hillock the small church (9th century) overlooks the extended lake. It can be reached by following a short dustroad.

Inside one should admire the columns, carved with crosses. The cupola consists of a drum and a conical dome above it at the outside, but both are octagonal at the inside.

It is considered to be one of the earliest churches made in polychrome decorative masonry: alternating reddish and lighter grayish stone (tufa).

Beautiful carved wooden entrance.

Around the church are several kachkars and old remainings.

ab2030

United States

Outstanding little church

One of the most amazing churches in Armenia. Built around 10th century this small but very impressive church located on the shore of lake Sevan is one of the most impressive buildings in Armenia. Must see.

worldtraveller2801

Chula Vista, California

Lonely, but beautiful

I visited Hayravank during a snowy day in April. I was the only person there. It was a bit lonely feeling, but also beautiful. The snow was falling so peacefully around the monastery. The monastery is fairly small and only takes a few minutes to look around. It has a nice view overlooking the lake. It's about a 2 hour drive from Yerevan and there is no entrance

fee. There are only a few steps leading up to the monastery which makes it accessible for most people. It's definitely worth a stop while passing by or on a tour of the monasteries in Armenia.

Materials from Wikipedia and traveltoarmenia.am

were used when writing this story

Photos by Kares Le Roy,

DailyTour and deposit photos.

Hearing specialist from West Wickham to travel to Armenia and gift sound to those in need

A West Wickham hearing aid company is joining a charitable mission to provide free hearing devices to people in Armenia.

Owen Hearing will travel to the Armenian capital Yerevan on the 13th of October.

Alongside ten other hearing professionals, the company will fit hearing aids and provide counselling and aftercare, working closely with a local medical team.

It will be the first time a UK team has fitted devices in an overseas mission as part of the worldwide Starkey Foundation initiative, run by manufacturer Starkey Hearing Technologies.

James Owen, director of Owen Hearing, said the mission had been one of the most worthwhile things he has ever been involved in: "Meeting the people of Yerevan and those trying to help them on the ground was a truly humbling and inspiring experience."



"I am really looking forward to this next stage where we will be able to actually fit the devices and 'gift' better hearing to people who really need it."

By sharing their time and expertise Owen Hearing aims to help establish an on-going community based hearing service in Yerevan.

"Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" Held under Slogan "Yerevan - City of Love"

from page 5

Mayor Taron Margaryan walked about festive night Yerevan
14.10.2017

The festive events held within the scope of "Erebuni-Yerevan 2799" celebration were going on from early morning till late at night. Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan joined the townspeople celebrating the day. The Mayor walked about the small center of the capital, watched the festive events and congratulated townspeople.

During the festive day the centuries-old City of Love-Yerevan once again felt the love and care of its residents.

Chess Junior Championship dedicated to Yerevan Day
14.10.2017

Sports events dedicated to the Capital's birthday were concluded by the chess school championship of Yerevan.

More than 200 young men from over 100 chess tables competed for victory. From each school, the top 16 students participated in the championship with up to 8 and under 10 age groups. The young players of the game have played 5 games with fast chess.

The first place was occupied by Malatia-Sebastia team, Nor Nork team was the second, and the third place was shared by Avan and Ajapnyak chess school teams having equal points. The winners



were awarded with cups.

And the awarding ceremonies were held on the Yerevan Day indeed.

World famous filmmaker **Artavazd Peleshyan**, one of the Armenian Natl TV founders **Nara Shlepchyan**, prominent poet **Razmik Davoyan** and an outstanding benefactor, Armenia's leading telecom operator company VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikyan** with special solemnity received the titles of "Yerevan Honorary Citizen".

There were also other numerous events, - photo- and art exhibitions, concerts, theatrical shows, competitions in various parts of the City.

So happy birthday Yerevan, Our Love!

Secretary Tillerson wants Artsakh demining completed “as quickly as possible”

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) on October 4 welcomed Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's public declaration of U.S. support for completing demining in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) “as quickly and as thoroughly as possible.”

Secretary Tillerson went on to reaffirm the State Department's support for Artsakh peace proposals, advanced by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Democrat Eliot Engel (D-NY) calling for the non-deployment of snipers, increased border monitors, and the placement of gunfire locator systems.

“We welcome Secretary Tillerson's support for U.S.-funded HALO Trust humanitarian mine clearance in Artsakh, and are particularly encouraged by his commitment to completing this life-saving work as quickly and as thoroughly as possible,” said Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the ANCA. “We value the Secretary's leadership in this area, and appreciate the work of legislators, in both the House and Senate, who have secured continued appropriations for this investment in peace. We also welcome the Secretary's strong backing for the Royce-Engel proposals and hope that his reaffirmation of U.S. policy will help impress upon the Aliyev regime that it needs to stop obstructing the implementation of these confidence-building measures.”

Secretary Tillerson expressed his support in response to Congressional inquiries from Representatives Brad Sherman (D-CA) and David Cicilline (D-RI) during an appearance, in June of this year, before the U.S.



House Foreign Affairs Committee. His written responses were made public this week. In addition to affirming that humanitarian mine clearance remains a current U.S. priority in terms of Karabakh assistance, the Secretary confirmed that over \$45 million has been provided to victims of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, a larger official figure than has been previously reported. He pointed out that the “State Department and USAID support the demining program and are currently reviewing information from HALO Trust requesting additional funds.”

Secretary Tillerson responded to Congressional inquiries regarding the ANCA-backed Royce-Engel peace proposals for Artsakh with a strong endorsement, stressing, “the State Department supports proposals to withdraw snipers, launch an OSCE investigation mechanism, and deploy sensors along the Line of Contact and the Armenia-Azerbaijan

international border.” He added that the U.S. government has been “a strong advocate in the Minsk Group process for these confidence-building measures, which we believe would reduce violence in areas affected by the conflict.” Reps. Sherman and Cicilline both noted, in their questions, that the State Department has endorsed these cease-fire strengthening proposals, as has the OSCE, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Only Azerbaijan opposes the Royce-Engel proposals, effectively obstructing their implementation.

On September 7th, the U.S. House adopted an amendment by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA) backing continued Congressional appropriations for the HALO Trust's life-saving de-mining across the interior farmlands and villages of the Artsakh Republic. The decisive move was welcomed by the ANCA, which spearheaded the launch of Artsakh aid in the 1990s and has, over the past two decades, secured tens of millions of dollars in life-saving U.S. assistance to the independent republic. Rep. Valadao recently visited Artsakh, where he reviewed the HALO Trust's work.

On September 8th, the Senate Appropriations Committee, in its version of the Fiscal Year 2018 Foreign aid bill “report,” which provides detailed legislative guidance for the executive branch, included language recommending: “assistance for victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in amounts consistent with prior fiscal years, and for ongoing needs related to the conflict. The Committee urges a peaceful resolution of the conflict.”



ANCA sponsors Washington summit on Middle East Christians

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) has partnered with In Defense of Christians (IDC) as a sponsor of its national convention, a landmark Washington, DC summit, from October 24th to 26th, gathering faith leaders including His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, Congressional friends, and coalition partners to protect and preserve Christianity and defend religious liberty across the Middle East. Last year's summit, also sponsored by the ANCA, featured the participation of over 50 Members of Congress.

The ANCA, as a convention sponsor along with Philos Project and Institute on Religion and Democracy, will welcome legislators, faith leaders, and religious freedom advocates to Washington for a robust agenda of activities. Among these are press conferences at the National Press Club, an Ecumenical Prayer Service at the historic St. Matthew's Cathedral, a series of policy-driven panel discussions and hands-on

advocacy workshops, and meetings with Members of Congress.

"We are pleased to renew our partnership with In Defense of Christians, a movement that effectively harnesses grassroots power across America, fosters bipartisan consensus here in Washington, and – most vitally – drives real-world, policy-based solutions to protect Christians and preserve religious and ethnic diversity throughout the Middle East," said ANCA Chairman Raffi Hamparian.

"We are particularly gratified to sponsor this year's summit knowing that Congressman Chris Smith, a great champion of human rights and religious liberty, will be honored with the prestigious Cedars of God award." Since his first election to the U.S. House in 1980, Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) has consistently earned "A" ratings from the ANCA.

The convention's advocacy agenda features strong support for a just resolution of

the Armenian Genocide, and will include lobbying visits in support of H.Res.220, a bipartisan measure seeks to apply the lessons of the Armenian Genocide in preventing new atrocities across the Middle East.

ANCA representatives will be making presentations throughout the three day conference, which will focus on the following advocacy priorities: 1) Security and stability in Lebanon, 2) Emergency relief for Victims of genocide in Iraq and Syria, 3) Allies and Accountability in the Middle East, 4) Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and 3) Legal punishment for ISIS, al-Qaeda and other perpetrators of genocide.

Among the members of IDC's Religious Advisory Board are two prominent Armenian faith leaders, His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, and Reverend Berdj Djambazian, Minister to the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.



**IDC SUMMIT 2017: AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND SECURING
THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.**

OCTOBER 24-26 – WASHINGTON, D.C.

2017 SUMMIT SPONSORS



Two WWII Armenian-American Veterans awarded France's highest military honor



On September 21, 2017, at his residence, Valéry Freland, Consul General of France in Boston, decorated four World War II American Veterans (two of them of Armenian descent) with the Legion of Honor, informs the Consulate General of France in Boston.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Francisco Urena.

The families and friends of Mr. Avak Avakian from Concord, MA, Mr. Richard Dinning from Natick, MA, Mr. Evarts Erickson from Weelfleet, MA and Mr. Charles Sahagian from Needham Heights, MA, all came to the Residence of France.

In a joyous atmosphere, the assembly honored these four heroes who contributed to the liberation of France in World War II.

All four of them were selected to be awarded the Legion of Honor for their bravery and heroism, and for their outstanding contribution to the liberation of France in World War

II.

A native of Worcester, MA, Private Avak Avakian was inducted in the U.S. Army on May 24, 1943. He entered active service on June 7, 1943, in which he served for 18 months in the European Theater. Private Avakian worked as a Geodetic Computer in the 286th Field Artillery Battalion. Strong in math and physics, Private Avakian was responsible for calculating latitude, longitude and angles of sound track recorded from microphones in the field. He also computed the intersections, point locations and coordinates of enemy gun positions.

For his courage and intellect, Private Avakian was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon and the Victory Medal. Private Avakian was honorably discharged on March 1st, 1946.

A native of Dorchester, MA, Private Sahagian served as a rifleman for heavy weapons

in the 3rd Battalion, 347th Regiment, 87th Division of the U.S. Army from January 25, 1944 to February 4, 1946.

While clearing German units in the Moselle region in France, General Patton gave instructions to Private Sahagian's Battalion to recapture the city of Saint Hubert, Belgium. This 30-hour march from France to Belgium was recognized as one of the fastest and furthest movements of infantry in U.S. army records!

Honorably discharged in February, 1946, Private Sahagian received the Purple Heart, three Bronze Star Medals, the WWII Victory Medal and the American Campaign Medal.

Following his military service, Private Sahagian led an impressive career serving as a U.S. Representative to NATO specializing in military materials research. He then served as a U.S. Representative to NASA and a Supervisory Physicist for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Established in 1802 by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honor is exclusively awarded in cases of exemplary military and civilian services. It is the oldest and highest honor in France. The Legion of Honor is awarded by decree of the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron.



Recent News from Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Ralph Yirikian receives high awards

VivaCell-MTS presents technological center at the newly opened "Cityzen" entertainment center for kids

Opening of the "Cityzen" took place on October 6th at the "Play City" entertainment center, where the sphere of telecommunications, available among other industries, is represented by Armenia's leading telecommunications operator VivaCell-MTS. The technological center of the Company is intended for kids aged 4 and above.

"Cityzen" is a micro-model of a real urban environment with infrastructure, laws, and institutions. It is a safe educational gaming zone, where kids can learn, get new skills, accumulate impressions, and

ian said.

VivaCell-MTS technological center at the "Cityzen" will focus on six directions – mobile technologies, basics of Internet, network administration, Internet security, robotics, and mobile equipment.

From dream to achievement: Ralph Yirikian's advice to future leaders

In response to the Leadership School invitation, VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** had an open lecture entitled "Dream and Achieve" on September 29, 2017 at "Double Tree by Hilton" hotel.

Touching on the qualities and abilities required to become a leader, Ralph Yirik-

that becoming a leader should not be an end in itself. *"Become a specialist; constantly work to expand your abilities, and becoming a leader will come by its own nature. The key both to your failure and success is in your hands."*

During the lecture, Ralph Yirikian drew the attention of those present to yet another important aspect of leadership – its moral side. As a successful business leader, he advised to emphasize not only what is formulated as a goal, but also ways to achieve that goal. The leader should lead people to the creation of such a value that will contribute to the creation of public good, which can be made solely through honest ways and means. Ralph Yirikian also spoke about being a good leader and a team player. *"There*



develop their creative talents.

At VivaCell-MTS technological center kids will get acquainted with modern technologies and will learn about telecommunications through simplified interactive classes, and will shape an understanding of the ways the wireless communication operates. The specially designed game model will help children understand how one can switch from 3G network to 4G network, so that the population of the country, just like the parents at the waiting hall, gets a high-speed Internet connection.

"Telecommunications and information technologies at the 'Cityzen' are represented at VivaCell-MTS technologies center. Kids can learn the basics of telecommunications, its history, principles of mobile operations; they can learn the difference between, say, 3G and 4G networks. The initiative is important in that it may help in shaping an understanding of various professions from early age," VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirik-**

ian highlighted the priority of knowing oneself. Identifying one's own capabilities and capacities is an important prerequisite for self-development, necessary for turning dreams into true goals and finding creative solutions for their achievement. *"It is the openly facing with own strengths and weaknesses and nature that makes a human being into an individual, and moreover, a leader. In my opinion, the acquisition of qualities necessary for objective thinking starts from this point,"* noted Ralph Yirikian.

"Recalling my life path, I cannot but say the following: not just the university education, but the clashes and failures of life and work difficulties that bring out 'why this happened' and 'how to find a solution' questions and impose to find answers. This is the way to develop analytical thinking, this is the way we recognize the limits of our opportunities, recognize the patterns of life, become self-confident and dare," said Mr Yirikian. Yirikian also warned the audience

is no strong leader without supporters, or a team. Teamwork is an important condition for the development of corporate culture," said Ralph Yirikian.

The speaker emphasized that it is important for future leaders to learn to appreciate their time. The lecture was followed by an open discussion and question-answer session with the participants. Ralph Yirikian answered the questions of the participants related to the business sphere, the corporate management culture of the company and the qualities of a true leader. Ralph Yirikian ended the lecture by encouraging the participants to not fear making mistakes: *"If you are not making mistakes, it means that you are not doing anything. It is important to leave the comfort zone. Fear of everything new and unfamiliar is a serious obstacle for self-growth and development."*

"There are hundreds of books on leadership; renowned institutions carry out research on various aspects of leadership. Humanity has valuable information about

the leaders of different periods. Throughout history, we have had many selfless and dedicated leaders who have pursued the mission of supporting our national identity, and creating material and spiritual values. I am convinced that business leaders of today should be guided by the same values," said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

The participation to the event was free. The participants also had the opportunity to register online on the Leadership School website.

The SunChild 7th International Environmental Festival

The Festival encompasses 83 films, 9 workshops, and 5 exhibitions. The events will take place in a total of 17 venues throughout Yerevan from October 13th to 17th.

This year, the SunChild Festival has moved from cinema halls to a wider variety of venues. The aim of this change is to make the events more accessible to the wider public and various target groups.

"One of the most important features of the festival is the voicing of the environmental problems. Those issues have stopped being 'global' and become very personal. Many people, especially in our society, have a habit of disregarding current environmental problems, which do not harm them at the very time and place. Unfortunately, many people do not comprehend that all the natural disasters which we learn about in the news every day are the direct and collective result of their micro-actions. The festival is a tool used to communicate through heart-touching film language, an emotional prism of arts which makes environmental problems more apparent for people, making them think and act," said the founder of the festival Ruben Khachatryan.

"This year the festival received a record number of 1,214 environmental films from which the committee selected 83 to screen. The topics of the festival range from climate change and GMO to plastic revolution, both well-known and unbelievable environmental issues. The message of these films is essentially to wake up people to change their irresponsible and negligent lifestyle leading

to disastrous consequences. The workshops aim to change such behavior on a practical level. We do appreciate the participation of the young generation. We coined out a special program solely for them. Our belief is that the young with their awareness, flexibility, and courage will guarantee a better future," said Eva Martirosyan the director of the festival and the deputy director of the FPWC.

Khachik Hakobyan, the Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of the RA, and Kosha Joubert, the CEO of the Global Ecovillages Network (GEN), were present at the press conference as well.

Joubert is in Armenia to strengthen the development of the ecovillages network in the country in cooperation with the FPWC.

"It is not a secret that the conservation of

festivals and events create opportunities to solve the issues by informal tools", said Khachik Hakobyan, the Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of the RA.

"Armenia is known to the world as a cradle of human civilization and hotspot of biodiversity. The work FPWC is doing in Armenia is very important. The Global Eco-village Network (GEN) reaches out to ten thousand communities around the world in different continents and there is an emerging network across this region. I can see that Armenia can become a leading example within Europe to work with Eco-Village development program for the protection of nature, protecting communities that protect their environments", said Kosha Joubert, the CEO of the GEN.

The official opening ceremony of the 7th

annual SunChild International Environmental Festival will be today (October 13) at 19:00 in Boghossian Gardens/ Lovers' Park.

The opening movie of the festival is the award-winning production Before the Flood by Fisher Stevens and Leonardo DiCaprio.

The General Partner of the FPWC and SunChild 7th International Environmental Festival is VivaCell-MTS.



Editor's note.

Normally Mr Ralph Yirikian in fact does not like publications on his personal good deeds/achievements.

With the great respect to Mr Yirikian's preferences, however, The Highlights is so brave to publish the following good news:

on 14 October when we all were celebrating Yerevan's 2799th birthday, Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan awarded **Ralph Cesar Yirikian** with the Honorary Title "Yerevan Honorary Citizen".

Taking the advantage of this occasion, we'd like to remind The Highlights readers that on the occasion of the 26th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence Mr Yirikian was awarded by the RA President Serzh Sargsyan with the Order "For the Merits before Motherland" for "outstanding contribution to the development of economy, as well as significant public/social and charitable activities".

Congratulations dear Mr Yirikian!

Completely renovated clinic reopened its doors recently in Aygehovit, one of the Armenian villages located closest to the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The clinic is the only one in this locality

Thorough repair of the outpatient clinic, which have been in a dilapidated condition before, was carried out thanks to a donation given by the Swiss Charitable Foundation "Assistance to Armenia". Just for this reason, the clinic was named in honor of spouses Martin and Jessica Blümer, members of the Board of Trustees of mentioned Foundation.

Swiss philanthropists personally, as well

women early control, permanent treatment of dispensary patients, etc. Thanks to the Swiss and Armenian donors, we now have new equipment, and dentist's office," Vardanyan said.

Fundamental repair of above-mentioned clinic is not the only initiative implemented by the Swiss benefactors in Armenia. Last year, the kindergarten was repaired and put

menia already during past 30 years," philanthropist said. "Our region in Switzerland is Schaffhausen canton, with up to 75 000 population. Every year we conduct fund-raising there, aimed to help Armenia. In particular, we implement charitable programs, addressed especially to kids". According to him, contacts of Swiss philanthropists with Armenia started in 1988, in the days fol-



as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Switzerland in Armenia, other guests, and residents of the local community took part in the clinic's opening ceremony of the clinic participated.

Lusine Vardanyan, family doctor and director of the clinic named after Martin and Jessica Blümer, said that last time the ambulatory has renovated in 2005, however, 12 years later renovation necessity emerged again.

According to her, restoration of the clinic is important in the sense that now the residents of borderland Aygehovit and neighboring Vasashen will receive necessary medical care in comfortable, warm, clean and bright conditions.

"We make here immunization, pregnant



into usage, and water pipes were upgraded too.

Swiss philanthropist Mihran Baronian, Armenian by origin, member of Board of Trustees of the "Assistance to Armenia" Swiss Charitable Foundation, has a key role in all these charity actions.

"Our team has concerned with helping Ar-

lowing the devastating Spitak earthquake.

Levon Grigorian, head of the borderland Aygehovit community, emphasized that both kindergarten and clinic renovation became a great present for boundary village.

"As we are residing on the front-line of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border", he stressed, "things that were made should be considered an important impetus of our being, our

strong living on this earth, and strengthening today in the name of tomorrow".

Blümer spouses, which were behaving themselves extremely modestly, were, in General, satisfied with the work that has been done. They express a willingness to initiate other charitable projects, if necessary.

Yerevan Home Care is the first and the only one company launched in 2011 in Yerevan. The company is providing a 24/7 qualified care service to older adults, disabled people, people suffering from chronic diseases or those who need postoperative care, as well as to people with dementia.

Creating the company we concenter to support many families that live abroad and have their elderly family members staying in Armenia. We succeed in supporting these families to have not only a solution of the raised problem but to have a deep feeling of satisfaction that their relatives are in good hands.

The organization's greatest wealth is educated, professional, skilled, experienced staff and people with high values and psychological knowledge.

We treat each patient with a strong sense of responsibility and show an individual approach to the families, at the same time maintaining the accepted norms and using contemporary approaches.

Taking your relative's care on our shoulders, we bring harmony between the different generations.

Apart from the professional knowledge the company pays a great attention to the human-



yerevanhomecare.am

Մարշալ Բաղրամյան պողոտա, 1-ին փակուղի, 2-րդ շենք 2-րդ հարկ

010 546 546



This type of care includes personal care aides, home care aides, and home health aides. Home health aides might also provide limited assistance with things such as taking blood pressure or offering medication reminders.

Nursing care is more related for patients after surgery, traumas, different chronic diseases

Rehabilitation service is for people who need professional rehabilitation in their recovery periods after some types of diseases and surgery. Dementia /Alzheimer /special care is for people with dementia in all stages when you worried about their safety or a health problem.

Yerevan Home Care provides all type of medical equipment that will increase the quality of life of your loved ones. (rent of the equipment is acceptable)

Transportation is a key issue for older adults and for people with temporary or permanent disabilities especially in Armenia where the streets and buildings are not adjusted for disabled people. Yerevan Home Care is providing a transportation service for people that are in wheelchairs.

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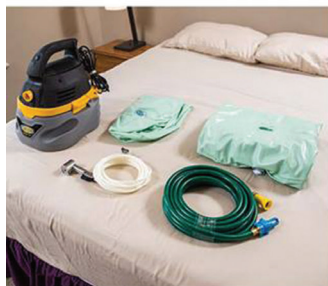
yerevanhomecare.am 010 546 546

itarian qualities of the serving staff, to their kindness, patience, attention and courteous manner.

We assure that we will be your irreplaceable assistant in helping and surrounding your relative with care and support.

We provide service to all type of patients who needs care assistance.

Personal care is for elderly people who are alone and need support in daily living, such as dressing, bathing, feeding, or meal preparation.



Անկողնային հիվանդների լոգանքի կազմակերպում իրենց իսկ անկողնում

National Museum in Tehran to show Armenia's Urartu relics

An estimated 103 ancient artifacts from Armenia will be on display in Tehran from October 17-January 17, the Financial Tribune reports.

Accompanied by two representatives from the History Museum of Armenia in Yerevan, the artifacts arrived in Iran on Tuesday, and were safely taken to the National Museum in Tehran, ISNA reported.

The relics date back to prehistoric times, from the 4th millennium BC to the first century BC. They will be displayed at the museum under the banner of 'Iran & Armenia: Memory of a Realm.'

The focus of the event is on those artifacts that hint at the civilization of Urartu, an Iron Age kingdom that flourished around Lake Van in eastern Anatolia. The first joint chapter

of history between Iran and Armenia is said to have taken place in Urartu.

The event is the product of a memorandum signed between Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization and Armenia's Ministry of Culture. It is organized on the occasion of National Museum of Iran's 80th anniversary, according to director general of the museum, Jibrael Nokandeh.

"The museum will showcase a collection of South Korean artifacts next month, and in late winter over 60 relics from the Louvre Museum in Paris, the largest museum in the world," Nokandeh said.

Relics discovered during archaeological excavations in provinces of Semnan and Gilan will also be on display at the exhibition.



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