

Putin concerned about Russia's falling trade with Armenia

Yerevan - (RFL) Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed concern at a sharp fall in Russia's trade with Armenia registered this year as he met with his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan near Moscow late on Monday.

Putin singled out the current state of Russian-Armenian economic ties in his opening remarks at the talks held in his Novo-Ogaryovo residence.

Sargsyan's office said that the two men also discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but gave no details. The Armenian leader blamed Azerbaijan for recent weeks' upsurge in truce violations in the conflict at the start of the meeting held a week after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's unexpected visit to Baku.

The visit and Serzh Sargsyan's subsequent departure to Moscow fueled speculation in the Armenian press that the Kremlin could force Yerevan to make more concessions to Baku as part of its putative efforts to anchor Azerbaijan more closely to Russia. Russian officials have given no such indications in their public statements.

Putin did not mention the Karabakh dispute when he welcomed Sargsyan at Novo-Ogaryovo. In his opening remarks



publicized by the Kremlin, he spoke instead of the economic component of Russia's "special" relationship with Armenia.

"It's nice that Russia remains Armenia's leading trading partner," Putin said. "Last year, our commercial exchange rose significantly compared with 2013, but unfortunately the first half of this year saw a downward trend."

"We will probably also talk about that today," he went on. "There are certain nuances there to which I have no answers yet. I would like to discuss these issues

with you."

According to official Armenian statistics, Russian-Armenian trade plummeted by almost 22 percent to \$491 million in the first half of 2015. Particularly drastic was a drop in Armenian exports to Russia, reflecting a sharp depreciation of the Russian ruble which began in June 2014.

The ruble has lost almost half of its value against the U.S. dollar since then due to collapsing oil prices and Western economic sanctions imposed on Moscow. This has slashed the dollar-denominated value

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Artsakh celebrates 24 years of independence

Congratulatory address of President Bako Sahakyan in connection with the Day of the Artsakh Republic

Dear compatriots,

On behalf of the authorities and personally myself I cordially congratulate you on the Day of the Artsakh Republic, a holiday of special significance in the life of our nation.

With the birth of the Artsakh Republic on September 2, 1991 the Armenian people had two free and independent states, the cherished for centuries vision, which had faced numerous challenges before reaching the current time, became reality.

It was a common human aspiration to live on the own land with the right of mastering our own destiny that is intrinsic to every nation.

Consolidating and joining our efforts we defended our national dignity and future in the battlefield, and have been building a democratic with unshakable eagerness to become a full member of the international community.

It is a challenging and honorable path which we pass hand in hand with our sisters and brothers from Armenia and the Diaspora. Together we will implement numerous projects and definitely attain the realization of national goals.

Dear compatriots,

I congratulate you once again on this significant public holiday and wish peace and prosperity to your families and our precious and cherished Artsakh Republic.

President Sargsyan meets French lawmakers

President Serzh Sargsyan received on September 3 the delegation of the French National Assembly headed by President of the Socialist faction Bruno Le Roux.

The parties attached importance to the frequent reciprocal visits and contacts, which further reinforce the Armenian-French friendship and provide an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The interlocutors agreed that inter-parliamentary cooperation comprises a significant part of inter-state relations, and emphasized the role of Armenian-French Friendship Groups established in the Parliaments of the two countries in their development.

Bruno Le Roux conveyed the warm greetings of French President Francois Hollande.

The lawmakers also attached importance to their visit to Nagorno Karabakh.



They assured that France is interested in the continuation of dialogue towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

President Sargsyan briefed the guests on the process and goals of constitutional reforms. Bruno Le Roux underlined that any constructive change targeted at establishing the best government system is welcome and added that "it's a sign of political maturity of a state."

Armenian, Azerbaijani FM's to meet in September: Warlick

OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs will hold a meeting of Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers in September to discuss organizing a presidential meeting this year. "The co-chairs will bring the foreign ministers together on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September. We will discuss with the ministers the possibility of holding the next presidential summit later this year," James Warlick, the U.S. representative to the OSCE Minsk Group, told AzerNews. Commenting on the recent escalation of tension along the contact line of Armenian and Azerbaijani troops, Warlick said the co-chairs continue to propose confidence-building measures for ensuring the ceasefire regime. "For most of the year, the situation along the Line of Contact and Armenia-Azerbaijan border has been relatively stable. We have appealed to the sides to reduce tensions and strictly respect the ceasefire. We also continue to propose confidence-building measures that would reinforce the ceasefire, creating a more positive environment for negotiations that could lead to a settlement," Warlick said.



Arpine Hovhannisyan appointed as new justice minister

A parliament member, Arpine Hovhannisyan from the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, was appointed on September 4 as justice minister.

A corresponding decree was signed by President Serzh Sargsyan. Ms. Hovhannisyan's candidacy was backed on September 3 by the executive body of the party.

Arpine Hovhannisyan was born in 1983 in Yerevan. She is a graduate of the

Law Faculty of Yerevan State University. She had also a master's and post-graduate studies at the same faculty. She has a PhD degree and works also as a lecturer at the Department of Civil Law of Yerevan State University.

She was elected to parliament in 2012 elections on the party list of the Republican Party of Armenia. She is replacing former minister Hovhannes Manukyan who was dismissed on July 14.



Armenia starts 'strategic' war games



President Serzh Sargsyan met with members of his National Security Council on September 3 at the start of "strategic command-and-staff military exercises" that will simulate Armenia's response to foreign aggression.

The four-day exercises codenamed "Shant-2015" (Lightning-2015) are involving not only the Armenian military but also other state bodies, including those responsible for mass mobilization and evacuation of civilian residents from border settlements in times of war.

It was not immediately clear how many soldiers and pieces of military hardware will join the exercises later this week. The Armenian Defense Ministry said it will divulge more details on Friday. The ministry first announced preparations for the drills on August 6, saying that they will test the military's coordination with other bodies in case of an "escalation of the military-political situation" around Armenia.

Senior Armenian military officials briefed Yerevan-based foreign military attaches on the upcoming war games at a meeting on Wednesday. A Defense Ministry statement quoted them as saying that the participating Armenian agencies will practice coordination of their actions "during a repulsion of aggression." It said they also stressed that "the imaginary enemy and situation envisaged by the war game scenario are maximally adapted to the existing reality."

It was an apparent reference to Azerbaijan's regular threats of a military solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The presidential press office said that during the mock emergency session of the National Security Council Serzh Sargsyan issued "instructions stemming from the war game scenario to relevant state bodies."

Fighting continues near Karabakh, on Armenia-Azerbaijan border



One Azerbaijani and two Armenian soldiers have been killed and several more civilians from both sides wounded in continuing ceasefire violations reported from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

Karabakh's Armenian-backed military said on September 4 that two of its soldiers, Marat Khachanyan and Arman Stepanyan, were shot dead early in the evening "as a result of an action taken by the enemy." It gave no details of the incident, saying only that its precise circumstances are being investigated.

Earlier in the day, Azerbaijani media reported the death of an Azerbaijani soldier who served at a section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani "line of contact" north of Karabakh. The Defense Ministry in Baku claimed that the conscript, Samir Orujev, accidentally shot himself while on combat

duty. The pro-government news website Haqqin.az insisted, however, that Orujev was killed by an "Armenian bullet."

The deadly incidents came amid continuing skirmishes between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops deployed along the western section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Each side accused the other of deliberately targeting villages located in the area.

According to the Defense Ministry in Yerevan, one Armenian soldier and three civilians were wounded when an Armenian border village, Vazashen, came under Azerbaijani fire on the night from Thursday to Friday. Azerbaijani forces also reportedly fired on Vazashen and several other villages in Armenia's northern Tavush region from automatic weapons and mortars the previous night.

The Azerbaijani side, meanwhile, accused the Armenians of continuing to shoot at nearby Azerbaijani villages.

Reports from Baku said two elderly residents of one of those villages, Alibeyli, were wounded as a result. They said that gunfire from Armenian army positions also damaged many village houses.

The truce violations prompted serious concern from James Warlick, the chief U.S. mediator in Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks. "We condemn the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," he wrote on Twitter. "We stand for a negotiated settlement."

Warlick, who co-heads the OSCE Minsk Group along with fellow diplomats from Russia and France, avoided blaming any of the conflicting parties for the escalation.

In another tweet, Warlick posted the photograph of a fragment of a mortar shell which Karabakh Defense Army says was fired on its positions by Azerbaijani forces. "Such escalation is unacceptable," he said.

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Sargsyan's commission confirms concession to opposition

President Serzh Sargsyan has agreed to drop one of his most controversial constitutional changes relating to the conduct of Armenia's next parliamentary elections, a legal expert representing him confirmed on September 4.

The amendment drafted by a presidential commission stipulates that those elections must necessarily result in a "stable majority" of parliament seats won by a single party. This would almost certainly require a run-off vote between the two parties that won most votes in the first round of voting.

Critics, among them many opposition parties, say this unusual arrangement would make it easier for Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) to retain control over the National Assembly. The Council of Europe's Venice Commission has also criticized the controversial clause, urging the Sargsyan administration to remove it from the text expected to be put on a referendum in November.

The president and his ad hoc commission initially refused to do that. But they apparently changed their stance after talks last month with visiting Venice Commission officials and leaders of opposition parties that seem ready to support

Armenia's transition to a parliamentary system of government envisaged by the constitutional package.

Vartan Poghosyan, a member of the presidential body, confirmed this during parliamentary hearings on the constitutional reform. He said that details of the electoral system under the parliamentary republic would be specified in Armenia's Electoral Code.

"As a result of negotiations we reached agreements to the effect that if a stable parliamentary majority is not formed as a result of the first round or through formation of a political coalition ... then the Electoral Code can envisage a second round of voting," Poghosyan told lawmakers. "'Can envisage' does not mean 'necessarily envisage.'"

Poghosyan also made clear that Armenia's next, largely ceremonial president would be elected by the parliament, rather than a special electoral college that was envisaged by the initial version of the constitutional package. The Electoral College would have comprised not only parliamentarians but also representatives of local government bodies.

Sargsyan's political allies also emphasize the fact that under the proposed reform



the next parliamentary elections would be held only on a party-list basis, something which has long been demanded by the Armenian opposition.

Only 90 members of the current 131-seat National Assembly were elected under the system of proportional representation in 2012. The remaining 41 seats were distributed in nationwide individual constituencies. The HHK swept the vast majority of those constituencies thanks to his vast financial and administrative resources.

These concessions will not be enough to win over all opposition parties represented in the parliament. Two of them, the Armenian National Congress and Zharangutyun (Heritage), remain strongly opposed to the constitutional changes, saying that they would only enable Serzh Sargsyan to extend his rule beyond 2018.

Armenian constitution to ban same-sex marriage

Amendments to Armenia's constitution put forward by President Serzh Sargsyan's administration explicitly ban same-sex couples from marrying in the country, a senior official in Yerevan insisted on September 4.

"In Armenia, the family is a union of one woman and one man," Hrayr Tovmasyan, a member of the presidential commission that has drafted a long list of constitutional changes, said during parliamentary hearings.

The draft amendments not only provide for Armenia's transition to the parliamentary system of government but also contain many clauses clarifying various aspects of governance. In particular, one of them stipulates that a man and a woman who have reached the minimum legal age for marriage are free to "marry one another and form a family."

A corresponding article of the current constitution does not contain the phrase "one another," suggesting that it was added to Sargsyan's constitutional pack-

age with the aim of making same-sex marriage illegal.

Another draft amendment refers to the family as "the natural and main unit of the society" and "the basis for maintaining and multiplying the population." Accordingly, it commits the Armenian state to giving families "special protection and patronage."

The Council of Europe's Venice Commission effectively voiced concerns over these provisions in an extensive written evaluation of the proposed package which was made public a month ago. It said that they must not be interpreted as a "legal obstacle" to eventually legalizing same-sex marriage in Armenia.

Tovmasyan made clear, however, that the Armenian authorities remain adamant in putting in place such obstacles. "Under this [proposed] constitution, if a same-sex marriage is ever registered in Armenia, it will be unconstitutional," he said, adding that "same-sex couples cannot be deemed families."



Serzh Sargsyan reportedly made similar assurances on Thursday when he met with a group of pro-establishment lawmakers to discuss his constitutional reform effort. According to one of them, Aragats Akhoyan, the president made clear that "only a man and a woman will have the right create a family in the Republic of Armenia."

This stance is certain to be backed by the vast majority of people in the socially conservative Christian country where hostility toward sexual minorities remains widespread.

'Electric Yerevan' Leaders Issue New Ultimatum To Government



Armenian youth activists campaigning against a controversial electricity price hike on Wednesday gave the Armenian government until September 11 to formally scrap the unpopular measure or face fresh non-stop demonstrations in Yerevan.

"On September 11 we will take to the streets and stay there because if we don't stay they [the authorities] won't give a damn," said Artush Chibukhchyan, one of the leaders of the No To Plunder pressure group.

"Deceiving people is a normal thing for them," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "The person occupying

the post of the president can easily fool the people."

"We have had a chance to see that they say one thing and do another," said another leader of the group, Artur Kocharyan.

Kocharyan pointed to the government's decision to keep the energy prices unchanged for households and only some small businesses using up to 500 kilowatts of electricity a month. No To Plunder wants the government to subsidize the tariffs for all individual and corporate consumers.

The youth movement issued the ultimatum one day after about 100 of its members and supporters clashed with riot police at a section of Yerevan's Marshal Bagramyan Avenue adjacent to President Serzh Sargsyan's offices. Six protesters were briefly detained by the police.

The number of the protesters paled in comparison with thousands of mostly young people who blocked another section of the avenue for two weeks in late June and early July. Serzh Sargsyan promised to temporarily subsidize the tariffs in response to those protests dubbed "Electric Yerevan"

in social media.

"The September 11 rally will be much more powerful," said Kocharyan. Chibukhchyan, for his part, did not exclude that No To Plunder will again try to occupy Marshal Bagramyan Avenue.

The activists spoke to RFE/RL's Armenian service as they visited kiosks and other small businesses in downtown Yerevan, urging them to boycott the higher fees which the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) will start collecting this month. Legal entities not covered by the government subsidy will have to sign new power supply contracts with the ENA.

"We'll rip up those contracts," one female entrepreneur told the No To Plunder activists. "We'll kick them out."

Many of the small business owners visited by the activists seemed unaware that they will now be charged 49 drams (just over 10 U.S. cents) per kilowatt/hour by the ENA, up from 41 drams. They said they expected the government to fully subsidize power supplies pending the outcome of a special international audit of the ENA.

Putin concerned about Russia's falling trade with Armenia

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of Armenian goods sold in the Russian market.

The Armenian government reported a similarly sharp drop in Armenia's trade with the European Union, which totaled \$582 million in January-June. Nevertheless, the falling volume of Russian-Armenian trade is undermining the government's earlier assurances that Armenia's accession in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), effective from January 2015, will give new impetus to the domestic economy. It is also giving more ammunition to Armenian critics of the EEU membership and Yerevan's broader ties with Moscow.

Serzh Sargsyan implied on September 7 that the Russian-led economic bloc has yet to live up to his expectations. "We have lot of work to do in order to fill that grouping with content, with accomplishments perceptible to our peoples," he told Putin.

"In this context, Vladimir Vladimirovich, the price of energy resources for Armenia remains the key issue," he said. "In this crisis situation, exchange rate fluctuations have a very painful impact on [energy] tariffs, and I very much hope that we will find new solutions, good solutions."

A nearly 17 percent depreciation of the Armenian dram, another consequence of the Russian currency meltdown, was the main official rationale for state regulators' decision in June to raise electricity prices in Armenia for a third time in two years. Officials in Yerevan argued that the weaker dram has pushed up the cost of Russian natural gas generating around 40 percent of Armenia's electricity.

That explanation did not satisfy most Armenians. Thousands

of them demonstrated in Yerevan against the price hike on a daily basis in late June and early July. The protests forced the Sarkisian government to subsidize the energy tariffs for households and some small businesses.

The so-called "Electric Yerevan" movement also raised Russian fears of yet another Western-backed another "color revolution" in the former Soviet Union. In what was widely seen as an attempt to bolster Sargsyan, it was announced at the height of the protests that Russian law-enforcement authorities have agreed to let Armenian courts try a Russian soldier accused of murdering an Armenian family in Gyumri in January. The Russian government also disbursed a \$200 million low-interest loan which Armenia will spend on buying more Russian-made weapons for its armed forces.

Serzh Sargsyan made a point of thanking Putin for the decision to place the Gyumri massacre case under Armenian jurisdiction. He also stressed the importance of the Russian loan.

It was not immediately clear whether Sargsyan sought an even greater discount on Russian natural gas deliveries to Armenia. Russia's Gazprom monopoly already agreed in April to cut the gas price from \$190 to \$165 per thousand cubic meters. The Russian giant charged European countries more than \$300 per thousand cubic meters as of late last year.

That tariff reduction, which was formalized by a Russian-Armenian intergovernmental agreement signed in Moscow on Monday, will not translate into lower gas prices for Armenian households. It seems designed to enable Armenia's Gazprom-owned national gas distribution network to reverse losses incurred as a result of the dram's depreciation.

Halal Slaughterhouse to boost Armenian meat exports to Iran

An Armenian-Iranian joint venture has built Armenia's largest slaughterhouse which is expected to significantly boost exports of halal meat to neighboring Iran, a key market for sheep raised in the South Caucasus country.

The company called Golden Axe inaugurated the abattoir located in Masis, a small town 20 kilometers south of Yerevan, on Wednesday at a ceremony attended by Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetyan and Iran's ambassador to Armenia, Mohammad Reisi. It is said to have a capacity to slaughter up to 1,000 sheep and 200 cattle a day in accordance with Islamic norms.

Speaking at the ceremony, Karapetyan said the launch of the 2,400-square-meter facility will result in a major increase in Armenian exports of lamb to Iran. That will in turn give a further boost to sheep breeding in Armenia, he said.

Reisi was also reported to predict a rise in those exports. A statement by the Armenian Agriculture Ministry quoted him as saying that there is strong demand in the Islamic Republic for halal meat from Armenia because of its high quality. More such Iranian-owned abattoirs could therefore be opened in the country in the near future, added Reisi.

Due to a lack of halal abattoirs, Armenian lamb has until now been exported to Iran and Gulf Arab states mainly in the form of live sheep. Those exports have risen dramatically since 2010. In 2013, for example, Armenia exported almost 118,000



sheep worth an estimated \$15 million. According to government data, 85 percent of them were delivered to Iran.

Armenia's overall sheep population reportedly stood at around 690,000 as of the beginning of 2014, up from 470,000 in 2010. Karapetyan said that it can be tripled within years when he inaugurated a smaller halal slaughterhouse built by other Iranian entrepreneurs near Yerevan in late 2013.

"One should bear in mind that Armenia has more than one million hectares of mountain pastures, only 25 percent of which are being used at present," the minister said at the time.

Iranian livestock breeders backed by the government in Tehran attempted to lease some of those pastures in the south-eastern Syunik province earlier in 2013. The proposed deal was backed by the provincial administration but subsequently blocked by the Armenian government amid an uproar from environment protection and opposition groups in Yerevan.

The latter warned of its negative ecological, economic and even political consequences for Armenia. Some critics said the very fact of Armenian territory being rented out to a foreign state is unacceptable.

According to the National Statistical Service (NSS), Armenian exports of livestock, meat, sausage and related food-stuffs totaled \$50.6 million last year. They accounted for 3.3 percent the country's overall export revenue.



Government gets another irrigation loan

A lending arm of the OPEC group of oil-exporting nations provided Armenia on Thursday with a \$25 million loan that will be used for upgrading water and irrigation networks in the country's impoverished rural regions.

Finance Minister Gagik Khachatryan signed a corresponding agreement with Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish, director-general of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), at the OFID's headquarters in Vienna.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the money will be channeled into rural areas across Armenia suffering from high poverty rates. "The lending program

is aimed at increasing the productivity of owners of small land holdings and fostering poverty reduction," the ministry said in a statement. Announcing the agreement on Twitter, the OFID said the loan will benefit 80,000 people.

The Armenian government secured a \$40 million from the Moscow-based Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) for similar purposes in July. The low-interest credit repayable in 20 years is supposed to be spent on refurbishing canals and modernizing equipment supporting them. Armenia's Soviet-built irrigation networks have already absorbed considerable capital investments in the last

several years. That includes a \$177 million reconstruction of 6 major canals, 17 water pumping stations and the water drainage system of the southern Ararat and Armavir provinces, which was financed by a U.S. government agency, the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The project was completed in 2011.

Later in 2011, the World Bank disbursed an \$18 million loan for further irrigation upgrades in the country, which were due to benefit about 90,000 farmers.

A lack of irrigation water has been one of the main problems hampering the development of the Armenian agricultural sector.

Tumo Center opens in Stepanakert



Tumo Center for Creative Technologies was launched in Nagorno Karabakh's capital Stepanakert on September 2 thanks to partnership between the Simonian Educational Foundation has partnered with the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The official opening ceremony was attended by the Presidents of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Serzh Sargsyan and Bako Sahakyan.

AGBU will cover all operational costs of the center as well as startup costs in the framework of the TUMOXAGBU partnership, while the government of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has provided the space in a historic building in the city center.

The Stepanakert program is expected to cater to 500 to 1,000 students who will participate twice a week for two hours per session, gaining 21st century skills, and studying animation, film-making, web development and game development, as well as supporting skills such as 3D modeling, computer programming, music, photography and graphic design.

Registration will start on the 14th of September, and students will begin their Tumo life during the first week of October. The Tumo Center for Creative Technologies is a free of charge after school program that started in Yerevan and subsequently opened a location in Dilijan. The TUMOXAGBU partnership has already opened a branch in Gyumri and is expected to spread Tumo to other locations in Armenia and beyond.



French Armenian international Network to bring together entrepreneurs for international exchanges

FAIR, French Armenian International Network, aims to promote economic synergies between the business entrepreneurs of the Rhone-Alpes region and their counterparts in Armenia for the creation of a regional hub providing access to the region's markets, such as Georgia, Iran, and other CIS countries.

The worldwide networking of FAIR, which is a recently created business association, shall definitely include the still-untapped economic potential of the Armenian diaspora, from the Middle-East countries to the Americas, as well as the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The Rhône-Alpes Regional Parliament is set to host the official launching of FAIR in a special ceremony on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

The event is organized under the sponsorship of Raffi Haladjian, inventor of NABAZ-TAG and a pioneer in the field of connected items and other state-of-the-art technologies.

No visible benefit from Armenia's membership in Eurasian Economic Union - MP

Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union provides little benefit to the country, Tevan Poghosyan, an MP from Heritage party, said on September 4.

"The accession came exactly in a period of time when relations between Russia and the West became tense and the global economy showed recession symptoms," he said. "Western sanctions against Russia prompted by Ukrainian crisis and the falling oil prices have stricken hard at the country's economy, the ruble has devaluated a great deal directly impacting Armenia."

Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union was a political decision.

"When we joined this market, Russian and Kazakh economies fully depended on oil prices, and Belarusian economy was completely run by the government," Poghosyan said. "Armenia was the only country in this row where free market rela-

tions were developing despite certain faults."

Poghosyan is convinced that even if Armenia achieves some success in the future, it will be heavily dependent on these countries' economic things.

Stepan Grigoryan, a political analyst, sharing his opinion, said that the European Union can give more benefits to small countries' economies.

As an example, he pointed out Poland, to which the European Union had helped in developing its agriculture. There is no similar system in the Eurasian Economic Union.

"The question is what was the reason of creation of the Eurasian Economic Union," Grigoryan said. "I think Russia, establishing the union, had not been motivated by an ambition to develop economy or shape a free trade zone. The union has been established to keep us close at hand and deter us from moving away. That is why we found ourselves in such a situation."



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- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, furnished,parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor,70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished . Price:400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



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- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m.,with-out divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms, capially repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses,parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m,with-out divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade.** Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

- 2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade.** 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m
- 2310.**Monument, Babayan str**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price:350 USD negotiable
- 2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- 2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- 2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m, capially repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capially repaired,heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price:1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m.,3 storied building-750sq.m.,6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m.,2 storied building-720sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system,sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.
- 3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m.,walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows,no exploitation fees. Price:1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- 107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.
- 87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m.,Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- 93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas,parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m,parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.
- 94.**Masiv**. 3floors,8 flats,each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- 130.**Antarayan str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available sevices-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available sevices-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089 **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitolly repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m,

- 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Dirvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price- 4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade- 55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m., Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Recent News: Doing Business But Never Forgetting Corporate Citizen Responsibility...

VivaCell-MTS reminds: the Company is the first that started providing 4 services - IP television, Internet, fixed line IP telephony and mobile communication in 1 package

In the market for more than a year: "Quartet" package comprising four services in one product based on fiber-optic and mobile technology solutions

August 6, 2014 was marked with the launch of a truly revolutionary innovation in Armenia's telecommunications market. VivaCell-MTS is the first mobile operator that has started providing 4 services in 1 package comprising high-speed unlimited internet, fixed IP telephony and IP TV based on a superfast reliable FTTH, plus mobile communication.

The entry of VivaCell-MTS into a totally new market segment is based on the ideal position of the leading telecommunications operator to make the best offer in the market, comprising 4 services in 1 package, owing to its competitive advantage of having the widest network coverage across the country.

The benefit of four-in-one package solution is that the subscribers are provided with an opportunity to settle one bill for all services and get assistance with any technical issue from one reliable source.

The network was deployed in Vahakni Residential Community and the tariff plan is currently available for Vahakni residents. In the future VivaCell-MTS is planning to make 4-in one package available to other areas as well.

Key performance results of VivaCell-MTS in the second quarter of 2015 announced

Mobile TeleSystems PJSC, the leading telecommunications provider in Russia and the CIS, announced its financial results for the second quarter of the year, including major financial and operational results of its foreign subsidiaries.

In the second quarter Armenia's leading

telecommunications operator VivaCell-MTS succeeded in meeting its key financial and operational targets, with the Company's revenues totaling AMD 18.5 billion (9.2 % increase compared to Q1), and with OIBDA of AMD 8.5 billion (4.2% increase compared to Q1).

MTS quarterly report also reads that the overall revenue dynamics is aided by increased data revenues through higher smartphone penetration and customer migration to data plans. Quarterly revenue increase is attributable to seasonal factors: ARPU indicator is up by 10.5% in the second quarter (AMD 2,836), compared to the first quarter (AMD 2,565). The quarterly increase in ARPU is in line with traditional seasonal trends due to higher subscriber roaming revenues.

Throughout the second quarter, MOU indicator (536 minutes) has grown by 8.7%, compared to the same indicator in the first

achievements of VivaCell-MTS in the telecommunications sphere, the values guiding the Company as well as the roadmap of Corporate Social Responsibility of the Company embracing different spheres of society.

VivaCell-MTS pays particular importance to having more Armenians from the Diaspora discover the Homeland by working here. VivaCell-MTS finds that the best way to learn about Armenia is not just to visit Armenia as tourists but as owners of the historical birthplace where one can work as a professional or just to contribute through volunteering and thus improving the lives of ordinary people.

One cannot become part of society unless he or she interacts with residents on a daily basis, gets exposed to their daily issues, and moreover, becomes an owner by working jointly to find solutions.

From 2004 onwards with the support of

VivaCell-MTS, Birthright Armenia has organized the volunteering of over 1000 young Armenians from 37 countries in various regions of Armenia. The participants of Birthright Armenia get a meaningful and memorable experience from their stay in Armenia by engaging in friendly relationships with their peers and sharing their skills with local sites.

"Benefit from the opportunities given to you by your young age – take a deep breath in the

country of your ancestors, feel yourself part of your wonderful motherland, be open to consume what you like and what is quite new to you in this country, live it through. Life is too short to lament about what is imperfect. Just extend your hand to help your compatriots in small projects. This is a way you can enrich your soul, your life-long experience, this is a way to change the world. Remember, you are the ambassadors of Armenia in the outer world, in your families and for your children," stated Mr Yirikian, welcoming the volunteers, who arrived from the United States, Russia, Jordan, Syria, France, Argentina, Uruguay, the UK, Lebanon and Canada.

The volunteers shared their impressions of Armenia with Ralph Yirikian and inquired about the creation and stages of development of VivaCell-MTS. The meeting lasted much longer than was planned. After the meeting, young Armenians from



quarter (493 minutes). Year-to-year rise in MOU reflects MTS' efforts aimed at driving voice usage.

The total number of VivaCell-MTS subscribers as of June 30, 2015, is over 2.1 million.

Volunteers from the Diaspora hosted at VivaCell-MTS headquarters

On 24 August VivaCell-MTS hosted a group of young Diasporan Armenians from different countries of age between 20 and 32 years, who serve as volunteers for an average of 4 months each, and are ready to apply their professional skills to support communities in various regions of our country. The volunteers were received by VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** who presented the major

the Diaspora toured through the Company, accompanied by the General Manager.

VivaCell-MTS hosts winners of the "Business Assignment" contest

VivaCell-MTS and the "Junior Achievement of Armenia" take hands-on steps to encourage innovative thinking and develop entrepreneurial skills among high school students. Organization of "Business Assignment" contests in the frames of summer camps is an important component of the jointly implemented project.

The members of the team, the winner of this year's "Business Assignment" contest, were awarded with "MTS Smart Start" smartphones and were hosted at the VivaCell-MTS headquarters. The combination of the experience shared by Armenia's leading telecommunications operator and the skills gained during the contest will help the teenagers get a clear picture of the marketing solutions necessary in business management practice to achieve best results and be guided with responsibility.

"Participation and achievements in various contests are relative values. The most important is the sustainable knowledge obtained on that road. Finding non-standard solutions which are logical and convincing from the marketing perspective require analytical skills, flexibility of mind and aptitude to turn ideas into projects. You solved the problem you were offered by the business assignment. We are happy to greet you at the company, which is a leader in the sphere of telecommunications," mentioned VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

To remind, the contest was organized in the frames of the Entrepreneurship and Civic Activism Program financed by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

One More House – this time in Ararat Region: VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Continue Partnership

Ralph Yirikian, employees of the Company and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team participated in the construction of the half-built house of Hayrapetyan

family from Poqr Vedi community in Ararat region. Previously the partners assisted four more families from Khor Virap (Pokr Vedi) and Marmarashen communities of the same region through housing.

The Hayrapetyans started the construction of their house 25 years ago. During this time they managed to build only the basement, where they used to live for ten years. Then their neighbor, who was going abroad, gave them his house temporarily. It took the family 15 years to build the walls of the house.

"My son Harutyun was born and raised in a dark and damp basement. My husband and I couldn't forgive ourselves that we couldn't provide necessary living conditions for our son. Now my son has his own family, and am so happy that finally we can live under our own roof and feel the warmth of home," **Raya**, the family mother, said.

Through the housing project financed by VivaCell-MTS and implemented by Fuller Center for Housing Armenia 40 families have overcome the problem of building a house, leaving their worries behind.

"The most important place for Armenians and for the mankind in general is the home, a place where one becomes a full member of the society, where one's hopes and dreams are born, where the past



To remind, in 2015 VivaCell-MTS invested AMD100 million (AMD55 million in 2014) for the realization of the project, and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken its implementation. Through this partnership, from 2007 up to now, 53 families from different communities of the republic already have decent homes. Till the end of the year the number of the families having their houses renovated or the construction of the half-built houses completed will reach 93.

VivaCell-MTS provides broadband Internet, IP telephony and IP TV services to Central Bank's facilities in Dilijan

VivaCell-MTS started providing access to broadband Internet, IP TV and IP telephony services to Central Bank's Rest House located in Dilijan. Rest House guests will enjoy FO-based secure and reliable IP-based package of services.

Armenia's leading telecommunication operator considers the development of next generation IP-based communication services as part of its long-term business strategy aimed at diversification, which, in its turn is the reflection of the growing global trend of the convergence of stationary, mobile devices, and TV into a single integrated information environment.



and the future interlace and become a family history. This house is a dream of a quarter of a century for this family and definitely it was worth making that dream come true," Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President **Ashot Yeghiazaryan** said.

"We readily and proudly partake in the realization of this program. It is a pleasure to see yet another family shrugging off its burden and regaining the hope for the future. And, of course, it is by occasion that we go beyond the purely financial support. Our employees' readiness to join the construction works is the moral side of the issue, which is probably even more important," mentioned Ralph Yirikian.

An Unforgettable Cultural Week in Armenia and Artsakh with Lyubov Kazarnovskaya and others: "I am at Home..."



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

As The Highlights informed its readers already in its previous issue, Russian/Soviet world famous opera Primadonna, Russian Federation People's Artist Professor **Lyubov Yuryevna Kazarnovskaya** (who spent the three of her youth years in Yerevan, early 1970s) was in Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) on August 27 – September 4 with an extensive cultural/music program. On the occasion of the 24th Anniversary of the NKR Independence, within the frames of an intl music fest being held for the third year in row under High Patronage of the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita A. Sargsyan**, on 1 September at the

Stepanakert Renaissance Square, with thousands spectators attending, a huge event – presentation of the Verdi's "Requiem" was held, - with participation of Armenian Philharmony Orchestra conducted by Honored Artist of Russia Prof. **Anatoly Levin**, State Academic Capella of Armenia, two Choirs of Karabakh and world famous soloists invited from Russia, Italy, Serbia accompanied by videofilm that included scenes of Artsakh spiritual life and the Liberation War episodes. Mrs Kazarnovskaya was the Artistic Director of this really groundbreaking project



In Artsakh



The leadership of Armenia and NKR



At the Stepanakert Renaissance Square



Lyubov Kazarnovskaya with the First Lady of Armenia Rita A. Sargsyan



... In Yerevan, at the charitable gala-concert - with a good old friend Gegham Grigoryan. Conductor Anatoliy Levin at the left

sponsored by “H.Maghakelyan Foundation”, with the Honored Art Worker of Armenia **Sarineh Avtandilyan** as the Project author (in the third year in row).

And on 4 September in Yerevan Al. Spendiaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre a charitable gala-concert in favor of the Gegham Grigoryan Intl Opera Academy creation was held by a world-renowned tenor, People’s Artist of Armenia and lithuania Professor **Gegham Grigoryan** and Lyubov Kazarnovskaya with participation of sthe invited singers as well as the Armenian



Andrey Roscik



Gevorg Hakobyan



Alexander Chernov and Yana Safonova



Sofia Tumanyan. Sergey Smbatyan on the right

ones such as **Gevorg Hakobyan**, **Sofia Toumanyan** and 19 year old **Gosh Sargsyan** attended by President of

Armenia **Serzh Sargsyan** and Mrs Rita Sargsyan. The concert was featured by performance of the State Youth Orchestra

of Armenia headed by its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** and ended by a group singing under a young but already a world recognized conductor **Gianluca Marciano** (Italy) as a just-now-invited conductor of our Opera and Ballet Theatre.

In The Highlights next issues we’ll write on this unforgettable cultural week in two Armenian Republics in much more detailed way, and by now our readers can enjoy some images of the events.

Photos by Ani Kirakosyan, the author and courtesy press office of the RA President



A Gianluca Marciano: “I’m proud for visiting Artsakh! Viva Armenia!”



“All stars”

Prof. Armen Mouradyan: "We Face the Existing Problems with All the Necessary Tools to Fight Them..."

Armenia's Health Minister hosted at the American University of Armenia



By Gourgen James Khazhakian

Chief Correspondent

Memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Health of Armenia and the American University of Armenia (AUA) aimed at "...ensuring a new quality of cooperation between the University and a state agency" has been signed on 28 August at the AUA.

According to the Health Minister of the Republic of Armenia Professor His Excellency **Armen A. Muradyan**, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., within decades, the University has released graduates who have been working in the public healthcare field that is a subject of the recognition by the Ministry. *"We consider the AUA a strong supporter in our work. The way of work adopted by the AUA meets best all the international standards and criteria. The University wants to have all the high scores by experts on this or that program and only then to implement those programs,"* said Mr Minister at the signing ceremony. After signing the Memorandum the Health Minister Prof. Armen Mouradyan held a public seminar entitled "Healthcare Challenges: Problems and Successes".

Minister A.A. Mouradyan introduced this year's preventive and screening programs' objectives, emphasizing especially the "Disease Prevention and Control" Program, with 300,000 patients examined within. Armen Mouradyan also highlighted the urgent heart surgery program thanks to which more than 1,000 lives were saved. He noted that recently the RA Government allocated additional AMD 500 mln to continue that vitally important program.

Speaking on the HIV / AIDS programs implemented in Armenia and financed by the Global Fund, Mr Minister stressed that, meanwhile, the Ministry he has been leading has been partnered with the AUA within the programs aimed fighting tuberculosis. Since 2012 numerous studies have been carried out by the University, in particular, they have studied the causal factors

of the situation of tuberculosis; examination of the Armenia migrant workers coming back home was done.

Mr Minister also mentioned program aimed at training the Armenian health care professionals abroad, for which AMD 36 mln was allocated from the state budget. Another AMD 76 mln is provided for medical assistance of the socially disadvantaged infertile couples with auxiliary reproductive technology. The quite impressive results of the controllable infectious diseases' overcoming as well as balanced regional development programs were introduced by the Speaker as well.

The detailed analysis of the existing risks was done, during which Prof. Armen Mouradyan touched upon the implementa-



tion of the works both already done and the planned ones for ensuring the medical service quality, safety, affordability. *"It is impossible to deny the existence of problems in the area, but, when facing them, we are trying to develop and introduce new improvement programs, practices, methodologies,"* said Armen Mouradyan, meanwhile attaching the importance to the further strengthening of the Armenia-Diaspora ties, in this case, - between the healthcare organizers and professionals.

By the end of his visit to the American University of Armenia Professor Armen A. Mouradyan was awarded the title of the Honorary Member of the AUA Faculty of Public Health Council.



Hrant Dink murder trial adjourned until December



The sixth hearing in the retrial of defendants accused of assassinating Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was held at the 5th High Criminal Court in Istanbul on Thursday morning, only to be adjourned until December with minimal progress having been made, Today's Zaman reports.

Despite eight years having passed since the murder of the journalist, efforts to pinpoint suspect Osman Hayal in the security camera footage stills from the incident have failed. Dink, the late editor-in-chief of Turkish-Armenian weekly Agos, was shot and killed in broad daylight on Jan. 19, 2007, by an ultranationalist teenager outside the offices of his newspaper in

Istanbul.

Evidence discovered since then has led to claims that the murder was linked to the "deep state," a term that refers to a shadowy group of military and civilian bureaucrats in Turkey believed to have links with organized crime. Now, the Dink family lawyers are intent on having the identity of Osman Hayal verified from the security camera footage taken from the Akbank Bank and Saray Drapery, located near the Agos headquarters during the incident. Osman Hayal, who was released pending trial, is the brother of Yasin Hayal, who confessed to telling then-minor Ogün Samast to murder Dink.

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey claimed after initial investigations that there are too many people in the frame to identify the suspect. During Thursday's hearing, the court accepted Dink's family's lawyer Hakan Bakır's request that newly marked men in the security footage be identified by Council

The next hearing will be held on Dec. 22.

A group of activists called Friends of Hrant who are closely following the case held a demonstration outside the Caglayan Courthouse prior to the hearing, also making a statement.

"We will continue to stand on duty for justice. This case will not be over until the real suspects are tried and our friend's murderer receives the punishment they deserve. We are tired of repeating our request for the true suspects to be tried. In fact, we are not the only ones requesting this," stated Baran Seyhan on behalf of the activist group.

"The state and its State Supervisory Board have also clearly identified those who need to be tried. As the lawyers have shared, Article 83 of the Turkish Penal Code deals with negligence causing death due to the failure to take appropriate action to prevent the death, and the state is protecting those who are behind the murder," Seyhan stated.

Democratic Party of Artsakh and European Free Alliance adopt joint declaration

The Democratic Party of Artsakh and the European Free Alliance have adopted a joint declaration. In the declaration co-signed by Mr. François Alfonsi, President of European Free Alliance, and Mr. Ashot Ghulyan, President of Democratic Party of Artsakh, the parties agree to work together to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, with the direct participation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and on the basis of peoples' right to self-determination, excluding any sort of aggression or violence.

The full text of the declaration is below:

- Taking note of the realisation by the people of Artsakh (the Nagorno Karabakh Republic) of its right to live in freedom and the European Free Alliance's (hereinafter EFA) support of this democratic strive based on the principle of self-determination;
- Acknowledging that despite the isolation, the democratic processes in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic have been successful and sustainable and are vividly manifested in the free, fair and competitive elections that have become an inseparable part of Artsakh's political culture;
- Welcoming the substantial democratic progress of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

and the contribution of the Democratic Party of Artsakh (hereinafter DPA) that has been key to the implementation of a well-functioning European-inspired development model based on: fundamental freedoms; democracy; separation of powers; rule of law; sustainable peace.

- Stressing the commitment of both EFA and the DPA to European values and principles, as well as to a sustainable peace in the South Caucasus.

- Considering that the EU Institutions have on numerous occasions acknowledged the need to promote democratic values and peaceful cooperation in its neighbourhood and recognised the EU's particular importance in this domain, EFA and DPA are committed to encouraging a greater involvement of the EU with the society of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic;

- Recognizing that the DPA and many of the EFA affiliated parties face similar challenges in terms of their fundamental freedoms, and in particular the right to decide on their own future, being acknowledged by the EU and the international community;

- Sharing a firm conviction that the established relationship should be considered in terms of mutual benefit, where the

undersigning parties can be envisaged as substantial contributors and reliable partners in promoting basic European values and principles; thus, having a positive impact throughout the region.

EFA and DPA agree to associate aiming at:

- Sharing the experience of the independence process of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, achieving its sovereignty through democratic and peaceful means, to EFA and its member parties;
- Engaging the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in international processes, as well as, in the EU Institutions and bodies, and facilitating the participation of Karabakh representatives in those fora, backing to its international recognition;
- Contributing to a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, with the direct participation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and on the basis of peoples' right to self-determination, excluding any sort of aggression or violence;

Therefore, EFA and the DPA reiterate full dedication to being worthy and suitable partners in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and in the European Union.

Worldwide Collaboration Required to Confront Pan-Armenian Crises



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

There has been a serious lack of coordination in dealing with critical global issues. Armenians around the world have repeatedly come under attack with Armenia or the Diaspora hardly lifting a finger.

In the aftermath of the U.S. occupation of Iraq in 2003, Armenians along with millions of other Iraqis suffered great losses. While not much could have been done to secure their physical safety, there should have been an organized effort by the Armenian government and Armenians worldwide to assist those who left all their possessions behind and fled the country. Regrettably, nothing was done to help resettle Iraqi Armenian refugees in the Homeland or anywhere else.

Fortunately, the Armenian response was more vigorous during the still ongoing Syrian conflict. The Armenia's Diaspora Ministry assisted many of the 15,000 Syrian Armenians who moved to the Homeland, while Diaspora communities actively raised funds to help the destitute Armenians in Syria. However, the assistance provided has been woefully inadequate relative to the enormous needs of those remaining in Syria, and those who have escaped to Lebanon and Armenia.

There could be other unexpected manmade or natural disasters such as the devastating earthquake that struck northern Armenia in 1988, from which Armenians are still struggling to recover 25 years later!

What about the enduring threat to Artsakh? After years of bluffing, should Azerbaijan's psychopathic

President Ilham Aliyev someday launch a full-blown attack on Artsakh, are Armenians around the world ready to rush to the rescue of their compatriots in the Homeland? Although the responsibility for defending the borders falls on the armed forces of the twin Armenian Republics, shouldn't Diaspora Armenians have a coordinated contingency plan to confront such an existential eventuality? All necessary arrangements should be made in advance, so that when the attack comes, there would be an immediate counteraction.

Another critical issue needing Armenians' immediate attention is the chaotic situation prevailing in Turkey and the possible dangers facing the Armenian community, in particular:

1) Total disarray in the Turkish government due to the ruling party's recent loss of parliamentary majority and new elections scheduled for Nov. 1;

2) Recurrent bombings of Kurdish regions in Northern Iraq by the Turkish Air Force, and violent clashes between the Turkish military and Kurds inside Turkey;

3) Worldwide criticism of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's autocratic rule, his support of ISIS terrorists, and draconian measures taken against political opponents.

This is the ideal opportunity for Armenians outside Turkey to join the anti-Erdogan international chorus. It is also the suitable time to cooperate with millions of Kurds opposing the Erdogan regime; but, this is not the right time to remain quiet when the Turkish regime arrests Fatma Barout, Co-Mayor of the Sur district of Dikranakert. Where is the outcry against the arbitrary arrest of this courageous Armenian woman? There has not

been a single complaint from anyone in Armenia or Diaspora! Mayor Barout and her family were in Armenia last month to attend the Pan-Armenian Games. On that occasion, they visited the Genocide Memorial and Museum in Yerevan and paid their respects to the 1.5 million Armenian martyrs.

Armenians worldwide should also support the youth of Nor Zartonk (Renaissance) movement in Istanbul who are struggling against all odds to defend Armenian and other minority rights in Turkey. One of the group's activists has complained that they were not even getting moral support from the Diaspora, let alone Armenia. Nor Zartonk members, who have been physically attacked by Turkish extremists, have been holding protests at Camp Armen during the last two months, demanding that the Turkish government return the confiscated Camp to the Armenian community.

Since Armenians are dispersed throughout the world, they could fall victim to other unfortunate incidents in the future. It is imperative that a single worldwide Armenian committee, composed of representatives of Armenia and Artsakh, and major Diasporan organizations, develops contingency plans for emergencies affecting Armenians in any part of the world. Holding fundraising events and meetings to put action plans together should be done before, not after, the occurrence of tragic events.

The Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee, during its upcoming Yerevan conference, could be renamed and transformed into a permanent pan-Armenian body that would deal with all aspects of Armenia-Diaspora relations, particularly emergency situations.

My Armenia: AGBU launches new travel app



The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) announces the launch of Im Armenia [My Armenia], a new travel app that takes children on a virtual journey through Yerevan and its surroundings. Im Armenia is the first travel guide to introduce children to the sites of Armenia in a fun and interactive way.

Im Armenia teaches basic vocabulary words in Eastern Armenian, offers easy-to-navigate maps and colorful graphics of some of the country's most popular tourist attractions, including Holy Etchmiadzin, Matenadaran, Sardarapat, Cascade and many more. Users can take their own pictures, select photos from the gallery and write their thoughts in a journal at each location.

The app can be used by children of all ages to prepare them for their trip to Armenia, to keep them engaged on their trip and to spark curiosity about the country. "We just took our kids to Armenia for the first time and they loved using Im Armenia! They loved setting up their profile and reading about each site before getting there. It was fun and exciting for them to find some of the hidden symbols at each site," said Maria Stepanian, a mother of children ages 11 and 14.

Designed for both iPhone and iPad,

Im Armenia is available for download through the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Android devices. The app is currently available in English and plans are in the works to develop versions in French, Spanish and other languages of the diaspora. "This beautifully illustrated app offers many ways to learn about Yerevan. We have plans to expand outside of the city and into the diverse regions of Armenia with future versions," said Natalie Gabrelian, Director of Scholarships and Alternative Education at AGBU.

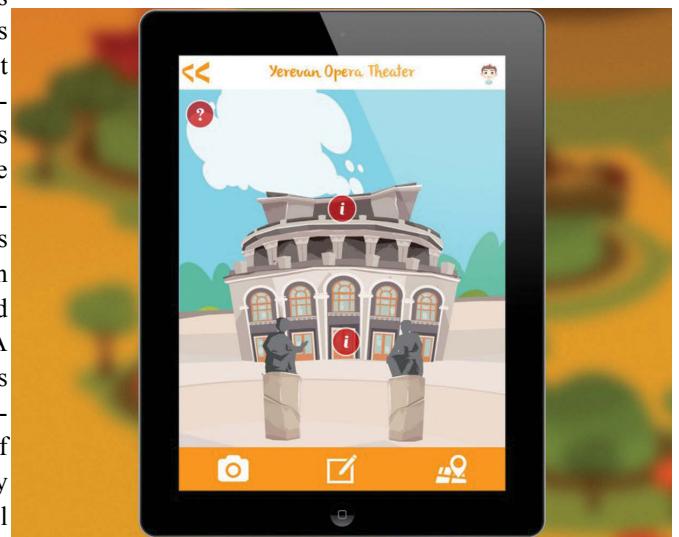
Im Armenia is part of AGBU Education Innovation, a series of quality Armenian e-products for children, parents and teachers that strives to make educational apps, e-books and online language courses readily available to all. Earlier this year, AGBU Education Innovation released Exploring Yerevan: A Look Inside the City's Past & Present, the second in its series of interactive e-books by the Armenian Virtual

College (AVC).

The pioneering multimedia e-book series is designed to offer historical, social and demographic information to readers interested in visiting Yerevan or learning about the city. The e-book offers a variety of information, ranging from city tours and hikes to cultural and social events. Videos, interactive maps, virtual visits, picture galleries, 3D and panoramic images and puzzles are used to introduce readers to the city and its surrounding areas.

"With a groundbreaking presentation and a fresh wave of information, the Exploring Yerevan e-book is a perfect resource for anyone who wants to make the most out of their visit to Yerevan and learn about one of the oldest cities in the world. I am sure this book will acquire a broad readership and will contribute to making Yerevan one of the best touristic destinations in the world," said Dr. Yervant Zorian, AVC founder and president.

The English version of the e-book will be accompanied by Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, Russian, French, Spanish and Turkish translations. Exploring Yerevan is preceded by the first AGBU AVC e-book, The Armenian Highland, released in 2014. Both books are available for free download and online browsing on computers and mobile devices through the Apple iBook store, the AVC website and AGBU online bookstore.



Kate Winslet to play Polish-Armenian Joanna Hoffman in new film about Steve Jobs

Kate Winslet is set to play Polish-Armenian Joanna Hoffman - one of Apple's earliest employees who was known for standing up to Steve Jobs - in the new movie about the legendary Apple cofounder's life.

The movie, which includes a star-studded cast that features Michael Fassbender as Steve Jobs and Seth Rogen as Steve Wozniak, is set to debut on Oct. 9, according to Business Insider.

In a recent interview with Vulture, Winslet explained how she landed the role. The actress was interested in the role as soon as she heard about the film from her hair-and-makeup artist, who was set to work on the movie after she had finished working with Winslet on "The Dressmaker." The fact that the film was written by Andrew Sorkin was enough to draw Winslet in, but she was also intrigued by the movie's three-act format.

Winslet decided to move on the opportunity right away, but there was one hurdle: she looks nothing like Hoffman, the Polish-Armenian immigrant that served as the only marketing person on the original Mac team for more than a year.

So, to audition for the role, she sent her husband out to purchase dark brown wigs in varying lengths. She took photos of herself in the wigs and sent them over to Scott Rudin, the film's producer.



"I wanted to please her [Joanna Hoffman] as much as I could. How she sounds, and her accent, is fairly complicated. She grew up largely in Armenia, spent some time in Poland, and has Russians in her family, so she has all three accents, but she's been in America since she was a teenager, so she had American rhythms," Winslet said.

Grandchildren: An exhibition of Armenian artists opens in Istanbul

A new exhibition at Istanbul's Depo gallery takes a closer look at personal and communal affiliations in the Armenian diaspora, "scattered like pomegranate seeds across the world."

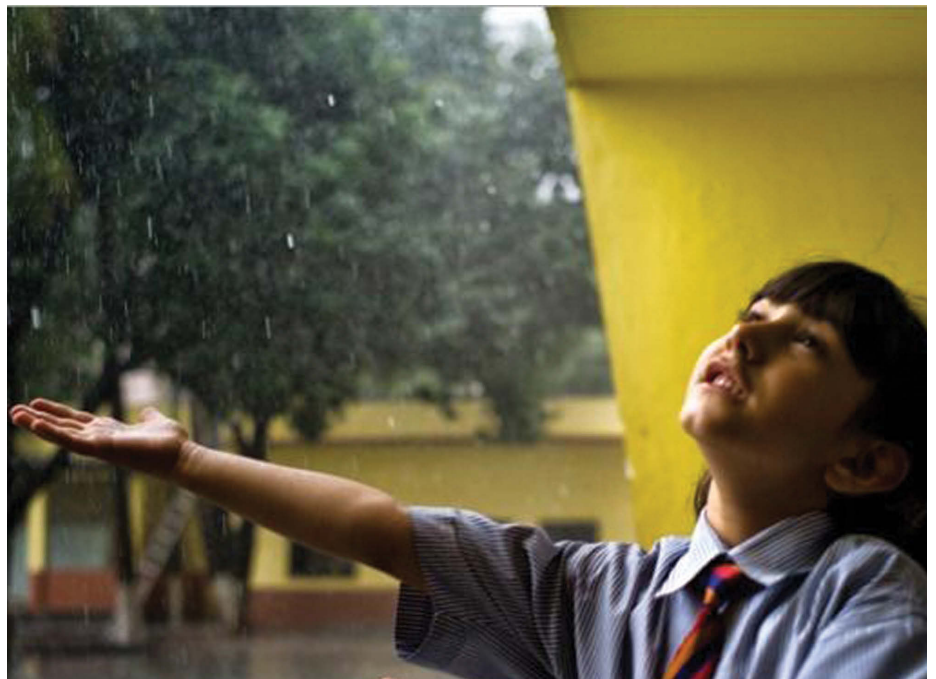
"Grandchildren, New geographies of belonging" opens on Sept. 3 at Depo in Istanbul's Tophane neighborhood, and will run until Nov. 1, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

"In a global context where mobility and the virtual world challenge established identifications with national societies, ethnic groups or religions, Armenians can be considered a good example of a group with a long, cosmopolitan and globalized history," Depo states about the show on its website. The exhibition includes works from Armenian artists based around the world. It is coordinated by Silvina Der-Meguerditchian and organized in cooperation with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Federal Foreign Office Germany, the Goethe Institut- Istanbul, Anadolu Kültür, the Cultural Academy Tarabya, and Heinrich Böll Stiftung.

The works of Achot Achot

(Yerevan/Paris), Marian Bedoian (Buenos Aires), Talin Büyükkürkciyan (Istanbul), Hera Büyüktacıyan (Istanbul), Silvina Der-Meguerditchian (Buenos Aires/Berlin), Linda Ganjian (New York), Archi Galentz (Moscow/Berlin), Karine

Matsakyan (Yerevan) Mikayel Ohanjanyan (Yerevan/Florenz), Ani Setyan (Istanbul), Arman Tadevosyan (Gyumri/Nancy), Scout Tufankjian (New York) and Marie Zolamian (Beirut/Liege) are included in the exhibition.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

Love life and romance are favored this week. You may be exploring the revival of a former friendship or lover. This is a good time to let yourself be creative. Your physical self is on a high, so activities involving the large muscles likely will be pleasurable.

Taurus

(April 20-May 19)

Now that Venus, your planetary avatar is turning direct, you may find it easier to make some decisions about home, hearth, and family. Things in this area have been pending for a long time. This long holding period has kept you from moving forward. Over the next 3-4 weeks you will come to feel more organized and steady.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

You may be feeling a bit "off" this week, whether physically or emotionally. This is not a good time to do work that requires discipline with details. You are feeling independent, so you may want more alone time than is the norm. Be kind to yourself.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

Over the weekend you may be feeling mildly irritable or "out of sync" with your world. You need some time to be alone to process an experience in which you felt dismissed. After the weekend your spirit lifts and you will feel considerably better.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

You have a remarkable capacity to focus on a long term goal. But sometimes this goes over the edge into rigidity and unwillingness to switch gears as needed. If a negative attitude or the past has been troubling you in the last several weeks, then now is the time to let it flow down the river.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

You may be concerned about resources at this time. It would be easy to become obsessed about what you see are problems. However, if you consider other challenging times in your life, you will remember that somehow you always muddled through to the other side.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

You have needed a break from your usual community and now it is time to decide which associations you wish to continue and which you do not. It is possible that you will seek out new acquaintances this fall. That is a good way to escape boredom from the routine.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

This is a generally upbeat and positive week. Circumstances may be ripe for an increase in income. An opportunity to demonstrate your talents and skills comes your way. It will give you a lift. Try something new and different, use your creative energy.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

This is a week that may bring you a sudden break for freedom. It may offer an unexpected opportunity for change. You must use your best judgment on whether that change is favorable for the long haul. Think carefully and use your intuition about how this action will impact your life.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

Aspects particularly favor your self-expression. You are in an effective position. Others agree with your guidance and leadership. A project begun near the New Year is blossoming now. At the very least you can see that it is on track to turn out well. Legal and educational agendas are positive.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

You have felt estranged in recent weeks from someone who is important to you. Hopefully you have had time to consider your contribution to the matter. If so, then now is the time to approach the matter together. Sometimes a "break" is needed while we sort our thoughts.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

There are vampires loose in the world and the Fish tends to attract them. If you have aged a bit, you probably have begun to smell them when they enter your vicinity. Those who have not will be learning a lesson soon. It's a required course for this sign. Save some energy for yourself. Don't take over someone else's problem.



Levon Aronian wins the Sinquefield Cup

Armenian GM Levon Aronian defeated Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria to seal a victory in the Sinquefield Cup held in St Louis, USA.

Aronian secured a solid lead by gaining 6.5 point out of 9 possible.

The super tournament brought together eight of the world's current Top 10 - the reigning World champion Magnus Carlsen (Norway), World #2 Viswanathan Anand (India), #3 Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), #4 Hikaru Nakamura (USA), last-year's winner and World #5 Fabiano Caruana (USA), #6 Anish Giri (the Netherlands), #8 Wesley So (USA), #9 Alexander Grischuk (Russia), #10 Levon Aronian (Armenia) and #26 Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France).

Atom Egoyan's "Remember" to premiere at Venice Film Festival

Atom Egoyan's new film *Remember* will premiere Sept 10 at the Venice Film Festival. The film stars Christopher Plummer as a Holocaust survivor who sets out on a path of revenge after discovering that the Nazi guard who murdered his family 70 years before is still alive and living in America.

"This film raises many issues; this is very much the last story that can be told in the present day with the characters still living," Egoyan said in an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*.

"The character that Plummer is playing [focuses on] that idea of people near the end of their lives still trying to find justice, and realizing that the regular channels won't serve that, which is why he takes it on himself," he said.

"It is a revenge film. It posits the idea that after all this time, those wounds have not healed. It is going to provoke a lot of discussion. You see how visceral the feel-



ings are even after all this time has passed," the director added.

Egoyan last worked with Christopher Plummer on *Ararat*, which deals with the impact the Armenian Genocide of 1915 had on later generations.

"It is interesting that on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I am making a film called *Remember* which deals with this issue of acknowledging the past and notions of repressed or elective memory and how we understand trauma," Egoyan said.

Stolen Armenian gospel returns to Cyprus

The Church of Cyprus has announced that 34 treasures that were stolen from the island's Turkish-occupied areas, are expected to return on Friday afternoon to Cyprus. The treasures will return to Cyprus following a decision by the Munich Court of Appeals, on March 16, in the case of Turkish art smuggler Aydin Dikmen, according to the Greek Reporter.

Among the artifacts, 24 are Byzantine relics and some prehistoric antiquities coming mostly from the collection of Chr. Chatziprodromou, from Ayios

Epiktitos Church. Among the Byzantine relics there are three pairs of bema doors (Monastery of Antiphonitis Christ, Virgin Mary Monastery in Kantara), wall paintings from the Monastery of Antiphonitis Christ, the church of Agia Solomoni in Coma tou Yialou and the Monastery of Panagia Apsinthiotissa in Sychari. Also the treasures include a hand written manuscript of 17th century (omilario) from the Monastery of the Panagia Trooditissa, and the hand written gospel of the Armenian community of Cyprus stolen during the Turkish mutiny in 1963.



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