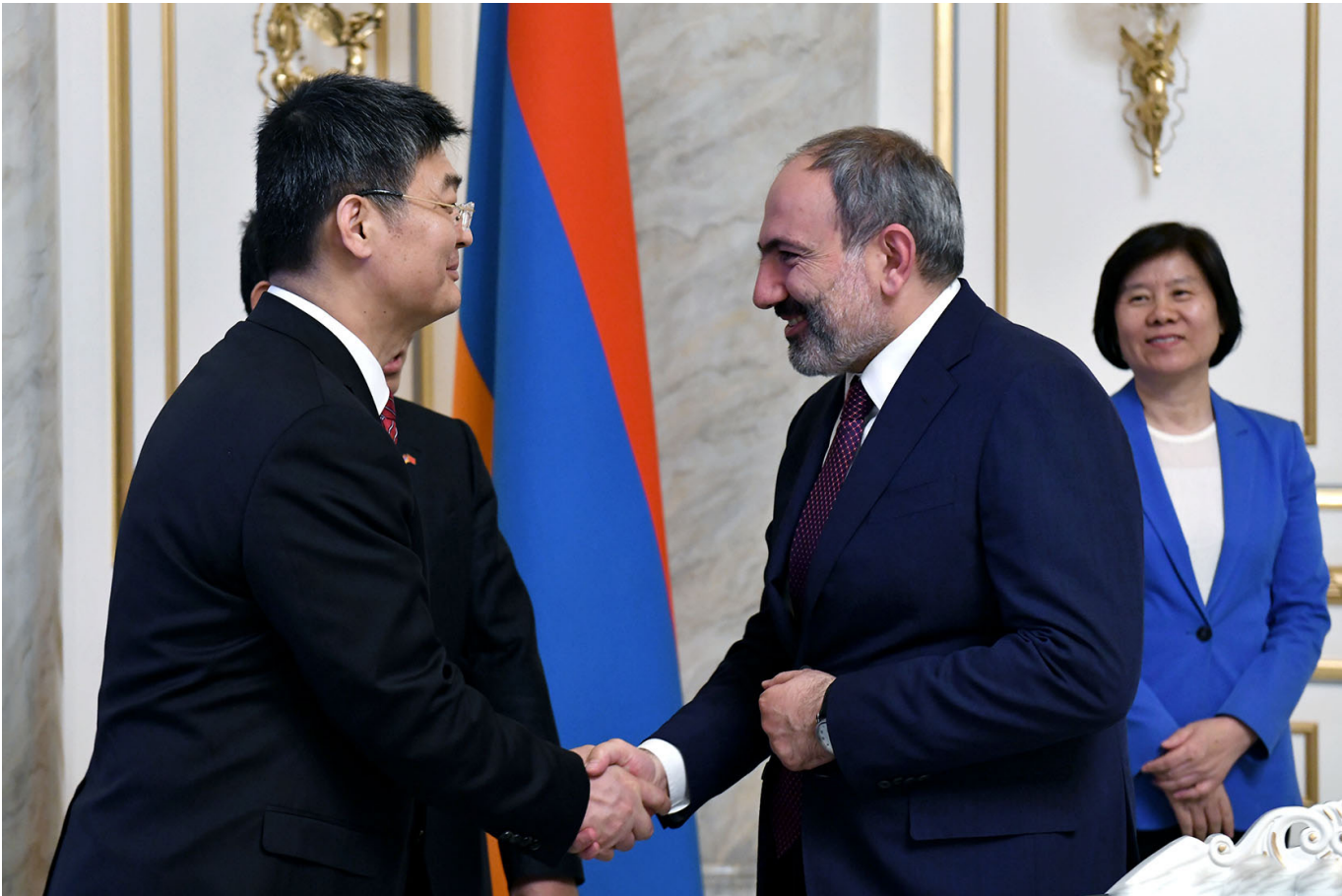


Nikol Pashinyan will continue efforts for deepening relations with China



Nikol Pashinyan receives a delegation led by Mrs. Shen Yueyue, Vice-Chairperson of the National People's Congress Standing Committee of China, Yerevan, April 4, 2019.

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received on April 4 the delegation led by Mrs. Shen Yueyue, Vice-Chairwoman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee of China.

Greeting the guests, Pashinyan noted that the development of relations with friendly China is among the foreign policy priorities of Armenia and the visit of Vice-Chair-

woman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee of China will give new impetus to the cooperation between the two countries. Highly assessing the current level of Armenian-Chinese relations, Nikol Pashinyan said that Armenia is interested in developing mutually beneficial cooperation in political, economic, humanitarian, technological and other di-

rections.

Thanking the PM for the reception, Shen Yueyue noted that Armenia is a friendly country for China and an important partner. According to her the relations between the two countries are on a high level and China is interested in their future development,

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Prime Minister, German Constitutional Court President discuss prospects of cooperation in legal matters



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received President of the Constitutional Court of the Federal Republic of Germany Andreas Voßkuhle.

The Prime Minister noted that the Armenian-German relations have recently intensified, as evidenced by the frequently reciprocated high-level visits and meetings.

Nikol Pashinyan stressed the importance of yesterday's ratification by the German Bundestag of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Armenia, noting that this would propel the ratification process in other EU-member States.

Referring to the Armenian-German co-

operation in the legal field, Nikol Pashinyan noted that radical political changes have taken place in Armenia, aimed at establishing the rule of law and the institutional strengthening of democracy. In this context, the Premier highlighted the ongoing judicial reform, as well as the exchange of international experiences, including the German know-how.

President of FRG Constitutional Court Andreas Voßkuhle said they have followed the transformations underway in Armenia and are ready to support our country on the path of democratic development. In this context, he highlighted the role of constitutional courts in terms of successful implementation of the judicial reform.

As they discussed issues related to the strengthening of bilateral legal cooperation, the parties reaffirmed their readiness to continue cooperating effectively in this area. The interlocutors exchanged views on parliamentary system activities.

Armenian FM, Ethiopian President exchange views on prospects of deepening bilateral agenda

Foreign minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan met with President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde on the sidelines of his official visit to Addis Ababa, the Armenian MFA told Noyan Tapan.

The Armenian FM congratulated the Ethiopian President on assuming office and wished success in her key mission. Mnatsakanyan also congratulated Ethiopia on successful membership to the UN Security Council.

The sides exchanged views on the prospects of deepening and enriching the bilateral agenda. As a key direction they both highlighted initiating programs aimed at promoting the cooperation in IT and digital agenda.

The Armenian FM noted that the expansion of the relations with Ethiopia is among Armenia's foreign policy key priorities, and the Armenian side is ready to take actions to more effectively utilize the existing potential. In this context they highlighted the need to take steps to expand the legal framework.

The Ethiopian President and FM Mnatsakanyan highlighted the role of the Armenian community in the country's pub-



lic and political life as a bridge between the two friendly countries.

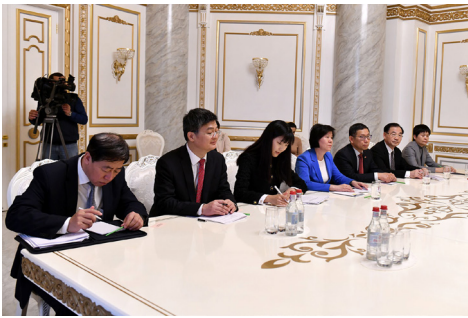
At the request of President Sahle-Work Zewde, the FM introduced the recent developments over the peaceful settlement process of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The sides agreed that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

A number of other urgent issues of international agenda were also discussed during the meeting.

Pashinyan wins confidence vote, slams opposition party

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including by activation of inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Nikol Pashinyan also highlighted the role of inter-parliamentary relations, noting that when he was a member of the parliament, he was a member of the parliamentary friendship group with China and participated in the works of strengthening the Armenian-Chinese relations, and now, as an MP, he is ready to continue the efforts in that direction. Shen Yueyue noted that China highly appreciates Nikol Pashinyan's contribution to the development of bilateral relations and is ready to deepen the partnership.

Nikol Pashinyan thanked for the balanced position of China over Nagorno Karabakh

conflict, highlighting the support of the international community for a peaceful conflict settlement. Nikol Pashinyan said that Armenia remains committed to "One-China policy". The Vice-Chairwoman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee noted that China continues supporting the peaceful settlement process of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, highlighting the settlement of the conflict through political dialogue.

The interlocutors discussed issues referring to cooperation agenda between Armenia and China and prospects for its development. Nikol Pashinyan noted that Armenia is interested in the development of partnership in the spheres of road construction, energy, high technologies, and organic agriculture. Expressing satisfaction over the pace of the development of tourism between the two countries, the sides emphasized the importance of taking practical steps for establishing direct flights.

Shen Yueyue said that the direction mentioned by the Armenian PM are also of interest for China and there is great potential for developing cooperation and she will convey the proposals of the Armenian side

to the respective state bodies of China.

The sides also referred to the cooperation in the sidelines of the Eurasian Economic Union. PM Pashinyan noted that Armenia, as a country presiding over the EAEU, will continue to support the future development of China-EAEU relations.

The Vice-Chairwoman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee of China highly assessed the role of Armenia in the cooperation between China and the EAEU.

The interlocutors also exchanged views on international and regional projects initiated by China, particularly "One Belt One Road". Saluting the China-initiated projects and highlighting their economic importance, the Armenian Prime Minister noted that Armenia is ready to be involved in their implementation.

Nikol Pashinyan expressed gratitude for the support of China to Armenia and assessed the opening of the Armenian-Chinese friendship school in Yerevan as a proof of the high level of relations between the two countries. The school has already become quite popular and has 400 students.

CIS Ministerial Council approves Plan for 2019



The meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Ministerial Council) was held in Moscow on April 5, with Armenian delegation headed by Mr. Shavarsh Kocharyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the MFA told Noyan Tapan

Current issues of interaction between the CIS foreign ministries have been discussed at the meeting, in particularly those related to the strengthening of cooperation in countering growing threats and

challenges to security and stability.

The participants of the meeting summed up the results of the implementation of multi-level Consultations Plan for 2018 between the foreign ministries within the CIS framework, as well as approved the Plan for 2019.

Draft Statement of the Heads of CIS Member-States on the 80th anniversary of the start of World War II was approved, confirming the adherence of the CIS countries to the principles and norms of international law, stressing the universal and intergovernmental nature of the United Nations Organization, established in 1945 at the end of WW2, and its special responsibility for maintaining peace and preventing new global conflicts. Draft Agreement on the Coordination of interstate relations in the field of fundamental research of CIS, as well as a number of other documents have also been approved.

The Council of Ministers has also discussed a document on establishment of a basic organization for training of specialists in the field of combating crimes committed with the use of information technologies.

The next meeting of the Ministerial Council will be held on October 10 in Ashgabat.

First arrest reported in Armenian ‘fake news probe’

(Yerevan - RFE/RL) Armenia's National Security Service (NSS) said on April 5 that it has arrested a person spreading “disinformation” on Facebook as part of a crackdown ordered by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

The NSS director, Artur Vanetsyan, said that individual had opened and “hid behind” a Facebook page called “Dukhov Hayastan Open Society.” He declined to identify him or her.

The page, which has more than 2,200 followers, mainly contains derogatory posts on Pashinyan and his associates. It was most recently updated on Thursday evening.

“There is a well-known Facebook page which spreads clear disinformation,” Vanetsyan told reporters. “It is the ‘Dukhov Hayastan Open Society’ which all users know very well. The individual hiding behind that page has been identified and arrested.”

“A criminal case regarding the spread of racial, religious and ethnic hatred has been opened. Other details will be provided by the NSS press center,” he said.

Pashinyan on Thursday ordered Vanetsyan to clamp down on “criminal circles” that he said “spend millions on manipulating public opinion through the press and social media.” “That’s a matter of national security,” he said, singling out “fake” social media users.

“The instruction regarding fake users issued by the prime minister has been executed,” Vanetsyan declared when he announced the first arrest in the crackdown demanded by Pashinyan.

Some opposition politicians and civil rights activists have expressed concern about Pashinyan’s order, saying that it poses a threat to freedom of expression in Armenia.

Shushan Doydoyan, the head of the Yerevan-based Center for



Freedom of Information, on Friday criticized it as hasty and unfounded. The NSS, which is the successor to the Armenian branch of the Soviet KGB secret police, must not deal with mass or social media content in any way, she said.

“There is no clear legal definition of what information can be deemed manipulative,” Doydoyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian service. “This [order] enables any state body and the NSS in particular to arbitrarily decide whether a particular report is manipulative or not.”

Doydoyan also said there is nothing wrong with citizens opening anonymous or fake social media accounts to protect their privacy. She argued that Armenian law provides for libel suits against anyone who makes offensive or slanderous public statements.

“Why do we want to complicate the situation?” said Doydoyan. “We must avoid resorting to any tough, crude legal interventions and creating an atmosphere of fear.”

Prime Minister, German Constitutional Court President discuss prospects of cooperation in legal matters

The German Bundestag on April 4 ratified by a large majority the U-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. The decision was based on a recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Bundestag notes that the agreement is largely similar to a previously negotiated association agreement, with the exception of the establishment of a free trade area, which is no longer possible because of the accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union.

Nevertheless, closer alignment with the EU standardization and regulation system should be encouraged in order to favor trade and investment, the Parliament said.

“The agreement also addresses new, common issues such as the fight against terrorism, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and nuclear safety, international crime and trafficking, climate change and transport infrastructure,” the Bundestag said on its official website.

The German Embassy said it’s a great day for both the Armenia-EU and Armenia-Germany relations.

Ambassador Matthias Kiesler said: “We are pleased that the government under Nikol Pashinyan has presented a substantial



roadmap for the implementation of CEPA. We are pleased to participate in the implementation of the agreement.”

Armenia and the European Union signed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels on November 24.

Charges brought against freight forwarding company Spayka



Armenia's leading freight forwarding company "Spayka" is charged with large-scale tax evasion. The State Revenue Committee (SRC) says investigation has revealed that AMD 7,036,666,312 in customs duty and tax generated as a result of entrepreneurial activity was not paid to the state budget.

The Committee said that in 2014 and 2015, Spayka LLC's management purchased from European non-EAEU member states - including Poland and Belgium - cheese, pears, apples, Chinese cabbage, tomatoes and other goods via Spayka LLC, and imported them to Armenia via Georgia between January 1st, 2015 and January

11th, 2016.

During the import, when exporting the mentioned goods to Armenia at Georgia's customs border, documents containing actual descriptions, weight, value, country of origin, suppliers and buyers of the goods and other actual data including invoices were presented to Georgia's customs authorities: however, when importing the goods to Armenia, fake documents were presented to Armenian customs which showed that the imported goods were simply goods relieved from customs duty and value added tax, whereas Greenproduct LLC - managed by the management of Spayka LLC - was mentioned as the importing company.

As a result, the goods actually imported from different overseas companies were customs cleared in Armenia as different goods exempt from customs duty and value added tax.

"Thus, in the reported period using the above-mentioned shadow scheme and fail-

ing to declare in the manner and terms prescribed by law the actual data of the goods imported to Armenia by Spayka LLC, i.e. failing to present relevant customs declarations and instead presenting - by using the name of Greenproduct LLC - fake data serving as a basis to calculate tax, duty and other mandatory payment, thus purposely intending to avoid paying tax, duty and other mandatory payment, 7 036 666 312 drams of customs duty and tax generated as a result of entrepreneurial activity carried out by Spayka LLC was not paid to state budget. Investigation and judicial activities are still in progress to identify the damage caused to the state during the rest of 2016 as well as in 2017 and 2018," the State Revenue Committee said.

The company's Director Davit Ghazaryan is charged with committing the mentioned crime for an offence under part 2 of Article 205 of the Criminal Code of Armenia.

Davit Ghazaryan hasn't been arrested, but a petition has been filed with the First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan to select arrest as a preventive measure.

Moscow to help Yerevan and Baku implement agreements reached in Vienna

Moscow will help Yerevan and Baku implement the results of the meeting in Vienna between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Russian Foreign Ministry's official representative Maria Zakharova said in an interview with ONA news agency, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs.

"Support the parties of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is among Russia's foreign policy priorities. This circumstance attaches special importance to the mediation activity being carried out and determines the increased attention to its results," the diplomat noted.

She said Russia is working in close cooperation with the other co-chairing countries - US and France.

Asked about political changes in Armenia, Zakharova said "it is the domestic affair of Armenia."

"The negotiation process in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement process con-

tinues. The parties show determination to continue the work aimed at reaching a peaceful solution," she added.

She welcomed the "constructive" spirit of the talks between Aliyev and Pashinyan last week. "We'll provide assistance to the parties to help realize the ideas, which the parties agreed on in the Austrian capital," Zakharova said.

She, stressed, however, that the responsibility for putting an end to the conflict lies with the parties involved.

"There is a ground for this. The most important is to demonstrate political will," she stated.

The President of the Republic of Azerbai-



jan Ilham Aliyev and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met in Vienna last week for the first time under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

The two leaders underlined the importance of building up an environment conducive to peace and taking further concrete and tangible steps in the negotiation process to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

They also agreed to develop a number of measures in the humanitarian field

IBM sees serious prospects to carry out activities in Armenia

YEREVAN, APRIL 3, ARMENPRESS. Armenian minister of transport, communication and information technologies Hakob Arshakyan received the delegation led by Iris Dzeba, General Manager for Russia and CIS at IBM.

Welcoming the guests the Armenian minister touched upon the ongoing programs in the field of high technologies, Armenia's technological business climate and the government's vision on the development of the sector.

Minister Arshakyan introduced Armenia's technological potential, outlined the unique



capabilities of the Armenian specialists, the necessity to make them more applicable and the ongoing actions on this direction. He also highlighted the importance of startups and their

activity prospects in international markets. The minister introduced the guests on the programs of constructing an Engineering City, a regional Data Center, the National Ven-

ture Fund and etc.

Iris Dzeba thanked for the reception and stated that she sees prospects on starting broad activity in Armenia, adding that they are ready to discuss all possible options for cooperation. The IBM representative stated that they are mainly interested in the activities of young startups that have interesting ideas.

During the meeting Armenia's digital agenda, involvement in several innovation programs and other cooperation frameworks were discussed.

Armenian minister, Romanian MFA State Secretary discuss cooperation prospects



Armenian minister of economic development and investments Tigran Khachatryan received State Secretary at the Romanian ministry of foreign affairs Dănuț Neculăescu who is in Armenia to take part in the events organized by the Romanian pres-

idency dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Eastern Partnership.

During the meeting the officials discussed the commercial ties between Armenia and Romania and stated that the current trade turnover figures are not enough.

The Romanian MFA State Secretary said the Romania-EU business forum will take place soon which is expected to be attended by the businessmen and officials of the Eastern Partnership countries, including Armenia. He said this platform can contribute to boosting the bilateral economic ties.

The possibility of discussing issues of bilateral economic interest at the format of the Armenian-Romanian inter-governmental economic commission was also discussed.

The officials also expressed satisfaction over the opening of the Bucharest-Yerevan direct flight and agreed that it can contribute to tourism growth and development of cooperation between the two countries in this sector.

The sides agreed to take actions to hold bilateral tourism marketing events.

Diaspora-Armenian businessmen present investment programs to Prime Minister



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received a group of Diaspora-based Armenian investors, led by Armenian Employers Union President Gagik Makaryan, Noyan Tapan was informed from the press service of the Government of Armenia.

Nikol Pashinyan highlighted the meetings held with investors as they allow the Government to discuss ways of improving the business environment and implementing

investment projects. The Premier said contacts like this provide a good opportunity to take note of issues raised by business people. Gagik Makaryan noted that enthusiastic about the changes taking place in Armenia, new groups of investors will come to Armenia in the near future. They are all eager to implement investment projects in our country, which is consistently improving its business environment. Armenia's positions

are strengthening among foreign investors, which is a good opportunity to attract new investments. Then guests presented a number of investment projects in the fields of energy, construction and new technologies. On behalf of his Cabinet, Nikol Pashinyan welcomed the proposed initiatives, assuring of the Armenian government's readiness to possibly assist them in implementing investment programs. In particular, the Premier suggested familiarizing with the government's investment packages in the energy sector and taking part in tenders.

The investors welcomed the government's policy and the steps aimed at improving the business environment. They expressed confidence that the government's policy will help attract foreign investors and mobilize the potential of Diaspora-based Armenian businessmen.



Armenian minister, EU Ambassador discuss cooperation



Minister of Transportation, Communication and Information Technologies Hakob Arshakyan has held a meeting with EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr Switalski to

discuss EU-supported ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives of the EU aimed at development of Armenia, the ministry said in a news release.

Arshakyan noted the importance of the progress of the high-tech sector and emphasized great expectations for future programs and prospects of effective cooperation.

The Armenian minister addressed the ac-

tions aimed at developing the Armenian National Polytechnic University, programs aimed at economic progress as a result of the education-scientific research – industry interrelation and the process of creating eco-system for developing the engineering sector.

The development of the Armenian digital agenda was also discussed, as well as the opportunities of EU's involvement in the process.

Arshakyan noted that Armenia is ready for multilateral and expanded partnership.

Prime Minister boards new-generation electric train to Gyurmi



Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Avinyan held a meeting on February 14 with Gaelle Assayag, head of the Southern Caucasus office of the French Development Agency.

Ambassador of France to Armenia Jonathan Lacote was also in attendance, Avinyan's office said.

Avinyan noted that the economic cooperation between Armenia and France continues to deepen and expand and the French Development Agency's work in Armenia is additionally boosting mutually beneficial partnership. Assayag said the agency is ready to support the Armenian government in realizing its development goals.

The Deputy PM noted that the inclusive growth model is the



basis of the government's action plan, which implies also the distribution of additional resources for the development of infrastructures, education and healthcare, which will enable to achieve huge progress in the long-term perspective.

The sides pointed out the development of governance system capacity, infrastructures, agriculture, energy efficiency, tourism and urban development as important fields of bilateral cooperation.

The construction of the Vedi reservoir was discussed. It is being built by a 75 million Euro loan provided by the French Development Agency and co-financing of the government.

A 10 million Euro worth grant program on developing irrigation agriculture in Ararat and Armavir was also discussed. The project is under discussion between the agency and the government.

The French Ambassador said that recently French companies have increased interest for Armenia, particularly executives of Dassault Systèmes and THALES are expected to pay a visit to the country.

Scientific and academic cooperation was also discussed, namely



issues related to constructing a new building of the French University of Armenia, further development of the French School, and



creating a supercomputer center in cooperation of the Armenian Academy of Sciences and several universities of Toulouse.



Armenia's Leaders Take Strong Positions Against US & Azerbaijan



By Harut Sassounian

The most noteworthy Armenian foreign policy development of the week was supposed to be the first negotiating session between Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev over the Artsakh conflict. But since there was no breakthrough in these negotiations, we shall focus our attention on important related issues.

On March 28, 2019, while addressing the Armenian Parliament, Prime Minister Pashinyan criticized the United States government's lack of reaction to last year's democratic changes in Armenia, dubbed as the "Velvet Revolution."

This is the first time in a year that Pashinyan has used such strong language in referring to the United States. "The U.S. has long been acting as the most ardent defender of democracy in the entire world," Pashinyan stated. "I want to ask all of us a question: how did the U.S. react to the unprecedented democratic change in Armenia? It was a profoundly and quintessentially democratic change and nobody can doubt this. I, for example, have told America's representatives that I believe that they basically came up with zero reaction. Why?"

Pashinyan then went on to defend Armenia's independent political line regardless of

the pressures exerted on Yerevan by major powers. "When we say that our country's sovereignty is of paramount importance to us we don't mean that we need to replace dependence on point A [Russia] by dependence on point B [the United States]. We take our sovereignty very seriously and I want to assure you ... that our government is strongly committed to protecting our country's and people's sovereignty in all directions."

Pres. Trump's administration has so far paid only lip service to the dramatic and peaceful changes in Armenia. Pres. Trump sent a congratulatory message to Pashinyan last September praising the "Velvet Revolution" and expressing readiness to help the new government implement sweeping reforms. Likewise, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saluted the "remarkable changes" in Armenia. However, these beautiful words have remained on paper. No concrete steps were taken to assist Armenia. That is partly due to the fact that the Trump administration can care less about democratic developments in foreign countries and also due to Pres. Trump being self-absorbed with his own ego and personal interests!

Prime Minister Pashinyan's declaration is a very positive development for Armenia's foreign policy and a sharp departure from the previous Armenian leaders' position. So far, most of the pressure on Armenia has come from Russia. This is an inevitable fact given Armenia's economic, political and military reliance on Russia. The new development is that Armenia's leaders are no longer willing to blindly succumb to Russia's desires and orders trampling upon their country's sovereignty. When Armenia's interests are in question, Pashinyan has neither shied away from criticizing the European Union nor reasserting Armenia's sovereignty in his discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

If the United States wants to win over Ar-

menia, it has to offer a carrot rather than a stick. As the saying goes, you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar!

The second most astounding development last week was the declaration of Armenia's Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan during his visit to the United States. "As the minister of defense, I state we have reformulated the 'territories in exchange for peace' approach to 'new war in exchange for new territories' approach," Tonoyan announced on March 29 in New York at a meeting with members of the Armenian community. "We will get rid of the trenches and persistent defensive stance. We will increase the number of military units capable of transferring military operations to the territory of the adversary," Tonoyan stated. "We will not give up anything."

While some may interpret the Armenian Defense Minister's words as war-mongering, in reality, Tonoyan is responding in kind to the thousands of threats issued over the years by Pres. Aliyev to conquer Meghri and even Yerevan, Armenia's capital. It is time that Armenia's leaders speak from a position of strength, not weakness.

Clearly, Aliyev is not ready for war. Otherwise, he would have already attacked. His threats should not be taken seriously. It is proper to silence him through counter-threats, and if needs be, preemptive attacks!

Armenia's Defense Minister is sending a clear message to Azerbaijan's President not to embark on a foolish adventure. Otherwise, his pipelines and oil wells will come under attack, devastating the country's economy and toppling his regime. It is significant that such a hard-hitting message is being sent to Azerbaijan while Armenia's Defense Minister is on U.S. soil.

Anna Hakobyan Kicks Off U.S. Visit in Washington

Streets in more borderland communities get outdoor illumination systems



For four years now the FPWC and VivaCell-MTS are successfully implementing “Alternative Energy” program in the village of Berdavan, Tavush region. The parties have implemented two projects of outdoor illumination in the village, installing lighting system along the roads to the village kindergarten, school, and other centers of community importance. The kindergarten and the musical school have also been provided with solar heating systems.

The two programs implemented since 2016 have helped the village get 202 LED lights illuminating a 6100 meter long area. 67 more LED lights have been installed recently, illuminating additional 2400 meter long section of roads.

The opening ceremony was attended by VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph C. Yirikian, FPWC senior engineer, program coordinator Martin Maralchyan, head of Noyemberyan community Karen Abazyan, administrative head of Berdavan Smbat Mughdusyan and residents of the village.

“Hand in hand with our partners, we strive to implement programs, which solve several problems: those programs help provide the farther villages with modern

infrastructures, help save funds, as well as energy, and show people the civilized approach in using natural resources. Problems will be solved faster if people learn to save



what they have and look for efficient solutions. Our nature gives us an opportunity for that. In 2016 we joined our efforts to solve the problem of illumination on the central streets in Berdvan. We launched a solar heating system in the village school last year. Today we have installed lighting system for the secondary streets. But our greatest achievement will be when we see people reject consumeristic approaches,” VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

The implementation of energy saving systems in the communities helps to ease their financial burden, liven up community life, and solve the problem of street safety in the nighttime, which is crucial in borderland areas. Berdavan is one of those rare borderland villages, where the street lights stay on throughout the night. The LED lights are also important in keeping environment sustainably clean.

As compared to other types of bulbs the LED bulbs are more efficient and have longer life span, consuming up to 80% less energy.



Armenia and Rwanda make joint efforts to prevent future genocides, Armenian FM gives interview to Rwandan media

Armenia and Rwanda have great potential for working together, Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said in a briefing with Rwandan media representatives. “We have a shared history of tragedy and the experience of overcoming and defeating that burden of loss and the burden of enormous crime. We are working with Rwanda together on the Genocide prevention at the international level. From our experience, the experience of our peoples, we know that if you do not address that problem, do not fight this crime, it will haunt generations. It haunts the generations of our people, because the depth of the tragedy is despicable”, he said.

The Minister noted that Armenia and Rwanda are important contributors to the international effort to prevent genocides, mass atrocities, and crimes against humanity. “We are very keen to work together, continue working together. Also, we are countries which have an enormous potential and an enormous record of development and I think we have many commonalities in this. We have our experience in which smart development takes a hint in a way in which we try to expand and strengthen the wealth of the people, the development of our country. We have been seeing how interesting the development in Rwanda is taking place and the way in which you are putting an emphasis on smart development. Your country and the President of Rwanda is in lead of initiating Smart Africa center and smart development in Africa. This generates an enormous in-



terest. We do a lot in Armenia in this direction”, Mnatsakanyan said.

According to Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Armenia records great progress in high tech, innovation, smart solutions, IT solutions and creative education, giving the young generation the opportunity to untap their potential and their talent. “We have generated many interesting examples and experience. And you have your experience. We are very keen to build good cooperation between the two nations especially in this field. There are many other areas in which we can cooperate and we are very keen to do that as well. My visit is very full of important and interesting meetings, I have just had a meeting in the parliament with the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers. We had an interesting discussion and we are very keen with the rest of my program. It will include both: part of the program will be about discussing the way in which we work in human rights field, and in the field of preventing genocides and mass atrocities”, he added.

Minister Mnatsakanyan assured that his visit will focus on the development of co-

operation between the peoples of Armenia and Rwanda. “I came here on behalf of the people and the Government of Armenia which stand in solidarity with the Government and the people of Rwanda to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Genocide on the April 7th. This is of course the absolute mark of the visit. The dates of the visit were particularly focused on April 7th. So this is why I am here for and I hope that we have already put record of working together. We are members of La Francophonie.

We were very happy to welcome Francophonie family in Armenia in October, at the Summit of Yerevan. This is an important platform, a very useful platform of cooperation, with a very strong potential. It was a platform which also brought our people and our countries together. And we were very glad that we could work together with the Secretary General, the new Secretary General whose election took place in Yerevan during the Summit, my good friend and a wonderful person Madame Louise Mushikiwabo. We value friendship between our peoples and we are very keen to discuss the various platforms of cooperation that we can utilize for Rwanda and for Armenia bilaterally, through multilateral platforms”, Mnatsakanyan said, adding that La Francophonie, the United Nations, the African Union, the Eurasian Economic Union, and other platforms in which Armenia and Rwanda are members will strengthen the bilateral cooperation between Armenia and Rwanda.

Armenia awards Bulgarian politician Vezhdi Rashidov for Spitak earthquake aid

Armenian Ambassador to Bulgaria Armen Sargsyan hosted on April 2 Vezhdi Rashidov, chair of the Bulgarian Parliament’s Culture and Healthcare Committee to award the latter a certificate of gratitude on behalf of the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situation for his humanitarian aid and financial assistance to Armenia for eliminating the consequences of the deadly Spitak earthquake, the foreign ministry said in a news release.

The awarding ceremony took place on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the earthquake.

At the time Armenia was hit by the earth-



quake, Rashidov was traveling on a tour for his exhibitions as a sculptor. Upon hearing the news, he and his friends decided to donate all proceeds from the exhibition, around 60,000 dollars, to Armenia to help

the victims. He then traveled to the disaster zone personally.

Rashidov is a former Minister of Culture of Bulgaria who has traveled to Armenia in this capacity to promote bilateral ties. The Armenian Ambassador emphasized Rashidov’s contribution to the development of relations and noted that he has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Armenian Ministry of Culture.

Rashidov thanked the Government and people of Armenia for appreciating his contribution and keeping the historic memory bright.

Vag Papian to chair the jury for the 15th Khachaturian International Competition



Renowned pianist Vag Papian will chair the jury of the 15th Khachaturian International Competition to be held in Yerevan on June 6-14.

The Khachaturian International Competition will specialize in piano. The competition is well known in the music world and

is a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC), the only Armenian competition to be granted such an honor and held according to international standards.

The aim of the competition is to discover talented young musicians and provide them with opportunities for professional advancement. The main mission of the competition is to spread Aram Khachaturian's art around the world. For this purpose, Khachaturian's works are included in the

mandatory program for performance.

One of the most important achievements of Khachaturian International Competition over the past 15 years is that the laureates of the competition perform on different platforms, make Aram Khachaturian's name heard all over the world and become winners of other prestigious competitions. Khachaturian International Competition has given many famous names to the music world. Among them are Fedor Rudin, Miran Vaupotic, Andrey Ionitsa, Yaroslav Nadrzitski, Narek Hakhnazaryan and others.

The project is being implemented thanks to joint efforts of the RA Ministry of Culture, "Aram Khachaturian-Competition" Cultural Foundation and the Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of the CIS (IFESCO).

Works of famous Italian painters of 16-18th centuries being displayed in Yerevan



The paintings of famous Italian masters of 16-18th centuries, brought from the Old National Gallery of Art of Trieste city, are being displayed in Yerevan.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held on April 5 in the National Gallery of Armenia.

The ceremony was attended by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to Ambassador of Italy to Armenia Vincenzo del Monaco for contributing to the cultural dialogue between the two states and peoples. This exhibition is not a unique cultural event: by this the embassy continues its old tradition to introduce the diverse Italian culture to the Armenian public. Thus, in person of Vincenzo del Monaco, I also wel-

come the efforts of his former colleagues", the PM said.

"This is a great cultural initiative which is in accordance with the most important goals and targets of Armenia and the Embassy of Italy. The selection of the exhibits has been made purposefully. Paintings are displayed which have been made by the representatives of various schools of North Italy", the Italian Ambassador said.

Deputy culture minister of Armenia Tigran Galstyan said the temporary exhibitions are the best ways to boost museums, and the cooperation of cultures contributes to the development of different cultures.

The exhibition will remain open until June 16.



City Spa, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

Depilation: Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

And that’s not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.

You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor’s consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

Localized fat removal: In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposaction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellshape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



Anti aging Facial treatments and Care: City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



The address:
Baghramyan
1st DL, 2-nd building,
2-nd floor.

Phone: +374 60 536 536

E-mail:
spa.city@yahoo.com

Website:
www.cityspa.am

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

The New Moon on April 6, 2019, is in your sign. You will likely be considering your next move(s) in life. There may be one or more people that you will need to consider before taking the leap. Once you decide upon something, you immediately want to move on it. This time there may be push back, so take it slowly.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

It will be really important to you to bring beauty and harmony into your situation. Others may be upset but you can use ingenuity to help those you care about through their circumstances. Oddly enough, focusing on the issues at hand will help you to the other side as well.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Your planetary ruler is in undisturbed condition this week. Your partner may take on an uncharacteristic manner of self-assertion. He or she is not so likely to back down from a fight. Life will be generally more harmonious if you stay off the hot topics. If it is important to tackle them, seek a counselor, a trusted friend.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

This is likely to be a really unusual week. Watch for odd coincidences and messages that seem to be sent to you personally, even if not direct, i.e. a book or a lecture you happen to find. Your intuition is strong this week.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You may be concentrating on giving practical help to your significant other or to someone else of importance to you. This is a good time to contribute your organizing talent to almost anyone who needs it. Now is also a fine time to share thoughts with your partner and work toward amicable agreements.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Give special attention to the lead paragraph this week. If you are feeling angry with yourself or someone else, sit and think about it before acting. It is possible that you are over-reacting to a situation that is similar to something negative in your old history.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

wanting to lash out quickly. Be careful of where you aim that weapon. Authority figures, older people, and teachers may not be forgiving. Give attention to vehicle complaints. You may have big car trouble if you don't.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

If you are in need, now would be a good time to see an alternative healer or helper. You are more than normally open to these practices and likely to gain benefit. Give attention to circumstances that seem to give you a message. (Cold chills are a symptom of that.) Your intuition is heightened now.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

It may be a challenge for you to be around people this week. Everything seems irritating. If you recognize this in yourself, look for activities that you can manage without involving others. It is a generally difficult week, but it will be over soon.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

This week brings changes and potential crises all around you. Fortunately, you are the one with the clear head. Don't allow someone else's panic to throw you off center. You have what it takes to bring peace and harmony back to the situation.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Though you are normally prone to push yourself, this is a better period to listen to your body and give it what it needs. You may be at a critical point concerning matters of resources. The "rules" are interfering with your forward motion during this period. It is frustrating, but it will soon pass.

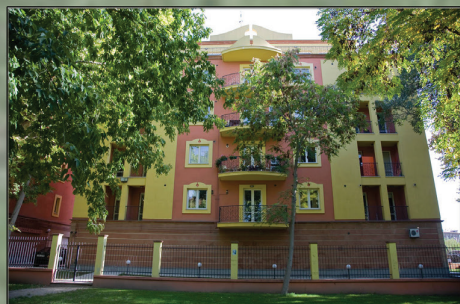


Pisces (February 18–March 19)

A reality which cracks a prized illusion may pierce the veil and make itself conscious for you. It is disappointing, but let it teach you something about your truth. Evaluate. Don't be critical or hard on yourself. If you object to this reality, you can change it and you will feel better.

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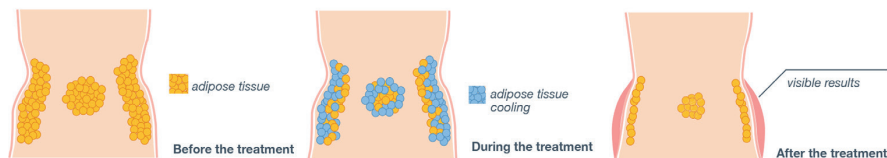
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AZAD

AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Switzerland

AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Durachweg 15
CH-8200 Schaffhausen
Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10
Fax: +41 52 632 09 11

AZAD Pharma AG

Bahnhofstrasse 9
CH-3125 Toffen
Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10
Fax: +41 31 810 40 11

Canada

AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

1895 - 55th Avenue
Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9
Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99
Fax: +1 514 636 75 55

Atlit Inc.

16 Westminster Ave.,
Suite 306A
Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1
Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91
Fax: +1 514 369 81 67

China

Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza,
#102 Moganshan Road
310051 -Hangzhou China

Phone +86-571-8761 5336
Mobile +86-153-5505-0903
Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a
DE-78315 Radolfzell
Phone No: +49 7732 939101510
Fax: +49 7732 9391016

Armenia

AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

Vanahovit 8, Proshian
Ashtarak Ave., Kotayk Marz
Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62
Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպաքանակը՝ 1500
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:
TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
GAYANEH ARAKELYAN
Director of the weekly:
MARINA HARUTYUNYAN
Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**
Proofreader: **SUSANNA MKRTCHIAN**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604

Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
03U898368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia:

28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA
Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

Address in France:

Masion De L'Armenie,
Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA:

1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,
Glendale, CA, USA, 91206
Tel.: +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝

Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009