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IAEA Director General visits Armenia



Yukiya Amano (c), the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), at a meeting with Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan in Yerevan, 18 Apr 2012

HIGHLIGHT

Cafesjian center to come forth with the range of free of charge exhibitions in event of Yerevan World Book Capital

Cafesjian Art Center joined to the range of events within the framework of Yerevan World Book Capital 2012 and to 500th anniversary of Armenian Printing. The event is organized by the assistance of the Ministry of Culture and Cafesjian Center.

Cafesjian Center will host book fair, where the public will be entertained with free of charge public galleries and a variety of thematic programs.



Armenia: The leader of election race emerges

by David Petrosyan

The election campaign in Armenia is approaching its apogee. In the author's opinion, now the campaign has its obvious leader of public sympathies - Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) headed by one of Armenia's biggest businessmen Gagik Tsarukian. As is generally known, Tsarukian is the main business partner of ex-president Robert Kocharian (1998-2008).

What is the reason for such impressive success of the PAP in the first half of the election campaign?

In our judgment, there are many components, but the major one is that the current administration and the government of Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan have brought the social conditions of Armenian citizens to a rather difficult situation. Even according to official data, the number of the poor in the country has reached 36%. It is a very large number. In

short, the point is that a large part of the population cannot solve their social problems on their own.

And here the Gagik Tsarukian Foundation came to such citizens' aid. In the past two years the foundation has actively assisted people with solution of a number of problems, out of which we should single out the two main ones: payment of tuition fees (in full or in part) of university or college students from low-income families, as well as full or partial payment of surgical operations and complex medical examinations of patients.

The regular and long work with socially vulnerable sections of the population has paid off: on the one hand the grateful people and their families and relatives have become supporters of their benefactor; on the other hand a new image of G. Tsarukian as a wealthy man ready to provide assistance to socially vulnerable strata of society has been built.

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UN Nuclear Chief meets Armenian leaders, inspects Metsamor plant



The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog inspected the nuclear plant at Metsamor and discussed with Armenian leaders their plans to delay its decommissioning during a visit to Armenia on Wednesday.

Official news sources in Yerevan said Yukiya Amano, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was also briefed on the Armenian

government's ambitious project to replace the aging Soviet-era facility by a new plant meeting modern safety standards.

"You are planning to extend the nuclear plant's life span and then halt and decommission it," a government statement quoted Amano as telling Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. "At all those stages, our agency is obliged to assist Armenia in carrying out that work smooth-

ly."

"Armenia is committed to further deepening our productive cooperation with the IAEA," Sarkisian said. "The government is paying a lot of attention to ensuring safe exploitation of the atomic block."

Amano discussed the matter at a separate meeting with Energy Minister Armen Movsisyan. A statement by Movsisyan's ministry said they looked into ongoing efforts to enhance the plant's "level of safety and physical protection" as well as "technical assistance" for the decommissioning process.

Amano and other IAEA officials accompanying him familiarized themselves with the safety measures when they visited Metsamor after the meeting with Movsisyan. According to the ministry statement, they inspected various units of the plant generating about 40 percent of Armenia's electricity.

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ANC opposition rally held within the framework of election

A rally of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) held within the framework of election campaign kicked off in Liberty Square of Yerevan on April 20

Earlier, on arriving at rally site, ANC leaders faced a hindrance: a stage was installed at Liberty Square for April 22 concert of Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli.

As the rally launched, ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrossian was met with loud greetings and given roses. The power at Liberty Square was cut off, which caused the opposition's outrage.

At the rally, parliamentary candidates Gayane Arustamyan, Haykakan Zhamanak daily editor-in-chief Nikol Pashinyan, Vladimir Karapetyan, the leader of Democratic Party of Armenia Stepan Demirchyan, ANC Congress member, ex-Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan, Armenian National movement leader Aram Manukyan gave speeches.

Journalist Gayane Arustamyan stressed: "The time's come to decide on the future of generations. The regime must be toppled and May 6 elections are our chance to do it."

"As a majority electoral system candidate, I'm deprived of the chance to voice my views on air. While visiting voters at their homes, I learnt that people have full realization of current situation. People fear the names of the deceased may be added in electoral lists," the politician said. "Cameras in voting cabins are mere rumors. When asked about your party of choice, you don't have to name ANC, but as soon as you're in the cabin, make the 30-second revolution happen," the oppositionist said.

Pashinyan urged those present to vote for the ANC to secure their children's life in a free and independent Armenia.

"The following sums were spent: ANC - AMD 4 million, ARF Dashnaktsutyun - AMD 20 million, Orinats Yerkir - AMD 17 million, Heritage - AMD 37 million, Republican Party of Armenia - AMD 50 million," Aram Manukyan announced.

"However, if the RPA has TV and school directors at its disposal - why would it spend that kind of money? I've been to 800 homes and realized no one in this country will vote for RPA," he stressed.

"Recent European Parliament-backed decision stipulates against Armenian conscripts' military service in Karabakh. One more step, and we'll be announced invaders," the politician said.

"Coalition is the one responsi-

ble for poverty and emigration. Should current authorities become re-elected, they'll continue to use power to attain personal goals, which will lead to further emigration and moral decay. To live in a democratic country, we must achieve the change of power." "the ANC has the will and potential necessary to take the country out of crisis. On May 6, we'll lay a foundation for the changes our country needs," Stepan Demirchyan stressed.

Karapetyan urged those gathered against voting for regime to disallow further omissions on the issue.

Hrant Bagratyan slammed current economic downturn in Armenia.

"Every year, we're told about increased number of jobs, with unemployment still persisting. The load of economic crisis is shifted onto people's shoulders while oligarchs are the ones to enjoy foreign donations meant for Armenian citizens," the MP stressed.

As the ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrossian stated at ANC rally, "the dialogue enabled the release of political prisoners, allowed to gain access to Liberty Square. Any opposition in the world would envy ANC's achievements."

Commenting on the joint headquarters for election monitoring, involving Dashnaktsutyun, Prosperous Armenia and the ANC, Ter-Petrossian said that some have joined the headquarters to paralyze its work.

The ANC leader accused current authorities of triggering emigration of 1 million - the figure comparable to the number of Armenian Genocide victims.

"Those demanding Genocide recognition are responsible for similar genocide in their own country. It's not me who said that. I'm citing Armenian Ambassador to Switzerland Charles Aznavour, appointed by President Serzh Sargsyan," Levon Ter-Petrossian said during ANC rally.

Ter-Petrossian further noted corruption as another result of current regime's activities. "Are those robbing their own people hoping to gain another victory over Azerbaijan?" the ANC leader questioned. ANC leader accused current authorities of triggering emigration of 1 million - the figure comparable to the number of Armenian Genocide victims.

"The government fails to provide its citizens' security, with the police and court, bribed by the criminals, taking sides against a person who hoped to find protection," Ter-Petrossian said, also condemning current suicides in the army.

A member of the ANC opposition bloc Aram Manukyan announced May 3 as the date for the next ANC rally.

On April 24, the ANC will march to Tsitsernakaberd monument in commemoration of Armenian Genocide victims.

Victor Yakubian: "The help of God", gilded pistol, and "watchdonkeys" - Armenian-style elections

As is generally known, the pre-election period in the life of any state enables to reveal and assess the level of political thought and to reflect social problems and the ways of achieving urgent national priorities. In case of Armenia, the pre-election collisions also reveal the "kitchen" arrangements of one participant of the process or another; as a rule, these arrangements are based on personal interests of certain pseudo-political groups. To all appearances, the upcoming parliamentary elections in Armenia will not be an exception in this respect.

The "chip" of the current pre-election campaign was the sharp change of the guidelines of one of the ruling coalition parties, the political project of ex-president Robert Kocharian - Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) led by just as prosperous oligarch Gagik Tsarukian.

About 12-18 months before the elections, the PAP - with variable activity - began making pretensions to being oppositionist, and publications about Tsarukian's ambiguous position on support of the incumbent president Serzh Sargsyan in the 2013 presidential election have appeared in the press. The subject of the "opposition character" of the PAP has been stirred up by various publications about the allegedly deliberate detentions of the PAP members on charges of hooliganism and illicit drug possession, their dismissals from their positions, and other "accessories" of their falling into disfavor. According to the rules of the genre, in the initial stage these public manifestations of the PAP's opposition character were measured out, but with the approach of the elections, the "protest character" of the PAP had begun to show itself more frequently.

In principle, the behavior of the PAP resembles the position of the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun prior to the 2007 elections when the ARFD members, without leaving the coalition (thus retaining the access to government resources) and without hindering the implementation of the authorities' programs, were making harsh critical statements about the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA). The party of the oligarch Tsarukian started to act according to the same principle. In addition, former foreign minister of Armenia Vartan Oskanian, who was already noted for his sharp opposition articulation, joined the PAP in the run-up to the elections. Traditionally perceived as the speaker of ex-president Robert Kocharian, Oskanian persistently criticizes the socio-economic activities of the government, laying the responsibility for the emigration, the lawlessness, and the consequences of the economic crisis on the authorities, although Oskanian himself represents de facto and de jure a force, which makes part of the authorities. At

first Gagik Tsarukian remained silent, but at the pre-election congress of the PAP he, too, voiced critical statements, accusing the authorities of taking inadequate steps to overcome the financial crisis.

During the official election campaign, Tsarukian, aided by some foreign image makers (V.Y.: the representatives of the PAP acknowledged taking the advice of these image makers), began positioning himself as "as plain fellow" who speaks with the people by using a clear and understandable language. This "plain fellow", who drives expensive cars, wears brand clothes and carries a gilded (in the literal sense of the word) Israeli 38-caliber semiautomatic pistol, knelt before the participants of a pre-election rally, stating: "I am ready to lose everything, but to sacredly keep the trust of the people and society. I will never lose this faith". Moreover, Tsarukian, who owns numerous large enterprises in Armenia but, at the same time, is not even among the top 50 biggest taxpayers, added: "Tsarukian does not want anything. By the will of God, he has everything. Tsarukian wants the people to forget about the emigration routes; he wants everyone to have jobs, he wants the men to be able to support their families and the women to always smile, he wants pensioners to live a life of dignity. He wants small and medium businesses to thrive".

This pre-election porridge is buttered by the position (to be more exact, the pose) of the protest force - the Armenian National Congress (I will tell the reader about that later) as well as of the mass media outlets, which boast of their opposition independence and demonstrate, to put it mildly, loyalty to the PAP and for this reason they try not to notice the affected opposition nature and the blunders of the PAP leader who prospers by the grace of God.

Since the beginning of this year, the press positioning itself as objective has written about Tsarukian only in the context of news facts, at best interspersing such facts with some comments of the PAP members. The newspapers carried screaming headlines "Prosperous Armenia in Expectation", "Prosperous Armenia on the Brink of Destruction", "Prosperous Armenia Accepts the Challenge". Quite recently the same press savored the news about the vulgar wealth of the oligarch, counting, for example, how much Tsarukian spends on his ten lions kept in the personal zoo and how many live donkeys were eaten by those lions. Thus, the mouthpiece for the radical opposition, Haykakan Zhamanak daily recently reported that some 63 million drams (\$160,000) was spent on the maintenance of those poor lions, while the daily editor Nikol Pashinian ini-

tiated a campaign entitled "No to Dodization!" (the nickname of Tsarukian is "Dod", which means "stupid" in colloquial Armenian). The media got even with Tsarukian for his bribery and participation in coercive solution of various problems, including political ones.

The current publications in the same mass media outlets have a different hue. For example, Tsarukian's meeting with voters in Echmiadzin, during which he carried a pistol on his belt and lied about this fact, rapidly became the number one subject in all social networks, but was presented as quite a usual and natural event in newspapers such as Haykakan Zhamanak, Hraparak, and 168 Hours. How about Dodization"? Why didn't the "truth-seekers" ask the question about how legal the oligarch's actions are and whether they are punishable under the article about illegal possession and carrying of weapons? This fact either was not mentioned at all in the publications about the meeting or was carefully retouched. Yet, if one tries to forecast the development of affairs in the present circumstances, the aphorism of the classical writer needs to be remembered: if in the first act you have hung a pistol on the will, then in the following act it should be fired.

If such an embarrassing situation (a reporter suddenly took a photo of the gold pistol that the oligarch was carrying in his bosom during the meeting with voters) had happened to Tsarukian two years ago, the subject would have made the front pages of the opposition media, while Gagik Tsarukian would have been castigated for carrying a pistol at a meeting with people and for lying that it was Vertu phone... Also for shaming the journalists who "fancied they saw the pistol". However, today the "watchdogs (or watchdonkeys?!!) of democracy" have turned a blind eye to the pistol incident. Perhaps some people will say that the editors like the plain fellow Gago or sympathize with him. Yet, the motives behind this are obviously different, besides, love for money is another job.

The radical opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) takes a similar position of an "interested sympathizer" on the issue of the Prosperous Armenia Party. The leader of the ANC (that comes apart at the seams) Levon Ter-Petrosian and his teammates seem to do everything to shut Tsarukian's party off from the other coalitional forces and also to abstract the PAP from the person of the second president Robert Kocharian who, to all appearance, intends to "appear at the last moment". The leadership of the ANC ignores the fact that with the "attachment" of Vartan Oskanian to

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Armenia: The leader of election race emerges

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The fully ramified structure of the party and the support of the youth and other strata of society have created quite favorable start positions for the PAP.

We should also point out the PAP's interesting propaganda campaign, which has been completely and skillfully built only on positive information. As far as the author remembers, throughout the history of the Third Republic such a thing happened only during the 1999 parliamentary elections when Miasnutyun (Unity) bloc led by Karen Demirchian and Vazgen Sargsyan (who were later killed during the terrorist act in the Armenian Parliament on 27 October 1999) gained a sweeping victory.

All agitation, theses, commercials, and speeches of the leader of the PAP focus on the needs of the electorate, which is currently concerned about the following issues (in order of priority): job creation (even according to pro-government sociologists, over one third of the country's population is interested in this issue), social issues, an increase in pensions and wages, supremacy of law, the personnel policy of the authorities, corruption, accessibility of education and healthcare, youth policy, and so on. It is noteworthy that the urgent foreign-policy issues such as the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the Armenian-Turkish normalization, the recognition of the Armenian Genocide committed in the Ottoman Empire during World War I (Hay Dat/Armenian Cause), the integration projects with the European Union and in the post-Soviet territory, etc. are not among the top 20 (!) priorities of the voters. Taking these circumstances into account, the PAP has so far conducted a successful campaign.

But what about the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) and its leader, President Serzh Sargsyan?

As expected, the party counts on the administrative resource. The crowded rallies of the RPA are deceptive as their participants are mostly employees of state-financed organizations who can be easily forced to attend the RPA rallies. The real meaning of participation of dependent people in such rallies was evident on February 26, 2008, when some 100,000 "supporters" of the president elect Serzh Sargsyan (they were gathered with the help of the administrative resource) left the rally 30 minutes after its start and made their way in an orderly manner to Liberty Square where the rally of Serzh Sargsyan's opponent - Levon Ter-Petrosian was held.

During his numerous meeting with voters, RPA leader, President Serzh Sargsyan speaks a lot about the North-South Highway project, stressing the importance of this construction for the development of the country's economy. Yet, what he says is not quite clear to the voters as they are weighed



down by the burden of their current problems and actually not inspired by S. Sargsyan's proposal to "believe" once again and "stand" another five years of the RPA rule.

Besides, during his term of office Prime Minister, RPA member Tigran Sargsyan has given a lot of promises such as the construction of a railway linking Armenia and Iran, the establishment of a financial center in Dilijan, several projects in Gyumri, etc. A question arises: Where is all this? The answer to this question causes very big problems.

Fewer people have so far attended the rallies and meetings of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) as compared with the number of participants of the rallies and meetings held by the PAP and the RPA. But as far as we know, the election campaign of the ANC is planned so as to reach the maximum indices of electoral rating ahead of the voting. So, it is still early to make concrete assessments in this respect.

As regards the election campaign of the ARF-Dashnaksutyun, we should note that the circumstance that the party has its offices throughout the country and is well-prepared for the campaign plays an important role. The distinctive feature of this traditional Armenian party is its dynamism. The author believes that the chances of the traditional Armenian party to pass the 5% election threshold have considerably grown.

The Heritage Party (along with it, representatives of the Free Democrats Party and some non-governmental organizations closely connected with Western countries have been included in the proportional election list) is engaged mostly in public criticism against and attacks on the ANC and the PAP. At the same time the Heritage Party has become less critical of the RPA and President Serzh Sargsyan. Time will show how successful this political line will be and how many voters it will attract.

Last week the first results of the public opinion polls that Gallup International Association has conducted in Armenia in the run-up to the elections were published. Another public opinion poll will be conducted prior to the voting.

It needs to be reminded that Gallup International Association signed an agreement on conducting pre-election public opinion polls and an exit poll during the elections with Armenia Television Company

(according to the press not under the control of the authorities, the president's son-in-law Mikael Minasian is one of the owners of this television company). As expected, the first results of the public opinion polls presented by Gallup International Association indicate the RPA as the leader of the pre-election campaign, which should completely satisfy the customer.

It is noteworthy that Gallup International Association is not the real company doing serious sociological studies because the name of the real company is Gallup.

In reality, Gallup International Association is not a company, but an Association or a Network, whose members are companies based in various countries and carrying out market research. The Association member in Yerevan is Armenian Marketing Association. To avoid confusion, the real Gallup sues for the use of words "Gallup" and "Gallup poll". As a result of such legal proceedings, Gallup International Association now introduces itself as the World Independent Network of Market Research (WIN) in many countries.

Why such details? Because the matter concerns using the name of an authoritative organization in Armenia with the aim of organizing PR in favor of the ruling RPA. Something of the kind was already done in 2008 when Populus organization (Great Britain) was invited to conduct public opinion polls and an exit poll during the presidential election. At first Populus presented the "needed" results of the public opinion polls and then it confirmed those results based on the data of the exit poll conducted. Everything seems to be not too bad, but there are two problems:

- the actions of Populus and the Gallup International Association in Armenia contravene the ethical rules of sociologists as the same organization usually does not conduct pre-election public opinion polls and an exit poll;

- we learned from the WikiLeaks website's publications on reports of the U.S. diplomats to the Department of State that the data of Populus on the 2008 presidential election in Armenia did not correspond to reality.

All the above-mentioned facts are presented for the sole purpose: one should trust none of the published public opinion polls on the pre-election political spectrum in Armenia.

Armenia's opposition leader sees no difference between second and third presidents

Armenian authorities are terrorizing citizens to keep them away from the rallies of off-parliament opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) bloc, the ANC member Gagik Jhangiryan said on Wednesday, April 18 during the meeting in Vagharshapat city.

The ANC another representative Aram Manukyan, hasa said that the ANC's target is the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) as many people were jailed for their political views under the ruling regime.

Armenia's First President, ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan called the Vagharshapat residents not to vote for the current 'criminal regime.'

"The regime was established by the second President Robert Kocharyan and inherited by the third President Serzh Sargsyan. There is no difference between those two," Ter-Petrosyan concluded.

The Armenian National Congress (ANC) is an opposition bloc founded in 2008 after presidential elections. During the August 1, 2008, rally in Yerevan the first President of Armenia and the ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan announced formation of the bloc. The ANC comprises 18 parties and political forces.

The ANC proportional list includes 119 names. It has also nominated MP candidates with the majority election system.

Gallup predicts victory for Armenia's ruling party

If the parliamentary elections in Armenia were to take place next Sunday, 34 percent of the Armenian voters would vote for the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, a research conducted by the Gallup reads.

1,018 people were asked which party they would vote for if the elections were to be held next Sunday; 34 percent mentioned the

Law and the Heritage (6 percent), the ARF (5 percent).

When asked which party they would never vote for, 36 percent of voters mentioned the ANC, 12 percent the Rule of Law, 11 percent the RPA, 9 percent the Heritage, 7 percent the ARF, 5 percent the PAP.

Eight political parties and one bloc have presented their nominations - the Republican Party of



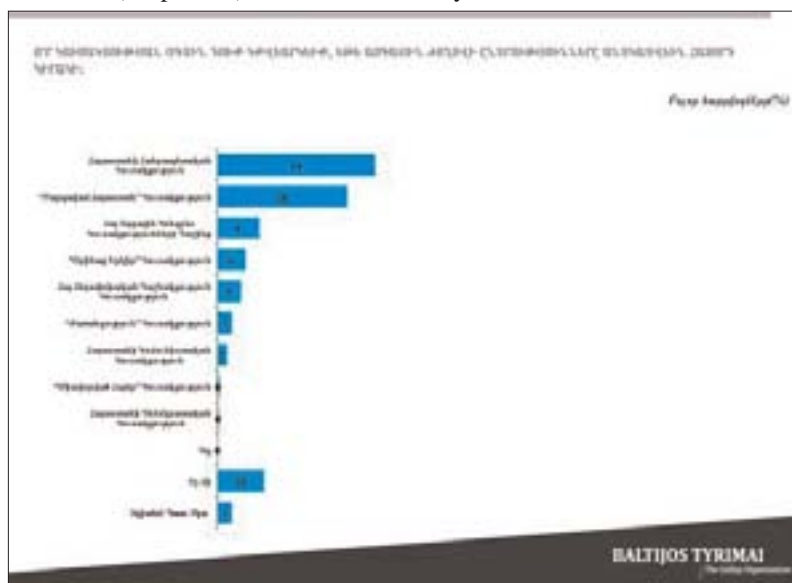
Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), 28 percent would vote for the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), 9 percent for the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC), 6 per cent for Orinats Yerkir (Rule of Law), 5 per cent for the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), 3 per cent for the Heritage Party and 2 per cent for the Armenian Communist Party, while 10 per cent will not vote for any party.

When asked whom they would give their second vote, the voters mentioned: the PAP (22 percent), the RPA (17 percent), the Rule of

Armenia, the Prosperous Armenia Party, the rule of Law, the opposition Armenian National Congress, the opposition Heritage Party, the ARF Dashnaksutyun, the Communist Party of Armenia, the Democratic Party of Armenia and United Armenians Party.

For entering the National Assembly, parties must poll over 5% of votes, while blocs - over 7%.

The election campaign will be held till May 5 - the day prior to elections when campaigning is banned. The parliamentary elections will be held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 6, 2012.



Victor Yakubian: "The help of God", gilded pistol, and "watchdonkeys" - Armenian-style elections

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the PAP camp, the factor of Kocharian has become a fait accompli. According to social network users, henceforth not only the ears of Robert Kocharian, but also the other parts of his body will be visible behind the PAP.

Nonetheless, the leader of the ANC does everything for a conditional alliance with the PAP to be formed. It should be noted for the sake of justice that it is not the first time that Ter-Petrosian tries to gain Tsarukian over. As long ago as 2008, during the election race Ter-Petrosian "warned" Tsarukian that backing of the authorities might result in his and other oligarchs' bankruptcy. The protest mood of the PAP ahead of the upcoming elections has only increased the appetite of Ter-Petrosian's who seems to set himself the task of "breaking the power pyramid" by means of blackmail and gaining the "money bags" over, rather than by unification of opposition forces. As regards unification, Ter-Petrosian tried his best so that the unification of opposition would not take place. It is noteworthy that the ANC became more critical of the Heritage Party, Sardarapat Movement, and even the ARF-Dashnaksutyun at the time when there was a real opportunity for those opposition forces to unite.

Although the PAP representatives have established some contacts with the ANC activists who now have to beg due to the lack of any resources, in reality the support of the "Ter-Petrosian" part of the opposition is hardly in Tsarukian's interest. The inconstancy of Tsarukian rushing about between the authorities and the opposition may not only prevent the PAP from achieving the desired results, but also aggravate the existing confusion within the party, which is not a fully established political structure composed of thousands of members with various, sometimes mutually exclusive motivations. Observers say that the active ferment in the

ranks of the PAP started immediately after the pre-election congress of the party when nearly every second out of 9,000 participants get panicky over Tsarukian's words "defend our votes", asking "from whom should we defend our votes?" After all, Tsarukian is a "roof" and a "king" (this is how the entourage calls the oligarch). But the king, according to another classic, may prove naked!

So, if Tsarukian's strategy is to win over the electorate's part which is disappointed in the opposition, and then to merge with the RPA in coalitional ecstasy, such a project may play a trick on the oligarch. In the pre-election period, the authorities' nerves may also fail them (it is not ruled out that it may happen in pretence). In that case a couple of arrests of petty hoodlums who, the enemies say, teem in the RPA may within a few hours spread panic and confusion among the "prosperous" criminal mob. And then another phrase: "People in trouble are left to themselves" will become topical for the PAP.

As regards the electorate, it is not the first time that the voters hear promises to share the wealth acquired with the help of God, and despite their "short memory", they are not in a hurry to swallow the bait for a second time. If Tsarukian seriously considers forming an alliance with the ANC, thus trying to ensure a majority in the parliament, he may meet with failure here because Ter-Petrosian, who promised to become "an instrument in the hands of the people", has so far used others as an instrument. Many in Armenia remember well that while making public statements about 400,000 active members and having the second president as the guarantor of its "rights and freedoms", the Prosperous Armenia Party collected approximately 200,000 votes during the 2007 elections. How many votes will it collect this time?

Victor Yakubian (Moscow), expert on problems of the South Caucasus

Minister Nalbandian receives the German Minister of State

On April 16 Minister Nalbandian received Cornelia Pieper, Minister of State of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Welcoming the guest, Minister Nalbandian underlined that in the recent years the interaction between Armenia and Germany in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and educational spheres has expanded and the opening of the German Center for Language Training would give a new impetus to the bilateral relations.

The Minister of State Pieper mentioned that the visits of the German Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of State to Armenia during one month were the proof of the current level of the Armenian - German relations.

The sides had a thorough talk on the Armenian-German bilateral agenda issues, and touched upon the developments unrolling in the South Caucasus and the neighbouring regions.

Minister Nalbandian and Minister of State Pieper touched upon the relations between Armenia and the European Union, expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in that direction.

The ways to expand the cooperation in cultural, scientific and educational spheres were on the agenda of the negotiations, as well.

Upon the request of the guest, Edward Nalbandian presented the recent developments in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

European Parliament adopts resolution on Armenia

European Parliament adopted resolutions on Armenia and Azerbaijan on April 18 during the plenary session in Strasbourg.

"The association agreements that the EU is negotiating with Armenia and Azerbaijan should make the region safer, both by promoting a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and by making EU support conditional upon their human rights performance and democratic reforms. On these, both countries still have a long way to go," says the statement posted on the parliament website.

Parliament's resolutions make recommendations to the Council and the Commission on lines to take when negotiating association agreements with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

MEPs call on both countries to do more to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The resolutions condemn the region's militarization and high military expenditure and call on EU Member States to stop supplying weapons and munitions to both countries.

The parliament also calls on the



leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to tone down the language of their statements to pave the way for a genuine dialogue.

Both rapporteurs stressed that although the association agreements could not resolve the conflict, the EU should strive to contribute to stability in the region, for example by focusing on the importance of youth exchange and academic mobility to promote confidence building during the negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements.

MEPs praise Armenia's efforts to pursue ambitious reforms to incorporate EU practices in justice,

freedom, security and especially migration sectors, but stress the need to ensure that its May parliamentary elections are free and fair.

"The parliamentary elections of May 6 will be a test of Armenia's determination to have good relations with the EU. If they will be free and fair, and I believe they will, this will demonstrate that Armenia sticks to its commitments in serious way", said rapporteur Tomasz Piotr Poreba.

The resolution notes that Armenia has yet to complete a "transparent and impartial investigation of the events of 1 March 2008."

Aharon Adibekian: RPA and PAP are unattainable for other parties to surpass them

By Sona Mashuryan

According to the monitoring surveys carried out by Sociometer Center of Sociological Studies, in Yerevan the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) has 37% of decided votes, the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) - 34%, the Armenian National Congress (ANC) - 8.5%, the Rule of Law Party - 6.7%, the ARF-Dashnaksutyun Party - 6.7%, and the Heritage Party - 5.5%. The Head of Sociometer Center Aharon Adibekian said at the April 17 press conference held at the Noyan Tapan press hall that it is uncertain whether another 37.5% of the voters will go to the polls, and if so, which party they will vote for.

Adibekian said that "the Prosperous Armenia Party and the Republican Party of Armenia are unattainable for the other parties to surpass them". In his words, in terms of forming a possible coalition, the Rule of Law Party and the ARF-Dashnaksutyun have a good chance for the important third place. He believes that "there may be little desire to be friends with the Armenian National Congress" because of the ANC's repulsive position and its maximalist demands - "either everything or nothing". The sociologist said that the Heritage Party "is still in doubt" because it has become or remains a party of one person, so everything depends on whether Raffi Hovannisian with his personal rating will be able "to carry the Heritage's cart to the National Assembly".

Aharon Adibekian is pessimistic about the success of the Heritage Party's parliamentary candidates



running under the majority election system. In his words, in case of the majority election system, this or that party's success in the elections to local self-government bodies is of importance. "In addition to overall votes, the RPA has about 700 community heads, regional governors, and a large corps of local deputies, the ARFD has 50 communities, the Rule of Law - 80 communities, and the PAP - 70 communities," Adibekian explained.

The head of Sociometer has said that the "secondary" parties display activity mainly in Yerevan and are moderately active in Gyumri and Vanadzor as their organizational and human resources are not enough to display the same activity throughout Armenia. Besides, the voters in Yerevan are better informed and here the opposition stands more chance of collecting votes than in marzes where "the votes are quite controllable". Nevertheless, the sociologist advised the journalists to follow the secondary parties.

The surveys show that Yerevan citizens' interest in elections is almost the same as the average in the republic: about 30% of citizens are not interested in elections, while

69% follow the major political developments.

According to Aharon Adibekian, the surveys show that the level of political consciousness of Armenian citizens has sharply increased: they can definitely distinguish between the problems, the responsibility for whose solution lies with the supreme authorities such as the president and the prime minister, the problems to be solved by the National Assembly, mayors and community heads, and the problems to be solved by citizens on their own. In particular, 71% of citizens believe that they should solve their problems themselves, and 20% - the poor sections of the population say that the heads of their community or the country should assist them with solution of their problems.

25% of respondents said that the authorities had done more than required, 33% said the authorities had done less than required, and about 36.5% said that the authorities had worked mostly for their own needs or the needs of their relatives. 58-59% of respondents are satisfied with work of the authorities, and 36.5% are extremely dissatisfied with their work.



YOUR DEAL IS OUR DEAL

REALTY

564631

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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **683. Argishti street**, Glendel Hills, 14/10, 35.4sqm, newly built, euro repaired, gas in the building, permanent water, beautiful view of ravine. Price 45.000USD
- ♦ **667. Nalbandyan street**, 7/5, 48sqm, 1room changed into two, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price=86.000USD
- ♦ **684. Mashtoc avenue**, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ♦ **69. Khajaznuni street**. 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capitally repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ♦ **645. Baghramyan Street**, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**. 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ **1467. Mashtoc av.** 8/5 81sq.m. 2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ♦ **1440. North Avenue**, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bed-room, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price=360,000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2448. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

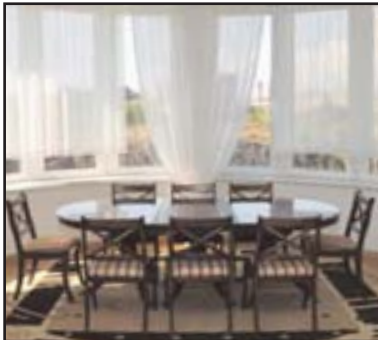
PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyán str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade=15m, 1room+foyyee, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbadian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1031. Byuzand street**. 1 room, 34 sq.m, capital-ly repair, newly built, furniture, techniques, heating, AC, cabin. Price 600 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryan str.**, 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and



- cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ♦ **1057. Argishti str.**, 14/9, 1 room, furnished, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, AC
- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryan street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2022. Amiryan street**, 4/3. 74 sq.m., 2 turned into 3, newly repaired, Spanish tiles, jakoozi, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, techniques. Price 1500 USD, 1 day 100 USD
- ♦ **2057. Sayat-Nova**. 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capitally repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **115. Buzand str. Building 7, /near Republic Square**, 9/4, 75 sq.m, 2 rooms, newly built, capital-ly and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, AC, open balcony. Price: 1100 USD long-term, 1500 USD short-term.
- ♦ **2108. Amirtyan str. /City center**, 2 rooms, AC, washing machine, TV, refrigerator, satellite, bed sheets, utensil, all the conveniences. Price: 600 USD , 60 USD per day
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 550 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**. 6/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, parking. Price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str.** 4/3. 130 sq.m, 4 rooms, euro repaired , height -3.50, 2 lodge. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str**, 4/2. 4 rooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, 3 bathrooms, repaired, furnished, open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1970. V. Sargsyan str**. 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 150 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryan str.**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi system, climate control, service fees included. Price:1700 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str**. 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, AC, Baxi system. Price:1300 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryan str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str.**, 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built,, 150 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2

bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD

- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1950 Crossroad of Khanjyan**, Mashtoc/8 2 bedrooms, New stored , 163 sq.m , absolutely repaired, 2 bathrooms, furniture, heating condition, Climate control, looks to the garden, including exploiting costs. Price 2500\$
- ♦ **1951 Crossroad of Khanjyan**, Mashtoc /13 2 bedrooms, New stored 122 sq.m absolutely repaired, 2 bathrooms, furniture, heating, Climate control, including exploiting costs . Price 2000\$
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbaçi street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amirian Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190



sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1218. Cascade**. Land - 3700 sq.m, 3-story stoun st.-1490 sq.m, capitally repaired, Venetian wall otto-cento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Fondital. Price: 12.000 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor**. Land -1000 sq.m, basement+2 floors' 310 sq.m, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 1 living-room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi system, sauna, swimming pool, arbor, grill for barbecue. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1808. Amiryan**, 4/3 3 rooms, 64 sq.m, capital-ly repaired, Venetian style, furnished, equipped, Spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, no balcony. Price: 800-900 USD, 50 USD per day
- ♦ **971. Norq-Marash community** The gardens of Norq Ground 620sq.m, basement +2f. con 733.15 sq.m, basement: the sport hall, sauna, room for summer, swimming pool, fireplace,1st floor: leaving room, bedroom, kitchen, office, corridor , bathroom, 2nd floor 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom(Spanish), always running cold and hot water, natural gas, 2 conditioner, baxi. Price 1500\$
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **455. Norq**, 3 storied building-150sqm, total - 600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1135. Monument V**. Papazyan street, 2floors, total-375sqm, stone building-210sqm, cellar, euro repaired, baxi, AC, garage-14sqm. Price 2000 USD per month.
- ♦ **1164. Arabkir, Monument**. 1 storied, land-300 sq.m, building-150 sq.m., capitally repaired, 3 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, pool. Price: 1200 USD

- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD

- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ **1121. Vahagni community**. 2 stories, building 402 sq.m.(including garage and cellar) euro repair, 3 bedrooms, hall, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, heating floor, kitchen and dining room are furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1142. Dirvej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.

- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan street**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1109. Blur**, 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 3800 USD
- ♦ **662. Norq gardens**, Amarancayin street. 2 storied stone building, Land 1000 sq.m., building 300 sq.m., ramparted, 3 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, hall, camin, gas, heating system, stained glasses. Price 3000USD negotiable
- ♦ **1071. Noy block**. 2.5 storied, land 400 sq.m., building 500 sq.m., garden 250sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories, 2 kitchen, a hall. Price 3000 USD prliminary
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Norq**, 3 storied, 250sqm, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Norq**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard, 5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD
- ♦ **1019. Norq**, 2 storied, separate structure, 700 sq.m. land, 350 sq.m. construction, capital euro repaired, finished, garage with remote control, pool, 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom, and 2 separate bathrooms. In the first floor sitting-room, gas, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi System, fireplace, view to town, walled. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str**, newly built, vitrines, front-20m, 196sqm. Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4rh floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyán street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 entrance, hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyán street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

Barsegh Beglaryan: "To Have Developed Armenia, Faith, Love and Unity are Needed"

One of the Most Influential Men in Armenia Considers Himself not an Oligarch, but an Ordinary Hard-Working Man Who One Day Came to Christianity...



By Gourgen
James Khazhakian
Chief correspondent

I must confess that prior to my interview with one of the most influential businessmen in Armenia, **Barsegh Beglaryan** (the interview was expected to last "just 20-30 minutes", - as I initially promised him), I could hardly imagine that at the end of the interview that lasted almost two hours I, who (pardon my immodesty) conducted interviews with people like former U.S. President **George Bush Senior**, world-famous actress and singer **Cher** (Cherylin LaPiere Sarkisian), legendary French singer **Charles Aznavour** and others, would be highly impressed by colorite and simplicity of one of our country's most influential men and at the same time by his profoundness, encyclopedic knowledge, and even ... meekness, - to use the terminology of Beglaryan The Believer. Judge for yourself: how many people of such "caliber" in Armenia would try to help you on with your overcoat when you are leaving their office...

And it came about quite naturally that we talked briefly about business, but spoke mostly about human values, good and evil, the Country and its soil, genuine and false charity, the fate, and of course, about faith...

It is up to you to judge how much your author succeeded in "revealing" Barsegh Beglaryan as a man...

It was Mr Beglaryan who started the conversation by saying:

- Unfortunately, very few things, from water to human heart and human relations, remain pure in the world today...

- ... Since you yourself started to speak about man and purity, let me ask you a question: How can one remain pure in the rather impure present-day world when handling money, a lot of money, very large sums of money? Have you thought you've managed to do so... By the way, I have heard from your employees that you are "a cordial person who tries to treat people well and not to offend them..."

- It is not quite so.

In reality, I am a straightforward and even tough man...

- ... Is it possible to engage in big business and not to be a diplomat?

- To explain this, I have to tell you a long story about how I became a businessman... It probably happened also thanks to divine providence...

In 1975 I graduated from the Mechanical-Mathematical Department of the Yerevan State University, later also - from the Yerevan Institute of National Economy (now the Armenian State University of Economics).

As a 17-year-old youth, I left my native village of **Khanabad** in Nagorno Karabakh and came to Yerevan to study here... I was the 12th child of my mother **Manushak**. Out of her twelve children, only six reached adult age; unfortunately, only four are alive now. Mother died recently, 25 days short of her centenary...

... In July 2011, my elder brother died tragically: our cars were heading toward Karabakh when the car he was in fell into a gorge. My brother was taken to a Yerevan hospital by a helicopter. For two days, the doctors did their best to save his life, but to no avail...

... Like the whole Armenian Nation, I took a dive into the midst of the **Karabakh Movement** in 1988. I went to my native village of Khanabad where my parents lived and began to help the self-defense detachments by anything I could, for instance, by providing logistical support...

Unfortunately my father, **Gerasim Beglaryan**, did not see OUR VICTO-

RY: he died at the age of 87, in February 1992...

... After the end of the war, more exactly, - signing a ceasefire document, I worked for a while at the Department of Foreign Economic Relations of the Armenian Ministry of Defense. You probably will not believe me, but I really do not know



Newly-weds: Barsegh and Seda Beglaryan. 1970s.

how it occurred, but it so happened that I founded **Flash LLC** in 1995... (According to the official website of the Company, Flash LLC "imports petrol and diesel of high quality and provides with them 1/3 of the entire oil products market of RA", and "...our portion in the entire consuming diesel fuel makes more than 48 %").

And in 1996 I turned on the right trail, after many Soviet "atheistic" decades ... and my life completely changed...

- How did it happen?

- A fellow student once asked me: "Do you read the Bible?" I said: "Sometimes I start to read it, but very soon I put it aside".

- Did you go to church?

No, and I myself wasn't baptized...

...It so happened that in 1980 I was to be godfather of six children. The priest asked me: "Are you baptized, my son?" I answered: "No, Father". The priest anointed my forehead with chrism and thus I was baptized...

Since then I myself have baptized so many children...

I started to study the Bible in depth...

Thus my conversion to faith took place: **I turned Christian**.

... As regards your question about whether it is possible to be a moral, dignified person, a believer and at the same time to engage in business, my answer is: yes, it is possible, and the Bible also gives a definite answer to this question: if you are honest, never lie, and observe "the rules of game",



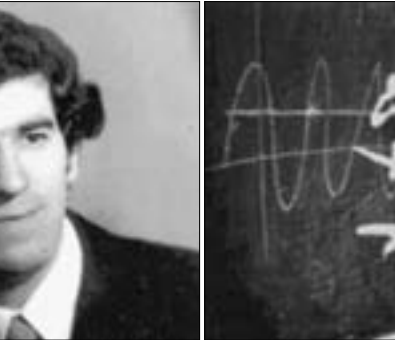
Gerasim Beglaryan (1905-1992)

why not, - you may be a businessman...

After all, there is conscience, and it is my conviction that conscience is the voice of God or, if you wish, it is a shoot of God's seed that the weeds often try to choke, but if you resist them with all might, then God's voice wins within you and you manage to remain just...

According to a parable in the Bible - I don't remember exactly what chapter of the Gospel of Luke it is (luckily, I am not a Jehovah Witness; it is the members of this sect that

know all the chapters by heart) - the Lord gives a hundred coins to one man, fifty coins to another, and only one coin - to a third man. The first and second men made good use of their money and their amounts increase, for which they were praised by God. The third man says: "My Lord, I know how demanding you are and for this rea-



Barsegh Beglaryan in student years. 1970s.

son I cherished that money".

The Lord gets angry with him and says: "I gave you money so that you will put it to use and not tremble over it!"

I am sure that this parable should be the very first commandment of each honest businessman.

... In case of politics, however, it is



Beglaryan: "Secret of my success is very simple - work, only work, nothing but work!"

extremely difficult to combine it and faith. Who knows, perhaps the Lord Almighty has not yet endowed me with the wisdom necessary to combine them...

The Bible is the book that prompts people how to live... But if we confined ourselves only to this, we would

bly?

- I account myself very happy man...

I was at the foundation of the Karabakh movement, I know and have communicated with the first, second, and third Presidents of Armenia.

If you want to do a serious cause, and first of all, - for the good of OUR

COUNTRY and PEOPLE, it is not necessary for you to become a politician.

You know, very few people can resist the temptation of their ambitions. On the other hand, a person without ambitions is nothing. In this connection I recall a good old Armenian saying: "Don't be so sweet as to be swallowed and so bitter as to be spit out".

- There is an opinion that we, the Armenians, cannot cultivate "the golden mean", i.e. the balance...

- In a way, it is true... Some present-day businessmen and politicians who have risen suddenly to wealth and high position lack something very important - patience, unlike our ordinary citizens who, I want to stress, are very patient.

After all, there is divine providence...

If you don't believe that there is resurrection, you are like a butterfly which only lives for one day: in the Universe, the human life span of 70-80 years is just an instant. If God one day wills that I, Barsegh Beglaryan, must be engaged in active politics, let it be ... There are many worthy people in our country, and we just need to find them, to bring them to light, so to speak, and you, the journalists, have much work to do in this respect...

- It is quite difficult to find "anti-arguments" when talking with you as you constantly quote the Bible...

(Mr Beglaryan smiles)...

For a man who got a fundamen-



The defenders of the native village of Khanabad, Nagorno Karabakh Republic, early 1990s. Barsegh Beglaryan on left.

tal university education, Barsegh Beglaryan has become rather deeply absorbed in subjects related to the Church-the State-Clergy-Congregation relations.

He built the **Mayr Astvatsatsin (Our Lady) Church** in Askeran region of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and is the **Chairman of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church**.

- ... I must confess that I am quite an ambitious man...

- But you have just said that let ambitious people deal in politics and

"I am not the sort of man"...

- I say again that I am ambitious, but for the good of Armenia, rather than for my own good...

... I was on a visit to Georgia; it was during the Presidency of **Ed. Shevardnadze**... I told them: "You have no right to live in poor conditions because God has given you everything: a mild climate, wonderful nature, a sea..."

Unlike some of our neighbors, we, the Armenians, are endowed with intelligence, abilities, and tremendous diligence.

I am deeply concerned about the fact that we, the Armenians, are not well-to-do now.

The reason for that is that we are not unified, we quarrel with each other, nag at each other. The strength of the Armenians has always been in their UNITY!!!

- For years on end, your "empire", including **Flash LLC, Ararat Bank, Ararat Hall Restaurant, and other notable business enterprises in Armenia and Artsakh** has been among the top three biggest taxpayers of Armenia, whereas according to popular opinion, the present-day rich people pay taxes, to put it mildly, without great pleasure.

- As of today, we are among the top five-six biggest taxpayers.

To pay taxes is the sacred duty of us all: it is thanks to the taxes paid that we maintain our **VICTORIOUS ARMENIAN ARMY**, pay pensions and disability benefits, and keep hospitals and institutions in the spheres of education, science, and culture...

Some people think that if they make charity, they are allowed not to pay taxes...

I, Barsegh Beglaryan, also engage in charitable activities, but at the same time I pay my taxes to the last penny, sorry, **THE ARMENIAN DRAM**.

By the way, it is five years sharp since I have founded the **Pious Generation Benevolent Foundation**. The Foundation has been sponsoring mostly educational and scientific programs, also some cultural projects.

According to the information submitted to *The Highlights* by the Foundation, it was established in 2007 with the aim "...of promoting the formation of a new generation - a pious and innovative generation, which will confidently act as a builder of the future of the Armenian people in various spheres of public life". For this purpose the Foundation implements the following programs:

1. Scholarships of a total of 100 million AMD have been given to good students of Armenia's state institutions of higher education;

2. The "Pious Student" scholarships of 50 million AMD have been given to excellent students or those exempt from a tuition fee at state institutions of higher education;

3. Grants of a total of 20 million AMD have been allotted to promote young scientists;

4. 20 million AMD have been provided for the organization of roundtables-discussions and assistance to scientific and educational institutions and events;

5. On-going care of Yerevan senior school No. 16 after **Avetik Isahakyan** - 35 million AMD has been provided to the school so far.

The Foundation performs other functions aimed at preserving the national values and forming an innovative way of thinking. It also publishes literature promoting the formation of a national system of values.

... You know, I think charity is probably the most important mission that God entrusted to us...

Look: the world's richest man **Bill Gates** quit Microsoft to engage in philanthropic activities...

continued on page 7

Barsegh Beglaryan: "To Have Developed Armenia, Faith, Love and Unity are Needed"

One of the Most Influential Men in Armenia Considers Himself not an Oligarch, but an Ordinary Hard-Working Man Who One Day Came to Christianity...

from page 6

- ... And another wealthy man, Warren Buffett joined him, donating tens of billions of dollars to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation...

- Yes, he set a good example for other businessmen to follow...

Unfortunately I have done little, - within the limits of the possible, but I would like to do much more...

- Everything happens by God's will, especially things that happen to the believers. How did you, a pious man, happen to have serious health problems? I mean open heart surgery you underwent.

- Perhaps it is a good question...

I knew that I had some health problems, let's say, connected with my stomach, but I didn't really expect to have such a serious problem...

...I have done sport all my life (unlike many Armenian businessmen, the 59-year-old Barsegh Beglaryan has slim, even - an athletic constitution-G.Kh.), I don't smoke, I drink alcohol only on special occasions and eat moderately. In general, unlike some people, I don't lead a dissipated life, and if you look at my Karabakh ancestry, you will see that a health problem could not have been expected at all: my parents and all ancestors lived to a venerable age...

...It is my conviction that diseases are atonement for our sins committed...

- ?! (And what "sin" did you commit?)

- Yes, the All-Mighty made me to think that I have done something wrong, that I did not observe strictly one of God's commandments...

...The more deeply you delve into the Bible, the more clearly you understand how little you know... The more religious you become, the more temptations there are...

I am definite about it: God gives you as many trials as you can endure...

In November 2002, when Mr Beglaryan, accompanied by a large group of relatives, friends, officials, media people was making a trip to Karabakh in order to inaugurate officially two wineries established by him as well as to participate in the anointment ceremony of Mayr Astvatsatsin (Our Lady) Church at the NKR Askeran region erected due to his sponsorship, the 41-year-old son of his elder sister, Yelena died in a car accident near Shushi. It was a terrible shock to all of the present, and first of all to the victim's mother...

Alas, the series of painful, irretrievable losses did not end with this accident: in six months Barsegh Beglaryan lost his elder brother Bagrat who, in his own words, was not only his elder brother, but also a friend and a teacher, and then he lost his beloved mother...

...According to an eyewitness, when Barsegh Beglaryan saw Bagrat's car lying at the bottom of the gorge, he shouted as furiously as the main character of the famous "Godfather" movie does when he sees his beloved daughter killed by a hired killer, - instead he himself, before his very eyes.

At first it seemed that Bagrat did not receive any serious injuries, there was only a scratch on his head... Then it turned out that an internal hemorrhage had begun...

It is difficult to imagine, but there was no single computed tomographic scanner in Karabakh... Bagrat Beglaryan was taken to Yerevan in a helicopter. He was operated, however, two days later, on July 22, he died...

... Many people die in Karabakh due to the absence of this essential medical equipment...

It is not difficult to guess what Barsegh Beglaryan did next: he purchased the scanner abroad and do-

nated it to his native Karabakh...

(We learned that the system of computed tomographic scanners to be officially put into operation in Karabakh on May 7 costs about \$1 million).

...In general, each person should be prepared for any ordeal, after

Yet, unfortunately, there is currently a contradiction between this traditionalism and my being democratic. You know, I take a sensible approach as the generation gap problem has always existed.

My sons have their own businesses. They should learn from their own

where between Stepanakert and Shushi. I like taking my kith and kin, including my children, grandchildren, in-laws, others to that place.

We live there for 10-15 days in the Armenian manner, so to speak.

Naturally, Karabakh is not only Stepanakert...

a lot of our young people sometimes lack common politeness and good manners even...

What can you say on this problem?

- I cannot say anything new on this. It will take time to solve it, 20 years is a very short period.

... Everybody is pessimistic whenever this issue is mentioned... I was also pessimistic until recently...

But, my dear fellows, it is for the first time that we have an INDEPENDENT STATE for 21 years and it can be compared with a 21-day-old newly-born child. Let me ask a question: Are there any parents who do not pin their hopes on the future of their 21-day-old child? I am convinced that in 30-40-50 years we will have a good country...

It is to be regretted, however, that today's youths consider some uneducated people who have quickly enriched themselves to be their "ideals".

The centuries-old Persian/Turkish rule also made a "contribution" to this mentality...

And it is regrettable that such "ideals" turn themselves inside out in order to enter politics...

On the other hand, I should point out the need for urgent radical changes in secondary schools (remember how we treated our teachers in the 1960s-1970s - they were "second parents" to us) and in institutions of higher education by ruling out nepotism and bribes during admission. In this case we will have young people who work well, providing high-quality services in line with European standards, instead of what we "enjoy" today: a waiter scowling at us, an unshaven taxi driver, or a receptionist who is rude to us.

This is the very reason why I sponsor so many educational programs...

- Do you consider yourself a happy man?

- It depends on what do you mean by "happiness".

In my opinion, only persons, who believe in God and are pious and God-fearing, and who are confident that on the Judgment Day they will get to Heaven, but not to the opposite side, can account themselves happy. At the Yerevan State University in the late 1980s, I was asked the same question: Do you consider yourself a happy man?

... Happiness is an individual and relative notion...

At that time my answer was: I will consider myself happy only when I see Karabakh as a liberated land, and not as part of Azerbaijan...

Yes, we liberated our Artsakh, and in this sense I can say that I am happy. However, as a matter of fact, the war has not ended yet: some powers speak about the need to return the territories we liberated... But, excuse me, these territories ensure the security of the physical existence of Artsakh...

- If you face God, what will you say to him?

- Let me rephrase your question and express it in a different way: If you have the opportunity to meet God once in your life, what will you request from him?

... I, the servant of God Barsegh Beglaryan, will ask God not to regard any of my innumerable sins as a deadly one... The guiltiest are those who say: I have never committed a sin. There is no such thing because we are all guilty before God.

... I believe in my future Armenia, I believe in the collective force of my Nation... We are living through a difficult situation: the unfinished war, the global financial and economic crisis, and the unstable region.

In order to overcome all this, we must have faith and hope.

Photos by Emin Aristakesyan and from the book "...And the Age has Changed" by Seda Beglaryan



Beglaryan The Chess Lover with the 8th World Chess Champion Mikhayil Tal. Yerevan, 1970s-80s.



With Charles Aznavour. Paris, 1999

which he/she should find strength to live on...

- Please tell us about your family...

My spouse, Seda and me have three sons: Hayk, 33, Narek, 31, and Sanasar, 19. I am in the habit of giving Armenian names to my children.

experience so as to replace me - I am not young anymore...

My youngest son did well at the university, but as a second-year student he joined the Army to perform his patriotic duties.

- How often do you visit Karabakh?

It is also Shushi, Amaras, Tonashen, dozens of big and small villages, our incomparable churches, and nature...

- According to the data of the recent census, 700 thousand people have emigrated from Armenia; people are leaving the country...



"It is not necessary to be a politician to make something good for your Country and People!"



Many books have been published under sponsorship of Barsegh Beglaryan

I regret not naming one of my sons after my father, Gerasim... I have two grandchildren: a girl and a boy. We expect a third grandchild in the autumn.

- What things (which you did not teach your sons) will you teach your grandchildren?

- You ask difficult questions...

- Sorry, it is my job...

- Well, you know, we are quite negligent in child-rearing practices... We do not devote even 15 minutes a day to our children... We don't spend time with them. We don't explain to them what good is and what evil is...

- As far as I understand, you as a native of Karabakh to the backbone are a traditionalist when it comes to issues related to child rearing...

- I am a traditionalist and a democrat at the same time.

For example, I don't compel my sons to live in the same house with me.

- I always draw the following parallel: every Christian must visit Jerusalem at least once in his/her life, while every Armenian Christian must visit Karabakh at least once a year...

I make trips to Karabakh 10-12



They showing renovated building of Yerevan high school after Avetik Isahakyan to Beglaryan The Benefactor. March 2012

times a year...

Karabakh is Miami, Paris, and Switzerland to me... (Barsegh and Seda Beglaryan have traveled a lot abroad - from Syria to America, from Paris to Canada-G.Kh.)

I built a small house some-

You are one of those who defended our country, -either making your math/economic research, or fighting in the war, or doing your business and charity... So please tell us how we can deal with this problem...

- We should re-create an atmosphere of faith and trust in Armenia... There is falsification and fraud everywhere... How can we overcome this? It is a delicate problem...

One thing is certain, though: the authorities' political will is needed to solve the problem... Parliamentary elections will be held soon. The people were turned into cadgers - the so-called electoral bribes must be ruled out; otherwise we will be doomed as a nation...

- Your Foundation sponsors various educational programs... It is no secret that today we have serious problems related to implanting love for education, the Church, and the Homeland in our youths. Let the worthy reps of our younger generation forgive me, but



Mayr Astvatsatsin (Our Lady) Church in Askeran region of NKR built by Beglaryan The Believer



Barsegh and Seda Beglaryan with Mrs Manushak Beglaryan and their sons, from right to left: Sanasar, Hayk and Narek. NKR, early 2000s.

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"Here"

to open in Los Angeles on April 27

"Here", the latest film from director Braden King, which is set and was shot in Armenia and stars Ben Foster (The Messenger, Contraband) and Lubna Azabal (Body of Lies, Paradise Now) opened in New York Friday and will screen in Los Angeles on April 27 and in San Francisco on May 11.

Set against the landscape of Armenia, HERE chronicles a brief but intense relationship between an American satellite-mapping engineer (Foster) and an expatriate photographer (Azabal) who impulsively decide to travel across the remote countryside. As their trip comes to an end, the two must decide where to go from HERE. The film was an official selection of the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals.

Reviewing for the New York Times on Friday, Stephen Holden writes: "There are vistas in Braden King's metaphysical road movie, 'Here,' that are so beautiful you want to step through the screen and disappear into the Armenian landscape where much of it was filmed... The trains of thought stirred up by the film's contemplation of what is here and what is there - and where you are - are endless and stimulating."

Will Shepard is an American satellite-mapping engineer contracted to create a new, more accurate survey of the country of Armenia. Within the industry, his solitary work - land-surveying satellite images to check for accuracy and resolve anomalies - is called "ground-trothing". He's been doing it on his own, for years, all over the world, but on this trip, his measurements are not adding up.

Will meets Gadarine Najarian at a rural hotel. Tough and intriguing, she's an expatriate Armenian art photographer on her first trip back

in ages, passionately trying to figure out what kind of relationship - if any - she still has with her home country and culture. Fiercely independent, Gadarine is struggling to resolve the life she's led in Canada and Europe with the Armenian roots that run so



deeply, if unconsciously, through her.

There is an almost instant, unconscious bond between these two lone travelers; they impulsively decide to continue together. HERE tells the story of their unique journey and the dramatic personal transformations it leads each of them through.

Will and Gadarine move through Armenia and its remarkable landscape photographing measuring, and experiencing the trip in their own individual ways and, ultimately, through each other's eyes. Their journey takes them across the length of the country, from the Lori region in the north to the Iranian border in the south, and finally into the diplomatically undefined Nagorno-Karabakh region. It is here that they are forced to confront their intensifying relationship and the difficult questions it raises.

Along the way, Will is continually challenged with erroneous data as his trip descends toward failure,

while Gadarine encounters much more personal static: nationality, culture, family, old friends. As she starts to discover a new relationship with her homeland, Will begins to question the solitary life he has chosen.

his experience with Here.

"I am not Armenian, nor do I consider HERE to be solely about Armenia, per se. To make a long story short, the country simply presented itself as the most appropriate landscape and culture in which to

pitch, but she did subtly suggest that the country might be an intriguing place for me to explore for what was, at that time, a very vague idea about a mapmaker whose measurements weren't adding up. In doing so, she quietly planted a seed. She watered that seed with a few articles about Armenian history and filmmakers like Paradjanov and Peleshian she sent along later," explained King.

"However, slowly but surely, I'd find my eye caught by an article on Armenia in the paper or Armenian landscape images I'd come across on the internet. I became fascinated with the country's film history and creative culture, while at the same time finding it impossible to believe that something like Nagorno-Karabakh, a literally undefined territory (diplomatically, at least), still existed," said King.

"As I explored further, Armenia - its history, landscape, location, people and culture - became another collaborator, a third co-writer. When I visited for the first time in 2004, it was instantly clear that Armenia was the most precise lens through which to focus in on HERE's story and themes. Within the first few hours of that very first trip, there was no place else to go," added King.

set this story. My first visit, in 2004, felt like answers to questions I did not even know I was asking. What I found was a unique, cinematically unmapped territory that was home to a culture obsessed with geography, history, poetry, art and film. I couldn't have made it up if I'd tried, and I became obsessed with how much this unique place had to offer this particular film and the world at large," added King.

"Armenia was first suggested to me by a fellow filmmaker, Gariné Torossian. She didn't make a big



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Armenia improves its ranking by 6 points in the National Competitiveness Report



Armenia has improved its position in the National Competitiveness Report ranking the 92nd among 142 countries.

As compared to 2010-2011 report, the total assessment of Armenia's competitiveness grew by 4%.

Presenting the report on April 18, the head of "Economy and Values" research center and EV Consulting companies Manuk Hergnyan said that competitiveness had grown in Armenia reflecting the cultural changes taking place in the economy.

Manuk Hergnyan said that 2011 became the first year when the indices of competitiveness and economic growth changed in one area which might indicate shifting to more balanced economic model.. It's opposed to the economic picture of 2005-2008 when the economy grew at 2-digit rates against the background of decline in competitiveness.

Azerbaijan (from the 57th to 55th position) and Georgia (from the 90th to 88th) also registered competitiveness growth.

According to the report, prevalence of low-productive spheres in the GDP is one of the fundamental shortcomings of Armenia's economy. "3 more productive spheres-finance, mining industry and construction - ensure only 9 % of the overall employment whereas more than the half of the work force is focused in the spheres of the lowest productivity", said Manuk Hergnyan.

The research conducted by "Economy and Values" center in 50 production enterprises showed that the management level in Armenian companies is substantially lower than that of the enterprises operating in developed countries.

The report is available on the website of "Economy and Values" (www.ev.am) research center.

Former PM: "GDP growth by 11% is not a problem for Armenia"

11% economic growth is "not a problem" for Armenia, said member of the oppositional Armenian National Congress (ANC), former Prime Minister of Armenia Hrant Bagratyan on April 17.

Hrant Bagratyan said that in case the ANC comes to power, Armenia will stop borrowing from donors, the money transfers coming to the country will "get sterilized" and the annual economic growth will make 11-12%.

"The idea of people's capitalism is that people themselves ensure their employment and we plan to increase the number of entrepreneurs from current 55 000 (only 12 000 of them are actively operating) up to 0,5mln (farmers including)", said Hrant Bagratyan.

Former Prime Minister promised to increase the average salary from current AMD 115 thousand up to AMD 245 thousand (without inflation), pensions - from AMD 29 700

up to AMD 99 000 and the minimum salary - from AMD 32 500 up to AMD 145 000 within next 5 years.

"To achieve such indices, we first of all plan to reform the customs system to liquidate monopolies in the import sector", said Hrant Bagratyan adding that the metal mining industry taxation also has unrealized potential. The taxes flowing from this sphere can be increased almost 12-fold, the former PM claims.

IMF chief welcomes \$34 billion in new pledges

IMF director Christine Lagarde has welcomed pledges from Switzerland, Poland and other countries to provide some \$34 billion in additional funding for the world lender.

According to AFP, Lagarde, in separate statements late Wednesday, April 17, singled out Switzerland and Poland for increasing their contributions, hailing their "enduring support for the spirit of multilateralism."

"Ensuring the Fund has sufficient resources to tackle crises and to promote global economic stability is in the interests of all our members," she said.

The IMF statement said "Switzerland and other countries" had pledged \$26 billion of increased funding while Poland had agreed to provide \$8 billion.

"This brings to about \$320 billion the commitments received so far. I am, (of) course, very encouraged by this strong demonstration of support for the Fund, and I look forward to further commitments from our broader membership."

In a Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung interview published this week, Lagarde revealed that the International Monetary Fund is seeking some \$400 billion for expanding its crisis intervention

"firepower."

That was sharply lower than the original target of \$500 billion. Last week Lagarde said the Fund was lowering its target, citing a slight easing of financial tensions, both globally and in the eurozone.

The largest contributions thus far have come from the eurozone, which has pledged some \$200 billion, and Japan, which pledged \$60 billion.

The IMF is hoping to firm up more commitments, especially from the big emerging economies like China, Russia, Brazil and India, at the Fund's spring meetings held at the end of this week in Washington.

Russia's top rich Armenian owns USD 2 bln

Russian Forbes magazine published its top 200 of richest Russians, which appeared to include 5 Armenians.

Russia's richest Armenian is Daniil Khachaturov, Rosgosstrakh insurance company CEO, who is placed 45th with his USD 2bln. He increased his capital by USD 500mln since last year.

Samvel Karapetyan, president of Tashir Group comes second among Armenians, ranking 63rd with USD

1.6 bln. He gained additional USD 200 mln in 2012.

Brothers Nikolay and Sergey Sarkisovs took 82nd and 83rd places, each owning USD 1.2 bln; they lost USD 300 mln over the past year.

Troyka Dialogue president Ruben Vardanyan appears in the rear with USD 500 mln. He ranks 180th, same as in 2011.

The only female representative is Yelena Baturina, spouse of

Moscow's ex-mayor Yury Luzhkov. She is said to own USD 1.1 bln.

Owner of Russia's metallurgy giant NLMK Vladimir Lisin yields the lead to Alisher Usmanov, founder of Metalloinvest company, who now tops the list with USD 18.1 bln.

Average age of those listed makes 50 years, with Deni Bazhaev, 16 being the youngest and 79-year-old Vladislav Tetyukhin the oldest member of the ranking.

Orange Foundation in Armenia marks 1st anniversary

Christine Albanel, Executive Vice President, Communication and Philanthropy at France Telecom-Orange, who is for the first time in Armenia on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of Orange Foundation in Armenia, met with Armenian journalists on April 19.

"I'm happy to be in Armenia on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Office of Orange Foundation. Under Orange trademark France Telecom Group is presented in 35 countries, but so far only in half of them it has established its foundations, though the Group is engaged in philanthropic activities in all of these 35 countries. This fact is testimony to our com-

mitment to the country where we are present and where we are developing our business activity. I'm happy to see the work carried out by the Foundation and the support it shows to the country with its small and large projects, notably, to remote and vulnerable communities, people with communication problems and students," Ms. Albanel said.

Earlier in the morning, she met with the head of RA presidential administration Vigen Sargsyan and the French ambassador to Armenia.

Ms. Albanel is also expected to visit some of the beneficiaries of the projects, implemented by Orange Foundation, to get acquainted with the work done.



UN Nuclear Chief meets Armenian leaders, inspects Metsamor Plant

From page 1

Metsamor's sole functioning reactor was supposed to be shut down by 2017, in time for the planned construction of a new and more powerful facility at the same site more than 30 kilometers west of Yerevan. But with the ambitious project clearly falling behind schedule, the Armenian government has indicated that the current plant will operate longer than planned despite lingering domestic and international concerns about its safety.

Amano discussed the project estimated to cost \$5 billion with Sargsyan, Movsisyan as well as Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian. He was reported to call for "joint efforts to ensure a high degree of transparency" in its implementation.

"The prime minister assured

him that Armenia is interested in that and ready to continue to act in an open and transparent manner," the government's press office said. It said Sargsyan also told Amano that the government had already drawn up a "timetable for measures to extend the existing nuclear plant's operations and ensure its safety."

The long-standing concerns over Metsamor's safety were rekindled last year by grave accidents at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The authorities in Yerevan responded by initiating a two-week inspection of Metsamor by IAEA experts.

The Vienna-based watchdog's ad hoc Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) concluded in June that the plant poses an "acceptable" level of risk to the environment and can, in principle, operate beyond its design life span.





This programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe

Joint Programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe on Support for Access to Justice in Armenia CALL FOR TENDERS:

Purchase of hardware and software for the Armenian E-Notary Information System (AENIS)

Purchase of hardware and software for the Armenian E-Notary Information System (AENIS)

1. Within the framework of the Joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union on "Support for Access to Justice in Armenia", the Council of Europe is organising a call for Tenders with a view to awarding a contract for the supply of hardware and software for the AENIS.

The object of the contract concerns the supply of hardware and software, and their delivery to the Ministry of Justice of Armenia, as specified in the Appendix, in order to equip notaries in all regions in Armenia with hardware and software (modules).

2. The Council of Europe is an international organisation with 47 member states, enjoying privileges and immunities under a General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities. Any dispute between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the contractor concerning the interpretation or execution of the contract in respect of which the parties cannot arrive at a friendly settlement will, in accordance with Article 21 of the above-mentioned General Agreement, be submitted to arbitration under the conditions laid down in the Secretary General's Rule 481 of 27 February 1976, as approved by the Committee of Ministers.

3. All bidders are required to meet the following criteria:

- be registered in a member state of the Council of Europe;
- have at least two years of experience in the field of IT. This experience has to be proved by recommendations from a third party providing a detailed description of the work carried out by the bidder for a project of a similar type.
- have experience in importing IT equipment to Armenia or being an Armenian registered company;
- be able to organise regional delivery of the goods and complete delivery within 12 weeks after receiving the order.
- The bid should comply with the technical specifications and general and specific purchasing conditions - precondition: no further consideration will be given to offers which do not meet this requirement.

4. Selection Criteria

Bidders will be assessed, according to the following weighing factors, on:

- Price
- Warranty conditions
- Availability of online support and provision for 24/7 availability of relevant driver suites
- Proven experience of implementing projects of a similar scale.

5. Exclusion Criteria

(a) General exclusion criteria

Bidders shall be excluded from participating in the tender procedure where they:

- a. have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering;
- b. are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- c. have received a judgment with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or serious professional misconduct;
- d. do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of their country of incorporation;

All bidders shall deliver, when submitting their tender, a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in any of the above-mentioned situations.

The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask successful bidders to supply the following supporting documents:

- a. for the items in a), b) and c), produce an extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the beneficiary country, indicating that these requirements are met;
- b. for the items in d), a certificate issued by the competent authority of the beneficiary country."

(b) Exclusion criteria specific to this particular tender

Bidders shall be excluded from participating in the tender procedure if they:

- Do not have sufficient company capital to cover the scope of the tasks envisaged;
- Do not have an annual turnover equivalent to two times the annual value of the market to be awarded;
- Do not submit a proposal in full conformity with the technical specifications of the tender;
- Are not prepared to complete delivery within 10 weeks of the signature of the contract (or receipt of prepayment if applicable);
- Are not prepared to deliver products which are in a conformity with relevant CE regulations/norms if applicable;
- Are not prepared to meet technical documentation requirements;
- Do not possess all the permits and licenses required by applicable laws in Armenia in the area of technical information protection;
- Are not prepared to deliver equipment to the locations indicated in the documentation;
- Do not accept the general purchasing conditions of the Council of Europe;
- Do not accept technical specifications, qualification and delivery requirements applicable to this tender as indicated in the Annex I to the call for tenders.

6. Submission of bids

Bids accompanied by a duly completed checklist (model attached hereto as Appendix II) must be submitted, no later than 2 April 2012, in a sealed envelope with the following indication:

"A n'ouvrir que par la Commission des Marchés"

JP Support for Access to Justice in Armenia - contract for the e-notary in Armenia

and should be enclosed within another one addressed to:

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
2011AOXXX
à l'attention de la Commission des Marchés
BP7
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

They must also be sent by e-mail to the address of the Tenders Board: cdm@coe.int. Bids submitted to another address or e-mail account, as well as bids submitted by e-mail only will be excluded from the procedure.

The decision of the Council of Europe, and its Tenders Board, to accept or reject a bid is not subject to appeal.

The Council of Europe reserves the right not to contact you concerning this call for tenders if the bid does not satisfy the specified criteria or fails to supply some of the information requested.

The contract is expected to be awarded in June 2012 based on a recommendation by the Council of Europe's Tenders Board, and the planned starting date for the execution of the contract is 1 July 2012.



Այս ծրագիրը ֆինանսավորվում է Եվրոպական Միության և իրականացվում է Եվրոպայի Խորհրդի կողմից

«Աջակցություն Հայաստանում արդարադատության մատչելիությանը» Եվրոպական Միության և Եվրոպայի խորհրդի համատեղ ծրագիր ՄՐՑՈՒՅԹԻ ՀՐԱՎԵՐ

Հայաստանում Էլ-նոտարի տեղեկատվական համակարգի (ՀԷՆՏՀ/AENIS) համար տեխնիկական սարքավորումների և ծրագրային միջոցների գնում

1. Եվրոպայի խորհրդի և Եվրոպական միության միջև «Աջակցություն Հայաստանում արդարադատության մատչելիությանը» համատեղ ծրագրի շրջանակներում Եվրոպայի խորհուրդը կազմակերպում է մրցույթի հրավեր՝ նպատակ ունենալով պայմանագիր կնքել ՀԷՆՏՀ համար տեխնիկական սարքավորումներ և ծրագրային ապահովում տրամադրելու վերաբերյալ:

Պայմանագրի առարկան վերաբերում է տեխնիկական սարքավորումների և ծրագրային ապահովման մատակարարմանը և դրանց տրամադրմանը ՀՀ Արդարադատության նախարարությանը, ինչպես նշված է Հավելվածում՝ Հայաստանի բոլոր շրջաններում նոտարներին տեխնիկական միջոցներով և համակարգչային ծրագրերով վերագինելու (մոդուլներ) նպատակով:

2. Եվրոպայի խորհուրդը 47 անդամ պետություն ունեցող միջազգային կազմակերպություն է, որն օգտվում է արտոնություններից և անձեռնմխելիություններից, համաձայն Արտոնությունների և անձեռնմխելիությունների մասին գլխավոր համաձայնագրի: Պայմանագիրը ստորագրող կողմի և Եվրոպայի խորհրդի քարտուղարության միջև ցանկացած վեճ կապված պայմանագրի մեկնաբանման կամ կատարման հետ, որի շուրջ կողմերը չեն կարողանում հասնել բարեկամական համաձայնության, համաձայն վերը նշված Համաձայնագրի Հոդված 21-ի, պետք է ներկայացվի արբիտրաժի այն պայմաններով, որոնք սահմանված են 1976թ. Փետրվարի 27-ին Գլխավոր քարտուղարի ստորագրած Թիվ 481 կանոնով, որը հաստատված է Նախարարների կոմիտեի կողմից:

3. Մրցույցի բոլոր մասնակիցներից պահանջվում է համապատասխանել հետևյալ չափանիշներին՝

- գրանցված լինել Եվրոպայի խորհրդի որևէ անդամ պետությունում

- Ունենալ առնվազն երկու տարվա փորձ ՏՏ ոլորտում: Այս փորձը պետք է ապացուցվի երրորդ կողմի հանձնարարականներով, որոնցում մանրամասն ներկայացվի նմանօրինակ ծրագրի համար մրցույթի մասնակցի կողմից իրականացված աշխատանքի նկարագիրը:

- Ունենալ ՏՏ սարքավորում Հայաստան ներկրելու փորձ կամ լինել Հայաստանում գրանցված ընկերություն:

- Կարողանալ կազմակերպել ապրանքների տարածաշրջանային առաքումը և այն ավարտել պատվերը ստանալուց հետո 12 շաբաթվա ընթացքում:

- Առաջարկը պետք է համապատասխանի տեխնիկական բնութագրերին և ընդհանուր ու հատուկ գնման պայմաններին՝ նախապայմանով, որ հաշվի չեն առնվի այն առաջարկները, որոնք չեն համապատասխանի այս պահանջին:

4. Ընտրության չափանիշները

Հայտատուները կգնահատվեն համաձայն հետևյալ համեմատական գործոնների՝

- Գին

- Երաշխիքային պայմաններ

- Ստաչելի առցանց օժանդակություն և 24/7 համապատասխան սարքավարիչների (դրայվերների) խմբերի մատչելիության ապահովում

- Նմանօրինակ մասշտաբի ծրագրերի իրականացման հաստատուն փորձ

5. Բացառման չափանիշները

(a) Բացառման ընդհանուր չափանիշներ՝

Հայտատուները դուրս կմնան մրցութային ընթացակարգից, եթե նրանք՝

ա. Դատապարտվել են վերջնական վճռով հետևյալ մեղադրանքներից որևէ մեկով կամ մի քանիսով՝ մասնակցություն քրեական կազմակերպությունում, կոռուպցիա, կեղծարարություն, փողերի լվացում.

բ. Սնանկության, լուծարման, գործունեության դադարեցման, պարտատերերին անվճարումակության կամ նմանօրինակ այլ ընթացակարգից բխող իրավիճակում է, կամ ենթակա է նմանօրինակ ընթացակարգի.

գ. Ստացել է *res judicata* վճիռ, որը այնպիսի իրավախախտում է արձանագրել, ինչը ներգործում է հայտատուի մասնագիտական ամբողջականությանը կամ ինչը լուրջ մասնագիտական սխալ է. դ. Չի կատարել իր պարտականությունները սոցիալական ապահովագրության վճարների, հարկերի կամ մաքսերի վճարման առումով՝ ըստ այն երկրի կանոնադրական դրույթների, որում գործում է.

Բոլոր հայտատուները իրենց հայտը ներկայացնելիս պետք է իրենց պատասխանատվությամբ տրամադրեն հայտարարագիր, որով կհավաստեն, որ իրենք չեն գտնվում վերոնշյալ որևէ իրավիճակում:

Եվրոպայի Խորհուրդն իրավունք է վերապահում հաջողակ հայտատուներից պահանջել հետևյալ օժանդակող փաստաթղթերը՝

ա. Ա), բ) և գ) կետերի համար ներկայացնել քաղվածք դատական արձանագրություններից, իսկ դա չանելու դեպքում տրամադրել հավասարազոր փաստաթուղթ շահառու երկրի իրավագոր դատական կամ վարչական իշխանության կողմից, որում մատնանշվի, որ նշված պահանջները բավարարված են:

բ. Դ) կետերի համար՝ տեղեկանք շահառու երկրի իրավասու իշխանության կողմից:

(բ) Բացառման չափանիշներ, որոնք առանձնահատուկ են այս մրցույթին:

Հայտատուները դուրս կմնան մրցութային ընթացակարգից, եթե՝

- Եթե ընկերությունը չունի բավարար միջոցներ նախատեսված առաջադրանքները կատարելու համար

- Չունեն տարեկան շրջանառություն, որը երկու անգամ ավելի է տարեկան շնորհվելիք գումարի արժեքից

- Չի ներկայացրել առաջարկը մրցույթի տեխնիկական պահանջներին համապատասխան

- Պատրաստ չէ ավարտել առաքումը պայմանագիրը ստորագրելուց (կամ կանխավճարի ստացումից հետո, եթե դա կիրառելի է) հետո 10 շաբաթվա ընթացքում.

- Պատրաստ չէ առաքել ապրանք, որը համապատասխանում է ԵԽ համապատասխան կանոնակարգերին կամ նորմերին, եթե դրանք կիրառելի են.

- Պատրաստ չէ ապահովել տեխնիկական փաստաթղթերի պահանջները.

- Չունի այն բոլոր թույլտվությունները և արտոնագրերը, որոնք պահանջվում են Հայաստանում կիրառվող օրենքներով տեխնիկական տեղեկատվության պաշտպանության ոլորտում.

- Պատրաստ չէ սարքավորումներն առաքել փաստաթղթերում մատնանշված տեղանքներ.

- Չի ընդունում Եվրոպայի խորհրդի ընդհանուր գնումների ընթացակարգը.

- Չի ընդունում տեխնիկական առանձնահատկությունները, որակավորման և առաքման պահանջները, որոնք կիրառելի են սույն մրցույթի նկատմամբ, ինչպես նշված է մրցույթների հայտարարման վերաբերյալ Հավելված I-ում:

6. Հայտերի ներկայացումը

Փաթեթները, պատշաճ լրացված ստուգացուցակի հետ (ստուգացուցակի մոդուլին և այլ անհրաժեշտ փաստաթղթերին ծանոթանալու համար այցելեք http://www.coe.int/t/CallForTenders/default_en.asp) պետք է ներկայացվեն, ոչ ուշ քան 2012թ. մայիսի 18-ը, կնքված ծրարով, որի վրա նշված լինի հետևյալը՝

“ A n'ouvrir que par la Commission des Marchés “

JP Support for Access to Justice in Armenia - contract for the e-notary in Armenia

և պետք է ներառված լինեն մեկ այլ ծրարում, որը հասցեագրվի՝

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
2011AOXXX
à l'attention de la Commission des Marchés
BP7
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Դրանք նաև պետք է էլեկտրոնային փոստով ուղարկվեն Մրցույթների հանձնախմբին՝ cdm@coe.int: Այլ հասցեով կամ էլեկտրոնային այլ փոստարկղի ուղարկված հայտերը, ինչպես նաև այն հայտերը, որոնք կուղարկվեն միայն էլեկտրոնային փոստով, կբացառվեն ընթացակարգից:

Եվրոպայի խորհրդի և նրա Մրցույթների հանձնախմբի որոշումը հայտի ընդունման կամ մերժման վերաբերյալ բողոքարկման ենթակա չէ:

Եվրոպայի խորհուրդն իրավունք է վերապահում Ձեզ հետ չկապվել այս մրցույթի առնչությամբ, եթե հայտը չի բավարարել մատնանշված չափանիշները կամ նրանում բացակայում է որևէ պահանջվող տեղեկատվություն:

Ակնկալվում է, որ պայմանագիրը կշնորհվի 2012թ. հունիս ամսին՝ հիմնվելով Եվրոպայի խորհրդի Մրցույթների հանձնախմբի առաջարկություններին, իսկ պայմանագրի կատարման մեկնարկը պլանավորված է 2012թ. հուլիսի 13-ին:

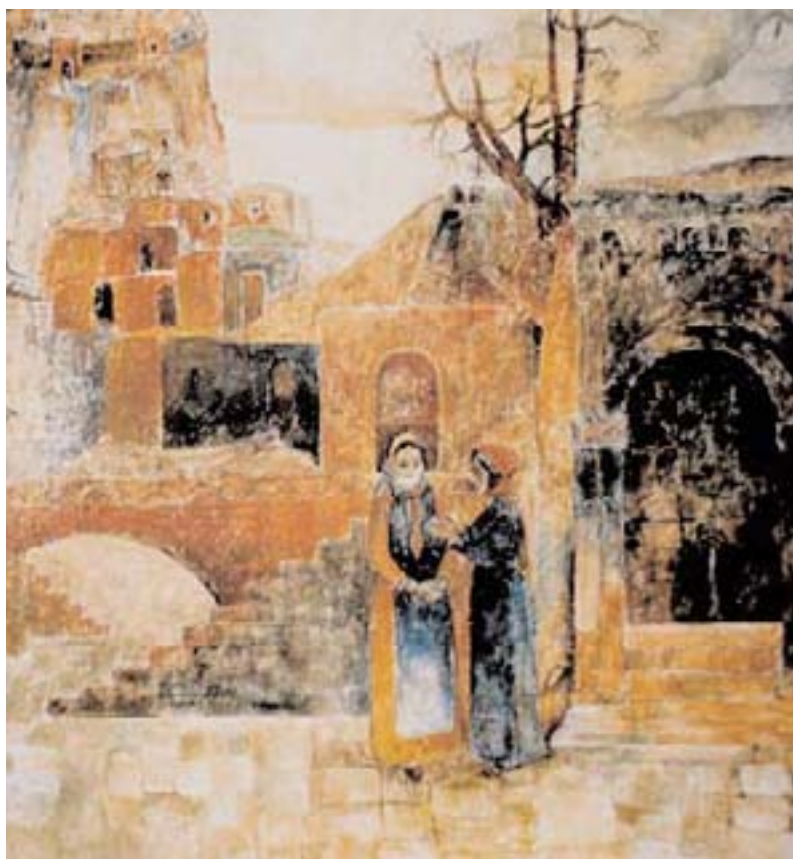
The fresco of Minas "Armenia" will be restored

Minas Avetisyan's fresco "Armenia" will be restored by the funding of the Government: it is situated on one of the walls of Vahramaberd's House of Culture which has been affected by the earthquake. As Armenpress reports, Tigran Sargsyan mentioned during the session of the Government: "After the restoring the fresco will again be situated in the House of culture of Vahramaberd. We hope that there will be benefactors from Gyumri with the help of whom will be restored the other two frescos of Minas which are on the edge

of abrasion," said the Prime minister. Tigran Sargsyan has reminded that already five of eight frescos of Minas, which are on the edge of abrasion, have been restored, and the restoration works of fresco "Armenia" will begin in the near future.

As said the RA Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan, for the realization of those works 20 million AMD are needed.

From the budget of RA 230 million AMD have been provided to the Ministry of Urban Development for restoring the House of Culture in Vahramaberd.



Turkish taboos perpetuate immaturity

The Guardian, Ayse Kadioglu,

The protection of 'Turkishness' has gone too far. To heal the wounds of our dark past, we need debate and deliberation

Growing up under the spell of taboos is a debilitating experience. It can imprison one's mind in a state of infancy despite the inevitable physical growth of a person. As the Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana says: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." When I understood the magnitude of these words, I was already an adult enrolled in graduate school in the US.

I grew up in Turkey, where the prevailing education system still conceals certain historical facts in primary and secondary school curricula lest they harm the "indivisibility of the state with its country and nation", an expression that is used several times in the current Turkish constitution. Perhaps the fear about deeds that can harm the unity of the state and nation is best symbolized in the Turkish national anthem, which begins with the lyrics "Do not fear".

When fears nurture and sustain taboos, the ability to retain experiences declines. Enduring an education that is laden with either false historical facts or an eerie silence makes it impossible for people to exit the state of self-imposed immaturity.

When I encountered Armenian-American students in Boston who examined me as "the Turk" in flesh and blood, at first, I could not understand the reason for their unfettered curiosity. As soon as we began to talk, I also began to read about the tragedy of the Armenians during the demise of the Ottoman empire. It almost felt as if I was



from another planet. I had grown up under the spell of nationalist taboos and was educated to be ignorant on certain issues. Yes, progress is diminished to cosmetic change in the absence of retaining knowledge. Taboos perpetuate immaturity.

There are many taboos in Turkey that mainly concern the protection of the "indivisibility of the state and nation". There are also many laws that make it a crime to break these taboos. When taboos are sustained by law, the minds (and, many times, bodies) of citizens end up being imprisoned. One such taboo involves the founder of the Turkish republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. In Turkey, it is a crime to insult his memory and harm his statutes. Another taboo involves the sacredness of the armed forces. This is sustained by a law against discouraging people from performing their compulsory military service.

Many conscientious objectors, as well as writers, have faced criminal charges on the basis of this law. "Turkishness" is another taboo and there is a law against insulting "Turkishness". Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink was charged and found guilty for insulting Turkishness on the basis of an opinion piece he had authored despite a report of experts presented to the local criminal court who

opposed the charges against him. This indictment ignited the fire of events that led to his assassination in 2007.

The notion of the "indivisibility of the Turkish state with its country and nation" is the most pervasive taboo of the Turkish republic. The Turkish state's unremitting drive to protect the fantasy of a unified nation has led to the denial of the identity of its Kurdish citizens. They were banned from speaking Kurdish in the aftermath of the 1980 military coup. Thousands of Kurds were killed or "lost" in Turkey in clandestine acts in the 1990s. It does not seem possible to heal the wounds of this dark past without widening the channels of public debate and deliberation.

Taboos, enforced by law, are fetters in front of the ability to reason. It is possible to be released from the spell of taboos and strengthen the ethos of democracy by upholding the realm of public debate and deliberation. Therefore, yes, I agree with Free Speech Debate's fourth draft principle, "We allow no taboos in the discussion and dissemination of knowledge", because we try not to be trapped in a state of immaturity and want to do our utmost to fulfill our capacities as reasonable human beings.

Ayşe Kadioglu is a professor at Sabanci University, Turkey

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DID YOU KNOW?



Heading by
Marina Harutiunyan
marina@nt.am
Comments are
welcomed!

AINA: Armenia must recognize the Assyrian Genocide

On 19 March 2012, the Armenian Parliament rejected a proposal tabled by Armenia's Heritage Party to consider a bill recognizing the Assyrian and Greek genocides (AINA 3-20-2012). The proposal was also supported by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun Party) but opposed by the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA).

According to Galust Sahakyan, the head of the RPA parliamentary faction, there was no political need for the adoption of the bill. Speaker of the Armenian Parliament, Samvel Nikoyan (RPA) noted that the rejection of the proposal demonstrated Armenia's respect for its international partners 'who have made a lot of effort for the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations.'

The motion was supported by 17 Members of Parliament but ultimately was not placed on the parliamentary agenda because of abstentions from all other members, which prevented the quorum necessary to table the motion.

The refusal by the majority of the Armenian Parliament to even place the proposal on the parliamentary agenda has been met with dismay and deep concern by Assyrians, Armenians and Hellenes worldwide (AINA 3-28-2012).

A clear contradiction is seen in this move considering that the Parliament of Armenia had itself called on other gov-

ernments to recognize the Assyrian genocide in the past, specifically in a Parliamentary Declaration on the occasion of the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2011, with then National Assembly Speaker of the Republic of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan declaring that the 'recognition of the genocides perpetrated against the Armenians, Hellenes and Assyrians' by parliaments and legislative bodies throughout the world 'would lead to the restoration of justice and the prevention of other genocides in the future.'

Commenting on the decision, Armenian organizations, including the Armenian National Committee of Australia, have 'strongly encouraged every member of the National Assembly of Armenia to vote in favor of a similar motion when it is presented to the Parliament in the future.'

Only weeks before the decision, 36 Assyrian organizations and 22 renowned genocide scholars had called on the Republic of Armenia to recognize the Assyrian and Greek genocides (AINA 2-19-2012). In a letter signed by the organizations and scholars and addressed to His Excellency Serzh A. Sargsyan, the President of the Republic of Armenia, Sabri Atman, Director of the Assyrian Genocide Research Centre (Seyfo Center) stated: 'We would also like to take this opportunity to call upon the Republic of Armenia, through your good offices, to

move towards recognizing the Assyrian Genocide alongside the Armenian Genocide. It is our hope that the Republic of Armenia will also take steps to include references to the Assyrian Genocide within school textbooks and the general curriculum taught in schools throughout Armenia. By itself recognizing the co-victims of the Armenian Genocide, namely the Assyrian and Greek peoples, the Republic of Armenia will provide the impetus for greater cooperation between our three peoples and a united front on the global stage.'

The breadth of response to this letter from Assyrians, Armenians, Hellenes and others around the world is a testament to the strong feeling amongst victim groups on the matter and the desire of both Assyrians and Hellenes to see this most important recognition by the Republic of Armenia become a reality.

Assyrians, including Seyfo Center Director Sabri Atman, will be in Armenia in April to attend Armenian Genocide commemorations and the unveiling of the first Assyrian genocide monument in Yerevan. During this visit Mr Atman will meet with Armenian political leaders and stress the desire of Assyrians worldwide to see the Republic of Armenia recognize the Assyrian genocide.

By Joseph Hawell
Assyrian International News Agency

ARMENIAN POETRY

Sona Van

BLESS ME FROM YOUR HEAVEN, PABLO, AND
COME HOME

(on the fourth day of my cat's redisappearance)

Where are you . . . Pablo . . . ?
(it's the fourth day already)

Jump swiftly
from beneath the dying bush
as you did last time
(on exactly the fourth day)
when I, with a bowed neck,
drew a circle with my hand
my blind person's limb
in the rustling autumn glade

return, Pablo!
I forgot to ask you-
have you seen the same
mistress by chance
in any of your nine heavens
and if not
then where do they go
(the cat loving women)
after death . . . ?

And also, Pablo,
I didn't tell you
about the period in hell
comprised of the lost time
of all the loveless women

let there be you . . . Pablo,
the glorious arch of your back
like a church
where I have confessed my sins
to you who listened with me
to Rilke
Bach
Komitas
and like them you too
undoubtedly peregrinate now
in one of heaven's derelict quarters

bless me from your heaven and come home

a broken branch, my hand
keeps searching in the sand-
how difficult it is to find
something lost in here
and especially
something so beautiful
so strikingly beautiful . . .

* * *

This is my new city
of angels-
the smell of urine mixed in
with the smell of grass
where the dying beggar
does not rise to heaven
but slowly dissipates
into the asphalt

this is my sadness
an empty cavity-
familiar stars
speaking in foreign tongues
where I die
each time
like the line
that perishes
in translation

like the cheerfulness
of rich . . . loveless women
the dazzling lights
of this city
make me sad-
everything here is fake
and fleeting
except for this true loneliness of mine



"NATIONAL GALLERY" international music festival will start next week

This International Music Festival has been organized for seven years by the efforts of Mariam Shahinyan and Garik Nazaryan, devotees of music. It is special for presenting the audience new names from Armenia and many other countries of

the world.

The Festival has its special friends, as Aram Talalyan and Armen Babakhanyan. It has special programmes dedicated to certain events and composers.

«ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՊԱՏԿԵՐԱՍՐԱՀ»
միջազգային երաժշտական փառատուն
"NATIONAL GALLERY"
international music festival
VIII 2012

ԱՊՐԻԼԻ 28 APRIL
ՓԱՏԿԵՐԱՍՐԱՀԻ ՎԵՐԱՊԵՐՈՒՄ
«ԿԻՆԱ Լ'ԻՏԱԼԻԱ»
ՄԱՐԻ ՔՈՆՏԵՍՏԱՆ (ՍՈՔՐԱՆՈՎ)
ՐԱՄԱ ԽԱՇՈՒԿՅԱՆ (ՄԵԶՍՈՔՐԱՆՈՎ)
ԱՐՏԻՄ ԿՈՅԵԿՅԱՆ (ԲԱՐԻՏՈՆ)
ՖԵՍՏԻՎԱԼ ՕՐԵՍՏՐԱ
ԱՐԱՄ ՏԱԼԱԿՅԱՆ
ԱՐՏԻՍՏԻԿ ԴԻՐԵԿՏՈՐ և ԿՈՆԴՈՒԿՏՈՐ

ՄԱՅԻ 4 MAY
ՊԻԱՆՈ ՔԵԿՐԱԼ
ԲՈՐԻՍ ԵՐՄԱՆ (ՍՏԱ)

ՄԱՅԻ 12 MAY
ԴՈՒՅՑ «ԱԿԼԱՐԴԵՈՆ»
ՐՈՍՍԻԱՆ ՖԵԴԵՐԱՏՈՆ
ԵՎԵՆԻ ՎՊԱՎՈ (ԿԼԱՐՆԵՏ)
ՄԱՐԻԱ ՎԼԱՏՅՈՎ (ԱԿՈՐԴԵՈՆ)

ՄԱՅԻ 18 MAY
ՊԻԱՆՈ ՔԵԿՐԱԼ
ԱՐԱՄ ԲԱԲԱԽԱՆՅԱՆ

ՄԱՅԻ 22 MAY
ԻՐԱՆԻ ՕՓԵՐԱ ՏԵԱՏՐԵ ՍՈԼՈՒՍՏԻՆ
«ՏՈՒԼԿՈՎ» ԵՆՍԵՄԲԼ (ՋՈՐՋԻԱ)

ՄԱՅԻ 26 MAY
ՓԱՏԿԵՐԱՍՐԱՀԻ ՎԵՐԱՊԵՐՈՒՄ
«ԿԻՆԱ Լ'ԻՏԱԼԻԱ»
ՄԱՐԻ ՔՈՆՏԵՍՏԱՆ (ՍՈՔՐԱՆՈՎ)
ՐԱՄԱ ԽԱՇՈՒԿՅԱՆ (ՄԵԶՍՈՔՐԱՆՈՎ)
ԱՐՏԻՄ ԿՈՅԵԿՅԱՆ (ԲԱՐԻՏՈՆ)
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ԱՐԱՄ ՏԱԼԱԿՅԱՆ
ԱՐՏԻՍՏԻԿ ԴԻՐԵԿՏՈՐ և ԿՈՆԴՈՒԿՏՈՐ

ՓԱՏԿԵՐԱՍՐԱՀԻ ՎԵՐԱՊԵՐՈՒՄ
«ԿԻՆԱ Լ'ԻՏԱԼԻԱ»
ՄԱՐԻ ՔՈՆՏԵՍՏԱՆ (ՍՈՔՐԱՆՈՎ)
ՐԱՄԱ ԽԱՇՈՒԿՅԱՆ (ՄԵԶՍՈՔՐԱՆՈՎ)
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ԱՐԱՄ ՏԱԼԱԿՅԱՆ
ԱՐՏԻՍՏԻԿ ԴԻՐԵԿՏՈՐ և ԿՈՆԴՈՒԿՏՈՐ

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19):



Mercury has entered your sign and brings with him a bright new idea or opportunity. After a three month siege of getting nowhere, this will feel like the breath of spring. You are looking for something that will give you greater freedom and this may be it.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19):



The sun returns "home" to your sign this week. You likely will find it to be energizing. Now is the time to focus on new plans for this next year of your life. Take a fresh look at where you want to direct your energy. It is appropriate that your attention be directed toward yourself right now.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20):



You are wide open to receive new experiences through friends or new group associations. Whatever your circumstances, you are in a position to be of help to others and that will please you. You are witty and fun to be around this week.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21):



You are in a reasonably good place with yourself at this time. Your heart and mind are flowing together. You have no conflict between your feelings and your thoughts about those feelings. This is a time for reflection on important subjects. You can make good decisions now.

Leo (July 21 - Aug 22):



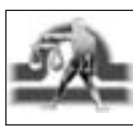
Your general attention is shifting for the next month into the arena of your career and overall life direction. Whatever you have created thus far will be noticed and perhaps applauded. As a talented leader, you may attract an invitation to manage an upcoming project.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 22):



An issue of shared resources (time, money, or energy) is on your plate as the week begins. You may feel you have no good solution. However, discuss this with your family and brainstorm for solutions as the week progresses. You likely will find a way through quickly.

Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22):



This is likely to be an uneventful week because you have no new aspects. However, it is a good time for catch up and to dig more deeply into your philosophy. Reflect on your ethics. Teaching, education, travel, and legal projects should be smooth.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):



You have a sense of physical strength at this time that will be especially beneficial if you are exercising or in any type of competition. For the first time in weeks, circumstances concerning relationships are looking more positive. Now is a good time to look toward a meeting of minds.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20):



Your mind and heart are clearly in sync at this time. You are likely at peace with yourself. There is a solid and practical solution at hand and you do not have to quarrel with yourself over it. Activities involving your children and/or other creative products of your being are favored. Love life flows smoothly.

Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19):



This is a steady week for the Goats. You have a few balls in the air which are beginning to line up very well and will be bringing rewards over the next two to three weeks. So keep up the good work and move forward with your plans.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17):



This is a great week for a getaway. Do something novel, even if you don't leave home. Your mind is open to whatever seems fresh and unique. A surprise may occur related to a roommate, neighbor or a sibling.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19):



New media or a renewed form of communication will bring refreshment to your daily life. Aspects favor adding a roommate or visiting with siblings. Short trips could be revitalizing. It seems you need greater exposure to the natural world.

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WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? Enjoy your leisure

A.SPENDIARIAN OPERA AND BALLET NATIONAL
ACADEMIC THEATER
April 23, at 7 p.m.
Spartacus
Aram Khachaturian
Ballet in 3 acts
Conductor: Karen Durgaryan
Director: Yuri Grigorovich
Decoration and costumes:
Simon Virsaladze
April 28, at 7 p.m.
An Evening of Ballet
A. Vivaldi "Spring", ballet (premiere)
M. Ravel "Bolero", ballet (premiere)
Staging ballet master:
Rudolf Kharatyan
Conductor: Karen Durgaryan

ARAM KHACHATRIAN
CONCERT HALL
April 25 at 7 p.m.
Rossini. Stabat Mater
The concert is presented by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra in the frames of "100 Concerts in Memory of the Victims of the Genocide of Armenians" project.
Armenian State Academic Choir
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Ohannes Tchekidjian
Soloists:
Karine Babajanian, soprano
Juliet Galstyan, mezzo soprano
Berj Karazian, tenor
Hayk Deinyan, bass
Conductor: Eduard Topchjan

ARNO BABAJANYAN
CONCERT HALL
April 25, at 7 p.m.
Concert in Commemoration of Armenian Genocide Victims
Armenian State Ensemble of Gusan and Folk Song
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: composer
Gevorg Manasyan
Conductor: Hrach Nazaryan
Choirmaster: soloist Laura Mamyan
Concertmaster:
soloist Ashot Vardanyan
Soloists:
Margar Yeghiazaryan
Gayane Simonyan
Karen Poghosyan

LOBBY OF RA GOVERNMENT SESSION HALL
April 25, at 7 p.m.
Armenian Yerevan Fashion Week National Awards
for contribution to fashion and design
Large show of Armenian fashion designers and brand stores/boutiques

YEREVAN STATE THEATER OF THE YOUNG SPECTATOR
April 26, at 7 p.m.
Yerevan State Pantomime Theater
The Game, Mimodrama in 1 act.
Based on an oriental legend on a king and a beauty.
Author and Director:
Zhirayr Dadasyan

H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATER
April 23, at 4.30 p.m.
Highland Metalfest 2012

ULIKHANYAN CLUB
April 23, at 9 p.m.
Author's Song Night
April 25, at 9 p.m.
Spanish Day "Rumba Gitanos"
April 26, at 9 p.m.
Rak & Roll
April 27, at 9 p.m.
Suren Arustamyan Blues Band
April 29, at 9 p.m.
Sona Shiroyan & The Band

CLUB 12
April 26, at 9:30 p.m.
Greek Party
April 27, at 9:30 p.m.
Retro Disco Party
April 28, at 9:30 p.m.
Latino party from Fiesta Caliente

TUMO
April 20 - April 24
Comics Festival in Yerevan

GIZA CLUB
April 23, at 7:30 p.m.
... For Youth

CLUB
April 27, at 8 p.m.
Author Song

TORTUGA PUB
April 24, at 8 p.m.
Piano Night

HUMOR

Did you ever have this before?

Doctor: Have you ever had this before?

Patient: Yes.

Doctor: Well, you've got it again!

Easter

Q: Why did the Easter Bunny hide his eggs?

A: He didn't want the other bunnies to know that he was fooling around with the chickens.

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Quote of the week

There is no such thing
in anyone's life as an
unimportant day.

Alexander Woolcott



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