

## Trump praises Armenia-NATO ties



Official publication

***U.S. - President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump pose for a photo with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan at a official reception in New York, 19Sep2017.***

U.S. President Donald Trump praised Armenia for participating in NATO-led peacekeeping operations and military exercises on September 21 when he congratulated the country on the 26th anniversary of its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

In a congratulatory letter to President Serzh Sargsyan, Trump also expressed readiness

to “continue our assistance” to Armenia’s ongoing transition to a parliamentary system of government. He said his administration is also seeking to expand U.S.-Armenian economic ties.

“We also greatly appreciate Armenia’s participation in international peacekeeping operations and NATO-led and other multinational exercises,” read the letter publicized

by Sargsyan’s press office.

Trump singled out Armenian participation in U.S.-led drills held in neighboring Georgia in August. They involved about 2,800 troops from the United States, Georgia and six other nations. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence visited and addressed them during an official trip to Georgia.

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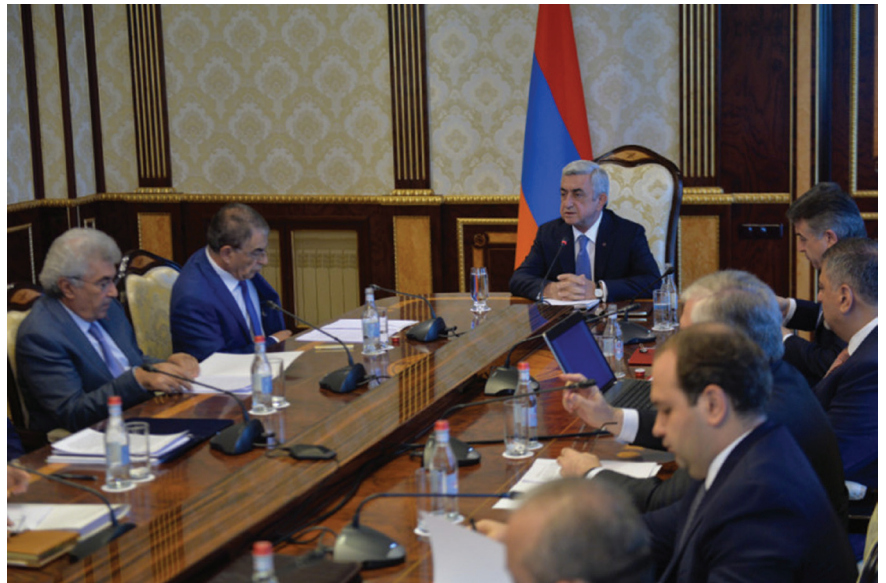
## President convenes National Security Council meeting

President of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Council Chairman Serzh Sargsyan convened a meeting of the National Security Council to discuss the pace of institutional reforms and the public service system efficiency in the fight against corruption, as well as issues concerning the information security and information policy concept.

The first issue was reported by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of International Economic Integration and Reforms Vache Gabrielyan and Justice Minister David Haroutyunyan.

The meeting was briefed on the complex of anticorruption measures implemented so far, including the package of draft laws developed by the working group established pursuant to the presidential decree of December 20, 2016 "On creating a working group for institutional system reform in the field of combating corruption," the anticorruption measures implemented on the basis of international cooperation, as well as the new anticorruption strategy directions. The Council took note of the reports.

The second issue on the agenda was reported by National Security Service Director Georgy Kutoyan and Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology Vahan Martirosyan. The rapporteurs emphasized that the RA Information Security and Information Policy Concept is an



important component of State policy. The significant impact of information technologies on the normal and efficient operations of all management spheres exacerbates the need for the development and updating of conceptual and normative-legal documents on information security.

The NSS Director stated that the interagency task force had drafted the paper proceeding from the need to develop and implement new standards of information security, strategic directions in line with the emerging chal-

lenges and global developments.

The draft concept describes the current state of Armenia's information security, the basic values, principles, interests, threats and challenges, policy goals, issues of domestic and international cooperation, etc. The concept summarizes the main directions and priorities specified in the unified information policy.

Account taken of the proposals voiced during the meeting, the National Security Council approved the draft concept

## British Parliament has been condemning the massacre of Armenians for hundred years: Alan Duncan



The UK Parliament has been condemning the atrocities and massacres

[of Armenians] for hundred years, UK Minister for Europe and Americas Alan

Duncan has said.

"We were at the forefront of condemning them at the time and we have done so," Mr. Duncan said at a joint press conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian in Yerevan.

"I went to the Memorial today and it was a very moving moment to me. And there at the exhibits, I found a number of documents from the UK Parliament from 1915-1916," the Minister added.

"So here in Yerevan is the clear evidence of the British Parliament having condemned what happened for over a century," Alan Duncan stated.

The UK Minister for Europe visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial, laid a wreath at the memorial to the innocent victims and toured the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.



## Turkish-Armenian MP seeks “dialogue” between Ankara, Yerevan



Garage Paylan, an ethnic Armenian opposition member of the Turkish parliament, pledged on September 22 to try to “build bridges” between Turkey and Armenia, while reiterating that Ankara is unlikely to normalize relations with Yerevan anytime soon.

“I would like to open, even slightly, the door of dialogue. I know that it will be difficult, but even in the darkest of times the door of dialogue must be kept a little open,” Paylan told a news conference held at the end of his weeklong visit to Armenia.

“I can see that Armenia’s leadership is prepared for such dialogue,” he said. “When I return to Turkey, I will ask our government whether they are ready for it or not.”

Paylan arrived in Yerevan to take part in a government-organized conference that brought together some 1,800 ethnic Armenians from around the world. They discussed with Armenian government representatives Armenia’s relations with its worldwide Diaspora.

Paylan met with Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on the sidelines of the three-day forum that ended on Wednesday. He was received by President Serzh Sarkisian later on Friday.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Sargsyan announced his intention to formally annul U.S.-brokered agreements to normalize Armenia’s relations with Turkey. He cited the Turkish government’s continuing refusal to ratify them before a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh acceptable to Azerbaijan. Ankara has still not officially reacted to his announcement.

The protocols signed in Zurich in 2009 committed Turkey and Armenia to establishing diplomatic relations and opening their

border which the Turks have kept completely closed since 1993.

“The 2009 protocols were really important documents,” Paylan said when asked to comment on Sargsyan’s plans to invalidate them. “But we now need a blank sheet of paper. That requires a dialogue.”

The 44-year-old parliamentarian affiliated with the pro-Kurdish People’s Democratic Party (HDP) stood by his view, voiced during the Yerevan conference, that only “a democratic Turkey” could open the Turkish-Armenian border and recognize the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire. He was deeply pessimistic about such a prospect, saying that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s rule has left Turkey on a “dictatorial path.”

Erdogan unleashed a massive crackdown on his real and presumed foes after surviving a coup attempt in July 2016. Some 150,000 people have been sacked or suspended from jobs in the civil service and private sector and more than 50,000 detained for alleged links to the putsch.



The Turkish authorities also arrested last year more than a dozen HDP lawmakers, including the party’s top leader, Selahattin Demirtas. They are mostly accused of having links to the Kurdish militant group PKK, a charge they strongly deny.

“Independent media and courts do not function in Turkey these days,” said Paylan. “They are all controlled by Erdogan. The leader of my party and my many other comrades are now in jail. Many journalists are also in jail.”

“Kurds now demand what we [Armenians] were demanding 105-110 years ago: Turkey should become democratic,” he said. And they now face the kind of security risks which Ottoman Armenians did in the run-up to the 1915 genocide, claimed the former Armenian school principal from Istanbul.

Speaking to journalists at the Yerevan office of the Armenian Assembly of America, Paylan also insisted that the HDP is the only mainstream Turkish party genuinely committed to democracy and minority rights.

“Of course, we keep fighting against this fascist way but that is not enough,” he went on. “We really need support coming from all over the world. But the West has turned a blind eye to human rights violations in Turkey and other Muslim-majority countries. This is the problem.” The HDP is the only major party in Turkey that has recognized the World War One-era deaths of some 1.5 million Armenians as genocide. Paylan has repeatedly called for genocide recognition on the Turkish parliament floor, angering Erdogan’s loyalists and secular nationalists. In July, Erdogan’s AK Party pushed through the parliament a law that banned Turkish lawmakers from mentioning the Armenian genocide in the chamber.

## MP Armen Ashotyan responds to anti-Armenian propaganda in Baku

Chairman of the Armenian National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Armen Ashotyan delivered a speech at a conference in Baku organized by Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. Ashotyan expressed gratitude to Euronest PA Secretariat and the Azerbaijani delegation for organization for organizing the conference and for the invitation.

He said the Armenian delegation's decision to visit Baku was first of all connected with the fact that Armenia considers itself a bearer of European values and part of the European family. Therefore, he said, Armenia could not refuse to participate in such an important conference."

During the conference Armen Ashotyan also responded to a number of attempts by Azerbaijani speakers to turn the conference into a platform of anti-Armenian propaganda and noted that "the Armenian dele-



gation is in Baku to discuss concrete topics, not the Nagorno Karabakh conflict."

In this context Armen Ashotyan stressed that all parties suffer from the conflict; therefore, it's necessary to listen to all sides and discuss all issues within the framework of human rights and humanism irrespective of political, ethnic and religious differences. Armen Ashotyan urged the Azerbaijani side to refrain from bringing up the coming generations in the spirit of anti-Armenian hatred and xenophobia, which will have negative consequences for the whole region.

Armen Ashotyan also referred to the issue of anti-Armenian stereotypes in the Azerbaijani education system and urged to eradicate Armenophobia and xenophobia.

After the speech Mr. Ashotyan handed the "Azerbaijan: childhood in hate" book to the Deputy Minister of Education.

## Trump praises Armenia-NATO ties

*from page 1*

"We thank you for your dedication to regional stability and international peacekeeping operations," U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement on Armenia's independence holiday. "We greatly appreciate these endeavors toward building a more peaceful world."

Despite its military alliance with Russia, Armenia has deepened defense cooperation with the U.S. and other NATO member states since the early 2000s. It currently contributes more than 100 troops to

NATO-led missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Donald Trump sent his congratulatory message two days after greeting Sargsyan at a reception which he hosted in New York for world leaders that attended the latest session of the UN General Assembly. It was the first face-to-face contact between the two men.

Serzh Sargsyan praised Armenia's "strong partnership" with the U.S. when he congratulated Trump on America's Independence Day in July. He expressed hope that the two countries will "enrich the agenda of Armenian-American relations with new mutually beneficial initiatives and projects."

## Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan at the general debate of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly

**Distinguished President of the General Assembly, Ladies and gentlemen,**

I congratulate and wish success to Mr. Miroslav Lajčák upon his election as the President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly.

I avail myself of this opportunity and congratulate anew Mr. António Guterres upon his election to the office of the UN Secretary General. Distinguished Mr. Secretary General, we wish you success in carrying out your important mission. The priorities you declared enjoy Armenia's support.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In 2017 we marked the 25th anniversary of

Armenia's accession to the United Nations. On March 2, 1992 the Armenian tricolor flaunted at this headquarters of the United Nations family as a logical and sought for outcome of the exercise by our people of its fundamental right to self-determination.

Over the years, Armenia has become a fully-fledged and responsible member of the international community. There had been numerous challenges before of us, and we withstood them with dignity. The most important and intricate one was the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

It is for the fifth time that I have an opportunity to speak from this eminent podium and again I am compelled to address the Na-

gorno Karabakh conflict. I should have rather preferred to talk of peace, progress and cooperation, but unfortunately we are not there yet. Hence, it is my duty to explain why we are so much away from that desirable stage.

The new phase of the struggle for self-determination by the people of Artsakh began almost 30 years ago. The peaceful calls by the Armenians of Artsakh to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination as well as every step to that effect was met by use force, to which Azerbaijan continuously resorted to.

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## Holy Mass in Vatican on Armenia's Independence Day



The Armenian Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in Rome hosted a religious ceremony on the occasion of Armenia's Independence Day and the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the Holy See. Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental

Churches, presided over the Mass.

Speaking about the relations between Armenia and the Vatican, Cardinal Sandri noted that the history of diplomatic relations is a path consisting of a number of bright points, including the visits of the three Presidents of Armenia to the Holy See, the visits of Pope John Paul II

and Pope Francis to Armenia, the warm and constructive contacts between the Holy See and the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Cardinal Sandri added that any step has created an opportunity for establishment of deeper ties of respect and friendship, which have enriched the diplomatic relations.

Addressing the public after the Mass, Armenia's Ambassador to the Holy See Mickael Minasyan noted that the relations between Armenia and Vatican have centuries-long history and have developed on the basis of constructive dialogue and deep mutual trust. The inter-church, intercultural and interpersonal relations have come to contribute to the high level of interstate contacts registered over the past quarter of century.

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to Cardinal Sandri for his personal contribution to the development of interstate and interchurch relations between Armenia and the Vatican.

The Mass was followed by a reception, featuring high-ranking officials from the Holy See Secretariat, Ambassadors and diplomats accredited to the Vatican.

## Intellectuals from Turkey visit Artsakh

On September 22, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic) Karen Mirzoyan received a group of intellectuals who arrived in Stepanakert from Turkey on a cognitive visit.

During the meeting, Karen Mirzoyan briefed on the history and origins of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, as well as the efforts exerted by the authorities of Artsakh to achieve progress in the peaceful settlement process. He noted that the Artsakh national-liberation movement had been based on the aspirations of the Artsakh people for the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The importance of peaceful and democratic settlement of the conflict was



stressed.

Founding member of the National Council of the National Congress of Western Armenians international orga-

nization, former member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Aragats Akhoyan was also present at the meeting.

## Armenia improves ranking in Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018



Armenia is ranked 73rd (up from 79th last year) among 137 countries in the Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018 released by the World Economic Forum on September 28.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Russia and Kazakhstan are ranked 38th and 57th respectively. No data is

available for Kyrgyzstan and Belarus.

The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017 assesses the competitiveness landscape of 138 economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity.

For the ninth consecutive year, the report's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) finds Switzerland to be the world's most competi-

tive economy, narrowly ahead of the United States and Singapore. Other G20 economies in the top 10 are Germany (5), the United Kingdom (8) and Japan (9). China is the highest ranking among the BRICS group of large emerging markets, moving up one rank to 27.

The Global Competitiveness Report competitiveness ranking is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), which was introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2005. Defining competitiveness as the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, GCI scores are calculated by drawing together country-level data covering 12 categories – the pillars of competitiveness – that collectively make up a comprehensive picture of a country's competitiveness. The 12 pillars are: institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication, and innovation.

## Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road started in China

On September 19, Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road (Silk Way) started in the city of Dunhuang, China. It gathered together 265 participants from over 120 countries.

Media forum is aimed at developing of the information cooperation within Belt

and Road. This Media forum is already 3rd such event, previous forum have taken place in 2015 and 2016. People's Daily newspaper, that is forum's organizer, invited several Armenian mass media to take part in the forum.

According to the correspondent of

"Noyan Tapan" from Dunhuang, Media Collaboration Centre was created already on the first day of the forum. Its purpose is to give journalists from various countries possibility to compose joint reports within the framework of covering of the program.

## Armenia elected to IAEA Board of Governors

Armenia was elected member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the 61st session of the IAEA General Conference on September 21.

The Board of Governors is one of the two policy-making bodies of the IAEA, along with the annual General Conference of IAEA Member States.

The Board examines and makes recommendations to the General Conference on the IAEA's financial statements, programme and budget. It considers applications for membership, approves safeguards agreements and the publication of the IAEA's safety standards. It also appoints the Director General of the IAEA, with the approval of the General Conference.

The Board generally meets five times per year: in March and June, twice in September (before and after the General Conference) and in November.

Armenia will hold membership of the Board for two years starting from September 25, 2017.





## The future of Eastern Partnership: Moldova, Ukraine share experience with Armenian partners



Head of the Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC), political scientist Stepan Grigoryan hopes Armenia will sign the new agreement with the European Union.

He says the concern that Russia could exert pressure is always there, but also believes that there is no room for retreat after the President announced it from the UN podium. The political scientist attaches importance to the experience of Moldova and Ukraine.

Experts from the two countries came together in Yerevan for a discussion on “The future of Eastern Partnership: Challenges and Perspectives.”

President of the Ukrainian “Europe without Borders” NGO Irina Suchko said at the discussion that “despite the current complex situation in Ukraine, the Association Agreement has given a lot to the country, although not in all spheres.

Both Irina Suchko and Julian Rosso from the Institute for European Poli-

cies and Reforms (IPRE) of Moldova attached special importance to the visa-free regime with the EU Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova enjoy.

They believe the free movement opportunity is a common interest for all Eastern Partners, as it enables non-political figures to communicate, with all ensuing results.

Julian Rosso noted that besides the fact that there are no negative results, the association provides for positive consequences.

## Armenian Government upgrades economic growth forecast

Armenia’s economy is on course to grow by 4.3 percent this year after stagnating in 2016, Finance Minister Vartan Aramyan said on September 25.

The Armenian government had forecast an economic growth rate of 3.2 percent for 2017 in its budget proposal approved by parliament just over a year ago. According to official statistics, the country’s Gross Domestic Product beat that expectation in the first half of 2017, increasing by roughly 5 percent in real terms.

“Expert analysis shows that by the end of the year we will have faster growth than the 3.2 percent [rate] projected by the state budget,” Aramyan told a news

conference. “We expect a real growth rate of 4.3 percent this year.”

Data from the National Statistical Service (NSS) shows that first-half growth was driven in large measure by a nearly 13 percent rise industrial output. The NSS also reported a more than 5 percent increase in retail trade.

The Armenian economy expanded by only 0.2 percent in 2016 not least because of a downturn in agriculture which the government blamed on bad weather. The agricultural sector continued to contract in the first half of 2017 due to an unusually harsh winter and a summer drought.

In its five-year policy program ap-

proved by the National Assembly in June, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan’s cabinet pledged to ensure that economic growth in Armenia averages 5 percent annually. The government is supposed to meet this ambitious target by promoting exports and improving the domestic business environment.

Aramyan also said on Monday that despite faster growth Armenia’s total public debt will reach 58.8 percent of GDP at the end of this year. The proportion stood at 56.6 percent in December 2016.

The minister defended continued government borrowing from mainly external sources. “We have borrowed from abroad to make investments,” he said.

## More U.S. lawmakers visit Karabakh

Two more members of the U.S. House of Representatives visited Nagorno-Karabakh on Wednesday in a show of support for the Armenian-populated territory's pursuit of international recognition.

Representatives Frank Pallone and Tulsi Gabbard met with government officials and lawmakers in Stepanakert after touring the nearby historical town of Shushi (Shusha).

Pallone, who is one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, reaffirmed his pro-Armenian views on the Karabakh conflict. "We believe that the people of Artsakh (Karabakh) must be able to exercise their right to self-determination and have mechanisms for ensuring their security," the Artsakhpress news agency quoted him saying at the meeting.

"We are going to do our best within the Congress or within the confines of the [OSCE] Minsk Group ... to see if we can play some role in creating some confidence-building measures and obviously pushing along a process that would lead to a peaceful settlement," Pallone told reporters afterwards.

"But all of that necessitates that Karabakh continue to be Armenian and have its own self-determination. That, we will always insist on," added the New Jersey Democrat who has repeatedly visited



Karabakh in the past.

Both Pallone and Gabbard, a Democrat of Hawaii, praised the Karabakh authorities' human rights and democracy records. Karabakh shares "important values" with the United States, Gabbard said.

The two lawmakers were accompanied by the chairmen of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) and the Armenian Assembly of America, the two main Armenian lobby groups in the U.S. "As our congressional friends saw today, Artsakh is a very American story: the victory of a free people over foreign rule, the well-deserved and hard-earned triumph of democracy over dictatorship," said the ANCA's Raffi Ham-

parian.

Pallone and Gabbard were part of a six-member U.S. congressional delegation that held talks with Armenian lawmakers and senior government officials in Yerevan on Tuesday. Another member of the delegation, David Valadao, travelled to Karabakh on Monday to inspect U.S.-funded demining activities there.

Earlier this month, Valadao and other pro-Armenian lawmakers pushed through House of Representatives legislation mandating continued U.S. government funding for the humanitarian effort. The U.S. Congress has financed it since 2001 as part of direct economic assistance to Karabakh allocated over strong Azerbaijani objections.

## Eduardo Eurnekian named National Hero of Armenia

President Serzh Sargsyan on September 21 bestowed Armenia's highest state award, the title of National Hero, on Eduardo Eurnekian, an Argentine billionaire of Armenian descent who has invested heavily in the South Caucasus country.

In a corresponding decree, he cited Eurnekian's "exceptional services" to his ancestral homeland and contributions to its economic development. The decree referred to him as a "renowned benefactor."

A son of Armenian immigrants, Eurnekian, 84, has built a diverse business empire that includes over 50 airports in and outside Argentina operated by his Corporacion America group.

The company also runs Yerevan's Zvartnots international airport in line

with a 30-year management contract signed with the Armenian government in 2001. It has spent over \$160 million on building a new terminal there and modernizing other airport facilities since then.

Eduardo Eurnekian also invested in other sectors of the Armenian economy in the early 2000s. In particular, he purchased an Armenian commercial bank and set up what is now one of the country's largest wine companies. The latter uses grapes grown at vast vineyards that were established by Eurnekian from scratch in the Armavir province west of Yerevan.

Another Eurnekian-owned company has managed Armenia's national postal service for the past decade. In addition, the tycoon, whose personal wealth is estimated by the "Forbes" magazine at

\$2.3 billion, privatized in 2013 a historic building in Yerevan that housed the Armenian ministries of foreign affairs, energy and agriculture. He is due to turn it into a luxury hotel.

Eurnekian has also engaged in charitable activities in Armenia. As recently as on September 14, he inaugurated a newly built school in the town of Echmiadzin. President Sargsyan and Catholicos Garegin II, the Echmiadzin-based supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, also took part in the ceremony.

Only 16 individuals have received the title of Armenia's National Hero to date. They include the French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour and the late Armenian-American philanthropists Alex Manoogian and Kirk Kerkorian.



## Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan...

from page 4

The policy of the official Baku culminated in the massacres, ethnic cleansing and mass deportation of the Armenian population of Azerbaijan. Once flourishing Armenian-populated districts in their entirety have been wiped out of the Armenians, and the Government of Azerbaijan continues with its policy of systematic destruction of the vast Armenian cultural and spiritual heritage on the territories under its control.

It is obvious that, under such circumstances, the people of Artsakh were left with no other choice than to resort to self-defense. The grievous war of 1992-1994, its aftermath and negotiations that followed did not serve as a lesson for Azerbaijan. Last year in April, Azerbaijan unleashed a four-day war, which came to prove that Azerbaijan pursues the objective of extermination of the people of Artsakh.

In the course of the military offensive unleashed in 2016, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan committed a number of war crimes against civilian population and the prisoners of war. Here I am compelled to mention that a serviceman who committed such atrocities has been decorated with a high state award, and the President of Azerbaijan personally decorated him in front of the cameras.

### Distinguished Mr. President,

It has been for years that hate speech and Armenophobia was made part and parcel of the Azerbaijan's state policy. It has taken deep root in the school curricula, intoxicating the younger generation. It has been for years that a number of inter-governmental and non-governmental specialized organizations dealing with racism and xenophobia have been ringing alarm bells about it.

All of these leads us to believe that the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of Artsakh is of existential significance. In this regard, I convey the consolidated view of Armenia and Artsakh as well as the one shared by Armenians from all over the globe. I bring this message from Yerevan, where right now Armenia-Diaspora conference is taking place.

Everyone should be aware that for the democratically developing Artsakh Azerbaijan simply symbolizes medieval backwardness. Azerbaijan has got no legal or moral ground whatsoever to present any claims towards Artsakh. Artsakh has never been part to independent Azerbaijan, and therefore the attempts of its annexation to that particular state framework cannot be justified.

### Ladies and gentlemen,

Today free Artsakh is an established democratic society. Our shared motto and commitment of "Leaving no one behind" should be the milestone guiding the work of the United Nations family. It is exactly for that reason, I believe, that people of Artsakh should never be isolated from the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

I strongly believe that the unresolved status of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict should have no impact on the people of Artsakh as they exercise their rights. It is, first and foremost, about inalienable rights for any human being. It is about the right to life, the right to organize public life, the right to form freely one's own government, the right to communicate unimpededly with the outer world, and many other rights.



Armenia consistently contributes and will contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the people of Artsakh, its sustainable and democratic development. No one has a right to create hindrances to the implementation of initiatives and projects to that effect. The legal status of Artsakh, or, to be more precise, the lack of the international legal recognition, is not and cannot constitute an obstacle for the women and men who live there to exercise their rights.

We strongly believe that there is no alternative to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Right now, from this eminent podium, I reiterate our commitment to that effect.

Meanwhile, everyone should be aware that the Nagorno Karabakh issue is a human rights issue. It can be resolved exclusively through one of the fundamental and inalienable human rights – the people's right to self-determination.

At the end of the day, whatever option for the conflict resolution we arrive at, the Republic of Artsakh should not enjoy a status and liberty that might be inferior to the one it enjoys today. Azerbaijan shall recognize and respect the right of the people of Artsakh to decide its own future through a free expression of will. All available international and domestic mechanisms should guarantee the security of the Armenian population of Artsakh.

All remaining issues are collateral. All remaining issues will find their logical and fair solution in parallel to the general resolution process.

### Distinguished Mr. President,

When I last time spoke from this eminent podium and addressed the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, I considered it my duty to express our gratitude one by one to all nations that recognized the horrendous crime that was committed against my people in the Ottoman Empire.

It is my duty to express gratitude from this eminent podium of Honor and Responsibility to all those countries that have recognized or reiterated their position on the Armenian Genocide.

I thank them for it, regardless of the format and language adopted.

I thank the numerous countries and individuals, state bodies, regional entities and organizations, who called things by their proper names. That is, indeed, important since denial paves the way for new crimes of genocide.

In this context, we recall that next year the family of the United Nations will mark the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the Preven-



## A Grandiose Show of Opening of the V Asian Games "Ashgabat 2017" Took Place in Ashgabat city

By Gayane Araqelyan

Six thousands of sportsmen from 45 countries of Asia region, and 19 countries of Australia and Oceania, that is 64 countries as a whole, are taking part in "Ashgabat 2017" V Asian Indoors and Martial Arts Games, which is taking place in Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan.

Serge Sargsyan, President of Armenia, also was among the honorary guests that attended the "Ashgabat 2017" opening ceremony.

Within the Asiad-2017 opening, a grandiose show was presented, with participation of around 8 thousands of performers, 65 Turkmen Ahalteke horses, 34 camels and one dog – Turkmen Alabai (Central Asian shepherd dog) that is a symbol of the Olympic Games. In the course of the pageant, subjects from history of Turkmenistan were presented, and its culture, as well.

The opening ceremony started with began with the raising of the national flag of Turkmenistan, as the host country of the

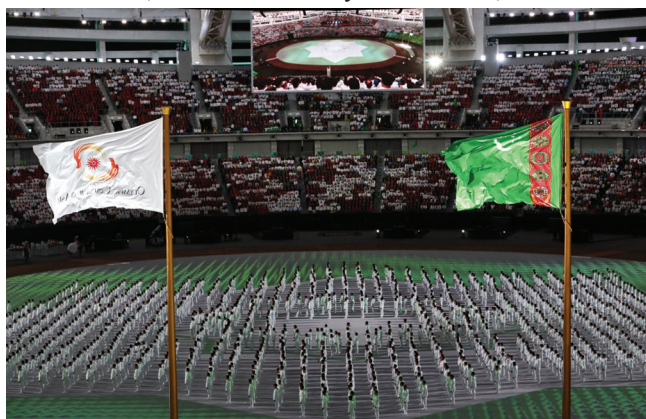


Games, as well as the flag of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) was raised. Turkmenistan's national anthem was performed, and other traditional rituals were produced. At the end of the ceremony Olympic flame was lit, which is an indispensable attribute of the Olympic Games. Show with the Olympic flame lightning become the most impressive and spectacular, and it was conducted with participa-

tion of an Ahalteke horse.

Balich Worldwide Shows Company, which is well-known as world shows' organizer, developed the program of the show. In particular, this company earlier has worked for projects concerning Sochi 2014 Olympic Games closing ceremony, national holidays for the United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan, etc.

Within the framework of the Asia-





da-2017 program, competitions in 21 sports will be organized, such as chess, mini football, tennis, muay thai (Thai boxing), sambo, kurash, jujitsu, bowling, track cycling, swimming in 50-meter pool, athletics, weightlifting (powerlifting), basketball, taekwondo (WTF), dance sport, kickboxing, belt-wrestling, sport wrestling (Greco-Roman and freestyle), billiards, stadium jumping, and goresh, which is Turkmen national wrestling sport. Australia, American Samoa, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Vanuatu, East Timor, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Guam, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Jordan, Yemen, Cambodia, Kiribati, China, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Tonga, Tuvalu, Syria, Japan, and other countries are among 64 participant countries.

Asiada-2017 is being held in Olympic village, the area of which amounts to 157 hectares and includes more than 30 unique objects, including Paralympic complex and rehabilitation medical center. For comfortable movement throughout a huge complex territory, a monorail operates, connecting sports



town, designed for 12 thousand 'residents', with its other objects. Polimeks Turkish company made design and construction of the Olympic stadium.

Two objects of the Olympic village – art picture of Ahalteke steed at the Olympic stadium and Water sports complex with the world's largest indoor swimming pool, are included in the Guinness book of records. Certificates confirming this fact have referred to Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan.

First such Games took place in 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand, second in 2007 in Macao, and third were organized in 2009 in Vietnam. Starting from IV Asian Indoor Games, they have begun held every four years, with addition of martial arts competitions in the program. Fourth Asiada took place in 2013, in Korean Incheon city. Decision concerning holding V Asian Indoors and Martial Arts Games in 2017 in Ashgabat was made in 2010 the capital of Kuwait, where the headquarters of the Olympic Council of Asia, which unites 45 states, is located.

The name of the Ashgabat 2017 is Vepaly, which, translated from Turkmen language, means 'faithful'. The alabai dog is one of the national values of Turkmen people. Alabais, distinguishing themselves with courage and fearlessness, for centuries have been shepherds' reliable helpers in guarding the sheep flocks in the harsh desert conditions. And today, Turkmens treat alabais with great respect for not only as brave defenders, but also as faithful friends.



Live in HD series, and Live from Lincoln features Renée covering songs by in-

Known for bringing new audiences to classical music and opera, Renée has sung not only with Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo, but also with Elton John, Paul Simon, Sting, Michael Bolton, Josh Groban, and Joan Baez. She has hosted a wide variety of television and radio broadcasts, including the Metropolitan Opera's

Recipient of 14 Grammy nominations and 4 Grammy awards to date, she has recorded everything from complete operas and song recitals to rock, jazz, and movies. In June 2010, Decca and Mercury records released the CD *Dark Hope*, which

features Renée covering songs by indie-rock and pop artists. She recorded for soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. Renée will be heard as the singing voice of Roxane, played by Julianne Moore, in the upcoming Hollywood film of Ann Patchett's best-selling novel *Bel Canto*. Fleming appeared on the soundtrack of the 2011 Steven Spielberg animated film *The Adventures of Tintin*. She recorded Alexandre Desplat's theme song "Still Dream" DreamWorks animated feature, *Rise of the Guardians*. She is also heard on the soundtrack of this season's winner of the Golden Lion Award

TREVAN PERSPECTIVES INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 117/2019/007



at the Venice Film Festival, Guillermo del Toro's highly-anticipated *The Shape of Water*.

Renée's book, *The Inner Voice*, was published by Viking Penguin in 2004, and released in paperback by Penguin the following year. The paperback edition is now in its sixteenth printing. An intimate account of her career and creative process, the book is also published in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Poland, and Russia. A Chinese edition is in preparation.

In 2016, Renée was appointed Artistic Advisor for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2010, she was named the first-ever creative consultant at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Renée is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Hall Corporation, the Board of Sing for Hope, and the Artistic Advisory Board of the Polyphony Foundation.

In spring 2017, Renée's 2009 album *Signatures* was selected by the U.S. Library of Congress for the National Recording Registry, as an "aural treasure worthy of preservation as part of America's patrimony."

Renée Fleming's artistry has been an inspiration to many other prominent artists, such as Chuck Close and Robert Wilson, whose portraits of her were included in the Metropolitan Opera's 2007 fundraising auction. In 2016, the Annie Leibowitz portrait of Renée was added to the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC.

Having been added to Mr. Blackwell's best dressed list, Ms. Fleming's concert gowns have been designed by fashion legends John Galliano for Dior, Gianfranco Ferré, as well as Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel Vivienne Westwood, Reem Acra, J, Christian Lacroix, Oscar de la Renta, and Angel Sanchez. In June of 2014, the Smithsonian added the gown designed by Vera Wang for Renée's Super Bowl anthem performance to the permanent collection of the Museum of American History.

In addition to her work on stage and in recordings, in 2008, she launched *La Voce* by Renée Fleming, a fragrance designed for her, with the proceeds benefiting the Metropolitan Opera. Master Chef Daniel Boulud created the dessert "La

Diva Renée" (1999) in her honor, which is served in famed New York restaurant DANIEL. She inspired the "Renée Fleming Iris" (2004), which has been replicated in porcelain, an American made floral masterpiece reflecting beauty and grace that Ms. Fleming brought to the world's opera stage.

Among her awards are the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, Germany's Cross of the Order of Merit, Sweden's Polar Music Prize, France's Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, and honorary doctorates from Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, Carnegie Mellon University, the Eastman School of Music, and The Juilliard School.

Renée Fleming appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, [www.imgartists.com](http://www.imgartists.com). Ms. Fleming is an exclusive recording artist for Decca and Mercury Records. Ms. Fleming's gown is by Vivienne Westwood. Ms. Fleming's jewelry is by Ann Ziff for Tamsen Z.

[www.reneefleming.com](http://www.reneefleming.com)





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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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



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## Pallone stresses Artsakh's self-determination after visit



*Asbarez*

Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) stressed Artsakh's status as a full functioning state after visiting the nation on September 18th in conjunction with an exchange of US and Armenian MPs.

The Congressman helicoptered to Artsakh with Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) in the morning, stopped in Shushi to visit a technical school, then drove to Stepanakert to address the Artsakh parliament, followed by lunch with the speaker.

He met with the President of Artsakh the day before and received a medal from the government in conjunction with his efforts to recognize Artsakh as an independent republic.

Pallone said that Artsakh deserves international recognition because it legally sep-

arated from the Soviet Union, exercising its self-determination with a referendum.

It then defended itself in a difficult war and proceeded to set-up a democracy which exercises transparency and has achieved a level of economic development that is remarkable given the forces aligned against the country.

"Shushi is being transformed in one generation from a city that was mostly destroyed to one that has roads, housing and schools that are modern and up to date. A lot of this is with the help of the Armenian diaspora. I visited a technical school financed primarily by French philanthropists.

The students are eagerly learning building and construction trades that will be important to the continued redevelopment of Artsakh. Its facilities and equipment were similar to school in the US," Pallone said.

"Stepanakert looks almost completely re-

built from the time of the Artsakh War. The Parliament is housed in a new building. Construction continues throughout the city with a new landmark church and completed hospital. I addressed the parliament and met with the speaker separately about the need for the US to play a large role in the Minsk process.

The settlement must guarantee that Artsakh remain Armenian as an independent nation or part of Armenia. We also discussed the extent to which Azerbaijan continues its military buildup with its oil reserves and receives advanced equipment from other countries.

"The Armenian Caucus members intend to follow-up in Congress to see how we can cut off assistance to Azerbaijan, as long as they continue military action against Artsakh. We will push for conference building measures with Azerbaijan that might prevent an unintended war. We will also seek continued US aid to eliminate land mines and promote economic development in Artsakh," Pallone concluded.

"We join with friends from across New Jersey and around the United States in welcoming Congressman Pallone's most recent visit to Artsakh and thanking him for his tireless advocacy for the sovereignty and security of this proud republic," said Dr. Artur Martirosyan of ANCA Eastern Region.

"We look forward to continuing to work with him and his Congressional Armenian Caucus colleagues on the broad array of Armenian American policy priorities they champion as we expand the U.S.-Armenia and U.S.-Artsakh relationships."

## Reps. Smith, McGovern introduce legislation to hold Azerbaijan accountable for human rights abuses

*Asbarez*

In light of continued human rights abuses by the Azerbaijani regime, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) along with lead Democrat co-Sponsor Jim McGovern (D-MA), introduced H. Res. 537 on September 26, which promotes the rule of law and respect for human rights in Azerbaijan.

"The Azerbaijani regime continues to use torture, politically-motivated criminal charges, harassment, international kidnapping and other forms of intimidation to silence human rights defenders, independent journalists and religious leaders," said Smith, who chairs the

House panel on global human rights. "It is evident that there are important security and economic ties between our countries, however these violations cannot be ignored."

Among other key provisions, H. Res. 537 calls on the United States Government to prioritize the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people in Azerbaijan when dealing with their government and urges the application of provisions of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (P.L. 114-328) to punish Azerbaijani officials who violate internationally recognized human rights. Further, the legislation calls on the

government of Azerbaijan to immediately release all political prisoners and prisoner of conscience and to cease targeting those who advocate for government based on accountability and democratic values.

"The Global Magnitsky Act has paved the way for a new era of U.S. leadership in defending universal human rights," said Smith, who authored the House version of P.L. 114-328. "The U.S. must use this toolkit, consisting of visa bans and asset freezes, to punish the perpetrators of human rights abuses. These penalties would shatter the impunity that rights violators in the government of Azerbaijan enjoy."

## Hollywood legend John Malkovich to perform at Khachaturian International Festival

Hollywood legend John Malkovich will perform at the opening of the 5th Khachaturian International Festival on October 11.

John Malkovich and conductor Sergey Smbatyan have collaborated before, successfully performing on the same stage in Seoul (2015) and Buenos Aires (2016).

American actor, producer, director, screenwriter John Malkovich will perform with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, headed by conductor Sergey Smbatyan.

John Malkovich will perform as a narrator to the accompaniment of the orchestra. The audience will be offered a fantastic fusion of literature and music.

The multi-genre program of the Khachaturian International Festival featuring symphonic and chamber concerts and numerous premieres will continue through December 11.



The 5th Khachaturian International Festival is dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Hovhannes Aivazovsky.

The festival is held under the high patronage of the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

### Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan...

tion and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Armenia will bring up a new initiative upon that occasion, and we invite all to join us and defend that initiative.

We, nevertheless, have never made the recognition of the Armenian Genocide a precondition for the normalization of the bilateral relations between Armenia and Turkey. Moreover, it was upon the initiative of Armenia that a normalization process was launched, resulting in the conclusion of the Zürich protocols in October 2009.

*continued on page 12*

*from page 9*

Up to this day, those documents have not been ratified, instead, they have landed in some dark drawers of the official Ankara. The Government of Turkey came up with preposterous preconditions for their ratification that run counter to the letter and spirit of the Protocols. I expressed the clear-cut views of the Armenian people on this issue three years ago, when I spoke from this eminent podium.

Now the time has come for additional explanations. The leadership of Turkey are mistaken if they think that those documents can be held hostage forever and ratified only at the most opportune occasion from their very point of view. The Protocols were negotiated in the existing circumstances in order to find solutions to the actually existing issues.

Armenia will declare those two Protocols

null and void since they continuously lacked any positive progress towards their implementation. We will enter the spring of 2018 without those, as our experience has demonstrated, futile Protocols.

Armenia, nevertheless, continues to believe that any two neighboring states need to establish and enjoy normal relations in order to address all possible disagreements between them and find solutions to such a discord.

This is the conviction we are guided by in our engagement with various integration processes. Today, Armenia is an active member of the Eurasian Economic Union and with its active work spares no effort in order to contribute to the unimpeded movement of goods and services in that large economic area and, hence, contribute to and promote welfare for all. We have already registered certain achievements in that regard, and that makes us feel hopeful for future. We also plan to conclude this November Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with European Union, which, in our view, will help us to give a new impetus to the institutional reforms implemented in Armenia.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The current instability in the Middle East regrettably remains as a serious challenge.

It is with great pain that we have been following the crisis in Syria and the humanitar-

ian situation there, which has brought about suffering of the civilian population, including the Armenian community of the country. Within its means, Armenia strives to mitigate the suffering of the Syrian people by providing humanitarian assistance. We also express our willingness to engage into possible discussions on the peacemaking efforts in Syria under the UN auspices and with an appropriate mandate.

**Distinguished Mr. President,**

I have no doubt that our family of the United Nations is able to guarantee a new quality of cooperation that will allow us to withstand the contemporary global and regional challenges. It is with that objective in mind that Armenia participates in a number of the UN peacekeeping operations. Moreover, we stand ready to increase our contribution in Lebanon and Mali to UNIFIL and MINUS-MA missions, respectively.

Armenia, as a landlocked country located in the complicated region, a country with scarce natural resources, has continuously emphasized that human capital is its most valuable resource. It is, indeed, correct both for Armenia and for our whole family of the United Nations: we should focus on people, we should strive for peace and a decent life for all, on a sustainable planet.

I thank you.



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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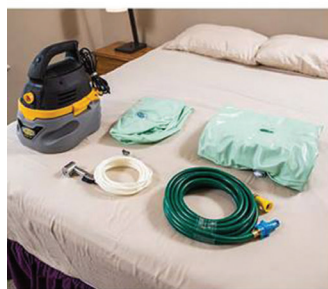
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itarian qualities of the serving staff, to their kindness, patience, attention and courteous manner.

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## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



### Aries (March 20–April 19)

Take every precaution not to abuse your body during this period. Drugs or alcohol could have peculiar side effects that you don't understand. You are in a low physical cycle and

will be unable to push yourself as hard as normal on any physical task. If you are affected emotionally, try not to worry about it. Your body/feelings will right themselves after Sept. 25, 2017.



### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Follow your instincts about where you need to be, particularly if that includes a new social situation. Then give attention to whomever or whatever new enters your life. You are on schedule to find a new guide, mentor, or teacher who will help steer

you toward the next direction in your life.



### Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Past work on a significant project related to your home pays off now. It has demanded major attention to the details, but they are now integrating well. If your communication with anyone becomes a challenge, shift

to another mode, such as email.



### Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Because you are moon-ruled, your moods are prone to ebb and flow with the tides. This is hard for children and adolescents, but adult Cancers eventually learn to ride the emotional flow up and down more

easily. The new Moon of Sept. 20 occurs in your third house of communications, nearby travel, education and siblings. You may be starting something new in any of these areas.



### Leo (July 22–August 21) :

Your life tempo is accelerating as it always does in September. You probably feel the need to pay closer attention to your neighborhood, roommates, siblings and the casual relationships in your life. If you have any communication habits that

interfere, they may be brought to your attention now. Your vehicle may want attention over the next month.



### Virgo

### (August 22–September 22)

There is so much happening in your life that it is probably hard to keep track. One of the challenges is that people that you expected to help become unavailable. Don't spend time mourning over that disappointment.

Just carry on the best you can. Take things one at a time if possible to avoid confusion.



### Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

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. However, don't forget that others have needs as well.



### Scorpio

### (October 23–November 21)

It is possible you will be feeling hurt and disappointed over a situation with a loved one. People just don't always respond to us as we wish. Sometimes they are distracted by life situations of their own and are unable to appreciate what we offer. If a beloved seems oblivious, try not to take it personally.



### Sagittarius

### (November 22–December 20)

You may need to concentrate to avoid critics, whether they be internal or external. Instead of accepting blame or guilt, use the energy to

make improvements wherever they are needed. Avoid contracts and business negotiations for a week or so because misunderstandings may develop.



### Capricorn

### (December 21–January 19)

You want to finish an oral or written project at this time, but words just are not flowing with ease. If possible, give yourself a break over the weekend and see new sights.

When you return, your mind will feel refreshed and more able to tackle that project.



### Aquarius

### (January 20–February 17)

You may be feeling cross and irritable this week. Don't struggle over things you cannot change right away. It only makes you and others

miserable. Break loose of routine and take yourself to someplace new and interesting. You may prefer to go alone, which is certainly OK. You are taking a breather, not running away.



### Pisces (February 18–March 19)

This is a week in which your physical cycle is "off". Don't press your body beyond what it wants to do, just because it could do the same thing last week. Pay special attention to your temporary boundaries

right now and by next week things will return to your personal normal



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## Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road started in China

On September 19, Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road (Silk Way) started in the city of Dunhuang, China. It gathered together 265 participants from over 120 countries.

Media forum is aimed at developing of the information cooperation within Belt and Road. This Media forum is already 3rd such event, previous forum have taken place in 2015 and 2016. People's Daily newspaper, that is forum's organizer, invited several Armenian mass media to take part in the forum.

According to the correspondent of "Noyan Tapan" from Dunhuang, Media Collaboration Centre was created already on the first day of the forum. Its purpose is to give journalists from various countries possibility to



compose joint reports within the framework of covering of the program.

Forum will continue on September 21, already in Beijing, the capital of China.



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