

"Control Diabetes, Live a Full Life"



On November 3 at the Opera and Ballet Theatre the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia conducted by Sergey Smbatyan, under the auspices of the First Lady Rita A. Sargsyan, performed Cartoon Non Stop charity concert for children that announced the start of "Control Diabetes, Live a Full Life" program

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Turkmenistan's Pipeline Strategy: Building a Diversified Export Infrastructure. Shirin Akiner

Turkmenistan has huge mineral wealth, including reserves of natural gas that are estimated to be the fourth largest in the world. However, when the country became independent, it lacked an export Infrastructure. The existing gas pipelines formed part of the Central Asia-Centre network, which ran

from Turkmenistan through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to Russia and the other Soviet republics. Consequently, in the early 1990s the main customers for Turkmenistan gas were still former Soviet republics.

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Turkmenistan's Pipeline Strategy: Building a Diversified Export Infrastructure. Shirin Akiner



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Most of these new states, especially Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, were in the midst of a severe economic recession and were frequently unable to meet payments, thereby falling deeply into arrears. By the end of 1995, Turkmenistan was owed close on US \$2 billion.

It was against this background that the Turkmen Government made plans to create a multi-vectored network of export routes to Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. It was a bold, ambitious idea. The distance to world markets and the technical problems of constructing pipelines across difficult terrain would make such projects inordinately costly. Moreover, political factors, notably US sanctions against neighboring Iran, and regional instability, particularly in Afghanistan, would hinder the trans boundary transportation of hydrocarbons. In the face of such obstacles, many commentators doubted the feasibility of these schemes. Yet the Turkmen authorities were not deterred: the new pipelines were vital to the country's independence and to its economic development. Moreover, the pipelines were a form of 'energy diplomacy', strengthening ties with regional states and laying the foundations for strategic partnerships. Thus, despite the frustrations of protracted negotiations, memoranda of intent and feasibility studies that were mothballed, and the frequent hiatuses, slowly and determinedly the Turkmen pursued their objectives. The twists and turns that punctuated this process mark the course of Turkmenistan's pipeline strategy, but they also chart the complexities of regional relationships and the changing priorities of international actors.

Turkmenistan-Iran Pipeline

This was the first cross-border pipeline project to be implemented and initially, was the Turkmen Government's favored option for an export route. The intention was to construct a pipeline that would run across Iran to Turkey and thence to Europe (a distance of some 1,400 km.). Construction of the first segment, from Korpeje in western Turkmenistan to Kord Koy in northern Iran, commenced in 1994 and the pipe became operational in December 1997. There were hopes at this time that the US Government was no longer as vehemently opposed to Iranian involvement in the project as had been the case previously. Accordingly, international energy companies such as Royal Dutch/Shell and the French company Sofregaz bid for the contract to carry out the next phase of construction. Yet it soon became clear that this was premature: there were still too many political and commercial obstacles for Western companies to participate in the project. Undeterred, Turkmenistan and Iran continued to expand bilateral energy ties. In 2000, a second cross-border pipeline, from Artyk to Luftabad, was inaugurated and in January 2010, a third, much larger pipeline was launched, running from Dovletabat in south-eastern Turkmenistan (a field previously reserved for deliveries to Russia) to Khangiran. These three pipelines together would, at peak capacity, enable Turkmenistan to make annual deliveries to Iran of up to 20 billion cubic meters (bcm).

Turkmenistan-China Pipeline (Trans-Asian)

Another vector of Turkmenistan's energy export strategy was the construction of a Trans-Asian gas pipeline. This project got off to an early start: in 1992 - scarcely a year after independence - Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation and the China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) undertook feasibility studies for

a pipeline from the Caspian region, to China, to terminate at a port on the Yellow Sea; from there the gas could be transported by tanker to Japan and, eventually, the Republic of Korea. In 1997, the Mitsubishi Group, Exxon and CNPC formed a consortium to develop a pilot project to connect gas fields in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan via Kazakhstan to China's eastern seaboard - an estimated distance of some of 6,000 km. However, although the benefits of opening up Central Asian hydrocarbon resources to Pacific markets were considerable, the cost of such a pipeline was deemed too high to be commercially viable.

The project languished until April 2006, when President Niyazov visited Beijing. While there, he signed an agreement with President Hu on the supply of Turkmenistan gas to China, to be transported via Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Thereafter, progress was rapid. In 2007, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Saparmurad Niyazov's successor, visited China and oversaw the signing of a Production Sharing Agreement between CNPC and the Turkmen authorities to develop the massive Bagtyyarylyk contract territory. Located on the right bank of the Amu Dar'ya, this previously undeveloped area was known to contain several large gas fields. The deal was significant not only because of the territory's rich reserves, but because it was the first major contract to be concluded with a foreign company for the development of Turkmenistan's on-shore hydrocarbon reserves. The Chinese partners lost no time in launching the project: the following year CNPC signed bilateral deals with the national gas companies of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, giving them 50 per cent stakes in their respective segments of the pipeline. Work on the pipe commenced concurrently in all the participating states and, less than two years later, was completed in record time. On 14 December 2009, in the presence of the Presidents of Turkmenistan, China, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the formal valve-opening ceremony was held. It was the first phase of what would become a major 'gas cor-

ridor' to the east. Over the following years, additional branches were constructed. In 2015, the fourth branch, known as 'D', was nearing completion; initial shipments via this new pipeline would total 5 bcm, increasing annually to reach 25 bcm within five years. Total Turkmen gas exports to China by 2020 were expected to reach 65 bcm per year.

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline (TAPI)

An even more ambitious scheme was the proposal to construct a pipeline linking Turkmenistan to the Indian sub-continent via Afghanistan. The first step towards the realisation of this project came in May 1997, when the US petroleum company Unocal and its strategic partner, the Saudi Arabian company Delta Nimir, signed a memorandum of agreement with the Turkmenistan Government for the construction of oil and gas pipelines from hydrocarbon deposits in eastern Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan. However, the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan made the implementation of this route impractical at that time.

Five years later, following the US-led military intervention in Afghanistan in October 2001, the outlook was more promising. Hence, in May 2002 the Presidents of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan agreed to revive the project. The Asian Development Bank provided funding for a feasibility study and facilitated negotiations. There was, however, no firm commitment to the project and little solid progress was made. This changed when India formally joined the steering committee in April 2008. The route of the pipeline, now renamed the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline (TAPI), would extend from Turkmenistan's giant Galkynysh field (previously known as South Yolotan-Osman) to Fazilka on the Indo-Pakistan border—a distance of some 1,800 kilometres. The annual pumping capacity of the pipeline would be 33 bcm, of which 14 million cubic metres of gas a day would be supplied to Afghanistan and the remainder divided equally between India and Pakistan.

Prospects for the construction of the

pipeline (estimated at \$10 billion) were beginning to look promising. It was beginning to attract interest from regional states such as Bangladesh and China. The Ashgabat agreement, concluded between the participating states in 2010, addressed the practicalities of the undertaking. Russia expressed support for the project. So, too, did the USA - primarily because it regarded TAPI as preferable to the rival scheme to construct a gas pipeline from Iran to the Indian sub-continent (the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline). American interest in Turkmen energy was underlined by notable visitors such as Neil Bush, head of the energy company South Oil Texas (and youngest brother of former US President George W. Bush), who had a meeting with President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat in February 2010.

International investors, however, were reluctant to commit to TAPI as the security situation in Afghanistan was still unstable. Once again, it seemed as though the project would be postponed indefinitely. Yet the partner states were not only convinced of the commercial viability of the pipeline, but understood that it would be of immense benefit to local economies, boosting industrial development and creating employment opportunities. This would contribute to the creation of a virtuous circle of increased prosperity and regional security. Consequently, in order to avoid further delays, the partner states decided to use their own resources to launch the project. In August 2015, Turkmenistan's state gas company, Turkmengas, was selected to lead the TAPI consortium. Work was scheduled to begin in December, with a provisional completion date in 2018.

Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan Pipeline (Trans-Caspian)

The fourth, and in many ways the most challenging scheme was the construction of a pipeline under the Caspian Sea. The objective was to deliver Turkmen gas to Azerbaijan for on-shipment via Turkey to Europe. The idea was first put forward by US officials in 1996. In 1999, Royal Dutch/Shell became a 'strategic energy partner' of Turkmenistan, with the aim of developing the various gas deposits that would be the main source of supply for the subsea pipeline. Concurrently, the US conglomerates General Electric and the Bechtel Group carried out a feasibility study for the pipeline. The possibility of transporting Turkmen gas to Romania was also being considered. However, that same year the large Shah Deniz gas field was discovered in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea. This dramatically changed the situation. Azerbaijan was still prepared to act as a transit country for Turkmen gas, but was understandably eager to prioritize its own gas exports. Hence the terms and conditions that it offered to Turkmenistan were less favorable than had originally been anticipated. Little progress was made as negotiations became mired in disagreements over share-holdings and quota allocations. In 2003, Royal Dutch/Shell decided to reduce its activities in Turkmenistan and the project was shelved.

By this time, the 'Nabucco Pipeline' was receiving strong support from the European Union (EU) and the USA. This

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Turkmenistan's Pipeline Strategy: Building a Diversified Export Infrastructure. Shirin Akiner

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project, first mooted in 2002, envisaged transporting Caspian gas via Turkey to Europe, bypassing Russia and Iran. The principal sources for Nabucco were expected to be Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, with additional contributions from Kazakhstan. The optimal route for transporting Turkmen and Kazakh gas to Azerbaijan would entail the laying of a 300-kilometre gas pipeline on the bed of the Caspian Sea. However, disagreements between the participating states (over transit fees etc.) were compounded by the failure of the EU to demonstrate real commitment to the scheme. There were some attempts to modify the route, but in 2013 the Nabucco pipeline was finally rejected. Despite this setback, however, the EU was already beginning to lobby for a similar, but larger project - the Southern Gas Corridor (SCG).

Like Nabucco, it aimed to enhance European energy security by diversifying the routes and sources of energy supply. To this end, it envisaged the transportation of gas from the Caspian region through Georgia and Turkey to Europe.

Meanwhile, Turkey and Azerbaijan were developing their own plans to build the Trans-Anatolia Pipeline (TANAP), which would run via Turkey to the EU border to feed into the proposed SCG. Turkmenistan was favourably disposed to the idea of a subsea pipeline and was ready to participate in this undertaking. In November 2014, during the visit of Turkish President Erdogan to Ashgabat, a framework agreement was signed between Turkmen gas and the private Turkish firm Atagas for the purchase and sale of Turkmen gas destined for TANAP. This was an encouraging development, but it was still too early to predict if, and when, the project would be realized.

Turkmenistan's East-West Pipeline

Russia had long been Turkmenistan's main partner for gas exports, receiving up to 70 per cent of total output. As mentioned above, this was transported via the Central Asia-Centre (CAC) pipeline network. In 2003, President Niyazov pro-

posed extending CAC by the construction of a new pipeline that would traverse Turkmenistan from east to west, then turn north along the Caspian coast via Kazakhstan to Russia, in parallel to an older CAC branch. This new pipeline Caspian Coastal branch, to be built by the Russian company Gazprom, would to carry up to 20 bcm of natural gas per year, with approximately one-half coming from Turkmenistan and the remainder from Kazakhstan. In 2007, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan signed an intergovernmental agreement to implement this project. Negotiations between Turkmenistan and Russia limped along until early 2009 when, without warning, Russia drastically reduced the volume of Turkmen gas imports. The abrupt change in pressure caused an explosion that severely damaged the pipeline infrastructure. Supplies were suspended while repair work was carried out; accusations of blame were traded by both sides. The pipeline was eventually fixed, but deliveries to Russia were not resumed until early 2010; the delay cost Turkmenistan an estimated US\$1 billion in monthly losses. Any prospect of implementing this project evaporated in February 2015, when Gazprom announced that within the year it would decrease Turkmen gas purchases from 10 bcm to four bcm.

Meanwhile, the Turkmen Government had decided to finance the construction of its own segment as an internal East-West pipeline that would link the Shatlyk compressor station in the east of the country to Belek in the west. Work commenced in 2012, and by autumn 2015 was nearing completion. It was a timely undertaking. Turkmenistan's natural gas deposits are dotted around the country - an area of over 488,000 sq. km. The export pipelines carry supplies from particular fields to international destinations. However, to realize the full potential of the country's gas resources greater flexibility was required. The new East-West pipeline would unite Turkmenistan's main gas fields into a single gas transportation system, thereby significantly increasing the country's export capacity. In the future, it could ensure stable supplies of gas to the proposed Trans-

Caspian subsea pipeline.

Conclusions

In the early 1990s, Turkmenistan's plans for creating a network of export pipelines seemed fanciful: there were too many hurdles to be overcome. By 2015, the picture was very different. Turkmenistan was now recognized as a major source of energy supplies for international markets. Some large-scale pipeline projects had already been implemented, others were moving towards the point when engineering works could begin in the foreseeable future. The most impressive achievement was the launch of the Trans-Asian gas pipeline from Turkmenistan via Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to China. At the time of writing, it had already been expanded and upgraded several times. The subsea Trans-Caspian pipeline was still under discussion. However, the extension of the Turkmen-Iranian pipeline complex was beginning to appear more feasible. The nuclear agreement concluded between Iran and major world powers in July 2015 opened the way for the lifting of international sanctions against Tehran. This in turn meant that the Turkmen-Iranian pipeline network could be extended to Turkey and beyond, raising the possibility that Turkmen gas might eventually be transported to Europe overland along this route. Finally, some eighteen years after the idea of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to the Indian sub-continent had first been proposed, the TAPI project seemed to be making real progress.

The chief success of Turkmenistan's pipeline strategy during these years was to shift the country away from dependency on the needs and whims of a single customer by developing a diverse range of export options. This proceeded in step with the development of massive gas deposits at the Bagtyyarlyk territory, Galkynysh and Dovletabad. The combination of these two approaches - pipeline construction and exploitation of hydrocarbon reserves - allowed Turkmenistan to respond more effectively to regional conditions, to global economic crises, and to shifting patterns of global consumption.

Ruling Party Plans 2,000 Referendum Campaign Offices

The ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) said on Wednesday that it will open around 2,000 campaign offices across the country to help President Serzh Sargsyan enact his constitutional changes a through referendum next month.

The figure will roughly match the number of nationwide electoral precincts where Armenians will vote for or against the controversial changes on December 6. As many as 400 offices of the "Yes" campaign will be located in Yerevan alone.

Vahram Baghdasaryan, the HHK's parliamentary leader, insisted that the planned vast network is not a further indication that Serzh Sargsyan and his political allies will heavily use their government levers to try to expedite Armenia's transition to the parliamentary system of government. He claimed

that the authorities are committed to holding the referendum in a way that "will boost our country's international standing."

Opposition forces campaigning against the constitutional reform are certain to dismiss these assurances. They have already protested against the fact that the HHK's "Yes" campaign is led by Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan and six other senior state officials acting as his deputies. They include the chief of Sargsyan's staff.

Late last month, Abrahamyan met with the governors of Armenia's ten provinces and instructed them to set up Yes campaign offices in their respective communities. None of these officials will take a leave of absence during the referendum campaign.

"We have appointed people who have organizational experience and can organize

the referendum in a proper way," Baghdasaryan said in this regard.

Baghdasaryan revealed that the ruling party will also form many teams of "Yes" campaigners that will seek to raise public awareness of the proposed amendments to the Armenian constitution. "We do have a problem: the public is not sufficiently informed about what's going on and what is being proposed to them," he said.

The reform opponents say that the sole purpose of the amendments is to enable Sargsyan to retain the reins of power after the end of his second and final presidential term in 2018. HHK representatives dismiss these claims, pointing to Sargsyan's pledges not to become prime minister or parliament speaker if Armenia is transformed into a parliamentary republic.

President Sargsyan meets Dominik Cardinal Duka, Czech Primate and Archbishop of Prague

President Serzh Sargsyan received on November 5 Dominik Cardinal Duka, Czech Primate and Archbishop of Prague.

The president welcomed the guest, who, according to the president, is one of the Armenian people's best friends and is always a welcomed guest in Armenia. Serzh Sargsyan warmly recalled his previous meeting with Cardinal Duka and expressed satisfaction with the fact that Armenian-Czech meetings at various levels give a fresh impulse to bilateral relations, and they continue to develop dynamically.

According to Serzh Sargsyan, the opening of the Czech embassy in Armenia in pursuance of the agreement made during his meeting with President Zeman will greatly contribute to the strengthening of friendship between the Armenian and Czech peoples and to the reinforcement of relations between the two countries. "As a first country of the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion, we greatly value the broadening of spiritual ties and relations with the peoples sharing similar worldviews. Undoubtedly, the Czech people belong to that group. In that context, I attach great importance and value to your visit to Armenia," said President Serzh Sargsyan.

At the meeting, the parties placed importance on the cooperative climate between the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Czech Catholic Church, in which, according to the president, Cardinal Duka has played an invaluable role. Armenia's president expressed his satisfaction with the allocation of Prague's Church of the Holy Spirit to the Gregory the Illuminator parish community of the Armenian Apostolic Church, considering that step a great event in the life of the Czech-Armenian community from the perspective of preserving their faith and identity.

"I am delighted that I have had the chance to visit Armenia, a country which was not only the first to adopt Christianity as a state religion, but also has a rich ancient history and culture and a people which represent all of that and command high respect," said the Czech Primate and the Archbishop of Prague.

Noting that the Czech people are well aware of the crime committed against the Armenian people at the beginning of the last century, Cardinal Dominik Duka stressed that he is confident the close relationship and collaboration between the two friendly peoples, states and churches should be also aimed at promoting peace in the world and at eliminating intolerance.

Armenia, EU committed to raising bilateral cooperation to a new level

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received Herbert Salber, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia.

Minister Nalbandian and the EU Special Representative Salber emphasized the importance of the mandate given by the Council of the European Union to the European Commission to negotiate the formation of a new legal framework of relations with Armenia.

Minister Nalbandian expressed hope, that as a result of the negotiations a document will be drafted, which will reflect the joint commitment to raise mutually beneficial Armenia-European Union cooperation onto a new level and will outline the comprehensive cooperation in the areas of mutual interest. The sides discussed efforts exerted by Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries aimed at moving forward the negotiation process of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution.

The EU Special Representative Salber mentioned, that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of the issue, and reaffirmed EU's support to the negotiations held in the format of the OSCE Minsk group Co-Chairs.

EU official looks forward to new deal with Armenia

A senior European Union official stressed on November 4 the importance of a new accord planned by the EU and Armenia, confirming that it will contain many provisions of the Association Agreement which they nearly signed two years ago.

"It will be an important agreement because it will have a very wide scope and good depth," Gunnar Wiegand told reporters in Yerevan. "I don't see any significant changes [compared with the Association Agreement] in terms of foreign policy, domestic policy, home and justice or even economic and sectorial cooperation."

"But there will be a different approach on trade and investments because it is not a preferential agreement and because we are adapting to the policy choice which was made by Armenia to join the Eurasian Economic Union," Wiegand said during a regular session of the EU-Armenia Cooperation Committee co-chaired by him and Economy Minister Karen Chshmarityan.

Wiegand referred to the most important segment of the Association Agreement that would have given Armenia permanent tariff-free access to the EU markets in return for its compliance with the EU's complex commercial rules and regulations. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) ran counter to Armenia's unexpected decision to join the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

President Serzh Sargsyan announced that decision in September 2013, less than two months after his government completed association talks with the EU. The U-turn, widely attributed to Russian pressure, precluded the signing of the Association Agreement.

The new EU-Armenia deal is meant to serve as a less far-reaching alternative to that agreement. Yerevan and Brussels are



expected to open official negotiations on the deal before the end of this year.

Wiegand, who represented the EU's executive European Commission in the association talks, would not be drawn on possible dates for its signing. "It took us three and a half years to negotiate the previous agreement and after that we didn't sign," he said. "This time we want to negotiate and sign."

A senior Russian diplomat made clear late last month that Russia does not object to the new legal framework for Armenia's closer ties with the EU. He said Yerevan is "well aware" that it must not contradict membership in the EEU.

Wiegand was confident that Moscow will not seek to block the planned deal. "I don't anticipate this because we know that Armenia is consulting with its partners in the Eurasian Economic Union as much as Kazakhstan does, with whom we have negotiated an agreement," he said.

"We are not in a situation of 'either or,'" added the EU negotiator.

New loans add to Armenian debt burden

The Armenian government has obtained more than \$450 million in fresh loans from multinational lending institutions over the past week, raising Armenia's total foreign debt to over \$4.5 billion.

The combined debt incurred by the government and the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) stood at well below \$2 billion before a severe recession in 2009. It is now equivalent to more than 40 of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

Last week the government secured two loans worth a total of \$153 million from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. It formally approved on Thursday a deal with the Moscow-based Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) that will lend it \$300 million in three installments.

A government statement said that the EDB's "budgetary support loan" will be repayable in 20 years, with a 10-year grace period. It said the low-interest cred-

it will be spent on boosting "financial stability" in the Armenian energy sector, making "management of state finances" more efficient, and improving the domestic business environment.

The statement gave no other details. The government's press office did not immediately clarify just how the money will be used by the government. It promised to clarify the matter in the coming days.

Even before the latest loans, opposition politicians and other critics of the government expressed concern at the increased foreign debt, saying that Armenia may have trouble servicing it in the future. They have also accused the authorities of wasting more than \$2 billion that has been borrowed by them during President Serzh Sargsyan's rule.

Economy Minister Karen Chshmarityan dismissed those concerns after Thursday's cabinet meeting in Yerevan. He insisted that the debt burden remains manageable.



Government Sees No Economic Betterment In 2016



The socioeconomic situation in Armenia is unlikely to markedly improve next year due to slower GDP growth anticipated by the government, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said on November 2.

"In the context of tense geopolitical developments, promising an immediate betterment of all aspects of social welfare would be a populist but not honest approach," Abrahamian told lawmakers as he presented his cabinet's draft 2016 budget.

The proposed budget envisages only a marginal increase in government spending, which will not translate into increases in public sector salaries, pensions and poverty benefits. It is based on the assumption that the Armenian econo-

my will grow by 2.2 percent in 2016.

Although the government expects faster growth this year, Abrahamian cited "authoritative economists and international structures" as saying that the wider region is now facing even more serious economic challenges than during the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. He singled out the collapse in oil prices, which has plunged Russia into recession and cut vital remittances from Armenian migrant workers.

"In the face of such deterioration, our sole path to social welfare is to create jobs by means of stimulating investments and ensuring economic growth," the premier told members of the parliament committees dealing social and economic issues. "It is essential to stimulate

domestic manufacturers and foster exports."

The grim economic outlook prompted strong criticism from an outspoken opposition lawmaker, former Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan. He accused the government of lacking the ambition to improve the lives of ordinary Armenians.

Bagratyan also dismissed Abrahamian's pledges to facilitate job creation, saying that it will be hampered by domestic oligopolies led by government-linked individuals. "Our problem is that only 10 people invest," he claimed. "We don't let the economy decentralize itself so that its benefits trickle down to everyone."

"Only 7.5 percent of the population is self-employed," complained the oppositionist. "It should have been 45 percent."

Abrahamian and some members of his cabinet, notably Finance Minister Gagik Khachatryan, have extensive business interests which critics say make them disinterested in genuine reforms.

Khachatryan insisted on Monday that the scale of government corruption and economic monopolization is grossly exaggerated by Armenian media critical of the authorities. "The public buys into what you, the media, spread," he told reporters. "Because of you and us, the public, as a rule, accepts bad news more easily than positive news."

Eugene Kaspersky to receive Armenian President's 2015 IT Award



Eugene Kaspersky, CEO of the Kaspersky Lab is the 6th recipient of the Armenian President's annual IT Award. He will receive the prize on November 16 in Yerevan, the Head of Staff of Presidential Administration, Chairman of the Award Commission Vigen Sargsyan told reporters on November 3.

Every year the prize is awarded to renowned persons for global contribution in the field of information technologies.

On a three-day visit to Armenia, Kaspersky will have meetings with the Armenian leadership, representatives of the IT sphere and students.

The President's IT prize has previously been awarded to Mario Mazzola, Chief Development Officer at Cisco Systems Corporation, the former Executive Director General of Intel Corporation, Chairman of the Board Craig R. Barrett, co-founder of the Apple Computer Corporation Steve Wozniak, Chairman Emeritus of Synaptics Company Federico Faggin and former CEO of Hitachi Company Tsuguo Makimoto.



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

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

- ♦3090. **Busand str, /Near Republic Square/,** Newly built, /6th floor,116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capially renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- ♦3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- ♦3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms, capially repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaied, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- ♦1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m.,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000

USD

- ♦2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- ♦2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m.,without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986.**Cascade**, Land

- 1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

- ♦2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2358 **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capially renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m,

3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

•1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD•1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD•1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD•1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable•1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.•999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.•1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.•1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, fur-

nished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

•1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.•1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD•327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD•1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable•1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD•1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD•1312. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable•1317. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.•1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

•2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD•1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.•1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.•1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.•1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.•1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD•1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD•1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.•2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.•2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD•2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD•2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

The Week of Catastrophs: Russians and Armenians Died

By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

31 October, Saturday Russian Jet Crash in Egypt: The World Mourns with Russia

On Saturday 31 October Russian airliner Airbus A-321 of Russian air company "Kogalymavia" (Metrojet) with 217 passengers and seven crew members aboard which was en route from Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt to St. Petersburg was crashed in Egypt's Sinai peninsula shortly after takeoff.

"Unfortunately, all passengers of flight 7K9268 Sharm el-Sheikh – St.Petersburg were killed," Russian embassy in Cairo said on Twitter. The 7-person crew and 214 of the passengers were citizens of Russia and that three of the passengers were Ukrainian.

The victims included 17 children, aged 2 to 17, according to Russian authorities.

Russian President *Vladimir Putin* has issued a statement expressing his condolences to the families of the victims and declared 1 November a day of mourning. Numerous world leaders including Armenian President *Serzh Sargsyan* addressed the Russian leadership and the people letters of condolence.

The whole week citizens of Armenia have been laying wreathes, flowers and toys at the door of the Russian Federation embassy in Yerevan in memory of the innocent victims among who were Mr and Mrs *Mnatsakanov*, a newly wed couple of the Armenian origin.

THE NOYAN TAPAN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HOLDING STAFF EXPRESSES DEEP CONDOLENCES TO AMBASSADOR OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IVAN VOLYNKIN AND THE FRIENDLY RUSSIAN PEOPLE FOR THIS TRAGEDY.

3 November, Tuesday Nine Armenians Killed in a Passenger Bus Accident near Russian Tula

In the early morning of Tuesday a "Hyundai" coach traveling from Moscow to Yerevan and carrying 59 passengers flipped over about 200 kilometers south of Moscow, on "Don" highway near the village Ilyinka, Tula Region.

Eight people died in the accident, and another heavily injured 68 year old lady died later in a nearby hospital. The bodies of eight victims of the bus crash were brought to Yerevan on board a Russian Emergency Situations Ministry airplane Thursday night. Thirty-three survivors of the terrible traffic accident were also flown to Armenia on board that plane. About a dozen citizens of Armenia still remain in Russian hospitals.

The Russian authorities have not yet come up with an official

version of the traffic accident. Preliminary version of the accident could be the driver's being falling asleep on the way.

The driver of the bus, *Garnik Harutyunyan*, has been placed under a two-month arrest pending investigation. An Armenian government delegation, including Minister of Transport and Communication *Gagik Beglaryan* and Minister of Healthcare Prof. *Armen Muradyan*, had been in Russia to deal with the situation together with Russian colleagues.

President of Armenia *Serzh Sargsyan* expressed his condolences in a statement. The Armenian government said that it would take care all expenses for the funerals of the victims and treatment of the injured.

4 November, Wednesday Five Armenian and One Russian Pilots Die in AN-12 Plane Crash in South Sudan

Five Armenian pilots of a Soviet-built cargo plane and dozens of other people died on Wednesday when it crashed just after taking off from the airport in South Sudan's capital Juba.

The Antonov-12 plane carried 18 passengers. All but three of them died.



The six member crew of the old plane started to operate yet in 1971 comprised five Armenians and a Russian.



Armenia's Foreign Ministry confirmed the five Armenian casualties. It identified the died pilots: they were First Pilot and aircraft Captain *Gevorg Tovmasyan*, Second Pilot *Samvel Hambardzumyan*, Engineer *Samvel Mkrtchyan*, and Technicians Armen Antonyan and *Suren Petrosyan*. The plane was registered in Armenia before being sold to the Tajikistan-based Asia Airways last year.

According to asbarez.com, "the Juba crash raised to at least 19 the total number of Armenian pilots who have been killed while flying old Soviet-made aircraft in Africa and the Middle East in four incidents reported since 2001. Dozens of Armenians have worked for domestic and foreign airlines carrying out flights there ever since the Soviet collapse, which left many of them without permanent jobs.

The victims include the four Armenian crew of another Antonov-12 that crashed in Sudan in 2003. Five other Armenians died when their heavier cargo plane, Ilyushin-76, skidded off the runway and crashed into houses and a bar in Congo's capital Brazzaville in 2012.

Six other Armenian pilots landed in a different kind of trouble when they worked in Equatorial Guinea in 2004. They were arrested and handed lengthy prison sentences on dubious coup charges

they strongly denied. They were set free after spending more than a year in a notorious local jail".

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF ALL VICTIMS.

The Sixth Laureate of the Armenian President's Global IT Award Yevgeny Kaspersky to Arrive in Armenia on 16 November



**By Gourgen James
Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

6th Laureate of the Armenia's President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT (Global IT Award) is Yevgeny Kaspersky who will visit Armenia to receive the Award from November 16-18 with his wife and 5-member group of work-mates, **Vigen A. Sargsyan**, Chairman of the GIT Award Committee, Chief of the Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia informed numerous mass media reps during press conference held at the Presidential office on 3 November.

"Kaspersky Laboratories" founded and headed by Mr Kaspersky, is a world leading way and a largest company for cybersecurity solutions having some 40 regional offices covering 200 countries (including Armenia office).

"The President's Award is important in raising awareness of the sector within the country as well as in the integration of the world high-tech giants with Armenia. This Award, among other awards, highlights the importance of the IT sector; the expectations that we have in the context of the industry's progress and development. The numerous steps that are being taken for the promotion of the IT industry, yield results, and so we see the growth of the industry and we have professional interest to this sector," Vigen Sargsyan said, mentioning that the graduates of the industry have been finding proper employment and have professional growth, by this supporting economic development of Armenia. In these terms Mr Sargsyan stressed the importance of Synopsis Armenia company as well where a number of important projects have been implemented, in particular, RA President's annual Award for the Best IT Student.

As the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Award Committee, Synopsis Armenia Director Hovik Musayelyan said, "It was difficult for the Committee and its Selection Panel to select the best candidate".

In the agenda of Kaspersky's three-day visit to Armenia are meeting with ICT community and with students in Tumo Center of Creative Technologies as well as a traditional visit to the Engineering University where the Laureates are being awarded a University Honorary Doctor degree, but as Mr Kaspersky was already awarded that degree, he will be awarded by the Golden Medal of the SEUA this time.

The journalists were informed that in his letter of gratitude Yevgeny Kaspersky stressed that he was happy when getting know on his awarding and that was the great honor to him 'cause Armenia has a developed IT sector, a good pool of the high class specialists and due to the list of the previous Laureates who are the world IT giants.

(Let's remind that the previous GIT Award Laureates are Dr **Craig Barrett**, Retired CEO/Chairman of the Board, Intel Inc., **Steve Wozniak**, Co-Founder of Apple Computer, Inc., Dr **Federico Faggin**, Chairman Emeritus of Synaptics, Inc., President of "Federico and Elvia Faggin Foundation", Dr **Tsugio Makimoto**, President of Semiconductor Industry Association, fmr CEO of the Hitachi Company and **Mario Mazzola**, fmr Chief Development Officer at Cisco Systems).

Vigen Sargsyan reminded the mass media reps that the GIT Award has no financial part and the importance of the Laureates' visiting personally Armenia, to meet and lecturing for students, IT sector specialists, others.

It was stressed that the previous GIT Award Laureates have been keeping strong ties with Armenia. As Mr Sargsyan informed the audience, the fifth Laureate Mario Mazzola donated USD 1 mln to the



American University of Armenia, - to cover stipends and tuition fee for IT-students. And GIT Laureate Number Four Dr Tsugio Makimoto recently authored a book in Japanese entitled "Armenia as IT Country: Shining Silicon Valley in the Middle East and Caucasus".

Asked by this author "How this Award promoted strengthening of Armenia's image in the world as a hi-tech/IT destination, in particular, in terms of investments?" and "Under condition of your growing service responsibility as the RA President's Chief of Staff, how do you succeed to work fully-fledged as the GIT Award Committee's Chairman?", Vigen Sargsyan said the following: "Let me start from the second question. I must note that I am proud to be the Award Committee Chairman, and I put it in my agenda easily as the it (agenda) should be drawn according to priorities. And this matter is a priority, definitely. Second circumstance is that I've keeping the principle of non-intervention to the Committee's Executive Board's/Selection Panel's works substantially, and as they work well-organized, I have no difficulties with my Chairman responsibility. As to your first question, I must point that today the IT world is very interconnected. All the giant corporations that presented by the GIT Award Laureates are permanently looking for new ever mar-

kets, and it is very important that the Laureates - their top-ranking reps have been coming to Armenia and seeing themselves all the real success of the IT industry here, intellectual and other potential and the readiness of the state to support furthermore that crucial field. And if in this or that moment direct investments are not evident immediately, nevertheless, there are numerous signs of their interest to our country...And many successful projects that we see today in Armenia, are connected to the Award in this or that way."

To remind, the RA President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT (Global IT Award) was established upon an initiative of "Synopsis Armenia" and with VivaCell-MTS sponsorship in 2009.

Armenia's leading telecom operator VivaCell-MTS has been the Sponsor of the Award for six years.

"The President's GIT Award celebrates the greatest achievements of humanity in the sphere of high technologies and acknowledges the great minds behind those accomplishments. It is part of Armenia's commitment to bringing the best of the experience to our specialists and sharing their attainments with the world. And, of course, VivaCell-MTS - Armenia's leading telecommunications operator - could not stay away from it," VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** stated.

Mr Yirikian was asked by your author the following questions: "Again, why have you been supporting the GIT Award since its very establishment?" and "How much money VivaCell-MTS has invested in this as well as other similar projects?"

And his answer was: "I could say that VivaCell-MTS has been a pioneer company in Armenia in terms of CSR, corporate citizen responsibility, and it is already about a decade since we've been implementing such a policy - we've invested in many and diverse areas...CSR means for us responsibility towards society, the country, its economy. Since the very first day we've invested about AMD 23.6 bln in various fields, and for this, i.e. GIT Award project that improves Armenia's image in the world as a leading IT destination, within six years we've allocated about AMD 125 mln".

The speakers stressed they hoped that during his current visit Yevgeny Kaspersky will familiarize with Armenia's IT sector in more circumstantial way than he did it during its previous visit to our country not so long ago, especially after meetings with the country's leadership.

And there is no a special need to say that for today's Armenia cybersecurity is a vital matter, especially in terms of preventing hostile actions from a neighboring country that have been taking place more and more frequent.

Photo by Photolure

State Youth Orchestra Cooperates with the Health Ministry to Make Children with Health Problems Feeling Equal Members of Society



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief
Correspondent

On November 3 in the AI. Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet Theatre the Armenia's Ministry of Health together with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, under the auspices of RA First Lady **Rita A. Sargsyan**, performed Cartoon Non Stop charity concert dedicated to children and in this way announced the start of "Control Diabetes, Live a Full Life" project. A random person from the audience, 11 year - old Artavazd, conducted the Orchestra with an insulin pen instead of Sergey Smbatyan and so heralded the start of the evening. Throughout the concert the young audience and their parents had the opportunity to enjoy the popular cartoon soundtracks, scenes from these cartoons were shown on the screen.

Speaking to reporters, the SYOA Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** noted that the Cartoon Non Stop's history began in 2014.

"We are extremely proud to give a start to such an important initiative by the Health Ministry. We are able to unite people due to a positive, nice, well-established and successful idea. The idea around which the concert takes place, is very important for us," said Sergey Smbatyan and hoped that the children who will listen their favorite music, of cartoons, will take positive emotions with them to home.

"Science is constantly evolving, and modern insulins called insulin analogues

have been created in the world. Their influence is closer to the natural physiological insulin production. Within the Project the Ministry purchases ultra-short acting insulin analogues that are widely used in the world with no age restrictions due to safety. The children have so far been provided with insulin, but we always have been striving to do the best for them. Newest insulin is injected through special pens that are not look like

are equal in the society, and we strive to improve healing process of children, their quality of life by adopting modern approaches", said Minister of Health Prof. **Armen Mouradyan**.

According to him, in July 2015 the RA Government approved decision for the implementation of "Control Diabetes, Live a Full Life" Program in the next five years. Within the Program the RA Ministry of Health purchases insulin analogues of the ultra-fast effect, cartridge drugs widely used in the world.

In the Minister's words, insulin analogues

and injector pens that will be delivered to all Armenia and Artsakh children and young people with diabetes, symbolize a new life beginning. The event was organized in the eve of the International Diabetes Day marked on 14 November. It should be noted that this concert was not the first cooperation between the State Youth Orchestra and the Ministry of Health of Armenia. Such large-scale charitable projects are ongoing ones and aim to prove that all children are fully-fledged and equal members of society, regardless of diseases.



medical equipment," said Chief Pediatric Endocrinologist at the Ministry **Yelena Aghajanova**.

Sugar diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases among children around the world. Children suffering from insulin deficiency need insulin injections several times a day. Today in Armenia the following data exist: the first type of diabetes have 454 0-18 year - old children and 177 18-22 year - old young people.

"Diabetes is a lifestyle that is why the state is committed to facilitate the lives of patients, children first of all. All children

Azerbaijani provocations aim at undermining the negotiation process: Armenian FM

Baku escalates the situation during each visit of the Co-chairs to the region, Armenian Foreign Minister has said, as he commented on the ceasefire violation by Azerbaijan at the time the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs were crossing the line of contact.

"That incident took place days after the Co-chairs directly called upon Azerbaijan to agree to the creation of the mechanism of investigation of cease-fire violations. Baku escalates the situation during each visit of the Co-chairs to the region," Minister Nalbandian said in comments to Radio Liberty.

"The Azerbaijani provocations aim at undermining the negotiation process, and questioning the necessity of the mediation efforts. It is noteworthy that in their statement made as a follow-up to the regional visit the Minsk Group Co-chairs labeled the incident as an attempt to undermine the peace efforts. It is not a coincidence that



just on the next day of the provocation the President of Azerbaijan came up with new threats and criticized the Co-chairs," the Foreign Minister said.

Edward Nalbandian reminded that "Chairman Ed Royce and Ranking Democrat Eliot Engel of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee joined by 83 Congressmen addressed an open letter to the U.S. Co-chairman of the Minsk Group. The Congressmen rightly pointed out that arti-

ficial evenhandedness of generic calls to refrain from the use of force made to all parties to the conflict after each violation of the cease-fire regime cannot reduce the tensions. On the contrary up to now they have contributed to the dangerous escalation of the situation."

"We hope that the US Co-chairman will not only follow the just appeals of the US Congressmen but also together with other Co-chairmen of the Minsk Group will take efforts to fulfill their own proposal on the establishment of the mechanism for investigation of the cease-fire violations, which will make it meaningless to make unaddressed calls," he said.

"Baku continuously rejects the proposal of the Co-chairmen on the creation of the mechanism of investigation of the cease-fire violations, thus bearing full responsibility for the consequences of ceasefire violations," Minister Nalbandian concluded.

PACE Committee Approves Anti-Armenian Report

With a vote of 24 to 16, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), has approved an anti-Armenian report entitled "Escalation of Violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and Other Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan" by Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EC), a rapporteur of the PACE Political Affairs Committee, Head of the Armenian delegation to PACE Hermine Naghdalyan told Tert.am. "Our proposal failed to pass, and the report was discussed and put on the agenda of the plenary session. It is on the January agenda," she said.

The Armenian delegation proposed dismissing the subject and appointing a new rapporteur, who would be more impartial and present an unbiased report reflecting the real state of affairs, rather than one executing Azerbaijan's orders. The proposal was declined.

The report contained numerous anti-Armenian wordings unacceptable to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The decision to include Robert Walter's report in PACE's plenary session agenda is a serious blow to the OSCE Minsk Group, said an Armenian delegate. "The PACE sought, yet another time, to undermine the

Minsk Group efforts, as the move is not likely to in any way assist in the negotiation process," Naira Zohrabyan told Tert.am, commenting on the decision by the PACE committee. "They are yet another time provoking an escalation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations. The Minsk Group will later embark on new efforts, calling upon the sides to work towards confidence-building measures. But such steps never contribute to confidence building; they are like a stab from the back to the Minsk Group-mediated process," she added.

Zohrabyan, who leads the Prosperous Armenia faction in the National Assembly, says she plans to consider the future of Armenia-PACE relations after returning to Armenia. "This resolution has no value at all, apart from undermining the negotiation process," Zohrabyan said.

"As for the final version, it depends on how many sober-minded members will be attending the PACE [plenary session] to understand that the adoption of a resolution with such a wording will simply increase the border tension, which is escalated as it is. The PACE will yet another time turn into a scene of war between the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations. If that's what

the PACE seeks for, let them keep on working in such a style," Zohrabyan had previously stated before the adoption of the report. Armenia should work more actively with the delegates of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), deputy foreign minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said today at a parliamentary discussion of the next year's draft budget.

"Although we cannot and should not compete with Azerbaijan's oil dollars, we need to establish closer contacts with the delegates of PACE and make them interested in our problems," he said. According to him, Azerbaijan can be compared with the "worm-eaten apple" that has a corrupting influence on the Council of Europe. "Although the anti-Armenian reports at PACE, sponsored by Azerbaijan, cannot cause harm to Armenia, we should not be satisfied," Kocharyan said.

Kocharyan also said that Armenia will not open new embassies in 2016 because of lack of funds, "however, Armenia is ready to support the opening of honorary consulates."

He also noted that Armenia is working to ease visa procedures with the countries that do not pose threats to its national security.

Armenia, U.S. to start talks on new Double Tax Treaty

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) welcomes news that the negotiation of a U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty, a longstanding ANCA policy priority, will be on the agenda of the upcoming U.S.-Armenia Economic Task Force meeting, an annual bilateral gathering taking place in Washington, DC on November 19th. "An updated U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty is long overdue and badly needed to establish a clear legal framework for investors and individuals that are conducting business activities in both jurisdictions," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "Beyond the immediate benefits of preventing double taxation and removing a key barrier to increased investment, such an accord would, more broadly, reinforce the friendship of the American and Armenian peoples, facilitate the expansion of bilateral economic relations, deepening Armenia's ties to the West, and providing Yerevan with greater strategic options and independence in dealing with regional powers."

In August of this year, the ANCA met with Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew regarding the Treasury Department's role in the further growth of the U.S.-Armenia economic relationship, with a special focus on the mutual benefits of a new U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty.

The Republic of Armenia has repeatedly asked for a new agreement to replace a 1973 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Tax Treaty. This outdated, forty year-old accord, which Yerevan no longer considers in force, was intended as a limited agreement, even by the standards of the 1970s, between two hostile superpowers. It is clearly insufficient to the needs of the present-day economic relationship with Armenia. The lack of a modern treaty, acceptable to all parties, results in a lack of clarity and represents a substantial deterrent for potential U.S. investors. Without an updated Tax Treaty, U.S. businesses will continue to face significant burdens on investment and cross-border services and payments, as well as a lack of transparent information exchange and obstacles to cooperation on tax and related matters. Prior to the November 19th U.S.-Armenia Economic Taskforce meeting, the first-ever meeting of the newly created U.S.-Armenia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council will take place on November 16th and 17th. This inaugural meeting is set to be chaired by the U.S. Trade Representative, Michael Froman, and Armenia's Minister of Economy Karen Chshmaritian. The signing of a U.S.-Armenia TIFA, the result of nearly a decade of ANCA advocacy and bilateral dialogue, took place this May in Washington, DC.

Armenian Assembly requests Department of Justice investigation of Turkish & Azerbaijani groups

Today, the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) called on the Department of Justice to investigate potentially illegal activities of U.S. groups with ties to foreign entities in Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) and the House Committee on Ethics concluded that 9 members of Congress and more than two dozen staff members accepted a trip that was improperly paid for by foreign corporations in Azerbaijan and Turkey. In addition to attending a convention in Azerbaijan, several Members of Congress and their staff also traveled to Turkey free of cost. The OCE's review found that the congressional travel to Azerbaijan and Turkey was "not funded exclusively by the entities disclosed on travel forms submitted to the Committee on Ethics."

A USA TODAY investigation discovered that Gülen groups, Turkish organizations who follow the leadership of Fethullah Gülen, "secretly funded as many as 200 trips to Turkey for members of Congress and staff since 2008, repeatedly violating House rules and possibly federal law." Over the course of its review, the OCE obtained evidence that a Turkish organization, named the Bosphorus Atlantic Cultural Association of Friendship and Cooperation (BAKIAD), funded and coordinated the congressional travel within Turkey dating back several years. Four of the Gülen groups sponsoring the 2013 conference in Azerbaijan also "used BAKIAD to arrange and finance all in-country expenses for congressional travel in Turkey," OCE found. "Importantly, however, BAKIAD's role does not appear to have been disclosed to the Committee on Ethics in 2013 or in other years." Congressional disclosures show the Gülen-backed trips totaled more than \$800,000 in free travel for lawmakers and staff. Both the Turkish and Azerbaijani Congressional Caucuses have significantly increased their membership over the last several years.

According to the USA TODAY, "A dozen different Gülen

groups have sponsored congressional travel since 2008 and have filed forms with the House certifying that they were paying for the trips. The House Ethics Committee approved all the trips in advance based on the forms the Gülen groups submitted. But a USA TODAY investigation found many of those disclosures were apparently false. Some of the Gülenist groups claimed to be certified nonprofits, but they do not appear in state or IRS databases of approved charities. Groups that did register with the IRS filed tax forms indicating that they did not pay for congressional travel. And five of the groups admitted to congressional investigators earlier this year that a Gülenist group in Turkey was secretly covering the costs of travel inside Turkey for lawmakers and staff."

The OCE investigators received documentation that the lawmakers accepted donations by two Texas-based nonprofit corporations, the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE) and the Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ). They found that TCAE and AFAZ concealed the true source of the funding for travel and other expenses for the U.S. officials. Instead, much of the cost of travel and funding for the convention was paid for by undisclosed entities including the Republic of Azerbaijan through its national oil company, the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR). Evidence revealed that SOCAR founded AFAZ in the month prior to the Convention, transferring \$750,000 to an AFAZ bank account.

"The revelations by the USA TODAY investigation, in addition to the Office of Congressional Ethics investigation, are remarkable," the Assembly said in its letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch. "We respectfully request a full and thorough investigation by the Department of Justice into these groups and the full application of the law. The reported activities constitute plainly illegal behavior and strikes at the core of our Constitutional government through blatant foreign influence peddling."

U.S. Embassy in Armenia announces an important change to visa application procedures



Starting November 9, 2015, the U.S. Embassy in Armenia will be changing its visa procedures to make it easier for approved visa applicants to pick up their visas and for certain current visa holders to renew their visas. There is no additional cost for this improved service.

Starting on November 9, approved visa applicants will no longer have to return to the Embassy to pick up their passport containing their visa. Rather, all approved applicants will pick up their passports with their visas from UMAKS, the DHL representative in Armenia, located at 27 Amiryan St. in Yerevan. Applicants told during their visa interview that they were approved, will later receive an e-mail notification that their visa is ready for pick up at the Amiryan location. Applicants can also designate third parties to pick up their passports for them. More details will be available at www.usvisa-info.com.

"We know it can be difficult to get to the Embassy," Consul Frank Tu said. "We hope our visa applicants will find this process easier. For no additional fee, they will be able to stroll over to the DHL office on Amiryan and pick up their approved visas. We aim to make the visa application procedure as simple and easy as possible."

Some individuals, those who have previously had visas and meet certain requirements for interview-free visa renewal, will also be able to renew their visas by dropping their application packets off at the Amiryan DHL office after submitting the on-line application and paying the regular visa application fee. If approved, these applicants will receive a notification e-mail to return to DHL to pick up their new visas. For more information on who qualifies for interview-free visa renewal, visit the Embassy website :http://armenia.usembassy.gov/interview_waiver.html.

Even those applicants, who come to the Embassy for an interview and are asked to provide additional documents, will be able to submit those documents via the DHL location, eliminating the need for additional trips to the Embassy.

This change affects all applicants scheduled for interviews after November 9. No additional fee is required to be paid at the DHL office, as the service is covered by the regular visa application fee, which is not changing.

Armenia hosts thunderstorms and elementary particle acceleration conference



Understanding how lightning is initiated within thunderclouds is probably one of the biggest mysteries in atmospheric science. The relationship between thundercloud electrification, lightning activity, and the generation of radio waves is not completely understood. A promising window into this area of research is the study of the interaction of thunderstorms, lightning, and cosmic radiation (so-called Thunderstorm ground enhancements - TGEs).

To discuss these high-energy atmospheric phenomena, a conference on Thunderstorms and Elementary Particle Acceleration (TEPA) was held at the Nor Amberd International Conference Center of the Yerevan Physics Institute (YerPhI) in Armenia. The Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) of YerPhI and Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics of Moscow State

University organized the workshop; YerPhI and the Armenian State Committee of Science sponsored the conference. Thirty scientists and students from the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Israel, Russia, and Armenia attended.

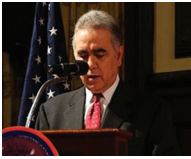
Discussions included the effects of cosmic radiation on lightning initiation, the emission of radio waves, and fluxes of subatomic particles from thunderclouds. Scientists analyzed and debated the results of experimental observations and computer models of these and other phenomena.

The workshop participants agreed that it would be useful to compare the vast amount of experimental data collected by laboratories in Armenia, Japan, Slovakia and the USA under different conditions and with different instruments. Armenian physicists suggested that sensors developed by other groups be installed at Armenia's Aragats high altitude research station where intense thunderstorms occur during spring and autumn.

The Cosmic Ray Division of YerPhI has installed new electronic systems on Mt. Aragats, including electric field monitors and particle detectors. These instruments are synchronized with GPS systems to correlate the timing of events within a few tens of nanoseconds. On October 7, for the first time, TGE particle fluxes and lightning were captured on a millisecond time scale on the CRD particle detectors on Mt. Aragats, allowing researchers and conference attendees to look at the fine details of thunderstorm activity.

Young scientists and graduate students studying at Armenia's Cosmic Ray Division conducted much of this research. Also these young scientists played a major role in organizing this conference.

Armenians Should Counter Azerbaijan's Pressure on Israel to Deny the Genocide



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

As relations between Israel and Turkey have become increasingly strained in recent years, shifting from strategic alliance to outright hostility, many analysts began to wonder about the Israeli government's uncharacteristically muted reaction to Turkish Pres. Erdogan's anti-Semitic diatribes and anti-Israeli actions.

Under these circumstances, Armenians and their supporters are puzzled by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's continued complicity in the Turkish government's denial of the Armenian Genocide and the blocking of its recognition by the Knesset (parliament).

Some Middle East experts offer two explanations of Israel's puzzling stance:

1) Despite the apparent bad blood between Israel and Turkey, the two countries continue their covert intelligence sharing and arms trade.

2) Azerbaijan, Turkey's junior brother, has taken an aggressive role in pressuring Israel not to recognize the Armenian Genocide by using as leverage its purchase of billions of dollars of advanced Israeli weapons, providing Israel much needed petroleum products, and a base in Baku to infiltrate and spy on Iran with which it has a 400-mile border.

The Israeli government has become so overly sensitive to Azerbaijan's diktats that during a recent visit by Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian to Jerusalem, Israel's Foreign Minister rudely refused to meet with him. Only through a last minute intervention, Mr. Nalbandian managed to meet with the President of Israel.

An article in the November 1 issue of

The Jerusalem Post fully illustrates the extent of Israel's kowtowing to Azerbaijan. At a time when most Western groups, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), refused to monitor Azerbaijan's Parliamentary elections because of restrictions imposed by Baku, four Israeli Knesset members rushed to Azerbaijan to show their support for Aliyev's despotic regime!

The Israeli delegation, led by former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, now chairman of the Israel-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Group, included ex-ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, Sofa Landver, and Yoel Razbozov.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Lieberman, as Foreign Minister, "worked to strengthen Israeli ties with Azerbaijan," and quoted him saying in Baku that it is "an important country and a good friend of Israel.... Even in the time of the Soviet Union, [Azerbaijan] was known to treat its Jewish community well, and there is no anti-Semitism there. We must continue strengthening our relations with Azerbaijan." Azernews also quoted him telling the Azeri Elections Media Center that Azerbaijan "is an example of democracy, stability, and successful foreign policy." Most knowledgeable people would dismiss such ridiculous and false statements.

One wonders why the former Foreign Minister is so anxious to whitewash Azerbaijan's past and present practices of anti-Semitism? After the four Knesset members return from Baku, they should be asked to disclose the lavish gifts they must have received in appreciation for their rubber stamping of the fraudulent elections in Azerbaijan. Not surprisingly, Aliyev maintained its tight grip on power after his ruling party retained its majority in parliament, while the mainstream opposition boycotted last

Sunday's elections.

The Jerusalem Post reported that "Azerbaijan is considered the Muslim country friendliest to Israel, and the two countries have close ties and significant trade. Azerbaijan is Israel's biggest oil provider, and trade between the two countries reaches \$5 billion, more than with France. In recent years, Lieberman, then-president Shimon Peres, and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon visited Baku."

In pursuing its arms for oil policy, Israeli officials have conveniently ignored Azerbaijan's gross violations of human rights, lack of freedom of speech, and jailing of journalists and activists, including Leyla Yunus, head of the Baku-based Institute for Peace and Democracy, and investigative reporter Khadija Ismayilova of Radio Free Europe.

While it might be somewhat understandable that Israel and Azerbaijan are pursuing their self-interests, no matter how reprehensible the means, Armenia must also pursue its own national interests and counter the actions of any country that jeopardizes its security and questions the Genocide. The Armenian government should make crystal clear to Israeli officials that by selling multi-billion dollar sophisticated weapons to Azerbaijan, they become responsible for putting at risk thousands of Armenian lives. Azerbaijani officials have publicly announced that they intend to use the arms acquired from Israel to attack Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) and Armenia.

Lastly, Armenia should warn Azerbaijan that its unwarranted denials of the Armenian Genocide and pressures on other countries, such as Israel, to join its denialist cause, would further antagonize Armenians, making it impossible for them to accept any concessions on the Artsakh conflict.

Misak Chelebian: An Armenian Genocide survivor who fought Franco's nationalists in Spain

In 1937, hundreds of volunteers from around the world travelled to Spain to fight Franco's nationalists. Among them was Misak Chelebian. Eight decades later, his American grandson visited the battlefield where he died, The Independent reports.

On Christmas Day 1936, Francisco Franco was wrestling with a problem. Before the decade was over, he would be Spain's fascist dictator and would rule for almost four decades. But at that moment, as a mere army general at the centre of a plot to unseat the democratically elected Republican government, his troops were stuck outside Madrid, unable to take the Spanish capital - it was crucial if the coup d'état was to succeed.

At the same moment, 3,500 miles away, Misak Chelebian was boarding a steam ship in New York. It was bound for Le Havre on the north coast of France. From there, the 47-year-old American of Armenian descent would travel, along with hundreds of other anti-fascist Americans, to the Pyrenees, cross the border into Spain and after a few rudimentary instructions on how to use their simple rifles, would be pitted against Franco's forces.

Six weeks later the fates of these two men crossed in the valley of Jarama, in what became one of the bloodiest battles of the Spanish civil war. After weeks

stuck without progress to the west of Madrid, Franco opened a new front to try to cut the capital's Mediterranean supply lines. Misak, along with thousands of his comrades-in-arms, members of the volunteer International Brigade, had come to stop him.

"I would like to think that this is his final resting place," says Barton "Rocky" Chelbian (the family surname was later simplified) indicating an olive grove on a hillside.

A retired businessman from New Jersey, Rocky knows little of what hap-

pened to his grandfather, but almost eight decades after the two-week battle, which cost the lives of as many as 45,000 men on both sides, he has come to Spain to find out more about Misak and, as he says, to pay his respects.

At 47, Misak was not a typical recruit. Born in what is now Turkey, he had escaped the Armenian genocide of 1915. He returned to Europe to fight in the French Foreign Legion during the First World War, and then again in the mid-1930s to fight Franco's Nationalists, which were supported by Hitler's Nazis.



Armenian Genocide movie 'The Cut' to screen in Tbilisi



"The Cut" – a historical epic about the Armenian Genocide directed by Turkish-German filmmaker Fatih Akin will screen in Tbilisi today within the framework of the Russian Movie Festival held in the Georgian capital from November 4 to 8. The festival features 30 films from Georgia, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Turkey and Iran. Beginning in Armenia in 1915, "The Cut" follows one man's journey through the Ottoman Empire after surviving the Genocide. Nazaret (Tahar Rahim), a young blacksmith from Mardin, Turkey, is ripped from his family and is forced to work as a slave laborer. Years later, he begins a continent-crossing quest to reunite with his twin daughters.

UNDP in Armenia goes Climate neutral!

Today's global community is fighting one of the most challenging problems we have ever encountered: climate change. Climate change is neither local nor regional - it is a global threat to development. In fact, this year's make or break Climate Change Summit in Paris has been billed as a defining moment in the history of mankind.

As a leading development actor, UNDP is supporting this fight, playing a key role in raising public awareness on climate change and supporting sustainable development throughout the world.

Today we proudly announce that UNDP in Armenia has become officially Climate Neutral!

Climate neutrality is not about zero emissions. It is about reducing current emissions to the point where we reach the ultimate balance between emissions and the absorptive capacity of the Earth.

Even with our best efforts, daily

activities and business operations result in unavoidable emissions. Climate neutrality means that for those emissions that we are unable to reduce at the office, we reduce the equivalent amount elsewhere.

How? UNDP in Armenia has achieved climate neutrality through offsetting its greenhouse gas emissions associated with office operations and travel in 2014 by contributing to the UNFCCC Climate Change Adaptation Fund, which in its turn finances adaptation projects in developing countries, helping them build resilience and adapt to climate change.

As one of the first UNDP country offices to achieve this important milestone, UNDP Armenia calls on everyone to take action towards a climate neutral world, by following these three main steps:

1. **Measure** your climate footprint; calculate your CO2 emissions. You can do this now online through the Footprint calculator of the UN's Climate Neutral Now platform.

2. **Reduce** emissions as much as possible through adopting more environmentally friendly operations and

behavior. Here are a few Greening tips to get started.

3. **Offset** what cannot be reduced. You can do this through the UN's newly launched Climate Neutral Now platform.

The Green Team at UNDP

UNDP in Armenia's commitment to environmental sustainability has resulted in the formation of a special task force known as **The Green Team**. Through the team's 'Greening efforts' several additional measures have been taken to reduce the organization's emissions through improved energy efficiency, 'green' lighting, waste management, plastic and paper recycling, and most importantly, more environmentally friendly practices.

Yet in 2011 UNDP in Armenia installed 10 kW solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the UN House, thus covering part of its power consumption from a renewable source.

Check out our 'Green Action Plan' or contact our 'Green focal point' for more information.

What can you do?

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crises, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. As an Armenia citizen, you are a crucial part of this process - UNDP is a potential partner to you too!

If you'd like to get involved or you have an idea related to climate change then check out our small grants programme or idea incubator.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

Concentrate on awareness of any self-sabotaging activities or those things you are avoiding. You have already run yourself short of time, so it's important that you pay attention now before the situation becomes more critical.

Taurus

(April 20 -- May 20)

Your attention turns to personal healing, diet or exercise. For some there will be an improvement in the everyday environment at work. A new person may enter your work arena, who will be helpful and friendly.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

Continue to allow your intuition to be your guide. The Muse wants to speak through you during this period of two to three weeks. Focus on art, music, dance, and color-whatever gives you pleasure. Take long breaks if possible. Being near the water will be most soothing, even if it is only the shower.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

This is a particularly good time to commune with family. You will probably be drawn together over a matter of importance to each of you. Give attention to whomever or whatever enters your life at this time. A "spiritual teacher" is coming. It may be a person or an experience.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

This is a favorable week for the Lions. Your personal creativity will help you access assistance from the world at large if you need it. This is a healing time. Your wisdom and strength serves as a healing balm for others. If you need emotional or physical healing, someone fills that role for you.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

You have especially good aspects regarding relationship(s) this week. It is a good time to share your truth with lovers, children, and partner(s). Let your intuition flow and guide you. Give attention to your dreams. You may be drawn to creative projects or writing.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Venus, your ruling planet, enters your sign on Nov 8 and will be with you through Dec. 3rd. You always have an interest in appearance and this transit notches it up a couple of pegs. You may "redecorate" yourself with new glasses, clothing, or hairstyle. Often when Venus is prominent we become more interested in anything which adds beauty to our lives.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

The Gift of Gab is your sidekick this week as you stroll through life. You can talk your way into or out of anything you choose. Romance is enjoyable although it is probably not something to bet your life on. Just enjoy the game. Education and short distance travels are favored.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

An unexpected, fairly sudden development interferes with your forward motion in career this week. If hi-tech equipment is important to your job, it may throw a ringer in the works. Whatever the cause, it seems you must stand aside until time fixes the problem.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

Aspects particularly favor social life and community. You are in an effective position. Others agree with your guidance and leadership and are willing to give whatever support is needed. The trick for you is to pry your mouth open to ask. Don't command or others will work against you.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

Everything seems to be grinding toward a halt at this time. It is possible that you have a quarrel with the direction of things around you. Therefore you are dragging your feet. Or maybe you feel ill. This is temporary. Things will pick up next week.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

Problems concerning a partner or someone that you love may pressure you into sacrificing your independence for a while. Meanwhile you have favorable aspects related to activities involving distant travel, the law, education, the internet and church.

Charles Aznavour promises to be back to London when he is 100

By Pierre Perrone
The Independent

Three songs into what turns out to be a lengthy, 2-hour long set you'd hardly expect from a 91 year-old, now officially the oldest performer to headline the regal London venue, Charles Aznavour takes off his slate-colored jacket and flings it on the grand piano as he reveals a pair of bright red braces.

The most diminutive chanson legend means business and punches the air after dramatically hitting the high note at the end of *"Paris Au Mois D'Août"* (*Paris In The Month of August*), the title song of a doomed love affair film he made with Susan Hampshire five decades ago. In fact, he's not just singing to the French expats who have wandered up from South Kensington with a glass of rosé - fact! - the British and the London-based Armenian community love him too, and with good reason.



He makes fun of the téléprompteur that enables him to give a masterclass in song-writing in between duetting with his daughter Katia on *"Je Voyage"* and delivering a sublime *"She"*, the 1974 chart-topper revived by Elvis Costello for the *Notting Hill* soundtrack 15 years later. If this is your entrée into the thousand-plus chansons Aznavour has composed, you're in for a treat. After nonchalantly singing *"The Old Fashioned Way"*, he returns for *"What Makes a Man a Man"*, arguably the first song about homosexuality by a non-homosexual. Its message of acceptance is magnified by the bouquet of flowers he carries on the shoulder like a gun as he wanders off stage, an impish smile on his face. He promises to be back when he is 100. Don't bet against it! Chapeau Monsieur Aznavour!





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