

## Netherlands PM: Armenia is following path of democracy although sometimes there are difficult situations



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met with the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Mark Rutte in The Hague.

Mr. Rutte attached importance to the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia to the Netherlands and the development of cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

During the meeting, the interlocutors also discussed the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries, the implementation of appropriate measures to expand business ties. They expressed confidence that there is a great potential for economic cooperation between Armenia and the Netherlands, the realization of which will contribute to the increase of trade turnover.

The parties touched upon the Armenia-EU relations, the situation around Nagorno Karabakh, the processes taking place in the international arena.

*Nikol Pashinyan was in the Netherlands on a two-day (May 10-11) official visit. This was the first official visit of the leader of Armenia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.*

*Within the framework of the official visit, on May 11, PM Pashinyan met with representatives of the business community of the Netherlands, toured the Peace Palace, participated in the inauguration ceremony of the khachkar donated by Armenia to the Palace. The Prime Minister delivered a lecture “Armenia and The Netherlands. Centuries-old friendship - 30-year partnership” at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael.*

**Then, the Heads of Government of the two countries issued statements.**

Mark Rutte, in particular, said:

“Thank you very much. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome and receive Nikol Pashinyan and some members of his government here.

The Netherlands and Armenia are geographically several thousand kilometers apart, but in other respects the distance between our countries is small. We are the appreciator of cultural values. An exhibition opened at the Drents Museum yesterday, and I hope to visit it soon. We also have excellent diplomatic relations that have existed

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## Foreign Ministers of Armenia and UAE meet in Abu Dhabi

On May 14, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan met in Abu Dhabi with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Armenian Foreign Minister expressed deep condolences to the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the people on the death of President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, expressing support and solidarity with the Nahyan family.

On behalf of Armenian Prime Minister

Nikol Pashinyan, Minister Mirzoyan also wished success to the newly elected President Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan in the responsible position of the President of the country.

The Foreign Ministers touched upon the further development of the Armenian-Emirati relations, expressing readiness to expand cooperation in the spheres of bilateral interest.

The deepening of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries was



emphasized, the need to promote regular contacts and implement mutually beneficial investment programs was stressed.

## Mirzoyan presents Armenia's position on NK conflict settlement to CIS Foreign Ministers

On May 13, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan participated in the sitting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the CIS member states in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The CIS foreign ministers exchanged views on issues of mutual interest on the regional and international agenda, touched upon the possibilities of strengthening cooperation within the CIS. The further directions of the organization's activity were discussed.

Minister Mirzoyan referred to the trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan on May 12, expressing hope that it would be a step towards establishing peace and stability in

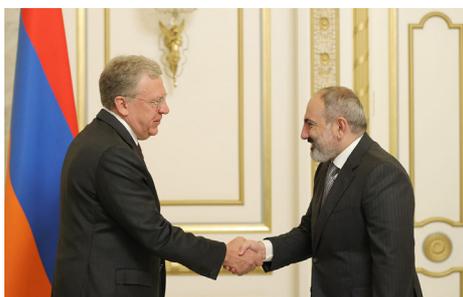
the region. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Republic of Armenia to the implementation of the agreements reached by the statements of November 9, 2020, January 11 and November 26, 2021.

Ararat Mirzoyan presented the position of the Armenian side on the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, in this regard, attached importance to promoting the peace process under the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

The CIS Foreign Ministers reviewed the report on the 2021 program of multi-level consultations between the foreign ministries within the CIS, referred to the list of scientific projects on the priorities



of the basic research of the member states. The decision on granting the Silk Road International University of Tourism the status of a basic organization of the CIS member states in the field of tourism and other documents were agreed. A decision was made on the *CIS Youth Capital* international project, which aims to intensify the cooperation of the CIS member states to create conditions for the promotion of youth potential.



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation Alexei Kudrin.

The Prime Minister noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of Armenian-Russian diplomatic relations, which is marked by active high-level bilateral reciprocal visits. According to Nikol Pash-

## PM Pashinyan received Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of Russia Alexei Kudrin

inyan, they promote close cooperation, strengthening of ties and exchange experience between the governments and other bodies. The Prime Minister added that the aim of the government is to make the activity of the public administration system more effective, highlighting the experience of Russia in that context, as well as the cooperation between the Audit Chamber of the Republic of Armenia and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation.

Alexei Kudrin noted that they had fruitful discussions with their Armenian counterparts, which are important for applying new approaches to the activities.

The Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation attached importance to the expansion of cooperation and referred to the activities and results of the structure headed by him.

The interlocutors also exchanged views on other issues on the agenda of Armenian-Russian relations.

Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan also received Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation Alexei Kudrin, during which the discussions on the development of cooperation continued.

## Systematic corruption eradicated in Armenia – PM

Armenia has registered a major progress in the fight against corruption over the past four years, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael, while delivering a lecture on the friendship and partnership between Armenia and the Netherlands.

“I am the first Armenian leader to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. I view this visit not only in the context of the Armenian-Dutch traditional historical ties, commercial relations, but also in the context of Armenia’s democracy. I want to note that after the Revolution of 2018 we have felt the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the democratic reforms. Democracy is Armenia’s main brand, and this is



not my assessment. These realities have been recorded by all those international institutes that do global research in democracy, fight against corruption, freedom of speech”, he said.

He said that in 2021 for the first time Armenia has been classified by international democratic institutes as a country with electoral democracy. Pashinyan called this an important achievement.

is the 51st in the world. It is in better positions than about ten European countries. I say this to show how determined we are in the implementation of democratic reforms”, Nikol Pashinyan said.

The PM said that pages such as the public doubt to the election results, the practice of falsifying elections have been closed in Armenia. He emphasized that Armenia has no way back.

## Issue of Artsakh’s status fundamental: Armenia publicizes the six-point proposals to Azerbaijan



Armenia’s Ambassador-at-large Edmon Marukyan released the 6-point proposal made by Armenia for the settlement of the relations with Azerbaijan.

In an interview to the Public TV, Mr. Marukyan said that the 1st point says that the Armenian side responds to the letter of the Azerbaijani side dated February 21, which was handed over to the Armenian side on March 11.

In the 2nd point the Armenian side says that the Republic of Armenia has never had and does not have territorial claims to Azerbaijan. “As you remember, Azerbaijan says there that you should not have territorial claims to us. We say that listen, we haven’t had territorial claims to you. And

from the very beginning, all leaderships of Armenia have always announced that we do not have a territorial claim. It says here that on December 8, 1991, by jointly signing with Azerbaijan the treaty on the establishment of the CIS, Armenia ratified that treaty on February 18, 1992. That is, at that time when we signed it, we mutually recognized each other’s territorial integrity and borders by joining that organization”, Marukyan said.

According to the 3rd point, the issues on guaranteeing the security of Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, respecting their rights and freedoms, as well as determining the final status of Nagorno Karabakh are fundamental for the Armenian side.

Marukyan said that in the 4th point the Armenian side considers important the commitments enshrined in the 2020 November 9, 2021 January 11 and November 26 statements signed by the Armenian Prime Minister, the President of Russia and the Azerbaijani President. “And what are those commitments? The return of the

prisoners of war, which has not been done till today, the opening of communications which Azerbaijan delays”, Marukyan said, adding that with this point the Armenian side makes it clear that it continues remaining committed to its obligations, but Azerbaijan does not.

The 5th point states that the Armenian side is ready to start negotiations for the settlement of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, for the establishment of inter-state relations based on the UN Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Helsinki Final Act. “These are the basic principles that have existed from the beginning. In other words, the nations’ right to self-determination and other important rights and freedoms are enshrined here”, he said.

Edmon Marukyan added that with the 6th point the Armenian side states that Armenia applied to the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs for the respective negotiations.

page 1 for 30 years. The opening of the Embassy of the Netherlands took place in Yerevan, which confirms our excellent bilateral relations.

The visit of Prime Minister Pashinyan is taking place at a very right time, because the Armenian government has very big plans after last year's elections. We have many topics to talk about, there are very big plans. Armenia has made great investments, it is following the path of democracy, although sometimes there are difficult situations and conditions. Following the velvet revolution under the leadership of Prime Minister Pashinyan, great changes have taken place, corruption and many other wrongdoings have been fought. I am greatly convinced that the reforms will be very effective, all Armenians will benefit from it. I highly appreciate Mr. Pashinyan, I highly appreciate



the activities of his government, I promised him that we will support in every way.

Although there are many positive achievements, unfortunately, the catastrophic war in Ukraine saddens everyone. Of course, we talked about that today. Our position is very clear: this terrible war must end; all parties must sit at the table and start negotiations. Only this can lead to lasting peace. Unfortunately, Armenia well understands what war means, and that is why it is so important that Arme-

nia and Azerbaijan have recently begun negotiations to reach an agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh in the near future. We emphasize its importance; we support the Minsk Group Co-Chairs. It is a very difficult dialogue after so much grief. Mr. Pashinyan made very clear about that in the parliament. I expressed my respect for that, the efforts of the Armenian government in that regard, we wholeheartedly welcome and we will continue to welcome. Of course, we have not finished our conversations yet, we will sit at the table soon, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Pashinyan and the ministers for the visit.

During this visit, we reaffirmed what unites our nations. It promises very good, positive cooperation in the future. I personally welcome all that, thank you again, I hope we will meet again.”



(RFE/RL) - Armenian opposition leaders and their supporters blocked a key government building in Yerevan on Friday on the 13th day of their street protests aimed at forcing Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to resign.

All entrances to the building housing several Armenian ministries remained blocked for around 90 minutes, with the protesters not allowing their employees to leave it. Some of them watched the action from the building's balconies or looked out of office windows.

Ishkhan Saghatelian, a deputy parliament speaker leading the crowd, urged the civil servants to “join the people” campaigning for Pashinyan's removal from power. “Nobody can threaten to fire you,” Saghatelian said

through a loudspeaker.

“We must show every day that Nikol has no power in Armenia,” he went on, appealing to the crowd.

Riot police warned the protesters that the blockade is illegal but did not try to disperse them. They similarly refrained from using force when the opposition surrounded the building of the Yerevan mayor's office on Wednesday.

After the blockade, the protesters marched back to the city's France Square, the scene of daily rallies and a tent camp



set up by Armenia's two main opposition groups on May 1.

Earlier in the day, groups of young opposition activists again entered university

campuses in the capital and urged students to join the opposition push for regime change. Six of them were detained after blocking a street intersection in downtown Yerevan.

Opposition leaders also organized fresh processions of cars that drove slowly through various parts of the city to try to drum up greater popular support for the campaign.

Saghatelian said the campaign will continue until Pashinyan agrees to step down.

He and other opposition leaders pledged earlier to install an interim government of technocrats that will run Armenia for at least one year before holding fresh general elections. They did not specify who would head it.

Pashinyan, who is accused by the opposition of planning to make sweeping concessions to Azerbaijan, has rejected demands for his resignation. The prime minister and his allies say they received a popular mandate to continue to govern the country in last year's parliamentary elections.



Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Armen Simonyan met with the representatives of the French Development Agency (AFD), the ministry said in a press release.

The meeting aimed at discussing the development prospects of railway infrastructures in Armenia.

Welcoming the guests, Armen Simonyan said that during the previous meeting

## Armenian deputy minister, AFD representatives discuss development prospects of railway infrastructure

the issue of creating railway infrastructures from Vanadzor to Fioletovo was discussed and now the guests can get acquainted with that section.

The AFD representatives wanted to know about the reasons of the absence of railway infrastructures in areas favorable for them, the subsidy provided by the government and the development of passenger and cargo transportation with the neighboring countries, particularly Georgia.

They said that the results of research in this field are important for future activities

and in order to have major investments, a substantiated commercial strategy program will be necessary.

The deputy minister presented in detail Armenia's resources in railway sector, the priority directions for development and answered the questions of the meeting participants.

An agreement was reached to meet after the end of the research in order to organize the further works based on their results.

## Trilateral consultations between Armenia, Greece and Cyprus held in Yerevan

Armenia-Greece-Cyprus trilateral cooperation planning consultations were held at the Ministry of Defense on May 10.

The consultations were attended by the delegations led by Levon Ayvazyan, Head of the Defense Cooperation and International Cooperation Department, Head of the Military Cooperation Planning and Implementation Department of the General Staff of the Hellenic National Defense, Colonel Socrates Serves, Head of the Strategy and Policy Department of the Cyprus National Guard, Colonel Lucas Hajikonstantinos.

During the meeting, the works carried out in the framework of the trilateral military cooperation of the previous years were discussed, the prospects of development of



cooperation were touched upon.

The interlocutors also discussed issues related to regional security and international developments. The head of the Department of Defense Cooperation and International Cooperation of the Armenian Ministry of Defense presented the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and in

Artsakh, stressed the need for efforts for stability and peace in the region.

Based on the agreements reached during the consultations, the 2022 Armenia-Greece Bilateral Military Cooperation Program and the Armenia-Greece-Cyprus Trilateral Military Cooperation Action Plan were signed (the 2022 Armenia-Cyprus Bilateral Military Cooperation Program was signed in October 2021).

The signed documents envisage several dozen events in Armenia, Greece and Cyprus, which include combat training in special forces, peacekeeping, military medicine, engineering, other fields, exchange of experience in various fields, exchange of information and military consultations.

## Construction of Friendship Bridge at Armenia-Georgia border enters final phase

The construction of the Friendship Bridge on the Armenian-Georgian border's Sadakhlo-Bagratashen border crossing point is in the final phase.

The construction of the bridge is a joint

Armenian-Georgian program, funded by the EBRD and the governments of Armenia and Georgia.

The bridge will ease traffic and facilitate passenger and cargo movement.



## Armenia To Increase Gas Imports from Iran

Armenia plans to significantly increase the presently modest import of natural gas from neighboring Iran, a senior Armenian official said on May 12.

Hakob Vartanyan, a deputy minister of territorial administration and infrastructures, told RFE/RL's Armenian Service that the governments of the two states will finalize a corresponding agreement during Territorial Administration Minister Gnel Sanosyan's visit to Tehran next week.

Armenia has imported roughly 350 million cubic meters of Iranian gas annually under a swap deal agreed more than a decade ago. It has paid for the fuel with electricity generated by Armenian thermal power plants and exported to the Islamic



Republic.

The deal runs until 2026. Vartanyan said that it will be extended by four years.

"There is now an agreement to increase that volume to up to 600 million cubic meters per annum," added the official.

In his words, Armenia will be able to import up to 1.8 billion cubic meters of

Iranian gas after completing the protracted construction of a third power transmission line connecting it to Iran.

Work on the 276-kilometer Armenian section of the high-voltage line began in 2006 and repeatedly fell behind schedule. It is now slated for completion by the end of 2023.

Russia will likely remain the principal supplier of gas to Armenian households and corporate consumers even after its construction. Armenia buys over 2 billion cubic meters of Russian gas annually, paying \$165 per thousand cubic meters.

By comparison, the market-based gas price for Germany and other European Union nations currently stands at \$1,200 per thousand cubic meters.



Minister of Finance of Armenia Tigran Khachatryan participated in the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) from May 9 to 12, the ministry said in a news release.

The actions taken so far within the

## Armenian Minister of Finance participates in EBRD annual meeting

frames of the EBRD activity and the registered results were summed up during the meeting. The governors were introduced on the details of implementation of the EBRD's 2021-2025 strategic and capital program.

During the official visit in Morocco, minister Khachatryan met with the top officials of the EBRD, discussing the latest developments of the global economy and the existing challenges, touching upon Ar-

menia's cooperation with the Bank. The sides attached importance to the ongoing EBRD-funded infrastructure projects in Armenia, as well as outlined the prospects of expanding the future cooperation.

The Armenian minister also met with the representatives of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and discussed the opportunities of the bank's partnership with Armenia.

## Pensioners to get some discounts in case of buying with bank card: PM says new system will be introduced soon

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan announced on May 13 that the government is planning to introduce a new system of social significance according to which if a pensioner makes purchases with a bank card, a certain percentage of money will be transferred back to his/her card.

During the Cabinet meeting the PM said that they will introduce this system soon.

"You know that starting this year we have expanded the volumes of non-cash

payments of pensions, and we are going to introduce the following system in the future according to which we should apply



discounts if a purchase is made by the bank cards of all pensioners. If a pensioner makes a purchase with a bank card, we will introduce a system of discounts which has several very important meanings. Firstly, just a social meaning, secondly, a reduction in cash turnover, thirdly – an analysis of the data of that trade, as a result of which it could be possible to make the social policy effective and find the further sensitive points for the needs of our pensioners", the PM said.

## Nearly 300 specialists from Diaspora applied to work in Armenia's public sector

iGorts 2022 cohort application has come to a close, the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs told Armenpress.

“iGorts is a program for Armenian professionals from the Diaspora to work within Armenia's public sector. This year, nearly 300 Diaspora Armenian professionals have sent applications from 31 countries, including Russia, the United States, Lebanon, Ukraine, Belgium, Iran, Canada, France, Germany, Belarus, Argentina, Switzerland, Norway, and Italy. In addition, applicants from the Netherlands, Jordan, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, and New Zealand applied to the program for the first time.

The program provides an opportunity for specialists from the Diaspora to work in more than 25 departments in Armenia

and Artsakh for a year, bringing their experience and knowledge, initiating new programs, and starting their careers in their Homeland. All applicants have a bachelor's degree with at least five years of professional experience or a master's degree (or higher) with three years of professional experience.

This year we have applicants who graduated from Harvard, Bradford University, MSU, Columbia University, and UCLA. This year the oldest applicant is 77 years old, and the average age of candidates for the program is 35 years. After the final round, 50 specialists from the Diaspora will begin their careers in Armenia in September of this year.

The government of the Republic of Armenia will offer a round-trip air ticket, a monthly stipend of 336.000 AMD to



cover living expenses, emergency medical insurance, and a one-year residency status fee for the participants. We would also like to mention that this will be the program's third cohort.

Over the past two years, through the program, more than 100 specialists started their work in the public sector of Armenia and Artsakh. Fortunately, 70% of them decided to repatriate. iGorts is the only state program in the history of Armenia that invites Armenian specialists from the Diaspora to help change Armenia's administration system using their skills”, the Office said in a statement.



A multifunctional business complex with unique architectural solutions will be built in Yerevan. The government today okayed the project approved by Suren and Hasmik Pahlevanyan.

The investors are planning to imple-

## Multifunctional business complex with unique architectural solutions to be built in Yerevan

ment a \$10-million project in Dzoragyugh ethnographic district of Kentron administrative district.

A multifunctional business complex with unique architectural solutions meeting international standards is expected to be built.

It will include both residential and business areas as well as a hall for special cultural events. An agreement has already been reached with the Sergei Parajanov

House-Museum on the display of certain items.

The building will have a three-storey car park with a state-of-the-art architectural solution. The project will include the improvement of the surrounding areas and can serve a good start for the formation and further development of the architectural environment of Hrazdan gorge. The construction will take 2-3 years, as a result of which 150-200 new jobs will be created.

## Armenian government launches prison reforms, approves new penitentiary code

The Cabinet approved the new draft Penitentiary Code of Armenia.

Justice Minister Karen Andreasyan said the draft is an entirely new code.

“The last time a draft like this was adopted was in 2004, meaning the current law is almost 20 years old and requires modernization. The current law still has some regulations from Soviet times, and this new code will change it,” he said.

One of the changes envisaged in the

new code is introducing the new designations of prisons. Previously the security levels of prisons were classified as follows: open, semi-open, semi-closed, closed, and medical divisions, whereas now there will be three types of security levels of prisons – low, medium and high.

Another change refers to the Hospital of Convicts, which is currently designated as a separate prison.

The new law will adjust the medical



facility to the three security levels accordingly.

A new system will be introduced to prevent self-harm and suicide among inmates.



Embassy of India  
Yerevan

## **JOB VACANCY**

Embassy of India in Yerevan, Armenia invites application from the interested candidates for filing up the local post of “**Multitask-cum-Messenger**”.

### **Eligibility**

**Minimum Education:** Graduation with fluent knowledge of English and local languages-Armenian and Russian. Candidates knowing all these languages will be given higher preference. Knowledge of English is must. Knowledge of computer applications including typing with a fair speed and use of Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.

**Documents:** (a) Medical Fitness Certificate (b) Birth Certificate (c) Educational Certificates (d) Passport Copy.

**Age:** 21-35 Years

**Work Experience:** 5 Years of experience with a reputed company or International/Diplomatic organization (certificates from previous and present organization are required). Depending upon the qualification & experience, the age limit may be relaxed.

**Responsibilities:** The person will be responsible for handling various administration, establishment, delivery of official documents, materials in various office in Yerevan and other miscellaneous job in the Embassy. Additionally, the person will also be required to contribute in the functioning of the Embassy and perform additional duties assigned to him/her from time to time.

**Information about salary :** On request.

Interested candidates may address their Application/Curriculum Vitae to :

**Head of Chancery  
Embassy of India  
50/2, India Street (Dzorapi Street), Yerevan, Armenia**

**By e-mail their resumes to the following emails:**

**hoc.yerevan@mea.gov.in  
accounts.yerevan@mea.gov.in**

**Last Date for acceptance of application: June 03, 2022**

## **Relocating to Armenia: IT companies to enjoy benefits**

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry has presented guidelines for registration, transfer, establishment and running of companies and organizations by foreign citizens. It has also listed the benefits in the field of high technologies and telecommunications available in Armenia.

**How to register a business in Armenia and how long does the registration process take?**

The registration process is carried out by the Agency for State Register of Legal Entities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.

**What benefits are provided to FEZ resident companies?**

In order to develop the ICT sector, the Government of the Republic of Armenia

has established a number of benefits, which are enshrined in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and relevant resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, in particular the RA Law “On State Support in the Field of Information Technology” and the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of March 24, 2022 “On approval of the procedure for providing state support to commercial organizations and individual entrepreneurs in the field of Information Technology.”

**How to buy or rent an apartment in Armenia?**

Any questions about buying or renting real estate can be found on the websites of the RA Cadaster Committee.

**Can foreign citizens open online ac-**



**counts in Armenian banks?**

Most of the commercial banks of the Republic of Armenia have internet banking systems and mobile applications that allow legal entities to open foreign currency accounts. The list of commercial banks of the Republic of Armenia can be found here.

## Armenian PM, Russian deputy PM and deputy FM discuss activity of trilateral working group



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received on May 12 Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk and Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, the PM's Office said, adding that the meeting was also attended by Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan.

"I am happy to see you here, I want to state once again that we highly appreciate the work done so far within the frames of the trilateral working group dealing with the opening of regional communications, vehicle, railway communications. You know how important this topic is for us because when we achieve concrete solutions, it will change the situation in the region not only from economic, but also political, psychological and security terms. You know how much we are interested in having a concrete and positive result over it. We continue working intensively. During my official visit to Moscow, this has been one of the key topics that was discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin. And I am very glad that we have fixed our common approaches and common positions over this.

As for the further work concerning this topic, this topic also has a technical part, which, I think, is not so difficult. But in order for us to have concrete and effective solutions, we need to solve all the legal issues, the procedural matters which will

not only help us to quickly come to concrete solutions, but also these solutions will become more substantiated and stronger, if it can be said so. And the mechanism will work effectively in the long-run. I am sure that we all are inclined to such work. I once again want to thank for the work done. I hope and I am sure that this work will be ef-

fective in the future as well, it's just necessary to come to concrete solutions as soon as possible", the Armenian PM said in his welcoming remarks.

In his turn the Russian deputy PM Alexei Overchuk thanked PM Pashinyan for the warm welcome and said: "Indeed, quite recently we have met with you in Moscow where you were on an official visit, you visited Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod. A whole series of meetings both with Vladimir Putin, Mikhail Mishustin and Valentina Matviyenko have taken place. Our profile ministries received instructions based on the results of those meetings, and we are working on their direction. And I want to mention a very

important moment that you drew a focus during your visit, that is to completely lift all the coronavirus-related restrictions. Now the operational staff made such a decision, all restrictions will be lifted from May 16 and it would be possible to travel both by roads and planes. In other words, all these issues, which were delaying the contacts between our countries, are being lifted today. Moreover, we have adopted with you decisions about many issues relating to trade, which are very important in the context of today's topic. We are ready

to continue the cooperation and develop it with the same spirit also in the future.

Today, of course, we would like to talk about the activities of the trilateral working group. We fully share your assessments on the establishment of transportation communications between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Truly, when this takes place, it will completely change the entire transportation configuration of the region. And really new opportunities will open so that the economy of Armenia will develop and will receive an additional impetus, and Armenia's role will significantly increase connected with it. In this respect, of course, we are making maximum efforts both with Mher Grigoryan and Shahin Mustafayev in order to solve these issues. And as you said, the legal and procedural solutions, of course, are very important".

During the meeting issues relating to



the bilateral cooperation agenda between Armenia and Russia, as well as the activity of the Armenia-Russia-Azerbaijan deputy prime ministerial trilateral working group were discussed.

The prospects of restoring transportation communications in the South Caucasus region and the further process of the ongoing works within the frames of the January 11 statement of the Armenian Prime Minister, the Russian President and the President of Azerbaijan were touched upon.

## Armenian khachkar inaugurated at Peace Palace in The Hague

Within the framework of the official visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited the Peace Palace in The Hague. The Prime Minister was welcomed by Piet Hein Donner, President of the Board of The Hague Academy of International Law and Chairman of the Carnegie Foundation Peace Palace.

The Prime Minister first toured the Peace Palace, then took part in the inauguration ceremony of the Armenian khachkar in the latter's yard.

In his speech, Prime Minister Pashinyan, noted, in part:

“Dear President of the Carnegie Foundation,

I would like to thank you for being with us today on this beautiful morning in the city of peace and justice, at the premises of the Peace Palace – the temple of Peace, as Andrew Carnegie coined more than 100 years ago, and which is the house of such an important international institution as the International Court of Justice.

It's a great honor for me to inaugu-

This is a history that we create together with you today, since the first ever Armenian cross is being erected in a city, which is known as the world's capital of international law and justice.

There are more than 50,000 Khachkars and each of them has its own unique features. The symbolism and craftsmanship of Khachkars has been inscribed in 2010 on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The cross-stone is a unique manifestation development of Armenian culture; it is one of the most characteristic symbols of the Armenian identity. Having behind more than thousands of years of history, the cross-stone is also a contemporary cultural phenomenon.

The Armenian people install cross-stones both in Armenia and in those hospi-

of friendship, solidarity, cooperation and gratitude.

Dear friends,

For millennium Armenia and Armenians have strived for peace, as the ultimate goal to live and create in their homeland. Our government is currently doing its utmost to promote the peace agenda in the region, despite the existential threats my nation is still facing.

This Cross-Stone – Khachkar symbolizes the Armenian understanding of peace and resilience and constant struggle for peace, be it in Armenian highlands and elsewhere.

Khachkar is a masterpiece and symbol of Armenian culture, its essence and has in itself the message of peace, carved in the stone that remains intact during the centuries. This is why the Khachkar was chosen as a gift to the Peace palace to symbolize generations of Armenians, who contributed to the peace in the World.

With this donation Armenia boldly reiterates its solid commitment to continue its contribution to the peace in our region and worldwide.”

Piet Hein Donner, President of the Board of The Hague Academy of International Law and Chairman of the Carnegie Foundation Peace Palace, thanked for donating an Armenian khachkar to the Peace Palace and expressed confidence that it will occupy a unique place in its territory.



rate on behalf of my nation an Armenian Khachkar or Cross-Stone as a gift from Armenia.

table countries, where they settle down due to different circumstances. Thus, the cross-stone has become a symbol and message

## Head of Migration Service of Armenia participates in meeting of high-ranking officials of Prague Process in Vienna

On May 12, Armen Ghazaryan, Head of the Migration Service of Armenia, took part in a meeting of high-ranking officials of the Prague Process organized by the International Center for Migration Policy Development in Vienna.

The Migration Service of Armenia informed, noting that representatives of 26 countries of the European and Eurasian region took part in the discussion. The meeting is convened to discuss the Ministerial Conference Prague Process Action Plan for 2023-2027.

The documents are based on six directions:

- prevent and fight against irregular migration and migrant exploitation,
- develop the capacity of actors in the field of asylum and international defense;

encourage readmission, voluntary re-



- turn and sustainable reintegration;
- encourage readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration;
- target regular migration and human mobility, emphasizing labor migration;
- encourage the integration of migrants legally residing in host countries;
- turn migration and human mobility into

a positive development resource.

“The points mentioned in the Action Plan are mainly in line with the principles and directions of the Armenian Government’s action plan related to migration,” said Armen Ghazaryan, Head of the Migration Service, presenting the priorities of the Service and the main directions of its work.

In this context, he attached importance to the digitalization of processes in the field of migration, cooperation with the Armenian office of the International Center for Migration Policy Development, and presented the work on migration policy, return and reintegration, legal migration.

The discussion will continue on May 13, the documents to be discussed will be presented at the ministerial meeting in Prague in October this year.

## PM Pashinyan presents Armenia’s investment opportunities to Dutch businessmen



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met with the representatives of the Dutch business community in Hague on May 11. Pashinyan presented Armenia’s current opportunities in terms of making investments and establishing a business.

From the Armenian side, the meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Vahram Dumanyan, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Eduard

Aghajanyan.

Introducing Armenia’s economic, investment opportunities, the Prime Minister said: “In order to have economic growth and progress, we have an agenda of major democratic reforms”.

The Armenian PM assured that they have eliminated the systematic corruption in the country and are at a stage of strengthening democratic institutions. He emphasized that the regional situation is also important for investments, reminding that the government of Armenia is working towards peace and stability in the region. “Agriculture is one of the most important sectors for us. We are expecting investments from the Netherlands because we see how agriculture field is developed in your country”, Pashinyan said.

As for what could attract Dutch businessmen to make investments in this field of Armenia, the PM highlighted Armenia’s membership to the Eurasian Economic Union and its opportunities. Pashinyan highlighted IT as an important and rapidly

developing direction. He said that the development of this industry is a strategic direction for Armenia. Nikol Pashinyan also touched upon tourism, water resources management and other areas, calling them as opportunities for Dutch investors.

Director of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers Ingrid Thijsen, who was in attendance, said: “The presence of many guests and organizations at this meeting shows that Armenia really is a very attractive country for doing business”.

Representative of the company PRIVA operating in agriculture sector Maria Komorowska was also participating in the meeting. “We have been present in Armenia for already 10 years. We started the first project 10 years ago. We have many clients”, she told Armenpress. Presenting the reason of founding a business in Armenia, she said they see a good potential in the country.

The Armenian PM arrived in the Netherlands on May 10 on a two-day official visit.

## Armenian trade show held in Burbank



On May 4-10, 2022 Armenian business delegation visited Los Angeles, California. The visit, having the motto “America-Armenia Business Bridge”, was organized by the International Business Relations Support Council (IBRS) and Armenian American Business Council under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, the Armenian Consulate General in Los Angeles reports.

In the scopes of the visit, Armenian business delegation visited the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles and had a meeting with the staff of the Consulate General. Mrs. Nelly Saroyan, Minister-Counselor of the Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles welcomed the guests and emphasized the importance of such visits, which are aimed at promoting the development of Armenian-American business relations and increasing the volume of imports of the Armenian goods to the US. Mrs. Saroyan also answered to Armenian-American economic relations related questions.

The Consulate General of Armenia together with the City of Glendale organized a meeting for Armenian business delegation with Glendale Business Community and the Economic Development Division of the City of Glendale. Mayor of the City of Glendale Ardy Kassakhian, California State Senator Anthony Portantino, Counselor of the Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles Varazdat Pahlavuni, Members of the City Council of Glendale Ara Najarian and Daniel Brotman delivered speeches during the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of Korean and Filipino Business Community of Glendale.

In the City of Burbank, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America hosted the opening ceremony of the “Armenian Trade Show”. The Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Minister-Counselor Nelly Saroyan Saroyan, Mayor Ardy Kassakhian, Head of the International Business Relations Support Council Mrs. M. Manukyan and the President of the

Armenian American Business Council delivered welcoming speeches. Around three dozen Armenian producers presented their products and services at the Expo.

On May 9, a business conference under the theme “America-Armenia Business Bridge” took place at the the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Counselor Varazdat Pahlavuni, Head of the International Business Relations Support Council Mrs. M.Manukyan, President of the Armenian American Business Council Mr. A.Ghazaryan, as well as prominent American-Armenian businessmen and representatives of Mexican-American business structures delivered speeches at the conference.

On May 11, Armenian business delegation had a meeting with Mrs. Maria Salinas, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the executive staff of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. The meeting, having a format of working breakfast, took place at the Los Angeles city Club and was organized by the Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles. Mrs. Maria Mehranian, the Managing Partner of Cordoba Corporation and the Chairperson of Armenia Fund also supported and sponsored the organizational matters of the meeting. During the meeting the Counselor Pahlavuni, Maria Salinas, Maria Mehranian and the President of the Armenian American Business Council Mr. A.Ghazaryan delivered speeches. The speeches were followed by the presentation of a short video by “Enterprise Armenia” on the investment attractiveness of Armenia, after which members of Armenian business delegation presented their products which are to be distributed in the American market and exchanged ideas.

## First Mercure Hotel to open in Armenia

Accor, a world leading hospitality group, and Project Inter-Invest LLC have signed a cooperation agreement to open the first Mercure hotel in Armenia, located in the heart of the popular ski and climatic resort Tsaghkadzor. The Golden Palace Hotel Resort and Spa will be reopening under the Mercure brand by the end of 2022 following a full refurbishment.

“We are delighted to strengthen our presence in Armenia and introduce one of our most popular hotel brands in this country. Tsaghkadzor is an excellent all-season resort, which can successfully compete internationally in terms of the quality of ski slopes and the richness of nature. We are confident that the arrival of the Mercure brand in Armenia, a leading midscale hotel brand loved by travelers, will contribute to the development of the resort and increase its popularity among tourists from all over the world. We see great potential for development in Armenia and aim to take a leading position in this emerging market. We hope that in the coming years we will be able to present 7-10 Accor projects in this region for tourists to choose from,” noted Alexis Delaroff, COO of Accor New East Europe.

Mercure will open following the renovation and rebranding of the popular Golden Palace Hotel Resort and Spa, offering all the benefits of international service standards and access to the unique loyalty programme ALL – Accor Live Limitless.

“We are pleased to start cooperation with an international hospitality partner and announce the renovation of Golden Palace Hotel, which will reopen under Mercure after it. We hope to continue our



cooperation with Accor Group and plan the construction of the new property in the same area in the future as aparthotel. Tsaghkadzor is one of the best winter recreational centers in Armenia, and we are happy to contribute to the development of Armenian tourism and hotels business sector in the region as well as in the other cities of the country with more projects in the pipeline,” said Mahmoud Saad, Hotel’s Managing Director of Project Inter-Invest.

While every Mercure hotel is unique, all share the same passion for high quality service and local discovery. Guests will be able to choose among 120 elegant rooms designed in the Mercure brand’s signature style with a local flavor. The seven-story building will also house a restaurant, bar, several shops and a fitness center with a magnificent swimming pool. Future developments include an international casino and a state-of-the-art full-service spa on the ground floor of the hotel. Guests will also enjoy 24-hour room service, a business center and free parking.

Tsaghkadzor is one of Armenia’s most

popular ski, spa and health resorts, famous for its ski slopes and mountain air. Surrounded by picturesque meadows, Tsaghkadzor, which translates as the *valley of flowers*, spreads out on the south-eastern slope of Mount Teghenis, 50km from the capital of Armenia. Its nature impresses with its richness and splendor.

The new Mercure hotel will occupy a convenient position on an elevated site, providing ski enthusiasts easy access to the ski slopes of Mount Teghenis. The ski park is just 100 meters away and guests can reach the Tsaghkadzor ropeway in 8 minutes.

The architectural sights of Tsaghkadzor, just a 20-minute walk away from the hotel, also deserve special attention: the medieval Kecharis monastery complex, founded in the 11th century and the Orbeli brothers’ house-museum of eminent scientists of the world science.

Accor and Project Inter-Invest plan to continue their partnership with future projects already in development.

## Yerevan's Hrazdan Stadium gears up for highly anticipated Haya Festival featuring 50 Cent, Zaz, Led Zeppelin Symphonic

Despite being disused for many years, the Hrazdan Stadium in Yerevan is ready to host the highly anticipated concerts of 50 Cent, Zaz and Led Zeppelin Symphonic this summer.

The organizer of the concerts, the Haya Festival, says the stadium is being renovated and prepared for the events.

Haya Festival was founded in 2022 by Sona Hovhannisyian, the Co-Founder and General Manager of Yerevan Perspectives International Music Festival.

Hovhannisyian said at a press conference that the Haya Festival will open a new chapter for Armenia's cultural, economic and other areas.

"This festival is a new institute, a new mechanism to hugely promote Armenia, to



show our country as a peaceful, sustainably developing and blossoming country that has a glorious future where thirty, forty and fifty thousand people arrive for concerts and listen to artists whom many people dream of seeing," Hovhannisyian said.

French pop singer Zaz will perform on June 25th, American hip-hop artist 50 Cent

will take the stage on July 1, and Led Zeppelin Symphonic will perform on July 9.

Hovhannisyian said they've seriously studied the territory of the Hrazdan Stadium. "Perhaps it requires huge investments for sports events, but we viewed it as a concert venue capable of hosting 54 thousand people. There is no other place like that in our country. We'll need an area like this again when for example we'll announce

the Jennifer Lopez or Enrique Iglesias concerts. I'm happy that we will give back the stadium to the city in new colors," she said.

Haya Festival doesn't rule out the possibility of holding the festival in other cities of Armenia in the future.

Tickets for the concerts are already available both locally and internationally.

## \$10 million included in California budget for Armenian American Museum

Governor Gavin Newsom on Friday released his May Revision budget plan for the State of California, which includes \$10 million in additional funding for the Armenian American Museum currently under construction in the City of Glendale. The proposed new funding would bring the state's total investment in the museum to \$19.8 million, *Asbarez* reports.

"The museum leadership and community are extremely grateful to Governor Gavin Newsom for his continued belief and commitment to the Armenian American Museum," stated Executive Chairman Berdj Karapetian. "From his day as Mayor of San Francisco to his time as Governor, he has been a consistent supporter of the Armenian American community. We are also grateful to Senator Anthony Portantino in the State Legislature who has been the most ardent supporter of our community's effort to make the museum a reality."

The major announcement follows the museum's highly acclaimed Legacy Gala where museum officials unveiled that the

landmark center has surpassed the \$31 million fundraising milestone. The additional proposed state funding would bring the total amount raised for the historic project to \$41 million.

The Governor's proposed budget will need to be approved by the State Legislature and is anticipated to be signed into law in June 2022.

Senator Anthony Portantino has been a champion of the museum since its inception and has been collaborating with the Governor's office to educate state officials and colleagues on the historic significance of the project.

"I was very pleased, excited, and thankful to the Governor when his office informed me of the additional \$10 million proposal for the museum," stated Senator Anthony Portantino. "Governor Newsom understands how important the project is for the Armenian American community and State of California. The Governor has always had a deep appreciation and respect



for Armenian Americans in California and this proposed allocation reaffirms it with action."

The Armenian American Museum is a world class cultural and educational institution that is currently under construction in the museum campus at Glendale Central Park. The museum will offer a wide range of public programming through the Permanent Exhibition, Temporary Exhibitions, Auditorium, Learning Center, Demonstration Kitchen, Archives Center, and more. The museum celebrated its historic groundbreaking and commenced construction on the project in Summer 2021.

# ARMENIA

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## Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.

- Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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