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Construction of Meghri Hydropower Plant kicks off



The ground breaking ceremony of Meghri HPP kicked off in Meghri, Syunik province on November 8, 2012 See below

HIGHLIGHT

EBRD to provide Armenia with 5 million euro credit aimed to "Yerevan Underground" reconstruction

During the November 9 sitting of the NA Standing Committee on Economic Affairs Deputy Minister of Finance Vardan Aramyan presented the agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed on August 3, 2012 which was aimed at financing the reconstruction of Yerevan Underground.

Armenian Minister of Finance Vardan Aramyan had presented to the Committee approval two agreements.

According to the agreement the Republic of Armenia will be provided with 5 million euro credit for reconstruction of metro tunnels, improvement of stations and official buildings, wagons modernization and the renovation of the drainage tunnel.

The Committee endorsed to include the agreements in the agenda of the four-day sittings.

Prosperous Armenia Party faced with a difficult choice

by David Petrosyan

The situation on the domestic political scene of Armenia is continuing to develop quite dynamically.

The main events are linked to the position of the extra-coalition Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) and its leader Gagik Tsarukyan. The key intrigue is linked with the question: Will Gagik Tsarukyan agree, and if so, on what terms will he agree to back the candidacy of the incumbent President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan in the upcoming presidential election, or will he enter into an alliance with the Armenian National Congress (ANC) and reach an agreement with it to field a single candidate?

In our opinion, the PAP and its leader G. Tsarukyan deliberately delay making a decision about exactly how they intend to run in the election: by fielding their own candidate or supporting some other candidate? In the present

situation in Armenia, the wait-and-see attitude gives a number of advantages as at this stage the position of each political force in the country is being clarified.

So far only the leader of the Heritage Party Raffi Hovannisian has officially declared his intention of nominating himself for the presidential election. However, today his candidacy appears to be quite weak, and the matter concerns not only the absence of serious political, financial and structural resources.

No doubt, as early as five years ago Raffi Hovannisian's figure looked rather attractive to those looking for an alternative to the "party in power" in Armenia's political field. Nonetheless, a number of inconsequent steps have been taken ever since - steps that have not only lowered R. Hovannisian's personal rating, but also resulted in the loss of R. Hovannisian-led Heritage Party's

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Construction of Meghri hydropower plant marks new phase in Armenian-Iranian economic relations

The ground breaking ceremony of Meghri HPP kicked off in Meghri, Syunik province on November 8 with the participation of the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Majid Namju, Iranian Energy Minister, co-chair of the Armenian-Iranian intergovernmental commission also attended the ceremony.

Armen Movsisyan, Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia stated that two HPPs are scheduled to be built on Araks river namely the Meghri HPP from the Armenian part and the Gharachilar HPP, accordingly the from Iranian side.

"A memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Energy of Islamic

Republic of Iran on the Meghri HPP construction financing scheme within Armenian President visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2009 on April 14. The Iranian part expressed readiness to buy the Meghri HPP entire volume of produced energy. The Meghri HPP "construction- managing- exploiting- transfer" construction permission agreement was signed between the Armenian Government and the Iranian investor Tavan AbAraz Company in 2010 on October 15. The investment project is the unique one ever realized in Armenia. According to the permission agreement, the Iranian investment company will independently solve issues refer to the Meghri HPP construction and exploitation expenses" Armen Movsisyan noted.

The construction will last for five years. Armenia is scheduled to

return the invested money in 15 years' time by supplying electricity through the Meghri HPP's 230 kV voltage transmission lines built by the Iranian company.

The Meghri power plant will be handed to the Armenian side for free reportedly after supplying energy 15 years incessant to the Iranian side. Majid Namju, the Iranian Energy Minister in this context highlighted applying of hydro power diplomacy. In the words of the Iranian high ranking official hydropower diplomacy will enable a chance to establish peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The contract on construction of the hydro power plant on Arax River has been signed between the governments of the two countries still in 2007 and ratified by the parliaments of the two countries in 2008.

President Serzh Sargsyan received the chairman of the the chamber of accounts of Bulgaria



On November 7 President Serzh Sargsyan received the Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Bulgaria Valeri Dimitrov.

Serzh Sargsyan welcomed the guest and underscored that Armenia was greatly interested in deepening relations with the friendly Bulgaria in all areas of mutual interest. Long-lasting friendship of the two peoples, according to the President of Armenia, created a solid base and favorable conditions for the normal development of the interstate relations.

President Sargsyan said that this visit of the Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Bulgaria to Armenia testifies to the strengthening partnership with the Control Chamber of Armenia and mutual readiness to expand cooperation which is also important from the viewpoint of development of the

interstate relations. President Sargsyan also noted that for Armenia, which has chosen the course of Eurointegration, exchange of experience with the EU member Bulgaria is very important.

The Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Bulgaria said in the framework of his visit his is to sign with his Armenian counterpart a document on cooperation between the control structures of the two countries which will foster bilateral relations and will serve a base for the future deepening of cooperation.

Valeri Dimitrov spoke with esteem about the Armenian-Bulgarian community which had a significant role in the strengthening of the two nations' friendship. In his words, the Armenian community also had its impressive contribution to Bulgaria's cultural, economic, social and political life.

Armenian President sends a congratulatory message to Barack Obama

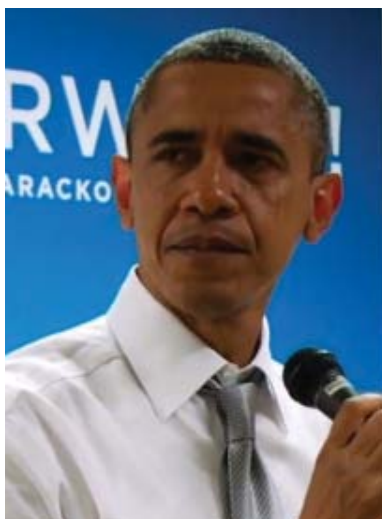
President Serzh Sargsyan sent a congratulatory letter to the President of the United States of America Barack Obama on the occasion of his re-election as the President of the USA.

The letter states,
"Your Excellency,

I cordially congratulate you on your reelection as President of the United States of America.

Your impressive victory has proven that the course taken by you for moving the United States forward, your domestic and international policy meet the expectations of the overwhelming majority of the American people.

We are grateful for the continuing assistance provided to Armenia by the United States. I am also greatly



pleased that with your reelection we will be able to continue to develop and deepen the Armenian-American relations which currently enjoy the highest level in the history of our bilateral contacts. I remain confident that during the four years of your second term our multifaceted cooperation will yield new impressive results for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

Mr. President, please accept once again my warmest congratulations and best wishes."



Armenian PM discusses prospects of investments in free economic zone with Core Cross President

Armenian PM Tigran Sargsyan received Korean Core Cross company president Juan Jing Sui. As Information and Public Relations department of the Government informed Noyan Tapan, Mr. Sui expressed his gratitude for the warm reception.

The foreign businessman informed his company engaged in modern information technology production, had had a successful experience in different countries of the world and is interested to launch activities in Armenia too.

Tigran Sargsyan stated in his turn IT industry is one of the priorities of the Executive Body and reportedly Armenia is interested in the cooperation with leading companies in the sphere. The interlocu-



tors envisaged the realization of joint programs, particularly prospects in the frame of making investments in free economic zone.

The head of the Executive body

considered necessary the elaboration of business projects and commissioned the Minister of Economy to provide in detail information refer to free economic zones in Armenia.

Armenian-Iraqi intergovernmental commission's first session convenes in Baghdad

Armenia's Deputy PM and Territorial Administration Minister Armen Gevorgyan and Iraq's Deputy PM Rowsch Nuri Shaways co-chaired inaugural session of the Armenian-Iraqi

Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation, which was held in Baghdad on November 7, Territorial Administration Ministry Public Relations Department informed NoyanTapan.

The Armenian and Iraqi delegation heads presented the economic situation in their respective countries and discussed cooperation issues. They underscored the need to improve trade and economic ties and the level of goods exchange.

The Iraqi party provided information on the activities toward reopening Iraqi Embassy in Armenia, and it was noted that Iraqi Ambassador to Armenia will

be appointed by the end of the year. Also, the parties made arrangement on holding an Armenian-Iraqi business forum.

Also, the delegations discussed the opportunities for exporting agricultural products, mineral and drinking water, and canned goods. They stressed the need for training healthcare staff and establishing contacts between the medical facilities of the two countries, and reflected on the avenues for a joint production of medication. They discussed organizational matters with respect to sending Iraqi patients to Armenia for treatment. In this context, Armenia's Health Minister Derenik Dumanyan expressed readiness to organize ten Iraqi children's free surgery in Armenia's capital city Yerevan. In addition, the parties agreed to cooperate in extracting oil and nat-



ural gas.

Following the session, the Armenian delegation led by the Deputy PM met with Iraq's Premier, Nouri al-Maliki. The parties reflected on the aforesaid session and the opportunities for collaboration in the military sphere and in the oil and natural gas sector. They underscored the need to develop new transportation routes and to form a legal and contractual framework.

The Ambassador of Greece condemns Safarov's release by Azerbaijan

The Vice President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Eduard Sharmazanov hosted the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Greece to the Republic of Armenia Ioannis Taghis. The Vice President of the National Assembly greeted the Ambassador and congratulated him on the occasion of the appointment as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Greece to the Republic of Armenia. Eduard Sharmazanov stated he was confident that the Ambassador would have his contribution in the development of the Armenian-Greek relations.

The Ambassador Ioannis Taghis expressed his gratitude for the admission. He said that the development of reciprocal relations is due to the ancient friendship of the Armenian and Greek peoples, similarities of our civilizations and the presence of the Armenian community in Greece and the Greek in Armenia. The



Ambassador noted that there were opportunities to develop relations in political, economic and cultural spheres and he would do his best to support their realization.

The Vice President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia thanked the Ambassador for the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by Greece and the balanced position regarding the NKR conflict. He also mentioned that the Republic of Armenia also called on the parliaments of the world for the recogni-

tion of the genocide of other Christian nations including the Greeks from Pontus.

The Ambassador assured that Greece always supported and would support the regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict in frames of the peaceful negotiations of the OSCE Minsk Group, as to Safarov's release the Greek ambassador qualified it as a big mistake. At the same time Ioannis Taghis said he was hopeful that this step would not have negative effect on the procedure of peaceful negotiations.

Tsarukyan's Party proposes constitutional reform

In a move which it linked with the upcoming presidential election, the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) of Gagik Tsarukyan effectively called late on Tuesday for a sweeping constitutional reform that would curb presidential powers and transform the country into a parliamentary republic.

Naira Zohrabyan, a senior PAP figure, said the opposition-leaning party, which boasted the second largest parliamentary faction, will hold talks with other major political forces in the next few days to "see if there is any possibility of rallying around this idea."

"The transition to the parliamentary form of governance presupposes that the president elected in 2013 would serve for up to four years and, together with other political forces, enact corresponding constitutional amendments by the next parliamentary elections in 2017," Zohrabyan said in a written statement.

The Armenian constitution sets the presidential term in office at five years.

"We believe that this approach could become a serious ideological basis for the consolidation and cooperation of various political forces in the presidential election," added Zohrabyan. She did not specify if the offer was primarily addressed to President Serzh



Sargsyan or the Armenian opposition.

The idea of a switch to the parliamentary republic has long been advocated by most Armenian opposition parties. But it has been rejected until now by President Serzh Sargsyan and his Republican Party of Armenia (RPA).

Galust Sahakyan, an RPA deputy chairman, said on Wednesday that the ruling party will consider holding the proposed negotiations if it receives a formal offer from the PAP. "We are ready to discuss any issue," Sahakyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "Discussing something doesn't mean accepting it."

Levon Zurabyan, the parliamentary leader of the Armenian

National Congress (ANC), likewise said the opposition alliance was ready to discuss the proposal if it was approached by Tsarukyan's party.

Another opposition force, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), also expressed readiness to negotiate with the PAP. "Of course, with this statement the PAP may be trying to solve some tactical issues, but that is natural," Aghvan Vartanyan, a Dashnaksutyun leader, told RFE/RL's Armenia service (Azatutyun.am).

Zohrabian's statement did not say whether the PAP had finally decided to back Sargsyan's reelection bid or nominate its own presidential candidate.

Dashnaksutyun to announce the format of its participation in presidential elections after political consultations

The Dashnaksutyun party will announce the format of its participation in Armenian presidential elections after holding political consultations. The member of the Supreme Body of the party Armen Rustamyan and the secretary of the parliamentary faction Aghvan Vardanyan said on November 8.

They noted that the Supreme Body initiates political consultations with parties, wide society layers and expert circles. "I am convinced that we have formulated the goals our society may gather around and which may make the upcoming elections really competitive", noted Armen

Rustamyan.

Aghvan Vardanyan expressed his content with the statement of the Prosperous Armenia Party which noted that shifting from presidential system to parliamentary was one of the ways of settling urgent issues and implementing reforms.

Mediamax notes that the provision on shifting to parliamentary system was one of the core ones in the Dashnaksutyun's program at 2012 parliamentary elections. In July, Armen Rustamyan stated that Dashnaksutyun was going to unite Armenia's opposition forces around the idea of changing the form of gov-



ernment.

Speaking on the upcoming presidential elections of 2013 at that time, he stressed that the Dashnaksutyun had always preferred to nominate its own contender but he didn't rule out the option of nominating a single oppositional candidate.

Armenian-Turkish football diplomacy hinders Genocide recognition - analyst

The Armenian-Turkish football diplomacy hinders Genocide recognition - analyst

The Armenian Genocide's recognition by the United States is linked with Armenia's international sway, political scientist Yervand Bozoyan stated during a press conference on Wednesday.

He noted that if Armenia's sway becomes weak, they could even avoid using the Armenian word "yeghern" to describe the Genocide. "That is why there is [only] a slight hope that the US will recognize the Genocide and apply large-scale pressure on

Turkey. The Armenian-Turkish football diplomacy damaged the Genocide's recognition by the U.S. When that policy did not exist, there were no relations between Armenia and Turkey and the latter had no grounds as to why the U.S. should not recognize the Genocide", Bozoyan stated.

He added that as long as the football diplomacy exists and the protocols are at the parliaments of Armenia and Turkey, the latter will formally ask the international community not to get in the way of normalizing relations with Armenia, and therefore it will

announce that the international community will hinder these relations by recognizing the Genocide.

"All of us comprehend that this is a deceit, and we ourselves have created it and put ourselves into a trap. So, Obama and the leaders of other countries note that it is better not to obstruct the normalization of ties between both countries," the analyst said and added: "For the first time in the past twenty years of the U.S. presidential elections, the candidates did not reflect on the Armenian Genocide issue and made no pledges in their election programs."

The dreams of emphatic Azerbaijan will quickly crumble

Azerbaijan continues to present with militaristic statements on the settlement of the NKR conflict. As reports Armenpress referring to Inews.az Azerbaijani Minister of Defence Safar Abiyev had declared during the meeting with Italian counterpart Giampaolo Di Paola held in Italy that he was doing everything possible for seizing the NKR territories.

According to Abiyev the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group aimed at the peaceful settlement does not give the needed result. The Azerbaijani Minister highlighted that Azerbaijani authorities are seriously concerned over that. Abiyev once

again threatened to apply new methods to seize the territories of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

The spokesman of the Armenian Ministry of Defence Artsrun Hovhannisyan has commented on the thunderous announcement of Abiyev made in Italy and has noted that may be one day the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry will be able to find the name of the "method" which they have been looking for during last 20 years.

"The entire world has seen the result of the Azerbaijani boast. Their dreams and wishes are going to quickly crumble" noted Hovhannisyan.

Armenia's Deputy PM meets with Iraqi Armenian community representatives

The delegation, which is led by Armenia's Deputy PM, Territorial Administration Minister, and Armenian-Iraqi Intergovernmental Committee Co-Chair Armen Gevorgyan, commenced its visit to Iraq on Tuesday evening by meeting with representatives from the country's Armenian community.

Prior to the meeting, however, the delegation members placed flowers to the Armenian Genocide memorial cross-stone located at the courtyard of the Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Diocesan Headquarters Church of Baghdad, Territorial Administration Ministry Public Relations Department informs.

The ensuing meeting was held at the church. Archbishop Avag Asatourian, the Primate of the Diocese of Iraq of the Armenian Apostolic Church, welcomed Armenia's official delegation and noted that this was the first such delegation from the Motherland that was visiting Iraq and added that such visits inspire the Iraqi-Armenian community.

In his turn, Armenia's Deputy PM stressed that the Armenian community of Iraq was one of

those Armenian communities that had gone through many tribulations. "I hope the Armenian community will quickly find its strength again and contribute to the development of relations between the two countries," he said.

Armen Gevorgyan appreciated the Iraqi-Armenian community's role played in the preservation of national, spiritual and cultural values, and assured that Armenia would always be alongside the Diaspora Armenians. He added that Armenia's Diaspora Ministry was carrying out a serious work in that regard.

The interlocutors discussed the Iraqi-Armenian community life, Iraq's domestic situation, and issues of concern to the community.

On the evening of the same day, the Armenian delegation led by the Deputy PM attended an official reception hosted by Iraq's Deputy PM Rowsch Nuri Shaways. Both deputy premiers discussed the agenda of the inaugural session of the Armenian-Iraqi Intergovernmental Committee and the avenues for deepening bilateral ties.

Armenia, Russia Plan Joint Arms Production

In what will be a further boost to their close defense ties, Armenia and Russia are to start jointly manufacturing weapons and other military equipment under an agreement that was approved by the Armenian government on November 8. The government said the draft agreement regulates "manufacturing and research cooperation" between Armenian and Russian defense companies. It commits them to supplying each other with equipment, assembly parts and other materials needed for the production, modernization and repair of various arms.

The agreement, which was drawn up shortly after Russia Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov's September visit to Armenia, also stipulates that the jointly manufactured weaponry cannot be re-exported or

transferred to third countries without the supplier's permission.

Yerevan and Moscow had already agreed to step up cooperation between their defense industries within the framework of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Nikolay Boryuzha, the CSTO secretary general, said in November last year that they are setting up joint ventures in Armenia for the "maintenance, repair and modernization of some types of weaponry." He did not elaborate.

Also, Russia is supposed to provide "special military hardware" to the Armenian military in accordance with a Russian-Armenian defense accord signed more than two years ago. The deal extended the presence of a Russian military base in Armenia by 24 years, until 2044.

World leaders congratulates Barack Obama on the re-election

Congratulations from world leaders have poured in for U.S. President Barack Obama after he won re-election over Mitt Romney in the 2012 presidential election Tuesday.

European Union (EU) President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said the United States was a key strategic partner of the EU and the EU looks forward to continuing the close cooperation. The EU leaders expected to further strengthen ties with the U.S. and to jointly address global challenges, such as security and the economy, during Obama's second term. Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a telegram to Obama Wednesday, congratulating him on the victory and would call Obama in person later, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper also congratulated Obama on his re-election.

Canada and the United States "enjoy one of the closest and most extensive relationships in the world," Harper said in a statement, adding that, over the years, he and Obama "have worked on several important bilateral initiatives to generate jobs and growth in both our countries." Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak have also sent messages congratulating Obama.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel cited her and Obama's past



"close and friendly cooperation" regarding the ongoing financial crisis, peacekeeping in Afghanistan and efforts to control Iran's nuclear program in her message Wednesday.

"I look forward to continuing this (cooperation), so that both our countries can continue to work side-by-side to master the most important foreign and economic challenges that we face as friends and allies," Merkel said.

French President Francois Hollande congratulated Obama, saying his victory would "once again reinforce our partnership to facilitate the return of economic growth in our countries, to fight unemployment, and to find solutions to crises that threaten us, notably in the Middle East."

Hollande voiced belief that France and the United States would continue cooperation based on dialogue and mutual respect.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, who is on a diplomatic and trade visit to the Middle East, said he also looked forward to working with Obama.

We will cooperate with French lawyers on criminalizing the denial of Genocide in France. Ara Toranian

The claim of Armenian lawyer living in Marseille Philippe Grigorian to the State Council of France is a serious step and we shouldn't rely on it. This was stated by the Chairman of Armenian organizations in France Ara Toranian during the interview with Armenpress, adding that the lawyer had a right to continue his work, but "we cannot make any statements from his behalf". He has stressed that despite he is not a lawyer he knows that everything is in the frames of law. "Though I am not aware of the details as the lawyer has done everything by his own, we will use other political powers and

will work with French lawyers to attain the criminalization of Genocide's denial" informed Toranian.

French Armenia lawyer Philippe Grigorian has applied to the State Council of France to revoke the decision of the French Constitutional Council which considered the law criminalizing the denial of Armenian Genocide as anticonstitutional. Philippe Grigorian and Deputy Valerie Boyer were the initiators of the draft law. The lawyer is going to apply to The European Union Court of Human Rights.



Heffern Sees Continued US Push for Protocols

45th USA presidential elections have been really interesting, ideological campaigning, said USA extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern when answering to journalists' questions on November 7.

"I was happy to participate in this process, the struggle was real and serious as two strong candidate had a contest of ideas" John Heffern said. According to him the philosophies of two political powers reflected in the elections.

"I hope that Armenian Presidential elections which are to be held in February 2013 will pass this way" highlighted Heffern. Ambassador considered Obamas speech in Chicago to be "very generous and good-natured".

He has also assured that in the USA no matter who you are, where you live, how wealthy you are "if you work hard you will succeed".

The United States will remain "deeply involved" in international efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and keep pressing for the implementation of Turkish-Armenian normalization agreements during President Barack Obama's second term, Ambassador John Heffern

noted.

"The Obama administration and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton devoted a lot of time and attention to Armenia and the South Caucasus," Heffern said, commenting on implications of Obama's reelection for U.S.-Armenian relations. "Secretary Clinton came here twice during her term in office ... President Obama has been deeply involved in trying to find a peaceful resolution to Nagorno-Karabakh. I think that all of that will continue in the second term."

Heffern made clear that the U.S. administration will also carry on with its efforts to revive the U.S.-brokered agreements to normalize bilateral relations that were signed by Armenia and Turkey in 2009. "Despite the disappointment with the lack of progress, the United States is not giving up on this," he told reporters in Yerevan, adding that Washington will "continue to push the protocols at every opportunity."

Turkey makes parliamentary ratification of the two protocols contingent on a Karabakh settlement acceptable to Azerbaijan. Armenia rejects this precondition. The U.S. likewise stands for an unconditional establishment of diplomatic relations between Yerevan

and Ankara and opening of the Turkish-Armenian border.

Heffern further predicted a greater emphasis on economic cooperation in U.S. policy towards Armenia. "Where I hope there will be changes, where I am committed to doing more is in the economic area," he said. "Job creation in the United States and Armenia are critical goals for both countries."

"So I think the biggest change [for Armenia] in the second Obama administration will be more emphasis on job creation and trade and investment," added the diplomat. Armenia, for its part, should improve the domestic business environment and bolster competition, he said.

Heffern further implied that the U.S. presidential election should serve as an example for Armenia, which is scheduled to hold a presidential ballot in February. He noted that the extremely close U.S. race saw "serious competition" between two "very strong" candidates and their visions and was covered by a "free and open press."

"I'll be looking for all three of these points in Armenia's elections next February," he said, expressing hope that the vote will be contested by "at least two strong candidates."

NATO Week: Armenia discusses closer partnership with Western alliance under Moscow's close watch

By Suren Musayelyan

Armenia and NATO have again exchanged their "partnership" credentials this week as events dedicated to their deepening ties were launched in Yerevan on November 5.

Speaking at a seminar held as part of the NATO Week events in the Armenian capital, the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai described Armenia as an important partner for the military alliance. He especially noted Armenia's considerable contribution to the ISAF operation in Afghanistan.

Appathurai, who was scheduled to meet with senior government officials in Yerevan, said the NATO was seeking a deeper involvement in the South Caucasus and would like to step up its cooperation with Armenia. He said the alliance leadership was now considering ways of gaining a "stronger foothold" in the volatile region.

"But, of course, we don't want to impose ourselves. We just want to offer more opportunities for cooperation. And if countries like Armenia but also Georgia and Azerbaijan wish to take this offer, we will have more to do, more on the menu in the coming months and years," the official said in an interview with RFE/RL's Armenian service.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen also spoke of potentialities for developing further partnership with Armenia as he visited Yerevan in September. He insisted that there is "no contradiction" between Armenia's military alliance with Russia and closer ties with the NATO - a stance shared by the leadership of Armenia, a member of the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization that hosts the only Russian military base in the South Caucasus.

Pro-establishment politicians and analysts in Armenia have also tried to

present the nation's growing ties with the NATO and generally with the West (including negotiations on deeper ties with the European Union) as part of a comprehensive foreign policy agenda that does not involve any reorientation or otherwise endangers Yerevan's traditionally close ties with Moscow.

But some early signs of worsening relations between Yerevan and Moscow suggest that Russia is watching its ally's "flirting" with the West with a great deal of jealousy, to say the least.

Last month Russia openly defied Armenia's request to stop the operations of its controversial immigration program that is said to encourage outward migration from the tiny South Caucasus country and this difference in the positions of the two former Soviet allies had to be reflected in the minutes of a recent intergovernmental committee meeting in Yerevan.

In what could be viewed as further evidence of growing differences Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to have canceled/postponed his visit to Armenia in September even though diplomats in Yerevan and Moscow rushed to explain that no visit had been scheduled in the first place. Prior to that, on several occasions, Armenia spoke dismissively of the idea of joining a Eurasian Union, a Putin-advocated reintegration project for former Soviet countries.

No wonder that such a position would draw an angry "analysis" from leading pro-Kremlin pundit Mikhail Leontyev, who published an article in

October reminding Armenia about its heavy reliance on Russia for economy and security. The "privileged" price of Russian natural gas supplies to Armenia has repeatedly been mentioned as a major argument in this context. Negotiations over the price of this fuel essential to Armenia's economy may become a further indicator of where the Armenian-Russian relations go against the background of an approaching presidential election in Armenia.

In a November 5 article published in Vestnikkavkaza.net, analysts Yekaterina Tesemnikova, from Moscow, and David Stepanyan, from Yerevan, described Armenia's vagueness on the Eurasian Union idea as "reasonable".

"And the reason is not the pressure of the West and not even the hope of receiving 1.5 billion euros in Europe, allegedly promised in case of an irreversible movement of Armenia on the path of 'strengthening democracy.'" In fact, the government of [Armenian President Serzh] Sargsyan expects from Moscow guarantees of substantial financial, economic and political support till the presidential elections, including gas prices acceptable for Armenia."

The authors further concluded: "Persuading Armenia to participate in the Russian integration project is certainly possible, but only by applying the so-called 'soft power', popularizing and economically justifying the benefits of carrying out the idea of the Eurasian Union."





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- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2682** Aram Str. 13/6 187sq.m, newly built,4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, drywall, buckle,2 open balconies, beautiful view. 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1sq.m 574 000 AMD
- ♦ **2676** Amiryan Str. 16/12 259 sq.m, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms,N-3 meters, capitally euro repaired,view to yard, concrete floor, heating system, water, gas, AC, underground parking, separate furnished kitchen Price: 550.000 AMD % included
- ♦ **2674** Qeru Str, 17/3 103 sq.m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms,N-3U meters, elite building, 2 bathrooms, swimming-pool, tennis court,parking(not included in the price) heating, gas, water, AC, sold with and without furniture Price: without furniture 160000 USD with furniture 175000 USD
- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD

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

LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str**. 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3348. Blur, Barbyusi**. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ **3059. Vahagan community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3292. Arabkir**, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fire-place, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ **3313 Blur, H. Emin**, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity,

water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m.



- 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str**. half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term
- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottege 4 flats, totall-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

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

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **2021** Teryan Str, building 8, 9/8,9 4 bedrooms, newly built, 245 sq.m, capitally repaired, euro doors and windows, not inhabited,3 bathrooms, 2 halls, heating system. Preliminary price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **2043** Saryan Str., 24 aptt 8/2 3 bedrooms,147 sq.m, 2 bathrooms, tiled floors, AC, heating system. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **2005. Northern Ave.**, 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD

- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969.** Amiryan str, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built



- Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amiryan Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy black**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **1152. Baghramyan**, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2ond floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD

- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

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

Baroness Cox Reveals Baku's True Motives



Member of the British House of Lords and chair of the British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group Baroness Caroline Cox delivered remarks at House of Lords during a debate about the United Kingdom's relations with Azerbaijan and its role in the South Caucasus on Tuesday.

"I have visited the region 78 times, many during the war against NagornoKarabakh. I regret that my contribution to this debate will be unpopular, because it is critical of Azerbaijan, but it is based on first-hand evidence," Baroness Cox said.

"I begin with a brief reference to aspects of recent history relevant to current issues. I visited Azerbaijan in 1991, when I met the then president and political leaders. I was dismayed by the explicit

commitment to ethnic cleansing of the Armenians from NagornoKarabakh. I also visited Karabakh then and met Azeris living in homes which had recently been owned by Armenians who had been evicted by Azerbaijan's well documented policy, Operation Ring, in which Armenian villagers were surrounded by Azeri troops who killed, tortured and drove villagers off their land," she continued.

"The Armenians were the primary victims as they had already been victims in the massacres in Baku and Sumgait. Then Azerbaijan unleashed full-scale war. I witnessed 400 Grad missiles daily raining onto Karabakh's capital city, an aerial bombardment of civilian homes with 500 kilogram bombs. I also witnessed war crimes perpetrated by Azerbaijan on Armenian civilians at Karabakh, such as the cold-blooded massacre of villagers in Maragha. I was there hours afterwards and saw corpses whose heads had been sawn off and burnt, mutilated bodies. I visited Khojaly and can testify that the tragic events were not as portrayed by Azerbaijan-a massacre of Azeris by Armenians. Independent journalists and Azerbaijan's former President Mutalibov have publicly come to the same conclusion," Baroness Cox emphasized.

She also noted that the Armenian forces' taking control over the territories surrounding NagornoKarabakh was not aggressive land grabbing, but essential for

survival, as they were used as bases for constant shelling of towns and villages inside Karabakh. "I was there when one ceasefire was broken by Azerbaijan, with renewed bombing from Azeri bases in these lands," she said.

"This recent history is relevant to current concerns as the 1994 ceasefire is precarious. There is an urgent need for peace for the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia and because the peoples of the south Caucasus do not want another destabilizing regional war. However, Azerbaijan's continuing hostile policies are detrimental to attempts to reach a solution to this semi-frozen conflict. For example, the noble Lord, Lord Laird, mentioned the case of RamilSafarov, the Azeri military officer who used an axe to murder an Armenian officer in his sleep while both men were attending a NATO course in Budapest in 2004. Safarov was arrested, convicted and sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment. But, when Hungary repatriated Safarov to Azerbaijan, on the understanding that he would continue to serve his prison sentence, he was released from prison and welcomed as a hero. According to the Economist in September 2012, this led to a new war of words in one of the world's most volatile regions," she said.

"Patrick Ventrell, spokesman for the US State Department, said that the United States was extremely troubled by the pardon of Safarov and would be seeking an

explanation from both Budapest and Baku. Russia, involved in trying to ease relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, said that the actions of the Hungarian and Azeri Governments contradicted internationally brokered efforts to bring peace to the region. May I ask the Minister what representations have been made by Her Majesty's Government to Azerbaijan concerning the release and the honouring of the convicted murderer Safarov?

The Economist also raised questions about the EU's credibility when it pledged €19.5 million to reform oil-rich Azerbaijan's justice and migration systems. Since 2006, Azerbaijan's economy, with its vast oil and gas reserves, has nearly tripled to \$62 billion. May I ask the Minister what the EU's justification was in giving €19.5 million to such a wealthy country? Moreover, there is widely-held concern over Azerbaijan's massive investment in its military arsenal-a 20-fold increase in seven years. Apart from expenditure on arms, in a nation where many still live in poverty, there is deep anxiety over the propensity to renew war with Nagorno-Karabakh. This danger is exacerbated by Azerbaijan's constant use of belligerent and hostile propaganda, which is not conducive to confidence-building or effective peace negotiations," the Baroness noted.

Finally Baroness Caroline Cox referred to Azerbaijan's disturbing record on human rights, particular-

ly on freedom of the press and religious freedom.

"No country has an interest in other countries, only interests-and we have oil interests in Azerbaijan," she concluded.

"Azerbaijan pours massive funds into propaganda, disseminating positive images of its progress while trying to prevent access to Karabakh by intimidating potential visitors who wish to see the situation there for themselves. After one of my visits in recent years, an article appeared in an Azeri newspaper, entitled "Shoot the Cox!". Parliamentarians visiting Armenia receive letters from Azeri authorities threatening to place them on a blacklist if they visit Karabakh. The British Ambassador is still not allowed to visit Karabakh, although the political and diplomatic representatives of other nations do so. Therefore, it is hard for the Armenians of Karabakh to have their story of Azerbaijan's policies told.

I deeply regret having had to make such a critical speech. Of course, I can be accused of partiality, but if my contribution is partial, it is accurate, based on first-hand evidence and corroborated by many independent sources. I hope it is helpful to put on record some often untold aspects of the situation, because the search for a just and lasting peace can only be based on an understanding of historic and contemporary reality in all its multi-faceted complexity," she stressed.



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*There are so many places in the world where you
can spend your money ...
Give us a chance to spend it on you
unforgettable trip!*

"Spirit in Motion" ~ an evening of ballet



Sireliner,

I am Roudolf Kharatian, the artistic director of the National Ballet of Armenia and the founder of Ballet 2021, a foundation whose mission is to support the development of the art of ballet in Armenia.

On December 1, 2012, the foundation will launch its activities with "Spirit in Motion" ~ an evening of ballet with leading dancers of the Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theatre. The program will include jewels of the classical repertoire, as well as contemporary favourites, by renowned choreographers including Arthur St-Leon, Marius Petipa and Yuri Grigorovitch.

Please join us - and help spread the word! - in celebration and support of the art of ballet in Armenia. I look forward to seeing you at the Sundukyan Theatre!



What: "Spirit in Motion" ~ an evening of ballet

When: December 1, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Where: Sundukyan National Academic Theatre

*Tickets on sale at the Sundukyan Theatre box office - 52 76 70, 52 57 72, 077 36 87 01
For information, call (+374 1) 561 280, (+374 93) 452 472, ballet2021@gmail.com*

Reflections on the book "Levon Aronian"

I should note at once that this book is a unique one. It is unique in the sense that the book about the great chess player of today was written ... by his mother. You must admit that this is not only interesting, but also quite correct. After all, it is the mother who can recount objectively and truthfully the path followed by her son! It is the mother who knows the smallest details of her child's biography and is well familiar with everything that has made Levon happy, as well as with all events, which have upset, worried, and alarmed him in different periods of his life.

Of course, the family - Levon's mother, father, and sister - has played a crucial role both in the formation of his personality and the development of his chess talent. No doubt, Mrs. Seda Sarkisovna saw and understood that her son was very gifted, but she was also aware that the boy's talent needed to be developed in every possible way. And the family made an extremely uncommon (at first glance), but correct decision: they asked Melikset Khachiyani - at that time a good chess player and coach, a graduate of the Chess Department of the Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture (later Levon Aronian himself graduated from that higher educational institution) - to live in their house. Currently, Khachiyani is a well-known

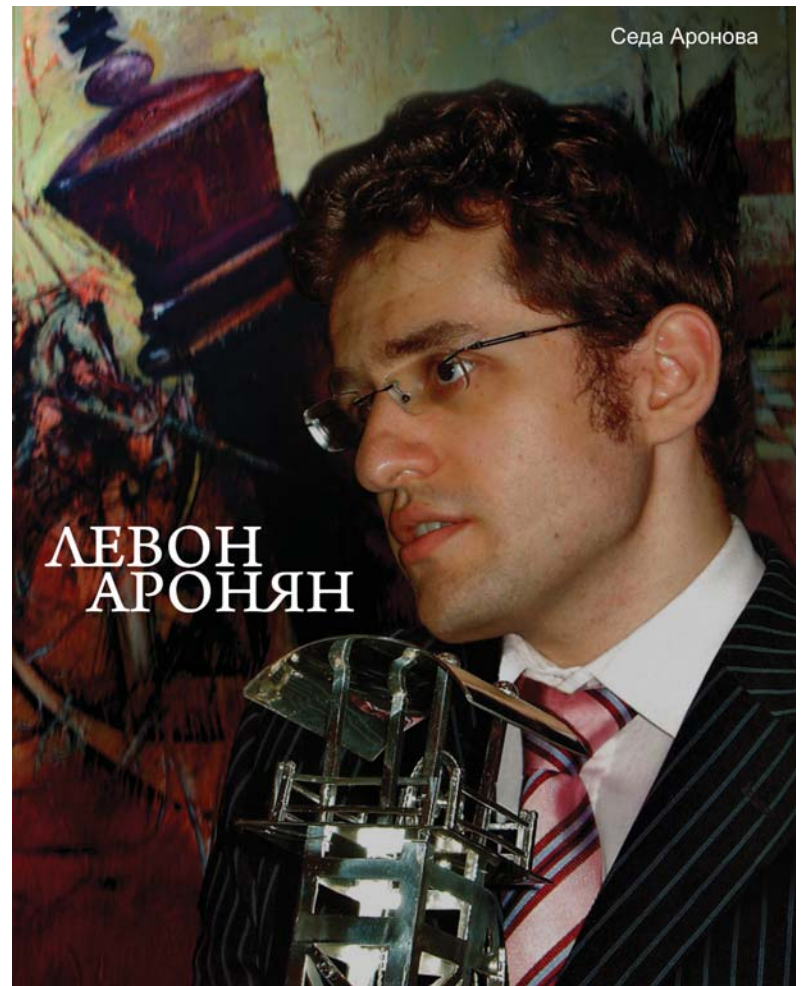
grandmaster and resides in the U.S. So Khachiyani became the fifth member of the tight-knit family. The unusual creative collaboration lasted five whole years and yielded its results. You must admit that it is a rare occurrence and that not every family can venture on such a "reckless" step. Yet it is one of those families that American philosopher George Santayana described as a "masterpiece of nature".

Levon Aronian's victories in the international arena have attracted attention. The Yerevan-based guy has become an idol worshiped by lovers of chess art throughout the world: people cannot but admire his playing style, which is impressive, creative, and extremely original.

Aronian is still young, but as a chess player he has already achieved a great deal. However, the hardest struggle - a struggle for the chess crown is still ahead of him. Millions of his fans firmly believe that Aronian will successfully accomplish this task as well.

Professor Gagik Hakobian ,

ex-Champion of Yerevan and Armenia, Honored Trainer of the Republic of Armenia, Master of Sports of the USSR, Master of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).



Below are several excerpts from the book:

"The return from Germany proved terrible for everyone. Planes either did not fly at all or flew very seldom so it was almost impossible to get tickets. Levon and other children crammed into the plane through the emergency entrance, thanks to the ingenuity of Melikset Khachiyani who enticed the special police force member guarding the entrance by a mirage of a \$100 banknote. The children and Melik were sitting on the floor all along. We did not go to the airport and waited them at home. Finally, at around three in the morning Levon, dressed in Melik's jacket, and Melik himself entered the apartment. We, the parents and the sister, rushed to embrace and kiss Levon, but, throwing off the



jacket, he approached the chessboard and said: "Wait, I've got an idea, and I need to check it as soon as possible".

We realized that it was the beginning of his great path"

"One day everyone in the Chess House began to bustle about: the famous Grand Master Rafael Vahanian arrived to watch a tournament of Armenia's Supreme Chess League. It seemed incredible to approach him and shake his hand, but all of us were so eager to do it! Quite unexpectedly Rubik

Vardanian, a good-natured man and a chess fan, came up to us, saying that he would request an "audience" for Levon, telling Levon to take his exercise book with chess games written in it.

At the appointed hour, Vahanian received Levon in the backstage area of the play hall and suddenly asked him to show the first game he had ever played abroad. Khachiyani and I got panicky: two and a half years had passed since that game! Levon, however, was not taken aback and began showing his game with Icelandic player Kyartarsson, ana-

lyzing each move. When explaining the eighth move, he said that Mikhail Tal had played in the same way but that his analyses showed that it would be better to play in a different way, and Levon demonstrated the preferable continuation with his small hands.

Vahanian burst into such a loud laughter that the Supreme League players stopped playing and came to see what was going on"

"All this was taking place in the autumn, and then the winter started. Neither the Chess House nor the chess school was heated. To find a way out and conduct tournaments, Hovik Khalikyan put a stove in the basement of the chess school, making it a condition that everyone should bring firewood. We used to bring small branches from felled trees in the streets, whereas large branches were a "freely convertible currency" so it was impossible to find them outdoors. Unfortunately, those damp branches were giving off smoke instead of heat. It usually took us two hours to get to the building where tournaments were held. We had to put cellophane into our boots, but the cellophane would often tear en route, with the cold water soaking into our boots. Evidently, there are some unwrit-

ten laws in nature, and talent becomes apparent in the struggle for life. Exhausted by severe trials, I once shouted at Levon: "It would be better if you were born to a rich family". He replied quietly: "In that case I would not need chess. I would lie on the sofa and watch videos (at the time a video recorder was a hard-to-get thing that only rich people could afford).

I think there is no other explanation for the emergence of such



talented chess players at that time as Karen Asrian, Gabriel Sargsyan, Varuzhan Hakobian, Sergei Movsesian, and Tigran L. Petrosian who are still a dominating force for Armenia during team championships".

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UNDP restorers dismayed by plans for historic Armenian church

An organization for religious foundations in the north has leased an historic and beautifully restored Armenian site through an unfair and opaque tender procedure, the United Nations Development Program-Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT) program have said, the Cyprus Mail reports.

EVKAF, that oversees religious foundations in the north, leased in August the 14th century Armenian Church of Sourp Asdvadzadzin and Monastery complex (AMD) in the Arabahmet area of northern Nicosia that was renovated with UNDP-ACT funds as part of reconciliation efforts.

Turkish Cypriot press reports named the Near East University as the winner of a ten-year tender to turn the monastery into a cultural centre.

According to Vartkes Mahdessian, the Armenian representative in parliament, such a move goes against the project's original intention.

"The objective was to have a multi-communal area where communities could come together and for the church to be used as a place of worship by the Armenian community," he said yesterday.

UNDP-ACT echoed Mahdessian's concerns in a news

release yesterday.

Stakeholders worked "to restore the site to international standards so that it could encourage peace and reconciliation between all of the communities in Cyprus," said the statement from UNDP-ACT and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Although UNDP-ACT and USAID did not name the tender winner, they recently said that they learned that "the site had been leased by EVKAF through a tender process that was neither fair nor transparent."

"We have expressed our serious concerns to EVKAF about this unacceptable result," the news release said.

USAID and UNDP-ACT put €3.5 million into what they have called a "visionary endeavour" and a "unique confidence building measure" referring to efforts to build trust among the island's communities.

"UNDP and USAID look forward to a speedy resolution of this issue so that we can continue to support all communities in Cyprus on cultural heritage initiatives," the news release said.

Mahdessian said that the news release "enforces our efforts"



adding that they have been meeting with diplomats and representations "and we are waiting for an outcome whereby justice will be restored."

As a first step, the tender procedure must be annulled, Mahdessian

said. According to the UNDP and USAID, the Turkish Cypriot leadership agreed to investigate the outcome and take action "as appropriate".

The AMD includes historic

buildings partially surrounded by a tall masonry wall and including a Gothic masonry church and part of a monastery complex. It was in poor condition when the decision to fix it was taken.

Iran reconstructs Armenian St. Hripsime Church

Iran has started the reconstruction of the Armenian St. Hripsime Church after it was damaged by an earthquake this August in the North of Iran, Atrpatakan Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church informs.

The church is located in the north-western of Tabriz city and Archbishop Grigor Chifchian visited the reconstruction site, he told blahovest-info.ru. he said the Agency for



Protection of Monuments of Iran will cover the expenses.

According to archaeologists, the church was built in the place of another church, dating back to the 3rd century.

Iran's Ministry of Culture included the church and the ruins of an old chapel St. Anerevuyt into a list of state protected objects and after the devastating earthquake, reconstruction works were immediately launched.

Natural gas operator becomes Armenia's top taxpayer

The ArmRosGazprom (ARG) national gas Distribution Company has become Armenia's leading corporate taxpayer this year due to a more than 40 percent surge in its tax contributions to the state, according to the latest government data.

The figures released on Tuesday by the State Revenue Committee (SRC) show ARG paying 22.6 billion drams (\$55.8 million) in various taxes in the first nine months of 2012.

The reasons for this sharp increase were not fully clear, with official statistics indicating that imports of mainly Russian natural gas and other minerals to Armenia rose by only 13 percent, to \$641.6 million, in January-September. Gas distribution within the country was similarly up by 12.3 percent in this period.

An ARG spokesperson cited the latter figure when asked by RFE/RL's Armenian service to comment on the company's increased payments to the SRC. The official also said that those payments include taxes collected from electricity generated at a newly built thermal-power plant owned by ARG.

This uncertainty is bound to stoke more media speculation about a secret rise in the price of Russian gas delivered to Armenia. The Armenian customs service, which is part of the SRC, has already given weight that speculation with its import data.

The service said late last month



that the country imported 304.6 million cubic meters of Russian gas worth \$74.4 million in the third quarter of this year. This translates into a gas price of roughly \$244 per thousand cubic meters, compared with \$180 per thousand cubic meters declared by the Armenian government. Similar customs data for the first half of 2012 suggested that Armenia paid Russia's Gazprom gas monopoly \$220 million per thousand cubic meters of gas.

An increased cost of the Russian gas would mean corresponding rises in the 20 percent value-added tax (VAT) paid by ARG. VAT accounts for most of the company's tax contributions.

Some media outlets and opposition politicians claim that the government has secretly sold its 20 percent stake in ARG to Gazprom to make sure that Armenian consumers are not affected by the price hike until next year's presidential election. Gazprom owns the

remaining 80 percent of ARG.

Both the government and ARG have not explicitly denied these claims. Deputy Energy Minister AraPetrosian on Tuesday stuck to the official line that negotiations with Gazprom on the new gas price are continuing and that the tariff remains unchanged for households and other consumers for now.

"Negotiations on the gas price are still going on and so naturally I have no new information at this point," Petrosyan said in the parliament, responding to an opposition lawmaker's question.

According to the SRC, ARG has replaced Armenia's largest metallurgical enterprise, the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine (ZCMC), as the number one taxpayer. The ZCMC is second in the SRC rankings for January-September, followed by the country's leading importer of basic foodstuffs, two largest mobile phone operators and two fuel suppliers.

Strike in Georgian seaport affecting cargo transportation to Armenia

An ongoing strike of workers in Georgia's seaport of Poti has affected the work of Armenian shipping companies that may have to pay more to get cargoes delivered through another gateway.

"It is essential for us that Georgian ports work without disruptions as otherwise it leads to the accumulation of cargoes and problems with transit time," said Apaven cargo shipping company CEO ArsenGhazaryan in an interview with RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

He added that while the open-ended strike was going on and the owner of the Poti port was not going to make concessions, shipping companies have decided to temporarily unload cargoes in another port, Batumi.

This, however, he said, would make the shipping costs for Armenian companies rise by some 30 percent, considering that on the average the transportation of one container from Batumi to Yerevan costs \$1,100 instead of \$700 charged for similar services from Poti.

Ghazarian, who also chairs the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia, expressed a hope, however, that



the situation will be resolved within a couple of days.

Earlier this month Armenia encountered problems in connection with the embargo of the export of polymeric raw material from Iran, which would result in the shortage of these goods, including rubber and plastic items, on the Armenian market. Specialists say reorientation to importing these

items from European markets would take some time and unless resolved the situation could lead to a rise in prices also in Armenia's hardware stores.

Both situations - concerning the Georgian sea port problems and Iranian export restrictions - show just how vulnerable landlocked Armenia is when it comes to foreign trade.

"Alitalia" to launch regular flights to Armenia in the end of the year

One of the largest air companies of the Europe Alitalia is scheduled to launch regular flights to Armenia on December 11. The flight will be implemented twice in a week by A320 airplanes. Bruno Scapini,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Armenia, stated in the briefing with the reporters on November 9, the decision will become an important platform for Armenian-Italian relations.

"The flights will improve and strengthen already existing relations between the two countries" Ambassador Scapini stated. Mr. Scapini noted the connection among Italy and Armenia is of urgent importance. Reportedly Italian tourists occupy the largest



number among the tourists visiting Armenia.

"Alitalia will boost Armenian economy and international relations" Italian Ambassador underscored. Alitalia Italian Air Company chief manager Giovanni Simony stated the flights will contribute to the development of bilateral relations. "We have intentions to connect Armenian communities spread all over the world".

Armenia StartUp Cup Award Ceremony to be held during Global Entrepreneurship Week

On Monday, November 12, the names of the Armenia StartUp Cup Business Model Competition winners will be announced at the American University of Armenia (AUA) during the award ceremony which will kick off the first Global Entrepreneurship Week in Armenia.

Since August, the participants were developing and improving their business models. In September, the participants attended an intensive Build-A-Business workshop at AUA, led by the founders of the StartUp Cup from the United States.

"The entrepreneurs of Armenia have inspired us," says Sean Griffin, CEO and Founder of StartUp Cup. "We look forward to seeing the winners of the 2012 Armenia StartUp Cup impact the economy, grow jobs, and inspire a new generation of Armenia entrepreneurs to follow their dreams by starting their own company."

Following intensive work with coaches and judges, seven teams have advanced to the Final round. These teams will be pitching their business models to the judges one last time this week, and the winners will be announced on Monday, during the Global Entrepreneurship Week Armenia kick-off event. The top 3 winners will receive monetary prizes from the USAID funded Enterprise Development and Market Competitiveness (EDMC) Project to assist them in starting and expanding their businesses.

"EDMC support is aimed at developing a competitive process that educates entrepreneurs to design a viable business model, develop relations with potential customers, and accelerate their start-up into the marketplace through a comprehensive competing and coaching process; thus transforming business-

models into viable businesses and creating jobs," says Gayane Dallakyan, EDMC's Acting Chief of Party.

Armenia StartUp Cup is co-organized by the Association of Technology Startups, USAID/EDMC Project, and the American University of Armenia, and is supported by Enterprise Incubator Foundation (EIF), UITE, Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED), DoIt!Lab, Deem Communications, and the School for Young Leaders.

CEED will provide a customized training program to the finalists of the competition to enhance their ability to implement their ideas and successfully launch the proposed products and services. The teams will strengthen their skills in marketing, finance, and other business disciplines and will work on their business plans. The program will use elements of CEFE methodology (Competency-based Economies through the Formation of Enterprise) and will leverage CEED's network of mentors to provide further guidance as the participants embark on the entrepreneurial journey.

"This is the first year of Armenia StartUp Cup, but the results are already impressive. It is a great honor and huge responsibility for us to be working with such partners and becoming official hosts of the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Armenia," says Hayk Asriyants, the organizer of Armenia StartUp Cup.

Besides the Armenia StartUp Cup Award Ceremony, the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Armenia, will also feature numerous events involving different stakeholders all aiming at the development and promotion of the entrepreneurship.

Armenia Accuses Neighbor of Stoking Conflict

The President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan gave interview to the Wall Street Journal and discussed growing tensions with Azerbaijan about the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh.

By Joe Parkinson

Armenia's president is increasingly concerned about what he sees as neighboring Azerbaijan's willingness to engage in armed conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, he said in an interview, warning that Armenian forces would deliver a disproportionate blow should conflict erupt between the neighbors.

In comments to The Wall Street Journal, President Serzh Sargsyan said Armenia's government would continue to push for a negotiated settlement to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which has simmered for nearly two decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union. But he also tapped the rising tensions in one of the world's key energy corridors.

"Unfortunately, I believe Azerbaijan is waiting for an occasion to start a conflict," President Sargsyan said Thursday. "I am confident such a mistake would harm the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia but that most harm would come to the people of Azerbaijan....We won't stand aside when the population of Nagorno-Karabakh is going to be destroyed."

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Armenian president Serzh Sargsyan discussed growing tensions with Azerbaijan about the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh.

Some observers said his hawkish tone was in part meant to appeal to a domestic audience and large international diaspora that supports a hard line on Nagorno-Karabakh. Mr. Sargsyan—a fanatical chess player who built his political reputation as a long-time defense minister—is hoping to win a second five-year term in February elections.

But President Sargsyan's comments also marked the latest in a war of words in recent months between Armenia and Azerbaijan that has sparked concerns by the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Military spending has risen in recent years by both countries nestled between Russia, Turkey and Iran.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly accused Armenia of violating its border and killing its soldiers along the neighbors' northern frontier. A growing number of Azeris, exasperated with diplomacy and emboldened by their government's expanding military and hawkish rhetoric, are calling for a military solution to the dispute.

The Armenian president also said that his government was pushing forward to tackle rampant corruption and that Armenia's economy had posted a 7% expansion in the year through September. That signals Armenia's emergence from an economic crisis that saw remittances from its large diaspora tumble.

Yet politics in this landlocked nation remains dominated by Nagorno-Karabakh, which lies within Azerbaijan's borders and was overtaken by Armenia during a six-year war that ended in a cease-fire 18 years ago at the cost of 30,000 lives. The enclave's population is predominantly



ethnic Armenian. Its borders are maintained by Armenian troops.

Armenia has long said that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh should be given the right to decide their own fates, but the diplomatic track remains deadlocked. Azerbaijan is focused on reclaiming the territory and securing the return to the area of ethnic Azeris who were forced out by the conflict—almost 600,000 people, or 7% of Azerbaijan's population, according to the United Nations.

Threats of war have for years been intertwined with negotiations as efforts by the Minsk Group—created by The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1992 and jointly chaired by United States, Russia and France—faltered. In recent years, both nations have amassed more powerful weaponry. Azerbaijan has grown wealthy, as new pipelines have been constructed carrying the energy-rich country's gas and oil to Europe via Turkey.

Tensions have risen in recent months. Sporadic firefights have intensified between the neighbors' forces, stationed in trenches as little as 100 meters apart along the enclave's so-called contact line. The war of words intensified in August, when Azeri President Ilham Aliyev offered a hero's welcome to Ramil Safarov, an Azeri officer convicted of hacking an Armenian to death with an ax on a NATO course in Hungary in 2004. The affair prompted a diplomatic storm, and Armenia withdrew its ambassador to Hungary.

"What is the reason for establishing such a xenophobic atmosphere and hatred against Armenians in Azerbaijan?" President Sargsyan said. "It is easier to create such an atmosphere, to encourage hate speech, rather than deal with the consequences of that atmosphere and turn the tide back."

Azerbaijan has rejected the international criticism. President Aliyev said in September that the pardon was in keeping with the constitution, while government officials have said Mr. Safarov faced emotional stress because his family was displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and a young relative killed.

Washington and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have watched developments with mounting alarm. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned of the threat of a "much broader conflict" when she visited Armenia in June. NATO

Secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen has expressed his "deep concern" in September over the dramatic escalation in rhetoric between the capitals.

President Sargsyan's statements underscored the need for the international community to engage more actively, analysts said.

"In the absence of any substantive negotiations is a growing chance that the combat field will dictate the situation," said Sabine Frieze-Gunes, director of the Caucasus program at the International Crisis Group, a conflict resolution body. "This is a very dangerous moment."

Baku spent \$11 billion on weapons in the past five years compared with less than \$2 billion by Armenia, data from the Stockholm-based research institute Sipri show. Both governments are purchasing sophisticated offensive weapons systems, including Russian missiles capable of hitting targets 45 miles away, within range of towns and cities, according to the International Crisis Group.

Some military analysts have speculated that Armenia could launch a pre-emptive strike against Baku before the military balance moved irrevocably in Baku's favor. President Sargsyan said Armenia would strike Azerbaijan only if Nagorno Karabakh or Armenian were attacked but vowed that Yerevan's response would be "disproportionately" strong.

Local political analysts cautioned that President Sargsyan's hawkish stance could be exaggerated to ahead of national elections.

"He's trying to pre-empt attacks from the diaspora or conservative elements ahead of the election by taking the ground from under them," Richard Giragosian, Director of the Regional Studies Center in Yerevan. "But isn't just political posturing, the situation is serious."

President Sargsyan also warned that the prospect of a military strike against Iran, with which Armenia shares a border, was an issue of "extreme concern" which could set off a sequence of events that could also trigger a conflict between Yerevan and Baku.

He said deeper international engagement in the region was vital to help reduce tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia. "If we had been living in an isolated region where there was no international impact, war would have already begun," he said.

Azerbaijan's president slams BP over oil output

By Mina Muradova (10/31/2012 issue of the CACI Analyst)

The leadership of British Petroleum (BP) in the international consortium developing the largest oil field in the Caspian Sea faces strong criticism from Azerbaijan's government for a fall in crude oil output which has created a US\$ 8 billion hole in state revenues. Azerbaijan's economy is strongly dependent on energy exports and falls in production have a significant impact on the country's growth as well as the mood of voters ahead of the 2013 presidential elections.

President Ilham Aliyev has blamed the international consortium AIOC for "grave errors," resulting in a sharp reduction of oil output in the off-shore fields "Azeri" and "Chirag" over recent years. The head of state admitted that every field has its own life and that after peaking, the oil production goes down. However, "this is not the question ... the matter is that the given forecasts are not being implemented."

At the latest governmental discussion of the country's macroeconomic indicators for January-September 2012, President Aliyev reiterated the signature in 1994 of the so-called Contract of Century for exploration of the offshore oil fields "Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli" (ACG). BP holds 35.83 percent of the shares, while Azerbaijan's State Oil Company holds 11.6 percent, Chevron 11.27 percent, Inpex 10.96 percent, Statoil 8.56 percent, Exxon 8 percent, TPAO 6.75 percent, Itocu 4.3 percent, and Hess 2.72 percent. Hess has sold its share to India's ONGC.

President Aliyev noted that 75 percent of the oil profit was originally received by foreign companies due to their large investments in the fields' development, while the remaining 25 percent was a profit for Azerbaijan. The sides became equal partners only when foreign companies returned their investment. Since mid-2008, taking into consideration the economic feasibility of two fields Azeri and Chirag, the sharing scheme started to change and now 75 percent of the oil profits belong to Azerbaijan. While appreciating the huge foreign investments, Aliyev said that the ACG development was not "a charitable event ... this is a business project ... The consortium has invested US \$28.7 billion into the development of these fields, but it has derived an income of US\$ 73 billion."

The ACG has experienced declining output over the last three years. According to Aliyev, it produced 40.3 million tons of oil in 2009 against BP's forecast of 46.8 million tons. In 2010, the forecast was cut to 42.1 million tons while production came in at 40.6 million tons. Last year the fields' production level dropped to 36 million tons, which was still down from the expected 40.2 million tons.

At the current output level, Aliyev predicted that BP would have produced only 33 million tons by the end of the year, against the forecasted 35.6 million tons. Aliyev argued that at an oil market price at US\$ 100 per barrel, while higher in reality, the fail-

ure to meet output forecasts – termed a "grave error" on the part of BP – has cost Azerbaijan US\$ 8.1 billion in revenues over the last three years. "... Wrong forecasts given to us are not accepted. False promises to SOCAR are not accepted ... serious changes are needed," Aliyev stressed. He also noted that the company recognized its mistakes one month ago and promised to take measures, including the replacement of personnel responsible for errors and ensuring that oil output is kept at a stable level. According to the president, BP has done nothing to repair the damage: "Investors who are not able to implement their commitments ... should learn a lesson and take serious steps; measures should and will be taken."

Industry and Energy Minister Natiq Aliyev termed the drop in production at ACG over recent years "abnormal. At an energy conference in Baku he stated that "We see large numbers that are significantly different from those planned, which means either that the project was conceived improperly or that activities carried out to stabilize oil production are insufficient." Yet, the minister also reassured foreign investors that there is "no threat of termination of contracts with foreign oil companies in Azerbaijan." Clarifying the president's words about taking serious measures, the minister said that "measures must be taken to stabilize oil production on the ACG field."

An addition, Natiq Aliyev stated that SOCAR, which also has a share in the project, should strengthen its control over the annual production program. "New oil wells are needed because old wells have a limited life period ... New methods of exploration are needed," the minister said.

A few days after the president's statement, BP appointed new experts to help run its oil production operations in Azerbaijan after the departure of two vice-presidents earlier this week. Jim Cowie will take up the position of Vice President for Wells Azerbaijan starting from November 15, and will lead the team of wells experts in Baku. Craig Wiggs has been appointed Vice President of Operations Midstream in the country. BP also reported that 10 new specialist engineers will join the wells team in Baku, drawn from its operations in several other parts of the world, including North America, the North Sea, Angola and Egypt.

On October 17, SOCAR's president Rovnag Adbullayev met the BP group's chief executive Bob Dudley in London to discuss the future of the ACG oilfield. The statement said the parties agreed to continue working closely together to manage oil production from the ACG fields in the Caspian Sea for the benefit of the State of Azerbaijan and its partners.

"It was an open and constructive meeting and the task ahead is clear. BP is fully committed to Azerbaijan and the effective management of the ACG field complex, one of the world's great oilfields," Dudley was quoted as saying. BP will resume output at the Deepwater Guneshli platform this month after closing it on Sept. 25 for planned maintenance.

Aleppo Burns While We Fiddle: A Wake-up Call to All Armenians



By Harut Sassounian

For almost two years, Armenians worldwide have followed the vicious civil war in Syria with great anxiety and concern for the safety and survival of their compatriots.

Regrettably, dozens of innocent Armenians were killed or injured by indiscriminate gunfire and shelling, while many others have been kidnapped. Armenian homes, churches and schools were looted, damaged or burned. Thousands of families, scrambling to save themselves, fled to Armenia and the neighboring countries.

In recent months, as the situation assumed alarming proportions, the Government of Armenia and Diasporan communities finally began making preliminary plans to help Syrian Armenians.

These efforts, although well intentioned, were too little, too late! Until now, there has not been a coordinated and comprehensive plan to deal with this enormous humanitarian crisis. Below is an outline of the three key tasks that require the immediate attention and support of all Armenians:

1. Fundraising: Tens of millions of dollars are required to meet the urgent needs of Armenians in Syria and those who have sought refuge in Armenia, Lebanon, Jordan, and elsewhere. These funds could be raised from both non-Armenian and Armenian sources.

Non-Armenian sources would include: the US Congress, USAID (United States Agency for International Development), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), international humanitarian organizations, and other governmental agencies.

Armenian sources would include: the Republic of Armenia, major Armenian organizations and businesses, and individual benefactors. Funds could also be raised from the general public through special events, mass mailers, and telethons.

It is regrettable that the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund and its regional affiliates have failed to properly assess the critical condition of Syrian Armenians, as reflected in the inexcusable decision of allocating to them a mere 10% of the proceeds from this year's Thanksgiving Telethon. This has created a strong resentment among the Armenian public toward the Armenia Fund. It is still not too late to take corrective action and

allocate the full 100% of the telethon's proceeds to Syrian Armenians both at home and abroad as refugees. Contributors to the telethon should specifically request that 100% of their donations be earmarked to Syrian Armenians. Alternatively, they can donate to the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund, a pan-Armenian committee established in several countries in recent weeks. The Fund will send 100% of the contributions it has collected to its counterpart operating in Syria.

In recent days, I have received heartbreaking phone calls from compatriots in Syria, desperately pleading with Armenians worldwide to help them before it is too late! It is unconscionable to give a mere pittance to fellow Armenians whose lives are at risk every moment! The tragic fate of Syrian Armenians should receive priority attention from all Armenians at this critical juncture, as it is a matter of life and death! All other problems and projects should be placed on the back burner.

2. Lobbying: the Government of Armenia, Armenian political parties, and influential individuals must urge the Great Powers, key neighboring states, and international organizations to pressure all warring sides in Syria to avoid causing civilian casualties. If such pleadings are not fruitful, more stern measures should be taken against offenders by cutting off financial and military assistance, and charging them with war crimes. If need be, demonstrations can be held in front of embassies of countries supporting those responsible for civilian casualties.

3. Coordinating: A pan-Armenian entity should be created, similar to the committee for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, to coordinate all efforts worldwide for fundraising and lobbying for Syrian Armenians. The members of such a body would consist of the leaders of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh as well as the representatives of major Diaspora organizations. The coordinating committee must have full-time staff to carry out the necessary tasks in a timely and professional manner. The pan-Armenian entity would interface with the inter-communal committee in Syria to ensure that the donated funds serve their intended purpose.

It is understandable that due to the sensitive nature of the situation in Syria, not all efforts can be publicized. Nevertheless, the Government of Armenia and Diaspora organizations must take some concrete and explicit steps to reassure Syrian-Armenians that they are not abandoned to their tragic fate; that Armenians around the world care deeply for their well-being; and will do everything possible to support them in their greatest hour of need!

Prosperous Armenia Party faced with...

continued on page 1



political significance, even though, based on the outcome of the last parliamentary elections, the Heritage Party in union with the Free Democrats Party got into the Armenian Parliament for a second time.

Then Raffi Hovannisian for some unconvincing reasons gave up his seat in the parliament, and a squabble between the Heritage and Free Democrats parties began, leading to a split within that small faction. It can be noted at the same time that R. Hovannisian lost control over the Heritage parliamentary faction.

Yet, in our judgment, R. Hovannisian's main mistake was that in 2008-2012 he was trying to position himself (Heritage Party completely supported him in his efforts) as a "third force", i.e. a peculiar alternative to both the "party in power" and the extra-parliamentary opposition ANC. The situation in the country's political and social life in the indicated period can be characterized as "black-and-white", whereas the effectiveness of a "third force" manifests itself in a more ambiguous political situation.

As a result, a real "third force" in Armenia's political field was born not in the opposition, as was expected by most experts, but in power. This force was the PAP, whose "stage-by-stage" withdrawal from the "party in power" was largely promoted by the famous "political analysis" presented by the former Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Liberty Square a year ago.

We believe that today there are quite a few signs indicating that an alliance between the PAP and the ANC may become a reality. The question is how unexpected it will be, however, the same goes for the nomination of G. Tsarukyan as a candidate in the upcoming presidential election.



Judging from the reports of the mass media close to G. Tsarukyan and the PAP (such as Kentron Television Company, *Zham* (Hour) and *7 Or* (7 Days)) websites, as far as the ANC is concerned, it is the programs and actions of ex-Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan that cause the greatest interest of the PAP. The matter concerns not only *100 Steps* program, but also all critical speeches made by Bagratyan, regarding the implementation of the 2011 budget of Armenia and the country's budget for 2013. These speeches also have a program character. In any event, it is evident from the reports of the abovementioned mass media outlets that they view the former prime minister who headed the government during the war in Nagorno Karabakh as a man who knows how to extricate the country from the crisis and whose programs are in keeping with the position of the PAP and its leader.

We should point out the circumstance that Bagratyan's recipes for improving significantly the financial and economic situation are social-democratic or social-liberal, rather than liberal by nature. Yet, if we leave aside the ideological clichés, the action program offered today by technocrat Bagratyan is a recipe from a series of pragmatic steps aimed at helping the country out of the financial and economic crisis. It seems almost certain that some of these steps will not be hailed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which apparently are quite content with the fact that the Tigran Sargsyan government is pushing Armenia into a "debtor's prison".

But the interest in H. Bagratyan demonstrated by the PAP-affiliated media outlets shows only part of the mutual interest. To the PAP and G. Tsarukyan, the ex-president L. Ter-Petrosian's support matters much more.

Why?

It would seem that the PAP has enough resources, and 450,000 votes received by the party in the last parliamentary election bear evidence of that. Besides, this autumn the PAP has

strengthened its capacities in the regions as a result of partial elections to the local self-government bodies.

In all appearances, the main thing here is that the PAP's resources are insufficient for a hypothetical victory over the incumbent "party in power" - for the reason that the PAP itself made part of the "party in power" for five years. In the last parliamentary elections the PAP received indirect support from ANC, which took a radical stance during its election campaign, but leveled the edge of criticism ONLY at the current ruling coalition (the Republican Party of Armenia (PAP) and Country of Law Party).

Now the PAP is actually faced with the following choice:

- i) To run in the election independently, without support from other political forces, by fielding its own candidate for the Presidency. This option may give the PAP candidate more than half a million real votes, which is impressive, but not enough for winning the election;

- ii) to support the incumbent President Serzh Sargsyan on his conditions, which will result in the loss of the party's political significance - something which has already happened to Country of Law Party, which is now the ANC's political appendage, no more.

- iii) along with the ANC, to field a single presidential candidate, who is likely to be supported by ARF-Dashnaktsutyun as well. This option gives PAP a chance of success.

It is noteworthy that despite a difference in their financial, information and structural resources, the PAP and the ANC are the forces that objectively need each other. The point is that, unless the PAP has direct support of the ANC, the voters simply will not believe that the PAP is a real alternative to the incumbent "party in power". Interestingly, at the October 31 closed meeting of party activists, Gagik Tsarukyan called on his team-mates from the PAP to "be prepared for a hard struggle" and also stated that at "the right time" he is ready to meet with the ex President L. Ter-Petrosyan.

We should remind the reader that the PAP, the ANC, and the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun actually cooperated in the Inter-Party Center for Public Oversight of the Parliamentary Elections in May 2012, trying to prevent vote rigging. Now these three forces interact with each other regarding a number of key issues in the National Assembly. So, there are quite a few prerequisites that they will succeed in forming a political alliance and putting up a single candidate in the upcoming presidential election. Yet, in our estimation, such an agreement is unlikely to be reached until December.

500th anniversary of First Armenian Printed Book to be celebrated in Turkey with a range of events

500th anniversary of First Armenian Printed Book will be celebrated with a range of events in Turkey. As Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople informed Armenpress, cultural celebrations dedicated to 500th anniversary of First Armenian Printed Book are in progress. Lectures, exhibitions covering various activities of the printing are scheduled in the frame of the celebrations.

"Community schools do not abstain and in their turn embarking various measures to celebrate 500th anniversary of First Armenian Printed Book in a proper way" Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople announces.

Armenian printing houses have been established in Smyrna, Armash, Van, Mush, Bursa, Adana, Adrianople, Adebazar,



Nikomediaya, Samsun, Karin, Yeznka, Yevdokiya, Kharberd, Marzva, Ayntap and elsewhere.

Printing houses established in Armenian populated cities in Western Armenia and Ottoman Empire ceased to operate in the years of Armenian Genocide.

Hundreds of printing houses, libraries were destroyed; thousands of Armenian books were burnt down in the course of those years.

By 1800 over 350 Armenian books were published in Constantinople.

Famous piano player Jan Lisiecki will have a concert in Yerevan

For the first time famous piano player Jan Lisiecki will have a concert in Yerevan. The joint concert of State Youth Orchestra of Armenia and Jan Lisiecki will be held in Aram Khachaturyan Great Concert Hall on November 17. As the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia informed, the 17 years old piano player has already managed to give more than 100 concerts. At the concert the Armenian audience will have an opportunity to listen to the concert of the young piano player, who played in different countries.

Jan Lisiecki is a classical piano player. He studied piano in Mount Royal University since early childhood. The piano player debuted in the orchestra at the age of nine. He is a winner of a number of international awards. Lisiecki is a winner of seven international contests in the USA, Italy, Great Britain and Japan.

In frames of the program "Let's



Save Children Together" ten percent of the cost of each sold ticket will go to "Grant Life" charity foundation. The

Art Director and Chief Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia is Sergey Smbatyan.

Best photos of Armenian-Russian diplomatic relations 20th year history demonstrated in Armenpress photo exhibition

Photo exhibition entitled "Yesterday, today, tomorrow" dedicated to Armenian-Russian diplomatic relations kicked off in Moscow House on November 10. The event was initiated jointly by Russian Embassy in Armenia and Armenpress state news agency.

"First I want to congratulate for the launched photo exhibition. The photos taken by talented photographers enable us a chance to follow the entire path of establishment and development process of Russian-Armenian diplomatic relations, and see the result of our strategic collaboration" Tigran Sargsyan noted. The head of the Executive Body considers the organization of such photo exhibition good initiation. PM is confident the exhibited works will arise interest among the visitors.

"Throughout the 20th years we have not only strengthened the mutual trust between the two countries at an independent Republics level but have doubled and kept those traditions already existing among the nations" stated Viktor Krivopuskov, the leader of the Armenian representation of the federal agency of CIS countries. In his words those relations are aimed at the realization of security, trade and economic, educational and other programs, Armenpress reports.

"When we were initiating the photo exhibition our first attempts showed that there are more than 3000 photos in the agency's archive covering Armenian-Russian relations. Armenian-Russian relations are unique both to their capacity and depth. Our aim was to show

those relations through photo exhibition history, which includes economic, political and cultural spheres" stated Aram Ananyan, the executive director of Armenpress state news agency.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic Armenia and the Russian Federation were established on April 3, 1992. The embassy of RF in Yerevan has been acting since 1992, and the Embassy of RA in Moscow- since 1994.

Vyacheslav Yevgenevich Kovalenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Armenia, National Assembly vice speaker Hermine Naghdalyan attended the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition.

The international seminar dedicated to the author's rights kicked off in Yerevan

In frames of the 6th International Forum of Translators and Publishers and UNESCO announcement about selecting Yerevan as 2012 World Book Capital City a seminar entitled "The Role of the System of the Author's Rights in the Development of Cultural Industry of Publishing" kicked off in Yerevan. As reports "Armenpress" the Deputy Secretary-General of the International Publishers Association stated that the aim of the seminar is revealing if the significance of author's rights in social, cultural and economic development in Armenia and worldwide.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the International Publishers Association said: "The urgent questions regarding the system of author's right in Armenia and their possible solu-

tion will be discussed at the seminar taking into consideration the European experience and developments." In frames of the seminar European and Armenian experts of the field will share their views during the seminar. Different publishers, writers and translators from CIS will also take part in the seminar.

Independent expert of author's rights Richard Balkwill introduced the examples of the violations of author's rights and means of fighting against them.

The initiators of the seminar are the Books Arena Project, the International Publishers Association and the National Publishers Association of Armenia. The Books Arena Project is financed by the UN and is realized in frames of the cultural program of Eastern cooperation.

European Union model 2012 Conference launched in Yerevan

European Union model 2012 in Armenia Conference was launched in Yerevan by the participation of Yerevan European Students Forum youth NGO and European Union delegation in Armenia. European Students Forum chairman Luis Alvarado Martinez, delivered a welcoming speech.

"Our project will not reach its goal until Caucasus region joins us. Yet we have to change our way of thinking and action methods if we want to have a success" Martinez noted. The interlocutor underscored the pivotal role of the youth in that issue. Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament came forth with a speech through video record. Yerevan Students Forum NGO head Armenak Minasyants, Forum members also took their floor. EU's Eastern Partnership, issues refer to democracy and human rights were

envisaged in the course of the held discussions.

AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe European Students Forum) is a student organisation that promotes co-operation, communication and integration amongst young people in Europe. As a non-governmental, politically independent and non-profit organisation AEGEE is open to students and young people from all faculties and disciplines today it counts 13.000 members, active in more than 200 university cities in 40 European countries, making it the biggest interdisciplinary student association in Europe. AEGEE has participatory status in the activities of the Council of Europe, consultative status at the United Nations, operational status at UNESCO and is at the same time a member of the European Youth Forum.



The Secret Lives of Kitchen Spices

Cinnamon Storks

In ancient times the origins of cinnamon were a mystery to the Western world, and Arab merchants wanted to keep it that way. To keep prices high, they spun an elaborate tale, claiming that giant birds collected cinnamon sticks from far-off lands and used them to build nests on cliffs. To get the precious sticks, traders laid out massive chunks of ox meat, which the birds grabbed and carried to their nests. But because the slabs were so large, the nests would collapse, allowing the clever merchants to collect their prize.

Europeans bought this story until the late 1400s when the Portuguese found the real source of cinnamon -- lush groves in Sri Lanka. Once they'd figured it out, the Portuguese struck a deal with the Sri Lankans to monopolize the trade and built a fort there to protect their assets. They were displaced by the Dutch in 1658, who were subsequently displaced by the Brits in 1796. But by then, the trees had been exported worldwide, so there was little need to fight for cinnamon.

The Power of Cubeb Compels You

With notes of allspice and clove, cubeb comes from a plant that's a close relative to black pepper, and it tastes somewhat similar. So it's no surprise that cubeb was used as a cheap stand-in for its far more expensive cousin during the Middle Ages in Europe and through the 1800s in the U.S. Today, cubeb is rarely found outside of Indonesian cuisine, but it's a key ingredient in a ritual far more interesting than dinner: exorcisms.

In his 17th-century book *Demoniality*, Italian priest Ludovico Maria Sinistrari recalls that cubeb did wonders for a "young maiden of noble family, who was tempted by an Incubus that appeared to her both by day and by night." He tossed a few kernels of cubeb into her bedroom, and "the Incubus came, but never dared enter."

The Great Texas Salt Fight

Okay, we know it's not technically a spice, but bear with us -- this is good! First extracted from briny spring water in Romania in 6050 BCE, salt's use as a food preservative allowed the local population to flourish. On the other hand, salt has also sparked more than its fair share of wars and revolutions, even on American soil. When Judge Charles Howard formed a "Salt Ring" in 1877 to gain control of the dry salt lakes near the base of the Guadalupe Mountains, the Mexican-Americans who'd been living there and collecting salt for free decided they didn't want bland food imposed on them. So they rioted.

Twenty Texas Rangers swaggered in to clean up the mess, but they were no match for the rebels, who disarmed and ousted the Rangers, killing Howard in the process. At that point, the settlers were allowed to keep their salt, but the flats soon fell into disuse after railroads started bringing in cheaper salt from Kansas in 1881. Nonetheless, the Rangers are still bitter about the experience -- it was the only time in history they were forced to surrender.

Death By (Fake) Saffron

The saffron you sprinkle on your paella is the most expensive spice in the world, fetching as much as \$1,000 per pound. And

for good reason: Saffron comes from the stigma of a sterile flower that no longer exists in the wild. The saffron we eat is the result of 3,000 years of breeding that began in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Stranger still, a pound of saffron requires 50,000-75,000 flowers -- enough to cover a football field -- and would take days to pick.

Throughout history, saffron has been lauded as a cure-all. In the fourth century BCE, Alexander the Great took saffron baths to soothe his battle wounds. During the 14th century CE it was a go-to treatment for outbreaks. Even today, recent studies show that saffron can help treat Alzheimer's, breast cancer, depression, and an array of other ailments. No wonder counterfeiting has been such a problem over the years. In the 1300s, Germany enacted the Safranschou code, which made saffron tampering punishable by death. One convicted tamperer was roasted over a fire of his flavorless saffron.

24-Karat Pepper

Grow a Piper nigrum shrub, pick its red berries, boil them until they turn black, dry them in the sun, and you've got pepper -- the most popular spice in history! Long before shakerfuls hit every diner in America, pepper originated in the mountains of India, where it was referred to as "black gold." This was a misnomer -- pepper was worth more than its weight in gold, and individual peppercorns were even accepted as currency at the time, and it wasn't just India.



In Dutch, the term "pepper expensive" is used to describe something extremely pricey, which explains why the country waged war against the Portuguese in the 1590s to get a piece of the trade. The spice remained costly for centuries. Even in 19th-century England, shady suppliers would dilute pepper, mixing in charcoal or floor sweepings to stretch its street value. Since then, however, pepper's price has plummeted as it became more widely grown. As for the stuff you're sprinkling on your scrambled eggs, don't worry -- it's pure.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Sona Van

THE LAST WAR'S DREAM

(because I adore my average boys too much)

It's interesting . . . I'm thinking (rocking
my fluid skirt)
the desert births geniuses
and I-
average boys

each time
when the lascivious wind
lifts the skirt of the desert
a new prophet
is born
(a Christ . . . a Moses . . . a Muhammad)

it's interesting . . . they were all there in
my dream
around the same table
and
it was the last dinner
after the final war

and like a teacher
with my back turned against them
I was writing with a chalk in my fist
clearly legibly

THE END
like in the movies

p.s. and Judas . . . I forgot . . . wasn't
there
he had already died heroically



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :

Surprise, changeability, and general rebellion are the qualities prominent this week. You may be the one who feels rebellious and wants to be left alone. If you have words on your mind regarding a relationship, they may fall right out of your mouth when you least expect it. Think carefully before you speak.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

You are in a sensitive frame of mind at this time. One or more friends may step on an old wound unintentionally. If you must, lick the wound for a bit. Your better solution is to pour extra energy into exercise or other self-improvement routine. Think about making one or more attractive improvements in your environment.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Activities involving children and/or lovers prove to be great fun. On the other hand, you may be feeling confusion concerning your partner or business contacts. Double check on facts, data, and directions that come your way. Pay careful attention to communications and messages.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

We are approaching an eclipse season that begins on the 13th. It is possible you will be especially sensitive to everyone's feelings this week. Don't set yourself up for a hard three weeks. People can recover. Ruminating over issues is rarely helpful and it is hard on your overall attitude.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Your attention is channeled into home, hearth, and family during this period. Elderly people or things may be requiring your attention. Sudden problems may develop with your high tech equipment or internet connection. The coming eclipse on the 13th is the culprit.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You may be feeling irritable and a little nervous. You can't be sure whether someone significant in your life is really telling you the truth or treating you honestly. The probability is that there is some sort of deception present, but it may be you is telling yourself what you want to hear. Don't leap to conclusions.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :

You have favorable aspects concerning the law, travel, publishing, the internet, education and church activities. People will invite you everywhere. Your emotional or physical health may require some attention. An old "wound" is involved. You may feel an internal conflict between joining and holding back.

Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21)

The "rules and regs" weigh heavily on your shoulders with Saturn in your sign. This is normal at the beginning of this transit. Within a few weeks you will become acclimated to the new internal environment. This week, a part of you wants to escape. Don't burn bridges in your wake.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20) :

You are in an especially cordial frame of mind at this time, and likely to invite people to your home, or to share whatever you have to offer. Your spirits are high and you have a need to be social. Romance is highlighted, along with the potential for travel.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Saturn's change of signs has probably brought you to a shift of attention. You may be asked to accept responsibilities in community affairs or organizations to which you belong. If the recent years have caused you to take up the mantle of constant work, it is possible you are realizing that you've become isolated.

Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :

You have arrived at a point that I call "promotion or departure". If you love your life direction, you will take on more responsibility and become recognized for your efforts. If you are ready to dump it, now is the time to choose a direction and environment that is more suited to you.

Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :

You would be happy to take the first flight to Tahiti and never bat an eye over it. Short of that, you may be taking small mental breaks this week, with lots of daydreaming and drifting. Make a special effort to keep up with keys, tickets, and other small items. Paperwork snarls may become a problem.

HUMOR

A: I'm in a big trouble!
B: Why is that?
A: I saw a mouse in my house!
B: Oh, well, all you need to do is use a trap.
A: I don't have one.
B: Well then, buy one.
A: Can't afford one.
B: I can give you mine if you want.
A: That sounds good.
B: All you need to do is just use some cheese in order to make the mouse come to the trap.
A: I don't have any cheese.
B: Okay then, take a piece of bread and put a bit of oil in it and put it in the trap.
A: I don't have oil.
B: Well, then put only a small piece of bread.
A: I don't have bread.
B: Then what is the mouse doing at your house?!

Quote of the week



"A room without books is like a
body without a soul."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO

classic house club

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan Street

November 13 at 9:30 p.m.

"Impression" Band

November 14 at 21:30

Anushik Alaverdyan &

Karen Mamikonyan Band

November 15 at 21:30

Lupe y la Banda

November 16 at 21:30

"Imagin" Band

THE CLUB

40 Tumanyan Street

Every Monday at 7 p.m.

Tea Master invites to tasting Chinese teas

Every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Film Screening

Every Friday at 9 p.m.

Bard Club

STOP MUSIC CLUB

November 14 at 9 p.m.

Fiesta Caliente Dance Party

November 15 at 9 p.m.

Yeva Sujyan & Alien Time

November 16 at 9 p.m.

Vardan Karmir

November 17 at 9 p.m.

Another Story

November 18 at 9 p.m.

The Drive Dreamers

ARMENIAN NATIONAL SHOW

Republic Square,
Government Howse 2,
(Restaurant Ararat)

Every Day at 7:30 p.m.

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

November 14 at 8 p.m.

Armenian, Russian and

European Music Evening

November 17 at 8 p.m.

Music Cascade: NAIRI. Five

Years on Stage

NAREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

Vardanants 16/1

November 12 at 6 p.m.

Guitar Music Night/

Nikoghosyan Elena

November 13 at 6 p.m.

Solo Exhibition/ Jirayr

Aghavelyan (USA) collage (photo art)

November 14 at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Series

November 16 at 7 p.m.

Guitar Music Night.

Grigoryan Samvel

CONCERTS

ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

November 12 at 7 p.m.

State Dance Ensemble of

Armenia

November 14, 15 at 7 p.m.

Folk Singer 3

November 16 at 7 p.m.

APO Artistic Director and

Principal Conductor:

Eduard Topchjan

Program:

Glazunov: Symphony No.4

Rachmaninov: Symphony

No.2

Conductor: Eduard Topchjan

November 17 at 7 p.m.

Youth Orchestra and Soloist

from Poland

KOMITAS CHAMBER MUSIC HOUSE

November 14 at 7 p.m.

Reciter Hagop Guyumjian

Reciting Evening

Twentieth Century

THEATRES

G. SUNDUKIAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

Grigor Lusavorich st., house 6

November 19 at 7 p.m.

Arevner. Contest Final

STANIALAVSKI**RUSSIAN DRAMA THEATER**

November 6,7 at 19:00

Don Juan Avia

November 10 at 19:00

Memorial Prayer

H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

November 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Alice in Wonderland

November 16 at 2 p.m.

Under The Bethlehem Star.

R. Babayan

November 17 at 12:00, 2

p.m., at 4 p.m.

Little Red Riding Hood.

Author: Charles Perrault

November 18 at 12:00, at 2

p.m., at 4 p.m.

Gnome's Song

STATE MUSICAL CHAMBER THEATER

November 15 at 7 p.m.

Sexual Chaos in the Hotel.

Author: Ray Cooney

November 16 at 7 p.m.

David of Sasun.

Author: H. Tumanyan

November 17 at 2 p.m.

Cinderella. Author: Charles

Perrault

November 18 at 2p.m.

Beauty and the Beast.

French folk tale. Children's

Musical Fun Show

YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATER

November 17, 18 at 7 p.m.

Albania+. Pessimistic

Comedy. Author and director

of the play: Ara Yernjakyan

H. MALYAN THEATER OF FILM ACTORS

November 14, 15 at 7 p.m.

Rosinant 2012.

Author: Kh. Chalikyan

November 17, 18 at 7 p.m.

Auntie and Me.

Morris Panych

November 19 at 7 p.m.

Physiology of Race.

Tragicomedy

**YEREVAN STATE MARIONETTE THEATRE**

November 16 at 4 p.m.

The Naked King. Musical

Performance

November 17 at 12:30, at 2 p.m.

The Real Friend. Ruben

Marukhyan.

Musical Performance

November 18 at 12:30, at 2 p.m., at 3:30 p.m.

Wheel of Fortune

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

November 17 at 7 p.m.

In Memory of John Cage



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