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Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Parliamentary Assembly held in Yerevan



**President receives the Secretary General of the Organization of the BSEC,
Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos.**

HIGHLIGHT

Hillary Clinton will visit Armenia on June 4

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will visit Armenia June 4.

U.S. Department of State Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said this in a press statement.

Hillary Clinton will meet with President Serzh Sargsyan and other senior Armenian officials.

She will also meet with Armenian civil society leaders.

On June 5, the U.S. Secretary of State will open the U.S.-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission plenary session in Batumi, Georgia. She will also meet with President Saakashvili and hold discussions with a broad range of political actors and civil society representatives.

Hillary Clinton will travel on June 6 to Azerbaijan to meet with President Aliyev as well as Azerbaijani civil society leaders.

First post-election changes in opposition

by David Petrosyan

As was forecast by a number of experts and the author, the summing up of the parliamentary election outcome was followed by transformation processes in Armenia's political arena, and these processes are taking place not only in the camp of authorities, but also in the opposition ranks.

Thus, the Republic Party led by former Prime Minister Aram Z. Sargsyan and the Liberal Party of Armenia led by Hovhannes Hovhannisian have left the Armenian National Congress (ANC). After all, the withdrawal of those two parties from the organization was anticipated. The Republic Party was one of the three system-constituent parties of ANC. It is, however, no secret that in the run-up to the elections, particularly, during the compilation of the proportional representation list, the party was displeased with the places assigned to her representatives on the list. For this reason all of them, except Aram Z. Sargsyan, withdrew their

candidacies from the proportional list. Aram Z. Sargsyan made a statement to the effect that if ANC gets into the parliament, he will give up his MP mandate. We must say that the ex-prime minister was as good as his word and now instead of him the former Military Prosecutor General Gagik Jhangirian will receive a mandate of ANC.

During the election campaign, the leader of the Republic Party and some of the party's functionaries actually sabotaged field work aimed at supporting the proportional list of the opposition, seldom took part in rallies and meetings held by the ANC and made speeches at those rallies only a few times. At the height of the election campaign, Aram Z. Sargsyan and two of his colleagues, without coordinating their steps with the ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrosian, left for Brussels where they had six meetings with European Commission officials of various levels, members of the European Parliament, and NATO

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RA President: BSEC can become an effective platform for regional cooperation and opening of borders

Armenia assigns high priority to cooperation within the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (OBSEC), in particular, in the parliamentary format, says the welcoming address of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan at the opening of the 39th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC in Yerevan on May 23. Head of the Presidential Administration Vigen Sargsyan read out the president's address at the event.

The president is sure that the contribution of parliamentary delegations to the enhancement of the inter-state dialogue cannot be overestimated.

Parliamentarians help creating an atmosphere of understanding. It is the parliamentary format of international structures that help coordinating position on the key and problematic issues. "In this context, I hope, PA BSEC will really contribute to lift the blockade of the borders in the region, boosting regional cooperation in the spheres of economy, finance, energy, and environment protection," the address reads.



The 39th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Yerevan on May 22-24. Parliamentary delegations of Armenia, Albania, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Serbia,

Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine participated in the event. Participants in the today's plenary session will discuss perspectives of development of information and communication technologies, and their contribution to sustainable economic development. The Assembly will hold debates on the reports and recommendation prepared by the specialized committees

of PABSEC regarding improvement of the taxation system, perspective of wine-making and vine growing, combatting organized crime, cultural, educational and social issues.

At the end of the plenary session, Azerbaijan assumed PABSEC rotating chairmanship for the next 6 months. The next General Assembly is scheduled for November 20-22 in Baku.

Edward Nalbandian explains why Armenian President didn't visit Chicago

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said that the generalized declaration of NATO Summit in Chicago on conflicts in South Caucasus and Moldova run counter to approaches of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

As the press service of the Armenian Foreign Ministry informed Mediamax, Edward Nalbandian said this at the meeting with representatives of the Armenian Community of Chicago.

"Despite certain changes as compared to NATO's Lisbon Declaration, this one runs counter to approaches of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, who have the international mediatory mandate to settle the conflict. These approaches have been frequently voiced by the US, Russian and French leaders. The formulation does not cor-



respond to statements and decisions on conflict settlement which have been made within the OSCE in recent years. It cannot only harm the negotiation process but also jeopardize the fragile peace in the region especially given the unprecedented growth of Azerbaijan's military expenses and bellicose rhetoric of this country's leadership. Taking into consideration this concern, the President of Armenia decided not to participate in the Chicago meeting," said Edward Nalbandian.

The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the ISAF Summit

Armenia will continue its contribution to the establishment of peace, security and stability in Afghanistan

On May 21 the meeting of the heads of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) participating countries took place in Chicago. At the meeting the Armenian delegation was led by Edward Nalbandian, the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The representatives from

The positive dynamic is evident. But certainly more efforts are required to make this process irreversible.

Unfortunately, we learn every day that transition is not an easy task to be accomplished smoothly. The destructive forces are still trying to derail, to obstruct the process



around five dozen countries, which are members of the NATO or participating ISAF attended the meeting, which was devoted to the situation in Afghanistan and the international community's activities to be done.

Delivering a speech, the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to continue its contribution to the efforts undertaken towards the establishment of security and internal solidarity in Afghanistan.

In particular, Edward Nalbandian said, "It is evident that we together put on record achievements in bringing noticeable degree of security to the Afghan land, succeeded to plant the seeds of future development of the Afghan society.

that leads to normal and peaceful life for millions of Afghan people, as we have been witnessing.

The international community's efforts should be aimed at the prevention of the activities of those destructive forces of terror that ravage not only their own soil but at times spread far away as mercenaries. We, in our region, experienced it and we know what it means. The important thing is to keep the momentum in transforming Afghanistan in a way that it will not serve as a source of constant concern to its neighbors and far beyond, but become a positive driving force for the whole region, to use its own riches for the sustainable benefit of Afghan people and others."

Minister Nalbandian stressed that Armenia would continue its contribution to the fostering and establishment of peace, security and stability in Afghanistan as before the anticipated 2014 of withdrawal of the international security assistance forces, as well as afterwards.



Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian MPs underline the necessity of peaceful settlement of NagornoKarabakh conflict

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic has been established in full accordance with international law and the acting legislation of the USSR, Gagik Minasyan, Head of the Armenian PABSEC delegation, told reporters.

"The conflict is between the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan, and it rose as a result of the Azerbaijani aggression, which has occupied the 20% of the Karabakhi territories: I mean Shahumyan and neighboring regions," said MrMinasyan.

The MP simultaneously noted

that the Karabakh issue settlement should be considered only within the OSCE Minsk Group, on the base of the internationally recognized three principles. According to Mr Minasyan, the referenda conducted in Nagorno Karabakh should be respected at least. "As for the economic cooperation between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, I think it is an issue to be resolved by those two states," Mr Minasyan stressed.

Head of the Azerbaijani PABSEC delegation Asaf Hajiyeve repeated well known Azerbaijani propagating theses on "20% occupied territo-

ries". But the Azerbaijani MP simultaneously highlighted the issue on defense of the cultural merits in the both parties.

"Through economic cooperation and integration it will be possible to resolve even the most complicated issues. The borders' being open can bring enormous economic benefits. Russia is exerting efforts in this direction, and over the 10 meetings organized between the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents by Medvedev promoted it," Michael Emelyanov, head of the Russian PABSEC delegation said for his part.

Turkish MP: Nagorno Karabakh issue must be settled within OSCE Minsk Group

Armenia and Turkey have signed the protocols and now the ball is in the Turkish field, Areg Ghukasyan, PABSEC Vice-President, told journalists. "Turkey must ratify the protocols: we are waiting for it," said MrGhukasyan.

According to him, closed borders are unacceptable in the 21st century. "And if we speak about setting preconditions, Armenia can be the first to forward them," PABSEC Vice-President noted.

For his part, Ismail Safi, Head of the Turkish PABSEC delegation, noted that there were a range of unsettled issues in the Black Sea Region, and they could get solution through constructive approach.



"The organization includes 12 countries, some of which do not have friendly relations, but that the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey manage to come together and discuss concerning issues, is already joyous," Mr Safi said.

He noted that we should strive to

settle the current issues in accordance with the principles of the International Law. Mr Safi specifically pointed out the issue of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, which, according to him, should be settled in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Azerbaijani parliamentarian offers Azeri gas in exchange for territories

One cannot speak of any economic cooperation until Yerevan withdraws its troops from "the occupied territories" of Azerbaijan, Asaf Hajiyeve, Azeri MP, Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation, said during a press conference in Yerevan on May 22. To note, the Azeri delegation has come to Yerevan to participate in the May 22-24 PABSEC session.

He has said that today Azerbaijan is developing good relations with all its neighbors, except Armenia, and these relations cover a variety of spheres. "We are developing effective cooperation with all the Middle Asian states, Caspian neighbors; we are actively cooperating with Russia, Georgia, Turkey. Unlike Armenia,

these countries have not occupied a single inch of the Azerbaijani land. We are ready to develop similar relations with Armenia only in case the latter withdraws its troops from the occupied territories", Hajiyeve said.

In the meantime, Hajiyeve forgot to mention Azerbaijan's serious discrepancies with Turkmenistan and Iran over the division of the Caspian Sea offshore. He also failed to mention the recent diplomatic scandals with Tehran.

Hajiyeve expressed hope that the new Parliament of Armenia would display a more constructive approach to the Karabakh peace process. He also recalled Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's statement about Aghdam. To recall, over his term in the defense minister's office, Serzh Sargsyan said in 2005 that Aghdam

was not the motherland of Armenians. In this context, Hajiyeve expressed hope that Armenians would take their president's position into account.

The Azeri MP also presented the economic achievements of his country. He said that Azerbaijan's GDP is \$65 bln and the state budget is \$25 bln. He added that Azerbaijan could become a good partner of Armenia in case the latter implements the above-mentioned proposal. "The biggest gas deposit over the past 50 years has been discovered in Azerbaijan. This gives an additional impetus to development of our economy, so, I'd advise Armenia to think about it", he said without realizing that "oil and gas addicted" Azerbaijan is far from being the most desirable economic partner of Yerevan.

French senators: It is all the same to us how Azerbaijan will react to our visit

Chairman of National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Relations Armen Rustamyan met on May 25 with French senators Sophie Joissains, Philip Marini and Bernard Fournier, the National Assembly press service told Noyan Tapan.

French senators said that they had accepted the invitation to visit Nagorno Karabakh with pleasure

and familiarized themselves with the strivings of Nagorno Karabakh people and the wonderful nature of that country. They stated they were admired by the firmness, consistency and warm reception of Nagorno Karabakh people.

"I hope that Azerbaijan's reaction to your traveling to Nagorno Karabakh has not disappointed you," said Mr Rustamyan, noting

with gentle humor: "In the Azerbaijani 'Black list' you will surely find good friends."

"It is all the same to us how Azerbaijan will react to our visit," said Philip Marini with a smile.

During the meeting the parties referred to peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Armenian-Turkish relations, Iranian nuclear issue and regional security.

"Prosperous Armenia" not to join the coalition Government

Prosperous Armenia Party chairman Gagik Tsarukyan issued a statement on the political decision of the party; The PAP will not to come forth in the coalition Government. The PAP press service informed Noyan Tapan the statement runs as follows:

"Dear compatriots, Sisters, brothers, "The Prosperous Armenia" party's 6th congress cornerstone issues were aimed at the establishment of the idea to make significant changes in the lives of the nation.

Throughout pre-election campaign the party held the same stance. At the meetings the PAP presented the citizens the party's comprehensive program. I have always stated in my speeches that I am not seeking personal benefit; moreover I noted I am ready to have certain losses in order to maintain the confidence of the peo-

ple.

During May 6 Parliamentary Elections the PAP has gained about



half a million of votes. The electorate casting their ballots in favor of the PAP party trusts us and wants tangible changes in country's socio-economic life.

The election results did not guarantee a constitutional right to the PAP to form the Government. I officially declare that the Prosperous Armenia Party does not consider appropriate to participate in the formation of a coalition government.

PAP will continue to have a significant role in the political life of our country. We are scheduling to have a very constructive and balanced role in the social and political life of the country.

In the fifth convocation of the Parliamentary Assembly PAP faction will be active and operative. I promise that PAP MPs will always voice the alarms of the citizens, protect the rights and the interests of our compatriots.

I wish all the success and productive work to the new formed Government for the welfare of our country and the people".

Al. Iskandaryan: "The business must be separated from the politics"



Caucasus Institute Director Alexander Iskandaryan met journalists on May 22 and spoke about the Armenian inner and foreign politics.

Speaking about the newly-creating parliament and the possibility of the coalition the politician said that the forces are now making and getting offers. According to him, the Prosperous Armenia has bases to be or not to be in the coalition.

"They must choose the profitable version. It is important what they will be offered. The Prosperous Armenia is unable to keep the society in the squares for

five years. I think that it is more possible that the PAP will enter to the coalition", A. Iskandaryan considers.

The politician also ensured that coalition consisted from the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) and Rule of Law will certainly exist.

A. Iskandaryan considers it is positive that the number of the businessmen is reduced in the new parliament. He hoped that the business would be separated from the politics more in future as well.

"This is a process which is going on inside the authorities. We cannot say that it is managed completely now but there is some movement. Business must be separated from the politics in order not to have influence on the political decisions. But it must not be completely separated from the state as they are parts of each other".

Referring to the foreign policy the politician noted that there are no essential processes for Armenia now. "All events from Chicago to the Eurovision in Baku are not essential for Armenian foreign policy. It is just a balloon".

"No scenario for the NATO summit could exist, no decision by Armenia could have any influence on the decision which is already made and all this has no connection with Armenia", Iskandaryan added.

RPA Supreme Body: "Assuming the responsibility we are determined to carry out our plans"



The Republican Party of Armenia issued a statement after the executive session on May 24. We present it entirely:

"Dear compatriots, The RPA garnered the overwhelming majority on May 24 Parliamentary Elections, expanded its role in the public and political life. It gives us the opportunity; implementing the RPA program stipulations simultaneously assure the continuous and stable development of Armenia becoming the main guarantor of society's expectations and the desirable changes.

We thank our people and political forces for holding fair, free and transparent elections by the joint efforts. We thank for the trust towards our party.

The Republican Party of Armenia completes the series of political consultations aimed at the strengthening the positive atmosphere and assuring the cooperation tendency during the post-election period.

Ahead of the 5 th convocation of the National Assembly due May 31, RPA declares.

1. Holding the majority in the NA and enjoying the right of the party garnering the overwhelming majority stipulated by the Constituency, we shall stand for solidarity and comprehensive co-operation.

2. In this context, we are ready to discuss any reasonable proposal presented by the political forces for the benefit of our state and for the better living conditions for each and every citizen.

3. As a responsible political force, our 20- year-activities were mainly directed for the establishment and strengthening of independent statehood, we cared no efforts to solve the problems facing the country and the people. RPA assuming primary responsibility is determined to carry out the planned decisions".

Armenia's President should have attended Chicago Summit - former FM



It would have been good if Armenia's President were to attend the Chicago NATO Summit, former FM Vartan Oskanian wrote in his Facebook account.

"Such multilateral opportunities are not much, and it is an excellent opportunity to discuss Armenia's concerns with the leaders of other countries," Oskanian said and added:

"I would not have seen a problem if the President's explanation for not attending the Summit had not been this: The Chicago Summit's draft declaration includes a general formulation, with respect to the resolution of conflicts in the

South Caucasus and in Moldova, which is inconsistent with the statements and decisions adopted in regard to the problem's settlements within the OSCE framework. First, this explanation is a defeatist position. Second, this is the shortest way toward self-isolation."

As per Vartan Oskanian, the Nagorno-Karabakh issue's resolution is not reserved for NATO, and therefore the latter's formulation cannot be accepted as basis.

"Fourth, NATO's declaration does not state that the Karabakh question must be settled within the confines of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Fifth, if we were to judge by this logic, it would mean Armenia's President should not head to Iran, Georgia, and numerous other countries.

Everything would have been perceived normally if there had not been the President's official explanation for not heading to Chicago," Armenia's former FM also wrote in his Facebook account.

Armenia's Heritage Party still undecided on attending new Parliament's first session



There were suggestions, within Armenia's opposition Heritage Party, to not accept the parliamentary mandates. But these were just views, the Heritage member Styopa Safaryan said during a press conference on May 24.

In his words, the media publications concerning the Heritage inter-

nal party happenings are inaccurate, and the answers to all the questions will be given during the Party's special congress to be convened on June 2.

Safaryan has noted that he accepts the fact that he will not be in the next Parliament, and has added that he will not be sad for not being there and will be happy that his party will be in the Parliament.

Also, Styopa Safaryan has informed that, prior to the Party congress, its board will hold a session and they will decide on whether or not attending the new Parliament's first session, which will be convened on May 31.

I have not made monetary contribution during elections - Armenian politician



elected Armenian National Assembly MP by your fair votes. But the calculations made after the elections show that the 'vote fetchers' are not the public political figures, but rather the money distributing 'selects.'

Your humble servant has not made any monetary contribution during the elections, and [therefore] it would have been 'incorrect'

for me to enter the Parliament.

Such are the rules of the game in our Armenia of today. So, I am obligated to renounce the parliamentary mandate and announce my withdrawal.

[But] I will try to justify this confidence [you have given me] by working with you, alongside [one another]," Hmayak Hovhannisyan's statement specifically reads.

Politologists' Union of Armenia Chairman Hmayak Hovhannisyan who, despite being ninth in the Prosperous Armenia Party's proportional election list and being voted in as a deputy, submitted an MP-mandate-withdrawal petition. And, now, he issued a statement to his voters in this regard.

"By actively running in the 2012 parliamentary elections, I am

J. Heffern: "We hope that Turkey will make a right step"

"The USA still hopes the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations will restart and official Washington continues its work with Turkey". U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern told about this "Radio Liberty".

Answering to the question whether there is any perspective for the Armenian-Turkish relations' normalization, Mr. Ambassador said: "Of course... We hope that the normalization process of Armenian-Turkish relation will be restarted and it will not be connected with any other issue. We continue our work with Turkey and lead it to take right steps".

Referring to the question which concrete steps Washington holds to normalize relations between



Armenia and Turkey, Heffern said:

"We meet, of course, all the time with Armenian and Turkish leaders, we continue to push it, and we are very pleased that the [Armenian] president has shown the leadership to keep pushing for the protocols and to keep the protocols in front of the [Armenian] National Assembly, hoping that Turkey will do the right thing".

N. Bordyuzha: "Armenia is a complete member of the CSTO and will get support when needs it"

"Armenia is a complete member of the CSTO and if there is any aggressive step towards Armenia so the CSTO countries will certainly support Armenia," the CSTO Secretary General Nicolay Bordyuzha announced about this during the TV-bridge between Yerevan, Moscow, Kiev, Astana and Chisinau Bordyuzha made this announcement while commenting on CSTO attitude towards Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

CSTO Secretary General underlined that the Presidents of the CSTO member-countries were discussing now issues about the security and the further steps are also on agenda.

"The CSTO is an established organization and the world recognizes it. The organization acts effectively. CSTO was created by great efforts as every country has its national interest here."

Referring to the CSTO military exercises in Armenia N. Bordyuzha said that the Republic of Armenia was actively getting ready. Now some details concerning the trainings are on agenda.

"The preparations are actively going on. The Armenian side is



really active. The Armenian President invited the Presidents of the CSTO member-states to attend the military exercises which will take place on September, 2012, in Armenia.

The first staff negotiations have already taken place and soon the second staff negotiations will take place. Six countries will participate in the military exercises which means that the CSTO all member states except Uzbekistan will participate in them", the CSTO Secretary General said.

Answering to the question on European anti-racket systems Bordyuzha noted that CSTO is following the negotiations between the Russian Federation, European Union and the USA.

U.S. Embassy in Armenia on violence against minorities

The U.S. Embassy issued a statement condemning the fire-bombing of Yerevan's D.I.Y. Club on May 8, 2012, and the "continued acts of vandalism against the club"

"The crime appears to have targeted a sexual minority group. Armenia's own constitution prohibits the incitement and use of violence. Using violence against any minority - racial, religious, ethnic or sexual - is unpardonable," the Embassy said in a statement.

"Acts of hate should never be condoned by public officials, let alone praised. Regardless of their minority affiliation, all citizens and foreign guests in Armenia enjoy equal protection under Armenia's



constitution and law, so violence against them should be swiftly and firmly prosecuted and the offenders punished.

We urge Armenian officials to adopt a zero tolerance policy against all hate crimes and violence directed at minorities in Armenia, and to fulfill their responsibility for according all citizens protection under the law."

Minor incident could cause frozen Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to turn hot - expert

We present an article by the Atlantic Treaty Association expert Giuseppe Belardetti published on Atlantic Sentinel.

A minor incident could cause the frozen Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to turn hot, threatening European oil supplies, the regional balance in the Caucasus and Anatolia as well as increasing the European Union's dependence on Russia.

The border dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could flare up again, as recently demonstrated by an alleged ambush of Armenian troops by Azerbaijani forces. The incident, taking in place in Armenia proper, not the contested area of Nagorno-Karabakh, is viewed as an escalation of tensions. Conflict is now more likely due to Azerbaijan's petro fueled growth of its military capabilities.

A small incident could spiral into a full blown conflict. While a conflict would threaten European interests - i.e., threaten oil supplies and increase Europe's dependence on Russian energy - the European Union is expected to do little under such circumstances except condemn Azerbaijan and continue to offer free trade and visas to Armenia.

Analysis

The military solution is not in the interest of either country. Armenia is feeling its military weaknesses and aware that it would need Russia to come and help it.

The price to pay for a military conflict could be a further loss of independence for both countries, including political and military autonomy.

Azerbaijan does not want to have Russia any closer to its borders and will never undertake substantial action without a green light from Turkey.



The costs of war, for the economy and state budgets, will not be a positive factor. For both countries, though, a conflict would galvanize and unite the people beyond the current leadership.

Turkey would likely try to herald a deal between the parties in order to promote its role as a stabilizing power in its neighbourhood vis-a-vis Europe and the United States. Brokering a deal with Armenia might solve the national dispute between the two countries but it could also upset Azerbaijan, which shares the same people, culture and language with Turkey.

Russia would end up with a greater say in Caucasus affairs and after having established military posts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, it might do the same in the contested regions.

Oil and gas flows would be only partially affected as there are no major pipelines crossing through the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

For now, a total war between the two countries is to be excluded as Azerbaijan will try to make all it can to keep a constant and regular income for its development programs and investments. Price will

rise in the short term but the shock would be easily absorbed.

Wikistrat Bottom Lines Opportunities

Turkey and its Western allies can test Russian assertiveness against one of its former republics. Any player will be better able to monitor the situation in Iran via the information flux from the Caucasus.

Risks

The creation of a new state with limited authority and severe problems in terms of economic development and autonomy is possible.

Although the conflict may not escalate, the violence will create necessary tensions which can easily protract or even escalate it.

Dependencies

National political agendas and diverging priorities for elites and political parties in Armenia and Azerbaijan can cause internal and external conflict in the countries.

Turkey might abandon its "zero problems with neighborhood" policy in favor of a more proactive one.

*Giuseppe Belardetti,
May 21, 2012*

Armenian Heritage Park, Genocide Memorial open in downtown Boston

Armenia's FM Edward Nalbandian and Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan were on hand on May 22 at the official opening of the Armenian Heritage Park and the Armenian Genocide Memorial located at the heart of Boston, MFA informed Noyan Tapan.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, Congressman Ed Markey, and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino delivered remarks and underscored the local Armenians' contribution to the development of the United States. Also, they reflected on the need to remember, recognize and condemn the Armenian Genocide.

In his remarks, Edward Nalbandian thanked Massachusetts' state and Boston's municipal authorities and the Armenian community organizations for materializing the idea of the Armenian Heritage Park and the Armenian Genocide Memorial.

"The Armenian Heritage Park is the first downtown Boston monument which is founded in an area belonging to the State of Massachusetts. Also, this park is an



expression of the Armenian community's gratitude to the United States and to this city, which welcomed thousands of Armenians who were dispossessed of their lands as a consequence of the Armenian Genocide," Nalbandian said.

"Our combined efforts are beginning to yield results. The discussion [with reference to the Armenian Genocide], which was put under a lock in Turkey for nearly a century, is opened. The Armenian Genocide remembrances in Istanbul and in other Turkish cities are a proof of

this," Armenia's FM also stressed.

Prior to the Armenian Heritage Park's opening, however, Edward Nalbandian and Hranush Hakobyan met with Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. They examined matters with respect to strengthening friendly Armenian-American partnership, and the regional issues of the South Caucasus.

In Boston, Armenia's FM and Diaspora Minister also visited the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, the Armenian Cultural and Education Center, and the Armenian Museum.



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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **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. Baghramyán str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyán str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryán street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyán street**. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyeé, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryán 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. Tigrán 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.
- ♦ **2033. Tsakhkadzor**, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.
- ♦ **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, fire-place, 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
- ♦ **3063. Komitas A.** Avetisyan street, 3storied+cellar, total-500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, cabinet, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable
- ♦ **3059. Vahagni 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-negotiable.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestán 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
- ♦ **3105. Cascade, Antaráin**. 4 stories, land 1800 sq.m., building 1000 sq.m., newly built, need of cosmetic repair, windows, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, 4 bedrooms, ramparted, solar lamps, security system, cameras, external lighting. Price: 1. 300.000 USD
- ♦ **3054. Blur, Kharkovyan street**. 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m.,, new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 800 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrván. 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 Antaráyin**. 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 Antaráyin**. 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. Kievyán 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, total-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

- ♦ **1031. Byuzánd street**. 1 room, 34 sq.m, capitally repair, newly built, furniture, techniques, heating, AC, cabin. Price 600 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryán str.**, 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ♦ **1057. Argishti str.**, 14/9, 1 room, furnished, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, AC
- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryán street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **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. Teryán str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryán str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD

- ♦ **1969. Amiryán str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str.**, 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built., 150 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyán str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzánd/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. Buzánd/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. Byuzánd street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbaci street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryán street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amirian Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms,



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1218. Cascade, 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 block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestán**, 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
- ♦ **455. Norq**, 3 storied building-150sqm, total -600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **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. Aygestán**, 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**, Bagrevánd community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan street**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m.,, euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestán 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. Aygestán 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 Marshá 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. Hanrapetutyán street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzánd 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. Zarobyán street**, parallel to Baghramyán, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryán street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

The biggest surprise is that Azerbaijan remains a member of the Council of Europe: Financial Times

Kirsty Hughes, Chief Executive of Index on Censorship, London, has posted an article in "Financial Times", referring to the Eurovision 2012 due in Baku. The article specifically reads:

"Sir, For all of us who support and defend freedom of expression and a free press, it is encouraging indeed to see that the ability of governments with bad or dubious human rights records to whitewash their image and promote their international profile through hosting big sports, arts and music events is on the decline.

From the possible boycott of Euro 2012 in Ukraine by the European Union and others, to this week's Eurovision Song Contest in Azerbaijan, to Bahrain's recent hosting of Formula 1, the message is clear for governments and corporations alike: only host and sponsor such events if you have a good track record on respecting rights and basic freedoms. Or you may find the desired media spotlight exposes rather than glosses over your failings.

This week that spotlight will turn to Azerbaijan's capital Baku, which is hosting Eurovision, with its expected television audience of 125m. Yet, in Azerbaijan journalists, bloggers, a wide range of political activists, and musicians and



artists too, continue to be intimidated, censored, imprisoned and even violently attacked - often with little or no chance of redress. The biggest surprise, given Azerbaijan's record, is not perhaps that it has been allowed to host Eurovision but that it remains a member of the Council of Europe in the face of such attacks on free speech and its lamentable failings in establishing any genuine semblance of democracy.

The UK - heading into the London Olympics - can be more confident it can withstand a spotlight on its own democracy and rights record. But David Cameron must think twice before welcoming and greeting the heads of state of such rights-abusing countries as Azerbaijan, Bahrain and Ukraine, if the UK is not to fall into the trap of condoning or turning a blind eye to such oppressive behavior."

First post-election changes in opposition

From page 1

officials. Out of the mentioned six meetings, three were held with NATO officials.

In an interview with Radio Liberty's Armenian Service, the ex-prime minister made an important statement to the effect that one of the reasons why he quit the ANC was that:

- this organization takes a pro-Russian stance and that "only pro-Russian forces remain in the Armenian National Congress... I see the future of my country in Western standards... I don't see anything we can learn from Russia";

- the party led by him was against the prolongation of the agreement on Russian military base No 102 for another 49 years and the extension of the zone of its responsibility;

- the Republic Party was against the ANC's cooperation with the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), behind which the second President of Armenia Robert Kocharian is, according to the ex-prime minister;

- in another interview he said that he also opposed the dialogue of the ANC with the parties of the ruling coalition. As is known, the dialogue conducted in the summer of last year ended in failure.

In view of the aforesaid, we should note that:

- it is incorrect to say that "only pro-Russian forces" remain in the ANC because it is more correct to say that Armenia-centered forces guided by state and national interests (security being the most important of them) remain in the bloc. A pragmatic by his political mentality, the leader of the ANC Levon Ter-Petrosian in the 1990s chose the course of strategic partnership with Russia, based on the political and geopolitical realities as well as taking into account a number of bitter (for Armenia) historic lessons of the early 20th century;

- as far as we know, in 2010 the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan (Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch) wanted the ANC to make a special statement against the prolongation of that agreement, but the extra-parliamentary opposition did not do it.

Why?

Because Russian military base No. 102 in Armenia is an essential element of the country's security system and the military equilibrium in the region - it protects the Armenian-Turkish border, allowing the Armenian side to concentrate most of its forces and resources in the Azerbaijani direction. The amended agreement also envisages extension of the zone of responsibility of Russian base No. 102 and Moscow assumes responsibility for Armenia's security in case of threat of an attack not only by Turkey.

On the other hand, NATO does not give any guarantees of Armenia's security in case of an aggression against the country, first of all by Azerbaijan and Turkey. As regards the issue of conflict resolution in the post-Soviet territory, the policy of NATO appears uniform: it recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, as well as of Armenia. True, the latest statement of the Chicago NATO

Summit contains mention of the OSCE principles, too.

Thus, the position of the ANC leadership on the Russian military base is conditioned by the country's state and national interests, rather than by some opportunistic considerations.

Another thing is interesting: the Republic Party had full right to make a separate statement about the inadmissibility of the prolongation of the agreement on keeping the Russian military base in Armenia, but the party did not exercise that right in 2010;

- it is not quite clear what Aram Z. Sargsyan means by "Western standards". By saying "Western standards", one can mean the system of democratic government based on fair political competition, also a non-monopolized market economy, and observance of civil liberties and minority rights, including political ones.

The countries in the post-Soviet territory (except for the Baltic States), including neighboring Georgia, have approached some elements of these standards at best. The same West - through its structures (first of all, the Council of Europe and the OSCE) - has de facto recognized the rigged elections and referenda held in Armenia since 2003 and it has supported imitation democracy and the Robert Kocharian and Serzh Sargsyan regimes that the West needs. The Western human rights organizations have never recognized all those members and supporters of the ANC, including from the Republic Party, who went through the "slaughterhouse" of the ruling regime since February and March of 2008, as political prisoners or prisoners of conscience. The same Council of Europe considers as "closed" the page of the March 1, 2008 events that left ten people dead. Those guilty of those deaths have not yet been identified. But the same organizations consistently defend the rights of sexual and religious minorities in Armenia.

So the main goal of the West in Armenia and the whole region is to force out Russia, that is, to solve its geopolitical problems, rather than to promote democracy, competitive economy, etc. There is no doubt that Russia is not a democratic state and a personification of justice, but the reality is that today Russia is the major guarantor of Armenia's security and that the remittances sent by Armenian guest workers from Russia are the main donor blood of the Armenian economy;

- speaking about cooperation between the ANC and the PAP, we should note that these two political forces have cooperated de facto and de jure only within the framework of the Inter-Party Center for Public Oversight of the Elections.

Based on the results of the elections, all the three political forces cooperating within the Inter-Party Center's framework (PAP, ANC, and ARF-Dashnaksutyun Party) issued on May 11 a joint statement, according to which: total violations were committed during the parliamentary elections, the Central Election Commission (CEC) did not take mea-

sures against multiple voting by means of using records in passports, the voter lists and the official data on the turnout did not evoke much trust, while the election results do not reflect the true picture of popular support of the political forces.

It should be mentioned that so far the PAP has not withdrawn its signature affixed to the statement.

As for the issue of whether the ex-president R. Kocharian is behind the PAP or not, this point is at least controversial as in reality the former head of state is the major business partner of Gagik Tsarukian. We believe that this issue will finally clear up in the future.

At the same time the ANC, too, can reproach the leader of the Republic Party in connection with his brother Armen's cooperation with members of the Republican Party of Armenia. This is something resembling the plot of famous Armenian film "The Saroyan Brothers" when one of the two brothers takes sides with the communists, while the other supports the ARF-Dashnaksutyun Party;

- as far as the dialogue of the ANC with representatives of the ruling coalition is concerned, it should be noted that the ex-prime minister has evidently forgotten something as he was one of the advocates of that dialogue and publicly backed it. Besides, the dialogue with the authorities was detailed in the constituent declaration of the ANC signed on 1 August 2008, i.e. it was part of the political program of the extra-parliamentary opposition.

A question arises: If the Republic Party was opposed to the dialogue, why did it become part of that bloc?

Moreover, the resolutions of all international organizations without exception, including the resolutions of the Council of Europe, required conducting a dialogue between the authorities and the opposition. Then what about the "Western standards" supported by Aram Z. Sargsyan?

In short, one can say that two political forces, which are geopolitically oriented towards Brussels and Washington, have quitted the ANC. Most likely, in the autumn they will attempt to occupy a place in the niche of the radical opposition and will take to the streets, trying to win over part of the protest electorate. Time will show what will come out of it.

There is relatively little probability that any other political forces will quit the ANC because the majority of them - despite all the shortcomings of their membership of the bloc - perfectly understand that their withdrawal from the united opposition may result in their disappearance from the political map of Armenia.

As regards the ex-prime minister Aram Z. Sargsyan, apparently he can no longer be called the political successor of his elder brother. We should remind the reader that his late brother Vazgen Sargsyan, a former Defense Minister and head of the government, was undoubtedly a politician clearly oriented towards Moscow. Thus, it has become evident once again that close family bonds are not a guarantee that the political guidelines of the members of a family will necessarily coincide.



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Armen S. Baldryan, Unicom Founding CEO, Member of the IT Development Support Council under the Armenian PM:

"Armenia Should Not Miss its Unique Chance to Get a Place in International Technology Market"

By Gourgen
James Khazhakian
Chief correspondent

Holder of the RA Anania Shirakatsi Medal Armen Baldryan who is a long time member of the IT Development Support Council (ITDSC) under the Prime Minis-



This super-powerful server is a key element for the newest cloud computing technology

ter of the Republic of Armenia and Founding CEO of Unicom, one of the most dynamically developing IT companies in Armenia, was the only participant from Armenia in the Intel Platinum Summit recently held in London.

The Highlights asked him to tell about this important event of the global IT industry and also on the challenges currently the Armenian IT sector is facing.

-Mr Baldryan, please tell us what does "Intel Platinum Summit" mean?

- Well, Intel Corporation has various degrees of partnership, with Intel® Technology Platinum Provider being the highest of them. And the London Summit was an event that brought together Platinum Providers of Intel from all around the world.

This status has been introduced quite recently, - to replace Intel® Premier Provider status; a rather strict selection of companies was made throughout the world. (As it was stated above, although the Intel

Corporation, one of the world leaders in the IT industry, cooperates with several dozen companies in Armenia, "Unicom" CJSC which that has been cooperating with Intel since 1996, is the only Platinum Partner in Armenia - G.Kh.).

At that annual meeting, both short-term (one-year) and long-term (five-year) main directions of the IT industry development are discussed.

As well, the opportunities available to Intel partner companies as a result of the development of technology and markets are displayed.

What are the opportunities?

Today mere a PC does not satisfy the consumer anymore: in addition to a notebook, one needs to have a smartphone, an iPad, an iPod, and so on.

Now the time of the so-called ultrabooks has come. An ultrabook is somewhat much thinner than an ordinary notebook, and its batteries allow to operate nonstop for 9-10 hours.

This is Intel's latest technology; a lot of manufacturers have started to use it. And so with the growing number of devices, more data to be processed and used is needed. And here the need for the so-called cloud computing technology arose. In this case, it does not matter where your data is, where you are, and eventually, whose data it is. You need only one device providing Internet access, and this small device allows you to do the same things as you do when seated at a "big", i.e. regular desktop computer. This is the meaning of the above mentioned technology, owing to which the IT industry is expected to undergo rapid development in the next few years.

And, it is noteworthy that the development is expected to take place not only in developed countries, but rather in developing countries including Armenia.

There is a strong probability that developing countries - provided that they work out a correct strategy - may rapidly become technologically de-

veloped countries because various niches for developing one technology or another frequently open at the world market.

The state should choose some "target" directions in order to occupy niches in the international market. And that very cloud computing as well as mobile applications are examples of such target directions; in Armenia there are now professionals capable to successfully implement such plans...

...Probably, strong state support is needed to realize such a breakthrough....

-Yes, definitely. State assistance can be provided in the form of creating free zones, application of special tax/customs policy, ensuring access to financial resources, and, very importantly, state assistance can be provided by promoting the use of technology in the country. When technologies are used extensively in a country, domestic companies get a good opportunity for R&D as well as introduction of new technologies, and, through testing and improving them, are to manufacture products



"Secret" of the achievements (see upper right pic) of Armen Baldryan The Self-Made-Man and his Unicom is a simple one: work, only work, nothing but work (for "just" twenty years)

which would be competitive at the international market.

And here I'd like to cite the example of Portugal where the Government placed an order for a large number of classmate PCs at one of the local companies. In a matter of a year and a half they have had world competitive products being improved inside the country, after which successful export of those classmate PCs to Brazil, China, Europe and many other destinations has been organized.

This is a good example for Armenia to follow.

I want to repeat that the major thing is that the state jointly with the private sector should be able to identify those niches in the international market which opens due to fast development of technologies, where products of Armenian companies can be competitive. By the way, when speaking about classmate PCs designed for high school pupils, I might point out that during

the London Summit of Intel, the neighboring Georgia received a special Award for establishing an assembly workshop of classmate PCs and successfully running it. The workshop manufactures at least 70-80,000 computers annually upon request from the Georgian state...

...And what about Armenia's other neighbor, Azerbaijan?

-Well, its computer market is about nine times the size of the Armenian computer market and is now rapidly growing. (It has to be admitted that under the present circumstances we should take this fact seriously-G.Kh).

-Unicom, the Company you established and have been leading since that time, was an organizer and an active participant of the projects for supplying Armenian schools with computers as well as of Computer for All Program. Would you please to tell The Highlights readers about the current stage of the mentioned programs?

-Last year we implemented the so-called pilot stage of the Program in "Anania Shirakatsi" and "Mkhitar Sebastatsi" Educational Complexes, during which the students displayed great interest in the subjects taught by using new technologies. Classroom on the Wheels project was organized: a bus equipped with computer equipment and carrying students of "Mkhitar Sebastatsi" EduComplex went to schools in Armenian Marzes (provinces) and Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh). The children introduced their coevals to modern educational technologies while using computers, which certainly aroused interest.

Today we, the IT community, do our best to assist schools with popularization of modern technology.

As regards Computer for All Program, I should remind you that the Program has considerably revived many people's interest in computers and technology in general. The main thing is that prior to that, the mechanisms for making PCs accessible to the population did not exist in Armenia, and there is no doubt that the pilot stage of the Program implemented last year has greatly encouraged the use of computers among the population.

There are now many similar programs, including the programs being implemented by telecommunications operators such as VivaCell-MTS, Beeline, and others.

Preparatory work for the main phase of Computer for All Program is being carried out at the moment. Besides Unicom, various Armenian companies and seven or eight banks will be involved in the Program. In particular, new approaches are being developed in order to decide what bonuses (in addition to PCs) shall be given to Armenian consumers.

On the one hand, these mechanisms used throughout the world are quite simple, but on the other hand they are complex in terms of their



application in Armenia. I mean some peculiarities of the national mentality of the Armenians so we will "localize" these mechanisms, taking these peculiarities into account.

-What are the challenges Armenia's IT sector is facing now?

-In a broader sense, these challenges are related to raising productivity of the whole economy. And it is possible to do so only by using advanced technology, first of all information technology.

The main problem here is to rapidly find the precise mechanisms.

It is laudable of Armenian state bodies to start using quite widely information technology, that is to say, some elements of E-government are currently available - a circumstance that considerably accelerates all the functions, shortens the time taken to perform the functions, also reduces corruption risks and public expenditures, after all.

I believe that although Armenia still faces the problem of obtaining additional financial resources, nevertheless it is one of the Government priorities to raise the level of using information technology in state agencies.



Your correspondent has always been asking Mr Baldryan uneasy questions...

-And the last, but not the least: what news could you tell us on Unicom?

-Well, today we can offer our customers quite complex, comprehensive solutions related to the installation of IT infrastructure such as global networks, data centers, and information security systems; the latter issue is of great importance to our country today.

Notably, Unicom offers information security courses in line with international standards. Among those who take these courses are also employees of various Armenian state agencies.

All this requires hiring new employees, and new well-qualified specialists will join the Company's team soon.

Photos by Emin Aristakesyan, Jr.



Any PC user knows what is located in the address Charents Str. # 37

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The Endless creator

the Painters' Union of the Soviet Union.

-What does inspire you to create?

- A creative person always creates. Everything can inspire me and give new wings for creating. Creating is a phenomenon that emanates from a spirit. The fact, that a person creates, is a favour given from God, and an artist must justify it and satisfy God. You must strive, struggle and achieve.

Nothing happens for free. In kindergarten Vardan Ayvazyan's creations were unique, he didn't sleep at quiet times and was painting in watercolours to participate in art exhibitions. And who would ever have thought that after a few decades he would come back to the same kindergarten, but as a painter - teacher, and would

If a person has creative ideas and spirit, fitted from God, he looks with another eye upon everything. A potter - painter Vardan Ayvazyan is a creator of this kind, for whom the creating, searching and finding new forms of expression is a necessity of his soul. So, graduating from the department of

influence also on Vardan Ayvazyan's creative development. The clear pattern of thought of children went a long way on his literary art, as when he took his first steps in this sphere, he wrote tales, which is the best result of communication with the children.

He has stood by his principles and art even when his eyes betrayed him. So he started to cre-

Iron", "The Sparrow").

- How does pottery, painting help you to express your ideas by writing?

- When I write, I feel color and volume just as I felt it in pottery. For me in pottery the most important thing was that there were both color and volume in it. My last stories are strongly connected with my pottery art. My pottery works are



tales haven't been published, but some of them were published in newspapers. "I'm searching for a person - creative, film director, who will be in a dialogue with me and will hold the same views as me, who aspires to pass the road, which I have still to go. The printing of my tales and stories in the newspaper isn't an end in itself: I have a road to go on".

Here are the contacts of Vardan Ayvazyan:

Address: Yerevan,
Atoyan str. pass., 10/4b.,
apartment 21
tel.: (+37410) 45-11-42
post: index 0075

Alaverdyan Ann
Architect



pottery of the Yerevan State University of Theatre and Art, he opened his art studio, created the environment, where he isolated himself and created. Lots of ceramic examples were created in his studio. At once he was a member of

teach children painting and pottery.

His delicate treatment of each child had its positive influence on their lives. He gave a lot to his pupils, but also he took from them. This honest communication with children couldn't have its positive

ate and express in another way - by writing tales and children's stories. He went on in his own short developing way in literature and could find the form of expression, which is his. His principle is laconism.

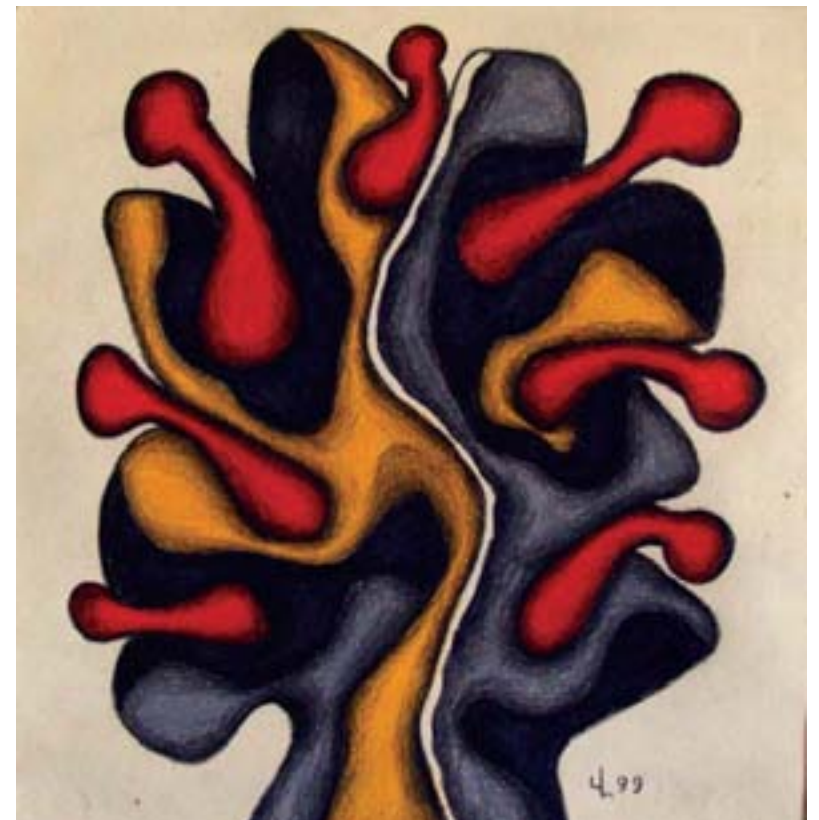
-What way did you go in the literary art?

- At first I have done recordings of tales. Then I started to write. I would never be fond of literature if I look at it as a business. Nothing happens at once. I exhausted the themes that were in my soul, afterwards I started to feel and express everything more and more deeply.

In his stories there are presented lots of universal problems ("The Fly", "The Island", "The Chair"). There are a lot of symbols in the stories - significant and very often unintelligible ("The Pit", "The

full with different symbols, which has a big influence on my stories. When I choose a theme, I apprehend it with its whole profundity. There are stories that before writing them I do some researches concerned to the theme, in which my wife and daughter help me. One step stipulates my next step.

Vardan Ayvazyan's stories and



Economic cooperation can help resolve Armenia-Turkey political problems - BSEC head



Economic cooperation can help resolve political problems between Armenia and Turkey, said Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Leonidas Chrisantopulos, speaking to the press in Yerevan on the occasion of the 39th plenary session of the BSEC started on May 22 in the Armenian capital.

He reminded that the BSEC has concluded the negotiations on granting transit permits for Armenian container trucks.

"They allow Armenian trucks to go through Turkey. This actually works, and 4-5 trucks have already gone through. This is an example of economic cooperation helping to resolve political issues," he said.

To remind, the permits are issued under a yearly quota of 200, available for TIR-compliant trucks. He stressed that the agenda of the BSEC is purely economic, but on the sidelines of multilateral meetings, individual meetings of delegates bear no limitations.

"They can conduct negotiations and discuss whatever they want," he said, adding that the BSEC is a regional forum which can be used by countries not having direct diplomatic relations, such as Turkey and Armenia or Russia and Georgia.

"They can conduct negotiations and discuss whatever they want," he said, adding that the BSEC is a regional forum which can be used by countries not having direct diplomatic relations, such as Turkey and Armenia or Russia and Georgia.

EU Advisory Group supports Armenian Government's efforts on new Food Safety Strategy



The EU Advisory Group to Armenia, in close collaboration with the Armenian Ministry of Agriculture and the State Service for Food Safety, conducted today a key awareness seminar on the Food Safety Strategy and related Action Plan that were adopted by the

Government of Armenia on 17 November 2011.

The new Food Safety Strategy and its Action Plan seek to bring Armenia's food system in line with relevant EU legislative and institutional requirements. The aim of the Strategy is to minimize the administrative burden on Armenia's

farming community and agro-business operators by updating regulations and scrapping obsolete standards.

The seminar afforded the participants an opportunity to explain the thinking behind recent legislative amendments in Sanitary and Phytosanitary fields and their implications for food safety. In order to discuss actions and measures on Food Safety, participants were split into three analytical groups: animal health and welfare, approximation of Armenian legislation to EU legislation and Food Safety regulation and control.

Opening remarks were made by Armenian Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan and Ambassador Traian Hristea, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia. The Seminar attracted a number of Government officials, representatives of international organizations, food industry representatives and key stakeholders with an interest in the safety and quality of food production and supply.

Armenia's economic activity in January-April grew by 7.2%



The economic activity of Armenia in January-April 2012 grew by 7,2% against the same period of last year.

In April the economic activity index grew by 7,5% against the same period of last year, the National Statistical Service of Armenia informed Mediamax.

The volume of industrial output in January-April 2012 totaled AMD

317bln 424,9mln, having increased by 15,3% as compared to the same period of 2011.

The trade turnover in January-April 2012 grew by 0,9% (AMD 534bln 840,2mln), the volume of services grew by 10,1% (AMD 284bln 828,1mln).

The volume of total output grew by 1,1% against the same period of 2011 (AMD 103bln 903,3mln). The

sphere of construction recorded 5,2% decrease (AMD 61bln 364,2mln).

Prices for consumer and industrial production grew by 3% and 6,2% correspondingly, as compared to the same period of 2011.

The average nominal salary in January-April 2012 grew by 5,3% against the same period of 2011, making AMD 115 193 (\$295.8).

Armenia's foreign trade turnover during the same period made \$1bln 751,4mln or AMD 681,6bln, having increased by 10,8% as compared to the same period of 2011.

The export volume in January-April 2012 grew by 17,8%, making AMD 171bln or \$439,5mln. The import volume during the accounting period grew by 8,7%, making AMD 510,6bln or \$1bln 311,9mln.

Armenia's foreign trade deficit in January-April 2012 totaled AMD 339,6bln or \$872,4mln.

Public purchase system is obstacle to development of IT sector

The Armenian government has prioritized the development of information technology sector in recent years. The number of state tenders held in the IT sector has considerably increased, their prices make up 15% of the total amount of prices of public purchases. It is, however, obvious that in Armenia (like in any other country), real growth of the IT industry is conditioned by the level of transparency of the public purchase sector that involves risks, as well as by the competitive conditions set by the state.

In order to identify the problems hindering the development of the Armenian business environment and finding solutions to these problems, the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) aims to conduct studies and monitoring of the public purchase sector.

"In launching the program of monitoring and reforms in the process of state tenders and public purchases in the IT sector, we first of all identified those who can act as our partners and help us to involve as many social strata as possible, also those who can consolidate society to ensure a proper process of public purchases. Naturally, we were aware that the press and the bloggers are our major partners, and we involved them so that they could help us to reveal the problems and to unite," Executive Director of UITE Karen Vardanian said during a seminar-discussion with journalists, held on May 18 when the program was launched. The program is implemented by UITE, with the financial assistance of Counterpart International Armenia and the USAID.

In his words, although in Armenia the journalistic and blogger circles are quite developed, some information about state tenders is needed in order to successfully implement the program. Karen Vardanian said that for that reason they intend to familiarize those present with the problems existing in the state tender-related process during the May 18 seminar and subsequent events. For the same reason, an expert team has been set up, and the team will keep in touch with representatives of the mass media. The team members will inform a group of journalists about the problems identified as a result of monitoring of the state tender process and also send their conclusions to the group, which will observe the process from the

point of view of the public. "I suppose that we will form a very important, functioning chain of civil society, a chain in which all interested parties are involved, and in this way we will be able to exert influence on the quality and transparency of tenders," K. Vardanian noted.

The representatives of UITE informed the journalists about several problems they had revealed in the process of state tenders and public purchases in the IT sector, noting that in their opinion, these problems considerably hinder the development of the business environment. In particular, they spoke about such problems as the impossibility of obtaining information about announced tenders from one source, outdated products and services offered at tenders, the requirement to submit unnecessary documents for tenders, price conditions of products and services purchased through tenders, delays during tenders and their cancellation, and not giving priority to local economic entities when announcing a tender.

It was stated that the lack of respective specialists in the council examining public purchases-related appeals is no less controversial.

The representatives of the IT sector said that due to the abovementioned problems, a fair competitive field has not been established and many domestic organizations do not or cannot participate in the tenders announced. As a result, the same organizations have become constant suppliers of some purchases and monopolization has increased. Under such conditions, small and medium-sized enterprises are forced out of the market, while specialists leave the country.

"We raise the following problem: the public purchase system is the obstacle to the development of the information technology sector and reforms should be carried out here," Director of Nork Information and Analytical Center Hayk Chobanian stated. In the opinion of IT sector representatives, a system approach is needed: a ministry of information technology should be established. "It is necessary to have a state body where we can go and whose head would sit with us around a table and respond to all the questions," Hayk Chobanian said, adding that with respect to the issue of reforms, the minister would also act as "a leader on behalf of the state".

Central Bank of Armenia hampers another raise of U.S. dollar



U.S. dollar's exchange rate continued to go up at Nasdaq OMX Armenia stock exchange on Friday. On average, sales were on AMD

407.2 per \$1. However, the dollar's rate went down due to an intervention by the Central Bank of Armenia and sales totaled \$12.88 million.

The rate has not significantly changed in the cash market. Buys and sells are above the usual level, which testifies to the uncertainty of the market.

As of Friday, exchange offices buy dollar at the rate of AMD 404 - AMD 405 and sell at AMD 409 - AMD 410.

John Heffern awarded "Gratitude" medal

On the decision of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Scientific Council, Clara Barton Golden Medal under the "Gratitude" nomination has been issued.

Director of the Armenian Genocide-Institute Hayk Demoyan said on May 23 that individuals and organizations are awarded with the medal for their humanitarian support and for strengthening Armenian-American friendship, Armenpress reports.

MrDemoyan handed the first "Gratitude" medal to US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern for his outstanding contribution to strengthening of Armenian-American relations. US



Secretary of State Hilary Clinton received the second medal. The U.S. Embassy in Armenia, Clara Barton House-Museum representative Kevin Patti, Foreign Affairs Ministry of Armenia, Armenian expert of Clara Barton's life and activity Arman Kirakosyan were awarded as well.

U.S. State Department's report on human rights in Armenia

The most significant human rights problems in Armenia were limitations on citizens' right to change their government, freedom of speech and press, and the independence of the judiciary, State Department said in its annual report.

On May 24 the U.S. Department of State published the 2011 Annual Human Rights Reports. Here is a summary of the report on Armenia:

"The government released the remaining six opposition members detained in connection with the 2008 clashes between security forces and protesters disputing the outcome of the 2008 presidential election. Since April 28 the government began permitting demonstrations and opposition rallies in previously restricted areas of the capital city, and all were held without incident, although demonstrators from outside of Yerevan at times were impeded in their attempts to travel to rallies.

The media, in particular television, continued to lack diversity of political opinion and objective reporting. The government decriminalized libel and defamation but established high new civil fines that encouraged journalists and media outlets to practice self-censorship. The process used to switch from analog to digital television reduced media pluralism. Courts remained subject to political pressure from the executive branch, and judges operated in a judicial culture that expected courts to find the accused guilty in almost every case.

During the year suspicious deaths occurred in the military under noncombat conditions, while hazing and other mistreatment of conscripts by officers and fellow soldiers, and a

lack of accountability for such actions, continued. Allegations of torture continued. Many prisons were overcrowded, unsanitary, and lacking in medical services for inmates. Police reportedly beat citizens during arrest and interrogation. Authorities continued to arrest and detain criminal suspects without reasonable suspicion and to detain individuals arbitrarily due to their opposition political affiliations or political activities.

Authorities and laws restricted religious freedom for certain groups. Corruption remained a problem, with authorities taking limited measures to curb it. Domestic violence remained a problem but largely went unreported to authorities. Human trafficking was a problem, but authorities made efforts to combat it. Persons with disabilities experienced discrimination in almost all areas of life. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons were subjected to societal abuse and discrimination by military and prison authorities. There were reports of forced labor. Workers' rights were limited and existing labor laws weakly enforced.

Although the government took some steps to punish officials in the security forces and elsewhere who committed abuses, some members of the security forces continued to commit human rights abuses with impunity while under the direction of civilian leadership. A government-issued report on the deaths of eight civilians and two police officers killed in the 2008 postelection violence did not identify the individuals responsible for the deaths and largely justified the police response."



DAAD: The level of education in Armenia is very high

Here we are presenting the interview of Noyan Tapan with Head of DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Information Office Tina Laufer

How long has your organization been operating in Armenia? What is its mission?

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the largest funding organization in the world supporting the international exchange of students and scholars. The DAAD supports the internationalization of German universities, and awards around 74.000 scholarships per year to German and foreign students and researchers. It also promotes German studies and the German language abroad, assisting developing countries in establishing effective universities and advises decision makers on matters of cultural, educational and development policy.

The DAAD has been active in Armenia since 1990. Since then more than 1800 Armenians have received a DAAD scholarship. In 2004 a DAAD Information Centre was opened in Yerevan. It serves as a point of contact for all issues concerning study and research in Germany as well as cooperation between Germany and Armenia in the field of Higher Education. The Information Centre provides information to individuals and institutions interested in academic exchanges with Germany.

Which programs implemented by your organization in Armenia do you consider most important? Why?

The DAAD runs over 250 programmes, through which it funds more than 74,000 German and foreign scholars worldwide per annum. These programmes range from semesters abroad for undergraduates to doctoral programmes, from internships to visiting lectureships, and from information-gathering visits to assisting with the establishment of new universities abroad.

The most important programmes in Armenia are firstly our individual scholarship programmes ranging from scholarships for Master studies to Research stays in Germany. The scholarships target applicants with German or English language skills. The DAAD is the only scholarship organisation in Armenia which support applicants from all disciplines, not only the social sciences. Our scholarship holders range from Engineers to Medical students, to students of Oriental studies and Law just to name a few. We offer scholarships in all disciplines.

We also consider our support programmes for university cooperation highly important. Currently the DAAD supports three cooperations ranging from Visual Computing; an exchange programme in Computer Studies between the University of



Rostock and Yerevan State University, Agrarian Management, an exchange programme between the University of Weihenstephan-Triesdorf and Yerevan Agricultural University, and a German Studies program between the University of Halle and Yerevan State Linguistic University.

Do you implement any programs in cooperation with Armenian state bodies or NGOs?

The DAAD supports various cooperations between Universities in Germany and Armenia. For example the cooperation between:

Yerevan State University - University of Rostock (Visual



Computing)

Yerevan V. Brusov University - Martin-Luther-Universitat Halle-Wittenberg (German Studies)

Yerevan Agricultural University - Hochschule Weihenstephan - Triesdorf (Agricultural Management)

What programs do you plan to implement in the near future?

We are planning to introduce a scholarship program sponsored by the Armenian government to offer more highly qualified Armenian graduates to study a Master degree in Germany.

Does the work carried out by you attract interest of society? What about society's support?

To study and research abroad and especially in Germany is highly demanded by Armenian students and researchers because of the high level of education and the better job opportunities they have afterwards as well as the excellent research infrastructure in Germany. Therefore the work of the DAAD highly attracts interest of the soci-

ety. The number of applicants for the DAAD programs increases each year as well as the number of people who are going to Germany self financed. The DAAD offers advice and support to all interested in study and research in Germany with or without a scholarship.

The DAAD Alumni as well as sympathizers voluntarily support the DAAD on different events and fairs or by promoting the programs in their Universities.

Is your cooperation with Armenian authorities successful?

We cooperate very successfully with the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science, which supports us very much.

What kind of difficulties have you met during your operations in Armenia?

We face difficulties with male scholarship holders and their conflicting duty to attend military service. Some of them are not able to take up their scholarship because they cannot postpone the beginning of their service which in our eyes is a pity since these are the brightest Armenian students and young researchers which are denied to receive an advanced education abroad to serve their country as specialist in their respective areas.

What things do you consider positive in present-day Armenia? In your opinion, what should be changed in the country?

The level of education in Armenia is very high as well as the will of families and individuals to invest in education. Many Armenian students and researchers are very mobile and are actively seeking to expand their training abroad.

Unfortunately, there is still a lack of support for the mobility of Armenian students, the recognition of study results of a semester abroad is still very difficult as is the official recognition of foreign degrees. The labor market however highly regards foreign degrees. Furthermore Armenia lacks highly qualified university professors and lecturers. Out of 7136 people teaching at Armenian universities, 2210 have the qualification "docent" and only 726 are professors, these numbers urgently need to be improved.

Armenian Genocide Museum commemorated the memory of American humanitarian Clara Barton

Remembrance and commemoration events dedicated to the American Red Cross founder and great humanist Clara Barton kicked off in Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute on May 23. The report in English and Armenian on "Red Cross assistance mission in the Small Asia" by Clara Barton was presented during the event, Armenpress reports.

Armenian Genocide Museum

Institute Director Hayk Demoyan called the done work evidence of the humanity, the first serious page in the American humanitarian history. In the words of the interlocutor Armenian-American historical ties are unique, anchored on solid, reliable basis.

The U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern was touched by the meeting. He emphasized the importance of friendly relations

established between the two nations and reportedly the role of the great humanist in the deepening of those ties.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ashot Hovakimyan noted that high-level relations are established between Armenia and the USA, comprising new more fields. In the words of the interlocutor those relations stem from the human contacts.



Azerbaijan: Eurovision is deaf to human rights abuses



The refusal of the organization behind Eurovision to condemn human rights abuses in Azerbaijan provides a carte blanche to the government's crackdown, Amnesty International said after another two peaceful protests were violently dispersed, reports Amnesty International. Azerbaijan is hosting the song contest - the flagship event of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) - from 22-26 May.

"Despite publicly committing to support free expression in Azerbaijan, the EBU has maintained a deathly silence on recent repeated violations of that right," said Max Tucker, Amnesty International's Azerbaijan campaigner, who is currently in the country's capital Baku.

"The lack of action by the EBU and the international community is

giving the authorities carte blanche to continue violently crushing dissent without consequence."

On May 21, more than 200 demonstrators gathered in two locations in central Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, calling for an end to corruption and respect for human rights.

According to protest organizers, police forced participants onto buses and drove them out of town, beating several and detaining 38.

One of the organizers, Abulfaz Gurbanly, told Amnesty International that he was punched, kicked and hit with a truncheon while being held at a police station. He said that several other protesters were also beaten in custody.

The peaceful protests were dispersed in full view of a number of international journalists, casting doubt on the EBU's assertions that

bringing international media attention to Baku would improve the human rights situation.

"The increased media coverage will be meaningless if it does not persuade Azerbaijan's diplomatic and business partners to act in defence of freedom of expression," Tucker said. "Azerbaijan's authorities seem to think they can ride out negative coverage unscathed, leading to a renewed crackdown on dissent."

Amnesty International has noticed a fresh wave of human rights violations in Azerbaijan. A recent briefing documented numerous cases where journalists and human rights defenders have been attacked, blackmailed and imprisoned. The EBU has not publicly commented on any of these cases.

The organization is also concerned that local activists who have sought to use Eurovision to highlight rights abuses will be targeted after the event.

State-owned newspapers have already started a smear campaign against leaders of the Sing for Democracy campaign, labelling them as agents of neighbouring Armenia, with whom Azerbaijan has had a territorial dispute for the last 20 years.

"We hope the international journalists we have spoken to in recent weeks will not forget us after Eurovision," said Rasul Jafarov, one of the Sing for Democracy campaign organizers. "That could be very dangerous for us."

How Should the Diaspora React To New Turkish Overtures?



By Harut Sassounian
Publisher, The California Courier

I have been informed by reliable sources that Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu is continuing his efforts to initiate a personal 'dialog' with the Diaspora on Armenian-Turkish issues. Earlier this month, Davutoglu met with Armenian-Americans, as follow up to the meetings he held in Washington last March.

During their conversation in May, the Armenian interlocutors frankly advised the Turkish Foreign Minister that Ankara must address Armenian demands for genocide recognition and restitution before any 'reconciliation' could be achieved. The Turkish side reportedly indicated a willingness to discuss these thorny issues with Diasporan representatives.

Despite the seeming openness of Foreign Minister Davutoglu, Armenians have well-founded reasons to mistrust such overtures, given Turkey's decades-long denial of the Armenian Genocide and its antagonistic policies toward the Diaspora, Armenia and Artsakh. Armenians also suspect that Turkish officials may exploit meetings with the Diaspora to score propaganda points with world public opinion.

Nonetheless, one wonders why the very busy Turkish Foreign Minister has invested so much of his precious time and effort to hold a series of private meetings with Armenians in recent weeks.

One possible explanation is that Turkish leaders are seriously concerned about the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Ankara may have realized that unless it took proactive measures, it could not stem the tide of anti-Turkish publicity generated in 2015 by Armenian commemorative activities worldwide.

The second likely reason why the Turkish government may want to talk with Diaspora Armenians is its long-standing interest in joining the European Union. As the newly-elected French President Francois Hollande warned, unless Turkey recognizes the Armenian Genocide, France will reject its application for EU membership.

The third possible explanation for the Turkish overtures is that Prime Minister Rejep Erdogan has a freer hand in tackling Armenian-Turkish issues at a time when his ruling party controls the Parliament and many of his hard-line military adversaries are under arrest.

Regardless of why Turkey is reaching out to the Diaspora at this time, Armenians have to make their decisions based solely on their own national interest, as to whether this is an opportune moment to test Turkey's resolve to deal with the disastrous consequences of the Armenian Genocide..

However, before Diaspora's leaders react to Davutoglu's persistent efforts for 'dialog,' they should ask Turkish officials to clarify their true intentions by making some positive gestures, starting with the return of the Holy Cross Church on Akhtamar Island to the Armenian Patriarchate of Turkey. This historic church is currently designated as a museum belonging to the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Furthermore, the Turkish government has to do much more than renovating a couple of churches for touristic purposes and returning a handful of properties to the Armenian community in Istanbul. There are thousands of confiscated churches and community properties throughout Turkey that must be returned to their rightful Armenian owners.

An initial test of Turkish sincerity in pursuing 'reconciliation' with Armenians would be putting an immediate halt to genocide denial, eliminating Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, and ending all adversarial behavior toward Armenia and Artsakh.

In view of the fact that the Turkish government will not willingly and unconditionally meet Armenian demands, and that all outstanding issues would have to be resolved someday through direct negotiations, Diasporan organizational leaders should prepare for such an eventuality. In this regard, it is important to review the records of the 1977 meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, between Turkish Foreign Minister Sabri Caglayangil and representatives of the three Armenian political parties.

Here are some preliminary thoughts to consider before any further meetings or discussions are held between Turkish leaders and Diaspora representatives:

1. In the absence of an elected Diasporan representative body, major Armenian organizations, with assistance from experts in diplomacy and the art of negotiation, should start drafting a common strategy and a list of demands from Turkey. No Armenian organization or individual should be involved in separate negotiations with Turkey, to deny Ankara the opportunity to create disunity in the Diaspora.

2. It is imperative that Diasporan representatives coordinate their negotiating positions with leaders in Armenia and Artsakh to assure a common stand vis-?-vis Turkey.

In normal circumstances, Turkish diplomats would have dealt with Armenian issues in direct negotiations with their counterparts in Armenia. However, given Azerbaijan's obstruction of the Armenia-Turkey Protocols, pending the resolution of the Karabagh (Artsakh) conflict, Turkish leaders are left with no choice but to reach out to the Diaspora and address its legitimate demands.

VivaCell-MTS Continues its Universities Support Program both in Yerevan and Remote Marzes, Culture and Facebook Society

By Andy Barsamian, Jr

On May 22 VivaCell-MTS announced its support to a leading technical school of the country, the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA).

VivaCell-MTS realizes the importance of availability of powerful research systems and Internet for preparation of market competitive specialists. Armenia's leading telecommunications operator has provided the university with a number of valuable equipment necessary for the organization of the educational processes in due course, including server room cases, server, switches, optical cable network converters, as well as 3G routers within "Home-Zone Turbo" package. The latter will give students with an opportunity to use free Wi-Fi Internet on the first and the second floors of the university building # 2. A separate Wi-Fi corner will also be available in the University library.

VivaCell-MTS reasserts its commitment to support the sphere of education and continues its 4 year program with new projects. Armenia's leading telecommunications operator pays particular importance to the readiness to face the challenges of the modern world.

"The special attitude to knowledge is very typical of the Armenian way of thinking. The lab equipped with innovative solutions and the opportunity to advantage of the modern means of technology will let students sooner reveal their intellectual potential. This is crucial especially in terms of the necessity to better position our country's competitive advantage in technical sciences. It's a great pleasure to see that young people are eager to catch up with innovations and are ready for discoveries. I believe, the opportunities created at the university will give momentum to the students' desire to study in a modern format," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The University's academic scope embraces all the major branches of engineering and technologies, which include more than 60 bachelor's and 35 master's degrees in engineering, industrial economics and natural sciences.

The University started the move to two-step and further to three-step system of education years ago. In line with the Bologna procedures the university has successfully implemented the European ECTS credit system.

The university is a member of the

European Association of Universities, Mediterranean Network of Engineering Schools, CIS Association of Technical Universities, and partakes in a number of educational and research projects. The university also has international students.

To provide an unsurpassable competitiveness for Armenia on international markets, VivaCell-MTS reassures of its commitment to the preparation of high quality specialists.

But Armenia's leading telecommunications operator attaches importance also to support educational institutions in Armenia's Marzes (provinces). So on May 24 they informed that within the frames of the support to the education in Armenia program launched four years ago, the Company has extended hand of

ments of the information age and to provide more productivity of education.

To increase the productivity of instruction, Armenia's leading telecommunications operator has provided the Goris State University with 2 interactive blackboards with projectors to guarantee communication with the students, 2 laser printers, 3G routers working within "Home-Zone Turbo" package, and a lab equipped with 10 computers connected to the world wide web; additionally, a Wi-Fi corner has been created which will be available for all university patrons. The Wi-Fi connection provided by VivaCell-MTS will give an opportunity to use free of charge internet on the territory of the university.

"We believe encouraging the young people's demand to develop

the educational fund.

And the Armenian culture and art have always been in the focus of the Company's corporate citizen's responsibility programs...

So on May 23 VivaCell-MTS informed that for the second year, the company undertook the general sponsorship of the "New Names" Young Performers International Festival. The program of the Festival was presented during a news conference held at the RA Ministry of Culture.

The 2nd "New Names" Young Performers International Festival will be held on May 29-June 1. It is organized by the "Armenian New Names" program (headed by the president of the Association of Cultural Workers, Honored Worker of Culture Silva Mekinyan). RA Ministry of Culture supports the festival and VivaCell-MTS is the General Sponsor.

This year over forty talented young musicians from different countries (Armenia, Georgia, France, Russia, Malta, Uzbekistan, Korea) up to 18 years are invited to participate in the festival.

And the last, but not the least: **VivaCell-MTS' new Facebook SMS service allows communicating on Facebook via SMS**

On May 22 the Company announced officially that now with "Facebook SMS" service one can communicate on Facebook without using Internet traffic. Activating it one will get messages, wall posts, comments, friend requests and many other notifications via SMS, and will be able to respond to them by sending reply messages. Besides, one can update his/her status and perform a number of other actions by sending the corresponding request to 32665 number.

To use this opportunity the user has to access the "Account Settings" section from his/her Facebook page, choose the "Mobile" link and activate text messages (if the account information does not contain a phone number, first a number will be needed to add). One can also activate the service by sending an SMS with fb or f to 32665 short number.

The notifications will be sent to the user from numbers starting with 32665 and to respond to each s/he will need to reply to that specific message.

The notifications received via "Facebook SMS" service are free of charge, and the price for each response message or request sent to 32665 short number is AMD 4 (VAT included).



support to the only state university operating in Syunik region of Armenia.

Syunik, known in the history of the medieval Armenia for the University of Tatev (Monastery), still has a mission in the sphere of education. The University founded in Goris 45 years ago, is strategically important in that it is the only state university in the south of the Republic preparing high quality specialists for both Syunik and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic).

Due to the farther distance from research centers and the capital the resistance to the challenges of the times requires more efforts. Now, with VivaCell-MTS support, the students and the lecturers of the University will have an opportunity to easily meet the require-

their potential and the right for education is just. The distance from the capital should not be a great obstacle for those who want to take the advantage of modern solutions. Technical means play a dramatic role in providing productivity of education. Our being here proves our commitment to achieve these set goals," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

Armenia's leading telecommunications operator's cooperation with the Goris State University includes also the organization of the professional internships for students to provide them with a chance of combining theory with practice. The Company has also supported students from socially vulnerable families with covering their tuition fees through

APARTMENT FOR RENT

A comfortable, western style apartment in the center of the city. The second floor of the nice private house with a separate entrance from the street. The apartment has a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and two balconies. It has a heating system, permanent cold and hot water, TV satellite, air conditioners and other facilities. A nice view to Mount Ararat. The house has a nice garden.

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for a short term 60-80 USD daily.

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DID YOU KNOW?



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

Celine Dion may join Ara Gevorgyan's project "Love each other"

Musician Ara Gevorgyan's new international project "Love Each Other" is in the stage of recording. Ara Gevorgyan mentioned during the press conference on May 23 that it would probably be ready from two months.

"The world won't become peace from my word but we must speak about peace. I would like very much Charles Aznavour to join the project and lead it" mentioned Gevorgyan. In his words the project "Love Each Other" will unite famous singers from different sides of the world who will sing parts of the same name song in their countries then will come to Armenia and sing the end of the song here. Now, negotiations are held with Celine Dion. The song has already been recorded by Swedish, German, Indian and Arab singers.

"My efforts of looking for best singers if the world will be more successful if ambassadors in different countries join me. I am going to apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia" said the musician. The end of the song will be sounded by famous Armenian singers Shushan Petrosyan, Leyla Saribakyan, Arsen Grigoryan and others. Gevorgyan informed journalists that the participation of Filip Kirkorov in the project is possible only in case he sings "Adana" song raising the issue of international recognition of Armenian genocide. "The negoti-



ations with Kirkorov are also in the process" he highlighted.

Serj Tankyan has been suggested to perform the rock version of the song. The author of the music is Ara Gevorgyan and lyrics - American singer Daniel Decker the singer of the song "Adana".

Charles Aznavour celebrates his 88th birthday



World-renowned French Armenian singer Charles Aznavour celebrated his 88th birthday on May 22.

Charles Aznavour (born Shahnour Vaghenag Aznavourian; Armenian: May 22, 1924) is an Armenian- French singer, song-

writer, actor, public activist and diplomat. Besides being one of France's most popular and enduring singers, he is also one of the best-known singers in the world. Charles Aznavour (pronounced in French as Charles Aznavoor) is known for his unique tenor voice: clear and ringing in its upper reaches, with gravelly and profound low notes. He has appeared in more than sixty movies, composed about a thousand songs (including 150 at least in English, 100 in Italian, 70 in Spanish, and 50 in German), and sold well over 100 million records.

In 1998, Charles Aznavour was named Entertainer of the Century by CNN and users of Time Online from around the globe. He was recognized as the century's outstanding performer, with nearly 18% of the total vote, edging out Elvis Presley and Bob Dylan. He has sung for presidents, popes, and royalty, as well as at humanitarian events, and he is the founder of the charitable organization Aznavour for Armenia along with his long-time friend impresario Levon Sayan.

In 2009 he was appointed Ambassador of Armenia to Switzerland, as well as Armenia's permanent delegate to the United Nations at Geneva. He started his new Aznavour en TouteIntimite tour in 2011.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Yeghishe Charents

Translated by Berge Turabian

PARTING WORDS

I have put out so many fires in my eyes
And so many stars have I put out in my desperate soul.
Don't curse my life as you leave - it's just a memory
now,
My life will pass and fade away, but my song will live
on.
My life will pass and fade away like a fire in a swamp,
Inconsolable and dull, without hope, without aim.
In my songs no one recognizes me, you know,
As if it were another singing the blue longing of my
soul.
Forever mute and estranged, I have wandered in
silence.
No one, no one knows who I am, what my life is about.
All they know is in my life I have written a few songs,
As I know that you exist, as I know that you are loved.
I have sung to your soul, to your luminous smile,
To the sacred sadness of your eyes and your face.
My life abandoned in infinity, I have sung the profound
love
And the longing of my arms that could never reach
you.
Oh, sister, my foggy evening is coming closer,
How can I stop my longing soul from weeping?
How, how can I accept the drained cup of my fate,
So that my hands do not shake, so that my days forgive
me?
And what if suddenly I start doubting myself,
And my sacred longing for you begins to feel like a lie?
Whatever happens, sister, don't curse, when we part,
The pitiable longing of my arms that could never reach
you.

1917



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

You are looking for something novel to do this week and the opportunities come along toward the end of this period. Aspects favor short distance travel, enjoying neighbors and siblings, or anything of an educational nature. Freedom is very important to you now.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Venus, your ruling planet, is backtracking in the territory of finances and other personal resources, so these topics will have special priority through June. It is in your better interest to conserve assets (money, time, health, and energy) during this period. Think carefully about the future before you spend your current holdings.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Mercury enters your sign on the 24th. Normally it would turn you into a Chatty Cathy. But this time the caveat issue is that you are probably much more sensitive to what others think this week. You may perceive anything as a critique. Don't wallow. This is temporary.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

You have a preference to retreat into your shell at this time. Some things about your experiences are a repetition of the past and your reactions may be from a less mature era. Step aside if this is past history that you don't want to repeat. You may be encountering people you have not seen for a very

long time.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Communications are high on your to-do list this week. You may be managing the mailing or speaking for a community to which you belong. Fortunately the news is probably good. It is also possible that you are researching plans for upcoming travel.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your attention turns toward your life direction at this time. For many this is reflected by the career path. You may be researching needed information or talking with others about where you are headed. It is possible that you are taking on work that does not really "belong" to you.

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

People who live at a distance are likely to seek contact with you. If anyone who reappears is known to you to be of less than favorable character, use extreme wariness about mixing again. On the brighter side, you may be traveling or returning to places where you have previously been.

Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21) :

You may be without wheels for a couple of days. Develop a plan B to travel where you need to go. Resources belonging to other people may not be as available as normal. Perhaps they cannot share with you at this time. Hold your tongue, lest you lash out and zap someone.

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

Your heart and mind are in conflict over an issue in your close relationship(s). You want to maintain peace and would like to accommodate your partner's needs. However, you know in your heart that if you give what is requested, you may become resentful. Discuss your concerns and look for a win-win solution.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

The pressure of pending change is making itself known in your work arena. The fulcrum is a situation that may no longer be tolerable. It is true that change is absolutely necessary, but perhaps a shift to a totally fresh solution would take the emotional sting from the situation.

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

You may be under pressure to follow through and display work that you have been doing since last fall. There is also a sense in which you have become bored with the project. Return mentally to the place you started in order to re-ignite your passion. This is not a time to quit.

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

This is not the time to display your work or your goals. You may not be feeling your best and that makes it hard to present things in the finest possible light. You need some extra rest during this period. Beware the temptation to step into a grand savior role now. People often do not appreciate the effort and you may resent it.

HUMOR

Telling Some Stories

Delivering a speech at a banquet on the night of his arrival in a large city, a visiting minister told several anecdotes he expected to repeat at meetings the next day.

Because he wanted to use the jokes again, he requested the reporters to omit them from any accounts they might turn in to their newspapers.

A cub reporter, in commenting on the speech, ended his piece with the following: "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

Quote of the week



**You are valuable just because
you exist. Not because of what
you do, or what you have done,
but simply because you are.**
Max Lucado

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure



CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB**May 31, at 9:30 p.m.**

Art Voices Band

June 04, at 9 p.m.

Competition "Best Photo in Mezzo"

STOP MUSIC CLUB**May 31, June 04, 07, at 9 p.m.**

Author's songs evening

June 09, at 9 p.m.

Hayard Rock

June 11, at 9 p.m.

An Gordonach

KAMI CLUB**May 31, at 9 p.m.**

Make Orphan Children Smile

CLUB 12**May 31, at 9:30 p.m.**

Greek Party

THE CLUB**June 04, 11 at 7 p.m.**

Tea Master invites to tasting chinese teas

June 05, 12 at 8 p.m.

Film Screening

ULIKHANYAN CLUB**May 31, June 7, 14 at 9 p.m.**

Rak & Roll

June 01, 08, 15 at 9 p.m.

Suren Arustamyan Blues Band

June 03, 10, 17 at 9 p.m.

Spanish Day

June 04, 11 at 9 p.m.

Club Day

June 05, 21:00

Rosas del Amor. Los Locos

METRO MUSIC PUB**May 31, at 6p.m., at 8 p.m.**

Crayfish Day

June 07, 14 at 8 p.m.

Crayfish Day

TORTUGA PUB**May 31 19:00**

Crabs (crayfish) day

YANKEE PUB**June 01, 8 at 8 p.m.**

Salsa

BARD CLUB**June 01, 8, 15 at 9 p.m.**

Bard Club

June 12- 30, at 6 p.m.

"Remote Sensing" A Group Exhibition of Contemporary Art from Italy

June 21, at 7 p.m.

Rusty Pumpkin 4 +, Rusty Teenagers, Rusty Pumpkin Annual Alternative Media Festival

GAFESJIAN MUSEUM PARK**June 08- 11**

Open-air reading festival

**REPUBLIC CLUB****May 31, at 7 p.m.**

Painters and Photographers...

BOURBON ST.**May 31, at 8 :30 p.m.**

Hayway Band (Live Music)

LOVER'S PARK**Jun 01- 03**

Phase 2 of the Comics Festival: Children's events "The Childhood of Art" together with the company "3 fish"

ARMENIAN CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL ART**June 03- 11, at 6 p.m.**

British Theater Forum

THEATRES

HAMAZGAYIN THEATRE**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

Sale. Tragicomedy

HENRIK MALYAN THEATRE**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

Marriage. Comedy

H. PARONYAN STATE THEATRE OF MUSICAL COMEDY**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

You Can't Get Rid of Me. Comedy

YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATRE**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

It Doesn't Matter With Whom

June 2 "A Man is Required"

Psycho drama

Director: Lusine Yernjakyan.

Cast:

Luiza Nersisyan,

Arshaluis Harutiunyan.

Classic conflict between a man and a woman...

YEREVAN STATE PANTOMIME THEATRE**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

Flowers of Evil. Mimodrama in 1 act

June 6 -13

Aram Khachaturian

International Competition.

Violin

June 15, at 7 p.m.

State Dance Ensemble of Armenia

June 19, 20 at 7 p.m.

Flora Martirosyan. Recital

A. SPENDIARYAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATER OF OPERA AND BALLET**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

Carmina Burana

Carl Orff

**K. STANISLAVSKI STATE RUSSIAN DRAMA THEATRE****May 30, at 7 p.m.**

Jin jan (Dear Genie)

Lead Roles: Grigor

Aghakhanyan, Irina Danielyan,

Levon Harutyunyan.

Staging Director: Artur

Sahakyan

June 1, at 7 p.m.

O Madame, O Monsiuer

June 2, at 7 p.m.

Love with Skeleton

June 3, at 7 p.m.

Shaganeh, my Shaganeh

June 4, 5 at 7 p.m.

Don Juan Avia

June 7, at 7 p.m.

Khanuma

June 8, at 7 p.m.

Abanat (Once we lived in the mountains)

June 9, at 7 p.m

Maniac

June 10, at 7 p.m

I'm Marrying to an American

Woman (Kum Morgan)

Premiere**June 15, 16, 23, 28 at 7 p.m**

Filomena Marturano

June 17, at 7 p.m.

Left Chest of Aphrodite

June 21, at 7 p.m.

Classmates

June 22, at 7 p.m.

Remember the War

CONCERT HALLS

ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL**Symphonic Orchestra and Choir of National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet****Children's Choir of the Specialized Vocal-Choir School for Voice Preservation**

Soloists:

Artsvik Demurchyan /soprano/

Perch Karazyan /tenor/

Arnold Kocharyan /baritone/

Arevik Khalatyan /piano/

Musical Director and Principal

Conductor: Merited Artist of

RA, Karen Durgaryan

Choirmaster: Merited Artist of

RA, Karen Sargsyan

ARNO BABAJANYAN CONCERT HALL**May 31, at 7 p.m.**

My Dear Mother

Concert and Recitation

June 1, at 7 p.m.

Liana Zurabyan poetry center presents:

"A Word to My Son"

An evening of poetry and music dedicated to Children's Protection Day.

Program:

Poetry reading: Liana

Zurabyan, members of the

center

Dance: Children's dance

troupes

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Tigran Haroutiunian

Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan:

Gayaneh Arakelian

Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly:

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