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HIGHLIGHT

President of Council of Europe to visit Armenia

President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy will visit Yerevan next week, Deputy Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan told a news conference June 29. "We attach importance to the current stage of developments in Armenia-European Union relations. Our political dialogue will actively continue until summer holidays, as well as in autumn," Mr Mnatsakanyan said. He stressed that in EU relations the EU financials support extended to Armenia plays an important role, which is directed toward more efficient implementation of reforms. Mr Mnatsakanyan also highlighted the launch of the negotiations over the visa regime facilitation, association agreement, DCFTA. "Both authorities and European partners have stressed the importance of rapprochement of Armenia and European Union relations. EU, knowing our endeavors, is truly ready to forward additional support," said the Deputy Minister.



The official site of
the President of Armenia
<http://www.president.am>

Serzh Sargsyan and the President of the Republic of Austria Heinz Fischer took a walk at the Republic Square

Armenian FM: Nagorno-Karabakh conflict cannot be resolved without Nagorno-Karabakh's direct involvement in the peace talks

On June 29 the President of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) Bako Sahakyan received Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia, who arrived in Stepanakert.

Edward Nalbandian informed Bako Sahakyan about the meeting with the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs held in Paris.

President Sahakyan and Minister Nalbandian had a thorough talk on the negotiations conducted towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

In light of the provocations recently organized by Azerbaijan on the border with Armenia and on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, the interlocutors discussed the efforts taken by the Co-

Chairs towards the creation of a mechanism to investigate incidents.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict cannot be resolved without Nagorno-Karabakh's direct involvement in the peace talks, Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian told journalists after a meeting with Nagorno-Karabakh President Bako Sahakyan.

"During the last year's summit in Kazan we said that no final agreement is possible without Nagorno-Karabakh's participation," Nalbandian said.

He said that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs regularly meet with the Nagorno-Karabakh President, with the next meeting to take place during their forthcoming visit.

Armenian and Austrian Presidents reconfirm their commitment to strengthen bilateral relations



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At the invitation of President Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Austria Heinz Fischer and Mrs. Margret Fischer arrived on June 25 in Armenia on a two-day official visit.

On June 26, at the Presidential Palace took place the official welcoming ceremony of the President

of Austria which was followed by the negotiations of the two Presidents first in a restricted and then in the extended format.

The results of the negotiations between the Presidents of Armenia and Austria were summarized at the joint press conference. Before that with the participation of the

Presidents of the two states the RA Minister of Finance and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria in the Republic of Armenia signed the agreement on the development of cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Austria.

Statement by President Serzh Sargsyan at the joint press conference with the President of the Republic of Austria Heinz Fischer

Honorable Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again welcome the President of the Republic of Austria in Armenia. This is the first official visit of the Austrian President to our country in the his-

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Blockades, closed borders unacceptable dividing lines on political map of 20th century - Armenian President

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan sent a congratulatory address to the summit dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

In his address, the President stressed that within 20 years the Organization managed to pass the test of time and overcome many global and regional challenges, establishing itself as an authoritative structure promoting multilateral regional economic cooperation.

According to him, economic initiatives outlined within the framework of BSEC contribute significantly to the economic development of the region at the same time promoting peaceful coexistence of peoples living there.

"I reiterate that Armenia has been and remains committed to the principles and objectives reflected in the Charter of the Organization, has always faithfully implemented the decisions, agreements and memoranda signed by the member states.

I am confident that in the pres-

ence of complicated problems in the region, further development of multilateral cooperation within the BSEC will inevitably lead to a facilitation of the political dialogue between the member states, and to stability in the region," the statement reads.

The Armenian leader believes that the main prerequisites for the development of modern economic relations are unimpeded contacts, free movement of resources, equal conditions for competition.

"Blockades and closed borders are not only artificial obstacles to bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation, but also unacceptable dividing lines on the political map of the 20th century. The BSEC has taken all of these principles, and we all need to monitor their effective implementation," the President said.

He also called on the member states to spare no efforts to promote economic cooperation and use the potential of the BSEC for the future prosperity of the region.

Catherine Ashton urges Armenia and Azerbaijan to step up their efforts to reach agreement on the Madrid principles

In the framework of his visit to Brussels President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan met on June 27 with Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Catherine Ashton discussed with President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan the recent evolution of EU-Armenia bilateral relations, and reviewed the implementation of internal reforms in Armenia.

ments in Armenia as reflected in the European Neighbourhood (ENP) Progress Report published on 15 May. She noted with pleasure that Armenia had recently launched Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area negotiations with the EU, having implemented a number of recommendations from the European Commission. At the same time she stressed the need for further reforms in other areas such as human rights and fundamental freedoms.



She welcomed the efforts by the Armenian authorities to hold the recent parliamentary elections in a more transparent and competitive environment, but highlighted the need to address a number of issues, identified by the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission's Report, in order fully to meet internationally recognized democratic standards well ahead of presidential elections scheduled for 2013.

The High Representative also welcomed recent reform achieve-

Catherine Ashton expressed her concern at the serious armed incidents in early June along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Line of Contact in the context of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and regretted the loss of life as well as the hardship of those affected by the conflict. She urged Armenia and Azerbaijan, as partner countries, to step up their efforts to reach agreement on the Madrid principles, as a basis for peace, and to fully implement the commitments made by their Presidents in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. The High Representative added that progress in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is vital if Armenia's political association and economic integration with the EU is to achieve its full potential.



Armenian and Austrian Presidents reconfirm their commitment to strengthen bilateral relations

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tory of the 20-year long interstate relations between Armenia and Austria. It will become another milestone on the road toward strengthening the friendship of the Armenian and Austrian peoples which withstood the test of time and presents a good opportunity to outline areas for the most ambitious and promising cooperation.

We view Austria as a friendly state and reliable partner. It is conditioned not only by centuries-long historical and cultural relations and sympathy existing between our two nations, but also by the common system of values and presence of the Armenian-Austrian community as well as by the positive experience of our interstate relations acquired in the last two decades.

The agenda of our negotiations has been pretty much full: we've discussed with President Fischer regional and international issues and reiterated our mutual desire and readiness to further deepen the Armenian-Austrian relations in bilateral and multilateral formats.

Speaking about our bilateral relations, we've noted that the trade and economic cooperation between our two states, cultural, and educational ties have potential for development and agreed to make extra efforts to give a new impetus to our relations. We've also stressed the importance of the Armenian-Austrian intergovernmental commission.

The visit of President Fischer also has the economic dimension. The Armenian-Austrian Business Forum is being conducted in the framework of the visit; the Trade and Industry Chamber of Armenia and Chamber of Economy of Austria will sign a Memorandum on Cooperation. I hope that the Forum will yield observable results and quite soon Austrian presence in Armenia will become more prominent.

I thanked Mr. Fischer for the



assistance provided by the Austrian Government to Armenia after the 1988 earthquake, as well as for the construction in Gyumri of the Austrian Children's Hospital and Austrian residential area. We are also grateful for the development programs which are being implemented in Armenia through the Austrian assistance and in this regard we view as important the signing today of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation.

In Armenia, we also highly value attention and support of the Austrian government to the Armenian community and to the cultural and educational establishments on the territory of Austria, including the preservation of the Mkhitarian Congregation in Vienna.

We have also discussed opportunities for the cooperation in the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership programme. The Austrian side has reiterated its absolute readiness to assist Armenia in its Euro integration efforts, particularly to the reforms implemented in Armenia.

I presented to President Fischer the current stage of the NK peace process, challenges present in the South Caucasus region and our

approaches regarding the situation. We highly value the balanced stance of Austria regarding the resolution of the NK issue and the resolve with which Austria supports our efforts for the resolution of the regional conflicts exclusively through peaceful means.

With the President of Austria we have also discussed present and future energy programmes in the region and, I believe, have reached the common denomination that they should enhance rather than disrupt the regional equilibrium. Under no circumstance may the energy projects become a source for the financing of a new war in our volatile region. We also concurred that blockades and closed borders are totally unbecoming to the spirit and logic for the Europe of the 21st century.

In conclusion, I assess our meetings with President Fischer as extremely positive and efficient, and I am hopeful that they will continue for the benefit of further deepening and strengthening of the relations between our two states and two peoples. I would also like to thank President Fischer for the invitation to conduct an official visit to Austria. It is a great honor for me, and I accept it with pleasure.

Armenia and European Commission to work out a joint action plan

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan who was on a working visit in Brussels held a meeting with the head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of European Parliament Elmar Brok and Vice President of the faction of the European People's Party (EPP) in the European Parliament Ionis Kasuledison June 28.

The sides noted that significant progress was made in the Armenia-EU Association Agreement negotiations which bore witness to the readiness of the sides and integrity of their views and approaches to the core issues.

Serzh Sargsyan presented the course of the reforms being implemented in Armenia. The President noted that Armenian and the



European Commission work on elaborating joint action plan based on the strategy of the reforms. The importance of "more for more" principle of the European

Neighbourhood Policy was pointed out in this context.

The Armenian President took part in the summit of the European People's Party started on June 28.

Ter-Petrosian urges Tsarukian to resist government 'pressure'



Opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan on June 26 warned Gagik Tsarukyan's Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) not to bow to what he described as government pressure and again stressed the importance of cooperating with the country's second largest parliamentary force.

In an apparent reference to criminal proceedings launched against former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian, Ter-Petrosyan claimed that President Serzh Sargsyan is now trying to turn the PAP into an "obedient servant."

"Any force aspiring to become a serious political factor, in this case the Prosperous Armenia, must be able to withstand those pressures and not be afraid of them," he told supporters rallying in Yerevan's Liberty Square.

"If Prosperous Armenia pledges

loyalty to Serzh Sargsyan after all this, then that will spell its end as a political factor. Therefore, the only guarantee of its existence and political future is its determination to become real opposition," added the leader of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC).

Ter-Petrosyan insisted at the same time that the PAP can be considered an opposition force because it is no longer part of Armenia's governing coalition. He said Tsarukyan's withdrawal from the coalition has "weakened" the Sargsyan administration.

The ANC leader began reaching out to the PAP last fall amid signs of a deepening rift between Sargsyan and Tsarukyan, which some observers attributed to former President Robert Kocharyan's perceived desire to return to active politics. Those overtures have been

openly criticized by some opposition parties aligned in the ANC as well as other opposition forces. Two of those parties pulled out of Ter-Petrosyan's opposition alliance last month.

The opposition critics say that cooperating with the PAP is tantamount to helping Kocharyan, who remains the number one hate figure for many Ter-Petrosyan supporters. They have also repeatedly questioned Tsarukyan's opposition credentials, saying that the tycoon will eventually cut new deals with the government.

Ter-Petrosyan denounced that criticism as "demagoguery," saying that it is aimed at "pushing the PAP back into Serzh Sargsyan's embrace." He also again dismissed a widely held belief that the PAP actions are dictated by Kocharyan.

Ter-Petrosyan went on to assure supporters that the PAP, the ANC and two other opposition parties represented in the recently elected National Assembly will continue to jointly challenge the government on the parliament floor. He emphasized the fact that together they control 54 of the 131 parliament seats.

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Armenian opposition leader defends former ruling coalition member - ruling party

The last announcement of Armenian First President, leader of opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) Levon Ter-Petrosyan confirmed to me that everything is possible in politics, spokesperson of ruling Republican Party of Armenia, vice-speaker of Parliament Eduard Sharmazanov told Armenian News news.am commenting on Levon Ter-Petrosyan's announcement during a rally organized by opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) on June 25.

According to Eduard Sharmazanov, the first part of Ter-

Petrosyan's speech was not an objective evaluation but decoding the recent announcements of mediators on the Karabakh issue which was not done objectively.

Besides, according to Sharmazanov, the supporters of the ANC were expecting an explanation why there is not any progress in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

"It would have been more objective if the First President had announced that there is no progress because of Azerbaijan's aggressive behavior, because Azerbaijan does not want to stop fire on the contact

line and call back the snipers and also because of Azerbaijan's sabotage actions. Besides, the announcements of the First President in this context were not understandable," he said.

Talking about the second part of Levon Ter-Petrosyan's speech, where the First President touched upon the actions of former ruling coalition member the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) presenting it as an opposition force, Sharmazanov announced that the second part of the speech was more like a subjective press review dedicated to the PAP.

Armenian Minister notices progress in the sphere of justice



The Armenian justice sphere has significantly been changed. Armenpress reports that about this said Armenian Minister of Justice Hrayr Tovmasyan during briefing. "If we did not have a code, even court buildings, during the beginning of 1990's, anyhow the nowadays problems are quite different. The judicial power should be much more reliable, fair, and produc-

tive,"- mentioned Tovmasyan. According to him, a great attention is paid to those people, who will be our future lawyers. Otherwise all done works will be failed.

The future minister deciding to become a lawyer during his childhood had his own judge image- grey-haired, with smart eyes, whose being a judge would be evident to the others as well.

"Lawyers are sometimes involved in the mediation; the prosecutor's office has a big impact, what are their reasons. Notaries' Office, register, registration office, criminal executive system, this all are the first step towards the reforms.

"To tell where we have reached is difficult" said Tovmasyan. In reality the problems are multilayer. Some people - employees of state agencies, are resisting the changes and are thinking about whether they will find themselves in the new system. Anyhow the minister believes that there is no way besides the reforms.

I do not recall a time when NK peace process' impasse was this much profound - Armenia's former FM



The Karabakh peace process is at an impasse, former FM and Prosperous Armenia Party MP Vartan Oskanian wrote in his Facebook account.

"Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy [and Vice President of the European Commission], stated that progress in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict is crucial for Armenia's political association and economic integration with the European Union. She called upon Armenia and Azerbaijan to step up the efforts toward reaching an agreement.

Ashton's statement preceded the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairing countries' Los Cabos statement, whose diplomatic formulations were very severe and substantially differed from the previous statements.

Today it is apparent that the Karabakh peace process is at an impasse. I do not recall a time when the impasse was this much profound.

[And] There are two reasons for this situation:

First, today there is no document at the [negotiating] table which all parties will accept as a basis for negotiations. Second, the unsettled problems have increased.

[And] The mediator's task today is to see to it that the parties ultimately accept one of the documents as a basis for negotiations.

In my deep conviction, [US Secretary of State Hilary] Clinton left Armenia empty-handed, because Armenia could not have added anything new.

I believe the Armenian side's shortcoming in the negotiations was that it agreed to its concessions too soon and more than needed. Incidentally, the same negotiating mistake was made in the Armenian-Turkish process, too.

It is clearly Azerbaijan which obstructs the negotiation process and jeopardizes the delicate peace," Vartan Oskanian specifically wrote in his Facebook account.

Armenians' problem in Syria not local but all-Armenian - expert



refer only to Armenia, but to all Armenians, as an entire community is in danger," the expert said adding in case Syrian opposition comes to power, according to its ideology, there will be no place for other faiths.

"There are two tasks: to preserve the Armenian community in Syria and to be able to re-populate the community in case of necessity. Anyway, the condition of the community will not be the same as Syria is likely to face escalation of situation," Petrosyan claimed.

As a matter of fact, over 4,600 Syrian citizens have already turned to Armenian government for the second citizenship within the recent 15 months.

If the opposition comes to power in Syria, as it was in Egypt, the situation will be bad for the Armenian community, expert in Arab studies Armen Petrosyan said at a press conference on June 28.

At the moment the situation over the community is concerning despite Armenian MFA's efforts in this direction.

"The problem of the Armenians in Syria is not local or does not

Armenian deputy predicts separation of powers in ANC



During two months of summer there will not be any political developments. Deputy of Armenian National Assembly Alik Arzumanyan during the press conference on June 29 expressed opinion that "At that time it will be clear in which field will act the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP)". "I do not understand whether the PAP is opposition or not as voting against the program of the government does not

mean anything. Everything will be clear before presidential elections" noticed Arzumanyan.

Speaking about presidential elections the opposition deputy told about taking part in the elections speaks also Raffi Hovhannisyan and we will protect his candidature. "Each citizen can be nominated and appearance of each new force should be greeted" thinks the deputy. Arzumanyan stressed the importance of united performing of the opposition which will give the opportunity to mobilize forces. At the same time he noticed that at present the opposition field is rather fragmented. "The ANC is the widest opposition unit which has losses and that process will continue: At present the separation process goes on".

Armenia-Turkey protocols must be ratified without preconditions - US Ambassador

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern met on June 27 with a group of Armenian journalists, participants of "Support to Armenia-Turkey rapprochement" program organized by Eurasia Partnership Foundation and funded by USAID. Ambassador answered to journalists' questions on wide range of issues, including the Karabakh peace process, Armenia-Turkey relations and those referring to the parliamentary elections.

Asked about the U.S. attitude towards Azerbaijani aggression taking into account the fact that the US is the only country providing assistance to the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the Ambassador recalled the recent statement adopted by the leaders of the co-chairing states in Los Cabos.

"What they said was to reiterate that there is only peaceful solution; there can be no military solution to the Karabakh conflict. They called against violence," he said adding that the same calls were voiced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her recent visit to Armenia in June.

"The three co-chairs in the negotiations are promoting military confidence-building measures, specifically, the withdrawal of snipers from the line of contact and the borders, establishment of mechanism to investigate any incidents. We wish to push for confidence-building measures and we are hopeful that if they are approved it will decrease the violence along the line of contact and on the border," Heffern said.

Speaking about the U.S. assistance provided to NKR he particularly mentioned de-mining and water projects.

As regards Armenia-Turkey protocols to normalize relations, Ambassador Heffern stressed that they "will not give up the protocols and still are pushing very hard on all levels for the protocols to be ratified and implemented."

"Our message to the Turkish leaders has been to ratify and implement the protocols as they were signed without any preconditions. It is our primary goals in terms of Arm-Turkish reconciliation and we will push it on highest levels," he said.

"We are pursuing reconciliation on three levels: first and foremost the protocols, get them ratified and implemented without precondition, the second - promoting and pushing Ankara on meaningful economic measures," Heffern said, brining an example of reopening of Gyumri-Kars car railroad which will also help eastern Turkey and the Armenian and Turkish companies' negotiations on completion of fiber optic cable from Turkey to Armenia.

"The third level is people-to-people exchanges. We have done it in all sectors: parliamentarians, journalists, students and, business-



men. It is important to break the mistrust between the two countries and two peoples and to build a climate and atmosphere which will make reconciliation possible."

Commenting on the U.S. attitude towards the May 6 parliamentary elections, Heffern they tried to assess the elections as objective as possible. Among the positive points he underscored access to media and among the shortcomings - widespread vote-buying, misuse of administrative resources, and favoritism to the government parties in the public sector.

"I was excited to see a spirited debate in the parliament, the opposition parties have taken their seats and there was a strong questioning on government's program in the parliament. It is a good thing, open debate and open competition is good for Armenia's democracy. As to the next elections, we are pushing for continued reforms by the authorities."

The Ambassador also commented on the role of Turkey, as a U.S. ally, in changing situation in the Middle East.

"Turkey is of course an important ally of U.S. and NATO and as an ally we are trying to work with Turkey on every regional and international issue we can. For instance, we are working very close with Turkey trying to resolve the Syrian crisis. Turkey's role is important. However, just because we are allies it does not mean we agree on everything. U.S. and Turkey have vigorous debates. The protocols issue is raised on all levels and we are pushing them to implement and ratify the documents without preconditions, for example Karabakh or others. U.S. supports open borders, diplomatic relations. It will be good for Turkey, for Armenia, for region, and for Karabakh solution."

Answering to a remark whether there is one or more than one obstacle to ratifying the protocols by Turkey, Heffern noted, "I cannot speak for Turkey. What they are publicly trying to do is not a secret. Turkish leaders are trying to link protocols to progress on Karabakh. It is not a part of the deal. Secretary Clinton announced publicly and in meetings with the Turkish leaders that protocols were signed without preconditions."

OSCE reaffirms Armenian election verdict

Western monitors representing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reaffirmed on June 26 their cautious assessment of Armenia's recent parliamentary elections, praising the election campaign but criticizing voting in a "considerable" number of polling stations.

In its final report, the largest international vote-monitoring mission deployed in the country by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) again avoided concluding whether the May 6 elections were democratic.

"The voting process was orderly and well organized in the large majority of polling stations observed," says the report. "However, international observers assessed voting negatively in nine per cent of polling stations, which is considerable. This assessment was mainly due to organizational problems, undue interference in the process, generally by proxies, and cases of serious violations, including intimidation of voters."

The ODIHR mission also negatively assessed one fifth of vote counts observed by its more than 200 members. But it reported only "isolated cases of serious violations" there.

The mission further noted a "competitive, vibrant and largely peaceful campaign" that preceded the polls and commended the Armenian media for generally providing "unbiased news coverage of contestants." But it criticized "misuse of administrative resources" by the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), the official election winner, and other pro-government forces.

Giving more weight to opposi-



Armenia - Senior European election observers start a joint news conference in Yerevan, 7 May 2012

tion allegations of vote buying, the observers also accused the RPA, the official election winner, and its coalition partner, the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), of violating legal provisions that ban election contenders from providing goods and services to voters.

As was the case during the release of their preliminary findings on May 7, the observers did not to clarify whether these and other reported violations influenced the official vote results rejected as fraudulent by the Armenian opposition. Nor did they say, in contrast to the OSCE/ODIHR's past election verdicts, whether the vote met democratic standards.

Armenia's previous legislative polls held in May 2007 were judged by the OSCE to have been held "largely in accordance with international standards for democratic elections." Western monitors gave a similar assessment of the Armenian presidential election of February 2008, which was marred

by fraud allegations and a deadly government crackdown on the opposition.

The Armenian authorities made no secret of their hopes to secure an even more positive international verdict on the latest ballot. President SerzhSargsyan and other top officials repeatedly pledged to do their best to hold the most democratic election in the country's history.

Despite failing to get explicitly high marks from the OSCE/ODIHR mission, the Sargsyan administration has earned praise from both the European Union and the United States. The EU's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, spoke on May 8 of "progress towards more transparent and more competitive elections" in Armenia. For her part, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed hope that the next Armenian election will be "even better" when she visited Yerevan earlier this month.

Azeri brutality highlighted at UN

Armenia's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Karen Nazaryan delivered a speech at the discussions on the issue of protection of the civilian population during conflicts held at the UN Security Council.

Speaking about the Karabakh conflict, Ambassador Karen Nazaryan emphasized Azerbaijan's responsibility for crimes against humanity committed in the conflict zone. He said the Azeri authorities are responsible for the violation of rights of hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and refugees, the ethnic cleansing and aggression unleashed in response to the realization of the right of the people of NagornoKarabakh to self-determination, as well as the massacre of the Azerbaijani population in Khojaly.

Ambassador Nazaryan informed the members of the Security Council that Armenian settlements of Artsvashen, Shahumyan in the north of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Getashen and another 18 villages



were razed to the ground as a result of the conflict; about 20 settlements are still occupied by Azerbaijan.

The Ambassador added that "Azerbaijan continues the infringements against the frontline settlements of independent Artsakh and Armenia, turning down the calls of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the UN Security Council to

implement confidence-building measures."

In that context Nazaryan said that Armenia welcomes the Los Cabos statement of the Presidents of the Minsk Group co-chairing countries and urged the Azeris to stop all kind of provocations at the Armenian border and the line of contact with Nagorno Karabakh.



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1 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **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, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**, 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. 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 Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**, 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyer, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and colds water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 ,

trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str.** 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**, 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **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, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **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 Aygestan community**, 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3105. Cascade, Antarain**, 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 Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str.** half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD

- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats.



windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottage 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

- ♦ **1109 Teryan Str.**, 4/2 1 room transformed into 2, 47 sq.m, newly euro repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished, equipped, security camera, Ariston. Price: 500 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryan 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
- ♦ **1096. City Centre, Heratsu Str.**, 5/3, 1 room, newly repaired, furnished, equipped, bedroom sheets and dishes, heating, satellite. Price: 400 USD, 15.000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **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. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str.** 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave.** 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falcon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str.** 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryán str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, fur-

nished, 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. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad.** /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad.** /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbaçi street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**, 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD



- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. 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

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**, 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **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. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD

- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable

- ♦ **1142. Djrvj**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.

- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str.** 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD

- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD

- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.

- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD

- ♦ **1085. Aygestan destrict**, 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD

- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD

- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms,7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.

- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**, 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.

- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD

- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

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

Armenia in the vice: prisoner of history - The Economist

Armenia tends to feature in the news because of its problems (history, geography, demography and economics to name but a few). But a new report from the International Crisis Group (ICG) says not all is . The parliamentary elections in May showed significant improvement. Media coverage was more balanced, and the authorities permitted greater freedom of assembly, expression and movement than in previous years. Like Georgia, Armenia has a class of "30-something" technocrats, whose western education and global outlook means they are less rooted in the Soviet mentality than their elders. That bodes well for the future.

The economy is still recovering from the global financial crisis, which saw GDP contract by 14.2% in 2009. In the same period, the construction sector contracted by more than 40%. Remittances from the diaspora dropped by 30%. That led Forbes magazine to label Armenia the world's second worst performing economy in 2011-much to Yerevan's irritation. Although official statistics claim 8 percent unemployment, 48% of respondents told a recent survey they were looking for a job. Over one-third of the country lives below the poverty line. Complaints of corruption are widespread, and inflation is high.

Low rates of tax collection-19.3% of GDP, compared with a 40% average in EU countries-limit the government's reach. Cracking down on tax evasion could increase government revenue by over \$400 million, says the World Bank. A few, high-profile businessmen dominate the economy. Their monopolies and

oligopolies put a significant brake on business development. Their influence also weakens political will for the kind of reforms that the country sorely needs.

Armenia's democracy also has lots of room for improvement. Abuse of administrative resources, inflated voter lists, vote-buying and pressure on voters were just some of the irregularities that took place in May. Moreover, the flawed 2008 presidential elections, and subsequent crackdown on protestors (during which ten people died and 450 were injured) mean the government has lots more to do to restore its credibility. Public trust in the country's democratic institutions is low, and cynicism is widespread.

The next big test will be presidential elections in February 2013. The president, Serzh Sargsyan, has promised "the cleanest elections in Armenia's history". If so, he has a lot to do. "The country needs a better future than a stunted economy and dead-end conflicts with its neighbors", the ICG concludes.

That is putting it mildly. Nagorno-Karabakh, over which Armenia went to war with Azerbaijan, is a "sleeping volcano" according to a 2010 book by Tom de Waal. The main fighting stopped in 1994 but between April 27th and June 20th this year, at least eight Armenian and seven Azerbaijani soldiers died. That's by far the worst death toll of any conflict anywhere in Europe (even including Russia's troubled North Caucasus). If it were happening in the Balkans, say, the world would be watching worriedly. But it isn't.

Armenia: An opportunity for statesmanship the International Crisis Group (ICG) released a report on Armenia

The report particularly deals with the May 6 parliamentary election, 2013 presidential election and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After May's parliamentary elections, Armenia is preparing for a pivotal presidential vote in 2013 that will determine whether it has shed a nearly two-decade history of fraud-tainted elections and put in place a government with the legitimacy needed to implement comprehensive reform and resolve its problems with Azerbaijan. President Serzh Sargsyan has a brief opportunity to demonstrate statesmanship before he again faces the voters in what is likely to be a competitive contest. Sargsyan has demonstrated some courage to promote change, but like his predecessors, he has thus far failed to deal effectively with serious economic and governance problems, including the debilitating, albeit low-intensity, Nagorno-Karabakh war. Another election perceived as seriously flawed would serve as a further distraction from peace talks and severe economic problems. The likely consequences would then be ever more citizens opting out of democratic politics, including by emigration.

The genuinely competitive parliamentary election had some positive signs. Media coverage during much of the campaign was more balanced, and free assembly, expression and movement were largely respected. The president's ruling Republican Party won a solid majority of seats, but its former coalition partner, the Prosperous Armenia - associated with rich businessman and ex-president Robert Kocharyan - came in a strong second. The Armenian National Congress (ANC), led by the first post-independence president, Levon Ter-Petrossian, returned to parliament after a more than ten-year absence. Nevertheless, many old problems reappeared: abuse of administrative resources; inflated voters lists; vote-buying; lack of sufficient redress for election violations; and reports of multiple voting and pressure on some voters. Reforms adopted after the violence that left ten dead and 450 injured following the 2008 election that brought Sargsyan to power were spottily implemented.

It is crucial that the February 2013 election, in which Sargsyan will seek a second term, becomes "the cleanest elections in Armenian history", as the president had promised, not least because polls show very low trust in nearly all government bodies and institutions, including the presidency and parliament. The president initially took some bold steps, most noteworthy attempting to normalize relations with Turkey. A new class of under-40 technocrats, less influenced by

Soviet ways of decision-making, has risen through the ranks and is widely seen as favoring a new style of government. But change has been slow. Political courage is needed to overhaul a deeply entrenched system in which big business and politics are intertwined in a manner that is often at least opaque. This manifests itself most vividly through the domination of much of the economy by a small group of rich businessmen with government connections.

The political crisis after the 2008 post-election violence, as well as the 2009 world economic crisis, shook Armenia. Weak political will and the resistance of vested interests muted many of the long-overdue, if timid, reforms the administration started. The economy consequently remains undiversified, unhealthy reliant on remittances. Rates of emigration and seasonal migration abroad are alarmingly high. There have been few serious efforts to combat high-level corruption. The executive branch still enjoys overwhelming, virtually unchecked powers. The judicial system is perceived as neither independent nor competent: the prosecutor dominates procedures, and mechanisms to hold authorities accountable are largely ineffective.

Media freedom is inadequate. Outright harassment of journalists and media outlets has decreased, but there is still a glaring lack of diversity in television, from which an overwhelming majority of Armenians get their information. No nationwide broadcasters are regarded as fully independent.

Russia remains Armenia's key ally - both its main security guarantor and biggest trading and investment partner. Because of the war with Azerbaijan and frozen ties with Turkey, Yerevan has few realistic alternatives to Moscow, though it has frequently sought a "multi-vector" foreign policy and deeper ties with Euro-Atlantic partners. The EU and U.S. are trying to increase their influence, offering expertise and other aid to promote reforms, but they should do more to keep the government accountable and encourage the building of democratic institutions, especially if they want to be seen as credible, even-handed critics throughout the region with elections also due in Georgia and Azerbaijan in 2012-2013. Twenty years after the breakup of the Soviet Union, peaceful democratic transitions of power have yet to become the norm in the South Caucasus.

President Sargsyan and his government acknowledge many of the most pressing problems, but numerous reforms exist only on paper or seem deliberately designed with ineffective enforcement mechanisms. The cautious, evolutionary approach to reforms provides at best weak stability. The breakup of the Republican-Prosperous

Armenia governing coalition and a more competitive parliament may now provide the stimulus the administration needs. Limping towards change, however, would neither capitalize on Armenia's strengths nor be a good presidential campaign strategy. The country needs a better future than a stunted economy and dead-end conflicts with neighbors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To further democratization, economic growth and reform and make the government better prepared to engage in difficult discussions with Azerbaijan over resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

To the Government of Armenia:

1. Make deep governance and economic reforms a top priority to build public trust in state institutions.
2. Address the shortcomings of the electoral process identified by the International Election Observation (IEO) mission; improve, in particular, voter lists and the complaints and appeals procedure; and investigate and penalize abuses of the elections process by state officials.
3. Continue to make the fight against corruption a state priority by prosecuting officials involved in fraud.
4. Pass a new Criminal Procedure Code that strengthens the independence of the judiciary, increases the role of the defense and decreases the prosecutor general's powers; and improve the effectiveness of the Administrative Court to hold officials accountable.
5. Increase financial support for the office of the ombudsman, especially its activities in the regions.
6. Establish civilian control and accountability of the police; tackle corruption in the force; and consider establishing a ministry to which the police would be subordinate.
7. Redouble efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan and maintain an open approach to resuming a dialogue with Turkey.
- To the U.S., EU and international organisations:
8. Offer technical and financial assistance to help the government address voter registration problems, especially bloated voters lists, which undermine public trust in elections.
9. Support aggressive judicial reform programs linked to the setting of benchmarks for implementation of the "strategic action plan 2012-2016" and passage of a new Criminal Procedure Code.
10. Increase funding to non-state actors to support reform; and hold the government accountable for any backsliding from progress achieved during the 2012 parliamentary vote regarding media access and freedom of assembly and expression.



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Halal - Armenian hospitality!

by Marianna Martynova

Yerevan abounds in dental clinics and various kinds of eateries. The dental clinics are similar to each other, whereas the city's eateries are notable for their enviable diversity. Restaurants, pizzerias, bars, pubs, and cafes specializing in particular meals can be found at every turn. It would seem that the city has more than enough cafes and restaurants. Yet, as it has turned out, human ingenuity has no limits.

A small, but very light, cozy, and original two-story restaurant Halal opened recently in the center of the city, at the crossroads of Sayat Nova and Hanrapetutian Streets. Its visitors have the opportunity to participate in the process of preparing meals. This desire is quite understandable as the delicious smells emitted during the cooking whet one's appetite. Besides, when you cook a meal yourself, you know pretty well how much to fry the vegetables and the meat and what spices to use in order to flavor your food. In this situation the visitor is the maker of his/her own dinner. If, for example, the steak is well-done, the visitor is happy, and if it is underdone or overdone, then the visitor has only himself/herself to blame. In addition, people tend to enjoy greatly the food they have cooked with their own hands. There is no need to speak about smorgasbord at great length. However, in order to better understand the peculiarities of Armenian cuisine, more specifically, the dishes available in the Halal Restaurant, we addressed a few questions to Mr. Vazgen, Director of Halal.

Mr. Vazgen, how did the idea

to open this kind of restaurant occur to you?

We wanted to open something new and original, a restaurant that would differ from those already existing in the city. We know that people (both the locals and foreigners) like to cook their meals themselves. Besides, it is a popular pastime. Why not roast your meat and vegetables while having a talk? Why not give (and take) some good advice about making your meals more delicious? Isn't it more interesting than spending a few minutes waiting for your order and then complaining that it is not cooked, salted and peppered properly. Of course, there are certain rules and we follow them, but after all, tastes differ, and people prefer some foods to others. We give them freedom of choice.

And the food is roasted in small round ovens, similar to Armenian tonirs. Are these gas or electric ovens?

The fire is brought by small portions and placed in a hollow under the grating. The smoke is completely absorbed by the ventilating devices installed over the table, while the delicious smell remains.

What is your charge per person?

On entering the restaurant, a visitor pays 3,500 AMD and may have as much food as he/she likes by taking repeatedly vegetable dishes from the salad bar in the middle of the hall, as well as meat dishes. We offer raw meat dishes with a raw garnish so that visitors could make their dishes themselves. Meat dishes, too, can be taken more than once. They consist of fresh meat (chicken fillet, bacon, beef sirloin) and vegetables.

I can see various vegetable

salads on the common table here. Are their prices included in the abovementioned charge?

Yes, visitors may take salads on repeated occasions and have as much salad as they like.

What about drinks?

They are not included in this price. We offer a wide range of drinks. Visitors are given special



menus of drinks.

On the lower floor, you have rooms with soft furniture. The rooms can house ten people each. What if a larger group of people wants to spend time there?

The two separate rooms on the lower floor are designed for 10-12 people. Large groups of visitors can enjoy themselves on the lower and upper floors, but the downstairs rooms are more separate.

Can visitors listen to good music in your restaurant?

Our restaurant opened recently so we do not have live music. I



should say that our visitors are not dissatisfied with this fact because, first of all, people want to mix with each other. Besides, soft background music is constantly played here.

Your operating hours are...

From 11 am till the last visitor leaves our restaurant. Let our visitors have a good time! We are glad to see them happy and relaxed. Halal to them!

This is Armenian hospitality!

"Halal" - this word has its meaning. The Muslims use it to describe something immaculate,

very pure and inspiring. In Armenian, this word is used when people admire someone's deed (in this case it means "Well done!") or when something is done from the heart, with sincere feeling (the meaning is "enjoy it to your heart's content").

So it is a light, joyous restaurant where guests can have as much food as they like and enjoy it to their hearts' content.

Halal! To those who invented this, and to those who visited and tasted it!



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Palmes d'Or Winner Film- "LOVE" announced as the closing Film of GOLDEN APRICOT

GOLDEN APRICOT has the pleasure to announce the Palmes d'Or Winner "Love" ("Amour") as the closing film of this year Festival. Michael Haneke's drama on love and fidelity is especially enriched by the distinguished play of Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva and Isabelle Huppert's. The French/ German/ Austrian co-production tells the love story of an elderly couple Anne and Georges who are retired music teachers. The exclusive screening of the film will conclude the 9th Golden Apricot International Film Festival.

Moreover, this year the opening film of the Cannes 65th Film Festival - "Moonrise Kingdom" by Wes Anderson will be presented at "Yerevan Premieres" program.

Yerevan Premieres is also to present two of the Cannes Official

Selection films - "Beyond the Hills" by Cristian Mungiu and "Paradise: Love" by Ulrich Seidl.

As it has already been announced, the Cannes 2011 and 2012 FIPRESCI award-winning films- "In the Fog" by Sergei Loznitsa and "The Minister" by Pierre Schoeller are included in GOLDEN APRICOT main competition program.

As previously mentioned, this year Yerevan International Film Festival has planned to start the filming of "Shor and Shorshor" (1926) by Hamo Beknazaryan. The screening of "Shor and Shorshor" comedy (based on M. Bagratuni's story) will be take place on July 8 and will be accompanied by Vahagn Hayrapetyan's and his jazz-band's musical arrangements newly developed especially for this occasion.

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 9TH YEREVAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
 8-15/07/2012

SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

"ICT Leaders' Meeting" Forum takes place in Aghveran

The Aghveran Resort hotel complex in Aghveran hosted "ICT Leaders' Meeting" Forum, dedicated to problems of cooperation between the ICT sector and the state.

Armenian Minister of Economy Tigran Davtyan opened the forum. In his opening remarks, he presented in detail the coordination structure of the ICT sector in Armenia's government system. In particular, he said that in Armenia there are currently only two sectors that receive assistance from the state budget every year - the tourism sector and the ICT industry. The latter receives 80-100 million AMD annually. Representatives of ICT companies use various platforms and formats to organize meetings with top officials of the country, during which they speak about the sector's problems.

Executive Director of the



tor from one center. What is more important is that in all countries ICT brings innovations and therefore it is crucial to create an environment, in which ICT and innovations will be developed in a single center, thanks to which they will effectively spread to other

this idea.

In response to the proposals voiced at the meeting, Minister of Economy Tigran Davtyan said that the establishment of a ministry is quite a serious and costly process, and at the moment it is inexpedient. In his opinion, the current problems can be solved through mutually agreed and efficient work of the existing bodies. He underlined that highly-qualified and well-paid specialists are needed for successful management of the ICT sector, and the wages in this sector are quite high - the second highest after those in the mining industry. Yet, in case of the creation of a state management body, the laws of the civil service system shall be applied, whereas the salaries in this system are considerably lower, which will reduce the efficiency of management.

The meeting participants also discussed a number of other issues related to the ICT industry.



Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) Karen Vardanyan made a speech, in which he stressed the long-felt need to carry out state coordination of the ICT and telecommunication sectors from one center. In his words, it does not matter whether this center will be a new ICT ministry or the functions performed by various state departments will be concentrated in, say, the RA Ministry of Economy. The main thing is that they will be coordinated by one body.

Director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation (EIF) Bagrat Yengibaryan expressed an opinion that it is not so important to coordinate the functions of the ICT sec-

sectors.

Advisor to Chairman of the State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre adjunct to the Armenian government Khazhak Karayan and Head of EIF Programs Ms. Zhenya Azizyan made proposals to consolidate the ICT problems in one center and to implement a uniform policy. According to Z. Azizyan, in the process of developing a coordinated policy on problems of the sector, difficulties often arise within the same department, not to mention the difficulties between various departments. For that reason the IT sector development concept, which was adopted by the Armenian government as far back as 2008, already embraced



Analysis: External debts, internal problems



By Naira Hayrumyan

There is increasingly more anxious talk about the state debt in Armenia which threatens to become not only too heavy a burden for the economy, but also the determining factor for politics.

Member of the opposition Armenian National Congress faction, ex-prime minister Hrant Bagratyan said that the Armenian government had borrowed money to pay wages and pensions, for which the future generations will pay. "The external debt has exceeded the level of \$6.5 billion, of which the state debt is \$4.5 billion, and the debt of the private sector, including the banking system, which is even more dangerous, is \$2 billion," said Bagratyan.

Despite the fact that the opposition and the expert community are strongly against increasing the nation's external debt, the government continues to borrow. After the parliamentary elections and the re-appointment of Tigran Sargsyan as prime minister the International Monetary Fund announced the release of \$50.7 million in fresh loan tranches to Armenia and the

World Bank approved a \$200-million loan for the nation. Both these powerful financial institutions approved the current economic policies of the Armenian prime minister and said that Armenia's foreign debt is stable.

Loans from the IMF are sent directly to the Armenian budget, and, as experts say, almost half of the pensions and benefits in Armenia are paid through these loans. Another part goes to replenish the foreign reserves of the Central Bank. But the World Bank finances projects to build roads, infrastructure and implement reforms.

Specialists say that the loans are not dangerous if these funds are invested in production and can later give revenue. But is this being done? Armenia is the only country in the region that continued to stimulate its economy in 2011, said Finance Minister Vache Gabrielyan.

However, the fact that no new large enterprise has opened in Armenia during this period of time, that business won't make progress and revenues, unlike prices, do not grow suggests that the government spends the loans to keep the minimum social level and to prevent

instability.

Remarkably, the foreign debt is increasingly becoming a determining factor also for internal political developments in Armenia. For example, many link the appointment of Sargsyan, the "father" of the Armenian debt, as prime minister to the fact that he has good relations with international financial institutions and without him these institutions can simply make Armenia bankrupt.

Without this factor President Serzh Sargsyan, perhaps, would have come to an agreement with the Prosperous Armenia Party, which insisted on the appointment of its candidate. In fact, by insisting on the candidacy of Tigran Sargsyan, the president alienated the PAP and, perhaps, created a powerful foe.

Besides, some media already have linked President Sargsyan's bias to the West to Armenia's external debt. Western politicians have repeatedly stated that Armenia will have to choose - either the European or Eurasian Union. But, since President Sargsyan has no expectation of loans from the North, he had to take a turn to the West.

A drastic opening of the investment field in Armenia may change the situation. Abolishing a number of taxes for investors, freedom of access to the spheres where quotas and monopolies are currently applied may attract significant capital to Armenia. United States Ambassador John Heffern has said that his country is ready to invest in tourism and high technology in Armenia, but a series of reforms are needed first.

Armenia-EU negotiations on visa facilitation could be completed soon



The third stage of negotiations between the Republic of Armenia and European Union on visa facilitation took place on June 28. Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign affairs minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan.

Representatives of Foreign Affairs and Justice Ministers as well as of Police were among the delegation.

Media, information and public relations department of Foreign Affairs Ministry informed that during the negotiations it was mutually mentioned with satisfaction that due to productive work of the sides progress has been achieved in the process which began in February 2012. It is expected to finish the negotiations on visa facilitation at near future.

By the agreement on visa facilitation Armenian citizens will be able to get visa for the countries of Schengen zone more easily.

By the agreement it will be stated that Armenian representatives of several specialties - scientists, stu-

dents, journalists, businessmen, sportsmen and other people can get visa more easily. It is planned to decrease the cost of the visas as well as to make it out of charge for children and pensioners.



Armenian and Austrian businessmen want to deepen cooperation

Armenia-Austria business forum took place on June 26 in the framework of Austria's President Heinz Fischer official visit to Armenia.

Director General of Armenian Development Agency Robert Harutyunyan mentioned that Armenian Government takes serious steps to improve business environment hoping that in result attractive conditions for foreign investors will be created. "I am sure that we have not used our real potential yet" said Harutyunyan.

Commercial adviser of Austrian Embassy Dittmer Felner

told that there is a great wish to deepen cooperation with Armenian businessmen. "We want to open new page in the history of our partnership and for that we must use our potential" said Felner hoping that this visit will be a new platform for further cooperation.

On the invitation of the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan on June 25 President of Austria Heinz Fischer paid an official visit to Armenia with his wife Margit Fischer.

Diplomatic relations between Armenia and Austria were established on January 24, 1992.

Fitch: Eurozone debt crisis clouds 2012 outlook for emerging Europe

Fitch Ratings says in its newly-published global Sovereign Review and Outlook that the eurozone sovereign debt crisis is affecting the outlook for emerging Europe (EME) to a greater degree than other emerging markets, reflecting the region's close trade, investment and financial linkages with the eurozone. Nonetheless, on the whole, the agency considers that the region is much better placed than it was in 2008-09 to withstand external shocks.

"With the exception of Hungary, emerging Europe, including Russia and Turkey, has escaped any sovereign downgrades so far in 2012. However, in the face of the deteriorating outlook for the eurozone, rating outlooks for emerging Europe have largely reverted to Stable from Positive," says Paul Rawkins, Senior Director in Fitch's Sovereign Rating team. Kazakhstan ('BBB/Positive') is the only EME sovereign on Positive Outlook, while Hungary ('BB+') and Croatia ('BBB-') are on Negative Outlook.

Fitch says EME is facing a sharp slowdown in growth to 2.7% in 2012 from 4.7% in 2011, steeper than emerging Asia, Latin America or the Middle East and Africa. Moreover, broad aggregation of the region's growth statistics obscures more divergent trends among Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the Baltics and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The CIS and the Baltics continued to post relatively robust growth in Q112, whereas a number of CEE economies registered a decline in output.

Adverse developments in the eurozone are being felt primarily through the trade channel - 50% of CEE's exports go to the eurozone - with Bulgaria, for example, suffering a 5% drop in exports to the region in Q112. For the CIS, these pressures are being transmitted largely through declining oil and other commodity prices. A much sharper than expected drop in oil prices would pose a downside risk to CIS commodity exporters and other countries which depend heavily on Russia for exports and/or remittances, including the Baltics and Armenia.

Fitch believes that financial

sector linkages to the eurozone have the potential to inflict greater damage in a downside scenario. Eurozone bank claims on emerging Europe dwarf their claims on other regions, while eurozone banks own large stakes in CEE banking systems. While there has been an unwinding of international banks' exposure to EME since H211, Fitch has detected no evidence of significant parent bank retrenchment. However, high Greek parent bank ownership of local bank assets in Bulgaria (25%), Macedonia (25%), Serbia (16%) and Romania (13%) represents a risk in the event of extreme events in Greece, such an exit from the eurozone and bank deposit runs.

At an aggregate level, EME has made significant progress with fiscal consolidation, reducing fiscal deficits to near balance in 2011 (helped by high oil prices for Russia) from over 6% of GDP in 2009. Public debt remains low at 29% of GDP. However, Fitch forecasts a modest reversal in 2012, while fiscal vulnerabilities vary across the region. Many countries rely primarily on external funding for budget deficits, leaving them more exposed to global financial instability. Those countries with weak public finances and uncomfortable relations with the IMF (Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine) have been conspicuous by their absence from international bond markets.

Externally, the EME is set to move from a near balanced current account position in 2011 to an aggregate deficit of USD30bn in 2012, still less than 1% of regional GDP and well below its peak of USD80bn in 2007. Much of the deterioration in 2012 is explained by diminution of the oil-driven surpluses of Russia and Kazakhstan, rather than a widening of existing deficits elsewhere. However, Turkey remains a stand out: although the country appears to be close to attaining a soft landing, its current account deficit will remain high at USD61bn (7.7% of GDP) in 2012, much of it financed by short-term debt and portfolio inflows, leaving it vulnerable to more acute volatility in the eurozone.



*By Harut
Sassounian
Publisher, The
California Courier*

Doctor dies after Yerevan restaurant assault

One of the three men who were badly beaten up this month at a Yerevan restaurant belonging to a powerful government-linked businessman died in hospital on June 29.

Vahe Avetian, 35, and two other military doctors were hospitalized after being assaulted by restaurant staff in still unclear circumstances on June 17.

Avetian was hit hardest in the incident, suffering severe head injuries. He remained in critical condition despite undergoing two surgeries at a military hospital in the Armenian capital where he worked.

Seven men, most of them security guards, were arrested in an ensuing police investigation into the violence. One of them was then freed pending investigation, while the others were remanded in pre-trial custody on assault charges.

The incident has cast a renewed

media spotlight on the notoriously violent conduct of burly men working for wealthy businessmen close to the Armenian government, including Ruben Hayrapetian, the owner of the restaurant in question. Media commentators have attributed the severity of the assault to what they see as impunity enjoyed by those men and their powerful employers.

Hayrapetian, who is also a parliament deputy from the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), strongly condemned the incident but denied any responsibility for it last week. He pledged to assist in the ongoing criminal investigation.

The Armenian Defense Ministry also condemned the violence and expressed solidarity with its victims and their relatives. Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian visited Avetian and the two other hospitalized doctors last week.

Next round of Armenia-EU negotiations over DCFTA is in October

The discussion of the talks over the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with the European Union will continue in the first week of October, Deputy Minister of Economy and DCFTA Chief Negotiator Garegin Melkonyan told a news conference held in the press hall of "Armenpress" June 28.

"The goal of the first stage of the negotiations held in Brussels June 19-20 was to make it clear for the Armenian side the expectations of the European Union from different spheres, and to show to EU Armenia's readiness to continue the process, said the Chief Negotiator, assuring that the negotiations will take no longer than 2 years.

According to him, the actual substantial agreements will be reached in October. In foreseeable future the EU will make up the 15 chapters of the texts in accordance with the agreement, which will be presented to Armenia in late July. They, too, will be discussed during the October meeting. Before that, the texts presented by the European Union will be discussed with Armenia's government, businessmen, NGOs.

Among the preconditions for Armenia to start the DCFTA negotiations is performance of the main priorities in the spheres of technical obstacles of trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, intellectual property rights and general coordination.

ANCA, Genocide education project help bring Armenian writer's masterpiece to congress

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) and the Genocide Education Project (GenEd) have teamed up with internationally renowned publisher Doubleday Books to spotlight New York Times Bestselling author Chris Bohjalian's upcoming novel on the Armenian Genocide on Capitol Hill and in communities across the United States.

Bohjalian's widely anticipated tour-de-force, *The Sandcastle Girls*, which goes on sale on July 17th, will take center stage beginning with a special Southern California kick-off luncheon with the author at the Universal Sheraton Hotel, hosted by the ANCA Grassroots Film and the Arts Committee and GenEd, followed by an evening presentation held at Woodbury University Fletcher Jones Auditorium.

According to a press release by ANCA Bohjalian will then be traveling to events in San Francisco, CA; Watertown, MA; Warwick, RI; New Milford, NJ and Washington, DC, where his Capitol Hill debut is co-hosted by Congressional Armenian Genocide Resolution lead sponsors, Representatives Robert Dold (R-IL) and Adam Schiff (D-CA). Bohjalian will be meeting with Congressional members throughout the day on August 1st and then offering remarks and signing books beginning at 6:00pm at the Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-369.

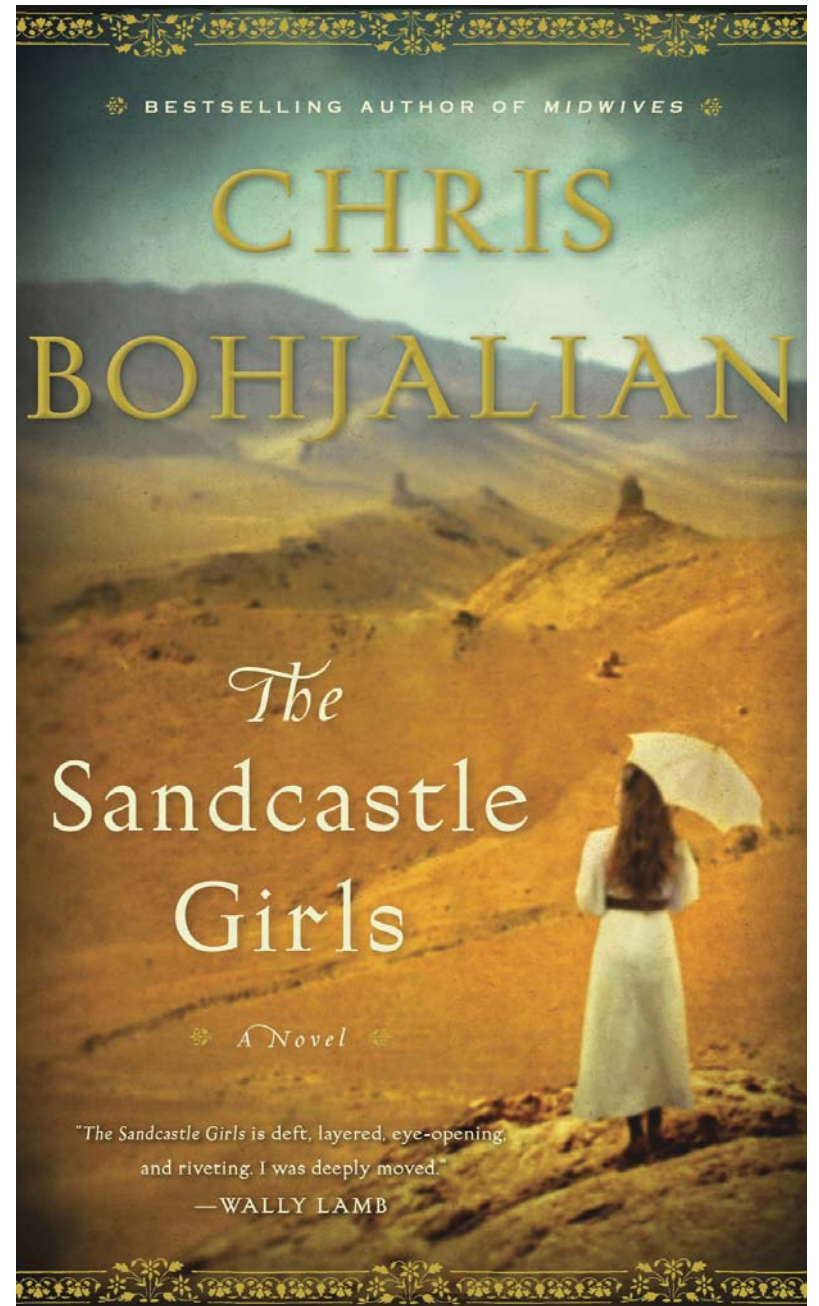
Armenian Americans and interested readers are encouraged to pre-order *The Sandcastle Girls* online at discounted prices from the following sites or from their local book sellers.

"Bohjalian's *The Sandcastle Girls* certainly belongs to every Armenian's book collection, but more broadly, its powerful depic-

tions of the horrors of genocide makes it a must-read for every American," said Nora Yacoubian, Chair of the ANCA-WR Film and the Arts Committee. "Through vivid characters and a moving storyline, the collective Armenian genocidal experience is presented in a way that touches us all."

Genocide Education Project Chairman Raffi Momjian concurred, noting, "Bohjalian's *The*

Sandcastle Girls is a powerful educational tool to help readers - young and old - relate to a topic so abhorrent to us all, but so necessary to understand if we are to prevent future such crimes. Through Chris' vision and story-telling ability - a whole new audience will learn about this tragedy and will, hopefully, be inspired to ensure the victims and the survivors are never forgotten."



Austrian First Lady got acquainted with Austrian library in Yerevan

First ladies of Armenia and Austria Rita Sargsyan and Margit Fischer visited Austrian library of Yerevan State Linguistic University. The first ladies walked through the library, got acquainted with its history and activity.

"Austrian library closely cooperates with Ministry of Culture of Austria. It is a public library and not only students of the University can use the library. There is also online version of the library" mentioned the coordinator of the library Liana Safaryan.

Especially on occasion of the visit of Austrian First lady Austrian students of the University had prepared theatrical performance.

Austrian library of Yerevan State Linguistic University was founded on October 28, 2010. It is the only Armenian-Austrian library where lit-



erature relating to Austrian culture, philosophy, history and other spheres are presented.

On October 29-30, 2012 is planned to hold a conference to rename the library after Franz Werfel.



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Urartians were familiar with luxurious life - French archaeologist

The Armenian-French joint archaeological excavation team, which carried out diggings at the citadel of the ancient Urartian Erebuni Fortress located in Armenia's capital city Yerevan, summed up the results of the first phase of its activities during a press conference on June 28.

"Erebuni" Historical & Archaeological Museum-Reserve Director Gagik Gyurjyan noted that the Soviet-era archaeological research conducted at the site was carried out with certain hurriedness and many questions referring to the Fortress' architecture are being answered only today.

In their turn, the French expedition team's leader Stephane Deschamps and member Francois Fichet de Clairfontaine thor-

oughly presented the results of the Armenian-French archaeological diggings which had commenced on June 5.

The specialists stressed in particular that the excavations will help bring into surface around a century-long time period, whose understanding will enable to write this chapter in Armenia's history. Also, they highlighted that life in the Fortress still continued after the fall of the Kingdom of Urartu.

And in response to the news reporters' query as to what kind of life Erebuni's residents led, Deschamps half-jokingly said:

"Judging from the pottery discovered at the Fortress, we can say that the Urartians were familiar with the luxurious life; they had taste [and] loved to drink wine or beer."

Two coffees a day boosts your heart



Drinking just two cups of coffee a day can dramatically reduce the risk of heart failure and may even protect against it, say researchers.

But they warn that consuming too much coffee - five cups - can increase your chances of heart problems. And people who have nine or ten cups a day are putting themselves in serious danger of chronic illness and early death.

Lead researcher Dr Murray Mittleman, of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the USA, said: "While there is a commonly held belief that regular coffee

consumption may be dangerous to heart health, our research suggests that the opposite may be true.

"We found that moderate consumption - which we define as the equivalent of about two typical American coffee shop beverages - may actually protect against heart failure by as much as 11 per cent.

"On the other hand, excessive coffee drinking - five to six commercial coffee house cups per day - has no benefit and may even be dangerous.

"As with so many things, moderation appears to be the key."

He added: "Diabetes and hypertension

(high blood pressure) are among the most important risk factors for heart failure. So it stands to reason that reducing one's odds of developing either of them, in turn, reduces one's chance of heart failure."

Previous studies have shown that drinking coffee can reduce the risk of stroke and protect against Alzheimer's disease.

Victoria Taylor, at the British Heart Foundation, said: "Aside from the coffee itself, it is also worth thinking about how you take your coffee.

"Going 'skinny' and having your drink made with low-fat milk is the healthier option."

ARMENIAN POETRY

Archbishop Khoren Nar Bey de Lusignan (d. 1892)

To my sister

Fain would I be to thee, my sister sweet,
Like the bright cloud beneath Aurora's feet
A pedestal to help thee mount on high
Into the blessed peace of the blue sky.
The zephyr would I be, to which is given
To waft the rose's fragrance up to heaven,
That thy pure soul, amid life's stress and strain,
Might not exhale its perfume sweet in vain.
Fain would I be to thee as crystal dew
Of morn, that doth the young flower's sap renew.
And with its vapour veils her from the sun,
Lest thy fresh heart be seared ere day is done.
Fain would I be to thee a nightingale,
Telling within thine ear so sweet a tale;
No meaner strain thine eyes with sleep should dim.
And thou shouldst wake to hear a sacred hymn.
Fain would I be to thee a broad-armed tree
That casts wide shadow on the sultry lea,
And cheers from far the wandering traveller's view;
So would my love shed o'er thee shade and dew.
Fain would I be to thee a refuge sure,
As 'neath the thatch the swallow builds secure.
A humble roof, it yet the rain can ward;
So I from storms thine innocence would guard.
Ah! when to thee this world, as yet unknown,
Its barren hopes, its bitterness hath shown,
Fain, fain would I bring comfort in that hour
To thy sad heart. Oh, would I had the power!

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

You may become caught in the crosshairs of a major tug of war. One side wants control and the other wants security. Both want you on their side, but you personally seek freedom and don't want to be a pawn. This story might also be internal, a battle of three sides within yourself.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Your ruling planet turns direct today. It may take a few days, but soon you will be ready to make a decision to move forward with your life. You have experienced a time of withdrawal. Meanwhile you have been evaluating the next step. Sometimes we need to pull inward and reflect, especially in matters of love.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You have a desire to reach outward to others. You want to share ideas and express yourself in a larger framework. Circumstances on the romantic front are favorable with one who shares intellectual interests. Activities involving teaching/learning are favored, along with good aspects for travel.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Your plans and ideas may be challenged by another at this time. In order to hold your own in this situation, you must have clarity about who you have become. Do your best to generate a win-win situation from the duel, and avoid a frank battle of wills. Meanwhile changes in your life direction are complicating everything.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

On the surface of your life things could not be better. Aspects smile on your attitude, and your social life. This is a fine time for a vacation or a weekend jaunt. There is a brew developing among co-workers or employees. Keep one eye on the developments.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Circumstances at your workplace or in your life direction have improved considerably. You have the satisfaction of knowing that your work in the background helped to make the favorable changes. You likely won't toot your own whistle over it, but such is the nature of Virgo.

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

Your ability as a negotiator or peacemaker may be called upon now in more ways than one. People all around you are frantic. You can feel their pain even as you see them make mistakes. Hopefully you can act as the one who can help others by reframing their situations or offering a fresh perspective.

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

Drive and use tools with special care this week. You may be distracted and thus open for an accident. You are stretched like a wire and it is important for you to take very good care of your physical and mental health. Watch your sharp tongue when dealing with family and co-workers.

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

This is a wonderful time for a vacation. All the aspects suggest "go" signals. Personal and social life will flow easily. If, instead, this energy is directed toward teaching or learning, you still have a glowing report. It is a fine time to connect deeply with your partner.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

The time is a study in the use of power. There are issues related to your home and/or family that are threatening change, so you may feel out of control of your situation. Your significant other, client, or partner demands security regardless of cost. Things are happening quickly. Have faith in the ability of others to work through their problems.

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

People around you, especially those at the workplace, may be caught up in crises. Offer empathy, but don't take over anyone else's problem. It's far too complicated for your mental health. Issues in love life or with children may seem tiresome. You might prefer to be alone.

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

Avoid allergens at this time. Your immune system is in a mild droop. You may be entertaining guests in your home during this period. Communication in all forms may be prominent. Steer clear of anything that looks like it is "too good to be true". It is!

HUMOR

Did you ever have this before?

Doctor: Have you ever had this before?
Patient: Yes.
Doctor: Well, you've got it again!

Easter

Q: Why did the Easter Bunny hide his eggs?
A: He didn't want the other bunnies to know that he was fooling around with the chickens.

Quote of the week



There is no such thing in anyone's life as an unimportant day.
Alexander Woollcott

