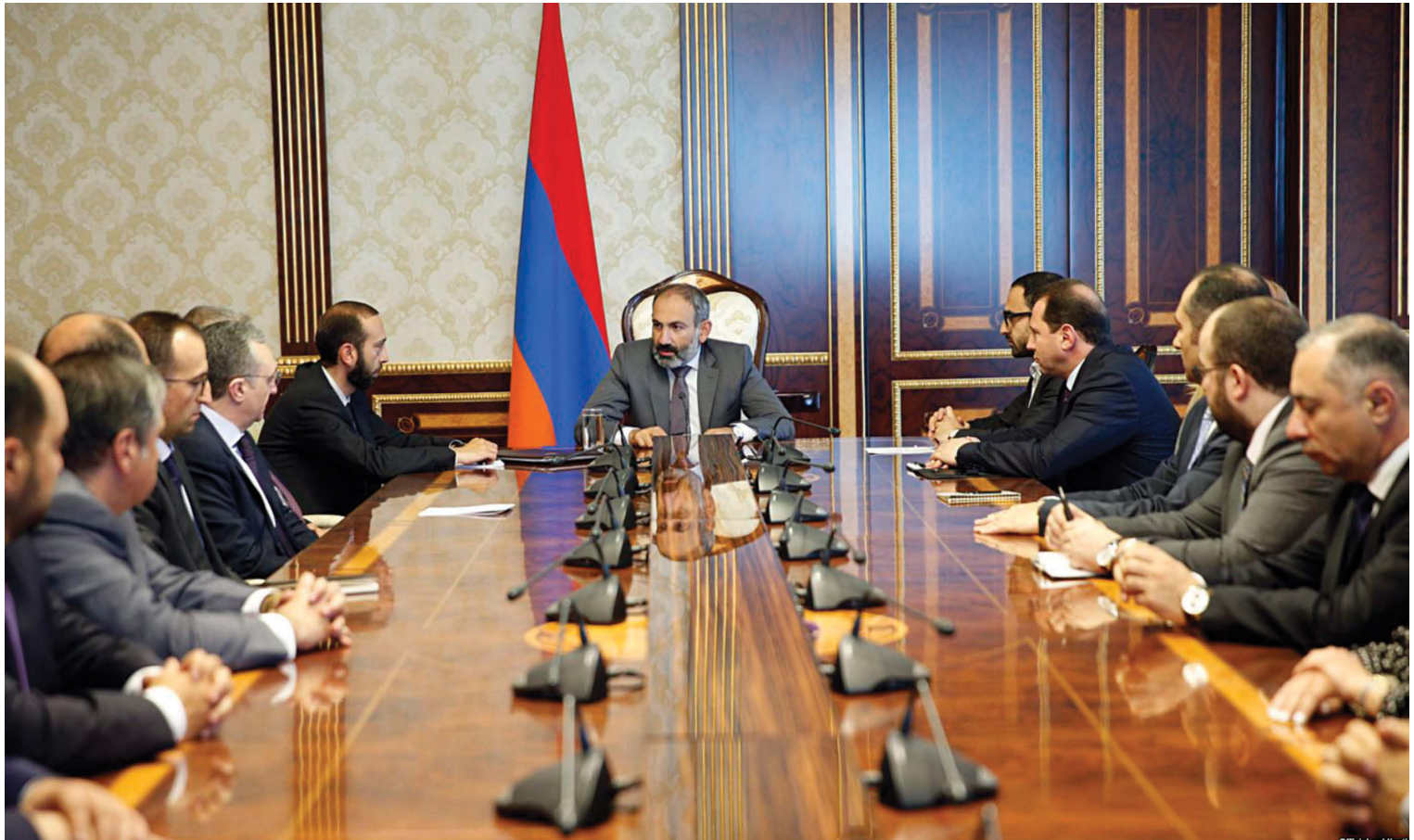


# New Armenian Government Formed



*Armenia - Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan meets with newly appointed members of his government in Yerevan, 13 May 2018.*

After completing the formation of his government, Armenia's new Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan reaffirmed his pledges to carry out sweeping reforms and push for fresh parliamentary elections on Sunday.

The three deputy prime ministers and 17 ministers handpicked by Pashinyan were formally appointed by President Armen Sarkissian on Friday and Saturday. Four of them held senior positions in the country's previous government that was swept from power by nationwide massive protests led by Pashinyan.

The new cabinet includes experienced technocrats, young Pashinyan associates and other political appointees representing the three minority factions in the Armenian parliament that

helped to install the 42-year-old protest leader as prime minister on May 8.

Businessman Gagik Tsarukyan's alliance, the second largest parliamentary force, nominated Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan and the ministers of energy, transport and communications, emergency situations, and sports and youth affairs. Grigoryan is a 46-year-old banker.

Pashinyan also reached a de facto power-sharing deal with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun), which was allied to former President and Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan until his resignation on April 23.

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## Turkish Parliament rejects Armenian Genocide recognition bill

A draft law submitted by Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Istanbul MP Garo Paylan to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for the "Recognition of Armenian Genocide", "Removal of the Names of Genocide Perpetrators from Public Places" and "Amendment to Turkish Citizenship Law" has been rejected by the Parliament Speaker's Office, Bianet reports.

In the rejection letter signed by Parliament Speaker Ismail Kahraman, the draft law submitted by Garo Paylan has been described as "rude and hurtful" and the statements of Paylan have been referred to as "insult to your own country" and "against our national consciousness and history."

In the letter, it has been stated, "The statements in the draft law have been considered to be hurtful as per the Article No. 67 of the Internal Regulation on the grounds that they accuse the Republic of Turkey as well as the history and shared past of the Turkish Nation and they charge the Turkish Nation with committing a crime of genocide."

On April 20, 2018, (HDP) Chair Garo Paylan submitted a bill to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, requesting the recognition of Armenian Genocide, removal of the names of genocide perpetrators from public places and an amendment to the Turkish Citizenship Law.

## President Sarkissian visits the EU Delegation to Armenia on the occasion of Europe Day

President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkissian visited the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia and congratulated the staff on the occasion of Europe Day on May 11.

EU Ambassador Piotr Świtalski and President Sarkissian discussed the current political context in Armenia. Ambassador Świtalski recognized President Sarkissian's important role in handling the political crisis.

He reiterated that the European Union looked forward to working with the President, the new Prime Minister and the new government on the implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed last November. EU cooperation priorities in Armenia for the coming years were discussed.

During the visit, President



Sarkissian had a group photo with the staff of the EU Delegation to Armenia.

Europe Day, held on 9 May every year, celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French Foreign Minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation

in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable.

His vision was to create a European institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

## Merkel congratulated Pashinyan on taking office



German Chancellor Angela Merkel has congratulated Nikol Pashinyan on being elected as Armenia's Prime Minister.

"As a reliable partner, Germany will continue to assist Armenia in its drive for modernization and implementation of reforms and will make efforts for the deepening of bilateral friendly relations, as well as for the peaceful development of the region," Mrs. Merkel said.

"I very much welcome the fact that all those involved in the political processes of recent days and weeks have shown a great sense of responsibility for the benefit of the Armenian people. I wish you every success and all the best in the formation of the new government and throughout your tenure," the Chancellor added.

## U.S. to "work closely" with new Armenian government

The United States has congratulated Nikol Pashinyan on becoming Armenia's prime minister and said it will 'work closely' with his government which will be formed by the end of this month.

The United States congratulates Nikol Pashinyan as the new Prime Minister of Armenia, "a spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department, Heather Nauert, said in a statement released late on May 8.

"We look forward to working closely with the new government and with the people of Armenia on the many areas of shared interest between our countries, including increasing trade, working in support of democracy and rule of law, and safeguarding regional and global security," she said.

Washington has closely monitored recent weeks' dramatic developments in Armenia that have led to the resignation of Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan and his replacement by Pashinyan, the main organizer of nationwide anti-government protests. The State Department has repeatedly urged Armenia political factions to end the political crisis through dialogue.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wess Mitchell had phone conversations with Pashinyan as well as Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on April 30. A few days earlier, the U.S. ambassador in

Yerevan, Richard Mills, met with Pashinyan and then acting Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan to try to help ease political tensions in the country.

Pashinyan's election as prime minister was also welcomed on Tuesday by the two main Armenian-American lobbying groups. One of them, the Armenian Assembly of America, sent a congratulatory letter to the 42-year-old protest leader.

"This is truly a remarkable and defining moment in Armenia's history," read the letter signed by the Assembly leadership. "We are especially proud of your demonstrated commitment to non-violent, democratic change, which has brought honor to all Armenians."

The Assembly will continue to urge Washington "to do more to fortify and advance the critical relationship between America and Armenia," added the letter.

For its part, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) said the peaceful regime change in Yerevan has boosted Armenia's reputation in the U.S. as a "reliable and democratic partner in advancing shared regional and international priorities." It has also "sharpened the contrast between Armenia's progress and the deepening democratic deficits in neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey," said the ANCA's executive director, Aram Hamparian.

## Artsakh's participation in negotiations is a must, Armenian PM says



Negotiations on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict should proceed within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship with full participation of Artsakh as a party to the talks, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan told a press conference in Stepanakert on May 9.

"I'm ready to negotiate with the President of Azerbaijan on behalf of Armenia, but it's up to the Artsakh authorities in the face of the President to negotiate with the Azerbaijani President on behalf of Artsakh," Pashinyan said.

We do not refuse from talks with Azerbaijan, but we have to make it clear that we can only present the Republic of Armenia, he added.

Nikol Pashinyan also stressed the importance of correctly presenting the essence of the Karabakh conflict to the international community.

"We have to take renewed efforts in that direction especially after the April war in 2016, when the Azerbaijani armed forces committed harsh atrocities against the people of Artsakh," the prime Minister said.

According to him, those atrocities reflect the true essence of the Karabakh conflict, as the conflict started when the people of Nagorno Karabakh saw the need to protect themselves from Azerbaijani violence. He stressed that the Karabakh conflict is not a territorial issue.

Pashinyan stressed that while the Armenian sides have always stood for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Azerbaijani side periodically comes forth with bellicose rhetoric.

He added that speaking about any concessions is senseless, as long as there is no message from Azerbaijan about the readiness to recognize the right of the Artsakh people to self-determination.

Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the importance of implementing an investigation mechanism at the line of contact, an agreement on which had been reached at a meeting in Vienna in 2016. He pledged Armenia's willingness to immediately create the mechanism and sees it as an important tool to determine which of the parties is taking non-constructive steps and violating the ceasefire.

Asked about the possible unification of Armenia and Artsakh, the Prime Minister said the issue can be determined through an expression of will of the people in the two countries after Artsakh is recognized internationally.

## New Armenian Government Formed

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Dashnaksutyun will be represented in the new government by Minister for Economic Development Artur Minasyan and Agriculture Minister Artur Khachatryan. Minasyan served as environment minister while Khachatryan was the governor of the northwestern Shirak province until this month.

The two other deputy prime ministers, Ararat Mirzoyan and Tigran Avinyan, are senior members of Pashinyan's Civil Contract party. Avinyan, 29, is apparently the youngest vice-premier in Armenia's history.

Two other Civil Contract figures, Arayik Harutyunyan and Suren Papikyan, were appointed as ministers of education and local government respectively.

Pashinyan also gave two ministerial portfolios to top representatives of the Hanrapetutyun (Republic) and Bright Armenian parties making up, together with Civil Contract, the Yelk alliance. Hanrapetutyun's Artak Zeynalyan was named justice minister while Bright Armenia's Mane Tandilyan will manage the Armenian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Three other, more important cabinet posts were given to non-partisan figures. One of them, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's am-

bassador to the United Nations until now, will serve as foreign minister. The 52-year-old career diplomat was the country's deputy foreign minister from 2011-2014.

The new Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan worked as minister for emergency situations in the previous government. Tonoyan, 49, was Armenia's first deputy defense minister from 2010-2017. A graduate of Russia's Military-Diplomatic Academy, he represented the Armenian military at the NATO headquarters in Brussels from 1998-2007.

Pashinyan's choice of finance minister is Atom Janjughazyan, a longtime deputy finance minister and head of the Armenian state treasury.

Pashinyan met with the newly appointed cabinet members on Sunday, saying that his "government of accord" must strive to live up to the huge expectations of the country's population that has overwhelmingly supported his protest movement. That, he said, requires a "new style, new philosophy, new culture" of work by all government agencies.

"Please get down to business, familiarize yourself with the current state of affairs today so that we don't lose time," he said. "There are operational issues that need to be solved as

soon as possible."

"The public must feel that this is a government formed by it and accountable to it," added the former journalist.

Pashinyan reiterated in that regard that his government must embark on sweeping "reforms in various areas." He pledged earlier to democratize Armenia, strengthen the rule of law, separate business from government and radically improve the broader investment climate.

Pashinyan also told his ministers to start working on the government's comprehensive policy program which he has to submit to the parliament within the next three weeks. Its approval by lawmakers would amount to a vote of confidence.

Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), which still holds the majority of parliament seats, has signaled its readiness to back the program despite its serious misgivings about Pashinyan's premiership. The program's rejection by the National Assembly would pave the way for snap general elections.

Pashinyan said that the conduct of such polls will be his cabinet's top "political priority." But he again did not say just when he thinks they should be held.

## “We have to eliminate culture of barbed wires,” says Pashinyan after naming security chiefs

YEREVAN—The first appointments to new government posts were made on May 10 when President Armen Sarkissian heeded the suggestion of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and appointed Artur Vanetsyan and Valery Osipyan as heads of the National Security Service and the National Police force respectively.

Osipyan, a familiar figure from street protests during the past two years will replace Vladimir Gasparyan while Vanetsyan will replace Georgy Koutoyan. The former security chiefs were relieved of their duties through a presidential decree.

After making the appointments, Pashinyan said he expected serious results from the newly-appointed security chiefs as they are the guarantors of national security and the safety of Armenia's citizens.

“Our revolution has opened a new page. Before the revolution Veleri Osipyan and I, you and Valeri Osipyan, we and the Police were physically standing on the opposite sides of the barbed wires, and I thought that this decision will have certain symbolism,” said Pashinyan.

“After this decision we all have to be on the same side. This is symbolic and we have to try to eliminate the culture of barbed wires from the Republic of Armenia. I hope that Mr. Osipyan will justify the hopes of the citizens of Armenia, because today much depends on the



police,” added Pashinyan.

“The citizens of Armenia must feel confident, protected and nothing must put at risk their feeling of being protected,” explained Pashinyan who said he had reviewed his vision of police protection and service with Osipyan.

In discussing the NSS Pashinyan emphasized the importance of the agency and warned that its functions must include a better monitoring of customs service to avoid violations.

“In fact, the NSS must properly carry out its functions linked with intelligence and counter-

intelligence, because this is the external component of security,” said Pashinyan who stressed that with the two appointments he anticipates the elimination corruption in Armenia. Pashinyan also noted that one of the key tasks of the NSS must be excluding any types of misuse in the customs sphere.

“The citizens of Armenia must feel the changes every day. The assessment of the work done by the Police Chief and NSS Director will be based on the results of the implementation of these tasks,” said Pashinyan.

## Armenia, Georgia PMs agree to meet in near future



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a phone conversation with his Georgian counterpart Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

The interlocutors highly appreciated the good-neighborly relations between the two countries and the positive dynamics of their development.

The parties expressed willingness to further deepen the mutually beneficial partnership in various spheres.

Nikol Pashinyan and Giorgi Kvirikashvili agreed to meet in the near future.

## Turkey says willing to consider ‘new page’ in ties with Armenia

Turkey's prime minister says his country would be willing to assess requests for “a new page” in its relations with Armenia, AP reports.

Binali Yildirim's comments Friday were in response to reports that Armenia's new Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, had called for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two neighbors without any preconditions.

Yildirim says “if Armenia abandons its hostile stance ... if it wants to open a new page, we would look at the details and respond accordingly.”

“We do not want to be hostile to anybody, especially our neighbors. If such an approach is taken, we will naturally evaluate it in the interests of our country,” he said, adding that the government's principle is “to increase friendships and diminish hostility.”

Armenia's new Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on May 9 said his country is ready to establish diplomatic ties with Turkey “without preconditions.”

“Turkey is putting forward preconditions.



This demand is illogical because it is illogical to put forward conditions related to a third country in order to establish relations with any country. We do not change our position and we are ready to establish relations without conditions. At the same time, we remain committed to international recognition of the Armenian genocide,” Pashinyan said at a press conference in Stepanakert.

Armenia and Turkey signed two protocols on establishment on normalization of relations, which Armenia declared null and void in March 2018.

## Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan Introduces Newly Appointed Defence Minister Davit Tonoyan to Top Officers of the Armed Forces



Compiled by  
Gourgen  
James  
Khazhakian  
Chief  
Correspondent

In previous years The Highlights has covered for numerous times activities of Mr Davit E. Tonoyan as the First Deputy Defence Minister so for our readers he is not an unfamiliar person.

Taking into account Mr Tonoyan's great experience in the Armenian Victorious Army building, his close relations with both Russian/CIS and Western colleagues and the energy and devotion, PM Nikol Pashinyan appointed Davit Tonoyan Defence Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

The Highlights' staff congratulates Mr

fence Ministry as he has served at the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces for years, and I'm sure you all know him very well. I'd like to emphasize that this appointment, in fact, reflects the policies we are going to implement for the development of the Armed Forces. It was important for us to make the process of the change of the cabinet as smooth as possible, and that the Armed Forces stay out of political shocks," Pashinyan said.

He underscored that the normal development of the Armed Forces and their issues would be absolute priority for the government, because the security of our country and the Republic of Artsakh is at stake. He added that it is necessary to make every effort to raise the security levels of the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh.

Pashinyan spoke about the priorities he has formulated for the minister. "The first and most

going to address in the near future – and we have considered that Tonoyan's candidacy is most appropriate in this case – concerns the de-politicisation of the army. When in Artsakh, I have had an opportunity to extend my special thanks to the representatives of our army and the Armed Forces for their position to engage in the political events during the recent domestic political crisis, something prescribed in the Constitution. This testifies to the fact that our Armed Forces, as an institution, are on high level. This process should be further developed. During the political processes, including elections, the army should not be engaged as a party to the electoral process: our goal is to provide each citizen of Armenia freedom of choice and, in this sense, every serviceman of the Armed Forces, as a citizen, must be free in his choice because that is what is stipulated



**Tonoyan for his very responsible and noble position and wish him all the success.**

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited on 12 May the Ministry of Defence to introduce the newly appointed Defence Minister Davit Tonoyan to the top officers of the army.

"I realise that there is no special need to introduce David Tonoyan to the staff of the De-

important issue is the continuous increase of the army's combat readiness. Today, Armenia's international reputation is high and continues to grow, which means that Armenia's positions on the international arena and in the talks are getting stronger. I would also like to emphasize that the army, the Armed Forces should be a strong support for the Armenian diplomacy and negotiation process. The next issue we are

by the Constitution, the laws, and this is true for everyone, from privates to generals," he said, adding that the Armenian Armed Forces should not be pro-government or pro-opposition, and should not consider themselves as a political factor.

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## Major Job Growth Reported By Outgoing Armenian Government

The number of people officially employed by private firms and public entities in Armenia has increased by more than 18,000 in the past year, according to the national tax service.

Data released by the State Revenue Committee (SRC) on Monday shows that it totaled around 505,000 in the first quarter of this year, up by 3.7 percent from the same period in 2017. The SRC did not specify whether the increased payrolls mostly resulted from new jobs created in the country or its efforts to reduce the informal sector of the Armenian economy.

The government agency said only that its first-quarter proceeds from personal income tax collection rose by 7 percent. It also reported a more than 4 percent rise in the average monthly salary which reached 176,000 drams (\$365).

Speaking on April 11, Minister for Economic Development Suren Karayan said investment

projects supported by the government through tax breaks alone translated into 5,700 new jobs in the private sector last year.

Armenia has long been beset by double-digit unemployment. Its unemployment rate was estimated at around 20 percent a year ago.

According to the National Statistical Service (NSS), the Armenian economy grew by 7.5 percent in 2017. The NSS recorded a 7.2 percent growth rate in the first quarter of 2018.

In recent days, acting Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, who was replaced by opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan on Tuesday, has publicized a raft of macroeconomic data showing continuing rapid gains in Armenia's industrial output, retail trade and especially exports. The official figures posted on his Facebook page were clearly meant to defend his and his cabinet's 20-month track record.

"I want to thank our government team," Karapetyan wrote



on Tuesday. "It was a team of highly honest and patriotic individuals."

Karapetyan also congratulated Pashinyan on becoming prime minister and wished him "many successes."

Two members of Karapetyan's economic team, acting Finance Minister Vartan Aramyan and SRC chief Vartan Harutiunyan, met with the new prime minister

later in the day. According to the premier's office, Pashinyan told them to continue to perform their duties until the formation of his cabinet.

Speaking in the Armenian parliament earlier on Tuesday, Pashinyan dismissed the official statistics indicating robust economic growth. He said it has had little impact on the lives of most Armenians.

## Armenia's first solar plant to set to become a reality

Armenia has given its green light to the first large-scale solar power plant in the history of the country. The Government has issued the letter of award to a consortium of Fotowatio Renewable Venture B.V.(FRV) and FSL Solar of the Masrik-1 55 MW solar power plant, the first competitively-tendered Independent Power Project (IPP) in Armenia. The consortium led by FRV won the bid with the lowest tariff at \$c4.19/kWh among five pre-qualified bidders.

This project will offset about 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> during its economic life-time of 20 years and create both short- and long-term jobs. In addition, the Masrik-1 plant will improve long-term energy security by promoting the development of solar resources and reducing the country's dependence on imported natural gas.

"The Masrik-1 solar power plant is a pioneering project for Armenia, as well as for the South Caucasus region, and an exciting opportunity for the country to further develop its renewable energy



potential", said Sylvie Bossoutrot, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "Furthermore, the open and competitive bidding process carried out by the government has set an example for future investments in the country."

In 2014, the Government had identified utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) as a priority under the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program Investment Plan (SREP) which provided a US\$2 million Project Preparation Grant. SREP and the World Bank team supported the Renewable Resource-

es and Energy Efficiency Fund with installation of ground-based solar resource measurements; identification of Masrik-1 as the candidate site for the first round of tender; commissioning of feasibility studies and environmental and social impact assessments; and hiring of transaction advisor to prepare and support the competitive tender process.

SREP and the World Bank also made available a guarantee instrument to mitigate investment risks, attract international developers and increase competition.

The launch of the Masrik-1 project opens up a new market for Armenia. Another five potential solar projects, with a total capacity of about 55 MW, already identified and prepared with support from SREP and the World Bank, are expected to be launched in a second round of competitive bidding in the near future.

This second round will greatly benefit from the experience gained from Masrik-1, with reduced transaction costs, given that a set of negotiated contractual documents will be readily available. Moreover, this experience will improve investors' perceptions of the opportunities of utility-scale solar perspectives in Armenia.

The winner will have six months to conclude the financing agreements for the project, and two years after that to complete construction of the power plant and the associated transmission line. The solar power plant will sell its electricity to Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

## Russia May Restrict Armenian Vegetable Imports



(Yerevan- RFE/RL) Citing food safety concerns, a Russian government agency has warned that it may place temporary restrictions on growing imports of tomatoes and cucumbers from Armenia.

The agricultural safety watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor said late on Thursday that it found “quarantine organisms” in seven tomato and cucumber consignments which Armenian exporters attempted to ship to Russia via Georgia from May 3-9. The agricultural produce was sent back to Armenia as a result, it said in a statement.

The statement demanded that the Armenian Agriculture Ministry launch an inquiry and “take measures to prevent such instances.”

Failure to do so will lead the Russian side to restrict Armenian agricultural imports, it warned.

The Armenian ministry’s State Service for Food Safety said on Friday that it is now “clarifying details of the incident.” “The Service has already taken necessary measures to further tighten controls on the safety of exported fruits and vegetables,” it said.

In recent years, Rosselkhoznadzor has cited similar safety concerns to ban or restrict food imports from countries at loggerheads with Russia, including Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Its latest move therefore fueled speculation that Moscow is sending a warning to Armenia’s new political leadership that has swept to power as a result of massive protests that toppled Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan on April 23.

Armenia’s trade representative in Moscow, Karen Asoyan, dismissed such suggestions. “There is nothing extraordinary,” he told RFE/RL’s Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). “This is just a warning, not a restriction.”

In Asoyan’s words, Russian food safety inspectors reported similar problems with Armenian agricultural imports on several occasions last year and the two sides “cooperated” to sort them out. “Russia detects more than a thousand such cases relating to fruits and vegetables on its borders each year,” he said.

Armenian exports to Russia have grown rapidly in the last few years. Agricultural products account for a large part of those exports.

## ANCA Renews Drive for U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty

In the wake of Armenia’s peaceful, constitutional political transition – a move broadly welcomed among Washington, DC policymakers as marking a new chapter in U.S.-Armenia relations – the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) has renewed its longstanding drive for a U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty, a good-governance accord needed to break down artificial barriers to the growth of bilateral trade and investment.

The Republic of Armenia has expressed its willingness to start treaty talks on the basis of the 2016 “U.S. Model Income Tax Convention,” a standard template used by many nations in reaching agreements with the United States. This model treaty prioritizes the transparent exchange of information, a hallmark of good governance and a statutory check,

enforced by both parties, against attempted “non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance.”

“We are encouraged by the result of our recent meetings with Administration officials and Congressional leaders, during which we stressed our strategic priority of strengthening U.S.-Armenia ties, with a strong focus on broad-based, sustainable economic cooperation,” said ANCA Chairman Raffi Hamparian. “We look forward to continuing our work with stakeholders in Washington, DC and Yerevan to put this accord in place and also advance a broad array of other initiatives – in the economic, political and military arenas – aimed at broadening and deepening the longstanding friendship of the American and Armenian peoples.”

In February of this year – in response to a Congressional letter spearheaded by Armenian Caucus Co-Chair David Valadao (R-CA) and senior Foreign Affairs Committee member Brad Sherman (D-CA), and signed by 31 U.S. Representatives – U.S. Secretary of Treasury Stephen Mnuchin pledged to devote Treasury Department staff resources to exploring a Double Tax Treaty with Armenia. These legislators stressed the urgency of renegotiating the existing, outdated Double Tax Treaty with Armenia, an obsolete Cold War-era accord – recognized today by the U.S. but not Armenia – that was negotiated with the now defunct U.S.S.R. more than four decades ago.

“American and Armenian businesses have close ties and it’s time to end the double taxation currently imposed on businesses in both nations,” explained Rep. Valadao. “By renegotiating our tax treaty with Armenia, we can continue to strengthen our relationship with a close ally while encouraging trade and investment in our great nations,” he continued. “Modernizing our double tax treaty with Armenia is long overdue,” explained Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), who pressed Secretary Mnuchin on the issue during a House Financial Services Committee hearing in February. “This is not only an opportunity to reaffirm our friendship with Armenia, but to also create new opportunities for investment and growth.”

### UNITED STATES MODEL INCOME TAX CONVENTION

CONVENTION BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE  
PREVENTION OF TAX EVASION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of \_\_\_\_\_, intending to conclude a Convention for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in this Convention for the indirect benefit of residents of third states), have agreed as follows:

[anca.org/trade](http://anca.org/trade)

## EU Leaders Congratulate New Armenian PM

Top representatives of the European Union have congratulated Nikol Pashinyan on becoming Armenia's prime minister and pledged to work with his government in implementing a landmark EU-Armenia agreement signed last November.

The EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, also invited Pashinyan to visit Brussels "at the earliest opportunity" when she telephoned him on Wednesday.

"They agreed on the importance of the partnership between the European Union and Armenia and looked forward to meeting in person," a spokesperson for Mogherini said in a statement.

"They discussed the next steps following the Prime Minister's election by the Armenian Parliament, including the future formation of a government, and touched on further opportunities to strengthen links between European Union and Armenia," added the statement.

Nikol Pashinyan received a congratulatory message from EU Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on May 10.

"We look forward to cooperating with you in your new position to further strengthen the relations between the European Union and Armenia, particularly through the implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement which has received the unanimous support of the Armenian Parliament, including with a view to further consolidating democracy, strengthening the rule of law, protecting human rights, and creating a prosperous and resilient economic and social system for the benefit of the citizens of Armenia. To achieve these important goals we believe that a comprehensive dialogue among all political stakeholders in Armenia remains crucial. Finally, we look forward to your positive engagement within the Eastern Partnership and for the promotion of security, stability, democracy and prosperity in Armenia and the broader region" read the telegram posted on the Armenian premier's website.

Tusk and Juncker also renewed EU calls for a "comprehensive dialogue among all political stakeholders in Armenia" following the resignation of Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan. The latter stepped down on April 23 amid massive anti-government protests led by Pashinyan.

Pashinyan called for a quick ratification of the CEPA by all EU mem-



ber states when he addressed Armenian lawmakers shortly before they voted to elect him prime minister on Tuesday. He also said his government will strive for the lifting of the EU's visa requirements for Armenian nationals.

The CEPA, which was ratified by Armenia's parliament last month, commits the Armenian authorities to carrying out political reforms that will democratize the country's political system and boost human rights protection. They must also gradually "approximate" Armenian economic laws and regulations to those of the EU.

The 350-page accord came as a less ambitious substitute for an Association Agreement which was nearly finalized by Armenian and EU negotiators in 2013. Sargsyan, who was Armenia's president at the time, precluded the signing of that agreement by unexpectedly deciding to seek his country's accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

Pashinyan criticized that volte face and called for Armenia's withdrawal from the EEU as recently as last October. However, he made clear right after Sargsyan's resignation that he will not pull the country out of the trade bloc comprising five ex-Soviet states.

Pashinyan is due to attend an EEU summit that will be hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi next week. The two men spoke by phone on May 8.

## Aurora Humanitarian Index reveals fear of war and crisis overload

The third annual Aurora Humanitarian Index today reveals that over half (52%) of people regard risk of war as the most pressing global humanitarian challenge facing humanity right now, compared to just 41% in 2017. At 58%, terrorism remains people's greatest humanitarian concern today, although this is down five points from last year.

At a time of such uncertainty and fear, many are experiencing crisis overload with 61% of people saying there are too many humanitarian crises to keep up with in the world today.

Results from the annual public opinion study, which surveyed nearly 11,000 people in 12 countries, also reveals that people continue to get it wrong when it comes to the countries most affected and assume that developed countries are the ones hosting most refugees. 97% of people don't know or underestimate the fact that the vast majority of displaced people are hosted by developing countries rather than the West.

Misperceptions also remain when it comes to understanding refugees themselves. Most people think that under a third (32%) of refugees are under the age of 18. The reality is that 51% of the total global refugee population are children. A striking finding this year showed that only a

little over one third (36%) view the protection of children, and one-quarter (24%) view the protection of women, as pressing humanitarian issues.

Continuing a theme from last year, many countries still think refugees pose a threat to their culture and overall, people do not recognize the true value that refugees can bring to their country and their economy.

A bright spot in the 2018 Index showed that there is a resurgence of faith in world leaders to address the refugee crisis with Angela Merkel (up 13 points to 46%), Donald Trump (up 10 points to 40%), Vladimir Putin (up 11 points to 35%) and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (up 9 points to 31%) all gaining ground from last year's results. Business leaders including Bill Gates (41%) and Mark Zuckerberg (35%) are also recognized as being capable to address the refugee crisis.

Ruben Vardanyan, Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, said: "It's concerning that this is the third year that the Humanitarian Index has revealed such levels of disconnect about the realities of the global refugee crisis."

*continued on page 11*

## Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan Introduces Newly Appointed Defence Minister Davit Tonoyan to Top Officers of the Armed Forces

from page 5

Pashinyan expressed conviction that now this issue is solvable, and that the process should be finalized.

Speaking about the next issue, he said: *"We should eliminate the situation when the parents of the conscripts extend material support by providing their children with such things as clothes and items of hygiene. I have already had a conversation with the Chief of General Staff and stated that we consider that this practice should be considered*

*diers must return from the army with a higher level of education, meaning that it is critical to organise the education process of soldiers,"* he said.

Speaking about the accidents in the Armed Forces, Pashinyan underlined: *"We should not allow a soldier's death to become another news headline. Any incident, whether it is the result of the enemy's actions or any other reasons should be thoroughly investigated, and conclusions should be made to prevent further incidents. Any such incident should lead to serious conclusions so*

Pashinyan thanked former Defence Minister Vigen Sargsyan and the Armed Forces, adding that the Armenian Armed Forces fully enjoy the trust of the Armenian people. *"This is very important. At the same time, I am happy to note that there is a government in Armenia that also enjoys people trust, perhaps not as much as the army, but at least we have a positive situation that is unique. We should turn this into tangible results that would seriously change Armenia's security environment, and this positive environment we see in the country*

programme in a shortest possible period.

*"I assure you that the Armed Forces' combat readiness will be on the level allowing favourable conditions for you in the negotiation process to conduct successful negotiations, and if needed, from the positions of force,"* Tonoyan said.

### Armenian defence minister's flag passed to Davit Tonoyan

Under the established procedure, the solemn ceremony of inaugurating the new defence min-



*as done with. In every such case when parents are faced with such a problem, I urge them not to carry out that request but to talk to the media and the prime minister's staff. The Armed Forces representatives have assured me that we are able to provide the soldiers with all that is necessary, and this is the state's obligation."*

He also considered it necessary to carry out anti-smoking policies in the country, as well as in the Armed Forces.

Speaking about the educational process in the Armed Forces, Pashinyan said that often young people return from their service to civilian life with a lower educational level than they had before.

*"I consider this a serious problem. We all need to be actively involved in understanding the problem and addressing it. Sol-*



*that we can minimize the number of such incidents. I am not saying it was not the case, but the public should be sure that each of us does his best to protect the life and security of every soldier. This is really a priority and I expect the defence minister to take care of this problem."*

*would continue,"* Pashinyan said.

Davit Tonoyan thanked the prime minister for trusting him this position and added that it is a great honour for him to return his own environment, the Ministry of Defense. He said that the prime minister's instruction will be reflected in the government's

ister of Armenia was held at the Ministry of Defence on 12 May.

Former Defence Minister Vigen Sargsyan handed over the ministerial flag to the newly appointed minister, David Tonoyan.

Prior to the ceremony, Sargsyan briefed Tonoyan on the work done during the past year and a half, including the tasks, directions and programmes.

Following the handover ceremony, Defence Minister Davit Tonoyan and Vigen Sargsyan, accompanied by high-ranking officer of the Armed Forces, paid a visit to the Yerablur Military Cemetery to pay tribute to the memories of Armenian National Hero Vazgen Sargsyan, General Andranik Ozanian and those who had sacrificed their lives for the independence and freedom of the Homeland.

## EMS Conference

### Emil Artin International Conference

**Dedicated to the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Emil Artin (03.07.1898-20.12.1962)**

**Yerevan, the Republic of Armenia, May 27-June 2, 2018.**

#### The conference is organized by:

- Armenian Mathematical Union
- Yerevan State University
- American University of Armenia
- Committee of Emil Artin Junior Prize in Mathematics
- Institute of Mathematics of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
- University of Bergen

Academically supported by the Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum where specialists will meet to share ideas of latest research in Algebraic Structures, Mathematical Logic, Number Theory, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science.

The conference will be held at the Yerevan State University and American University of Armenia.

#### Conference Topics:

- Classical and non-classical Algebraic Structures,
- Algebra and Logics, Number Theory,
- Geometry and Topology, Analysis and Equations,
- Boolean and De Morgan functions, Cryptography and Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics,
- Universal Algebra, Computer Science and IT,
- Artin L-functions, Dynamical Systems,
- Quantum information theory, Quantum Logic and Quantum Computation, Quantum Groups and Quantum Quasigroups.

#### Invited speakers that confirmed their participation:

- Sergey Adian (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Ara Basmajian (City University of New York, Hunter College, USA)
- Lilya Budaghyan (Bergen University, Norway)
- Tullio Ceccherini-Silberstein (Universita' del Sannio, Italy)
- Rostislav Grigorchuk (Texas A&M University, USA)
- Alexander Guterman (Moscow State University, Russia)
- Vadim Kaimanovich (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Jörg Koppitz (Potsdam University, Germany)
- Aleksandar Krapež (Mathematical Institute SASA, Belgrade, Serbia)
- Hayk Melikyan (North Carolina Central University, USA)
- Daniele Mundici (University of Florence, Italy)
- Alexander Olshanskii (Vanderbilt University,



USA)

- Alexey Parshin (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Evgeny Plotkin (Bar Ilan University, Israel)
- Victor Pambuccian (Arizona State University, USA)
- Nikolay Romanovskiy (Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, Russia)
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- Artur Sahakyan
- Vladimir Sahakyan

**Registration fee** for the conference is \$200 for participants and covers the conference materials and coffee breaks. **Banquet:** \$50. All fees are due upon arrival, at the registration desk.

#### Important dates:

The deadline for conformation of participation and submission of abstracts is April 1, 2018 by E-mail address: [amu@ysu.am](mailto:amu@ysu.am). Please submit one-page abstract in LaTeX and PDF formats (in English) to [amu@ysu.am](mailto:amu@ysu.am).

Working days: May 28, 2018 (Registration, 9:30; Opening ceremony, 10.00) – June 1, 2018.

Arrival: May 27, 2018; departure: June 2, 2018.

**Additional information can be requested by e-mail:** [amu@ysu.am](mailto:amu@ysu.am)

**The conference website:** <http://math.sci.am/conference/artin120>

We are looking forward to welcome you in Yerevan, Armenia for the Emil Artin International Conference.

Sincerely,

Prof. Yu. Movsisyan

President of the Armenian Mathematical Union

## Aurora Humanitarian Index reveals fear of war and crisis overload

from page 8

It's critical that people remain informed on the nature and scale of the problem otherwise apathy and complacency get in the way of action on behalf of the world's most vulnerable."

Encouragingly, 65% of people agree that many of the world's humanitarian challenges would be worse were it not for the efforts of NGOs. More specifically, respondents felt international NGOs were best suited to raise awareness of issues and engage the support of governments while local and grassroots NGOs are better placed to deliver on the ground support.

"The research reinforces the strategic focus of the Aurora Prize to raise awareness and provide support to those on the ground putting themselves at risk to help those in the greatest need as local humanitarian leaders," said Noubar Afeyan, Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative. "The structure of the Prize serves as a means to amplify and expand the work of the Humanitarians being recognized and creates a cycle of giving around the concept of Gratitude in Action."

Key findings from the 2018 Aurora Humanitarian Index, commissioned by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, a non-profit organization committed to building a global humanitarian movement to empower modern-day saviors, include:

- Terrorism still dominates as the most pressing global humanitarian challenge facing humanity right now:

- 58% of people see terrorism as the most pressing global humanitarian challenge facing humanity right now, compared to 63% in 2017

- 52% of people regard the threat of war as the most pressing global humanitarian challenge, compared to 41% in 2017

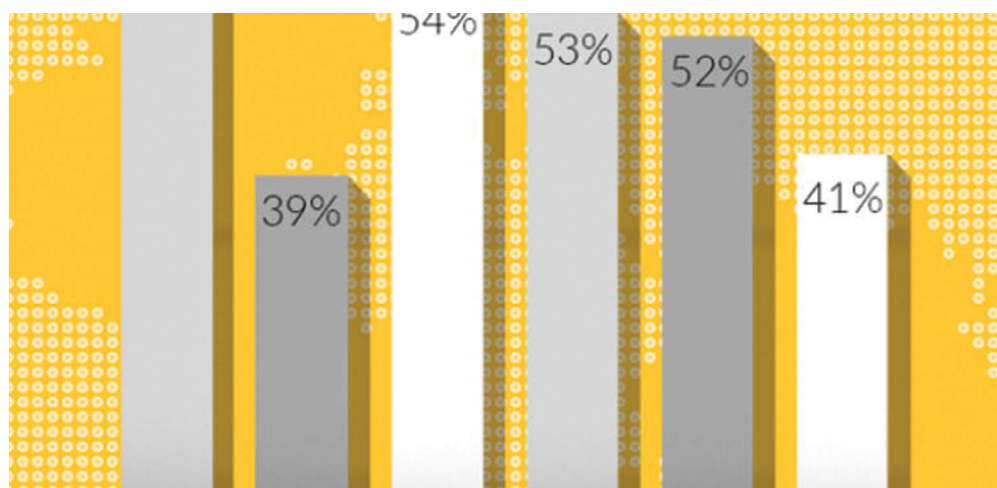
- Forced migration is down 8 points at 34% as a pressing humanitarian challenge this year

- Only 36% of people think the protection of children and only 24% think the protection of women are the most pressing global humanitarian challenges today

- People are still getting it wrong on the refugee crisis:

- The countries that people think have accepted the highest number of refugees over the last decade are: Germany (54%), France (30%), Turkey (24%), U.S. (21%), Italy (21%), UK (15%), Greece (13%), Canada (11%), Spain (10%) and Russia (9%)

- According to UNHCR, the countries hosting most refugees in 2017 are: Turkey (2.9m),



Pakistan (1.4m), Lebanon (1m), Iran (0.98), Uganda (0.94), Ethiopia (0.791), Jordan (0.685), Germany (0.669), DRC (0.452) and Kenya (0.451)

- 97% of people don't know or underestimate the reality that the majority of displaced people (84% according to the UNHCR) are hosted by developing countries

- People think that 32% of refugees are children under the age of 18. The reality according to UNHCR is that 51% of the total refugee population are children

- People are experiencing 'crisis overload':

- 61% of people agree that there are too many humanitarian crises to keep up with in the world today

- 54% of people feel that they always hear the same stories about the global refugee crisis

- As a result, long term crises are the most well-known. Whilst 79% of people know about the Civil War in Syria, 40% are not aware of the persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar

- Public opinion is divided when it comes to the welcoming and integration of refugees:

- 48% of people believe refugees deserve more help than they are currently getting

- However, 47% of people think that their country has already taken on too many refugees and only 35% feel bad that their country has not done more to help refugees

- Only 30% of people think their country is made a better place to live in by people from other countries coming to live there and 41% of people are afraid that their country's culture is threatened by ethnic minorities

- Only 40% of people believe refugees bring new entrepreneurial and economic skills to the economy and society

- As a result, people tend to think that migrants should not be settling down in their countries but helped to return home instead (76% of people agree refugees should be

helped to return to their countries once conflicts are over)

- Resurgence of faith in world leaders to address the issue:

- The international community is seen as best placed to help address the global refugee crisis with 79% of people recognizing their ability to provide funding to address the crisis

- However, only 50% of people trust the international community to provide the right level/type of humanitarian aid to address the global refugee crisis

- Representatives from international organizations are regaining ground when it comes to having the capabilities to address the refugee crisis with Angela Merkel (up 13 points to 46%), Donald Trump (up 10 points to 40%), Vladimir Putin (up 11 points to 35%) and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (up 9 points to 31%) all gaining ground from last year's results

- 66% of people regard multinational businesses/corporations as capable to provide humanitarian aid for the global refugee crisis with Bill Gates (41%) and Mark Zuckerberg (35%) scoring highest as business leaders most able to address the crisis

- NGOs are seen as facilitators of global co-operation:

- 65% of people agree that many of the world's humanitarian challenges would be worse if were not for the efforts of NGOs

- 52% of people think international NGOs are more effective at influencing the international community (compared to 15% for local NGOs)

- 40% of people think that local NGOs are more effective at taking an active role on the ground for refugees (compared to 25% for international NGOs)

- 76% of people agree that for NGOs to have a real impact, they need to cooperate with local people on the ground

## Congressional Armenian Caucus Leaders Hail Armenia's Peaceful, Democratic Transition

Congressional Armenian Caucus founding Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Co-Chair Jackie Speier (D-CA) are joined by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-CA), Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Central Valley California Congressman Jim Costa (D-CA) in congratulating Armenia on its peaceful and democratic transition of power and the election of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

### Call for Expansion of U.S.-Armenia Relations

WASHINGTON—Congressional Armenian Caucus leaders congratulated the people of Armenia on the nation's democratic transition this week, joining legislators from around the world in congratulating newly elected Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and pledging support for closer U.S.-Armenia ties.

"Over the past several weeks, Armenia has overseen a remarkable change in government through peaceful and democratic means," said Congressional Armenian Caucus Founder and Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ). "The Armenian people strongly expressed their desire for a free, open and fair democracy and it is imperative that the United States stand with Armenian people and the newly formed government. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to

provide whatever support is necessary to our friends in Armenia during this transition and to strengthen the ties between our nations."

Fellow Caucus Democratic Co-Chair Jackie Speier (D-CA), who is of Armenian American descent, concurred, noting, "The Armenian people should be congratulated for their successful and peaceful Velvet Revolution. They have shown the world that they can demand less corruption and more accountability from their government and win. I look forward to working with Armenia's new prime minister to strengthen US-Armenian ties and help make Armenia's government fairer, more just, and more democratic."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-CA) hailed the May 8th parliamentary vote for Prime Minister, noting, "I am gratified by the peaceful transition of power in Armenia and look forward to strengthening U.S.-Armenian relations with the new government."

House Intelligence Committee Ranking Democrat Adam Schiff (D-CA), who also serves as Vice-Chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, congratulated Prime Minister Pashinyan and noted, "After a turbulent period of mass protests and political upheaval, Armenia has emerged with a new government and new hopes for the future. While Armenia continues

to face many threats and challenges, this peaceful revolution gives Armenia the opportunity to tap the full talents of its people and chart a promising new course. I will continue doing everything I can in Congress to help Armenia succeed in its remarkable reformation."

Central Valley Congressman Jim Costa (D-CA) explained that "With the peaceful and democratic transition of power in Armenia, we see that the Armenian people have spoken and demonstrated which direction they want to move their nation — onwards. I am hopeful and look forward to continuing to develop and strengthen the relationship between the United States and Armenia. When the time is appropriate, I believe we should extend an invitation to the new Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, to come to the U.S. and meet with Congress."

Earlier in the week, U.S. State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert congratulated Nikol Pashinyan as the new Prime Minister of Armenia and stated that the U.S. "look forward to working closely with the new government and with the people of Armenia on the many areas of shared interest between our countries, including increasing trade, working in support of democracy and rule of law, and safeguarding regional and global security."

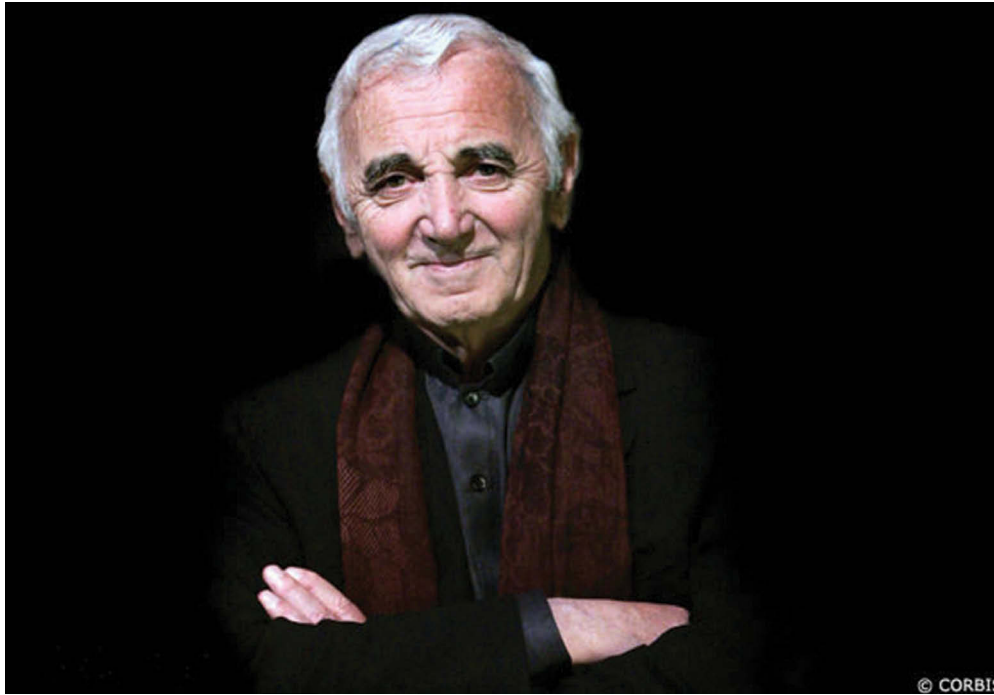
On May 8th, Nikol Pashinyan was elected Prime Minister of Armenia with a parliamentary vote of 59 to 42. The election capped several weeks of peaceful, primarily youth-led protests by hundreds of thousands throughout Armenia, which led to the resignation of former Prime Minister Serge Sargsyan, who had held the position for a mere six days. Pashinyan was elected based on a platform of democratic and economic reform, pledging to hold fresh parliamentary elections.

Pashinyan has promised to continue the peaceful negotiations for the resolution of the Artsakh-Azerbaijan status and security issues, stressing the importance of Artsakh's full return to the negotiating process, and pledged to continue Armenia's efforts toward international recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Pashinyan's government, according to the new Prime Minister, will also work to advance women's rights in Armenia and engage more women in government. He also stressed the importance of the Armenian Diaspora and the significant role it will play in Armenia's future.



## Charles Aznavour commends Armenia's 'exceptional wisdom and humanism'



Charles Aznavour has addressed an open letter to Armenians, the Aznavour Foundation reports. The letter reads:

My dear sisters and brothers of Armenia,  
I would like to congratulate you on how you have been able to move from one situation to another, without bloodshed, without brutality, without violation of our values, solving

problems as if it was easy. This has surprised, astonished and made governments of other countries think.

We – Armenians from the Diaspora – were extremely proud to show the world that there is a small country whose citizens demonstrated exceptional wisdom and humanism, proving that violence is not the only path to peace and

agreement. We have had far too many misfortunes in our history and now we are opening a page of happiness, wisdom and love.

You have succeeded in proving that our people have a clear conscience and that unity is and will always remain a priority. It is this unity that will allow us to ensure the prosperity of the country and the friendly attitude among citizens. You have been able to prove that it is possible to live united and with a high sense of responsibility.

We, Armenians, managed to show that that the words “people,” “Homeland,” “flag,” “culture,” “religion” and “family” are part of our values, that every Armenian has equal rights and freedoms in his country.

I’m probably the most French Armenian in the world, but I’m proud of my Armenia and I never hid it.

Thank you to the Armenian people for showing the world our humanism: Armenia is great with its values. Let us be a model for those who are different and those who are less open to change. Let us continue on this path because I am convinced that it is the best for the future of our people and nation.

I thank you all for giving me this pride. Long live the Republic of Armenia!

*Charles Aznavour*

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## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



**Aries (March 20–April 19)**

Irritability and a tendency to short temper may be your companions this week. Beware the temptation to obsess over minor issues. Take especially good care of your body at this time. You are in a physically low cycle and subject to accident or minor injuries with tools, or vehicles. Don't press your body beyond its cooperation.



**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**

Financial matters interfere with your forward progress. Do what you can and wait for a better time for completion. You need to take a break and give your mind a chance to clear. A weekend away might do you a world of good.



**Gemini (May 20–June 20)**

Surprises, shifts of direction and unexpected twists and turns will likely litter your path this week. Make up your mind at the beginning that you can manage whatever comes your way, so you won't be thrown off balance. Then enjoy your travels.



**Cancer (June 21–July 21)**

During Uranus' transit of Taurus (7 years) you are likely to be exposed to a new social life and broaden your sense of community and friendship. You will attract unusual people into your life that will serve to expand your sense of humanitarianism. Your overall goals and life choices will be shifting.



**Leo (July 22–August 21)**

Although there are pebbles in the road, you are continuing on the right path for you. Have faith and take your time. Be careful with your steps and give attention to details. The Powers that be are in your corner.



**Virgo (August 22–September 22)**

Mercury is your ruling planet. This week it shifts into your house of exploration, travel, the internet, publishing, education and matters of the law. You probably will experience increased energy when dealing with these areas. You have a need to broaden your mind and move to a big picture perspective.



**Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)**

You may fall into uncomfortable circumstances. You wouldn't have chosen to take this trip, but your people skills may be exactly what is needed. You have a balanced sense of justice and can manage, even though you would rather not.



**Scorpio (October 23–November 21)**

It's been awhile, but you have aspects that favor relationships now. You may want to engage a family member in serious conversation on a touchy subject. If it still looks cloudy, let it go for another period. Don't take the chance of going off on a rant which will only make things worse.



**Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)**

Any effort toward becoming more acquainted with the deeper parts of yourself will be well rewarded. Positive results can be achieved through psychotherapy, dream work, meditation, hypnosis and/or prayer. Assistance will come to you through unexpected (and possibly mysterious) sources. Your Guardian Angel is right at your side. Listen to your instincts.



**Capricorn (December 21–January 19)**

This is a time of complicated circumstances for you. So many things are happening that it may be a challenge to maintain everything. Messages are mixed and many contradict each other. Move carefully and check yourself for errors along the way. These few weeks it is especially important not to make mistakes.



**Aquarius (January 20–February 17)**

Uranus, the current star of the planets, is one of your avatars. You may be considering a household move or remodel. Circumstances around you may pressure you to change your mindset. Normally you are not fond of big change, but the time is upon you. Don't say no until you have seriously considered what the world is bringing now.

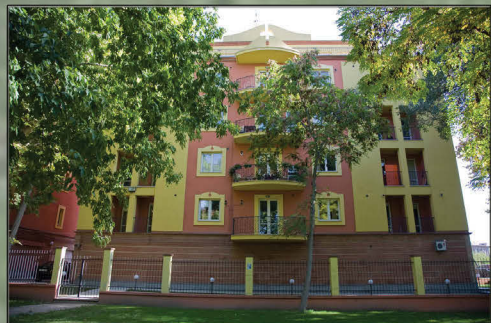


**Pisces (February 18–March 19)**

Jupiter offers improvements and good fortune through any or all of the following: legal or ethical issues, contacts with foreign lands or people who live at a distance, the internet, higher education, teaching, publishing and long distance travel. Events occurring at this time will broaden your perspective on all of life and expand your sense of connection to a larger circle.

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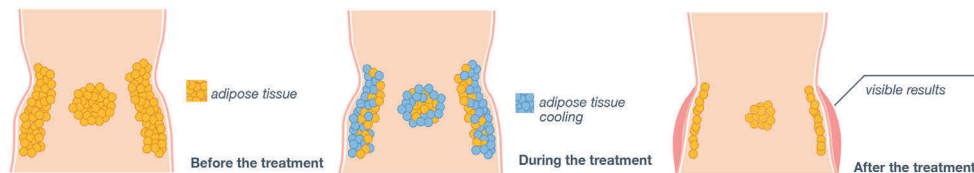
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The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
Circulation: 1500 print copies and  
15,600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format  
Մալվար՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպարանակր՝ 1500  
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝  
ԼՏ հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ  
Գրանցման վկայականի համար՝  
03Ա898368, տրված 11.01.2013 թ.

President of the NT Media Holding:  
**Tigran Harutyunyan**  
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:  
**Gayaneh Arakelyan**  
Director of the Weekly:  
**Marina Harutyunyan**

Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**  
Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrtchian**  
Layout: **Diana Grigoryan**  
Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան  
Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993.  
**ISSN 1829-0604**

Registration certificate and the date:  
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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