

## Ara Babloyan elected National Assembly Chairman



*Armenia -- Ara Babloyan, the newly elected speaker of the Armenian parliament*

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## President Sargsyan addresses the first session of the National Assembly

President Serzh Sargsyan has addressed the National Assembly of 6th convocation during its first session convened on May 18:

*Your Holiness,*

*Distinguished Members of the National Assembly,*

*Dear Guests,*

*I once again congratulate the Republican Party of Armenia, Tsarukian Alliance, Yelk Alliance of political parties, and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation on assuming their share of political responsibility for the Republic of Armenia for the next five years. It happened through the free and transparent elections which were highly praised. I congratulate all participants of the first session of the 6th National Assembly and wish you productive work.*

*Two years ago, when the concept of the RA constitutional reforms was being approved, I was confident that soon we would enter a groundbreaking period of time which would be promising but also challenging. That day has come, and I congratulate us all on that occasion. And I congratulate you, dear parliamentarians, twofold since on this critical stage you are to make the first and most important step towards the establishment of a new state system of governance. We all realize that there is much work to be done but we have resolve, great optimism, and enduring experience of many years to bring our task to a successful end.*

*Certainly, the laws pertaining to the priority functions of the Parliament have already been created, the laws which should not only be legally correct but also functional and coherent. Constitutional reforms cannot be fully carried out without such laws. Some would say, it's better to have a deficient law than no law at all. It is a minimalistic approach, and for me it is unacceptable. At this most serious period of time, when the country is going through legal and political changes, we cannot afford such luxury. Deficient or bad laws are not only unapplicable but also harmful. Your mission is to create laws which will meet the expectations of the public; you, as the main actors of this process, are responsible for the task.*

*However, activities of the legislature are not limited to adopting legislation. Transition to the parliamentary system of governance, which is stipulated by the changes introduced to the RA Constitution, entails*



*a considerably greater role of the parliament also in foreign policy issues.*

*From this point of view, the priority should be given to the introduction of the principles aimed at the enhancement of parliamentary diplomacy as well as implementation of concrete steps and actions. It is obvious that nowadays Armenia should intensify her actions at the international parliamentary organizations and come up with new initiatives. International parliamentary organizations are the best and probably the largest platform for introducing different idea to the international community and presenting the views of the Armenian side. It is necessary to conduct active politics in the framework of that platform to reduce the number of the anti-Armenian resolutions and projects regularly instigated by Azerbaijan, promoting instead the truth.*

*It is expedient to re-organize our parliamentary diplomacy to make it more efficient laying its foundation on the following principles: participation, initiative, partnership, constant ongoing work, accountability, coordination, personal responsibility, continuity, and consistency. This is indeed a vast and important area of work, which we will revisit later.*

*continued on page 13*

## President Sargsyan congratulates Iran's Rouhani on election victory

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan emphasized the friendly nature of his country's relations with Iran and hoped for a new level of cooperation as he congratulated President Hassan Rouhani on winning a second term in office in an election held in the Islamic Republic on May 19.

Rouhani beat his main challenger, conservative ex-prosecutor Ebrahim Raisi in the first round of the election by polling over 50 percent of the vote.

In his congratulatory message to Rouhani, Sargsyan, as quoted by his press office, expressed confidence that during the Iranian president's tenure "the friendly neighborly Iran will continue to develop upward, bring-



ing its considerable and important contribution to the establishment of regional peace and stability."

"I am hopeful that through our joint efforts, the traditionally warm and friendly Armenian-Iranian relations will continue to develop and strengthen in all areas, registering a qualitatively new level of cooperation

between our peoples," Sargsyan said.

"I wish you excellent health, success in all your undertakings, and I wish lasting peace and prosperity to the friendly people of Iran," reads the congratulatory message of the Armenian leader.

Serzh Sargsyan and Rouhani discussed ways of deepening economic ties between the two countries when the Iranian president paid a visit to Armenia late last year. Those include cooperation in the energy and transportation spheres as well as a tax-free zone in Armenia for Iranian manufacturing firms.

Sargsyan also praised Iran for its balanced position on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.



## **Minsk Group's non-standard statement points out the part responsible for escalation – Nalbandian**



Armenia's acting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland on the sidelines of the 127th Session of the Committee of the Ministers of the Council of Europe in Cyprus.

The interlocutors discussed a number of issues facing the Council of Europe and the routes of their resolution. The Secretary General hailed the effective cooperation established between Armenia and the Council of Europe.

Edward Nalbandian briefed Thorbjørn Jagland on the results of the parliamentary elections held in Armenia in April and praised the Venice Commission's expert support. Reference was made to the developments within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the need

to take practical steps to recover the trust in the organization.

Edward Nalbandian presented the efforts of Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards creation of conditions conducive to furthering the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

Armenia's top diplomat said "Baku is doing the utmost to disrupt the peace process." Opposing the consistent calls of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the international community to strongly observe the ceasefire regime, Azerbaijan keeps violating the trilateral agreements on ceasefire."

Edward Nalbandian stressed that "Armenia constantly calls on the OSCE Minsk Group to point out the party responsible for ceasefire violations. "By turning down the creation of an investigation mechanism, Azerbaijan is trying to avoid responsibility for periodic violations of the ceasefire regime," Nalbandian said.

He added, however, that "the non-standard statement issued by the Co-Chairs yesterday clearly points to the party responsible for escalation."

## **Armenian PM, U.S. Envoy discuss economic cooperation**

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan met with U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills on May 19 to discuss the agenda of Armenian-American economic cooperation.

According to the Armenian government's press office, Karen Karapetyan stressed the importance of regular meetings in this format, which are "a good opportunity to exchange views on the current Armenian-American cooperation and prospects for its development."

On behalf of the U.S. Government Richard Mills congratulated Karapetyan on his reappointment as Armenia's prime minister, wishing him fruitful work.

The two reportedly exchanged ideas, in particular, on the agenda of Armenian-American economic cooperation and joint projects. They discussed issues concerning the attraction of investments, improvement of the business environment, taxation and customs, judicial reforms, a number of issues related to cooperation in fighting corruption.

Karen Karapetyan and Richard Mills also reportedly discussed prospects of deepening cooperation in the spheres of energy, tourism, information technologies, mining and agriculture.

## **Ara Babloyan elected National Assembly Chairman**

Former health minister Ara Babloyan has been installed as speaker of Armenia's newly elected parliament after receiving 88 "for" votes in a ballot of 100 lawmakers on May 18.

Twelve members of Armenia's National Assembly voted against Babloyan, who was nominated by the majority Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), and in favor of the second candidate, Edmon Marukyan, nominated by the opposition Yelk (Way Out) faction.

Babloyan served as Armenia's health minister in 1991-1997 before returning to his professional medical career until 2007 when he was elected to parliament on the list of the HHK and then was returned to the legislative body five years later. He occupied the fourth position on the HHK slate during

last month's elections and was named for the position by President Serzh Sargsyan, who is the leader of the HHK.

Before the vote Ara Babloyan said that if elected, he would strengthen cooperation between the government and opposition factions. "For me, as for an Armenian, there are three key components of strengthening the State – security, health and education. We ought to ensure the internal and external security of our country, ensure state authority, enhance our borders, strengthen our army and statehood," he said.

By contrast, Marukyan suggested that an opposition figure could also be the speaker of parliament. In his words, it would help the cause by "introducing some balance."

Under Armenia's constitution, the opposi-

tion is entitled to having the position of one of two deputy speakers. The second largest parliamentary faction formed by the alliance of tycoon Gagik Tsarukyan that has declared itself an opposition has nominated Mikael Melkumyan for this post.

The other two deputy speakers are likely to be former justice minister Arpine Hovannisyan and former deputy speaker Eduard Sharmazanov, both of whom have been nominated by the HHK.

The HHK has 58 mandates in the 105-seat National Assembly and together with its coalition partner, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun) that has 7 lawmakers, enjoys a constitutional majority. The Tsarukyan alliance and Yelk have 31 and 9 seats, respectively.

## OSCE Minsk Group blames Azerbaijan for missile attack

International mediators brokering a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have condemned recent ceasefire violations in the region in a statement issued on May 18.

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassadors Igor Popov of Russia, Stephane Visconti of France, and Richard Hoagland of the United States, called upon the sides to take “all necessary measures to prevent any further escalation in the conflict zone.”

“According to information collected from multiple reliable sources, on May 15, Azerbaijani armed forces fired a missile across the Line of Contact, striking military equipment. On the evening of May 16 and continuing into May 17, Armenian armed forces retaliated with mortar fire of various calibers. These actions by both sides represent significant violations of the ceasefire and are cause for alarm,” the mediators said.

The international mediators said there are contradictory reports regarding the targets of these recent strikes, as well as about casualties sustained and damages inflicted.

“The Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office continue to collect



further data and analysis to gain more complete and accurate information about the current situation,” they said.

## Karabakh report “preventive action” after Azeri missile strikes



The ethnic Armenian leadership in Nagorno-Karabakh says its military has carried out “preventive activities” at the line of contact with Azerbaijani armed forces in an apparent retaliation to the guided missile strikes launched by Baku against some Armenian defense facilities earlier this week.

“In response to the enemy’s activity shown at the line of contact on May 16-17, units of the Defense Army took preventive actions, as a result of which, according to the reliable data available

to corresponding services of the Defense Army, the Azerbaijani side suffered losses,” Nagorno-Karabakh’s Defense Ministry said in a press release on May 17.

The Ministry also released a video purportedly showing the destruction of some Azerbaijani positions, including a communication command point and a military vehicle.

Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry reported that Armenian armed forces had opened mortar fire at the positions of Azerbaijan troops and populated areas near the front-

line. It said Armenian forces also used military drones but could not inflict any damage “because of their low quality.”

“The armed forces of Azerbaijan suffered no casualties or loss of military hardware,” the Azerbaijani military added.

Earlier, on Monday, Azerbaijan said that its military had destroyed an Osa air defense system along with its crew, adding that its deployment near the line of control was a “provocation” and a threat to Azerbaijani aircraft.

Armenia and Karabakh confirmed the strikes, but said they caused only insignificant damage to the military hardware and did not result in any fatalities.

Reports about the latest incidents in Karabakh come amid heightened tensions in the Armenian-controlled region that broke free from Baku’s control in the early 1990s, triggering a three-year war that killed an estimated 30,000 people.

The Armenia-backed Karabakh military and Azerbaijani armed forces clashed in April 2016 in what was later dubbed as a four-day war that killed dozens on both sides.

International diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict during the last 25 years have brought little progress.



## Armenia one of first six countries to sign CoE Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property



Six states signed on May 19 in Nicosia (Cyprus) the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property.

Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Portugal and San Marino as well as Mexico, one of the Organisation's observer states, were the first to sign the convention, which is open for signature to any country in the world.

Adopted in the framework of the Council of Europe's action to fight terrorism and organised crime, the new convention seeks to stop the looting of antiquities and their traf-

ficking through the art markets. It makes a criminal offence their unlawful excavation, importation and exportation, acquisition and placing on the market, and the falsification of documents in this context.

By bringing national legislations up to the same standards, the treaty will close the existing loopholes and enable much more effective cross-border co-operation in investigating, prosecuting and sentencing persons suspected of the offences listed in the convention.

Crucially, the convention protects the cultural property of any state, be it party or not to the treaty.

The signing took place in Nicosia during a Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers meeting bringing together Foreign affairs Ministers of the Organisation's 47 Member States. The treaty will enter into force after five ratifications.

The new treaty fills a gap in international law, since none of the existing conventions deal with criminal law issues. It complements the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

Protection of cultural heritage is important for the Armenian people that have suffered immense losses of cultural legacy throughout its history and most recently in Azerbaijan by the hands of its government and in Syria by the terrorist groups. In this regard we welcome the adoption of the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

## OSCE Secretary General commends work of Yerevan Office

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier said on May 18 that the Organization had to start the process of closure of the Office in Yerevan, since no consensus could be reached on the future mandate of the Office.

The closure of the OSCE Office in Yerevan follows months of negotiations and extensive efforts by the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship and the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to resolve the deadlock on the extension of the Office's mandate.

The OSCE opened its field presence in Armenia in 2000. Zannier said that the Office in Yerevan, with its dedicated staff, had made a significant contribution in assisting and advising the Armenian authorities on the implementation of OSCE commitments. "Co-operation with Armenia has always been very fruitful," he said.

The OSCE's activities in the country included, among others, assistance with police reforms and support for reviewing and streamlining the national regulatory frameworks affecting business activity and the daily lives of citizens. In 2006, the Office in Yerevan established a Programme Implementation Presence in the Syunik region to contribute to sustainable development.

Secretary General Zannier emphasized that the OSCE will seek to continue its engagement with Armenia in line with existing OSCE commitments across all three security dimensions – the



politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human dimension.

The Office in Yerevan will discontinue its operations on 31 August 2017.

## Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges moves headquarters from Turkey to Armenia

During the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) held on May 16, 2017 in Tehran, it was decided to move the Federation's headquarter from Istanbul, Turkey to Yerevan, Armenia.

With the majority of "for" and no "against" votes, the General Assembly elected Armenia as the new host country for the FEAS's headquarter, after 22 years of operation in Turkey, since the establishment of the Federation in 1995.

Moving the Federation's headquarter to Armenia NASDAQ OMX Armenia will start to support the administration of the Federation. Governance of the Secretariat has been entrusted to Mr. Konstantin Saroyan, CEO of NASDAQ OMX Armenia, who was appointed as FEAS Secretary General. His appointment was recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the majority of General Assembly.

"We are starting a new era of FEAS operation, administering the Federation from Armenia. Always being considered as cross-road of eastern and western cultures, Armenia will link different economic and political structures within FEAS, bringing success and growth to the Federation", said Mr. Konstantin Saroyan, CEO, NASDAQ OMX Armenia.

To recall, Armenia, represented by "Yerevan Stock Exchange" (later "Armenian Stock Exchange" and after "NASDAQ OMX Armenia") was among 12 founding members of the FEAS. Since November 2016 NASDAQ OMX Armenia has also been acting as FEAS Executive Board Member.

The Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) was



established on May 15, 1995 with 12 founding members. The founders were: Amman Stock Exchange, Bratislava Stock Exchange, Central-Asian Stock Exchange (Kazakhstan), First Bulgaria Stock Exchange, Istanbul Stock Exchange, Karachi Stock Exchange, Ljubljana Stock Exchange, State Commodity Raw Materials Exchange (Turkmenistan), Tehran Stock Exchange, Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Yerevan Stock Exchange and Zagreb Stock Exchange.

The purpose of the Federation is to contribute to the cooperation, development, support and promotion of capital markets in the Euro-Asian Region (i.e. Europe, Asia and the Mediterranean Basin).

Currently FEAS has more than 40 members, including stock exchanges, post trade institutions, dealers associations and regional federations from over 30 countries.

## Armenia Aircompany launches Yerevan-Tel Aviv flights

The Armenia Aircompany carried the first passengers from Yerevan to Tel Aviv on May 17.

The maiden flight was preceded by a presentation at Zvartnots Airport.

Attending the event were Sergey Avetisyan, Chief of the General Department of Civil Aviation of Armenia, Andranik Shkhyan, Deputy General Manager of Armenia International



Airports and Robert Oganessian, CEO of Armenia Aircompany, directors of tourism agencies and others.

Sergey Avetisyan emphasized the importance of Yerevan-Tel Aviv flights and wished the Air Company safe and effective flights.

The Yerevan-Tel Aviv flights will be run twice a week on Thursdays and Sundays.



## U.S. Embassy brings U.S. and Armenian companies together to develop renewable energy

The future of energy is renewable. And it is a future that Armenia can take advantage of, for its pocketbook today and for future generations as well. That was the message of a day-long conference organized by the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the firm Contour Global. They brought together representatives from some of the top U.S. renewable energy companies to meet with 70 Armenian businesses to discuss how they can best partner.

The session on May 17 allowed U.S. companies to detail their expertise and technology for clean energy and smart electric grid development.

"Armenia and its energy sector have grown so much over the last 25 years. I am excited to think about what the next 25 years will bring, knowing that it will be developed through partnerships started here today," said U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, Jr., who opened the session along with the Deputy Minister of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources.

The one-day conference was designed to strengthen the increasing commercial ties between the U.S. and Armenia by introducing leading U.S. companies to Armenian energy sector operators, allowing

the American companies to showcase the latest technological advances in the field.

Clean, renewable energy is an increasing part of Armenia's Clean, renewable energy is an increasing part of Armenia's energy sector, which has grown over the past few years. From 2010 to 2015, Armenian production of electricity grew 20%, which Ambassador Mills noted was why the U.S. Embassy sees investment opportunities in Armenia for U.S. companies.

"As many of you know, this year we are marking 25 years of U.S.-Armenian relations. Twenty five years ago, I remember well working on the issues of the newly-independent Armenia at the State Department in Washington, D.C. Those of you old enough remember well that in those early years of independence, Armenia's energy situation was shaky. Outages were the norm. Trees were clear-cut to provide heat. It was a time of true crisis," he said. "But Armenia did not surrender to the darkness and scarcity. Instead, with the support of friends and partners like the U.S., Armenia developed into a nation that is able to meet its needs, and in fact able to export its excess electricity."

He highlighted the valuable work done by the Armenian government to encourage energy diversification and clean energy production, including a Solar Cell

Investor Conference it organized in January. And he mentioned how the U.S. has partnered with the Armenian government, describing an exchange trip organized last month for Armenian officials and private sector representatives to visit experts in the U.S. to gain best practices for solar power energy production.

Seven U.S. companies – Honeywell Building Solutions, Honeywell Smart Energy, MacLean Power Systems, First Solar Power Solutions, Caterpillar, General Electric and Contour Global – sent representatives to the conference to share their experiences and to learn about business opportunities in Armenia. The one-day program also featured presentations by International Finance Corporation (IFC), German Development Bank KfW, Ameria Bank, Switzerland-based Meeco Group, and Armenian government officials.

"The Armenian government has been leading the efforts in diversifying the nation's energy sector into renewables and of boosting energy efficiency programs. They have put into place mechanisms and programs enabling the growth of Armenia's renewable and solar cell energy sectors," Ambassador Mills said. "And as we have for the past 25 years, the U.S. government will continue to be a partner with Armenia."



## Baku keeps violating trilateral cease-fire agreements – Armenia Foreign Minister



Baku continues the gross violations of the trilateral cease-fire agreements in defiance to the consistent calls of the Co-Chair countries and the international community, Armenia's acting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said, addressing the 127th Session of the Committee of the Ministers of the Council of Europe in Cyprus. Edward Nalbandian's full speech is provided below:

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Dear Colleagues,

Dear Ioannis, dear friend, congratulations for your successful chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The priorities of the Cyprus Chairmanship were well placed to address the current challenges that the Europe faces.

Protection of cultural heritage is important for the Armenian people that have suffered immense losses of cultural legacy throughout its history and most recently in Azerbaijan by the hands of its government and in Syria by the terrorist groups. In this regard we welcome the adoption of the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property,

Another focus of the Chairmanship on Democracy through Education is an important dimension of fostering inclusive

and tolerant societies. The right of people to their memory, their right to teaching and learning history of past tragedies through education and remembrance has a pivotal role in preventing genocides and crimes against humanity.

Dear Colleagues,

It is commendable that in his annual report on the "State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law" the Secretary General has highlighted populism, which is particularly dangerous, when combined with state sponsored hate speech and xenophobia. Free media, education for democratic citizenship and human rights, active civil society are essential in overcoming this phenomenon. Moreover, the notion of "rule of law" represents a concept that is diametrically opposed to "the rule by force" or "use of force".

We already had an opportunity to share another view of the Secretary General on the concept of "Democratic Security", according to which democracies are less likely to go to war. Obviously, authoritarian regimes do not face this dilemma.

Such a case was witnessed during new large-scale offensive in April 2016, when Azerbaijan committed gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Two Summits were convened after the April aggression of Azerbaijan, where agreements were reached aimed at creating conducive conditions for advancement of the peace process. Baku refuses to implement these agreements although their importance has been highlighted on numerous occasions, including during April 28 trilateral meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Moreover, Baku continues the gross violations of the trilateral cease-fire agreements in defiance to the consistent calls of the Co-Chair countries and the international community.

We value the recent initiatives that call on the equal application of the pan-European human rights instruments to the whole continent without distinction, including in the conflict zones. It is the primary goal of Council of Europe to ensure that the common values and individual rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights are not dependent on the status of the territory where people live.

Dear Colleagues,

On the April 2nd the parliamentary elections were held in Armenia. They were marked by unprecedented high number of international observers, who stated that the elections were well administered, fundamental freedoms were respected, and the results reflected the will of the population.

Armenia highly appreciates the contribution of international partners to its reforms aimed at consolidating the democratic institutions and the electoral process, in particular the expertise provided by the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission. We look forward to the continuation of fruitful cooperation in this regard.

Regarding the recent institutional crisis and credible reports on corruption in the PACE, we join the calls for full investigation of the situation in order to rectify the damage done to this Organization.

And finally, I want to use the opportunity to wish all the success to the incoming chairmanship of the Czech Republic.

Thank you.



## **Liisa Ansala: Further democratic consolidation needed in Yerevan also outside the polling stations**



A 10 member electoral assessment team from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe – headed by Liisa Ansala (Finland, ILDG) and including two representatives from the EU Committee of the Regions – concluded its mission to observe the elections to the Council of Elders of Yerevan which were held on Sunday in the Armenian capital.

During this vote, held on the basis of the amended 2016 Electoral Code, Voter Authentication Devices (VADs) were in use for the second time, after the Parliamentary elections of 2 April, which allowed the Congress delegation to assess the implementation of both the new legal framework and the new electronic system to identify voters and prevent fraud.

On Election Day, four Congress' teams visited some 100 polling stations in the different administrative districts of Yerevan (Kentron, Nork-Marash, Avan, Qanaqer-Zeyt'un, Nor-Nork', Erebuni, Nubarashen, Malatia-Sebastia, Schengavit', Davt'ashen, Achapnyak and Arabkir) where the VADs (which contained electronic copy of the voters' lists and provided for the electronic registration, the printing of a voting pass and the

scanning of the fingerprints) were functioning smoothly throughout the whole voting procedure.

In addition to the VADs, web cameras were installed in all polling stations in order to prevent electoral fraud, notably multiple voting and family voting, and to ensure transparency during the opening of the polling stations and the counting of the ballots at the end of the E-Day.

The amended Electoral Code provides also for the publication of the signed voters lists after the elections, since the accuracy of the voters' lists and voter impersonation were among the long-standing challenges of the electoral management in Armenia.

In addition to the new technologies, the Congress observers were able to assess the quality of the election administration at the level of the Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) whose members, including the IT specialists in charge of processing the VADs, all received training by the Central Election Commission which was overall positively evaluated. In general, the Election Day was calm and orderly in Yerevan, with the exception of some incidents which were reported to the Congress' members and include also allegations of vote-buying

and double-voting.

"The amended Electoral Code and the new technical measures have certainly improved the situation inside the polling stations. However, there is further democratic consolidation needed also outside. As it was the case during the 2 April Parliamentary elections, also during the Yerevan elections our delegation heard allegations of vote-buying and bribes as a systemic problem in Armenia. In addition, there is the issue of pressure on public service employees and misuse of administrative resources.

In the majority of places visited by our observers on Sunday there were groups of people loitering around outside the polling stations creating an overall atmosphere of controlled voting. This is also relevant with regard to the busses bringing groups of voters to polling stations which we have observed. All these issues need to be taken seriously by the authorities in order to increase the trust in elections and in the administration in general", stated Congress' Vice-President Liisa Ansala.

"The fact that on Sunday only some 40 percent of the voters participated in the Yerevan elections is an alarming sign and shows the high level of political apathy and mistrust in the political system. The improved electoral framework and the new technologies to prevent fraud on E-Day are very welcome by the Congress and have increased transparency. Nonetheless, much more needs to be done to address the root cause of apathy and frustration about politics in Armenia", Liisa Ansala concluded.

Further to the electoral assessment mission of the Congress, a report will be prepared and discussed at the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee on 27 June 2017 in Kharkiv (Ukraine).

**City Spa**, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

**Depilation:** Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

**And that's not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.**

You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor's consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

**Localized fat removal:** In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposuction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellashape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



**Anti aging Facial treatments and Care:** City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



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## Texas recognizes the Armenian Genocide



The Texas House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 191, titled “Recognizing the Armenian Genocide,” on May 19, thus making The Lone Star State the 46th state in the U.S. to officially classify and commemorate the 1915-1923 annihilation of Ottoman Turkey’s indigenous Armenian community as genocide.

“We are grateful to the Texas House of Representatives for standing on the right side of history by making their dynamic state the latest member of our Union to unequivocally and vociferously honor the memory of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide despite overwhelming Turkish opposition,” remarked Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) Chair Nora Hovsepian.

“This incredible victory, which achieves universal recognition of the Armenian Genocide in the Western Region’s 19 states, was possible because of the outstanding unity and activism demonstrated by the diverse Armenian community of Texas, the unflinching leadership of State Representative Scott Sanford and his fellow lawmakers, as well as the dedication and persistent work of our grassroots—ANCA-Hous-

ton and ANCA-Dallas—and staff. While many Texan-Armenians and community groups were instrumental in the passage of and building ground for HR191, I would like to specifically recognize the former ANCA-Dallas founding chair Lucia Nazarian for initiating Texas’ recognition of the Armenian Genocide, as well as Focused Advocacy President Brandon Todd Aghamalian and University of Texas Austin Professor and Armenian Church of Austin representative Mihran Aroian for their leadership in bringing the Armenian community together to make this important recognition a reality,” continued Hovsepian.

The resolution, which had more than 50 original bipartisan cosponsors and passed unanimously, declares, in part, that “During World War I, the crumbling Ottoman Empire began a systematic campaign to eradicate its Armenian population, which then numbered more than two million; and... as many as 1.5 million Armenians perished and today, only 3 million live in Armenia, a country that covers no more than 10 percent of the ancient Armenian homeland, while the Armenian diaspora numbers 8 to 10 million in countries around the world,

including the United States,” concluding with the resolved clause “That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas Legislature hereby recognize the Armenian Genocide.”

The recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Texas follows renewed activism in The Lone Star State, including the 2015 defeat of anti-Armenian resolutions as well as adoption of HR 1541, which recognized Texans’ contributions to the Near East Relief that saved 132,000 orphans of the Armenian Genocide. The latter humanitarian effort was recognized by ANCA-Dallas during its April 2, 2016 ‘Texas We Thank You’ Gala, at which Rep. Sanford received the ANCA-Dallas Advocate of Justice award for his long-time support for Armenian Genocide awareness.

HR 191 was introduced by Rep. Sanford on Jan. 26, followed by a public hearing in the International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs committee on April 24, during which ANCA-WR Chief Legislative Consultant Haig Baghdassarian joined a large group of Armenian Americans as well as representatives from the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and Houston’s Holocaust Museum in testifying in support of HR 191. Following the testimony, ANCA-WR called its online activists in Texas to action, as a result of which hundreds of letters were emailed to state legislators. Many more phone calls were made through joint efforts of the Armenian community in a strong demonstration of unity and grassroots activism.

Texas’ passage of HR 191 follows the Wyoming Governor’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide in April, thus completing universal recognition in the ANCA-WR, which consists of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

## Armenia pays tribute to the memory of Pontian Greek Genocide victims

Vice-President of the Armenian National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov, other MPs, representatives of the Greek Embassy in Armenia and the Greek community visited the Tsitsernakaberd memorial today to pay tribute to the memory of victims of the Pontian Greek genocide.

On behalf of the Armenian Parliament, Edward Sharmazanov laid a wreath at the memorial to the Armenian Genocide victims.

Condemning the crime committed by Ottoman Turkey at the turn of the 20th century, Edward Sharmazanov said “This is also a day of revival.”

“We’ll do our best to prevent reoccurrence of such crimes against humanity in the future. An evidence of this is the existence of two Greek and two Armenian states. The Armenian authorities will do everything to reach international condemnation of genocides against Christian nations, and we have to combine efforts, because the denial of genocide is as dangerous as its perpetration,” Sharmazanov stated.

In 1994 the Hellenic Parliament recognized and condemned the genocide of more than 600 thousand Pontian Greeks. Many of those who fled the genocide found refuge in Armenia and integrated into the social-economic and political life of the country.

The genocide of Pontian Greeks has been recognized by Armenia, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden and Artsakh Republic.

The Armenian National Assembly observed a minute of silence today in memory of victims of the genocide.



## Gyumri massacre convict sent to Russian jail

The Russian soldier convicted of murdering an Armenian family of seven in Gyumri more than two years ago has been sent to Russia to serve his life sentence there, the Armenian Ministry of Justice reported on May 18.

The Ministry, in particular, said that “as a result of consultations with corresponding Russian bodies arrangements were made for the provision to the Armenian side in the future of information about Valery Permyakov’s serving his sentence in the event of such an inquiry.”

Permyakov, 21, has admitted to gunning down a middle-aged couple, their daughter, son, daughter-in-law and 2-year-old granddaughter in their home in January 2015. The Avetisyan family’s seventh member, a 6-month-old baby boy, was stabbed and fatally wounded.

A Russian military court sentenced Permyakov to 10 years in prison for desertion and theft of firearms and ammunition in a short trial held in August 2015. His main, Armenian trial on murder charges began shortly afterwards.

In an Armenian-jurisdiction trial controversially held on the premises of the Russian military base in Gyumri a court sentenced the conscript to life imprisonment in August 2016. Armenia’s Court of Appeals upheld the guilty verdict in December.

Permyakov was kept in custody at the Gyumri headquarters of a Russian military base in Armenia ever since he was arrested on the Armenian-Turkish border hours after the gruesome killings.

The Armenian Ministry of Justice announced earlier this



month that Permyakov might be transferred to Russia “since both Armenian and Russian courts have handed down verdicts regarding him.”

Officials in Moscow said in the immediate aftermath of the shock killings that Permyakov could only be tried by a Russian court because Russia’s constitution prohibits extradition of Russian nationals to foreign states. That caused outrage among many Armenians fearing a Russian cover-up of the massacre.

Thousands of them demonstrated in Gyumri in January 2015 to demand Permyakov’s handover to the Armenian side. Some of them clashed with riot police outside the local Russian consulate. The Russian authorities eventually agreed to place the murder case under Armenian jurisdiction.



## President Sargsyan addresses the first session of the National Assembly

from page 2

*As a result of the amendments made to the Main Law, the parliament is from now on entitled to form constitutional bodies endowed with important and extensive functions. Constitutional Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court Council – these are the new and significant justice structures which will be formed through your direct participation. It is the greatest popular and democratic trust which is given to form independent and professional judicial authority. At the same time, you will be responsible for the results – positive as well as negative – of these bodies' activities.*

*I also envision a law enforcement structure – robust and cooperative, strong and ready to assume responsibility. To promote the development of that structure is everybody's duty. Only structure like that will allow for everyone – the state, the entire society, and every member of it, to feel strong and safe, and in the development of such structure you,*

*through your control and containment functions, are to play the pivotal role.*

*Appointment of Prosecutor General and Ombudsman, formation of autonomous bodies and investigation commissions: these are constitutional tools whose utilization allows the parliament to participate directly or indirectly in the improvement of the law enforcement structure, or rather to say, law upholding structure. Consistency of each parliamentary and constant parliamentary control should result in transparency and public accountability of the structure becoming an established practice, a workstyle. I am sure you realize that.*

*At the same time, I would like to invite your attention to an important issue: We have said on many occasions that the amended Constitution will enhance the role of the political parties in our public life. We have also stressed that that ideologically like-minded people will be the driving force behind these parties. However, as the President of*

*the country and as the head of the largest political structure, I urge all political forces represented at the National Assembly while electing individuals dealing with the justice or law enforcement systems or in formation of such bodies to be guided by the principle “he or she is a professional” rather than “he or she is a confederate.” Only based on this approach we can ensure a viable justice system.*

*I would also like to underscore that such a system will be successful only if there is intolerance towards corruption. No doubt, the face of corruption today has changed.*

*Gradually it becomes more visible and vulnerable. The state continues to enroot in the minds of the society and individuals the culture of “zero tolerance towards corruption”. But we cannot be content with the exiting results. We need to improve the institutionalized anti-corruption system and ensure its consistent development. We all realized that otherwise all initiatives are doomed to failure.*

## European Commission publishes report on ENP implementation



On 18 May, the European Commission published a report reviewing the implementation of European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The report detailed results following a new approach based on differentiation, joint ownership and flexibility.

The revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) reinvigorated the relations between the European Union and its neighbours to the East and South, with a greater focus on stabilisation, resilience and security. Today's neighbourhood-wide Joint Report on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy demonstrates that the new policy approach ensures stronger joint ownership and more flexibility by recognising different aspirations and diversity

of each partner. The report is a follow-up to the European Neighbourhood review which was adopted in November 2015.

“The European Union has been investing a lot in economic development, resilience, security, democracy and the rule of law in our Eastern and Southern neighbours. One year and a half after the review of the European Neighborhood Policy, we have managed to build – in cooperation and full partnership – a tailor made approach with each and every country, to ensure it addresses the real needs and interests, for the sake of all our citizens.” said Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, upon publication of the joint report.

“We consulted widely before updating the Neighbourhood Policy – and this report shows how we are really putting into action the results of that consultation: a stronger focus on mutual interests, greater differentiation to reflect the diversity of our partners, a greater sense of shared ownership of the policy and more flexibility in how it is implemented,” added Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

The reviewed ENP has mobilised significant support to reforms in four priority areas: good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights; economic development for stabilisation; security; migration and mobility.

## Rep. Costa calls for action against Turks for violence towards Armenians, Kurds, Yezidis

Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16) has released the following statement regarding members of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's security force attacking demonstrators outside of the Turkish ambassador's residence in Washington, DC:

"Given Turkey's movement towards an authoritarian government, President Erdoğan's visit with the President in the West Wing is unsettling. President Erdoğan's recent elimination of individual freedoms and jailing members of the press should not be rewarded by a visit to the Oval Office.

"To add injury to insult, it appears that a contingent of President Erdoğan's security team unilaterally took violent action against peaceful demonstrators who were raising awareness of Turkey's violations of human rights. The Turkish security guards clearly attacked the Armenian, Kurdish, Yezidi, and other human rights demonstrators, sending nine to the hospital.

"Sadly, it appears that history may be repeating itself. Many of us in recent weeks have seen the movie 'The Promise,' which is an accurate historical portrayal of the Armenian genocide that took place beginning in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. In the movie, we witnessed the beginnings of these acts of atrocity with the depiction of young, Turkish men beating innocent people. As we know, modern-day Turkey has been unwilling as a country to acknowledge the genocide ever happened. We cannot allow Tuesday's violent and



illegal behavior by the Turkish security guards to go unaddressed.

"The actions of the Turkish security guards are outrageous, and I condemn them. They violate both American law and deeply-held American values. The Turkish security guards must be held accountable.

"Our American President should take appropriate diplomatic and legal action against these Turkish thugs for their violence towards the Armenian, Kurdish, Yezidi, and other human rights demonstrators. If he does so, I believe he will find overwhelming bipartisan support in the US Congress."

## Indian director Shekhar Kapur to helm Armenian Genocide tale 'Three Apples Fell From Heaven'

Indian film director Shekhar Kapur will direct *Three Apples Fell From Heaven*, a film based on the Micheline Aharonian Marcom novel adapted by Motorcycle Diaries writer José Rivera, Deadline reports.

The film is set in 1915-1917 as Turks

slaughtered Armenians, and revolves around a young female refugee taken in by Turkish neighbors after the death of her parents. Her childhood shattered, she now views the remains of her world through a Muslim veil, as several tragic characters circle around her.

While the Armenian genocide is a century old, there is an eerie parallel to the refugee crisis, beyond Kapur's memory of his own family forced to flee Delhi as refugees during the partition of India. The filmmakers made available a clip of the young women Kapur has auditioned to play the lead role; they are refugees from Aleppo whose descendants fled there to escape the Armenian genocide and who've come back to escape the violence that has devastated Syria.

The clip is a sad reminder of how little the world has really reformed for refugees. This becomes the first film from a new social justice storytelling production company, Disruptive Narrative, which will launch at Cannes as part of Sunday's Refugee Voices In Film day, presented by IEFTA, the UNHCR and Marché du Film. The company is founded by leading human rights lawyer, Jen Robinson, of Doughty St Chambers, and Syrian-Armenian actress/writer/producer, Sona Tatoyan.





## California Governor vetoes parole for Hampig Sassounian



Heeding pleas from Turkish American groups and the Trump administration, Gov. Jerry Brown has vetoed parole for an Armenian American who murdered Turkey's consul general in Los Angeles in 1982, SFGate reports.

Hampig "Harry" Sassounian was 19 when he and a companion, who has not been caught, shot and killed Kemal Arikan as the consul sat in his car at an intersection in the Westwood area of Los Angeles. A group called the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide, to which Sassounian reportedly belonged, called a news service shortly afterward and claimed responsibility for the shooting, and other killings of Turkish diplomats, "to demand justice for genocidal crime in Turkey in 1915."

Sentenced to life in prison, Sassounian had been repeatedly denied parole until December, when the state Board of Parole Hearings recommended his release from San Quentin. The board said Sassounian, traumatized by horrific warfare in his native Lebanon as a child, had accepted responsibility for his crime, shown remorse, and participated in numerous treatment and job-training programs in prison.

Brown, who as governor can override the decisions of his appointed parole board, has accepted its grants of parole about 80 percent of the time, far more often than previous governors. But he said Monday that he believes Sassou-

nian would still pose "an unreasonable danger to society if released."

The killing was "a deliberate, planned assassination of a diplomat," plotted at least two weeks in advance, Brown said. The governor, unlike U.S. presidents, has previously referred to the slaughter of as many as 1.2 million



Armenians in Turkey as a "genocide" and described the killings Monday as a "horror" for which Turkey has not apologized. But, he said, the killings could not justify a murder decades later.

Turkish American groups had urged the governor to deny parole. They

were joined by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who sent a letter to the parole board March 28 opposing Sassounian's release.

The two Trump administration officials called Arikan's murder "an attack on diplomacy itself." They said that the United States had successfully urged the French government to deny parole to a man who murdered a U.S. embassy official in Paris in 1982, and that Sassounian's parole thus "would undercut the position that the United States takes worldwide, and would make all diplomats — whether from the United States or elsewhere — less safe."

It may be the first time a president's administration has taken part in a California parole proceeding. Brown cited the letter in his decision, which came a day before President Trump's meeting at the White House with Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The governor also said Sassounian undermined his case for rehabilitation with a letter he sent from prison to an Armenian military newspaper in 2012. Sassounian said that he dreamed of the day Armenia could manufacture its weapons and that when he returned, he would go to the border to defend his land. "I am a soldier of my Fatherland until the day I die," he wrote.

Sassounian later told a prison psychologist that the letter had been a mistake and that he was committed to peace. Though the parole board accepted his explanation in December, Brown said he wasn't convinced.

Sassounian's lawyer, Mark Geragos, called the governor's action "alarming."

"This was a young kid, clearly swayed by emotion at the time" of the killing, who is now "being used repeatedly as a political football," Geragos said. "I don't understand why the State Department is involved," he said, and "I didn't realize that the governor was trying to curry favor with the brutal dictator Erdogan."

## Areg Balayan and Maria Fernanda Moreno win Aurora competitions

On May 16 Aurora Humanitarian Initiative opened the photo exhibition "Capturing Humanity" at Dalan Art Gallery in Yerevan, where a selection of the photos submitted for the Aurora Photo Exhibition are displayed. At the opening of the exhibition the Initiative announced the winners of the Aurora Photo and Short Film Competitions.

Areg Balayan from Artsakh wins the photo competition with the photo "Finally, some rest". Sargis Bulghadaryan (Armenia) took the second place with "Everyday water issue in Tlik village" photo, while Visarut Sankham (Thailand) took the third place with the photo "Behind Tin Walls". Aurora Humanitarian Initiative granted special awards to Anahit Hayrapetyan (Armenia) for "Refugee father and son in Artsakh" photo and Ana Caroline de Lima (Brazil) for "Rajashtani boy" photo.

"Provoking, compassionate and impassioned, the images submitted for the first Aurora Photo Contest were compelling. Thought provoking. Having judged many contests over the years, the caliber and quality of the photogra-

phy submitted was stellar for an award that recognizes issues of acute importance to all of us around the world," said John Stanmeyer, the chairperson of the Aurora Photo Competition jury.

Aurora Humanitarian Initiative awards US\$2,500 to the photographer of the best image. Second and third places receive awards of US\$1,500 and US\$1,000 respectively.

The winner of the Aurora Short Film Competition is the animated film "The desire" by Maria Fernanda Moreno Beltran (Colombia), "The Youngest Girl in the Minefield" by Aza Andriasyan (Armenia) takes the second prize and "Father" by Yevgeni Vasiltssov (Ukraine) took the third place. As per the professional jury's decision, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative granted special awards to two participants: Hayk Kbeyan for "Christmas Tree" (Armenia) and Santiago Arcos Veintimilla for "The Skin of Palestine" (Ecuador).

"This competition has broadened the humanitarian movement initiated by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative. We are joined by thousands of talented

young people from over 50 countries who illustrated their own vision on the ideas of humanity and gratitude," said Arman Jilavian, a jury member of both competitions and CEO of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative. "I thank all participants who helped us to visually reflect our mission and ideas at the eve of the 2017 Aurora Prize Events."

Aurora Humanitarian Initiative awards US\$4000 to the director of the best film. Second and third places will receive US\$2000 and US\$1500 award respectively. 10 awardees of two competitions get unique opportunity to be present at the 2017 Aurora Prize Award Ceremony on May 28, 2017 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Aurora Photo and Short Film Competitions were launched on December, 2016. 1237 photos from 48 countries and 184 films from 27 countries were submitted for the competitions.

"Capturing Humanity" exhibition presents 28 photos of 23 photographers from 13 countries. It will be open for the visitors until June 6, 2017 at Dalan Art Gallery in Armenia.





## 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.



### Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Partners and friends may be offering temptations that are hard to avoid. If you want to take better care of yourself, move to another place in the room or take a walk and breathe deeply. It is probably a good idea to avoid a financial extravagance for the present. Think about it again in a couple of weeks.



### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Mercury travels rapidly through your sign between May 15 and June 6. During these weeks there likely will be greater emphasis on communications, errands, and other short distance travels. You are prone to self-indulgence now. This is a good

time to find a different solution for your cravings



### Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

You and your partner may have an issue over shared resources. That includes time, money, cars, or anything else. A discussion is likely to ensue. There simply may not be

“enough” which requires a sacrifice. You may feel somewhat edgy and irritable this week. Use that edge to exercise or do some other muscular project.



### Gemini (May 20–June 20)

There is a shift of your attention to matters of your personal history that may go back quite a long time. You will be looking inside yourself for meditative peace, answers to serious questions, and encouragement from

your source. Journaling, hypnosis, meditation or counseling are favored activities now.



### Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Warning to those on diet and exercise programs: this week it is just too easy to break training. If you mean what you've promised to yourself,

don't go anywhere in which you would be in harm's way. It is a time in which you feel more outgoing and extroverted. Social life is a pleasure.



### Cancer (June 21–July 21)

You may feel out of sorts this week. Your feelings are in conflict with your ideal self and your values. You want to put your best foot forward, but circumstances do not feel quite right. If the conflict is deep, it is

usually best to wait and not yield to whatever pressure is around you. Take your time. You will soon sort it all out.



### Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Read the lead paragraphs carefully. You may have already begun to integrate the new into the traditional in your life. If so, you are right on target with your timing. Just this week

your reflexes are off. You need to give attention to what your body is doing. If you exercise heavily, lighten up for a short period.



### Leo (July 22–August 21)

The beginning of the week is busy, as you finish projects. On the weekend your mind shifts attention to communications. You probably feel the need to pay closer attention to your neighborhood, roommates, siblings and the casual relationships in

your life. Get out and about, breathe some fresh air, take some walks.



### Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

You are in the right place at the right time to facilitate an action that will be for the greater good of all involved. This is a project that you

may have been working toward for a matter of weeks or months. It is something that makes you smile and gives you the sense that you were “supposed” to be in this place and time.



### Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You are caught between what you should do and what you want to do. The routine is safe, but also boring. Your mind may play tricks on you and you could be distracted easily. This is not a good time to do work

that requires discipline with details. Take a break from the routine and go somewhere you've never been.



### Pisces (February 18–March 19)

You may feel pressured into spending time, energy, savings or other resources on something you would rather not. This is related in some way to your partner or other affiliations in your life. Your energy at this

time is in short supply. Give attention to your body.

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This type of care includes personal care aides, home care aides, and home health aides. Home health aides might also provide limited assistance with things such as taking blood pressure or offering medication reminders.

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Transportation is a key issue for older adults and for people with temporary or permanent disabilities especially in Armenia where the streets and buildings are not adjusted for disabled people. Yerevan Home Care is providing a transportation service for people that are in wheelchairs.

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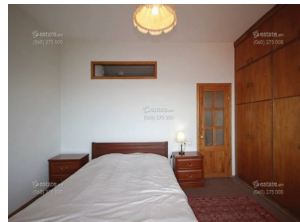
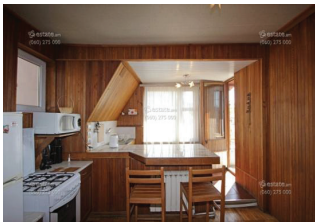
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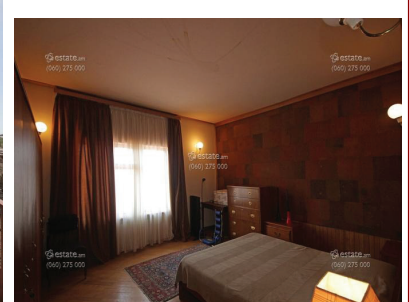
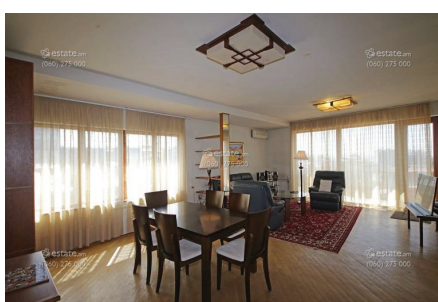
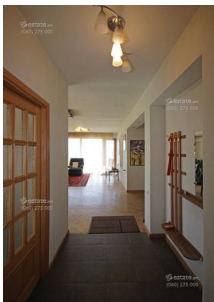
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