

On 15 July in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Long-Awaited Twins Alex and Alen Were Born Thanks to Reproductive Medicine



*"Aragil"
Foundation
led by the
First Lady
Rita Sargsyan
(left on the photo)
helps parents
with infertility*

see p.4

In This Issue

- Aragil Charity Led by the First Lady Rita Sargsyan Promotes Demography in Armenia and Karabakh** p.4
- Edward Topchyan: Is His Life Credo "I am the Great Conductor" ?** p.10
- The 12th Golden Apricot Film Fest: A New Height Reached...** p.p.12-13
- News from the Armenian Victorious Army** p.p.14-16
- VivaCell-MTS Recently...** p.17

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Armenian President urges EU to refuse from putting an equality mark between parties to Karabakh conflict

"The Azerbaijani leadership made us a big gift by hosting the European Games and ensuring peace and stability in that period both at the line of contact with Nagorno Karabakh and the shared border with Armenia," Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said at a joint press conference with visiting President of the European Council Donald Tusk. The Armenian President added, however, that it was an imitation of peace and stability.

"I say a gift because it was the last drop that made it clear to the international community who really creates tension and violates the ceasefire. This is extremely important. I urge the European structures to refuse from the policy of putting an equality

mark between the parties. They should at least demonstrate a differentiated approach like the Minsk Group did in January and clearly state who is the shooter, who creates tension and who wants war," the President stated.

"When there is an equality mark, people have the feeling of impunity. This is the reason of Azerbaijani President's arrogant speeches," the Armenian President said, referring to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's speech immediately after the European Games.

"Although the smell of oil and gas and the taste of caviar could be too attractive to certain structures and individuals in Europe, the elimination of this equality



mark will put us on the right track. Otherwise, if things continue this way, if all speeches and deeds of the Azerbaijani President are forgiven, we should quote our outstanding compatriot William Saroyan, who once said 'Something's wrong somewhere,' President Sargsyan stated.

Russian Military Intelligence Chief Visits Armenia



The head of Russia's powerful military intelligence service began on July 24 a visit to Armenia which the Defense Ministry in Yerevan said will focus on regional security and Russian-Armenian military ties.

In a short statement, the ministry said Colonel-General Igor Sergun will meet top Armenian defense officials to discuss "military-political topics of regional and international significance." It said they will explore ways of boosting bilateral cooperation with the aim of "ensuring the security

of the two countries in the existing geopolitical situation."

No other details were reported.

Sergun runs the Russian military's Main Intelligence Directorate, which is better known by its Russian acronym GRU. It has long been Russia's biggest intelligence agency, boasting, according to espionage experts, a spy network abroad that is several times bigger than that of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, a former KGB division.

GRU is also charged with analyzing espionage information gathered by dozens of Russian military space satellites. In addition, GRU has several elite Special Forces units that fought in many post-World War Two conflicts, including Afghanistan and Chechnya.

Baku's non-constructive behavior jeopardises Karabakh talks: Armenian FM



Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received on July 20 OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs Igor Popov, James Warlick and Pierre Andrieu and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk.

The interlocutors continued the discussions on the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The Co-Chairs briefed Minister Nalbandian on the results of their meetings in Washington and Moscow and referred to their plans for the

rest of the year.

Stressing that Baku has again resorted to military rhetoric and provocations after the European games, Edward Nalbandian called the attention of the Co-Chairs to the recent ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani side all along the line of contact with the Nagorno Karabakh.

According to Minister Nalbandian, Baku's non-constructive behavior jeopardises the efforts of Armenia and the co-chairing countries to further the negotiation process.

Iran upbeat on ties with Armenia after sanctions relief



The upcoming lifting of international sanctions against Iran will speed up the implementation of its joint energy projects with Armenia, a senior Iranian diplomat said on July 24, echoing similar statements by Armenian officials.

"Rest assured that the lifting of international sanctions against Iran will have a concrete impact on Armenian-Iranian projects," said Mohammad Reisi, the Iranian ambassador to Armenia. "After the lifting of the sanctions Iran will be able to further develop its relations with neighbors."

"We have very good relations with Armenia and those relations will deep further," he told a news conference in Yerevan.

Reisi announced in that context that Iran's First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri is due to visit Yerevan next month for talks that will focus on bilateral commercial ties. He said Jahangiri will primarily concentrate on the planned construction of a new high-voltage transmission line that will enable Armenia to import much more Iranian natural gas and pay for it with electricity supplied to the Islamic Republic.

The envoy implied that the Iranian government will be able to finance that project after the anticipated unfreezing of its overseas assets as part of a sanctions relief envisaged by Tehran's nuclear agreement with six world powers.

The transmission line's construction was supposed to get underway in 2012. Armenian Deputy Energy Minister Areg Galstian said last year that it has been delayed because "the bank financing it has run into difficulties."

Both Armenian and Iranian officials have also blamed the sanctions for repeated delays in the \$350 million construction of a major hydroelectric complex on the Armenian-Iranian border. In particular, Reisi last year cited serious restrictions on cash operations between Armenian and Iranian banks that were imposed by the Armenian government.

Armenian Energy Minister Yervand Zakharyan said last week that the implementation of the hydroelectric project "will most probably accelerate" as a result of the landmark nuclear deal. "The Islamic Republic of Iran should be able to make more investments [in Armenian-Iranian projects,]" he said.

Economy Minister Karen Chshmarityan also looked forward to the lifting of the sanctions, saying that it will give the Armenian economy "additional oxygen."

Armenian, Azeri Presidents 'Ready' To Meet

The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan are ready to meet later this year in another attempt to revive the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process, international mediators said on July 23 as they ended their latest tour of the conflict zone.

The U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issued a joint statement in Baku after holding talks there with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. They met with President Serzh Sargsyan in Yerevan earlier this week.

"We welcomed the readiness of the Presidents to meet each other later this year, and they instructed their Foreign Ministers to continue their work with the Co-Chairs on an agenda for the presidential summit," read the statement.

The mediators said they discussed with Aliyev and Sargsyan "current proposals to advance negotiations towards a lasting settlement of the Nagorno-

Karabakh conflict." They also expressed concern at rising tensions along the "line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border following a "period of relative stability" observed there earlier this year.

"We urged the Presidents to avoid a deadly escalation of violence and take all measures to adhere strictly to the ceasefire," added the troika.

Sargsyan and Aliyev most recently met in Paris in October last year. Both leaders gave positive assessments of that summit.

However, tensions on the frontlines were reignited in November by the shoot-



ing down by Azerbaijani forces of an Armenian combat helicopter near Karabakh. And there was a renewed upsurge in deadly truce violations in January.

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"Aragil" Foundation Led by Rita Sargsyan Supports Population Growth in Karabakh and Armenia

The 100th and the 101st babies were born in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic thanks to reproductive medicine



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

The Hundredth and one hundred and first babies born thanks to the program of overcoming infertility implemented by an Armenian Charity "Aragil" ("The Stork"), were born in the Nagorno-Karabakh

standards. Today in the NKR there are 66 couples with infertility problems registered, and 18 of them, due to medical intervention, are waiting for children. Two pairs expect twins, and another one will have ? triplet.

Karabakh doctors desire to have a similar center in the NKR which will let them to help those suffering from infertility right there, with no need to cross the long way to the Motherland Armenia. For tiny Armenia, and even more for Nagorno-Karabakh Republic being in a state of war, with its small popula-

which national unity is needed. Like a drop of water reflects the whole ocean, every single Armenian family reflects our entire nation. We must help each couple which tends to have a child", - in particular, Mrs Sargsyan noted in her address.

According to her, the birth of twins – the one hundredth as well as the one hundredth and first in the year of the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, and especially in Artsakh whose people not only did not let committ a new Armenian

genocide, - already in the 21st century, but also defended their freedom and independence and today lives in an succeeded state, symbolizes the rebirth of the Armenian nation and its continuity.

We believe it is worth recalling that on April 24, when all the world-spread Armenians and our

friends, including the Presidents of Russia, France, Cyprus and Serbia, other numerous foreign top-ranking dignitaries and the Heads of sister Churches who arrived in Yerevan, marked the centenary of the 1915 Genocide, a triplet was born in Yerevan - **Karineh Arzumanyan**, after 10 years of infertility, has given birth to a boy and two girls - with the assistance of the "Aragil" Foundation. By the way, on the same day April 24th, at the Research Center of

Mother and Child Health the tenth (!!! - Bravo) child of 40-year-old **Haykanush Safaryan** was born; their eldest son is now serving in the Armenian Army. And on 13 May, again thanks to the invaluable assistance from the "Aragil", a charity founded and presided (as Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees) by the First Lady of Armenia **Rita**

Sargsyan, a young Mom from Yerevan gave birth to a triplet – "*future soldiers of the Armenian Army were born*", as the boys' happiest father, **Manvel Manoukyan** (28 years) said. "*We decided to name the boys Sargis, Mher and Ashot. Our eldest son is 1.5 years old, and we did not think even we could give birth to a triplet,*" - Mr Manoukyan said.



Republic on July 15th. Twins **Alex** and **Alain** were born at the Center for Maternal and Child Health of the NKR Health Ministry. Their parents - **Mher** and **Christineh Musaelians** were congratulated by the First Lady of the Republic of Armenia **Rita Sargsyan** under the high patronage of who the "Aragil" Foundation operates and who visited the Center personally.

"Aragil" was founded in 2011 to help mainly poor families suffering from infertility, who dream to have a child but are unable to pay the relevant services. Married couples who apply to the Foundation, first pass a thorough medical examination, and after receiving the advise from doctors and with the mediation of the Armenia's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are sent to one of the four centers of reproductive medicine cooperating with the "Aragil". The Foundation promotes qualified research, precise diagnostics and stepped therapy to achieve a positive outcome.

The Foundation's activities cover the second Armenian Republic (NKR) as well. The effectiveness of the program is obvious: about 40 percent of the patients became mothers; this outcome meets international



tion, improvement of the demographic situation is of vital importance, and, among other things, the "Aragil" Foundation contributes significantly to the solution of demographic problems.

Some time ago, the First Lady of Armenia **Rita Sargsyan** made an appeal to the Nation to support families in need of reproductive medical aid: "*This is an issue on*

Armenian Defense Chief Unfazed By Azeri Threats



Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan on July 24 brushed aside Azerbaijan's apparent threats to shell Yerevan from its Nakhichevan exclave and warned Baku against raising tensions on the frontlines in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

In a statement on July 23 cited by Azerbaijani news agencies, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry commented on Ohanian's recent visit to Armenian army units stationed along Nakhichevan sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

"The leadership of Armenia must realize that from the territory of Nakhichevan the Azerbaijani armed forces are ready to destroy military facilities in Armenia, including Yerevan, at any moment," said the statement. It emphasized the fact their weaponry includes Russian-made Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems.

One of the most devastating weapons of its kind, Smerch has a firing range of 90 kilometers, putting the Armenian capital within reach of its rockets deployed in Nakhichevan. Azerbaijan has purchased dozens of such systems from Ukraine and Russia over the past decade.

Ohanian scoffed at the Azerbaijani threats as he spoke to reporters in Yerevan. "We thought that they are engaged in constructive things," he said. "But instead of building, they are trying

to destroy."

"We have already had such experience [of dealing with that,] by the way," he said, clearly alluding to Azerbaijan's defeat in the 1991-1994 war for Karabakh.

"A [real] destroyer would have probably given up everything and returned home to defend his fatherland during the Artsakh (Karabakh) liberation war," Ohanian quipped in an apparent jibe at Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev or his defense minister, Zakir Hasanov.

Unlike Aliyev and Hasanov, Ohanian played a prominent role in the war. The Karabakh-born minister was gravely wounded in action in 1992 and had one of his legs amputated as a

result.

Serious truce violations along Armenia's border with Nakhichevan were very rare until two Armenian soldiers serving there were killed by Azerbaijani sniper fire in June 2014. The Armenian military reportedly retaliated by significantly moving forward its positions at another section of the Nakhichevan frontier. Armenian defense news websites reported that roughly 100 square kilometers of neutral or contested territory was placed under Armenian control as a result.

The Azerbaijani military denied losing any ground there. Still, some Azerbaijani media outlets reported at the time that the Armenians have launched an "offensive" on Nakhichevan.

The Armenian army reportedly made more, albeit modest, territorial gains in the area after one of its soldiers was killed and two others wounded late last month. Earlier this month, a Yerevan-based video blogger linked to the military posted footage of Armenian servicemen fortifying an apparently new post overlooking Nakhichevan roads leading to nearby Azerbaijani army positions.

The latest Nakhichevan incidents followed several months of relative calm on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and "the line of contact" around Karabakh. Both warring sides have reported increased skirmishes there this month.



Armenian PM hails effective cooperation with Eurasian Economic Commission

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan received on July 20 Sergey Sidorsky, member of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Minister of Industry and Agriculture of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

The Prime Minister hailed the effective cooperation established between the Armenian Government and the Eurasian Economic Commission and attached importance to the intensification and expansion of cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, innovation and oth-

ers.

Sergey Sidorsky, in turn, stressed the necessity of further development and reinforcement of cooperation between Armenia and the Eurasian Economic Union. He stressed the importance of implementation of joint programs in different branches of economy, which will contribute to the deepening and expansion of ties between EAEU member states.

In this context the interlocutors discussed a number of issues related to the deepening cooperation with Armenia. The



parties discussed issues related to the elimination of restrictions for the expansion of the volume of commodity turnover, which will lead to increased competition on the market.

EEU countries consider importing construction materials from Armenia



The problems caused by the lack of a shared border between Armenia and the Eurasian Economic Union are of technical character and can be solved over time,

Armenia's Deputy Finance Minister Emil Torosyan has said.

Issues related to the main directions of industrial cooperation between EEU member states were discussed at the Armenian Ministry of Economy. Sergey Sidorsky, member of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Minister of Industry and Agriculture of the Eurasian Economic Commission participated in the industrial forum. According to Emil Torosyan, Armenia has received support from all EEU member states on all issues.

The Deputy Minister said it's still early

to assess what the EEU membership can give the manufacturers. "Half a year is not enough for developing the industrial capacities," he said. He added, however, that the formats and directions, in which Armenia can cooperate with EEU, are currently being discussed.

Sergey Sidorsky said Armenia has good construction materials and added that the branch is very promising.

"The EEU countries import construction materials from non-member states. Therefore, these should be replaced by Armenian materials," he said.

IDeA Foundation and EBRD to support projects aimed at infrastructure and tourism development



Initiatives for Development of Armenia (IDeA) Foundation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have signed a memorandum of understating (MoU) on cooperation .

The objective of the MoU is to enhance, on a non-exclusive basis, cooperation and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to promote projects that support sustainable economic municipal infrastructure development in Armenia.

Acting Director General of IDeA Foundation Edgar Manukyan and Head of the EBRD Yerevan Office Mark Davis signed the Memorandum.

"'Tatev Revival' and Dilijan development projects implemented by IDeA Foundation are firstly aimed at the development of community infrastructures and tourism in those regions. We are happy to

have an important partner such as the EBRD in development projects. We are sure our joint efforts will enable us to carry out larger-scale projects and ramp up cooperation to include other sectors as well," said Edgar Manukyan.

The Head of the EBRD Yerevan also highlighted the signing of the document.

"'We look forward to continuing and deepening our mutual co-operation toward improvements in the business climate and regional economic development. The EBRD is firmly committed to supporting the development of reliable and modern infrastructure in Armenia." said Mark Davis.

Orange in talks to sell Armenia mobile unit to Ucom



Orange Business Services, a global telecommunications operator, announced that it has entered into exclusive discussions with Ucom, an Armenian internet service provider, to sell 100% of its mobile subsidiary Orange Armenia. Negotiations to involve international financial institutions are already underway.

In view of worldwide telecom market trends, in 2013 Ucom acquired 4G connectivity service license and planned to

launch premium quality services through its LTE networks beginning in 2016, the Company said in a statement.

Orange Armenia entered the Armenian telecom market in 2009, and has since become a beloved and trusted telecommunication brand amongst hundreds of thousands customers.

Ucom said "The positive outcome of the negotiations between Orange and Ucom will provide with the prospect to

sustain and leverage the potential of more than 500 professional staff members of Orange Armenia, as well as its innovative technical power. As a result, customers will receive modern and qualitatively different convergent solutions, as well as the added convenience of combining various offers and using the wide spectrum of telecommunication services from the same trusted provider: an opportunity that the Armenian market has never had before."

HayPost opens first international office in Glendale

On 21 of July, 2015 HayPost, the national postal operator of the Republic of Armenia, opened its first international office in Glendale, California, USA. Among the guests who attended the official launch ceremony were the Minister of Transport & Communication of the Republic of Armenia Gagik Beglaryan, the Mayor of Glendale Ara Najarian, the directors & officers of HayPost and Corporacion America (the company which manages HayPost) and community repre-

sentatives.

The residents of California are now able to send parcels to their friends and relatives easier and faster, using the direct delivery service from HayPost USA to HayPost in Armenia. "ShopInAmerica", a brand new concept introduced by HayPost, will grant residents of Armenia an open access to shop and acquire goods from the USA via the office in Glendale and receive their purchases directly in their cities or villages, even in the most

remote rural areas.

According to the CEO of HayPost USA Juan Pablo Gechidjian, the Company will also provide money transfer services, which will facilitate and formalize the process of money remittances from USA to Armenia and vice versa making it faster, more reliable and affordable.

HayPost International aims to create a stronger bond between Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora in USA, expanding the reach of HayPost services beyond the borders of Armenia and establishing new relationship and new service opportunities between Armenia and its Diaspora.

HayPost USA office covers an area of 3,600 square feet (340 square meters) and strategically located on North Brand Boulevard, in the heart of Glendale, a city well known for its large and prominent Armenian population. The new HayPost office is fully in line with the branding standards of all renovated Armenian HayPost offices. Equipped with the state-of-art facilities and software HayPost USA employs six fully trained staff members and offers a most welcoming environment for its customers.





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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, furnished,parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor,70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished . Price:400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m.,with-out divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms, capitally repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses,parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m,with-out divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade.** Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD



- 2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade.** 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m
- 2310.**Monument, Babayan str**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price:350 USD negotiable
- 2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- 2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- 2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m, capitally repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capitally repaired,heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price:1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m.,3 storied building-750sq.m.,6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m.,2 storied building-720sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system,sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.
- 3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m.,walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows,no exploitation fees. Price:1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- 107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.
- 87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m.,Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- 93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas,parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m,parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.
- 94.**Masiv**. 3floors,8 flats,each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- 130.**Antarayan str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available seives-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available seives-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area**. Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture.

Price: Negotiable.

- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish). Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable



- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitolly repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms,

capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basement, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str.**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Edward Topchyan: Is "I am the Great Conductor!" His Life Credo ?

Recently "Novoye Vremya" Russian language semi-weekly published a story that we think deserves to be read by the culture lovers:

"It is Always Possible to Improve the Situation, but the Revealed Attitude and the Words Spoken Aloud - Alas, No!"

In one of the previous editions of "Novoye Vremya" we published an interview with the Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) **Edward Topchyan** in which he expressed serious concern about "lack of demand for the APO in Armenia within the framework of public events dedicated to the Centenary of the Genocide". Moreover, Topchyan let himself to doubt the choice of the alleged conductor at a concert in Artsakh. (It's the third year in a row on 1 September, in the very eve of the Artsakh – Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Independence Day marked on 2 September a gala-concert/opera is being organized in the NKR – **The Highlights**).

"Performance of Verdi's "Requiem" must take place in Artsakh on September 1st, and if we the APO are not invited there to play, it will turn out that our Orchestra is not involved by the State," - he said. ("I have often played this work by Verdi, and many know how well I know it, and how much I love this work. But I do not quite understand some undercover games with an invitation to conduct that day sent a man who, in my opinion, is far both from this work, and the music in general. I think the organizers themselves already realize how wrong has their choice been, but apparently, to cancel all

this is not quite convenient and even possible already", Edward Topchyan concluded in the mentioned interview – **The Highlights**).

Given the fact that the (Chief – **The Highlights**) organizer of the above mentioned activities is the First Lady of Armenia **Rita Sargsyan**, we decided to clarify the situation with no delay:

"For me, such a statement by Edward Topchyan was a surprising, if not to say more, an insulting one...It is for several years already we organize concerts in NKR in early September on the Republic Day. Two years ago the conductor was Topchyan: the Artsakh premiere of the "Artsvaberd" Opera by Andrey Babayev (Babayev, a native of Karabakh – **The**

– **The Highlights**).

So it is not to a great surprise that for this September concert as well we're going to invite famous musicians to participate in. In particular, the Honored Artist of Russia, Artistic Director and Conductor of many top prestigious Russian orchestras professor **Anatoliy Abramovich Levin**. Without belittling the dignity and talent of Topchyan, we have to fix a disrespect from his side towards a colleague, as well as to the organizers, who, in his words, "do have realized the wrong choice already, but now they do not know how to improve the situation..."

Let's note that it is always possible to improve the situation, but the attitude manifested and spoken words, alas, no...

Frankly speaking, we were imagining a scene of a meeting of two directors somewhat different: hospitable Armenian conductor gives the conductor's baton to his eminent Russian counterpart, welcoming him at the Armenian graceland. Alas, we had to be disappointed...

We highly appreciate him (Topchyan) as a musician, as it evidenced by the high score of the orchestra received abroad and increased attention from the



Highlights) was held, and the last year we presented "Ring of Fire" Opera by Avet Terteryan. We pay great attention to these concerts that are events of the strategic importance aimed at presenting the life in the independent republic (NKR), to promote the recognition of NKR independence by the international community. To this end, each year the world famous stars visit NKR and Armenia who take part in the concerts organized within the framework of the above mentioned activities as well as some other events. Recently, as you know, the world famous opera singer **Lubov' Kazarnovskaya** visited Artsakh, who, by the way, "paid" for it by an immediate inclusion in the list of personas non gratas of a neighboring state (Azerbaijan

state - everything is interconnected! But his uncertainty, if not saying valetudinarianism in respect to his own person is disappointing and disturbing.

Especially since I, personally informed Topchyan yet six months ago that the September concert in Artsakh will play the State Philharmonic Orchestra of Armenia!

Why to create such a profanity and misinformation of the readers?

Everything has its own place, everything is evaluated due to merits, but we consider presenting his own ambitions to the readers as a steady opinion or "reasoned" apprehension nothing but disrespect to both grateful listeners and benefactors of the National Orchestra of Armenia. "

We should worry more about Erdogan's dangerous actions than his crazy stories



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has completely destroyed his credibility by making numerous bizarre claims in recent years.

For example, Erdogan told a group of Latin American Muslims visiting Istanbul last year that Muslim Pilgrims discovered America over 300 years before Christopher Columbus:

"It is alleged that the American continent was discovered by Columbus in 1492. In fact, Muslim sailors reached the American continent 314 years before Columbus in 1178. ...In his memoirs, Christopher Columbus mentions the existence of a mosque atop a hill on the coast of Cuba. A mosque would look perfect on that hill today."

When people around the world scoffed at the President's unfounded assertion, Turkish reporter Oray Egin found out that Erdogan had completely misconstrued what Columbus had written in his memoirs comparing a mountaintop in Cuba to "a pretty mosque." Turkey's leader wrongly concluded that Columbus had seen a mosque built by Muslim sailors!

In one of many spoofs poking fun at Erdogan, someone sarcastically alleged that Astronaut Neil Armstrong wrote in his autobiography: "When we landed on the moon, we saw the ruins of a magnificent building. Buzz Aldrin and I were amazed as we approached the ruins. This was a small, elaborately-built Ottoman mosque. When we came back to earth, NASA and the American government ordered us

not to talk about it."

Such outlandish pronouncements attributed to the Turkish leader continue to pop up on the internet. Given Erdogan's penchant for telling wacky stories, many people tend to believe anything they read about him.

Here is a recent example: "Ottomans were the first to reach the moon, says Turkish President," wrote Barbara Johnson in the World News Daily Report. She quoted Erdogan saying: "It is alleged that the first man to walk on the moon was Neil Armstrong in 1969. In fact, Muslim space explorers reached our satellite 334 years before that, in 1635. Everyone knows the story of the famous aviator, Lagari Hasan Celebi, the 'Ottoman Rocket Man,' who made the first successful manned rocket flight in 1633. What you might not know, is that he attempted to reach the moon two years later and could very well have succeeded."

According to Turkish mythology, legendary Ottoman aviator Lagari Hasan Celebi launched in 1633 a 7-winged rocket using 140 lbs. of gunpowder. Before his flight, he reportedly proclaimed: "O my Sultan! Be blessed, I am going to talk to Jesus!" After his rocket landed in the sea, Celebi allegedly swam ashore and announced: "O my Sultan! Jesus sends his regards to you!"

Reporter Johnson continued her whimsical story: "Pres. Erdogan's surprising claim generated some whispers and laughter from the audience, a reaction that clearly angered the Turkish politician. He slammed the skeptics for mocking his claims, adding that he would soon have the proofs to back his claims. 'Why do

you not believe it? Because you've never believed that a Muslim can do such a thing.... NASA may have destroyed most of the physical evidence of the Ottoman's success during the Apollo 11 mission, but we'll try to find any evidence that might have escaped the cover up."

Of course, what Johnson wrote was not true. Erdogan never uttered those words. However, it is interesting that many Turks believed the fake story, and posted the following comments in reaction to Johnson's article:

- Ali Emre Demir: "Unfortunately, he is our President."

- Berkay: "The scary thing is, if you are living in that nation and witness all the things that man does, and see how many supporters he has. This is an embarrassment."

- Deniz: "Poor, secular Turkish people! This Tayyip is the embarrassment of Turkey."

- Huseyin: "You cannot imagine what we have been suffering. He is a solid tyrant.... He is a complete dishonor to us."

Indeed, Erdogan is a big embarrassment to millions of Turks who are ashamed of him as their President. Unfortunately, the Turkish President's actions are more ruthless than his words: He jails reporters, orders the shooting of civil rights activists, sues those who disagree with him, stashes away millions of dollars obtained by corrupt means, dismisses judges and law enforcement officials who refuse to carry out his illegal orders, and supports the infiltration of ISIS terrorists into Syria and Iraq.

The international community should worry more about Erdogan's terrifying actions than his delirious ramblings!

12th Golden Apricot: A New Height Conquered...



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent
Honored Journalist
of Armenia

...What was the main feature of the 12th Golden Apricot International Film Festival? Honorable guests like the world famous stars such as **Ornella Muti** “La Belissima” and German/Hollywood legend **Nastassja Kinski** as well as well as French actor and director **Patrick Chesnais**, a number of films dedicated to the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide such as Atom Egoyan’s “Ararat”, Vigen Chaldhranyan’s “April”, Henrik Malyan’s “Nahapet”, Frunze Dovlatyan’s “Karot”, Karin Hovhannisyanyan’s “1915”, Aram Shabbazyanyan’s “The Salvation Map” and



others, or something else?

Saying “else” we could mean indeed the increased number of applicants this year: 1,600 films from 105 countries had been submitted for Golden Apricot, which is by 100 applications more than the previous year. 26 countries presented more than

200 movies in four competition and extra-competition programs. And also an important for Armenian film lovers fact: for the first time the movies were screened not only in “Moskva” Cinema Theatre, but also in another one – newly opened “Hayastan” furnished with cutting-edge equipment. (Notably and symbolically, the 2015 Golden Apricot Intl Film Fest was launched with the screening of “Crazy Story”, a film by French-Armenian film director, producer and screenwriter **Robert Guédiguian** who was the Fest Main (Intl Feature Films) Jury Chairman. (M.Guédiguian was granted a special award from the Armenian



Apostolic Church called “Let There Be Light”).

Indeed, all the above mentioned are important features of the 12th GAIFF, but it seems this year’s Golden Apricot was distinguished from the previous Fests, first of all, with evident increase of the general public to the movies screened.

It is not a great secret that such international events have an important mission: to focus intl community’s attention to Armenia as not only a country with the richest millennia-old culture, but also a destination to invest in cultural/other projects. This is important reason for the GAIFF noble sponsors, and first of all its General Partner, Armenia’s leading telecom operator VivaCell-MTS/Company’s Founding GM **Ralph Yirikian** to support Golden Apricot

the sponsors and indeed the Ministry of Culture of Armenia headed by the Minister Mrs **Hasmik Stepanovna Poghosyan** for



This year for the first time a new Audience Award was given to German film director **Marc Brummund** for his film Sanctuary (Germany). In the International Documentary Competition the first Golden Apricot went to “The Creation of Meaning” by **Simone Rapisarda Casanova** (Canada/Italy). The top prize, Golden Apricot in the Apricot Stone Short Competition was given to **Patrick Vollrath** (Germany/Austria) for his “Everything Will Be Ok”, and “One, Two, Three” directed by **Arman Yeritsyan** (Armenia/Germany/Norway) won the Armenian Panorama National Competition the main Prize. The special Hrant Matevosyan Award for Best Script of short fiction film went to **Gagik Madoyan** (Armenia) for his film “The Road”. Totally 200 films were screened within the Fest



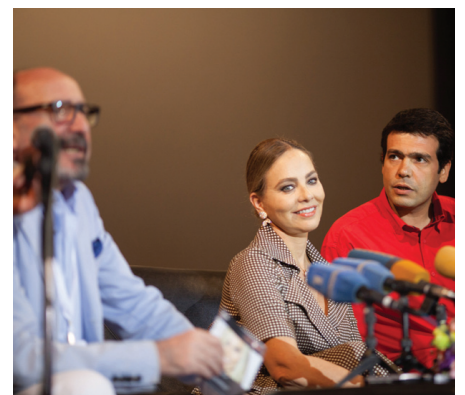
from year to year.

As a sign of increased interest to GAIFF/Armenia from foreign countries could be instanced the bigger number of foreign participants, and some other things such, for example, the fact that both the Ecumenical and FIPRESCI Jury foreign members gave the First Prize to “Moskvich, My Love” by an Armenian filmmaker **Aram Shahbazyan**.

And the last, but not the least: as it was mentioned in The Highlights previous issue, several jury members/honorary guests including Nastassja Kinski loved Armenia so much that asked organizers to change their air tickets for a later date.

According to common opinion, the 12th Golden Apricot was organized very well which was not an easy thing taking into consideration the number of the guests/events/visits etc.

No doubt, we the thankful SPECTATORS should thank the GAIFF Team: Founding President **Haroutyun Khachatryan**, **Mikayel Stamboltsyan**, **Susanna Haroutyunyan**, **Zaven Boyajyan**, **Serj Avedikian**, **Gerald Papazian**, all the men and women, and also the young volunteers, all



presenting all of us a real HOLIDAY that called **Golden Apricot International Film Festival!** So the XII GAIFF winners: “Embrace of the Serpent” directed by **Ciro Guerra** (Columbia) was recognized by the festival jury as the best feature film.

week (12-19 July), 76 of them were in the competitive programs.

Dear Reader/the GAIFF Spectator, you can refresh your nice memories looking to the nice pics we attached to this story...

Recent News from the Armenian Victorious Army



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief
Correspondent

Next reception of citizens by the Defense Minister

In accordance with the established procedure, each month a reception of citizens is held by the Minister of Defense.

The regular reception was organized on



18 July. As usual, it was attended by the heads of MoD, Armed Forces and General Staff departments as well as other high-ranking officers and civil servants. The Minister of Defense was presented with various requests by pre-registered servicemen and their families, as well as relatives of the died servicemen/combattants which were mainly social, legal, health and financial support related issues. After getting acquainted with the issues of the citizens and the matters of their concern, and hearing the observations of the responsible officials, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan instructed to consider and give appropriate

solutions for all requests and applications. Some of the issues were resolved immediately during the meeting with the Minister of Defense.

Joint Meeting of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Committees on the POWs, Hostages and Missing Persons

On 20 July a joint meeting of the NKR Committee on the prisoners of war, hostages and missing persons and the NKR and the Armenian working groups was held in Stepanakert.

The meeting was presided by the Chairman of the mentioned NKR Committee **Viktor Kocharyan** and the First Deputy Defense Minister of the Republic of Armenia **Davit Tonoyan**.

The meeting was also attended by **Thomas Halye**, Head of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)

Stepanakert Office. Discussions were held on the identification of possible burial sites of missing persons, exhumation, co-ordination of related criminal procedure activities, extraction of biological samples and collecting of personal data from the families of the missing. Commissions of both Armenian Republics emphasized the role of ICRC in providing support for the aforementioned activities, delivering professional assistance and promoting bilateral co-operative measures with Azerbaijan in any format, without moving the issue to the political field. The representative of the ICRC delegation highly evaluated the pro-

ceedings of the NKR Commission and their mutual collaboration. At the end of the meeting, the parties touched upon future plans and a wide range of issues concerning implementation of joint projects. The participants also visited the Museum of the NKR Union of Relatives of the Missing Soldiers and got acquainted with the activities and future programs.

Visit to Frontier Military Units

From July 21 to 22, Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan made a working visit to the southwestern military units.

Throughout the two-day trip, the RA Minister of Defense visited border protection units; inspected the conditions of



armaments and military equipments as well as the process of implementation of the assignments given during the previous visit.

Mr Minister also observed the social/living conditions in the units and construction works. Seyran Ohanyan also visited military positions, supervised the works to strengthen strategic positions and defensive structures, got acquainted with the operative situation on those parts of the border. Seyran Ohanyan spoke to border protecting servicemen, oversaw the level of their combat readiness and the moral-psychological climate within the military staff. The Minister of Defense and the Army Corps Commanders determined future plans and a number of service organization related issues; gave out instructions and directives, in order to carry out activities more productively and in accordance with the timetable.

What will be prize of the Armenian tankists in this year's championship?

From August 1 to 15, within the framework of the International Army





Games 2015, so reps and tank crews of the Armenian Armed Forces left for Moscow on July 23, in order to prepare and participate in the "Tank Biathlon 2015" competition which is held traditionally at the Alabino proving ground.

Let's remind that at the last year Championship the Armenian tank crew consisting of 19-20 year old conscripts was the second, after Russia, and the Prize was brand new T-90 tank.

Seyran Ohanyan receives Nikolay Bordyuzha

On July 23 Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan received Secretary General of



the Collective Security Treaty Organization **Nikolay Bordyuzha** who was in Armenia on a working visit.

During the meeting discussions were held on the current issues of military cooperation and future plans, within the framework of CSTO. Special attention was given to the implementation of "Interaction" and "Indestructible Brotherhood" military exercises. The Armenian Minister of Defense introduced the CSTO Secretary General organizational works in Armenia in connec-

tion with Mr Bordyuzha's visit. The parties also touched upon security environment and possible developments in the CSTO responsibility zone and especially in the South Caucasus.

Minister Ohanyan: Armenia attaches importance to defense cooperation with Czech Republic

On July 24 Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to Armenia **Petr Mikyska** and newly appointed Military Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel **Stefan Grivalsky**.

Minister Ohanyan noted that cooperation with the Czech Republic in defense field is important for Armenia.

He expressed hope that the appointment of the new attaché would give new impetus to the bilateral cooperation.

Ambassador Mikyska noted, in turn, that Armenia is an important partner for the Czech Republic and the latter is willing to continue the dynamic development of cooperation in the field of defense.



Delegation Headed by Davit Tonoyan Visits US

Delegation headed by the First Deputy Defense Minister **Davit Tonoyan** is in the United States on July 27 - 31 on a working visit. On July 27 Davit Tonoyan met at the United Nations Headquarters with the UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations) **Dmitry Titov** and Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General Military Office Brigadier General **Ahmed Mohammad**.

The meetings were focused on participation of the Armenian Defense Ministry peacekeeping contingents and the Armenian officers, as military observers and staff officers in the UN peacekeeping missions.



The First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan noted that Armenia will continue to be actively involved in the international security operations and increase its support to UN peacekeeping missions. UN officials have hailed the service of the Armenian peacekeepers within UNIFIL noting that partners as Armenia is are needed in UN peacekeeping operations. At the meetings in the UN Headquarters they discussed other issues of mutual interest as well. During its visit to the US the RA DM delegation will partake in next Armenian-American defense consultations and have bilateral meetings with the US Defense Department, State Department and National Security Council officials.

Davit Tonoyan: Armenia and Georgia trust each other

*First Deputy Minister of Defense
Davit Tonoyan's exclusive interview
to Mediamax*

- Mr. Tonoyan, recently you paid a visit to Georgia where you had a meeting with the newly-appointed Defense Minister Tinatin Khidasheli. Around a month ago Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan said "until recently, the main threat to the South Caucasus security has been the unsettled conflicts, while now the security in the region is more realistically threatened by the countries' conflicting approaches to the establishment of the security system in the region." Georgia pictures its future in NATO, while Russia with which Armenia has membership in CSTO does not even want to hear about NATO presence in the Caucasus. Given these conditions, how is it possible to build cooperation based on mutual trust in the defense sector?

- The three countries in the South Caucasus have varying ideas and perceptions of regional security. The problem is that recently external factors, the escalation of relations of countries playing a decisive role in ensuring international security, considerably affect the security in our region.

I think it's natural as it's impossible to draw a separation between regional and international/global security levels. Moreover, certain controversies have emerged in the standpoints of European countries, which are located in the same regional security system.

As to the security environment of the South Caucasus, I strongly believe that it is first off the task of our three countries. The establishment of sustainable security environment in the region is not fully contingent on the security systems our countries adhere to.

Armenian-Georgian relations are the best example of it – although our countries aim to have membership in different security systems, we are almost unanimous about regional security matters.

Stable Armenia and stable Georgia are equally important for our countries. The numerous meetings we had over the past years focused on the detailed discussion of all security-related issues, and we have arrived at absolute mutual trust, transparency and consideration and respect for one another's views. Thus, at least in this bilateral format we manage to neutralize the external adverse incitements. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about Azerbaijan.

- The official press release that followed your meeting with the Georgian Defense Minister noted that military education will be one of the principal areas of cooperation. Could you please specify it a little? What will we learn from Georgia and what will we teach them?

- Our cooperation in military education has become dynamic in the recent years. It can be regarded as one of the principal areas of our cooperation. The reforms in this sector have resulted in the establishment of high-quality educational centers offering different levels of education. Also, advanced programs are worked out. And it



would be unnatural if the two neighboring countries did not use one another's capacities for staff training and education.

For example, the non-commissioned officers of the Armenian Armed Forces train at Sachkhere Mountain Training School, and the officers of the Georgian Armed Forces and public servants train at the American University of Armenia (AUA) in Yerevan.

- Armenia and Georgia participate in peacekeeping operations. Considering this, can peacekeeping become one of the targets of bilateral cooperation?

- Definitely. Peacekeeping is on the agenda of Armenian-Georgian military cooperation. Our subdivisions included in international peacekeeping operations have almost the same level of readiness and pass a relevant assessment process pursuant to NATO Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC). This shows there is no any urgent need for joint military readiness measures.

As to joint participation in international peacekeeping operations, the subdivisions of the two countries are deployed within the multinational forces. I believe if one of the two countries has the capability of stationing self-sufficient subdivisions abroad in the coming years and makes a political decision, we will then hold meetings for the

representatives of the Armed Forces of the other country to engage in the deployed subdivision.

- If my memory serves me well, full Armenian-Georgian bilateral military exercises have never been conducted. What is the reason for it? Does it mean there is no need for such military exercises or do Georgia's relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey as well as Armenia's strategic cooperation with Russia have their share in this regard?

- I can assure you that we are not constrained by external factors in holding joint military exercises or trainings. In any case, Armenia, unlike our two other neighbors (I don't mean Georgia) never ever attempts to politicize issues related to the combat readiness of the Armed Forces.

I believe Armenian-Georgian joint military exercises are a matter of time and they will be conducted as the occasion requires.

- Asked about the Russian military base in Armenia in a recent interview to "Russia in Global Affairs" magazine, Tinatin Khidasheli said: "Any Russian base at our borders harbors danger." Was this question discussed at your meeting? If yes, what did you answer?

- Neither Armenia, nor Georgia links the discussion of issues of bilateral cooperation and its development to their relations with third countries. I have already said there is climate of mutual trust between our two countries. We have both asserted that we respect each other's political stances and will never take any defense measures that will be against the interests of the other country. It is this logic that produces the climate of mutual trust, which enables us not to constrain our relations by such issues. On the contrary, considering Georgia's ties with Azerbaijan and Turkey, and Armenia's ties with Russia we are trying to "erect a bridge" to alleviate existing disputes.

- 10-15 years ago Armenian leaders used to frequently speak about Georgian-Turkish relations expressing Armenia's concerns about the close military cooperation between the two countries considering the unsettled Armenian-Turkish relations. However, such statements are no longer made. Is it that the momentum of Georgian-Turkish cooperation has decreased or is it that the Georgian party has offered certain guarantees to Armenia?

- I think I answered this question a few minutes ago.

*Ara Tadevosyan talked
to Davit Tonoyan*

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator in July...

VivaCell-MTS sharing experience with the youth

At the annual summer camp organized by the Junior Achievement of Armenia over 110 schoolchildren from Yerevan and other regions of Armenia participated in the "Business Assignment" contest suggested by VivaCell-MTS.

The joint initiative of VivaCell-MTS and the "Junior Achievement of Armenia" is aimed at creating a bridge between business and education by encouraging high school students to develop entrepreneurial skills and an innovative mindset. The campers had the opportunity to practice the knowledge acquired during the "Entrepreneurship and Civic Activism for Young People of Armenia" program and suggest innovative approaches and business solutions.

"We are ready to support these inquisitive young people who have the striving to learn and to develop, and we are willing to help them in the process of obtaining knowledge, which we regularly do jointly through various projects with educational institutions of Armenia. In the future many of these young people will work in a business environment and it is very important to instill in them the principles of proper management from this age," noted VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

During the contest the campers were given a business-task – to adjust one of the existing tariff plans by VivaCell-MTS to best fit the needs of young people. The participants had to come up with solutions in a certain period of time and present their ideas to the honorary jury members – executive director of JAA Armine Hovhannisian and VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian. The 10 members of the winner team were awarded by VivaCell-MTS with MTS Smart Start smartphones.

The "Entrepreneurship and Civic Activism for Young People of Armenia" program organized by the "Junior Achievement of Armenia" aims at ensuring economical and entrepreneurial literacy of over 4500 students of more than 300 schools of Armenia. The program also introduces the principles of business ethics and corporate social responsibility and gives the students the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge in practice. At the same time, the program encourages the students to become active citizens, involve in team work and take care of their communities.

VivaCell-MTS and "BirthLink" NGO bring the neonatal healthcare in Armenia to a new level

Recent international studies on neonatal healthcare bear evidence that the availability of state-of-the-art equipment and access to professional treatment are essential in saving the lives of premature, low birth-weight infants. The number of children saved is the best testament to the success of the project launched in 2008 owing to the cooperation between VivaCell-MTS and "BirthLink" NGO. Serob's birth was unexpected for the family that had moved to Pempashen from Yerevan over four years ago. The difficulties the family had to cope with are left in the past. Now the family is waiting for the birth of their second child. As compared to the past, there is noticeable progress also in terms of complicated cases local healthcare specialists are able to deal with.

The program on improving the neonatal



care in Armenia launched at the Scientific Research Center on Healthcare of Mother and Child and spread on to the rest of the country. The cooperating sides have set a new challenge: bring the neonatal healthcare in Armenia to a higher level. To meet this objective, special attention should be given to engaging mothers in the healthcare process and organizing regular trainings for neonatal specialists.

Improved water availability for residents of Lukashin Community

On July 24th, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), VivaCell-MTS, and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) joined the residents of Lukashin village at a community event dedicated to the water supply improvement project which was recently completed in the village. The opening ceremony, held in the village of Lukashin, was attended by USAID Mission Director **Karen Hilliard**, VivaCell-MTS GM **Ralph Yirikian**, FPWC founder **Ruben**

Khachatryan, Governor of Armavir **Ashot Ghahramanyan**, Mayor of Lukashin village **Karen Mkrtchyan** and local residents indeed. Before the project was completed, the village of Lukashin experienced a constant shortage of drinking water, and some parts of the village completely lacked access to water. As the old water network gradually degraded, there were numerous leaks in the system, causing a high risk of contamination from pollutants.

The water improvement project resolved the drinking water issues with the installation of a new, more durable, leak-proof piping system. The village entered into the Nor Akunq CJSC service area – a utility company which manages the water infrastructure of several communities in the Armavir region. Old pumps were abandoned, and drinking water is now provided by the Armavir water reservoir through a gravity flow system. Due to these improvements, residents now have a steady 24 hour a day water supply schedule instead of the former 2 hours per day. It is estimated that the village will now save about 421,119 cubic meters of water and 102,240 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year.

"The US Government provides a wide range of technical support to the rural areas of Armenia, especially those having the greatest need. Access to clean water is critical for good health and hygiene. USAID helps communities rehabilitate dated water networks in order to provide a reliable water supply to local residents while saving both water and energy," said Karen Hilliard, the USAID Armenia Mission Director.

"Hardly anyone will be surprised by the statement that drinking water is a most vital need, but what really surprises me is the patience and persistence of the Lukashin community. For decades these people endured the daily toil of getting water from the well, the only water resource in the village, cherishing the hope that one day they would enjoy better conditions in their homes. I admire the willpower and merits of these people. VivaCell-MTS simply could not stay indifferent...", noted VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

USAID, VivaCell-MTS and FPWC partnered in 2014 to implement water supply projects in four villages in Armenia – Arazap and Lukashin in Armavir, and Artsvaberd and Berkaber in Tavush – to help the communities obtain access to potable water and improve general wellbeing. Nearly 7,000 people will benefit from this assistance. VivaCell-MTS and USAID have allocated AMD 70 million and AMD 60 million, respectively, for the implementation of the four projects.

My Travel Affairs: 5 tips for traveling to Armenia

As travel packages to Armenia are becoming popular day by day, My Travel Affairs Travel Blog provides 5 tips for traveling to Armenia. The website notes that "Armenia is one of the most ancient and unique countries in the Caucasus. Despite its small territories, this country has so much to offer to its foreign guests: picturesque mountainous landscapes, ancient sights, delicious cuisine, exciting places for active holiday lovers! We must also note the hospitality and kindness of locals who warmly welcome their foreign guests."

What to take

The answer to this question depends on the season and the purpose you decide to go to Armenia. Just take into consideration that summer in Armenia, especially in the capital, is hot and rather dry with average temperature - 28-35 °C and few rainy days. Thus, it is better to take comfortable clothing suitable for hot Armenian days. However, if you decide to visit the countryside of Armenia in summer, consider that the temperature there is lower than in the capital and in the evening you may need some warm clothes.

The winter in Armenia varies from region to region. In the capital it is not very cold, however, sometimes is very snowy. The temperature ranges from +2 to -10 °C. In countryside and ski resorts the weather is much colder so without warm clothing in winter you won't get along at all.

The most pleasant season in Armenia is the beginning of autumn, as the weather is so mild, pleasant and warm with few rainy days. In spring you should be ready for changeable weather and some rains, so prepare appropriate thing and clothing.

What concerns the style of clothing, Armenians dress like in Europe, so there are no any special warnings or tips.

What to see

Armenia is of great interest for cultural tourism lovers. And that's no wonder: the country with its 3500 year- old history has so many unique historical and cultural attractions, that it is sometimes called "the museum under the open sky". Most of the sights here are connected with Christianity: ancient monasteries and churches with their amazing architecture, unique cross-stones.

Among religious sights the website recommends not to miss and necessarily visit Khor Virap with its breathtaking view to



Mount Ararat, Geghard known for its amazing rock architecture, Tatev, which is the best example of medieval architecture, Haghpat and Sanahin included into UNESCO world heritage list, Echmiadzin Cathedral - the religious center of all Armenians.

Armenia amazes not only by its architecture masterpieces but also by the beauty of its unique nature. So if you want to relax and feel in harmony with nature we recommend visiting the following natural sites. Firstly, of course, we should mention azure Lake Sevan, the beauty of which will not leave anyone indifferent. It is one of the highest fresh water lakes in the world and the largest in the Caucasus. It is impossible not to admire the picturesque landscapes surrounding the lake: hills covered with forests, rock cliffs, grasslands turning into alpine meadows. It is no accident that travelers choosing a tour to Armenia, try not to miss this wonderful and unforgettable place. Sevan is the best choice for those who prefer beach vacations, want to swim, sunbathe, play active games and have a good time.

For those who would like to relax in nature's lap and improve the health, the best choice will be a cozy town of Jermuk with its healing mineral waters and high- quality sanatoriums.

The trip around Armenia will not be full without exploring its heart - the ancient city of Yerevan. Yerevan delights with its cozy atmosphere, unique architecture, lots of educational museums, and well-designed cafes and restaurants. Visit the city center with its majestic Republic Square, Opera and Ballet Theater, and modern Northern Avenue, have a good time in one of the national restaurants and order national dishes like tolma, horovats, harisa, stroll around the night Yerevan with its friendly lights and singing fountains and you will get lots of positive emotions and impressions!

What to do

Armenia is not only popular for its cultural tourism but also is an excellent destination for adventure travel lovers. Mountainous landscapes of Armenia are very favorable for different extreme sports and it has good conditions for paragliding, mountaineering, ski sports, snowboarding, rock climbing, trekking and others.

The most popular ski resort of Armenia is Tsakhkadzor which offers great equipment and well-developed ski trails. The rope-way built on the slopes of Mount Teghenis ensures maximum safety for the visitors.

For paragliding, one of the most favorite places is a small vil-



lage Tsovaghyugh near Lake Sevan and Mount Hatis. By the way, paragliding tours to Armenia are gaining popularity day by day.

The favorite destination for trekking is Mount Aragats - the highest one in Armenia (4090 m).

What to buy

Buying souvenirs that will remind of the trip is an important ritual for any tourists visiting any foreign country. So what to bring home after the trips to Armenia as a souvenir or a gift to relatives and friends? That's an easy question if you know what are the national symbols of Armenia and what has this country been famous for over centuries. In this list without any doubt we can include Mount Ararat and an apricot as living symbols, and brandy, carpets, duduk and jewelry as national treasures.

The best choice for buying souvenirs will be an open-air fair "Vernissage" that opens its hospitable doors every weekend and offers lots of unique work of crafts and souvenirs. Here you will find paintings, jewelry, woodwork, magnets, musical instruments, national souvenirs, carpets, costumes, semi-precious stones, rarity, and many-many other unique things.

Armenia is also known for its tasty national products, pastry and dried fruits. Want to buy something like that? Visit the famous market at the intersection of Mashtots and Khorenatsi streets.

For buying or degustating Armenian brandy you can go straight to the cognac factory "Ararat" which is one of the most popular brands in the country.



How to communicate

Armenians are very kind and open-hearted people who warmly welcome the tourists and try to make them feel as comfortable as possible in Armenia. Any tourists after the journey around Armenia mention the warm attitude of the locals. So there will be no difficulties in communication at all. And it is also important to mention that residents of Yerevan have a good command of Russian language and youth generation speaks not bad English. So you can easily approach them in case you have any questions and they will be glad to help. However, out of Yerevan there may be some difficulties concerning the language barrier as not all the provincial residents speak English.

Plácido Domingo to lead Woody Allen's production of Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" on Haigazian University anniversary



Asbarez - Haigazian University is celebrating its 60th Anniversary on October 3rd with a black-tie Gala fundraiser and a performance by Grammy award-winning tenor and conductor Plácido Domingo in the title role of Woody Allen's production of Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi." The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles will play host to the evening's celebration which will be co-chaired by Harry Nadjarian and Tina Segel.

Speaking of the upcoming celebration, Mr. Domingo expressed words of welcome and nostalgia. "My mother, who

was a wonderful singer, studied with an Armenian vocal teacher, so I have had a lifelong admiration for the Armenian Community's rich tradition of music and performing arts. I am proud to welcome you to [the] LA Opera and I look forward to a wonderful celebration with you in our home."

The evening will begin with a champagne and Lebanese mezze pre-reception for Haigazian guests, followed by two stunning performances by the incomparable Domingo-first, on stage, to sing the title role in Woody Allen's production of the near-century old opera, "Gianni Schicchi" after which he will take to the podium and conduct Franco Zeffirelli's production of Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci."

Following the performances, the evening will continue in the prestigious Grand Hall where guests of the Anniversary Celebration will dine and mingle during the Gala Supper.

Honorary Committee members include Governor George Deukmejian, Baroness Caroline Cox, Vartan Grigorian, and Joyce Philibosian Stein. More special guests to be announced.

Haigazian University may be half a world away in Beirut, Lebanon, but its influence and purpose is felt globally. With many of its founding roots planted in the United States, the University has been preserving Armenian culture and preparing future educators in the Diaspora for nearly 60 years. This upcoming Anniversary is a celebration of both the School and all for which it stands.

New kindergarten opens in Nor Seysulan village, Artsakh

On 24 July Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan visited the Nor Seysulan village in the Martakert region.

The Head of the State laid a wreath at the monument commemorating freedom fighters perished during the Artsakh Liberation War, the Central Information Department of the Office of the NKR President reported.

Bako Sahakyan thereafter partook in a solemn ceremony of opening of a new kindergarten in



The Office of the NKR President



The Office of the NKR President
V.D.

the village. The President noted that widening the network of the pre-school institutions in the countryside was one of the priorities of the state, and everything possible would be done to have kindergartens corresponding to contemporary conditions in rural areas.

The President expressed his gratitude to philanthropist Vahagn Khachatryan from Russia for implementing the projects, adding that constant support delivered by him to his native village was an exemplary manifestation of patriotism.



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