

Armenia Celebrates The First Republic's Day



see page 5

In This Issue

- Monument of Karabakh War and WWII Fallen Heroes Opened in Bjni** p.4
- Thousands rally in Yerevan against energy price hike** p.6
- Music: 11th Khachatourian Contest, Youth Orchestra to UNESCO and "24/04" Orchestra Goes On...** p.p.10-11
- Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Recently...** p.p.12-13
- Davit Tonoyan: "Our Visit to Iran was Effective..."** p.13

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Syria's Assad links Armenian Genocide with ISIS atrocities

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad on May 27 reportedly drew parallels between the Ottoman Turks who massacred Armenians a century ago and Islamist militants targeting innocent civilians in their bloody war against his regime.

Assad, whose own human rights record has been denounced by international watchdogs, again accused neighboring Turkey of sponsoring these "terrorists" as he met with Armenia's visiting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian in Damascus.

"President al-Assad noted that the suffering that the Armenian people experienced throughout their history is being experienced today by the Syrian people at the hands of the same murderous and terrorist sides," reported the official SANA news agency. Ankara's strong support for Syrian rebels has "brought back the suffering that the region's people experienced during the times of the Ottoman Empire," it cited the Syrian strongman as saying.

Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem elaborated on this claim at a joint news conference with Nalbandian. "If the international community had imposed necessary punishment on the butchers who committed the massacres against Armenians in the early 20th century, then their descendants today in Turkey wouldn't have dared to commit massacres via their pawns in Syria," Moallem said, according to SANA. Nalbandian seemed to agree. "Impunity gives rise to new crimes, as evidenced by brutal atrocities committed by the terrorists now," he said. Assad's regime has repeatedly accused Turkey of providing military, logistical and political support to the Islamic State (ISIS) and the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front, the most successful of the Syrian rebel groups. Ankara denies these claims backed up by Western media reports.

The ISIS was widely blamed for last year's destruction of an Armenian church in the eastern Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor. The Saint Martyrs' Church was part of a memorial complex to some 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey. Many of them were starved to death in the desert surrounding Deir ez-Zor. Nalbandian mentioned the church destruction, strongly



condemned by the West, at the Damascus news conference. He also stressed that Syria became a "second homeland" for tens of thousands of Armenian survivors of the genocide.

While helping the descendants of those Armenians become a thriving community in Syria, successive Syrian governments avoided recognizing the 1915 mass killings as genocide. Assad pointedly declined to visit the genocide memorial in Yerevan during an official trip to Armenia in 2009. The Syrian leader, who had a warm rapport with then Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the time, instead offered to mediate more Turkish-Armenian fence-mending negotiations. The situation changed dramatically after outbreak of the Syrian conflict in 2011 and ensuing deterioration of Ankara's relations with the Syrian regime.

In March, Syria's parliament held a special session to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. "We express our solidarity with the friendly Armenian people, as well as our Syrian Armenian compatriots, who fell victim to the heinous genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman authorities," its speaker, Mohammad Jihad al-Laham, said in a speech.

Laham was among foreign dignitaries who attended the April 24 ceremony in Yerevan that marked the genocide centennial.

Electric energy an important component of Armenian-Russian strategic cooperation

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received Russian Energy Minister, President of the CIS Electrical Energy Council Alexander Novak, who has arrived in Armenia to participate in the 47th sitting of the Council in Yerevan.

The President attached importance to the Yerevan sitting of the CIS Electrical Energy Council, which, he said, is a good opportunity to discuss issues related to the development of relations, taking into consideration that the energy sector is one of the important components of the Armenian-Russian strategic relations.

Minister Novak expressed gratitude for organizing the sitting of the CIS Electrical Energy Council on a high level. He praised the effective work of the sitting, which discussed a number of issues important for the member countries - parallel work and integration of the energy systems, development of legal documents, exchange of experience, etc.



During the meeting the Armenian President and the Russian Energy Minister discussed the current state and the perspectives of development of the Armenian-Russian cooperation in the fields of electric energy, gas and nuclear energy.

Armenian PM welcomes Uppsala County Governor



Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan received Governor of Sweden's Uppsala County Peter Egardt who is in Armenia to discuss the prospects of cooperation between Uppsala County and Lori Marz of Armenia.

Welcoming the Governor's visit, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the regions in

order to promote economic relations and tap the existing potential. The Premier noted that our country is eager to expand cooperation with the EU-member States, and in this respect, Sweden is an important partner for Armenia.

Thankful for the reception, Peter Egardt said it was the first time he had been visiting our country and that he was impressed by our people's hospitality. Noting Sweden's keen interest in developing relations with Armenia as an Eastern Partnership country, the Uppsala Governor assured that practical steps would be taken in this direction.

The interlocutors exchanged views on ways and programs of expanding cooperation in different areas. In particular, they discussed prospects of cooperation in the fields of education, agriculture, nuclear security, as well as possibilities for exchange of know-how relevant to regional and local self-government.

For his part, Lori Marz Governor Arthur Nalbandyan briefed the Premier on the outcome of his talks with the Governor of Uppsala County, which may give a new impetus to bilateral relations.

Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation set to promote cooperation with Armenian companies



President Serzh Sargsyan received Satoshi Tsunakawa, President and Chief Executive Officer of Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation.

The president welcomed the guest and noted that he is happy about the activities carried out by Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation - a leading international healthcare services company - in Armenia and its intention to promote cooperation with Armenian companies.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed the hope that Mr. Tsunakawa's visit will give impetus to the promotion of collaboration and inclusion of new dimensions and programs therein. The Armenian president underscored that he remembers

with pleasure his visit to Japan in 2012 during which he had the chance to visit the Toshiba Science Museum which was very impressive.

The Armenian president attached importance to the active work of the Japanese and Armenian embassies to boost Armenian-Japanese relations in various spheres.

At the meeting, the president intro-

duced the guest to the favorable business and investment climate in Armenia and the conditions therein to attract foreign investments which Toshiba might also be interested in.

Satoshi Tsunakawa expressed satisfaction with the fact that Toshiba Medical Systems continues to expand its activities in Armenia and stressed that his company will keep on supporting the development of healthcare in Armenia. He mentioned that the company is also interested in some other dimensions making up a part of the company's activities; e.g. nuclear energy, seismology, as well as cooperation development and exchange of experience with Armenia.

The RA president and the president of Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation attached great value to the work and development of cooperation aimed at the provision of quality services through the use of modern technologies and, hence, at the protection of human health and the increase in living standards.

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DM Seyran Ohanyan: "This Monument Symbolizes Our Entire History and the Joint Struggle of the Soviet Peoples"

The Monument to the Heroes of World War II and Karabakh War sponsored by the Governor of Syunik opens in the Village of Bjni

Monument to the Heroes of Karabakh War and the Great Patriotic War was opened on Saturday 23 May in the village of Bjni at the Kotayk Marz (Province) of Armenia in presence of Minister of Defense **Seyran Ohanyan**.

"This beautiful monument symbolizes our entire history, the continuity of generations as well as the joint struggle of the Soviet peoples, in particular, Armenians and Russians in the Great Patriotic War," - said RA DM Seyran Ohanyan.

According to him, it is no coincidence that the monument opens in May, the month of victories for the Armenian people.

"We won in

ple could survive," - said Seyran Ohanyan, holding the title "Hero of Artsakh" himself.

According to RA Defense Minister, the outcome of this victory is the existence of the two Armenian republics which have been developing.

In turn, **Manvel Grigoryan** stressed in his speech that the Armenians have been having a nice history and traditions that

Asked by a big crowd of reporters about idea of sponsoring erection of such a Memorial, Mr Khachatryan said the following: "Veterans of the Karabakh War, - my friends for a quarter century already with who I've never stopped contacting (and supporting them in various senses as much as I've been able) shared with such a nice idea, and, naturally, I, as an Armenian and

a War vet, simply could not refuse such a proposal and decided to sponsor all the expenses; and I'm ready to support such nice, God-pleasing things, no doubt."

As Colonel **Andrey**



May at Avarayr (against Persians, 5th century a.c.), Karakili-sa (Town of Stepanavan at present), Bash-Aparan, Sardarapat (1918). Today we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Our parents and grandparents gifted us the victory 70 years ago, passing heroism and patriotism onto their children and grandchildren", Seyran Ohanyan noted.

The Minister said that the Karabakh War occupies a special place in the history of the Armenian people.

"This was the holy liberation struggle during which we have defended our identity. Being in the blockade, having survived the earthquake and war, the Armenian peo-

should be hold and passed onto coming generations to let him to build their own future in a way that befits our nation.

The Governor of the Syunik Marz **Suren Khachatryan** who sponsored creation of the monument said that such monuments will appear in other places as well.

"It is our sacred duty to preserve and pass the memory of our fallen comrades. Besides, it is a reminder to future generations, as the Karabakh War is not over yet," stressed Governor Khachatryan.

Beryozkin, Acting Military and Air Force Attache at the Russian Federation Embassy in Yerevan said, "while in some countries-for Soviet republics they crumble monuments to the Great Patriotic War; in Armenia even new ones are being erected!"

At the end of the solemn ceremony the Minister of Defense of Armenia Seyran M. Ohanyan awarded medals Karabakh war veterans who contributed to the construction of the monument, as well as patrons. The solemn event ended with defile of the RA Armed Forces servicemen and veterans of the Artsakh Liberation War.

Photos by Armenpress



The time for courage and vision for Middle East peace is now

By Jeffrey Feltman

The search for peace in the Middle East is, once again, at a crossroads. Negotiations on the two-State solution have stalled. The region, meanwhile, is threatened by violent confrontation and extremism, potentially throwing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict into greater turmoil. This difficult landscape for negotiation makes it even more important to continue international efforts to help bring about a settlement, especially as we know the enormous human costs of missed opportunities and past failed peace initiatives.

In such difficult times, leadership and vision are essential. A new Israeli Government has now been formed. The Secretary-General stands ready to work with all in order to encourage a return to negotiations, on the basis of an agreed framework. He has also strongly urged the incoming Government not only to reaffirm Israel's commitment to the two-State solution, but also to take credible steps to foster an environment conducive to a return to meaningful negotiations. This should, first and foremost, including a freeze of settlement activity. Recent settlement announcements by Israeli authorities are, therefore, alarming. Settlements are illegal under international law and send the wrong signal to the Palestinians and the international community about Israel's intentions.

Continued security cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli authorities remains a cornerstone of a peaceful resolution.

On the Palestinian side, unity is essential for the viability of any peace agreement. The United Nations has consistently supported efforts towards Palestinian unity within the framework of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's commitments, which include the recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist and the renunciation of terrorism and violence. The forming of the Palestinian Government of National Consensus in June of last year, opened the way for unity at long last. This was an important first step in what is likely to be a long and complicated process. Almost one year later, the consensus Government has yet to assume full responsibility in Gaza, including at border crossings. Both sides, while calling for elections, have been unwilling to take the political risks necessary to make progress on the difficult issues at hand.

The severity of extreme poverty and continuous conflict has placed a massive toll on the people of Gaza. Enormous financial challenges and the slow pace of reconstruction in Gaza exacerbate an already fragile security situation. Unemployment is massive, estimated by the World Bank at 43 per cent, and at 60 per cent among Gaza's youth. Public sector employees remain

unpaid. The virtual closure of the border crossings stifles trade and suffocates its people. Such realities feed frustration and tension in a vicious cycle that undermines the path to peace.

While the UN continues to play a key role in assisting people in need - including through UNRWA, for example, which provides assistance and protection in very difficult circumstances for some 5 million registered Palestine refugees - what is needed is a lasting solution to this long-standing conflict.

In order to achieve this long-desired goal, both sides must make difficult choices - to refuse to be swayed by extremist elements on either side, to embrace cooperation rather than conflict, to realize that lasting peace depends on agreeing viable arrangements for coexistence that will allow for the full development of the peoples within the two states.

We must turn back from the cycle of violence and confrontation before it's too late. We at the United Nations believe there is still time for both sides to show the commitment and courage necessary to chart a viable course towards a better future. That time is now.

Jeffrey Feltman is United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Armenia celebrates The First Republic's Day



President Serzh Sargsyan, accompanied by RA top officials and guests, participated in the Republic Day celebration at Sardarapat Memorial on May 28. The president laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Battle of Sardarapat and paid tribute to the memory of heroes. Serzh Sargsyan, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, greeted the participants of the festive military parade and congratulated them on Republic Day. Afterwards, the president watched the festive cultural program in company of celebration attendees.

Following the celebration, Serzh Sargsyan visited the National Museum of Armenian Ethnography and History of

Liberation Struggle where a solemn award ceremony took place dedicated to Republic Day.

By presidential decrees, a number of representatives from the areas of science, education, economy, healthcare, culture, arts and sports, representatives from the diaspora, as well as a group of Armenian army servicemen were awarded state decorations and titles. Serzh Sargsyan congratulated the awardees on the occasion of Republic Day and being received high state decorations and titles and handed over the decorations to them.

"Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of being received high state decorations and titles. It is crucial to each society to find, honor and encourage the deserving ones.

It is important because it gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude for the work, because there appear people deserving to be imitated whose devotion and efforts do not remain unnoticed and fruitless. It is important since it inevitably

encourages you as well, dear colleagues, so that you do not rest on your laurels and do not stop. I think that the fact of being received high state decorations today on May 28, on the occasion of Republic Day and just here, in Sardarapat, holds great significance, which is the vivid testimony to our people's heroic spirit and desire to struggle, our ability to live and revive and to our faculty to keep each other's back firm during decisive moments.

I am sure that from now on, each of you will keep on pursuing, with greater devotion and vigor, our common goal of making our house prosperous, correcting our faults and building a better Armenia. I also strongly believe that there are no minor and major deeds; loving your work is what real happiness is. You have already passed through a difficult path to reach Sardarapat today. I hope that you will not only continue, but also will level a road for others, will back other people's undertakings and ideas.

I once again congratulate all of you on being awarded high state decorations and wish you success," said Serzh Sargsyan.

Thousands rally in Yerevan against energy price hike

Thousands of people took to the streets of Yerevan on May 27 to protest against a more than 35 percent rise in electricity prices sought by Armenia's loss-making national power distribution network.

Protests against the highly unpopular measure, currently considered by public utility regulators, were also staged by civic groups and opposition parties in other cities and small towns across Armenia. They drew much smaller crowds, however.

Holding a huge banner that read "High Voltage" and chanting anti-government slogans, the protesters marched through central Yerevan after rallying in the city's Liberty Square. They were joined by senior members of Armenia's leading opposition parties strongly objecting to the price hike.

The protesters, many of them young people, booed and whistled as they reached Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian's office. They held a brief sit-in there before resuming the procession sanctioned by municipal authorities.

The Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) utility formally requested a higher tariff in a letter sent to the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) earlier this month. The Russian-owned company cited continuing financial losses incurred by it and the need to repay its outstanding massive debts.

The Armenian government essentially backed the ENA application, with Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan calling it "totally justified." Zakharyan insisted that the existing energy tariffs are too low to allow the ENA to sort out its financial troubles.

Opposition forces and other government critics dismiss



these explanations. They say the electricity network's losses primarily result from the ENA's mismanagement and corruption among its senior executives.

The daytime electricity price for Armenian households already went up by 27 percent in July 2013 because of the increased cost of Russian natural gas, which generates more than one-third of Armenia's electricity. The PSRC raised it by another 10 percent in July 2014.

Although the campaign against a further surge in the tariff was initiated by non-partisan groups, the Armenian opposition seems eager to use it for mounting a fresh challenge against the government. Aram Manukyan, a leader of the Armenian National Congress (HAK), said it could serve as a catalyst for the formation of a new anti-government coalition comprising the HAK and other opposition groups.

'No Russian Opposition' To New EU-Armenia Accord



A senior Armenian diplomat has assured lawmakers in Yerevan that Russia does not object to Armenia's plans to sign a new agreement to deepen its political and economic relations with the European Union.

The accord will substitute for a more far-reaching EU-Armenia Association Agreement which was all but finalized two years ago. Moscow is thought to have scuttled its signing with strong pressure exerted on President Serzh Sargsyan. The latter announced in September 2013 that Armenia will join the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union.

Yerevan and Brussels are expected to open soon official negotiations on the new deal that will contain some political and eco-

nomie provisions of the scrapped Association Agreement. EU leaders effectively gave the green light to those talks at a summit in Riga last week.

Some Armenian opposition deputies wondered on May 27 whether the Russians will again block closer ties with the EU sought by the Armenian government. "Do we have guarantees that we won't get more such [Russian] blows?" one of them, Aram Manukyan, asked Deputy Foreign Minister Karen Nazaryan during parliamentary hearings in Yerevan.

Nazaryan sought to dispel these concerns, saying that Armenian diplomats have discussed the matter with their Russian colleagues and heard no objections from them. "There have been consultations and that is a continuous process," he said. "As you know Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister [Aleksey] Meshkov, who is in charge of Russia-EU relations, was recently in Armenia, and we had a chance to discuss our relations with European structures.

"We are managing our relations with the EU in a very transparent fashion. There are no secrets there."

"Our partners, including our strategic partners, are informed about our dealings and expectations. So I hope that the [EU-Armenia] process will have a successful course and conclusion this time around," stressed Nazaryan.

The vice-minister would not be drawn on possible dates for the start and completion of the talks with the EU. He said only that he is optimistic about their outcome.

New postage stamp dedicated to Missak Manouchian



On May 26th, 2015 Haypost CJSC cancelled and put into circulation a new stamp dedicated to the Armenian poet, French Resistance fighter and a national hero of France Missak Manouchian.

The stamp's official cancellation ceremony took place at the newly built new technologies development and training center of Haypost CJSC. The cancellation was carried out by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Armenia His Excellency Jean-François Charpentier, the Deputy Minister of the RA Ministry of Transport and Communication Mr. Gagik Tadevosyan, the Deputy Minister of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Karen Nazaryan, the Chairman of the Union of Philatelists of Armenia Mr. Hovik Musayelyan and "Haypost Trust Management" BV Managing Director Mr. Juan Pablo Gechidjian.

The postage stamp depicts Missak

Manouchian at the background of The Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the "Red poster" (l'Affiche Rouge), the Eternal flame and a fragment of a letter addressed to his wife Meline Manouchian.

The "Red poster", depicting the portrait of Missak Manouchian and his friends, was distributed by the fascist army in order to detect the underground activists.

The Embassy of Armenia in France provided a great contribution to the process of creation of this stamp.

Missak Manouchian was born in 1906 in the Armenian village Adiyaman of Western Armenia. Losing his parents during the Armenian Genocide of 1915, he found himself in the French orphanage in Syria, where he studied French and got acquainted with the French culture. Moving to France in 1925, he started his activity by uniting the Armenians around him, publishing literary magazines, not being apart from the events taking place in France.

After the occupation of France by the Nazi troops Manouchian founded the International group of French Resistance movement, but he

was arrested together with his group 1943 and three months later they were executed.

Manouchian was only 37 years old.

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Government to privatize Armenian postal service



The Armenian government announced on Wednesday plans to privatize the country's state-owned national postal service employing thousands of people.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian's cabinet approved the planned sell-off during its weekly session in Yerevan. The decision took the form of draft amendments to an Armenian law that lists state companies subject to privatization. It therefore also requires the parliament's

approval.

Speaking at the cabinet meeting, the head of the government's privatization agency, Arman Sahakian, said the Haypost operator should be privatized because it needs substantial capital investments.

"The company's privatization will foster the development of postal communication in Armenia through new investments, installation of new equipment, and rehabilitation and modernization of its physical infrastructure," Sahakian said.

The official added that the sell-off is also supported by a private firm that runs Haypost in accordance with a 10-year management contract which it signed with the government in 2006. That company is controlled by Eduardo Eurnekian, an Argentinian billionaire of Armenian

descent who has extensive business interests in Armenia.

It was not clear whether this means Eurnekian would like to buy Haypost. Nor did the government explain just how it will seek to privatize the company and its asking price will be.

Haypost has an authorized capital of only 512 million drams (\$1.1 million) despite employing around 3,000 people at its Yerevan headquarters and some 900 postal offices across Armenia. Many of those offices have been refurbished since 2007.

The company not only provides traditional postal services but also collects utility payments and some taxes and duties, handles wire transfers of cash and even distributes travel insurance.



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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.

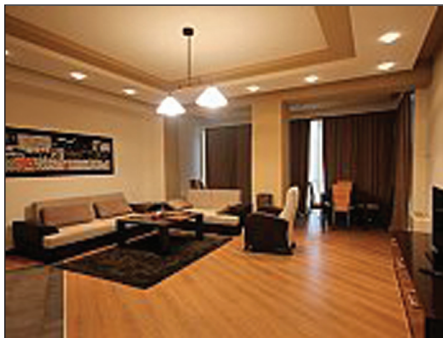
3 ROOMS

- ♦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 building1200sq.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, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished,

parking. Price: 2500 USD

- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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,

capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially 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., capially 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, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Some Key Music Events in June...

11th Aram Khachaturian International Competition: highly qualified musicians will participate in the Contest

The 11th Aram Khachaturian International Competition stands out with national diversity and high level of professionalism of the participants. Young violinists who had submitted an application for participation in the competition and have passed the first round, have a brilliant music biography; many of them have already won numerous international competitions. It is not

(2014), 2nd prize at the Marco Florindo International Competition (Italy, 2013) 2nd prize at the International Competition of Japan (2008).

David Ardukhanian (Russia): 1st prize at the 4th International Violin Competition (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2012), 1st prize at the Beethoven International Competition (Vienna, Austria, 2010). He took master classes with famous musicians such as Maxim Vengerov, Zakhar Bron, Alexander Vinnitsa, Boris Kuschmir and others.

Meruert Karmenova (Kazakhstan): Meruert also won numerous prizes: 1st prize at the 2nd International Violin Competition (Kazakhstan, 2008), the Beethoven International Violin Competition (Austria), 2nd prize at the 5th D.Oystrah International Violin Competition (Moscow, 2013).

Iva Miletic (Serbia): prize-winner of

rakh Intl Violin Competition (Moscow, Russia), Grand Prix of the International Violin Competition (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2014.) etc.

Nicole Leon (Venezuela): In addition to participation in various competitions, representative of Venezuela Nicole Leon has developed a very intense concert activity. As a soloist, she has performed at the Westchester Philharmonic, Ambler Symphony, and Philharmonic Orchestra of Venezuela. As a musician of Itzhak Perlman's Chamber Orchestra, has performed at Carnegie Hall. Leon Nicole is a graduate of Juilliard School, exhibitioner of Fellow Mercantile Scholarship, Dorothy Delay Scholarship and the Jerome L. Greene Fellowship. At present she has numerous recordings.

So, from the 6th to the 14th of June, dur-



accidental that these musicians want to take part also in the Aram Khachaturian International Competition and mount this event to their professional career list. This fact definitely indicates a high world ranking and reputation of Aram Khachaturian International Competition.

Here are several participants who have passed the first round of the 11th Competition:

Elina Druk (Russia): the winner of the Sviridov International Competition (St. Petersburg, 2007), 1st prize at the M.Vayman International Competition (St. Petersburg, Russia, 2009), 1st prize at the 5th Rachmaninoff International Competition.

Aiko Kamishikiryo (Japan): 1st prize at the International Competition after Leopold Bellan (Paris, 2014), 2nd prize at the International Competition in Romania

29 International Competitions; 1st prize at the Beethoven International Competition (Czech Republic, 2006), the 1st prize at the International Competition "Young Virtuosos" (Bulgaria, 2004.), 1st prize at the International Competition after Canetti (Antalya, Turkey, 2007), the 2nd prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition, 2nd prizes at the Mendelson International Competition (Berlin, 2013) and at P. Vladigerov International Competition (Bulgaria, 2007).

Yelena Tarosyan (Russia): Winner of a number of international competitions; "Culture and education of the XXI century" Youth Competition, "Violin of the North", Grand Prix winner of the International Competitions (Rhodes, Greece and Germany), winner of the 10th Delphic Games of Russia, the 2nd prize at the David Oyst-

The First Lady of Armenia Mrs Rita A. Sargsyan and Prof. Armen Smbatyan

ing the 11th Aram Khachaturian International Competition we will follow up an intense contest and interesting work of jury.

The Aram Khachaturian International Competition is held in Yerevan from June 6 to June 14 every year starting from 2003. For the first time it was implemented within the framework of events, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of great composer.

The competition is aimed at identifying talented young musicians in three specialties – "Piano", "Violin" and "Cello."

The project is being implemented thanks to joint efforts of RA Ministry of Culture, "Aram Khachaturian-competition" Cultural Foundation and Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory. It is held under the high patronage of the Spouse of the

Armenian President Mrs. **Rita Aleksandrovna Sargsyan** who is Honorary President of the Board of Trustees of the Competition. The Board of Trustees includes such well-known figures as: Professor **Jonathan Freeman-Attwood**, **Valery Gergiev**, Professor **Reinhart von Gutzeit**, **Pavel Kogan**, Professor **Ino Mirkovich**, **Elizbieta** and **Krzysztof Penderecki**, Professor **Alexander Sokolov**, Professor **Alexander Tchaikovsky**, **Mark Zilberquit**, **Tanya Dorn** and other significant persons. In 2008, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees a new President, Ambassador Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary, composer, the RA Honored Art Worker Professor **Armen B. Smbatyan** was elected who has been holding this eminent position till the moment.

The geography of participants is very wide, it incorporates representatives from the CIS countries, U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Britain, China and other countries.

For ten years the competition jury members have included such important musicians and artists, as **Grigory Zhislin** (UK), **Jean Ter-Merkeryan** (France), **Zahar Bron** (Germany), **Vladimir Landsman** (Canada), **Jasper Perrot** (UK), **Rustem Ayrudinov** (UK), **Chun Pan** (China), **Boris Kushnir** (Austria), **Harald Herzl** (Austria), **Sergey Kravchenko** (Russia), **Lucy Ishkhanian** (USA), **Alexander Sokolov** (Russia), **Svetlana Navasardian** (Armenia), and others. A list of these names guarantees justice and determines the status and high level of the competition.

Youth Orchestra at UNESCO

On June 3, 2015 at 20:00 the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia headed by its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Dr **Sergey Smbatyan** will perform at UNESCO World Heritage Center Segur Hall within the framework of the concert entitled "Youth for Peace".

The latter is a grand project aimed at delivering peace all over the world with

the almighty power of her Majesty Music. All the musicians participating in the Project can be considered Ambassadors for Peace, making the whole world realize the most important message for the humanity: regardless of ethnic or confessional affiliation, the only way of our peaceful existence is the protest against violence and oppression.



Today the role of the youth is becoming more and more vital in various areas of decision making. As reps of the art, we believe that living in a peaceful and harmonious world is one of the most important factors, if not the most important one to educate new generation and continue creating, Maestro Smbatyan says.

During the concert the achievements of the Armenian Music School will be represented not only by SYOA but also by the leading groups and artists of Armenia: "**Katuner**" ("The Cats") Jazz Band, **Narek Haknazaryan** (cello), **Michael Voskanyan** (tar), **Inga** and **Anush Arshakyan** sisters (vocal), **Gevorg Dabaghyan** (duduk), **Narek Kazazyan** (qanon) will perform as Ambassadors for Peace for the Project.

The foreign audience will be present-

ed the compositions by our great compatriots: **Aram Khachaturian**, **Sayat-Nova**, **Alexander Haroutyunyan**, **Mikhael Tariverdiev** (Tarverdyan) and many others will make the program of the evening even more attractive.

As far The Highlights is informed, the tickets for the concert were sold out yet several weeks ago.

And...

"24/04" orchestra to continue its mission in various countries in 2016

We all are still keeping in memory an amazing concert of the world orchestra "24/04" consisted of 123 musicians from 43 countries held on April 24 in Yerevan that received really positive and rapturous feedbacks.

And its activities will not end with the April 24th concert.

In 2016, the "24/04" orchestra will have performances in several countries of the world, raising the public awareness on the 1915 Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Turkey and urging to recognize it through classical music.

As the Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, the author of idea of the "24/04" orchestra **Sergey Smbatyan** stressed, they understand that the Project should not be stopped.

"The Orchestra should have a series of concerts in various cities of the world, so that the people could understand its Mission. We want to go to the most important and, - let me say in this manner, "decision maker" cities. We will meet political complaints 'cause among those important world centers there are also the ones that won't accept the fact that the Orchestra having a mission for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, is to perform for this noble goal. No doubt, that is a much more difficult project," Maestro Smbatyan stated.

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Recently...

VivaCell-MTS reports results for the Q1, 2015

On 25 May VivaCell-MTS announced financial and operational results for the first quarter of 2015, ended March 31st, with the Company's quarterly revenues totaling to AMD 16.9 billion (about 62% of revenue share in mobile communication market), and with OIBDA of more than AMD 8.1 billion, showing an increase of 4.4%, as compared to Q1 of 2014.

The number subscribers using data services by phone is 1,051,251. The number of subscribers using broadband Internet (through wireless devices such as USB modems and routers) is 75,715. The total number of subscribers using data services provided by VivaCell-MTS is 1,126,966.

The total number of VivaCellMTS subscribers as of March 31st, 2015, is 2.12 million (about 60% share of the market). In the first quarter of 2015, the Company accomplished its targets set for retail sales by offering to the market a wide range of cutting-edge mobile devices from different manufacturers, at competitive prices. Retail revenues totaled to AMD 442.5 million, by achieving a solid increase of 283.6% as compared to the same period of time a year ago. Total investment amounted to AMD 432 million.

The Company reports gross additions of more than 157 thousand throughout Q1.

Creativity Lab for Getashen Children

VivaCell-MTS and COAF Collaborate with Creativity Lab Opening in the Village of Getashen

The seventh Creativity Lab was opened as a result of collaboration by VivaCell-MTS and Children of Armenia Fund (COAF). Students of Getashen village, Marz of Armavir, will enjoy the new classroom environment, equipped with innovative technologies - smart board, modern computers and special mobile furniture.

True to its policy of Corporate Social Responsibility, VivaCell-MTS provided financial support to make the state-of-the-art technology accessible for children.

Just a reminder, the collaboration with

VivaCell-MTS enabled launch of Creativity Labs for the kids in the communities of Sardarapat, Hatsik and Vanand in Armavir marz, Arteni in Aragatsotn marz, Tumanyan and Dsegh in Lori Marz. Even the environment in this multifunctional classroom fosters creative thinking. This environment is shaped by using computer when doing everyday tasks, referring to the technologies during the lessons, briefings,



seminars, brainstorming sessions and games.

"Child development starts in the family and continues in the school. These two environments should be supportive and interesting enough to develop children's mind. Beautiful environment makes people think beautifully. If we are led only by technology in this rapidly changing world, we will lose the important skill of creating. Not underrating the roles of these two, we empower creative attitude, by also using innovative technologies", - VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

Children of Armenia Fund Executive Director Anoush Yedigaryan highlights the proper atmosphere provision at educational institutions.

"...This Lab will unite children and teachers, willing to use modern technologies in the education process, making the teaching process more effective, impressive and interesting," she said.

Getashen school was built 98 years ago in village school model with a single classroom. Currently 270 children study here. One of the major aims of the school is to foster love towards village life and farming.

VivaCell-MTS is the General Partner of the 5th "New Names" Intl Fest

The opening ceremony of the 5th "New Names" International Festival took place

in the National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater after Alexander Spendaryan in Yerevan. At the opening of the festival the young musicians performed with the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia under the direction of Harutyun Arzumanyan.

The festival is hosting 40 talented young musicians under 18 from Armenia, Russia, USA, Germany, Japan, China, Australia, and Georgia.

"The name of the festival – "New Names" – speaks for itself: the vitality of any form of art is guaranteed by generational changes, by revealing, encouraging and supporting new names. Taking first steps in the world of classical music is challenging even for the most gifted young musicians. They need a platform where they can show their talent and the results of many years of hard work. This festival is one of those platforms, where young musicians from all over the world

have an opportunity to perform on the big stage, communicate with each other, acquire experience and master the profession. VivaCell-MTS is glad to support to this exceptional initiative," Mr Yirikian noted.

The festival is organized upon the initiative of the "New Names" program in Armenia (coordinator, president of the Union of Workers of Culture, Honored Worker of Culture of the Republic of Armenia **Silva Mekinyan**). The 5th "New Names" festival will be held in Yerevan May 28 through May 31, 2015. This year the festival is dedicated to the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

The festival is being held under the high patronage of the First Lady of Armenia **Rita Sargsyan**.

Cloud Hackathon [YAN] 2015 and Seedstars Yerevan united developers and startups

On 28 May Microsoft Innovation Center Armenia (MIC Armenia) in collaboration with Microsoft RA and Seedstars World organized an interesting contest day, targeting IT specialists and startups, at Ararat Valley Club in Vahakni residential community.

"Cloud technologies raised a lot of interest among the participating teams, in the result they developed various prod-

ucts, which can be competitive in global market,” mentioned Artashes Vardanyan, MIC director. Hackathon [YAN] started with training sessions on cloud technologies and computing. The participating teams used knowledge, gained from the training sessions, while developing solutions. After six hours of hard work the teams pitched their products in front of the jury. ‘Hackadrom’ team was awarded with the first prize and received 650,000 AMD. The second place with the award of 350,000 AMD was taken by the ‘PaxIT’ team. The ‘dHunt’ team took the third place and received a tablet. The Technology and Science Dynamics company, one of the event sponsors awarded ‘Microsoft’ team with the valuable prize of 1,500 USD.

The second part of the event was marked by the international contest Seedstars, targeting startups. “Seedstars World is a platform, connecting investors to the next generation of startup entrepre-



neurs, pulling the spotlight from Silicon Valley and Western Europe. Having the experience of one-year ground work, we understood that the best way to have an impact in emerging countries is by investing and promoting entrepreneurship,” explained *Alisee de Tonnac*, Seedstars World CEO. 12 startups, selected from 35 applications, pitched their products in front of the panel, consisting of international and local specialists. ‘Eye Care Plus’ startup was selected as the winner and will present Armenia in the final

event in Switzerland.

Hackathon [YAN] has always received support of local companies. This year the partners are VivaCell-MTS, Hovnanian International Sixt and Technology and Science Dynamics companies. The participants of the Hackathon [Yan] and the Seedstars Yerevan will be able to enjoy the premium quality of the service provided by Armenia’s leading telecommunications operator. The decision to organize the Hackathon [Yan] competition in Vahakni residential community is not by chance. This residential community benefits from a special “QUARTET” tariff plan with which, for the first time in Armenia, VivaCell-MTS started providing a package of four services: IP television, Internet, fixed phone provided through fiber-optic wires, and mobile phone communication service under one account. The territory is interconnected to the backbone providing access to internet services with 1Gbps speed.

Davit Tonoyan: “Our Visit to Iran was a Pretty Fruitful One...”

Armenian Defense Ministry’s delegation holds talks with their counterparts in the Islamic Republic



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

From May 24 to 25, delegation headed by **Davit Tonoyan**, First Deputy Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, was on a trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The main purpose of the visit was to clarify the development of Armenian-Iranian bilateral cooperation agenda and determine the events to be implemented. Throughout the trip, meetings were held between the First Deputy Minister of Defense of Armenia and Brigadier General **Hossein Dehghan**, Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL) of Iran, along with his Deputy, Brigadier General **Firouz Masihpour**. During the meetings, the parties discussed regional and international security issues as well as the latest developments on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

First DM of Armenia Davit Tonoyan conveyed to the Minister Hossein Dehghan Armenian Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan**’s invitation to visit Armenia. Brigadier General Dehghan accepted the invitation with pleasure and promised to visit Armenia this year. The Armenian delegation also paid visits to



the Malek-Ashtar University of Technology headed by the Deputy Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of Iran Brigadier General **Reza Mozafari Nia**, Center for Strategic Research of Iran and the ETKA organization, one of the IRI’s biggest trading companies.



During the talks at those visits, the parties examined the opportunities for expanding Armenian-Iranian cooperation in military education, and development of collaboration in logistics, especially in supplies.

As Mr Tonoyan told The Highlights, in our “explosive” region it is very important to broaden the above-mentioned cooperation with a neighbor power having balanced approach to regional problems/conflicts as the Islamic Republic is.

Davit E. Tonoyan qualified their trip to the IRI as an “effective” one.

Editorial on the occasion of Europe Day

Partnering for Good – How the EU and UN help create a better world

This week we celebrated Europe Day here in Armenia. Europe Day reminds us that 65 years ago in May, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed the creation of a supranational entity – the precursor to the European Union - to ensure peace and unity in Europe, and to ensure the protection of fundamental, universal, values. This year's celebrations are dedicated to the European Year for Development.

2015 is a critical year for development and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape an agenda that will eradicate poverty and preserve the planet for future generations. Why? It is the last year for achieving the targets agreed under the Millennium Development Goals and the creation of a framework to replace them. At the UN General Assembly in September world governments will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals – a new universal set of binding targets and indicators that all countries will be expected to use to frame their agendas and policies over the next 15 years. In Paris in December, governments will come together once again to agree to an ambitious and legally binding agreement on carbon emissions to curb alarming rates of climate change – arguably one of the major challenges facing our planet and humanity. These challenges are too complex for one organization or country to tackle alone. These may be UN-led processes, but the EU has always played a vital role in such global and multilateral initiatives.

In many ways, the EU and the UN are natural partners – we share the same values of promoting peace, human rights and development. The universal values and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter would later come to serve as guiding principles for the European Union. Years later, in 2011, the UN General Assembly underlined the EU's special relationship with the UN recognizing the EU as a partner and friend of the UN. Today, the UN-EU partnership spans the whole spectrum of work of the United Nations, across the globe – 115 countries to be exact.

Here in Armenia is no different: for many years, the EU and UN have joined hands to support the government in achieving its international commitments and obligations in a wide range of areas: from gender equality, human rights and environmental protection to drug control, border management, mapping and clearing of landmines. It is a partnership that produces real results for the



people of Armenia. If I were to name just a few recent examples, the partnership has improved standards for managing Armenia's borders which will result in three new and improved border crossing points with Georgia later this year; just in the last year, the partnership has trained over 1,000 active women from local and regional government to realize the transformative impact they can have in their communities - 60% of women candidates trained prior to local elections were subsequently elected to community councils; we are working together to rehabilitate forests for local communities to increase resilience to climate change and to boost agriculture and rural development in Armenia; and it is a partnership that is helping to improve school safety, to enhance administration of justice for children and to mitigate the social consequences of labour migration.

As the European Union wraps up its week-long celebration of Europe Day in Armenia, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate our long-standing partner at this special time. Ours is a unique partnership – to join hands to promote our shared values and to achieve more results for the people of Armenia.

*By Bradley Busetto, UN Resident Coordinator /
UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia*

Public TV and Radio Company has increased the number of cultural, educational programs

"In 2014 the Public Radio and Television Company maintained the policy adopted in the previous years but increased the number of social-economic, cultural and educational programs," President of the Public Radio and Television Company of Armenia Ruben Jaghinyan said at the National Assembly as he presented a report on the budget allocations in 2014.

"We have worked towards expanding ties with international structures and foreign TV companies. The cover-

age of the satellite broadcasting of the Public TV and Radio has been broadened. The Public TV has launched a new webpage. All in all, 3 billion 97 million AMD was allocated for the activity of the Public TV and Radio Company in 2014," Ruben Jaghinyan said.

He added that the deadline for switching to digital broadcasting has been moved from July 1st to January 1st. "The digitization was a difficult process, which required years," he said.



Sassounian: NY Times Ad Depicts Obama as 'Liar'



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

The Centennial commemorations of the Armenian Genocide were marked with unprecedented, and sometimes unexpected, developments.

One such occasion was the full-page ad placed in the New York Times on April 18 by well-known and controversial Rabbi Shmuley Boteach (founder, the World Values Network) and the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee (AGCC) Eastern U.S., harshly criticizing President Obama for not keeping his campaign promise on the Armenian Genocide.

A knowledgeable source told the California Courier that the ad had upset some White House officials. The placing of the ad coincided with the efforts of the U.S. National Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial to convince reluctant administration officials to participate in the commemorative events in Washington, D.C., on May 7-9.

Nonetheless, Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power attended the Ecumenical Prayer Service at the National Cathedral on May 7, in Washington, but neither delivered remarks, nor was their presence acknowledged. Surprisingly, both officials wore the "forget me not" pin, the official logo of the Armenian Genocide Centennial. Also in attendance were President Serge Sarkisian, Catholicos Karekin II, and Catholicos Aram I.

The paid ad featured a young boy holding a placard stating, "Pres. Obama why did you lie to us?" This was followed by the title of the ad in large bold letters: "1.5 million Armenian victims cry out from their grave: How long will you deny our genocide just to appease the Turkish tyrant?"

The paid announcement strongly criticized both Obama, for not keeping his campaign promises, and Ambassador

Power, for remaining silent after condemning U.S. indifference to genocide in a book she wrote before assuming her government post (A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide). The ad also targeted Turkish President Erdogan, calling him a "bully" and "quasi-dictator who has dismantled Turkish democracy."

Furthermore, the ad quoted from a news report by CNN's Chief Washington Correspondent Jake Tapper: "For the sixth year in a row President Barack Obama has broken his promise to the Armenian community, made when seeking their votes as a senator and a presidential candidate, to use the word 'genocide' to describe the massacre of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire a century ago. He did this in deference to the government of Turkey."

The ad reminded readers that Tapper was referring to then-Senator Obama's 2008 statement: "The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable. ... As President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide."

The authors of the ad went on to state: "Seldom has an American President misrepresented himself so brazenly on an issue of such profound moral importance. Pres. Obama's willful moral blindness stands in stark contrast to the courageous statement by Pope Francis last week calling for the world's recognition of 'the first genocide of the twentieth century.'"

In the ad, the rabbi and AGCC posed this question to Ambassador Power: "As a leading voice against genocide, will you stand by your principles or will you become yet another who, after entering office, silences her voice and becomes part of the 'problem from hell?'"

A second newspaper announcement reminding Obama of his promise on the Armenian Genocide appeared in the Los Angeles Times on April 24. The three-quarter page ad, placed by Ed Muradliyan, a California businessman from Orange

County, asserted: "It's time for you to be the leader you promised to be. On this 100 year anniversary Mr. President, it's time to fulfill the promise you made." Muradliyan's ad featured a picture of Obama; a copy of U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau's cable to the State Dept., dated July 16, 1915; and the headline of a news report from the New York Times, dated Dec. 15, 1915. The announcement ended with: "It's Time to Recognize the Armenian Genocide."

If one or both of these ads caused some discomfort to White House officials, it was well worth the money!

The ads should have included Obama's own words from his book, *The Audacity of Hope*: "Say one thing during the campaign and do another thing once in office, and you're a typical, two-faced politician."

Although the commemorative events in Washington were organized with utmost professionalism, there was one major shortfall. When special honors were being awarded at the May 9 Centennial Banquet to prominent individuals, organizations, and representatives of countries that had recognized the Armenian Genocide, it would have been only fitting to pay tribute to John Evans, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia (2004-06), whose diplomatic career came to an abrupt end when the Bush Administration recalled him for publicly acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. The organizers of the banquet assured the California Courier that "no slight was intended," and that it was simply "an oversight."

Fortunately, this gross error was somewhat mitigated when the "oversight" was brought to the attention of the master of ceremonies, attorney Mark Geragos, who acknowledged from the podium the presence of Ambassador Evans. The 2,000 guests at the Centennial Banquet gave the righteous ambassador an enthusiastic standing ovation and thunderous applause! Needless to say, Evans deserves far more than mere applause for having sacrificed his career in defense of the Armenian Cause!

Camp Armen handed back to Armenians after protests

The owner of a historic Armenian orphanage in Istanbul has decided to donate it to the Armenian community after days of protests over its planned demolition, Daily Sabah reports.

Camp Armen, a historic orphanage for Armenian children in Istanbul's Tuzla district, may see its glory days again after the property's owner, Fatih Ulusoy, announced he would donate it to the Armenian community.

The site, which has remained in ruins for years, was planned to be demolished by its current owner before activists, mostly from the Armenian community, rushed to stop the demolition earlier this month. The group camped out at the site for days, blocking bulldozers and later took to the streets for a rally against the destruction of the place that once housed orphaned Armenian children from all over Turkey.

Ulusoy issued a written statement announcing he has decided to donate the place to the Gedikpaşa Armenian Protestant Church Foundation that built the orphanage in 1962. Ulusoy said Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu had asked Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbaşı to help resolve the dispute, and he decided to donate it "to contribute to social peace and unity at a time of speculations over the 1915 incidents." He was referring to the Armenian campaign to force Turkey to recognize the mass deaths of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War I as genocide. Ulusoy said he was unaware that the orphanage was seized by the state in a controversial legal process when he bought it nine years ago.

Activists welcomed Ulusoy's decision to halt the demolition and donate the land. Alexis Kalk, spokesman for Nor Zartonk (New Renaissance), an Armenian nongovernmental organization (NGO) whose members staged the sit-in strike for 18 days at the orphanage, announced the decision to the applause of activists. Kalk said they would continue their "struggle" until the formal process for the donation of the title deed to the foundation is completed. Kalk said the orphanage was not the only Armenian property seized by the state in the past and there were hundreds of others awaiting return to the Armenian community. He called on the government to draft a return policy for these properties and not to leave it to legal processes between current owners and the Armenian community.



Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Kalk said they were pleased that the matter was resolved "with the will of the government" and was not dragged down "despite it being a pre-election period," referring to the upcoming general elections on June 7. He said Camp Armen would be restored and will likely be used as a center focused on children's activities.

Camp Armen was confiscated after the Turkish Supreme Court of Appeals ruled in 1974 that foundations set up by those who are not Turkish cannot acquire properties, based on a controversial 1936 regulation that paved the way for the seizure of properties from non-Muslim communities. The title deed for the orphanage, where more than 1,500 Armenians spent their childhood before its closure, was canceled in 1979. It was returned to its former owner and changed hands several times since then. Among the orphans raised in the historic building was the late Hrant Dink, editor-in-chief of the *Agos* daily and a renowned figure from the Turkish-Armenian community who was assassinated in 2007. His wife Rakel Dink also spent time there.

Since 2011, in the wake of a landmark government decree paving the way for the return of properties seized from non-Muslim minorities, several historic buildings in Istanbul and other cities were returned to minority communities, including Armenians. Minority community foundations have been granted the return of properties forcibly confiscated by the state in the past under discriminatory policies through lawsuits.

Regional project enhances capacity of the asylum system in Armenia

On 26-27 May, a final conference of the Asylum Systems Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Project gathers migration officials from ten countries in Kyiv to discuss achieved results and plans for future collaboration. Enhanced training for government asylum officers, the creation of a research database in Russian and the development of quality assurance tools are key achievements of the regional project that has improved the refugee system in Armenia.

The two and a half year project, fund-

ed by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was designed to strengthen the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees in six countries in the EU's eastern neighborhood: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The participants benefited from active engagement with four EU Member States: Germany, Poland, Romania and Sweden. With a 2.5 million euro budget, the project focused on improvement of the quality, fairness and efficiency of asylum decision-mak-

ing in the participating countries.

Following a joint survey of the national asylum system, Armenia has committed to build on existing strengths, to bridge gaps and to develop quality assurance mechanisms. "The progress in Armenia since the gap analysis report was prepared is notable. In particular, the authorities have developed draft legislative amendments to close gaps in the legal framework; have with UNHCR support adopted 7 Standard Operation Procedures to ensure procedures are consistently applied in line with international

standards and have introduced a new staff position to undertake country of origin information research," said Mr. Christoph Bierwirth, UNHCR Representative in Armenia.

Through more than 100 regional conferences, joint trainings, study visits and individualized training events, the project helped the participating countries to address the most important weaknesses and enhance practical cooperation on asylum matters. The EU Member States have provided good practice advice and shared their vast experience with the relatively new asylum systems in the region. Migration officials from Eastern Europe



received access to several training modules developed for EU Member States by the European Asylum Support Office. Translated into the Russian language, these capacity building tools can be easily accessed and used by new staff and other countries.

The Head of the Migration Agency of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Gagik Yeganyan, highly appreciated the international engagement in the regional project: "The international experience and support have been crucial in the future development of the asylum system in Armenia", he said.

'Sacred Space' exhibit at SCSU memorializes Armenian Genocide victims



Through July 9, 2015, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) will host "Ashfall," an art installation and exhibit by Dallas-based artist Robert Barsamian that poignantly tells the story of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Weekly reports.

A 16'x16' structure erected within the university's Buley Library gallery space with the help of Southern art students, "Ashfall" contains its own lighting and sound system. Inside the structure are portraits on lace, framed by branches-elements from Armenian culture-along with a bench that allows visitors to pause and contemplate the exhibit, which has been called a "sacred space."

In addition to the structure, the gallery displays text panels that speak to the violence and loss the genocide engendered. A

smaller installation in the gallery space, called "Road to Aleppo," is a boat with a figure lying on a funeral pier, representing the spirits of those who died on the death marches through the Syrian desert to Aleppo. Large drawings on silk are draped behind this piece.

"Ashfall" is open to the public through July 9, and admission is free. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 1-4 p.m., or by appointment. For more information about visiting "Ashfall," which is being displayed in New England for the first time, call (203) 392-5768.

Artist Barsamian grew up in Whitinsville, Mass., the son and grandson of survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. In the 1990's, Barsamian recalled the stories his grandmother had told him about her experiences escaping

the genocide, and became inspired to depict such atrocities in his art. He eventually began to create art installations to convey the feeling of inhumane acts perpetrated by man against man and began expressing the injustices of the genocide with his multimedia installations. "Ashfall" is one such installation.

An opening reception for "Ashfall" on April 24 was one of several events held at Southern to mark the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. On April 23, the SCSU Symphonic Band presented a concert entitled "Music of Armenia," featuring folk music by composers Hovhanness, Reed, Khachaturian, Komitas, and Strauss. The following day, guest musicians Anna Hayrapetyan and Tatev Amiryanyan performed a recital featuring pieces connected specifically with the genocide theme by Armenian composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Komitas, Mirzanyan, Kanachyan, and Amiryanyan.

"Southern's commitment to social justice is very much animated by the recognition of man's inhumanity to man," said SCSU President Mary A. Papazian. "The Centenary of the Armenian Genocide gives us pause to recall the mass suffering that occurred at that time and at other periods throughout history. By remembering the past, we can work to build a better future for all."

"Art and music are highly effective media to tell this heart-wrenching story and touch our emotions," Papazian said.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****1 June**

12:00. Cinderella. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

12:00, 14:00. Three Piglets. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

17:00, 19:00. The New Adventures of Masha and the Bear. Children's show. Play for kids | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

18:00. Time for Kids 2015. International Championship. Final. Freedom Square

19:00. Taline & Friends. Concert | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Tales. Play for kids | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

2 June

12:00. Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale. Children's Musical Fun Show. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. Taline & Friends. Concert | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Don Juans in Amrseille. Staging and adaptation: Narek Duryan. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

3 June

19:00. Don Juans in Amrseille. Staging and adap-

tation: Narek Duryan. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

19:00. Lorkiana - Carmen-Suite. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

20:00. Anathema: Live in Yerevan. Concert | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

4 June

19:00. Qit-Cut. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Alan State Academic Dance Ensemble of North Ossetia. International Art Festival. Dance | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. From Here and There. Premiere. Sergey Danielyan's mono-play. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

5 June

19:00. Concert of Masters of Art. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:30. Grisha Khachatryan: Piano Recital. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas

6 June

12:00, 14:00. That Same Huri. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Kid & Karlsson. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

14:00. Cinderella. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

16:00, 18:00. Golden Chicken. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

7 June

12:00, 14:00. Cock-a-doodle-doo. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Dog and the Cat. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

14:00. Tom & Jerry. Premiere. Children's Musical Fun Show. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

16:00. Du-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

17:00. The New Adventures of The Three Piglets. Musical | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. Love Rectangle. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Artavazd Bayatyan: Sunny Sunday. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

It appears you are pressed during this period to correct or re-do some previously repaired mechanical problem. This could be associated with your car or any high-tech equipment. Back up everything!

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Events of this week trigger your sense of compassion and draw you into the need to assist in the healing of another. As you live into this experience, you will discover that having compassion also heals you. Your spirit is lifted. Don't ignore the call.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

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

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

You have the opportunity to offer consolation and compassion to people in your family. One or two from the past may seek your attention and you likely will choose to be your cordial self. Your dreaming mind is active at this time and gives suggestions when you need them.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You may be surprised to discover something about yourself or your money/debts that you have been avoiding. We are all in denial sometimes. Don't waste time on a guilt trip. Now that you know, it is time to face the facts and collect the threads of a solution.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

This looks like a week in which you really want to say your piece, but you have a sense that would be a bad idea. This is correct if you feel so upset that you can't present your case with a clear rationale. If you organize your thoughts and present them without hesitation, you could accomplish an improvement.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

This is not your best week for romance and social life. You may be in circumstances that cause you to feel as

though you must be pretentious concerning your feelings. Possibly you are not even really clear yourself about just what your needs are in these relationships. It's a low period that will pass in a few days.

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

It is of paramount importance that you control your mouth this week. Although you have an opinion about whatever is happening, let it go and say nothing unless asked for it. Being "right" is not as important as maintaining human relations. Later you can take action to correct what you perceive is wrong, but now you will be challenged to a fight.

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

Life is still moving in slow motion. Sometimes waiting and going through the motions of "fetching wood, carrying water," is a really positive thing. You need for others to change their minds and it is a slow process. Meanwhile you can make small steps in your desired direction.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Relationships continue to be stressful, although it appears the worst is over for now. It is important to allow change and growth on both sides rather than hanging onto what is familiar. Don't jump to conclusions or make problems bigger than they really are.

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

People from the past, including former lovers, may seek your attention during the next 2 weeks. Chat or maybe have dinner if you like. Don't turn this into an expectation of a long-lasting or meaningful relationship, lest you be disappointed. It is possible that your cool reception will disappoint the Other but you cannot pretend feelings you do not have.

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

Something unnoticed related to your home or property may suddenly break through your consciousness as in need of repair. It may be in the pipes or related to water. Do not make a major property purchase this week. If not "physical" property, you may discover that your relationship to a family member is not what you thought. Either way, repair is necessary.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Vahan Teryan

Coming To Terms

FATE

There is an invisible chain in the skies
unseen, as pain is unseen
except in the eyes.

The chain settles with the galaxies
of night to buckle the stars
each to each.

They flicker like sacred candles
and reach, but are tied
to order, and held separate by sight.

Like the stars, you and I are tied together
by dreams, not by want.
Always together, always separate
on the same course, but orbits apart.

SONG OF THE STREET

Again under my window, a wandering singer
sings a sad song I've heard long ago;
sings as if I wrote that song for the singer;
sings as if I wept that song for the singer;
sings as if I walk down the street with
yearning,
singing the song and only to you.

FOREIGN

This Nayirian soul of mine
stands like an alien apart
with its sadness and chain
of old complaints.

Even if you decipher our alphabet
and read our lettered stones,
our labor and ancient pain
would stay unexplained.

The towers that mourn
my dying country do not tell
all, nor move you with their toll.
To you they are bells.

And here at this feast we laugh
together, but stay apart.
You never know the Armenian wine
we drink is the blood from our heart.

Translated by Diana Der Hovanessian

Yerevan Zoo opens after renovation

President Serzh Sargsyan visited the Yerevan Zoo together with his grandchildren where for the first time large-scale works have been carried out as part of the 2014-2015 Yerevan Zoo Renovation and Development Program, President's Press Office reports.

Accompanied by Mayor Taron Margaryan, the Armenian president toured the zoo, familiarized himself with the works aimed at the improvement and development of the municipal zoo and the conditions of the newly-built aid station saturated with modern technologies.

During the tour, the president was presented that prior to the renovation, out of the zoo's 34-hectare area only seven had been inhabited by animals and had been of use, while presently this number has reached 16 hectare.

The lighting system of the zoo has been totally redesigned, as a result of which lightening will be provided through energy-saving light bulbs. According to the executives, the lightening will also get artistic solutions



and all the external cables spoiling the appearance of the zoo have been lowered down into the ground. All the roads and alleys of the zoo have been asphalted and renovated. New drinking fountains have been installed and a 7000 m2 piece of land has been landscaped, new tree varieties and shrubs have been planted and flower design works have been carried out. Artificial waterfalls with original place solutions have been built. The playgrounds of the zoo have been improved and refreshed. A new playground has been built where for the first time inclusive playgrounds for children have been installed (1/3 part). Electric machines have been acquired and will be put into use to make walking at the zoo more convenient and interesting. The checkpoint of the zoo has been rebuilt to be equipped with devices for electronic inspection and registration.



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