



Weekly Newspaper

HIGHLIGHTS

Published Since 1993

#4 (901)
6 February
2012



Price: 1000 drams

HIGHLIGHT

Sarkozy threatens sending bill penalizing the denial of Holocaust to the Constitutional Council

In case the bill penalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide is recognized anti-constitutional, the bill penalizing the denial of Holocaust will also be sent to the Constitutional Council of France, President of France Nicolas Sarkozy stated at the meeting with a number of French MPs January 31, Noyan Tapan reports citing French Le Monde.

During the meeting President of France expressed discontent over inclusion of the Armenian bill on the agenda of the Constitutional Council.

January 31 on the initiative of a number of senators the bill penalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide has been included on the agenda of the Constitutional Council.

The bill authored by member of French Senate Valerie Boyer was adopted January 23. It envisages 1 year in prison and 45 thousand euros' fine in case of denial of the Armenian Genocide.



Nicolas Sarkozy to re-draft Genocide bill if rejected

Some peculiarities of upcoming parliamentary elections in Armenia

By David Petrosyan

With three months left until the regular parliamentary elections in Armenia, their main participants are engaged in the regrouping of forces and have begun a system preparation for their participation in the election race.

In our opinion, there will be several important points, including technological ones, which will distinguish the 2012 elections from the previous elections held in 2007:

- First of all, it is the poor social conditions of the country's population. Even according to official data, the number of the poor has reached 1 million 200 thousand, which makes up about 36% of the population, including 21.3% of extremely poor citizens and 3% of beggarly ones. The situation in Armenian cities (except Yerevan) where 45.4% (i.e. almost half) of the population lives below the poverty line is especially problem-

prone. Thus, the 2012 elections will take place in a complicated social situation, whereas the social situation in 2007 was certainly much better;

- Secondly, there is a sharp increase in migration level. According to the same official data of Armenia's National Statistical Service, the total negative balance of those who left/ came to Armenia in the past two years (2010-2011) made 106 thousand. It is noteworthy that there has been a considerable outflow of population in Georgia and Azerbaijan too, but it is only in Armenia that this issue has been put on the political agenda. The outflow of the population in the 1990s could be explained by the war, the energy crisis, and a blockade imposed on Armenia, while now it is first of all the financial and economic policy of the government which stooges for the interests of oligarchs that is to blame for the current outflow;

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French President to re-draft Genocide bill if rejected

PARIS-French President Nicolas Sarkozy will immediately submit a new draft of a law punishing denial of the Armenian Genocide if France's top judicial body rejects it, two ministers told AFP Wednesday.

"The president told us in cabinet that he would immediately submit a new draft if there is a rejection by the Constitutional Council" of a bill approved recently by the French parliament, said one of the ministers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported AFP.

Another minister said Sarkozy had also criticized those in cabinet who had opposed the bill, saying they "did not see past the ends of their noses."

He said a rejection of the bill by the Constitutional Council could open the door to questioning a law that penalizes denial of the Holocaust.

After being approved by the

National Assembly and Senate, the law was put on hold Tuesday after politicians opposed to the legislation demanded that its constitutionality be examined.

Two separate groups of French politicians who oppose the legislation - from both the Senate and the lower house - said they had formally requested the Constitutional Council examine the law.

The groups said they each had gathered more than the minimum 60 signatures required to ask the council to test the law's constitutionality.

The council is obliged to deliver its judgment within a month, but this can be reduced to eight days if the government deems the matter urgent.

Despite government backing of the law, at least two ministers, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Agriculture Minister Bruno Le Maire, had spoken

out against the bill.

"French President Sarkozy could have signed, and turned into a law, the bill that criminalizes the denial of genocides [including the Armenian Genocide], but he preferred to wait until the statutory deadline, and this enabled for the bill's opponents to get active and appeal to the Constitutional Council," said a statement political affairs office of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Bureau.

There are three options that the Constitutional Council could consider in addressing the Genocide bill.

The Council could rule that the resolution as approved is consistent with the constitution and thus pave the way for a presidential signature. The Council could determine that portions of the bill are not consistent with

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President Serzh Sargsyan receives the EU Special Representative Philippe Lefort



President Serzh Sargsyan received on January 31 the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia Philippe Lefort.

The parties discussed issues pertinent to the Armenia-EU relations and regional cooperation. The latest developments in the Nagorno Karabakh peace process and regional problems were also

discussed.

Presenting the position of the European Union, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia Philippe Lefort underscored that the NK peace process in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group has no alternatives, and that the change of the negotiations format will not be effective.

The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs received the newly appointed Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan



On January 30, Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian received Andrey Sorokin, the newly appointed Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Welcoming the guest, the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs congratulated the Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan on the occasion of assuming a responsible post and expressed hope that the OSCE Office in Yerevan led by Ambassador Sorokin would con-

tinue to implement its projects.

Expressing gratitude for the wishes, Ambassador Andrey Sorokin noted that the Armenia-OSCE relations have always been comprehensive and include the active involvement of the Republic of Armenia in the activities of the OSCE in all three directions.

Minister Nalbandian expressed satisfaction with the decade of effective activities of the OSCE Yerevan Office and assured that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would continue to provide full support to the activities of the Office.

Edward Nalbandian and Andrey Sorokin discussed a number of regional issues, as well, the Press, information and public relations department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia informs.

French President to re-draft Genocide bill if rejected

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the French Constitution. In case, the bill will be returned to the National Assembly, to amend it and make it consistent with the

Constitution. This option could cause problems, since the National Assembly will go on vacation, in one month, to prepare for the presidential elections.

A third option would be to find the resolution entirely unconstitutional, in which case Sarkozy would have to re-introduce the matter in the National Assembly and the process would begin anew.

The president cannot sign the bill until the Constitutional Council reaches a decision.



We do not have oil, but we do have more precious and important resources.



Armenia's PM Tigran Sargsyan received on February 3 Jonathan James Aves and Catherine Jane Leach, Great Britain's newly appointed ambassadors to Armenia. They discussed Armenian-British relations.

Sargsyan noted that Armenia is

interested in deepening relations with Great Britain. "First and foremost, it is important for the British diplomacy to secure a balanced approach in the region. We do not have oil, but we do have more precious and important resources. Above all, this is the human capi-

tal. That is why Information Technology is a priority direction for us," Armenia's PM said, Governmental Press Service informed Noyan Tapan.

He also noted that economic interests need to be discovered in Armenia for British investors, and this would give new impetus to developing bilateral relations.

In her turn, Ambassador Catherine Jane Leach expressed a conviction that their activities would transfer the Armenian-British relations to a new phase. The two ambassadors also noted that British companies are interested in making investments in Armenia, specifically in the mining industry and Information Technology.

The interlocutors also reflected on Armenia's economic policy, as well as bilateral cultural and Armenia-EU relations.

Bostanjyan sees no lack of trust between RPA and PAP

Bostanjyan sees no lack of trust between RPA and PAP

There is certain tension in the interior political field of Armenia agreed with the pre-electoral process, but it must not be accepted painfully, member of the Prosperous Armenia Party's faction Vardan Bostanjyan told a news conference Wednesday, February 1. He said the goal of the recent meeting of the heads of the coalition forces was to discuss issues of conducting of elections that will be recognized by the international community and be acceptable for our people.

Bostanjyan said he treated positively the idea of signing new

memorandum. "I do not see its necessity as of the moment, but if the three political forces forming the ruling coalition find it necessary to sign such document, it is obvious that it will be addressed toward the country's development, increase of stability and other goals," the speaker said. The document will not mean that there is a lack of trust between the Republican Party of Armenia and the Prosperous Armenia Party. The two forces have one goal - see Armenia prosper.

Referring to the transfer to 100% proportional election system, the PAP member said though the issue was included in their program



but did not get corresponding urgency on time and now it is being widely discussed. The PAP, like other parties as well, envisage in its programs passing to 100% proportional system.

Holding of free and fair elections vital for Armenia-EU relations, head of EU Delegation says

The realization of Armenia-EU Action Plan 2012-2013 will deepen the bilateral cooperation, Secretary of Armenian National Security Council Artur Baghdasaryan said Tuesday, January 31

Artur Baghdasaryan said that all the governmental structures and departments of Armenia have been involved in the elaboration of the program.

The program consists of 160 actions on 6 key directions: political, trade and financial, justice, freedom and security, environment.

Artur Baghdasaryan highly assessed the current level of cooperation between Armenia and the European Union, expressing the hope that in 2012 Armenia will be closer to signing of an Associated Agreement and launching talks on Deep and Comprehensive Free



Trade Area Agreement.

The head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea said that EU is ready to support reforms in Armenia, noting that the country has achieved significant progress in 2011.

He pointed out that the reforms should be continued, not-

ing that the holding of free and fair elections is vital for Armenia-EU relations.

The National Security Council of Armenia should discuss the Armenia-EU draft Action Plan for 2012-2013, after which it will be signed by the Armenian President.

Some peculiarities of upcoming parliamentary elections in Armenia

- The government of Serzh Sargsyan (we would like to remind you that the incumbent president served as head of the government in 2007-2008) and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan turned out to be the most incompetent in the history of the Third Republic. Some Armenian experts considered as truly unique the circumstance that none of the promises from the current government's program has been properly fulfilled. No such thing happened before in the history of the Third Republic, even in the difficult 1990s, when a war was being waged. We should point out the circumstance that in 2012 the second four-year anti-corruption program will be completed. This program has been implemented in Armenia for eight years, with the financial support of the World Bank. The result of cooperation of the Prime Ministers - Republicans and international organizations in this issue is quite regrettable: instead of declining, corruption has become even more widespread;

- There are quite a few signs indicating that for the first time in

the past few years the external players have already decided on their priorities in the upcoming parliamentary elections. In particular, Washington and Brussels will give firm, perhaps even unprecedented support to the Republican Party of Armenia, as well as to the Heritage Party and Free Democrats Party. As regards Russia, most probably Moscow will - on a priority basis - support the Prosperous Armenia Party in the upcoming elections. As for Armenia's extra-parliamentary opposition - the Armenian National Congress (ANC), it is obvious that none of the external players backs the ANC now that three months remain until the parliamentary elections;

- The Internet will become an important means of providing information and conducting PR campaigns during the pre-election struggle. According to the data of some experts, the number of Internet users in Armenia has reached 400 thousand; the number of participants of social networks has also grown considerably, with facebook.com and

odnoklasniki.ru being the indisputable leaders. The number of the participants of facebook.com is going to increase to 250 thousand during the pre-election campaign, while the number of the participants in odnoklasniki.ru is comparable with the number of those participating in facebook.com;

- According to some information, the price of one minute of advertising at the prime time on Public Television of Armenia will be 180 thousand drams (at the exchange rate of 385 drams per one dollar). By Armenian standards, it is quite a large sum of money. For example, the rates on private channels are the following: 25 thousand drams on Armnews channel and 30 thousand drams on Yerkir Media (the de facto channel of ARF-Dashnaktsutyun Party). Being guided by the high advertisement prices of the Public Television, the private television companies will certainly raise their rates for one minute of advertising time, thereby putting those participants

of the election race, who are not rich, in a difficult position.

In the opinion of Hmayak Hovhannisian - Chairman of the Association of Political Scientists of Armenia, former deputy of the Armenian parliament - three months prior to the elections, the political columns aspiring to gain seats in the National Assembly can be ranked as follows:

- Group A: the Republican Party of Armenia, the Prosperous Armenia Party, and the ANC. It should be mentioned that the Prosperous Armenia Party and the ANC enjoy firm public support, whereas the Republicans who lack support will use the administrative resource, violence, criminals, and vote rigging in order to achieve the necessary results. All the political columns of Group A will easily pass the 5% or 7% (for blocs) threshold for election and will struggle to receive the greatest possible number of mandates in the parliament of the next term of legislature;

- Group B, which includes the parliamentary opposition parties -

the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun and the Heritage, as well as the Free Democrats Party. All the three parties will struggle to pass the 5% electoral threshold, and in case of a certain political spectrum and relatively fair elections, two of them (the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun and the Heritage Party) stand a chance to get into the parliament. As regards the Free Democrats Party, it can get into the parliament by either forming a bloc with the Heritage Party or reaching an agreement with it to include its candidates in the proportional representation list of that parliamentary party.

It should be noted that the ANC, the Prosperous Armenia Party, the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun, the Heritage, and the Free Democrats are in support (in a varying degree) of holding fair and transparent elections in Armenia. Those parties that have problems with real public support, namely the the Republican Party of Armenia and the Country of Law Party, are not interested in fair elections.

Pressure of foreign state should not gain victory over greatness of France - Valerie Boyer



The authors of the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial Valerie Boyer is disappointed at the fact that certain French lawmakers prefer legality to humanity.

In a statement posted on Facebook page of Union for a Popular Movement, Boyer has said

she respects the decision of the French Senators to appeal to the Constitutional Council "as it is their right".

Stressing that she shares pain of the families - survivors of the Armenian Genocide, the MP has said in her opinion pressure of the foreign state which is pursuing denial policy must not gain victory over universal goal - protections of human rights and greatness of France.

"Nevertheless, I am confident the fact that memory of the genocide victims recognized by France is not protected equally in the territory of France is unacceptable. It is unacceptable discrimination and I will fight against it till the end!"

French Senators appeal to Constitutional Council opposing genocide bill

Constitutional Council of France accepted on Tuesday, January 31 Senators' appeal against the bill criminalizing genocide denial, European Democratic and Social Rally parliamentary group informed AFP.

Seventy-two signatures have been collected so far, although only 60 were enough, Le Figaro writes.

With a vote of 127 in favor and 86 against, France's Senate passed on January 23 criminalizes the denial of the genocides which this country has formally recognized.

This bill sets a one-year prison

sentence plus a 45-thousand-Euro fine for anyone who denies these genocides. According to the regulations, the French President will ratify it within fifteen days of the Senate's decision. And Turkey had announced earlier that if the bill were to pass, it will impose a number of sanctions against France.

The Constitutional Council can censor the law which it considers unconstitutional if 60 appeals from the Senators are received.

The Council will decide whether the law is constitutional in a month.

French Constitutional Council can make three decisions on genocide bill - ARF Dashnaktsutyun

"French President Sarkozy could have signed, and turned into a law, the bill that criminalizes the denial of genocides [including the Armenian Genocide], but he preferred to wait until the statutory deadline, and this enabled for the bill's opponents to get active and appeal to the Constitutional Council," Armenia's opposition ARF Dashnaktsutyun Party Bureau's Political Affairs and Armenian Cause Office's statement reads.

"The Constitutional Council

could adopt one of the three possible decisions:

1) The bill is consistent with the Constitution. In this case, it will become a law once the Republic's President signs it.

2) The bill is partly inconsistent with the Constitution. In this case, the bill will be returned to the National Assembly, to amend it and make it consistent with the Constitution. This option could cause problems, since the National Assembly will go on vacation, in one month, to prepare for the pres-

idential elections.

3) The bill is wholly unconstitutional. In this case, the bill will no longer be discussed and it will not become a law, unless the Republic's President requests that the matter enter the National Assembly yet again.

Starting from today until for one month, until the Constitutional Council reaches a decision, President Sarkozy cannot sign the law," ARF Dashnaktsutyun's statement notes.

Some French senators are influenced by Turkey - Hilda Tchoboian

Those French senators, who signed the appeal against the bill that criminalizes the denial of the genocides - including the Armenian Genocide - which is sent to the French Constitutional Council, are influenced by Turkey, Rhône-Alpes regional MP Hilda Tchoboian told Armenian News-NEWS.am.

In her words, this appeal bespeaks Turkey's influence on France's domestic politics. "The ambassador personally petitioned, with a letter, to all the senators who had voted against this bill, and called upon them to collect the number signatures needed to appeal to the Constitutional Council," Tchoboian said, adding that this appeal is unnatural and a result of Turkish influence.

As per Hilda Tchoboian,

"numerous experts of Constitution have expressed their views regarding the law, and said it does not run counter to the Basic law. But some political considerations may lead to the Council's declaring of the law null and void, especially since many of its members, including the Constitutional Council President Jean-Louis Debré, are against this initiative."

The French Constitutional Council accepted, on Tuesday, the aforesaid appeal which was signed by 72 French senators.

To note, with a vote of 127 in favor and 86 against, France's Senate passed on January 23 the bill that criminalizes the denial of the genocides which this country has formally recognized. And these are the Armenian Genocide



and the Jewish Holocaust. This bill sets a one-year prison sentence plus a 45-thousand - Euro fine for anyone who denies these genocides.

Turkish PM thanks French senators who oppose genocide bill

Turkey's PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan commented on the French Constitutional Council's acceptance of the appeal submitted by the French senators who oppose the bill that criminalizes the denial of genocides, including the Armenian Genocide.

Turkish PM expressed a deep gratitude, on his behalf and on behalf of the people of Turkey, to those French senators who have signed this appeal so that the bill could be forwarded to Constitutional Council. "This was fitting for the French politicians. I believe they did

everything necessary," Erdogan said, Haberler news agency of Turkey informs.

To note, the French Constitutional Council accepted, on Tuesday, the aforesaid appeal which was signed by 72 French senators.

Armenian Parliament to convene hearings on proportional election system

Upon the request of the parliamentary opposition Heritage and ARF Dashnaktsutyun Parties and of the ruling coalition's Prosperous Armenia Party, the National Assembly (NA) will convene, on February 15, hearings on the initiative to change to a 100-percent proportional election system in Armenia. The Chairman Davit Harutyunyan of the NA Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs stated this during the

Committee's session on Wednesday.

Harutyunyan, who is also an MP from the coalition's Republican Party of Armenia, also informed that the aforementioned parties had petitioned to him and to NA Speaker Samvel Nikoyan with a request to convene such hearings. And subsequently NA Speaker sent a note, and Harutyunyan proposed that the hearings be convened on February 15 at 11 a.m.



Vardan Oskanyan: "Armenia needs serious and deep reforms"



Former Armenian Foreign Minister made a statement on January 30 noting "it is of utmost importance that Armenia hold free and fair parliamentary elections".

Armenia needs serious and deep reforms, and I'm convinced that all our citizens share this belief. Reforms and change can only happen when there is a new political configuration in the National Assembly. And such political balance can only be assured through free and fair elections.

My own political engagement

is driven by this conviction. Talk about my involvement with the Prosperous Armenia Party is not without basis. I have had such discussions with the Prosperous Armenia Party as well as with other political forces. At this time, I have still not made a decision, and believe there is still time to do so. Political processes, however, may accelerate my decision.

Today, we are witnessing several simultaneous political processes. First, behind - the-scenes discussions among various parties, and within the coalition as well. Second, politically-motivat-

ed pressures on various parties, and especially the Prosperous Armenia. Third, the utilization of administrative resources this early in the pre-electoral period to secure advantageous positions. Finally, the ongoing debate about the make-up of the National Assembly - majoritarian vs. party lists.

Taking into consideration the political situation in Armenia today, it is obvious that the election ought to be based on party lists alone. But that will not be possible so long as the parliamentary majority is uncompromising. Therefore, all those who support the party list approach - the Prosperous Armenia, the Armenian National Congress, the ARF Dashnaktsutyun, the Heritage, the Popular Party, the Free Democrats and others - not lose any more time, and soon after the parliamentary hearings on this topic, transform this momentum into a civic movement and focus on holding fair elections and, moreover, think about the possibility of deeper cooperation during the May parliamentary election.

Armenia's former FM is ready to cooperate with fellow former FM

Armenia's parliamentary opposition Heritage Party leader, and former FM, Raffi Hovannisian is not against collaborating with another former FM, Vartan Oskanian, in fighting against election fraud.

During his press conference on Friday, February 3, Hovannisian reflected on Oskanian's most recent statement and said: "We are ready [to collaborate] as citizens who fight against election fraud. If he wishes to discuss the margins of cooperation, I will delightfully meet."

To the observation that Vartan Oskanian is being associated with former President Robert

Kocharyan, Raffi Hovannisian responded: "The Heritage [Party] is not vindictive and spiteful. We appreciate and criticize all the presidents."

Heritage's leader also denied the information, which is circulating in the press, that Armenia's three former FMs (himself, Oskanian, and non-parliamentary opposition's Free Democrats Party member Alexander Arzumanyan) had held a meeting.

And according to Hovannisian, the opposition force is ready to cooperate with parliamentary, non-parliamentary, and even the ruling forces, if they want free and transparent elections in Armenia.

New Opposition Party 'Confident' About Parliament Entry

Astghik Bedevian

A leader of a new opposition party formed by former associates of Levon Ter-Petrosian on Thursday, February 2 expressed confidence that it will be represented in Armenia's next parliament to be elected in May.

Former Foreign Minister Alexander Arzumanyan also reiterated that his Free Democrats party is discussing with the opposition Zharangutyun (Heritage) party the possibility of forming an electoral alliance.

"Neither we nor Zharangutyun have excluded that we may act in a joint team," he told reporters. "We see no problem with that. But discussions are still going on."

Under the Armenian law, an electoral bloc needs to garner at least 7 percent of the vote in order to win parliament seats under the system of proportional representation. The vote threshold for a single party is set at 5 percent.

Arzumanyan made clear that Free Democrats will not team up with any other major opposition force, including Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (HAK). "You cannot enter the same river twice," he said, referring to the HAK.

Arzumanyan and other leaders of the new party left the HAK along with dozens of other opposition activists in 2010 because of reported differences with Ter-Petrosian, Armenia's first president. Arzumanyan served as foreign minister in the Ter-Petrosian administration and managed the ex-president's 2008 presidential election campaign.

The prominent oppositionist insisted that regardless of political configurations and the Armenian authorities' handling of the elections Free Democrats will have seats in the new parliament. He said the overall number of opposition groups



represented in the legislature will also rise.

Zharangutyun and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) are the only opposition parties holding seats in the current National Assembly.

"There is an established opposition, there is a fighting institutionalized opposition in Armenia," said Arzumanyan. "There is the HAK, our party, Zharangutyun and Dashnaktsutyun. So in terms of representation there will be more parties."

In Arzumanyan's words, one of the goals of Free Democrats is to turn Armenia into a parliamentary republic. "The presidential system doesn't work in Armenia," he said. "Anyone becoming president of Armenia under the existing system develops authoritarian tendencies and starts exploiting the whole system. In our view the best way to prevent that is to switch to a parliamentary republic."

"So I think we will get in [the parliament] and raise these issues. And in case of strong presence, we may also succeed in changing [the government system,]" he added.

Armenian minister could head ruling coalition party's campaign headquarters

In all probability, Armenia's Urban Development Minister Vardan Vardanyan will head the campaign headquarters of the ruling coalition's Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) in the upcoming parliamentary elections, PAP

Spokesperson Baghdasar Mheryan told Noyan Tapan.

He also informed that the preliminary decision to that effect was reached as a result of political discussions.

According to the information

published in the press, the Urban Development Minister, along with PAP Chairman Gagik Tsarukyan, also attended the coalition parties' meeting, which was held at the Presidential Office on January 30.



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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

- ◆ **683. Argishti street**, Glendel Hills, 14/10, 35.4sqm, newly built, euro repaired, gas in the building, permanent water, beautiful view of ravine. Price 45.000USD
- ◆ **667. Nalbandyan street**, 7/5, 48sqm, 1room changed into two, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price-86.000USD
- ◆ **684. Mashtoc avenue**, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ◆ **69. Khajaznuni street**, 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capitally repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ◆ **645. Baghramyany Street**, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

2 ROOMS

- ◆ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**, 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ◆ **1467. Mashtoc av.** 8/5 81sq.m. 2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ◆ **1440. North Avenue**, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ◆ **1459. Baghramyany Avenue**, 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ◆ **1458. Bryusov street**, 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ◆ **1469 Tumanyan str.** 4/3 50sq.m 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ◆ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ◆ **2474. Koryun Street**, 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ◆ **2454. Moskovyany str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ◆ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ◆ **2429.** Ekmalyan street, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bed-rooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ◆ **2393. Moskovyany street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ◆ **Tumanyan str.** 5/3, 170 sqm, 4 rooms, 2 garages for 3 cars, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, 3 balconies. Price: 1100 USD
- ◆ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**, 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ◆ **2348. Abovyany Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ◆ **2395.** North Avenue. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyany street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ◆ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ◆ **1727. Baghramyany str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ◆ **1725. Hanrapetutyany str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ◆ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220.000USD
- ◆ **1553. Kasyan street**, 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ◆ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ◆ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ◆ **Tumanyan str.**, 3/1, 100 sqm, office space, not repaired, entrance from the street, windows looking at the yard. Price: 115.000 USD
- ◆ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor.

Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD

- ◆ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ◆ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ◆ **1869. Kaskade**, 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ◆ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ◆ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ◆ **2033. Tsakhkadzor**, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.
- ◆ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ◆ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ◆ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 2800USD
- ◆ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ◆ **Avan, Ayntapi str.**, near Star Supermarket, 1st line, 528 sqm, land attached to a house, water, canalization, front-25m. Price: 60.000 USD
- ◆ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ◆ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ◆ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ◆ **3063. Komitas A.** Avetisyan street, 3storied+cellar, total-500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, cabinet, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable
- ◆ **3059. Vahagni community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable.
- ◆ **3210 Aygestan community**, 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ◆ **3103. Ajapnyak community**, Miraqyan street. 1 storey, land -264.8 sq.m., building 110 sq.m., euro repair, euro windows, 5 rooms, 1 lavatory , Baxi system, kitchen, book , ramparted. Price: 90 000 USD
- ◆ **3105. Kaskad, Antarain**. 4 stories, land 1800 sq.m., building 1000 sq.m., newly built, need of cosmetic repair, windows, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, 4 bedrooms, ramparted, solar lamps, security system, cameras, external lighting. Price: 1. 300.000 USD
- ◆ **3054. Blur, Kharkovoyan street**, 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 800 000 USD
- ◆ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ◆ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m-1900-1700 USD
- ◆ **90. Main avenue**. Newly built, 2 buildings, 14 stories. Ready for habitation/ at the end of 2013, at the beginning of 2014. Commercial areas on the 1st and on the 2nd floors, flats on the higher floors. Price: 1 sq.m.- 1150 USD 1 sq.m.- 1300 USD
- ◆ **91. Main Avenue**, Park, near Malibu cafe, 16storied newly building, Capitally repaired, heating and security system, 2 lavatories. Price: 1 sq.m.- 2.000 USD

- ◆ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD



possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

- ◆ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottage 4 flats, totall-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ◆ **1031. Byuzand street**, 1 room, 34 sq.m, capitally repair, newly built, furniture, techniques, heating, AC, cabin. Price 600 USD
- ◆ **1009. Teryan str.**, 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ◆ **1057. Argishti str.**, 14/9, 1 room, furnished, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, AC
- ◆ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ◆ **1024. Amiryan street**, 12/3, 1turned into 2, 50 sq.m, euro repair, techniques. Price: 1 day 60 USD
- ◆ **853. Amiryan street**, 10/7, 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ◆ **1024. Amiryan street**, 12/3. 2 rooms, 50 sq.m, euro repaire, furniture, techniques. Price: 1 day -50 USD, a month: 700 USD
- ◆ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ◆ **2037. Baghramyany str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ◆ **2022. Amiryan street**, 4/3. 74 sq.m., 2 turned into 3, newly repaired, Spanish tiles, jakoozi, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, techniques. Price 1500 USD, 1 day 100 USD
- ◆ **2057. Sayat-Nova**, 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capitally repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ◆ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ◆ **115. Buzand str. Building 7, /near Republic Square/, 9/4, 75 sq.m, 2 rooms, newly built, capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, AC, open balcony. Price: 1100 USD long-term, 1500 USD short-term.**
- ◆ **2119. Argishti/Glendale Hills I**, 7th floor , 2 rooms, 46 sq.m, capitally repaired, new furniture, tiled bathroom, equipped, water, gas, Baxi heating system, refrigerator, TV, balcony for storage. Price: 450 USD , 50 USD per day
- ◆ **2108. Amirtyan str. /City center/, 2 rooms, AC, washing machine, TV, refrigerator, satellite, bed sheets, utensil, all the conveniences. Price: 600 USD , 60 USD per day**
- ◆ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 550 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ◆ **1137. Moskovyany str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ◆ **1856 Abovyany str.** 5/4 floor 3 rooms, 95 sqm, euro repaired, 2 bathrooms,heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, satellite. Price: 750USD, 70-75 USD per day.
- ◆ **1874 Amiryan str.** 14/5 floor 120 sqm, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, 2 AC, heating system, parking, looking at the boulevard Price: 2000USD
- ◆ **12 Northern Ave.** 5/5,6 floor 450sqm 8 rooms., capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 bathrooms, Price: 1500USD, 300

USD per day

- ◆ **13 Orbeli Str.** 5/5 floor 100sqm 3rooms, capitally and euro repaired, newly furnished, equipped,heating system, AC Price: 700 USD, 70USD per day
- ◆ **1406. Sayat-Nova str.**, 7/3, 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, euro repaired, gas, furnished, technique, permanent hot and cold water , baxi. Pric negotiable
- ◆ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyany st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ◆ **1810. North Avenue**, /5, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, beautiful view, refrigerator, washing machine, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, garage, TV, lavatory, Price negotiable.
- ◆ **1787. Koghbaci street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ◆ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ◆ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ◆ **1720. Amirian Street.**, 3 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term-6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ◆ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ◆ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ◆ **1808. Amiryan**, 4/3 3 rooms, 64 sq.m, capi-



tally repaired, Venetian style, furnished, equipped, Spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, no balcony. Price: 800-900 USD, 50 USD per day

- ◆ **971. Norq-Marash community** The gardens of Norq Ground 620sq.m, basement +2f. con 733.15 sq.m, basement: the sport hall, sauna, room for summer, swimming pool, fireplace, 1st floor: leaving room, bedroom, kitchen, office, corridor, bathroom, 2nd floor 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom(Spanish), always running cold and hot water, natural gas, 2 conditioner, baxi. Price 1500\$
- ◆ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ◆ **455. Norq**, 3 storied building-150sqm, total - 600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- ◆ **1135. Monument V.** Papazyan street, 2floors, total-375sqm, stone building-210sqm, cellar, euro repaired, baxi, AC, garage-14sqm. Price 2000 USD per month.
- ◆ **1164. Arabkir, Monument**. 1 storied, land-300 sq.m, building-150 sq.m., capitally repaired, 3 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, pool. Price: 1200 USD
- ◆ **211.** Ajgedzor. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD
- ◆ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ◆ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price* 5000 USD
- ◆ **1121. Vahagni community**. 2 stories, building 402 sq.m.(including garage and cellar) euro repair, 3 bedrooms, hall, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, heating floor, kitchen and dining room are furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- ◆ **1142. Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet,

Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.

- ◆ **1114. Gulakyan street**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ◆ **1109. Blur**, 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 3800 USD
- ◆ **662. Norq gardens**, Amaranocayin street. 2 storied stone building.Land 1000 sq.m., building 300 sq.m., ramparted, 3 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, hall, camin, gas, heating system, stained glasses. Price 3000USD negotiable
- ◆ **1071. Noy block**. 2.5 storied, land 400 sq.m., building 500 sq.m., garden 250sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories, 2 kitchen, a hall. Price 3000 USD priliminary
- ◆ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ◆ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ◆ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms,7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ◆ **1014. Norq Marsh district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ◆ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ◆ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD
- ◆ **1019. Nork**, 2 storied, separate structure, 700 sq.m. land, 350 sq.m. construction, capital euro repaired, fimished, garage with remote control, pool, 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom, and 2 separate bathrooms. In the first floor sitting-room, gas, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi System, fire-place, view to town, walled. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- ◆ **1869. Kaskade**, 720 sq.m., 1st line, building permission, suitable for new building or a business center. Price: negotiable
- ◆ **1461. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor 95sqm, capitally repaired, 2 halls - 32sqm and 46sqm, kitchen, lavatory, 1 line, 2 entrances. Price 3000USD
- ◆ **1821. Argishti** 14/7 3rooms.,87sq.m repaired.- modern stile ,non populated ,2bathroom.heating ,furniture ,technique satellite, when renting for the long time also internet, b. looks to the country. Price 800\$, 1day 20.000AM dram
- ◆ **1438. Komitas**, Hr. Qochar str., 6storied building + cellar + cockkolt, total-960sqm, each floor-120sqm, needs to be repaired, plastered, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price negotiable.
- ◆ **1525. Hanrapetutyany street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ◆ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ◆ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ◆ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ◆ **1113. Abovyany Koryun district**, 2 storied, 400 sq.m., 2 separate entrances, capital euro repair, convenient for restaurant or shop, has a possibility for open air café. Price: Negotiable
- ◆ **1408.Zarobyany street**, parallel to Baghramyany, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ◆ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ◆ **1429. Nalbandian St**, 2 stories - 78 sq. m, each story - 38 sq. m, hall, lavatory, 2 show windows, door, two-way entrance, 24-hour water, gas, suitable for any activity. Price: 23000USD
- ◆ **1461. Amiryan** (down-town), 1st circle, 5 stored building, 300sq.m is renovated, the rest is under renovation, central heating, climate-control, parking. (tax included) . The price is available for 5 and more years, 2500sq. Price: 1sqm - 400USD
- ◆ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

Armenian citizens abroad to vote for elections online



Those citizens of Armenia who work abroad at diplomatic and consulate corps or in foreign branches of companies registered in Armenia can vote for parliamentary and presidential elections through the Internet by visiting Central Election Committee (CEC) official website.

Representing the issue, CEC member Tatevik Ohanyan clarified that online voting will start

nine days before the actual election day in Armenia at 8 a.m. (Yerevan time) and will be over five days before the actual election day at 8 p.m. (Yerevan time).

According to her, no later than 50 days before the Election Day, Armenian MFA and those Armenian companies, which have branches abroad, will submit to the Passport and Visa Department the list of people who can vote through the Internet. The Department will check whether those people indeed have the right for voting and will transfer the list to the CEC. The latter will set up the list in the website. At the same time, CEC will remove those people's name from the common lists

to avoid double voting.

However, CEC former member, current off parliamentary opposition Armenian National Congress member Zoya Tadevosyan claimed in the interview with Radio Liberty that the list also may serve for the election frauds.

Parliamentary opposition Heritage party MP Larisa Alaverdyan welcomed the innovation in the interview with Radio Liberty. However, she doubts on its publicity and transparency for the interested parties of civil society. Besides, she believes that everything good is changed into bad when used in Armenia, depending on the goal of the political party.

Speculations about alleged "powerful" Azerbaijani army are bluff-Armenian General

Rumors about alleged 'powerful' Azerbaijani army are bluff, while Ilham Aliyev's statement is nothing but a show, Artsakh liberation war veteran, Arkadi Ter-Tadevosyan (Commandos) said at a press conference on January 31.

"Azerbaijan has a problem with ethnic minorities with a sense of identity. We cannot speak about united Azerbaijani nation, therefore it is impossible to imagine combat ready army," Ter-Tadevosyan said adding the Armenian Army is less in number but there is more combat readiness.

"Their Army is a show while Armenian one is a real force. Moreover, the Armenian army has



high-skilled staff, modernized equipment, as well as professionalism gained during NATO and CSTO joint trainings," he added.

Turkish human rights defender who acknowledged Armenian Genocide nominated for Nobel Prize

Several Swedish MPs have applied to the Nobel Peace Committee with the proposal to give the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to famous Turkish human rights defender Ragip Zarakolu.

As the Turkish Evrensel web-

site informs, the Swedish MPs mentioned in their proposal that Zarakolu published materials on the Armenian Genocide and the Kurdish issue which are taboos in Turkey. He has been sentenced for those publications several times.

One month ago Zarakolu has sent a letter to the Turkish parliament calling them to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

"Yes, Turkey must face its history. It is not only an obligation towards the victims but also a

duty for securing healthy way of thinking for the society. The acknowledgement of the genocide will not belittle Turkey but will strengthen it," Zarakolu wrote.

Ragip Zarakolu is a known

human rights defender and publisher in Turkey. Many materials on the Armenian Genocide have been published in his Belge publishing house. On February in 2011 Zarakolu visited Armenia.

Iran's Ambassador to Moscow: "We are ready for everything to uphold the honor of Iran"

Exclusive interview of Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Moscow Seyed Reza Sajjadi to Mediamax.

- You mentioned in one of your recent interviews that the peace in the region will be established in the region only if all the Western military forces leave the region. Did Iran's official stance change given the fact the representative of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Hossein Salami made a statement on January 21 according to which there is nothing unusual about the presence of U.S. navy in the Persian Gulf? "American navy and military forces have been in the Persian Gulf and Near East for already many years. There is nothing uncommon about the fact that Pentagon sends a new warship to the region. The step should be considered in the light of maintaining the U.S. permanent presence in the region", he said.

- No, our stance hasn't changed. We believe the presence of military forces of foreign states hinders the peace in this region. As for the statement made by Mr. Salami, he meant the presence of warships which is indeed a common practice given the fact that there were similar placements of such ships in the past as well. Iran has already got used to threats and they are not new for us. For this reason, we don't think the presence of warships right and we support they should leave the region.

- Some Western states threaten to take military actions against Iran.

Is Iran ready for the possible war?

- Iran is a powerful country and the Iranian people have formerly proved that they are ready for everything to uphold their country's honor. In this case, we have alternative variants. But we think if there are intelligent politicians in the U.S., they will not take such a step any more taking into account Americans' defeats in Afghanistan, Iraq and other states.

- After the EU had imposed an oil embargo against Iran, Tehran decided to make a step in return and be the first to stop oil supplies to Europe. Who will suffer most due to this decision?

- The Western approach to Iran was unfair and based on double-standards in the past. Currently, only 17% of our oil is exported to Europe. Anyways, imposing an embargo can't exert a considerable impact on Iran. For this reason, it's clear that Europe deprives itself a very important "player" in oil supplies which doesn't take part in the political games. And the politicization of oil will be detrimental to Europe in the first place. If buyers start imposing an embargo to the producers and energy resources suppliers, one day the producer will start imposing an embargo to the buyers by stopping selling energy resources to them.

- According to the data published by the Ministry of Petroleum of Iran, 2.5 cubic meters of Iranian gas is annually imported to Armenia. May the embargo



imposed against Iran affect the import of the Iranian gas to Armenia?

- I am sure that the embargo will no way affect the import of the Iranian gas to Armenia as we supply gas and not oil to Armenia. The policy of Iran is based on the principle of creating a good image on the gas market.

- How will Armenian-Iranian relations develop in 2012?

- Iran's strategic policy is based on the principle of establishing the best relations with neighbors. For this reason, as a very good partner of ours, Armenia has successfully collaborated with Iran and this interaction will be very positive in the future as well.

- How do you assess Iranian-Azerbaijani and Iranian-Turkish relations?

- Turkey and Azerbaijan are our neighbors. Historically, we have good relations with these countries. Of course, some arguments occur in some cases but it's important to

remove all these discords at the right time.

- Russia refused to sell C-300 systems to Iran several days ago. Will Moscow's step have an impact on Russian-Iranian relations?

- Of course, at first Iran was offended but taking into account the historical ties between Russia and Iran we may say that the issue is of no importance any more. We have such strong ties in various activity spheres that the weakening of cooperation in one sphere won't have a serious impact on the cooperation in other spheres.

- French President Nicolas Sarkozy stated several days ago that he would do everything not to allow the military actions against Iran to start which according to him will lead to a war and chaos. However, at the same time he urged the international community to impose new sanctions against Iran. How would you comment on this statement?

- When I speak to different diplomats here in Moscow, they mention that Sarkozy very often changes his mind - there are many ups and downs. That's why one shouldn't take his words seriously. We think the military actions against Iran will be a great mistake. And sanctions against Iran are also a great mistake. That's why they should recognize our logical rights and abstain from applying double-standards to our country instead of speaking to Iran in the language of force.

- Baku indirectly accused

Tehran of recent hacker attacks to a number of Azerbaijani sites.

- We deny these accusations. Perhaps, it was done by particular persons but we think the internet space should be healthy, without any interventions. And if Azerbaijanis have authentic documents and reasons, let them turn to us and we'll deal with the issue.

- What do you think how much possible it is for Georgia to join NATO? And what position will Iran hold if it takes place?

- We are convinced the West is interested in Georgia's membership to NATO to destabilize the situation around Russia. If it takes place, indeed it would be no way beneficial to the Georgian people, vice versa - it will be a great loss for them. The more independent the country, the better both for the state itself and the people.

- Have you ever been to Armenia?

- Unfortunately, I have been to Armenia only once. It was a short-term visit for a few hours. Besides, I didn't leave the airport where we were holding the negotiations. I have always been interested and attracted by the Armenian culture which has much in common with the Iranian one. The Armenian and Iranian people are very much alike by the warmth and hospitality. Give my regards to the Armenian people.

Iran's Ambassador was interviewed by Narine Daneghyan specially for Mediamax.

The Armenian Victorious Army is 20: a Report on the Festive Events



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**,
Chief correspondent

January 28th 2012 was the 20th birthday of THE ARMENIAN VICTORIOUS ARMY, and The Highlights published a series of stories on that remarkable occasion in its several latest issues. And the events aimed at marking this jubilee started a couple of weeks before, such as youth marches, plenary scientific and public gatherings, numerous mass media publications, movies such as a TV series *"The Daughter of a General"*, or fully-fledged feature film *"It's Me..."*. Most probably, 27-29 January could be considered a culmination of the festivities program. On 27 January the RA President, the Armed Forces Supreme Commander-in-Chief **Serzh Sargsyan** handed the state awards, -medals and orders to a group of servicemen and freedom fighters for their *"significant contribution to the army building, as well as for their valor and dedication in defending the borders of the Motherland"* at the official ceremony took place at the Presidential Palace, and a number of servicemen were distinguished with military ranks. *"Distinguished Generals, Officers, and Soldiers, through the awards handed to you on the occasion of the jubilee of the creation of the Armenian Armed Forces our country and our nation express their feelings for you dedicated service. Today, you are being awarded for your success and achievements, which make Armenia even stronger in every sense of the word. We are proud of you and your brothers in arms,"* President Serzh Sargsyan said.

And in the same day evening the RA President and the First Lady **Rita Sargsyan** were the guests of honor at the huge concert/show held at the Karen Demirchyan Sports'n'Concert Complex (SCC). Interestingly, the invitees were obtained with a really unique chance to enjoy not only the Concert itself, but, in your author's opinion, in not a lesser extent, a theatrical historical scenes at the stages located in a "gorge" formed by the two long staircases to the venue of the Concert, SCC, - such as the gladiators' combat, a replica of a Cilician navy ship with the fighting personnel, a huge map of Western Armenia with the

Armenian *fidayins* (guerillas) fighting Turkish invaders, big portraits of the legendary Armenian military figures such as Generals **Andranik, Nazarbekian, Silikyan**, the Great **Nzhdeh** (Garegin Ter-Harutyunyan) followed by a terrace stage of 1915 Genocide refugees fleeing to Eastern Armenia, and a stage of an episode from the Great Patriotic War (Soviet name of the World War II)....

As to the Concert, it started from a military parade featured some breath-taking episodes such as an of-

menian *Bikers*" were biking around the stage during that performance).

Before the show program beginning the RA Defense Minister **Seyran M. Ohanyan** delivered a speech which could be considered a kind of report to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief and the Nation. The speech was ended by the following:

"May Lord bless all Armenians and make national aspirations come true! Eternal glory to devotees of the Armenian army and long live Armenia! Hooray!!!"

Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan**, and senior army officers were also on hand at the Pantheon to pay their respects to the fallen heroes. There they met the war vets, relatives of the FALLEN HEROES, answered questions from the mass media reps.

Later on the same day the RA Ministry of Defense convened a special session for the National Army Day, during which state and departmental awards were presented.

And festive fireworks lighted the night, at 10 p.m., followed by

MENIAN VICTORIOUS ARMY presided by the Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II was served.

To note, the Armenian Armed Forces 20th birthday was marked not only in Armenia itself, but also abroad, - in Iran, Belgium, - at the RA Mission to the NATO Headquarters, USA, - at the US Armed Forces Central Command.

Notably, on 2 February the RA Minister of Defence Seyran Ohanyan, accompanied by his spouse Mrs **Ruzanna Khachatryan**, visited family of **Vazgen Sargsyan**, the first RA Defense Minister called by his comrades-in-arms *"The Sparapet"* (The Army Chief) assassinated (being the RA PM), with other Ministers/MPs at the bloody massacre in the Armenian Parliament on 27.10.99., where handed to the V. Sargsyan Memorial Museum the RA Defense Minister's Memorial Medal *"To My Comrade-in-Arms"* awarded to Vazgen Sargsyan (posthumously) by Seyran Ohanyan. The RA Defense Minister handed over Sparapet's Mother, Mrs **Greta Sargsyan**, *"The RA Armed Forces: 20 Years"* Jubilee Medal.

Among notable events we'd like to outline also Armenia's Defense Minister's visit to the French University in Armenia on Jan.31 where he spoke on the Armenian Army's history, including its modern-day challenges, and the prospects for co-operation of the RA Armed Forces with the higher education institutions. Seyran Ohanyan awarded the Armenian Armed Forces' *"Military Cooperation"* Medal to the University's Rector Mrs **Joelle Le Morzel-ec**, and several lecturers were awarded the *"Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia: 20 Years"* Jubilee Medal.

...As Minister Seyran Ohanyan stated before mass media reps, - during his visit to Yerevan Pantheon on Jan.28, the Army is increasing its military capabilities by way of acquiring weaponry.

"We will acquire new weaponry, no later than by 2015, which will be long-range, [and] accurate, and it will solve those problems which the Army faces," Minister Ohanyan said.

The RA Defense Minister noted also that the Armenia's Security Council approved in 2011 Armenia's military industry concept, in accordance of which a huge program of measures is planned for this year.

...Well, God helps, as only in January 2012 *"the Adversary"* broken ceasefire regime for more than 150 times...



ficer's passing through two rows of soldiers throwing to each other guns with the naked bayonets attached just before that officer's every single step ahead.

Importantly, besides traditional pop/folk/patriotic songs the concert program included classical pieces such as from Verdi's *"Nabucco"* performed by a world famous soprano **Hasmik Papayan** as well as another famous song, but of rock, - Status Quo's *"In the Army Now"* performed by *"Empyray"* band.(And *"The Ar-*

And the servicemen at the stage as well as among the guests of honor replied by three-fold *"Hooray!!!"*

And the next day, on 28 January, - the Armenian Armed Forces' formation 20th anniversary day, President Serzh Sargsyan paid a visit to Yerevan's *Yerablur* (The Three Hills) Pantheon for Karabakh war FALLEN HEROES and laid a wreath to the memorial. Nagorno-Karabakh Republic President **Bako Sahakyan**, National Assembly Speaker **Samvel Nikoyan**, PM **Tigran Sargsyan**,

twenty artillery rounds.

...Interestingly, on the same day the Armenian Army Sergeant **Rubik Mikaelyan** marked the Army's 20th birthday in a unique way - by performing 7,500 sit-ups, by this breaking own previous record (6,500 sit-ups), which will be registered in the Guinness Book of the World Records.

On Sunday at the Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral a solemn liturgy for the memory of the FALLEN HEROES and glorification of THE AR-

**On the eve of the St. Sargis'/St Valentine's Day VivaCell-MTS and Mediamax offer a chance to win an iPad2 by participating in the "Love and Tech" quiz...
...and new surprises for "Home-Zone Turbo" package and "MTS Connect Unlimited"/ "MTS Connect Unlimited+" subscribers**

By **Andy Barsamian**

VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading mobile operator and Mediamax News Agency, on the eve of the St. Sargis' / St Valentine's Day celebrated in February, present the *Love and Tech* joint project, the winner of which will get an iPad 2 tablet.

To take part in the contest, participants have to submit an essay telling about the way the new technologies (Facebook, Twitter, smartphones, and gadgets) impact the life of people in love, whether they make expressions of love easier, or harder.

Conditions for participation:

- The size of the essay must not exceed 500 words or 1.5 pages;
- Eligible for the participation are people under 40;
- Authors must guarantee their

authorship of the submitted work; in case of violation of the copyright, the participant will be disqualified;

- The project started on January 23rd (publicized on www.Bravo.am; www.mediamax.am; www.itel.am); the essays must be submitted by February 10th (including).

The essays should be sent to contest@mediamax.am indicating **iPad contest** in the "subject" line. Essays with subject line other than the indicated will not be considered. Other required attachments to the essay include:

-Participant's photo and phone number (to be published with the essay).

Essays submitted without a photo or a phone number will not be considered for participation.

All submitted essay will be published on the specially opened sec-

tion on Mediamax's <http://www.Mediamax.am/am/specialprojects> website, except the works, which obviously contradict the project requirements and logic, involve assertions and materials unrelated to the topic, or include offensive wording.

For updates on the progress of the project, publication of the submitted works, as well as for feedback, please register on Mediamax Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Mediamax.am>

The winner of the project will be announced on February 13th. The winner will be invited to VivaCell-MTS headquarters to get the prize.

The winner of the contest will be decided by Mediamax and VivaCell-MTS joint jury.

In case of problem with deciding the absolute winner, the jury reserves the right to invite the authors

of the best essays for an interview to decide the best work.

VivaCell-MTS and Mediamax wish good luck to all participants.

VivaCell-MTS offers its subscribers iPad 2 as well as a wide range of notebooks and notebooks of the world's leading producers such as Toshiba, HP, Dell, IBM, Acer, and Samsung.

And the latest surprise for VivaCell-MTS **"Home-Zone Turbo"** package subscribers is that from beginning February 1st, 2012, **"Home-Zone Turbo"** package subscribers will get ten times more embedded airtime, as well as twice faster Internet for the same monthly fee.

This means that now the package includes 1000 minutes of on-net airtime, instead of the 100 minutes before, and the download speed makes 4 Mbps instead of the 2 Mbps

before.

And the last, but not the least: **surprises for "MTS Connect Unlimited" and "MTS Connect Unlimited+" subscribers** continue as from February till May 2012 the *"MTS Connect Unlimited"* package subscribers **for the same price** will continue receiving 10GB of high-speed Internet for download monthly, instead of the 5GB before.

Similarly, the *"MTS Connect Unlimited+"* package subscribers will have 20GB of high-speed Internet for download monthly, instead of the 10GB before.


For more information one can visit www.vivacell.am, contact 111 free of charge hotline, chat with the Company's personnel through "111 Online", or approach one of VivaCell-MTS service centers across Armenia.



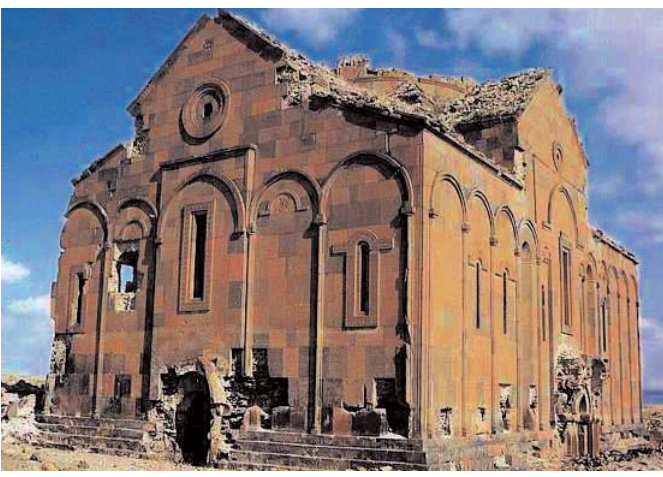
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Noyan Tapan Photo Studio




The newly-opened Kaissa chess school

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The start of negotiations on DCFTA agreement to be announced during Armenian President's visit to Brussels

The works realized in Armenia for starting the negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement with the European Union (DCFTA) will be given a final assessment on February 5.

Armenian Minister of Economy Tigran Davtyan said this during the discussions with the Armenian Prime Minister on January 30.

"The meeting aims to discuss

the course of fulfillment of our commitments to the EU. We are preparing the Armenian President's visit to Brussels with in which the start of negotiations on the agreement (the undertaken commitments are the precondition to the agreement) will be announced.

First of all, we should discuss the package of legislative amendments in the parliament which was adopted at the first reading

and concerns the standardization and metrology. We should adopt these laws at the second and third readings", noted Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

Tigran Davtyan said that the approved measures were mostly implemented in four areas - reforms in the sphere of eliminating technical hindrances of trade, sanitary, rights of intellectual property and general coordination.

Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Plant - the largest taxpayer of 2011

Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Plant topped the list of Armenia's largest taxpayers of 2011.

The company paid taxes at the amount of AMD 29bln 778mln 161.9 thousand in 2011, Mediamax reports.

"ArmRosGazprom" (AMD 21bln 799mln 881.6 thousand) and "K-Telecom" (VivaCell-MTS trademark, AMD 17bln 751mln 611.9 thousand) ranked the second and third on the list of the largest taxpayers respectively.

The list of the top 10 largest taxpayers also includes: "Alex Grig" (AMD 17bln 715mln 826.2 thousand), "ArmenTel" (Beeline brand, AMD 12 bln 594mln 586.5thousand), "City Petrol Group" (AMD 10bln 507mln 804.5thousand), "Flesh" (AMD 10bln 398mln 701.8thousand),



Armenian Electric Networks (AMD9bln 647mln 704.3thousand), "Phillip-Morris Armenia" (AMD 6bln 348mln 895.9 thousand) and "Armenia International Airports" (AMD 5bln 922mln

509.5 thousand).

The volume of taxes paid by top 10 largest taxpayers in 2011 exceeded the index of 2010 by 20.5% (AMD 24.3bln) having made AMD 142.46bln. The same index of 1000 largest taxpayers (AMD 483.5bln) exceeded the index of 2010 by 11.7% (AMD 50.7bln).

In 2011, Armenian Electric Networks (AMD 2bln 421mln 3 6 7 . 4 t h o u s a n d) , "ArmRosGazprom" (AMD 1bln 660mln 887.8thousand) and "ArmenTel" took leading positions on the list in terms of compulsory social security contributions.

By the number of employees, the list is topped by Armenian Electric Networks (7464), "ArmRosGazprom" and South Caucasus Railways (SCR).

Transport and Communication Ministry of Armenia to work over its four priorities in 2012

Transport and Communication Minister of Armenia Manuk Vardanyan presented at a news conference today the four main priorities of the ministry for 2012. Minister said the first priority is Vanadzor-Fioletovo railway where works are being held for accomplishing the projecting phase.

The second priority is connected with the construction of the North-South highway. The negotiations over providing funds are underway with the Asian bank.

"The final answers and decisions in this issue are expected only in two months. We are holding everyday negotiations with the

Asian Bank trying to provide all the possible documents and information for speeding up the process," the minister said.

Manuk Vardanyan said another prior direction of the ministry is bringing Yerevan and provincial parking lots to an appropriate level.

Tigran Sargsyan gives lecture on "Economic Policy in Post-Crisis Period: Challenges and Opportunities"

Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Sargsyan met in Tsakhkadzor with the attendees of the Yerevan school of Political Courses January 29. Governmental press office told that the head of the executive power delivered a lecture on "Economic Policy in Post-Crisis Period: Challenges and Opportunities".

At the meeting present were Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Shavarsh Kocharyan,

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern and Finn Ambassador to Armenia Petri Olavi Salo.

Welcoming the guests Tigran Sargsyan has noted that the goal of the lecture is to try to understand what roots the crisis has, how it is being manifested and what is the way out. "Today we are living in a period full of interior controversies the outcome of which is crisis. With this lecture I want to refer to the cracks which

are the main reasons of crisis and which describe the issues of the contemporary world," the PM said.

Tigran Sargsyan has noted that these cracks are four - growing inequality between the societies, collision of democracy and capitalism, as well as financial and trade unbalances.

The prime minister has thoroughly referred to each of them as well as to the reforms in the economic policy, education, justice,

Germany will continue assisting Armenia - German ambassador

The Government of Germany will continue assisting Armenia in carrying out its legal and economic reforms, German Ambassador to Armenia, Hans-Jochen Schmidt said during a seminar, being held in Aghveran village, which is devoted to unfair economic competition.

The seminar is being held in cooperation with the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The Ambassador specifically underscored the need to develop Armenia's competitive environment, and, with the German example, he demonstrated how competition stimulates economic growth. "Fortunately, Germany was defeated in World War II, and, on the

instruction of the Allied Forces, it had to transform its economic makeup. And this means the cartels and the monopolistic structures disintegrated," Ambassador Schmidt noted. And thus prerequisites were created for the development of small and medium business; and many small businesses later became internationally recognized companies.

Armenian State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition Chairman Artak Shaboyan thanked the German ambassador for his assistance, and noted that Armenia's legislation in the field of competition is similar to the German legislation in many aspects.

Thousands removed from Armenian pension registry

Hovannes Shoghikyan

More than 10,000 names have been removed from Armenia's nationwide lists of pensioners since the government began investigating last year alleged fraud in the payment of social benefits, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Artur Grigorian said on January 31.

The ministry was ordered to start a complete revision of those lists in January 2011 after the Armenian parliament's Audit Chamber alleged that thousands of pensioners received, on paper, pensions years after their death.

The chamber implicitly claimed that this money was pocketed by officials from the state pension fund subordinate to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The head of the fund, Vazgen Khachikyan, was sacked in December 2010.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General found these claims credible in May, assigning the Armenian police to open a criminal case. One pension fund official was arrested and more than 20 years named suspects in an ensuing police inquiry. Khachikyan, who is a well-known member of

the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, is not among them.

According to Grigoryan, the number of Armenians eligible for pensions has since been lowered from roughly 520,000 to 509,000. He said the revision, carried out simultaneously with an ongoing creation of an integrated national database of pensioners, has also revealed that many other elderly people have received two pensions at a time.

"There were people who were assigned pensions by the State Social Security Service and the Defense Ministry or the police and for years received double pensions. The new database will prevent such a thing," the minister told a news conference. He said the new computerized pension registry would be completed by July.

Grigorian estimated last summer that the crackdown on the alleged pension scam would save 7 billion drams (\$18 million) in public funds in 2011 alone.

The average monthly pension in Armenia currently stands at a modest 31,300 drams. The sum is equivalent to less than 27 percent of the country's official average wage.

Davutoglu thanks Clinton for remarks on Armenian bill

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu held a phone conversation with his U.S. counterpart Hillary Clinton on Saturday.

Diplomatic sources said that Davutoglu phoned Clinton and thanked her for the remarks made over an Armenian bill adopted at the French Senate last Monday.

In her statement, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had said that using the power of a government over historical issues would

open a very dangerous door.

On Monday, the French Senate adopted an Armenian bill that criminalizes the denial of Armenian allegations pertaining to the incidents of 1915.

Davutoglu and Clinton discussed the recent developments in the Middle East.

Davutoglu and Clinton also talked about Davutoglu's upcoming working trip to the U.S. in February.

For the First time, the Armenian Government Presents its Industrial Policy

By Haroutiun Khachatryan

Last autumn, reports appeared in Armenian newspapers that a new industrial policy of the government is being prepared.

On December 4, an economy seminar was held in the "Tumo" center of Yerevan (a center that was mainly occupied in educational programs in the sphere of information technologies) at which an economy team of the ruling Republican party (both Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian and Minister Economy, Tigran Davtian are members of that team) presented that policy, a whole program, to other political forces and to the wider public.

To understand the importance of this event, some historical background is to be presented.

First years of independence

I want to remind first that Armenia became an independent nation in 1991, after the breakdown of the USSR.

In the days when Armenia gained independence, and even earlier, the main economic slogan in USSR and post-Soviet countries was privatization. This movement from publicly owned (Soviet-type) economy to market-based one continued in Armenia till late 1990s when large enterprises such as the Yerevan Brandy Factory and ArmenTel telecommunication giant were sold to private investors. In parallel, the governments were taking new "rules of game," namely, the state should not interfere much in businesses. This policy had two reasons. First, the governments believed that open markets would regulate economy (and international financial organizations like the IMF used to support and encourage this approach). In particular, due to this approach the share of industry in GDP fell from near 50% in the economy of the Soviet Armenia to 17% in 2007 and 14% in 2010. The second reason was more specific for Armenia. This reason was that the governments of Armenia needed desperately money; they did not receive billions of dollars from abroad like Israel (and later, Georgia) did and they were not able to afford large borrowings similar to countries like Greece (debt/GDP ratio was 45% in Armenia in 2011 whereas it was 150% in Greece and 120% in Italy). In addition, Armenia has no reserves of oil or gas like Azerbaijan or Russia did. So the Armenian governments used to make negligible investments using its own funds and the vast majority of state investments (such as repairs of the irrigation system) were due to concession loans of institutions like the World Bank. By the way, these new "rules of game" were and till now are difficult to be adopted by

many Armenians. Many of them have seen that the Soviet government did everything in the country and get surprised why the governments of the new Armenia are not doing the same? A second group of population is also unhappy with policy of the Armenian governments: I mean people, almost one third of population of Armenia, who, during the difficulties of early 1990s left the country for Russia and European countries and saw that the governments of these countries are more active in economy than the Armenian governments were.

The government during the crisis

The global economic crisis of 2008 which hit Armenia mainly in 2009 marked a new stage in its economic policy, as for the first time since independence in 1991, its government started to perform what can be called "active economic policy". Initially the government led by Tigran Sargsyan (previously he was the head of the Central Bank) was doing the same as any other government does during the crisis; namely, it used significant funds (both collected by itself and loans got from outside) to activate the economy and to prevent important enterprises (e.g. large copper-producing mines) from going bust. Of course, opposition parties immediately spoke about steps of the government aimed at saving "oligarchs". Also, the government sent significant funds to reconstruction of the zone of the 1988 earthquake of Spitak in an effort to stimulate construction. Such efforts have not been made since early 1990s, and this construction is continuing now.

In parallel, the government began to provide benefits to companies which, according to its estimates, could produce competitive production now or in the near future. The list of these benefits included a large variety of means ranging from some participation in company's capital to limited tax benefits. So, the government acted as a type of investment bank. These phenomena had no large scale (some 50 million drams were used which is equivalent to 140,000 dollars) but they marked a true revolution in the government behavior: namely, the government agreed to reduce its revenues (or even spend money) for future growth in selected sectors of the economy. In particular, by postponing the payment of value added tax for large investments for three years the government reached good results: by postponing payment of this tax worth 14.9 billion drams it stimulated investments worth 75 billion drams (more than 200

million dollars, which was significant for this country). According to the government, several beneficiaries of this measure have already applied for getting additional tax privileges or for the extension of the old ones.

Free economic zones

The next step taken in 2011 was more profound in terms of funding. On 25th of May, the Armenian Parliament adopted a Law on Free Economic Zones (FEZ) according to which enterprises working in such zones can be given privileges in taxation and paying customs including completely freeing of them. The first two FEZs will hopefully operate in 2012. The first FEZ is planned to be created near Zvartnots international airport and will be used for production and exports of food, another one, a high-tech FEZ is planned to create on the territory of Mars, a large robot-constructing factory. Separate FEZs can be created for diamond cutting and jewelry as well.

Thus, the step for which many economists have been calling was at last taken by the government.

The program

This is the background which resulted in the seminar of December the 4th 2011 which I spoke about above. As I said, at that event, the government has presented for public discussion a document named: An Industrial Policy of Armenia Aimed at Stimulating Exports. It included a list of 11 spheres of the industry which, according to specialists (including those of the World Bank), the business community and Ministry of Economy, can be promising for Armenia.

- Export or die, this is the rule of modern economy - one of the seminar participants said. In 2010, imports to Armenia exceeded exports more than threefold.

Here is the list of these eleven spheres: 5 spheres of food production, 3 spheres attached to jewelry, pharmacology, biotechnology and precision engineering. Three of these spheres are already given detailed strategies of development and they were presented on that day. These are: brandy production, pharmacology (together with bioengineering) and precision engineering, the latter sector including many businesses ranging from tool production to crystal growing. By 2020, exports from enterprises belonging to these three spheres will, according to the Document, triple, and up to tenfold increase of exports in some sectors is expected. Detailed strategies for the remaining spheres will be presented later and I suppose the



above list will be modified depending on how successful this initial stage is.

An important moment is that the government is able to stimulate the productivity of the businesses already existing in Armenia. This stimulation is, according to the authors of the Document, a more important goal for the government than creating new jobs. For example, there are over 60 companies in Armenia, (with more than 4,000 employees), which can be classified as belonging to precision engineering. The government expects to support these industries with its old tools including tax privileges (up to full elimination of taxes in free economic zones), provision of cheap credits, provision of tax benefits, etc. It has no special fund for this policy but the tools of stimulation of investment include a rather wide spectrum and can hopefully stimulate production of goods competitive on the external markets.

For stimulating these and other spheres, the above-mentioned investment tools will be used and several internationally recognized companies are expected to enter the country. Several large companies such as D-Link (a Taiwan-based leading producer of networking equipment) and National Instruments (an American company producing automated test equipment, its Hong Kong branch is active in Armenia) have already said about their plans to open offices and branches in Armenia.

These industries and the whole Armenia do need contemporary specialists. No wonder, that modern education is a principal target of the Document, it pays much attention to the problems of education and preparation of new specialists. To that

end, the Yerevan Engineering University (formerly known as Polytechnic Institute) is considered as a central player. Under the Document, by 2020 this University will become a regional scientific center. Armenia hopes to become eventually a major exporter of knowledge as well.

The seminar held on December 4 was also important in the political sense as well, because it presented the Document prepared for many years ahead to the whole Armenia. "Whoever rules the country, this Document must be important for him" the government wanted to say. The Document covers a period of at least eight years.

The CIS countries, i.e., the countries of the former USSR are expected to be the main markets for Armenia and signing of the Deep and Comprehensive Trade Agreement with the European Union is considered as an important goal as it will open the EU markets for such production as well.

- Armenia was, is and will be an industrial country, Tigran Davtian, Minister of Economy stated. This Ministry is the principal actor in preparation of this Document.

Finally, in addition to the above-mentioned list, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources has been working hardly in the spheres of electrical energy production, chemical industry and mining.

Thus, the present Armenian government has set these ambitious goals. Their realization will be very difficult as competition is too strong in the modern world, and the small country of Armenia has loaded with many political problems as well.

Harut Sassounian: France Shouldn't Allow Turkey To Meddle in its Domestic Affairs



By **Harut Sassounian**
Publisher, *The California Courier*

For nearly a century, Turkey's leaders have tried to hide the monstrous crime of the Armenian Genocide by covering up what really took place in the killing fields of the Syrian desert, then part of the Ottoman Empire. The powerful Turkish state has committed its considerable financial and diplomatic resources to the nefarious cause of genocide denial.

Turkish leaders do not seem to realize that as they deny and lie, and vainly proclaim their innocence, they actually help publicize their dastardly act to an incredulous worldwide audience.

Furthermore, even though today's Turkish officials were not the ones who committed the genocide of 1915, they foolishly associate themselves with their criminal predecessors, thus making themselves accessories after the fact by lying about it and concealing the evidence.

With each passing day, the Turkish leadership is further submerging itself in a mire of its own making. Let's take a closer look at its sordid behavior in the French government's decision-making process.

Over ten years ago, when the French legislature was adopting a law recognizing the Armenian Genocide, the Turkish government used its usual bag of tricks in a failed attempt to undermine that effort. After the Parliament and Senate recognized the Genocide, Pres. Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin on January 29, 2001, signed the following law: "France publicly recognizes the Armenian Genocide of 1915."

Even though the French law had made no mention of Turkey or the Ottoman Empire as perpetrator of the Genocide, Turkish officials exhibited a guilty conscience by their exaggerated claims of innocence; hence identifying themselves as the culprits in this heinous crime, while no one was pointing a finger at them.

The long arm of the Turkish state interfered in French domestic

affairs once again in 2006, when lawmakers in Paris attempted to establish a penalty for those violating the law passed in 2001, applying the same sanctions to those denying the Holocaust. Regrettably, the French government succumbed to Turkish threats and hysterics and blocked the measure, until the Senate finally approved it on January 23, 2012.

The French public is now facing yet another egregious attempt of foreign interference in their domestic issues. The Turkish Union of Chambers of Commerce and Commodity Exchanges hired a French lobbying firm last week to pressure legislators into filing a legal challenge to the law banning denial of genocides recognized by French law -- the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. So much for Turkish threats to boycott French companies!

Pres. Sarkozy has 15 days from January 23 to sign the new law, unless 60 members of the French Parliament and Senate act first by petitioning the Constitutional Court to rule on its legality. The Turkish Ambassador, contravening

a foreign diplomat's mandate not to meddle in French domestic matters, has used all possible means of pressure and "inducement" in a desperate attempt to secure the necessary 60 signatures.

The Turkish government may be making a serious mistake by assuming that the court will necessarily find the new law to be unconstitutional. Turkish officials could be undermining their own interests should the court decide that the law is constitutional, thereby precluding any future legal challenges from Turkish denialists who would be arrested for denying the Armenian Genocide, once the law goes into effect.

In recent days, Turkey's leaders have made utterly ridiculous statements about the new law. Prime Minister Erdogan accused France of following "the footsteps of fascism." How can the leader of a country that is one of the biggest violators of human rights dare to blame France for fascism? Pres. Gul jumped into the fray by accusing France of "limiting freedom of expression." Has the Turkish President checked his own coun-

try's jails where dozens of journalists are languishing for months without trial for simply writing articles critical of the government? Has he read Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code -- "insulting Turkishness" -- which bans all public references to the Armenian Genocide? Foreign Minister Davutoglu may have gotten it right when he complained that the French law is an attempt to "Nazify Turkey," except that this is being done not by France but by his own government which continues to associate itself with the crimes of a now defunct Ottoman Empire.

The most laughable statement, however, was made by Turkey's brash Minister of European Affairs Egemen Bagis during his recent visit to Switzerland. He dared Swiss authorities to arrest him for denying the Armenian Genocide, since Switzerland, similar to France, has a law banning genocide denial. Minister Bagis is fortunate that he cannot be arrested or prosecuted because of his diplomatic immunity. Nevertheless, he could and should be expelled from Switzerland as persona non grata!

Austerity vs. Europe

MADRID - It is now increasingly clear that what started in late 2008 is no ordinary economic slump. Almost four years after the beginning of the crisis, developed economies have not managed a sustainable recovery, and even the better-off countries reveal signs of weakness. Faced with the certainty of a double-dip recession, Europe's difficulties are daunting.

Not only is Europe running the risk of lasting economic damage; high long-term unemployment and popular discontent threaten to weaken permanently the cohesiveness of its social fabric. And, politically, there is a real danger that citizens will stop trusting institutions, both national and European, and be tempted by populist appeals, as in the past.

Europe must avoid this scenario at all costs. Economic growth must be the priority, for only growth will put people back to work and repay Europe's debts.

Understandably, there is a debate about how to achieve recovery. Advocates of austerity argue that debt has a negative impact on growth; proponents of further stimulus counter that it is low growth that generates public debt, not the other way around, and that austerity in times of recession only makes things worse.

But Europeans do not have to agree on everything to find a common course. We can disagree about the long-term effects of liquidity injections, but we can all agree that it is not right to allow profitable companies to fail because credit markets are not working. We do not have to see eye to eye on fiscal

policy to understand that it makes more sense to promote investment than to see our productive structure languish. And we all know that it is more cost-effective to invest in retraining the jobless than to allow long-term unemployment.

In any case, doubts about the negative impact of austerity are becoming impossible to ignore. History shows that in a deep recession it is far more dangerous to withdraw economic stimulus too early than too late.

An excessive cut in public spending in the current circumstances can lead to a contraction in growth, which is already happening: the International Monetary Fund now projects that the eurozone will shrink by 0.5% in 2012. Structural reforms are important to guarantee future sustainable growth, but they do not generate growth in the short term, which is what Europe needs. Instead, in exchange for meager progress on debt reduction, Europe risks causing lasting damage to its growth potential.

Compared to a new recession, the long-term cost of stimulus policies is insignificant. In many countries, current budget deficits are the result not of reckless government overspending, but of temporary measures to deal with the crisis. With interest rates already low and the private sector deleveraging, there is little risk of expansionary policies causing inflation or crowding out private investment. By contrast, spending reductions could undermine economic activity and increase, not decrease, the public-debt burden.

Public debt, moreover, should

not be demonized. It makes financial sense for states to share the cost of public investments, such as infrastructure projects or public services, with future generations, which will also benefit from them. Debt is the mechanism by which we institutionalize intergenerational solidarity. The problem is not debt, but ensuring that it finances productive investment, that it is kept within reasonable limits, and that it can be serviced with little difficulty.

Yet, ominously, the same arguments that turned the 1929 financial crisis into the Great Depression are being used today in favor of austerity at all costs. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. Political leaders must take the initiative to avert an economically driven social crisis. Two actions are urgently needed.

At a global level, more must be done to address macroeconomic imbalances and generate demand in surplus countries, including developed economies like Germany. Surplus emerging-market economies must understand that a prolonged contraction in the developed world creates a real danger of a global downturn at a time when they no longer retain the room for maneuver that they had four years ago.

Within the eurozone, structural reforms and more efficient public spending, which are essential to sustainable long-term growth and debt levels, must be combined with policies to support demand and recovery in the short term. The steps taken in this direction by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas

Sarkozy are welcome but insufficient. What is needed is a grand bargain, with countries that lack policy credibility undertaking structural reforms without delay, in exchange for more room within the EU for growth-generating measures, even at the cost of higher short-term deficits.

The world is facing unprecedented challenges. Never before in recent history has a deep recession coincided with seismic geopolitical change. The temptation to favor misguided national priorities could lead to disaster for all.

Only enlightened political leadership can avert this outcome. European leaders must understand that adjustment programs have a social as well as a financial side, and that they will be unsustainable if those affected face the prospect of years of sacrifices with no light

at the end of the tunnel.

Austerity at all costs is a flawed strategy, and it will not work. We cannot allow a misconceived notion of "discipline" to cause lasting damage to our economies and inflict a terrible human toll on our societies. All of Europe must agree on a short-term growth strategy - and implement it quickly.

Javier Solana, former Secretary-General of NATO and EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, is Distinguished Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution and President of the ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics.

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Levon Aronian excludes participation in tournament in Baku



Azerbaijan's Chess Federation has officially filed an application to host international chess qualifying tournament this autumn. Referring to GM Levon Aronian, Mair Mamedov, Vice President of the Federation, declared they were ready to provide terms offered by Levon Aronian.

Armenian Chess Federation reported that Levon Aronian has prepared a response to FIDE President Kirsan Ilumzhinov, FIDE President Board Members. The letter particularly reads:

Dear Mr. President

Dear Presidential Board Members

I learnt from the media, that the Chess Federations of Azerbaijan and Bulgaria had submitted an application on holding the Candidates Tournament of World Championship.

I'd like to inform you that general atmosphere in Azerbaijan and continuous tensions between our countries make my participation in such high ranked tournament in Azerbaijan impossible. A respon-

sible and important event, such as the Candidates Tournament, requires peace of mind and special concentration. No circumstances, if they are not chess-related, should prevent the grandmaster from demonstrating all of his skills. Unfortunately, at this moment no Armenian can find favorable or adequate psychological atmosphere in Azerbaijan, whereas that is something absolutely necessary. In my opinion, all the participants should be in equal conditions, which is impossible in case of holding the tournament in Azerbaijan. Security guaranties and any kind of additional support cannot be a remedy.

Taking into account the above-mentioned considerations, I inform you that I would be delighted to take part in Candidates Tournament in any other country, but my participation in the candidates tournament in Azerbaijan has to be excluded.

I hope you will take into account these considerations while discussing the issue of the tournament venue at the Presidential Board Meeting.

Thank you in advance and best regards,

GM Levon Aronian

Armenian Bar Association accepting applications for its seventh annual scholarship program

Los Angeles, California: - The Armenian Bar Association is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for its Seventh Annual Scholarship Program. The Program is designed to support meritorious students of Armenian descent attending, or accepted for admission to, an approved law school in the United States, Armenia or elsewhere. Recipients must demonstrate an outstanding academic record as well as a strong commitment to the Armenian community, particularly in humanitarian and/or law-related endeavors. The Scholarship Program is primarily funded by donations and by fundraising events hosted by the Armenian Bar Association. In addition to the Scholarship Program, the Armenian Bar Association supports Armenian law students through its varied programs and events including the mentorship and internship programs and presentations by legal scholars.

Students interested in applying for an Armenian Bar Association scholarship should obtain an application at the Armenian Bar Association's website (www.armenianbar.org).

The application deadline is April 30, 2012. The application must either be postmarked by April 30, 2012 or if e-mailed, it should be received no

later than midnight (PST) of April 30, 2012.

The Armenian Bar Association is the largest organization of Armenian lawyers in the world. The Armenian Bar Association performs many functions on behalf of the Armenian community, such as responding to the press or media about topics relating to Armenians, educating American-Armenians regarding their legal rights, and advocating the rule of law in Armenia, all of which are important aspects of advancing both the economic and the humanitarian well-being of Armenia. The Armenian Bar Association also has engaged in many cross-national efforts between the United States and Armenia, such as hosting Armenian attorneys and judges in the United States and promoting Armenian-American attorneys' involvement in the Armenian business and legal world, both as educators and as advisors.

On May 17- 19, 2012, the Armenian Bar Association will hold its 23rd Annual Meeting in Glendale, California. For information on how you can register for this meeting, go to the Armenian Bar Association's website at www.armenianbar.org.

Transmitted to Noyan Tapan by R.Yezeguelian, member of the Bar Association

EU: Armenian authorities should deter the flow of pirated products

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia gives high priority to the effective protection of intellectual property rights.

In an interview to Mediamax, Onno Simons, Head of the Political, Economic, Press and Information Section of the European Union Delegation to Armenia and Alfonso Calles-Sanchez, EU Advisory Group

Advisor on Intellectual Property Rights to the Ministry of Economy, shared their views on the problems and challenges in this field.

According to Onno Simons, the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is one of the main provisions for commencing the negotiations on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).

"Reforms in the IPR system are

very important for the EU. Unfortunately, despite certain progress on the level of the legislative and observatory bodies, weak law enforcement still remains a major challenge," noted the representative of the EU Delegation to Armenia.

Onno Simons stressed that the level of counterfeited and pirated consumption is very high in Armenia. "When buying a certain

product you never know whether it will work or not. This kind of things should be stopped, and that's the reason why we need to raise the awareness of the prosecutors, police officers, customs officers and others," said Onno Simons.

The Advisor on Intellectual Property Rights of the EU Advisory Group, Alfonso Calles-Sanchez, said in the interview to Mediamax that Armenia needs improvements in the legislation in some fields, for example some articles of the Criminal Code and Code of Civil Proceedings. He also emphasized that the Armenian judges, prosecutors and police officers need to enhance and extend the level of their knowledge, information and administrative functions in the field of IPR both in theory and in practice.

"The role of customs in the protection of IPR is extremely important. A great deal of counterfeited products is not only produced in Armenia, but also imported from abroad, for example from China and Turkey, and that is why the role of customs in deterring the flow of counterfeited production is so important. The issue is not only about fake jeans, pirated DVDs, but also about counterfeited medicines, food-stuff and toys for our children, which pose danger to consumers' health and lives. If the Armenian customs authorities are not ready to deter this flow of pirated products today, it will only grow in future" mentioned Calles-



Sanchez.

He also reminded that the EU has established the European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy. The EU Observatory and its Armenian equivalent represent one of the types of partnership between the private sector and public institutions in the IPR field.

According to the European expert, counterfeited production in Armenia is a special case. Calles has noted that the Government of Armenia needs to invest stronger efforts in this field and, primarily towards the law enforcement and stressed that better IPR enforcement means more and better market opportunities for local products: "By purchasing fake products the consumers support the counterfeited fake production and ignore the local economy. Of course, Armenia has its own intellectual property which needs to be protected," Calles concluded

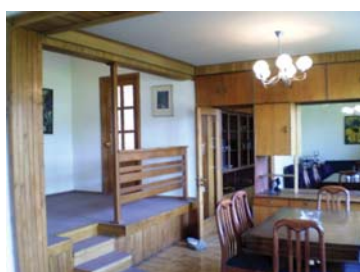
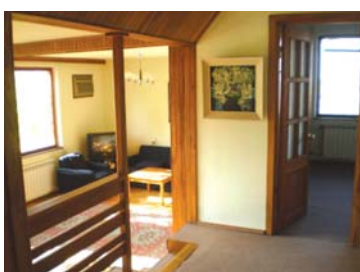
APARTMENT FOR RENT

A comfortable, western style apartment in the center of the city. The second floor of the nice private house with a separate entrance from the street. The apartment has a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and two balconies. It has a heating system, permanent cold and hot water, TV satellite, air conditioners and other facilities. A nice view to Mount Ararat. The house has a nice garden.

Price for a long term: 1000 -1100 USD monthly including gas, heating, electricity and water. for a short term 60-80 USD daily.

Address: 3 Aygedzor Street, Yerevan.

For more information call (37410). 278-709, mob. 093. 229 570



DID YOU KNOW?



Heading by
Marina Harutiunyan
marina@nt.am
Comments are
welcomed!

East of Byzantium - comics about Armenian history



East of Byzantium?

I have developed other projects but put them on hold as the impetus is to put East of Byzantium onto the fast track. People also forget I am a very busy participant in the Hollywood Visual Effects industry. I have to pay bills too.

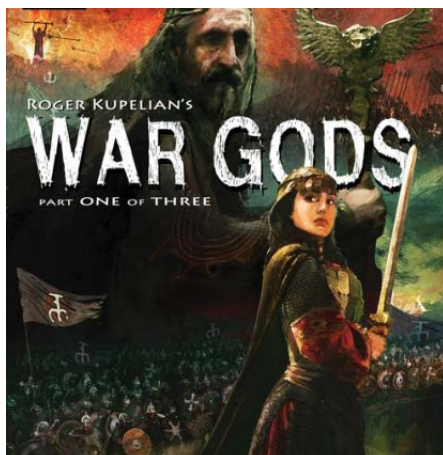
How did the idea of East of Byzantium come into your head? When did you launch the project and do you have any ideas how to present the Armenian history through comics or other means?

The Vartan Mamigonian and Armenian Wars Mythology has always played a part in my upbringing. You can thank my parents for that. Once the tools presented themselves, the imagery began to flow. The point of the Graphic Novels (online comics etc) were to serve as a foundation for televised or cinematic projects, a kind of 'Bible' if you will. But at the very least the goal is to provide an exciting and sublime experience for young (and young at heart) readers. The secondary goal was to reach beyond the Armenian world and make this an internationally appreciated story (which is why I simplified the approach and focused more on the visuals). My goal is to reinvent and

reinforce a mythology for our modern age we can draw strength from.

You have recently cooperated with Serj Tankian and prepared illustrations for his "Glaring Through Oblivion" collection of poems. Do you plan to launch other joint projects with Tankian or other Armenian celebrities?

Serj and I have discussed other projects but we are both quite busy with our current roster of upcoming releases. Who knows. There are always ideas. Both of us serve on the advisory board for TUMO, for example. As far as other Armenian celebrities, I am sure the future holds the answer to that.



Comics depicting one of the most famous chapters of the Armenian history have become popular among comics fans in the U.S. The idea of comics showing the Armenian history belongs to Roger Kupelian, famous Hollywood producer, writer and matte artist. He was making visual effects for such films as "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End", "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers", "Constantine", "Terminator Salvation" and others. Roger agreed to answer questions of the Armenian News-NEWS.am reporter and told about his East of Byzantium project.

Are you currently working on any film projects or you are mainly engaged in the

40th children's exhibition to be held in Lidice

On 30 January, RA Ambassador to the Czech Republic Tigran Seyranyan had a meeting with Director of the Museum Complex in Lidice Milos Cherventsil and the correspondent of the gallery, Coordinator for the International Exhibition Ivona Kasalitska, reports Orer magazine in Prague.

The Armenian Ambassador presented the main directions of the Armenian Embassy's activities and Armenia's foreign policy, after which the parties exchanged views. Cherventsil presented the museum's programs and stressed that they can no longer turn Lidice into a site of political speculations, taking into account the events

dedicated to Khojalu organized by the Azerbaijanis.

The Armenian Ambassador got acquainted with the museum and gallery exhibitions and left a note in the museum's register. We remind that 70 years ago, a large part of the Lidice village, more than 340 adults and children were annihilated by the Fascists.

Mrs. Kasalitska provided information about the 40th exhibition and mentioned that young Armenian artists had received awards in previous years as well.

Armenian schoolchildren of Armenia and the Diaspora can take part in this international exhibition held under the patronage

of UNESCO. This year's topic is related to famous Czech painter, sculptor, animator, founder of Czech puppet and animated films Irzhi Trnka.

The works to be presented will be theatrical, meaning they will be devoted to heroes from puppet shows, plays or movies, and the older children will create works dedicated to the history of theater and famous theaters. The contest will include graphic arts, paintings, photos and ceramic works. For details, please visit www.mdvv-lidice.cz.

During the visit, Armenia's Ambassador to the Czech Republic was accompanied by editor of Orer magazine Hakob Asatryan.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Vahan Terian



Translated by James Russell

SENTIMENTAL SONG

Do you remember the forest

The stream that was like a fairy tale

A dream

And the silent evening's

voiceless speech

Do you remember?

It was far far away

Do you remember the shining earth

That smiled in loving eternal mirth

How that Spring sang with

magical power

Do you remember the stream,

the forest?

Do you remember the night coming on

Stream and wood like a fairy tale

Do you remember far far away

Come to the world of endless memories

Come!

STREET SONG

The sad song sung by a

wandering singer

Sounds beneath my window

How many times have I heard it before?

So it seems

as though I had woven that song

You would think

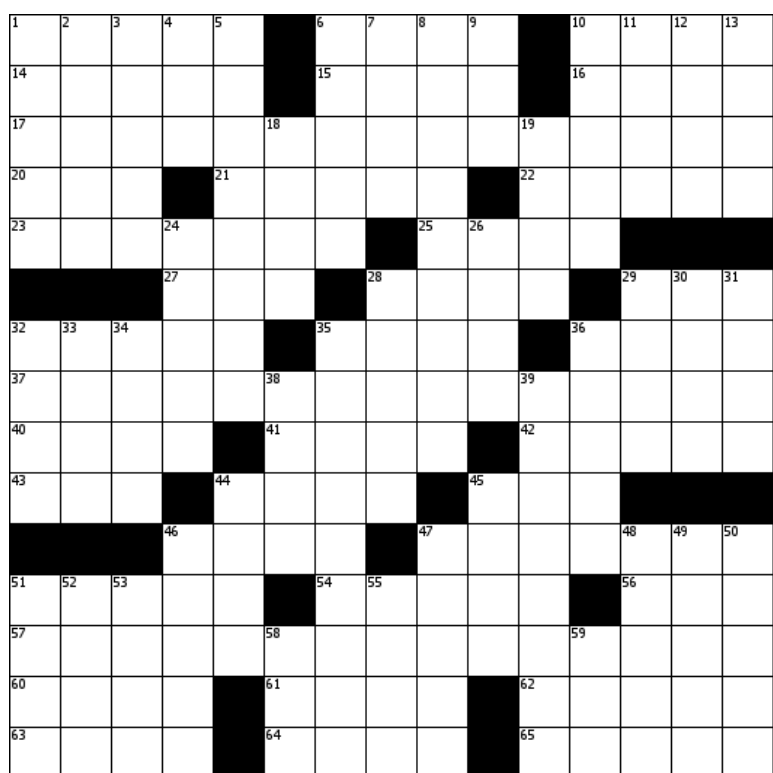
it was I who cried in that song.

You would think

I was singing that song

out of longing for you.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Florist supply
6. Fitzgerald of jazz
10. Shrewd storybook cat
14. Intimate
15. Den
16. Aztec contemporary
17. Three breaks
20. "Cakes and ___" (Maugham)
21. Religious rationalist
22. They're in their element
23. Hits the roof
25. Pound of letters?
27. Hunky-dory
28. Temple outcast
29. HMO workers
32. Wide rift
35. Like The Fonz
36. Convinced
37. Four breaks
40. "Star Wars"

Down

1. Travel documents
2. Quite sufficient
3. Overindulgence
4. Tony winner
5. Set of identifying traits
6. Legendary Spanish knight
7. One-time French protectorate
8. Took to the skies
9. Boxer's greeting
10. Madonna rendition
11. Nullify
12. Patsy's downfall
13. Remarks
18. Nerdy type
19. "Duke of ___"
24. "Peter and the Wolf" bird
26. Novelist defender of Dreyfus
28. Shreds
29. Pluto, for one
30. "Damn it!"
31. Hot
32. Merry king
33. Tints
34. Busily working
35. Sound surge
36. Musty
38. Unfortunately
39. Fish through rubbish
44. Nobel
45. "Pistol ___" Morrison
46. Harold Maravich
47. Robbins novel (with "The")
48. One way to get a flat?
49. Loathing
50. Like thick orange juice
51. Considering
52. Dueler's injury
53. Smug racer
55. Tuna treat
58. Deep matter?
59. Flemish painter van Eyck

Answer of previous crossword



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19):



Issues among people in the workplace may be prominent now. This is the time to seek out win-win solutions for everyone. If you have been focused on a physical self-improvement program in recent months, now is the time for display of the outcome. You'll be rewarded with what you deserve.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19):



Love life may be intensely creative, or it may just be intense and challenging. It depends on the foundation of trust in the relationship. This is a good time to be honest with each other, but do be kind about it. It's possible that you will approach an important discussion, then back off of it for now. Do not worry. Eventually all the cards will be laid on the table.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20):



You are on the move this week, with multiple activities to keep you busy. Think carefully about what is truly important to you now, at this time in your life. Don't allow old habits or rules from the past to make your decisions for you. Recognize that you may manifest your thoughts, both positive and negative, into reality.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21):



This is a good period in which to express yourself creatively. If you need favors or help from others in order to accomplish your task, just ask. It will come readily. Now is the time to organize anything in your home or workplace. It will feel refreshing.

Leo (July 21 - Aug 22):



This is a particularly good time to connect with significant others. It is likely that someone is in your life with whom you can share ideas and give each other encouragement. You and your partner may decide to take a small trip so you can concentrate on each other in private.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 22):



Within relationships of intensity, there is often a strong sexual attraction, whether or not your personalities are compatible. If the sexual component is not recognized, it may be transmuted into a competition. Avoid commitment to any brand new relationship on your radar. You need to know more about the individual before you proceed.

Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22):



You may have an experience in which you feel a figurative sniper at your back. Defend yourself if you absolutely must, but life will be easier if you ignore it. Your sniper will not recognize it, even if you point it out and the confrontation will turn out embarrassing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):



You have intense aspects during this period, particularly related to romance, spending, play, and/or children. You are subject to dramas in these areas, and they may be both positive and negative. This is not a favorable time to attack or initiate any type of "war", so take it easy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20):



Give special attention to unusual messages or to new people who enter your life during this time. A "teacher" crosses your path in the form of a person, a book, or the right message that will steer you in the next favorable direction. Short distance travels, education, and connecting to siblings, neighbors or roommates are favored.

Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19):



This is a time in which you likely will rethink a decision and decide to table it for the present while you gather more information. The probability is that the subject is about your career or life direction. Yes, you are moving toward a change but not until the end of this year.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17):



This is a week in which you may be the chatterbox of the season. Your mind is racing around rapidly and you are connecting the dots in new and different ways. You are verging on a big change in your work status, but the time isn't quite right until later in the year.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19):



There is a subtle shift of your attention happening now. A bubble may have burst, causing you to critique yourself. There is really nothing to critique. You may have thought yourself more important or less important, but your attitude is probably not altogether accurate at this time. Let the negative thoughts go.

The Council of Europe Office in Armenia announces a tender for the sale of a vehicle.

The technical specifications of the car are:

Car model – Mitsubishi Pajero
Engine – 2.8 l turbo diesel
Mileage – 119000 km
Transmission - manual
Date of production – 2004
Date of purchase – 2005

The car is sold with 4 additional tyres.

Specifications of 2 sets of tyres:
4 "Bridgestone all season", mileage – 51500 km
4 "Bridgestone winter", mileage - 4500km

Those who wish to participate in the tender are requested to submit their bids in a closed envelope mentioning the names of the participants as well as two telephone numbers.

For additional information, to see the car and to submit your bids, please address the Council of Europe Office in Armenia, Ms. Nazik Hambaryan, at the following address:
Yerevan, Erebuni Plaza Business Center, 6th floor, Vazgen Sargsyan str. 26/1 Tel: 54 63 22

Please submit your bids by noon (12.00) December 12, 2011.

Bids submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Council of Europe Office in Armenia

A PARIS

A LOUER
QUARTIER CHAMPS-ELYSEES
STUDIOS MEUBLES
Location par mois

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Champs-Élysées - Paris 75008
mail: Gerancia34@wanadoo.fr Tel.: 00-331-43596519



President of the Noyan Tapan
Media Holding:
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Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan:
Gayaneh Arakelian
Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly:
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Proofreader:
Susanna Mkrtchian

Cafesjian Center for the Arts

Music Cascade

The concerts start at 8 p.m.

Date	Lusine Azaryan vocal
February 8	Armen Aghajanyan piano
February 15	Armen Babajanyan piano
	Jivan Gasparyan duduk

Admission: 2,000 AMD
Tel.: 567262, 541932



WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?
Enjoy your leisure

Al.Spendiarian National Academic Theater of

Opera and Ballet

February 7, at 7 p.m.

Sayat-Nova

Alexander Harutyunyan

Opera in 3 acts.

February 11, at 7 p.m.

Romeo and Juliet

S. Prokofiev

Ballet in 3 acts

Conductor: Ruben Asatryan

Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

February 11, at 7 p.m.

Armenian Philharmonic

Orchestra

Artistic Director and

Principal Conductor:

Eduard Topchjan

Program:

Schubert: Overture in the
Italian Style, D.590

Paganini: Violin Concerto
No. 3

Dvorak: Symphony No. 9

Soloist: Nikolay Madoyan,
violin

Conductor: Woltae Jeong
(South Korea)

Komitas Chamber Music Hall

February 10, at 7 p.m.

Program: Mozart

Classical Music

Soloist: Zhora Sargsyan

(piano)

A.Babajanian Concert Hall

February 7, 8 at 6 p.m.

Concert of the Ensemble of
Iranian National

Instruments "Sorur"

Dedicated to the 33rd
Anniversary of the Victory
of the Islamic Revolution

Malkhas Jazz Club

February 6, at 9 p.m.

Artoisis group and Shushan
Petrosyan

February 7, at 9 p.m.

Jazz Trio and singer

Aghvan

February 8, at 9 p.m.

A Series of quintet:

Saxophone, guitar,
instrumental program

February 9, at 9 p.m.

"Time report"

February 10, at 9 p.m.

Concert Group

February 11, at 9 p.m.

Latino-American Jazz

February 12, at 9 p.m.

"Impression" Band

Quote of the week



**Life is a great big canvas, and
you should throw all the paint
on it you can.**

Danny Kaye



President of the Noyan Tapan
Media Holding:
Tigran Haroutiunian

Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan:
Gayaneh Arakelian
Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly:
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Marina Harutiunyan

Proofreader:
Susanna Mkrtchian

INFORMATION AND ARTICLES
by Noyan Tapan News Agency

PHOTOGRAPHS
by Noyan Tapan TV Studio

ADS & NEWSPAPER DESIGN
by Noyan Tapan Advertising Agency

PRINTING
by Noyan Tapan Publishing House

The publisher: Noyan Tapan LTD,
28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009
Republic of Armenia
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995
Circulation: 1000 copies
Tel.: (37410) 56-59-65, Fax:(37410) 52-43-18
E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am
ISSN 1829-0604