

Yerevan celebrates its 2801th anniversary



Mayor of Yerevan Hayk Marutyán addressed a congratulatory message on the 2801th anniversary of Erebuni-Yerevan

Dear Yerevanians,

Today, I want to declare my love for our city again. And as the city is first of all is its residents, I'd like to speak about Yerevan townspeople. We have always had half-serious half-joking disputes about who the true Yerevanians are. Some people say that a real Yerevanian is the person who was born in this city, whose parents or grandparents were born here. The people of my generation say that real Yerevanians are those who used to swim in the Hrazdan gorge when young, ate the ice-cream sold in the Box quarter, or watched the Indian movies at "Sevan" cinema theatre. A bit younger generation keeps the memories of moving on the tram hanging down its doors or taking photos on the background of "Kukuruznik" hotel. The representatives of the new generation are more pragmatic: their being Yerevanian is determined with their participation in civil struggle and necessity of claiming their own rights.

➡ page 3

<p>PM hails 'Armenian support for Georgia'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 2</p>	<p>Yerevan slams Erdogan's statement on Karabakh</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 4</p>	<p>Airbus delegation due in Armenia to discuss perspectives of cooperation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p.7</p>	<p>Armenia determined to fight against discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech – FM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 5</p>
--	--	---	--

PM hails ‘Armenian support for Georgia’

Georgia’s new Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia praised Armenia for recognizing Georgian sovereignty over two breakaway regions during his first official visit to Yerevan on October 15.

“Armenia supports us on the question of our territorial integrity, which is very important for us and for which we are grateful,” Gakharia said after talks with his Armenian counterpart Nikol Pashinyan.

“I think that we should maintain this positive dynamic and strengthen mutual support on international platforms,” he told reporters.

Gakharia, who was elected prime minister by the Georgian parliament last month, did not elaborate on the Armenian support cited by him. Johnny Melikyan, a Yerevan-based Georgia analyst, suggested that he referred to Yerevan’s decision in June to abstain in a UN General Assembly vote on a resolution on the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Siding with Russia, Armenia’s former government voted against similar resolu-



tions drafted by Georgia in previous years. For its part, Tbilisi has backed pro-Azerbaijani resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

“There used to be consensus in the 1990s,” Melikyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian service. “Tbilisi and Yerevan understood that they should not vote against each other. This changed in the 2000s under [then Georgian President Mikheil] Saakashvili. Deepening relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey, they adopted a more pro-Azerbaijani foreign policy.”

“This move [by Armenia] showed Tbilisi that we support them and expect the same kind of assistance from them if Azerbaijan

or another state comes up with an anti-Armenian document on Nagorno-Karabakh,” he said.

Speaking at a joint news briefing with Gakharia, Pashinyan said Georgian-Armenian relations must not be hampered by “external factors. “We discussed regional conflicts in this context,” he said.

“I reaffirmed our position that every conflict is unique and solutions to conflicts should therefore stem from their essence,” added Pashinyan. “In this regard we stressed the importance of maintaining balanced positions on issues sensitive to each other.”

Georgian-Armenian economic ties were also high on the agenda of the talks, with both prime ministers singling out bilateral cooperation on energy and transport. Gakharia noted “good progress” in that area.

According to official Armenian statistics, Georgian-Armenian trade rose by over 5 percent to \$92 million in the first eight months of this year.

Nikol Pashinyan receives Japanese Prime Minister’s Special Adviser



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Eiichi Hasegawa, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan who has arrived

in Armenia to attend the Global Innovation Forum in Yerevan.

Prime Minister Pashinyan said Armenia highly values the political dialogue with Japan that has been developing dynamically since the establishment of diplomatic relations. He went on to note that the productive cooperation inherent in the interstate dialogue has serious potential for expansion. Thankful for the assistance provided to Armenia on the part of JICA, the Premier pointed out that the joint projects implemented so far have promoted bilateral ties in various sectors.

Eiichi Hasegawa thanked Nikol Pashinyan for the meeting and conveyed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s greetings and good wishes to his Armenian counterpart over the ongoing large-scale democratic reform. He said that the Government

of Japan is interested in deepening relations with Armenia and stands ready to discuss partnership development prospects.

The parties exchanged views on infrastructure development programs, as well as on the furtherance of ties in the spheres of education, tourism and humanitarian projects.

Reiterating the invitation to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to visit Armenia at his convenience, Nikol Pashinyan said he would be happy to host his Japanese counterpart and discuss ways of developing effective partnership between Armenia and Japan.



Armenian, Azerbaijani FM's confirm intention to meet again this year

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stéphane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America), together with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (PRCIO) Andrzej Kasprzyk, visited the region from 14 to 17 October.

The Co-Chairs met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Yerevan on 15 October and with President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on 17 October, and held consultations with the respective Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers in both capitals.

During their visit, the Co-Chairs also met with the de facto authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh. In Baku, the Co-Chairs met with the Chairman of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh. While



in Nagorno-Karabakh, the mediators were briefed on humanitarian issues by the local representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The two leaders briefed the Co-Chairs on their recent conversation during the CIS summit in Ashgabat and presented their ideas on how to advance the settlement process. The Co-Chairs welcomed the prospect

of implementing specific humanitarian and security measures to prepare the populations for peace and reduce tensions.

The Co-Chairs once again stressed the critical importance of monitoring missions led by the PRCIO, in accordance with his mandate and longstanding practice. The Co-Chairs called on the sides to continue to support fully the activities of the PRCIO and his team and to ensure that any obstacles potentially interfering with monitoring missions are removed immediately.

The Foreign Ministers confirmed their intention to meet again under Co-Chair auspices before the end of the year.

The Co-Chairs will travel soon to Vienna to brief the OSCE Permanent Council and the members of the Minsk Group.

page 1 ➡

Yerevan celebrates its 2801th anniversary



So, who are real Yerevanians? Actually, everything is quite simple: Yerevanians are those who love Yerevan, who love it as a caring and loving parent and as a true friend. And on this festive day I want to greet and congratulate all Yerevanians no matter where they were born. Particularly, I want to greet our sisters and brothers from Diaspora who repatriated recently and ask them to make us happy with their presence as frequently as possible. I also want to greet the foreign diplomatic representations who are in Yerevan, and the employees of foreign organizations, our guests who arrived in our city even for a few days.

who have lived in Yerevan even for a few days, who enjoyed the sun of Yerevan even for a few ours, will always keep Yerevan in their hearts, therefore they will become our friends.



Because I am sure that those

My congratulations, Yerevanians! Happy birthday, our eternal city!



Yerevan slams Erdogan's statement on Karabakh

Armenia on October 16 condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's latest pro-Azerbaijani statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and scoffed at his claims that the Turkish state has never massacred civilians.

Speaking at a summit of Turkic nations in Baku earlier this week, Erdogan again decried Armenian "occupation" of Karabakh and other "ancient lands" of Azerbaijan. "We will do our best to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan," he was reported to say.

For his part, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev described Armenia's southeastern Syunik province, also known as Zangezur, as "historically Azerbaijani" territory. Aliyev claimed at the summit that its "transfer to Armenia had led to a geographic separation of the Turkic world."

The Armenian Foreign Ministry condemned Aliyev's "pan-Turkist" statement as a further manifestation of Azerbaijani territorial claims to Armenia.

"Azerbaijan's and Turkey's distorted perceptions of and approaches to regional security based on racism and discrimination hinder peaceful resolution of conflicts and contribute to instability in and outside the region," the ministry spokeswoman, Anna Naghdalyan, said in written comments.

"All this underlines the importance of our priority to ensure the security of the Armenian people in the region," she added.

Turkey has lent full and unconditional support to Azerbaijan throughout the Karabakh conflict. Successive Turkish governments have made the normalization of Turkey's relations with Armenia conditional on a Karabakh settlement acceptable to Baku. Yerevan rejects these preconditions.

Naghdalyan also shrugged off Erdogan's separate claims that "Turkey has never committed any civilian massacre in its history." "After Turkey's president tried to justify in his statement on April 24 the [1915] genocide of the Armenian people perpetrated in their historical homeland, any further statements by him on this subject do not deserve a response," she said.

Erdogan was responding to growing international criticism of Turkey's military incursion into northern Syria and resulting human rights abuses reported by international media. "If you're looking for civilian massacres, look at Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nagorno-Karabakh and Bosnia," he said earlier on Wednesday.

The Armenian government has strongly condemned the Turkish invasion and expressed serious concern over the safety of Syrian Armenians and other civilians affected by it.

Senior Government official resigns



The head of a government agency regulating Armenia's real estate market resigned on October 18, citing policy differences and "dilettantism" of senior officials in charge of urban development in the country.

The official, Sarhat Petrosyan, is a well-known architect and public figure who was appointed as head of the Cadaster Committee in the wake of last year's "Velvet Revolution" in which he actively participated. The committee maintains a state registry of

real estate and registers property deals.

"I do not agree with our government's policy and existing approaches in the area of urban development which I believe encompasses the cadaster sector as well," Petrosyan said in a statement.

"Despite the unprecedented upswing registered in the real estate market [since the revolution] we have regressed in the area of urban development," he said, accusing the current and former heads of the government's Urban Development Committee of

imitating meaningful activities.

Petrosyan complained that he has had only sporadic influence on government policies. "As head of a government agency and urban development architect by education, I can no longer tolerate dilettantism and sectarianism bordering on corruption," he said.

Petrosyan did not give examples of mismanagement alleged by him. He said he will talk about concrete cases "in the future."

The 37-year-old official also thanked Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for appointing him to the post and engineering last year's "incredible change" in Armenia.

"I continue to regard the changes of 2018 as one of the most important achievements in the modern history of the Armenian people which must be preserved, developed and spread so as to not allow stateless opportunists to discredit or use them for personal welfare," concluded the statement.

Pashinyan's office did not immediately react to the announcement of Petrosyan's resignation.

Armenia determined to fight against discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech – FM

Armenia's election to the UN Human Rights Council is the best demonstration of the acknowledgement by the international community of the significant progress in democratic transformation and protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms following the non-violent, Velvet Revolution in the Republic of Armenia, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said in a statement.

The remarks come after Armenia was elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2020-2022, with the overwhelming majority of votes.

"This success also reflects the high confidence of the international community towards Armenia as a reliable partner, who is at the forefront of protection of human rights, and the prevention of massive violations of human rights and atrocities," the Foreign Minister stated.

"As a responsible member of the international community and a supporter of effective multilateralism, Armenia has acceded to all major human rights instruments. Today we can proudly state that these human rights commitments are not merely



enshrined in our legal system, but are also part of our national values and identity. We are ready to share experience, listen to and learn from our partners, and are committed to advance international collaboration aimed at strengthening the UN human rights system, promoting effective inter-governmental cooperation and civil society engagement," he added.

Minister Mnatsakanyan said "the promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, consolidation of democratic values will be an important priority of Armenia's membership in the Human Rights Council. Human rights are universal for all peoples and individuals in all parts of the world."

"Armenia is determined to contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation and dialogue at the Human Rights Council, and to this end we have already expressed our clear pledges and commitments that we plan to implement over the coming years. We will continue to fight against identity-based violations of human rights, including discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and hate speech because Armenia and the Armenian people are well aware of the consequences emanating from massive violations of human rights committed on such grounds," Zohrab Mnatsakanyan continued.

Reminding that Armenia's membership in the UN Human Rights Council is complemented by the chairmanship our country currently holds in another important UN body – the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Foreign Minister said "Armenia stands ready to contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation in the protection of women's rights, and we intend to spare no effort to drive this agenda forward."

Russian lawmaker says will not refuse from visiting Nagorno Karabakh

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson has confirmed having received a note from Azerbaijan regarding MP Konstantin Zatulin's participation in the forum of Artsakh's friends in Stepanakert.

Maria Zakharova reminded that a post on the Foreign Ministry website warns that anyone visiting Nagorno Karabakh will be denied entry to Azerbaijan.

She noted that Russia's stance on the Karabakh conflict settlement remains unchanged.

"The status of Nagorno Karabakh should be determined through political negotiations within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship format," Zakharova stated.

At the same time, Zakharova emphasized that politicians, representatives



of the legislative branch and civil society, who speak on the Karabakh issue, reflect their personal point of view.

"The official stance is being reflected by relevant institutions of the executive power," she continued.

The relevant institutions of the executive branch reflect the official point of view on this issue," she said.

Meanwhile, Zatulin has issued a statement

saying that "calling out and threatening Russian lawmakers for visiting Nagorno Karabakh will not bring the settlement of the conflict any closer."

Zatulin reminded that he was banned from visiting Azerbaijan after a visit to Nagorno Karabakh in 2010.

"I don't strive to visit where I am not invited to," Zatulin said, adding that he's not about to refuse from trips to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh and will not make it dependent on the whims of the leadership of Azerbaijan.

The lawmaker reiterated he has never had any "Armenian patrons."

The conference of the Friends of Artsakh brought together 150 guests from 30 countries of the world.

India-Armenia Pharmaceutical Business Forum-Exhibition to be held in Yerevan



The Embassy of India in Armenia and Indian Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL-Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council), supported by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will hold India-Armenia Pharmaceutical Business Forum-Exhibition in Yerevan from 10-13 November, 2019, the Embassy of India said in a news release.

The forum will feature prospects for establishing business ties with India's phar-

maceutical sector, achievements and regulatory developments of this industry in India, and B2B meetings between 23 leading Indian companies and Armenian companies.

H. E. Mr. K. D. Dewal, Ambassador of the Republic of India to Armenia will deliver a welcoming speech at the opening of the India-Armenia Pharmaceutical Business Forum-Exhibition. India's Pharmaceutical industry will be represented by Mr.

Abhay Sinha, Senior Director of PHARMEXCIL.

India is the largest provider of generic medicines globally, occupying a 20% share in global supplies by volume. The country is home to 3,000 pharma companies with a strong network of over 10,500 manufacturing facilities.

The cost of production in India is around one-third of that in the US and almost half of that in Europe. India is the source of 60,000 generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories and manufactures more than 500 different Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). The export of generic drugs is one of India's core strengths.

The export of Pharmaceuticals stood at \$ 17.27 bn in 2017-18. Indian Pharmaceuticals market is expected to reach \$ 55 bn by 2020. First visit of PHARMEXCIL delegation to Armenia was in March 2011. As a result of the visit, a number of contracts were signed between the Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers and the Armenian pharmacy importing and manufacturing companies, which resulted in a significant increase in the volume of import of Indian leading pharmaceutical companies to Armenia.

Armenia revokes departure tax for new flight destinations

Armenia will not be charging departure taxes on flights to destinations that have not been served in the past 12 months, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan told the cabinet meeting on October 17. The decision applies to all air companies without exception, he said.

"There is no doubt that the change will bring about new serious shifts in our aviation market, and there is no doubt that these changes will benefit the consumer, our citizens and, of course, our economy, because tourism, which has been a dynamically developing branch of, will continue to develop more dynamically," the Prime Minister said.

PM Pashinyan also hailed Ryanair's decision to start Armenia flights, describing the entry of Europe's largest airline into Armenian market as a "very important event for our civil aviation."

Ryanair will operate flights from Yerevan to Milan Bergamo and



Rome Ciampino starting in January 2020, and two new routes from Yerevan to Berlin Schönefeld and Gyumri to Memmingen starting in Summer 2020.

Airbus delegation due in Armenia to discuss perspectives of cooperation

Airbus Vice President for Defense and Space Lionel Champeaud and Head of Central Asia and Caucasus region Vsevolod Kazakov visited Armenia at the invitation of Armenian President Armen Sarkissian.

The agreement was reached in June, when President Sarkissian visited the company's pavilion at the Paris Air Show. The parties then agreed to continue the discussion on the perspectives of cooperation in Yerevan.

During the visit the Airbus officials will discuss opportunities to support Armenia's



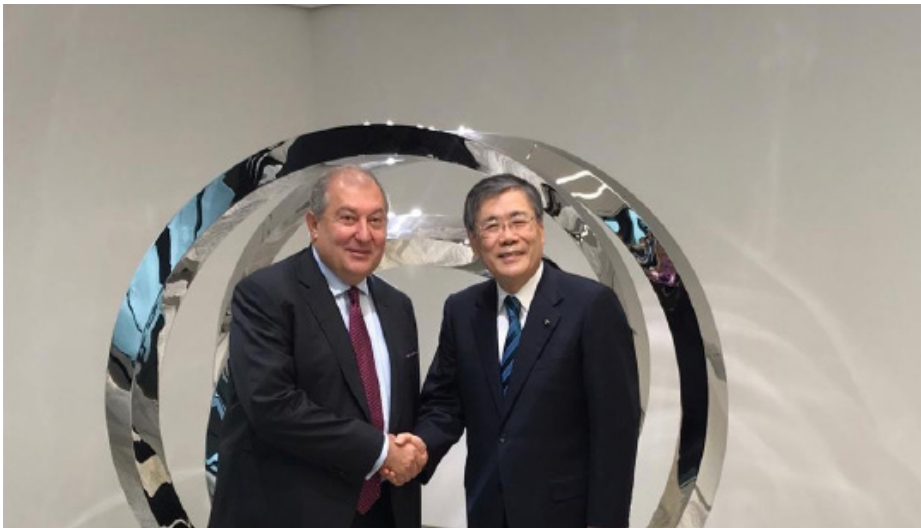
industry. The company is interested in implementing educational programs with Armenia, establishing cooperation with

Armenian institutes.

In particular, Airbus has expressed its readiness to implement educational and training programs with the participation of the leading French Aerospace University, the National High School of Aviation and Space.

The largest aviation and space company in Europe, Airbus constantly attaches importance to innovative solutions and application of modern technologies, which, in turn, open up perspectives for the future of flights.

Authorities Deal with Toxic Leak from Armenian Copper Mine



A senior government official accused Armenia's largest mining company on October 17 of trying to hush up a toxic waste spill that contaminated a river flowing through the southeastern town of Kapan.

The accident was reported near a "tailings" dump of the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine (ZCMC) early in the morning. Officials said that a leaky pipe connecting the dump with ZCMC's ore-processing facilities sent a stream of industrial waste flowing into the already polluted Voghji river.

According to Levon Petrosyan, the head of the regional branch of the state Inspec-

torate Body on Environment Protection and Natural Resources, the pipe was swiftly replaced by ZCMC workers sent to the site. "The river is still brown," Petrosian told RFE/RL's Armenian service in the afternoon.

He said his agency took water and soil samples from the contaminated area and sent them to Yerevan for detailed examination.

ZCMC said that the leak lasted for up to 40 minutes. Minister for Emergency Situations Felix Tsolakyan blasted the company during a cabinet meeting in Yerevan which discussed the accident.

"They kept things secret and didn't [immediately] say that such an accident happened," claimed Tsolakyan. "The [ZCMC] bosses didn't say that and carried out quick repairs."

"I don't know what he meant by 'kept secret,'" Petrosian said when asked to comment on Tsolakyan's claims. "All I can say is that when our inspectors heard the alert and went there the pipe was already replaced."

Environment Protection Minister Erik Grigoryan told reporters that authorities are now ascertaining the damage inflicted on the environment. He complained that Armenian environmental legislation sets "ridiculously" small fines for mining firms violating it and must be toughened significantly.

Faulty and old tailings dumps are thought to be a key source of environmental damage caused by the Armenian mining industry which generates more than 40 percent of the country's exports.

ZCMC, which is nominally controlled by the German metals group Cronimet, is the sector's largest enterprise employing more than 4,000 people. It is also Armenia's number one corporate taxpayer.

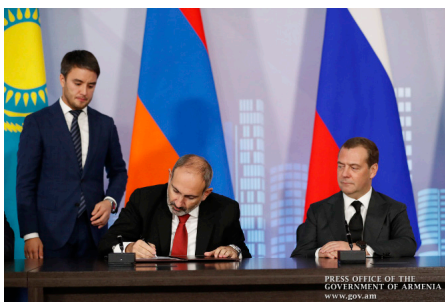
10 million trees symbolizing the unity of 10 million Armenians to be planted in 2020

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan attended the opening of the Global Innovation Forum-2019: Transforming Intelligence.”

Welcoming the organizers, participants and guests of the Global Innovation Forum, Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized the importance of holding such events in the Republic of Armenia from the point of view of regulating and developing human-technology relations.

I “From the very outset – from the start of the first industrial revolution – people used to be afraid of technology. And when the first machine tools came to substitute human labor, the artisans who were a very influential economic class at that time went into manufactories and smashed all the machines, since they had, at first glance, a very legitimate concern. Their chief concern was as follows: if machines happen to do the work that we, the humans are supposed to, then what should we do and how could we live on?” the Prime Minister said in his speech.

However, he said, time has led to an interesting reality. “It turned out that when a person’s hands are more or less



free, his mind is first freed, and this mind gets the opportunity to conquer new territories. And, therefore, the development



of technology is primarily the development of thinking, because new thinking has led to new technologies, new technologies have led to new thinking, and new thinking in turn has led to new technologies and so on,” PM Pashinyan stated.

“And therefore, when we talk about innovation, we must first keep in mind the innovation of thought, the innovation of



thinking that actually changes the world, because in many cases, talking about innovation, talking about technology, people understand specific objects, tools or even programs, but in fact innovations occur in our thinking: in fact, the human mind is developing, and all these physical and even non-physical IT products are the product of the human mind,” he added.

According to the Prime Minister, one of the most pressing issues today is related to artificial intelligence, and the same fears naturally arise with the develop-

ment of artificial intelligence.

“However, the history of technology gives us hope that the development of artificial intelligence will free the human mind in the same way that human hands and, as a result, the mind were freed during the first industrial revolution,” he said.

Pashinyan believes part of mental work that artificial intelligence should perform will free up space so that human thought, human mind, human thinking could embrace new horizons and spaces.

“And I consider it very important that today in the Republic of Armenia we can overcome fears not only with regard to technology, but also all our fears, since fear is the most important factor that always hinders development, hinders progress, hinders our desire for victory,” he stated.

To conclude with, the Prime Minister informed that the government has developed a very ambitious plan that should reach its peak on October 10, 2020.

“On this day, we plan to plant 10 million trees in the Republic of Armenia on the 10th day of the 10th month, which will symbolize the unity of 10 million Armenians around Armenian statehood, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Armenia,” he stated.



Armenian Constitutional Court Chief Under Investigation

(RFE/RI – Yerevan) - Law-enforcement officials raided the offices of Armenia's Constitutional Court and former ruling Republican Party (HHK) on October 17 after launching criminal proceedings against the court's embattled chairman, Hrayr Tovmasyan.

Other investigators visited and questioned his elderly father.

The developments came two days after most members of the Constitutional Court refused to oust Tovmasyan. The Armenian parliament called for his dismissal in an October 4 appeal drafted by its majority loyal to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

A non-partisan member of the parliament, Arman Babajanyan, went further, demanding that law-enforcement authorities prosecute Tovmasyan. Babajanyan charged that the latter colluded with other key members of Armenia's former HHK-dominated leadership to illegally become head of the Constitutional Court in March 2018.

The Special Investigative Service (SIS) announced on Thursday morning that it has decided to open a criminal case in connection with Babajanyan's written demand. It said it has launched an investigation into a possible "usurpation of state authority by a group of individuals."

An SIS official visited the HHK headquarters in Yerevan in the following hours. According to the party's deputy chairman, Armen Ashotyan, he confiscated documents relating to the termination of Tovmasyan's membership in the HHK in early 2018.

The SIS also carried out what it called "investigative actions" inside the Constitutional Court building in the Armenian capital. The court secretariat refused to comment on the probe, saying that



Tovmasyan is on vacation at the moment.

Under Armenian law, Tovmasyan cannot be prosecuted without the consent of at least five of the nine members of the country's highest court. Two of those judges, Alvina Gyulumyan and Arevik Petrosyan, declined to comment on the unprecedented proceedings when contacted by RFE/RI's Armenians service.

HHK representatives denounced the case as politically motivated. "Pashinyan's regime is looking for internal enemies in the country," said the former ruling party's spokesman, Eduard Sharmazanov.

Ruben Melikyan, Nagorno-Karabakh's former human rights ombudsman highly critical of Pashinyan's government, likewise described Tovmasyan as a victim of political persecution.

Melikyan also claimed that another law-enforcement agency, the National Security Service (NSS), has summoned Tovmasyan's father Vartan and two daughters for questioning. "Guys, do you realize what red line you are erasing?" he wrote on Facebook, referring to the authorities.

Later in the day NSS officers questioned Vartan Tovmasyan in his home in a village south of Yerevan. Tovmasyan Sr. told reporters afterwards that they only asked him questions about the roof of his state-owned one-story house.

"They wondered when we built the roof, how much we spent on it, where we got the money from and so on," he said.

"They did not ask other questions or search the house. They just said they want to check the roof."

The 75-year-old added that he is ready to visit the NSS headquarters and answer more questions there on Friday. He did not confirm that the powerful security service also wants to interrogate Hrayr Tovmasyan's

daughters.

The NSS said that it will comment on the matter later on. It did not issue any statements as of Thursday evening.

Tovmasyan claimed on October 2 that the authorities are seeking to force him out in order to gain control over the Constitutional Court and be able to make unconstitutional decisions. He said he will not bow to the pressure despite recent arrests of two individuals linked to him.

In a September 4 ruling read out by Tovmasyan, the Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional a legal provision used by SIS investigators against Armenia's jailed former President Robert Kocharyan. Pashinyan called the ruling "illegal." The prime minister charged earlier Tovmasyan had cut political deals with HHK leader and former President Serzh Sarkisian to "privatize" the court.

Meanwhile, Vahe Grigoryan, the court's newest member installed by the current parliament in June, insisted that he sees no political motives behind the law-enforcement authorities' latest moves against Tovmasyan.

Grigoryan also continued to challenge the legitimacy of Tovmasyan and six other court justices appointed before the "Velvet Revolution" of April-May 2018. "This crisis in the Constitutional Court is much deeper than Hrayr Tovmasyan and his past activities or current behavior," he said.

A Declassified Top-Secret CIA Report on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

By Harut Sassounian

A 48-page Central Intelligence Agency Top Secret Report, prepared in August 1988 and made public, with some deletions, in 2012, is titled “Unrest in the Caucasus and the Challenge of Nationalism.” Despite the passage of time, the Report includes an interesting analysis of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from the perspective of U.S. intelligence services.

The CIA analyst, in the introduction of his report, traced the origins of the Artsakh conflict: “Enmity between Armenian and Azeri factions has existed for hundreds of years, and the 1920s settlement subordinating Nagorno-Karabakh – Armenia’s cultural and religious center – to the Azerbaijan Republic has been a continual, albeit long-muted, source of Armenian frustration and concern. Azeri animosity toward the Armenians has been intensified by political, economic, and demographic trends that have adversely affected the political status of Azeris and increased the gap in living standards between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In particular, the rapid expansion of Azerbaijan’s young adult population has put enormous strain on the Republic’s capacity to provide adequate jobs, housing, and education. Azeri frustration has found an outlet in attacks on Armenians.”

The unnamed CIA analyst reported that a split within the Politburo on how to handle the Artsakh crisis made the situation worse. Second Secretary Ligachev and KGB Chief Chebrikov were the hardliners who vehemently opposed the separation of Artsakh from Azerbaijan. They disagreed with Gorbachev’s reforms and blamed foreign powers for inciting unrest inside the Soviet Union.

When two prominent Armenian writers, Silva Kaputikyan and Zori Balayan, met with Gorbachev in Moscow in February 1988, they reported that he was well briefed and assured them that he wanted a “just solution.” He acknowledged “the peaceful nature of the [Armenian] demonstrations and emphasized his personal sympathy with the desire to reunite Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia....”

Upon the return of the Armenian envoys to Yerevan, in a radio broadcast on February 27, 1988, Kaputikyan called for Armenians to trust Gorbachev. “He knows about

and understands our problem and wants to resolve it personally.... We must do our utmost to ensure that no harm” is done to him, Kaputikyan announced.

Regarding Soviet concerns about foreign, particularly Armenian-American interference in domestic Soviet turmoil, the CIA analyst reported: “The recent unrest appears to have made Soviet officials more fearful about the role of foreign actors in the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Of the approximately 5.5 million people in the world today who speak Armenian, about 60 percent live outside the Soviet Armenian republic, about 1.4 million elsewhere in the USSR, and 2 million abroad. So far, Armenian émigrés – most of whom see Turkey much more than Russia as the historic oppressor of their nation – have not been actively involved in pushing for change in the Soviet system or in Soviet policies. Moscow worries that diaspora attitudes could turn sharply critical of the USSR and that Armenians in the United States, particularly, could grow into a powerful anti-Soviet pressure group. Soviet officials are wary of the large concentration of Armenians in California and New York, states with large electoral votes that have been closely contested in previous presidential elections.”

In a footnote at the end of the previous paragraph, the CIA analyst specified that “the United States hosts at least 600,000 Armenians. About 90 percent of America’s Soviet Armenian immigrants came to California. Los Angeles – with 100,000 – has the largest community of Armenians outside Yerevan. The New York City region has about 70,000 Armenians, mostly from Lebanon and Iran.”

The CIA analyst added: “Moscow may be concerned that foreign Armenian terrorist groups like the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia could turn against Soviet targets – although we have no evidence that this is the case. Hitherto, the USSR has figured very little in ASALA’s blending of armed struggle with Marxist ideology; the dominant faction of ASALA considers Soviet Armenia as liberated territory and the group concentrates its attacks exclusively on Turkish officials. In fact, ASALA eventually would like to see ‘the Armenian provinces’ now located in Turkey and possibly Iraq [?] reattach

themselves to the Soviet Armenian core. Furthermore, ASALA is now in a quiet phase, and its leader was assassinated on 28 April [1988]. Nevertheless, ASALA in early April did send a moderately worded appeal to Gorbachev supporting the reunification of Karabakh with Armenia, while characteristically stressing that Armenia is an integral part of the USSR and seeks only to rectify the border, not to pursue claims against Moscow.”

Finally, the CIA analyst explained the position of Turkey on the Karabakh conflict: “Although the Turkish Government has not explicitly sided with Azerbaijan, Turkey’s fear of resurgent Armenian nationalism makes Ankara sympathetic to Baku. When the crisis broke in February [1988], Turkish Government spokesmen indicated publicly that international agreements entitle Ankara to a voice in the crisis, an apparent reference to the 1921 treaty between the USSR and Turkey that led to the shift of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan. Turkey no doubt especially feared that transferring Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia would whet Armenian appetites and would lead to increased pressure to change the status of Nakhichevan and to acquire former Armenian regions in Turkey. Turkish officials probably also noted that some Armenian expansionist demands for a ‘Greater Armenia’ were based on historic claims rather than on the ethnic composition of the affected territories. Thus, some Armenians have demanded the return of Nakhichevan, even though Azeris now greatly outnumber Armenians in this region. Using such historical criteria, could give Armenians a claim even on some border parts of Turkey where only 50,000 Armenians now live.”

The CIA analyst concluded his report by outlining five options the USSR had for the resolution of the Artsakh conflict:

“Sticking with the Status Quo”

“Making Further Economic Concessions” to Armenians

“Enhancing Autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh Within Azerbaijan”

Expanding “Extraterritorial Native Cultural Institutions”

“Reconfiguration of Nagorno-Karabakh” by splitting it between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Armenia issues stamp featuring 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate Kyaw Hla Aung



A special ceremony dedicated to the cancellation of a new international postage stamp by HayPost, featuring 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate Kyaw Hla Aung, was held on October 16, 2019, during the inaugural Aurora Forum, in the Kamar Business Center in Yerevan. The new stamp was released in cooperation of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative with Haypost, the National Postal Operator of Armenia, and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia. This collaboration started in 2017.

“Every year Aurora discovers people who do their work not expecting any praise or recognition. They put their lives at risk to save others, and yet we rarely know anything about them. They are the real heroes to be recognized and they should be the role models for people across the world. Releasing stamps featuring the Aurora Humanitarians is our way of spreading the word about these outstanding heroes and joining the Gratitude in Action movement,” said Hayk Avagyan, Chief Executive Officer of Haypost CJSC.

The Aurora stamp is also a fundraising stamp issued in 12,000 copies. Attached to the first-class

stamp, valued at 350 AMD, is a donation coupon for 150 AMD. HayPost will transfer the 150 AMD donation value to the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, which supports humanitarian projects in 15 countries – from Africa to South America and Near East. The main beneficiaries of Aurora’s projects are children and young people, victims of conflicts and violence and refugees from remote areas of the world.

“I was alone with my community’s issues for decades. Unfortunately, human rights violations and crimes against humanity are still happening in the 21st century, too, in front of the world, and almost nobody says a word to prevent disasters. And now it’s for the first time that me and our people, the Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State, feel strong support from the Aurora side. The stamp with my image is very touching, and it is an important step to tell our story across the world,” noted 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate Kyaw La Aung.

After the ceremony its participants got a chance to attend the opening of the temporary exhibition titled “This is My Story: Aurora Mardiganian and Women Stories that Inspire and Empower the World.” The exhibition, held both in the same building and on the adjacent Shahumyan square, showcases the story of the Armenian Genocide survivor Aurora Mardiganian. Mardiganian’s story will be the central one in a larger narrative, describing the extraordinary struggle and humanity of women of different ethnic and confessional backgrounds.

This new Aurora stamp was created by designer Alla Mingalyova, a team member of the Aurora Humanitarian



Initiative. She has also designed the stamps released by HayPost in the last two years featuring 2016 Aurora Prize Laureate Marguerite Barankitse and 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate and Aurora Humanitarian Initiative Chair Tom Catena.



The future lies in AI and big data management, Armenian President says



“We cannot deceive ourselves by saying that we are the only and the best. We are in competition with the whole world. There is only one way we can win this competition. It should become a national mission, a mission for all of us, a mission for all our friends, who believe in Armenia, who are ready to support us,” the President added.

The future lies in artificial intelligence, mathematical modeling and big data management, Armenian President Armen Sarkissian said in an address to the Global Innovation Forum in Yerevan.

“This forum will help us return to reality. We cannot only be proud of what we have achieved in the field of IT, as this is not the endpoint,” he said.

“We need to consolidate all our knowledge, know-how, our brilliant thoughts, whether it’s in the Silicon Valley, California, New York, or the University of Cambridge, France, Italy, or Russia. We have to work hard and be extremely disciplined as we compete with the best in the world,” he continued.

He urged not to be afraid of artificial intelligence, because there are several human features machines lack.

“There is a fundamental feature: machines are unable to make mistakes unlike us humans. However, making mistakes in an environment where there are rules or laws is the only way to evolution,” President Sarkissian said.

Therefore, he said, the human feature of being erroneous, is a powerful tool. “There is no way in which artificial intelligence can overcome real intelligence,” he stated.

According to the President, throughout our history our people have proven that they can win in different spheres, and now new opportunities for progress are being created.

Reps. Schiff and Bilirakis’ call for passage of Armenian Genocide Resolution

Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), lead authors of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.296), ramped up efforts to secure passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.296), arguing that Congressional silence of that crime undermines U.S. moral authority in confronting Turkey’s atrocities today, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“We thank Congressmen Schiff and Bilirakis and join with them in rallying bipartisan backing for immediate passage of H.Res.296, permanently locking in official U.S. recognition and ongoing American remembrance of the Armenian Genocide,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “Across Capitol Hill and in Congressional districts across the country we are seeing growing urgency for the adoption of H.Res.296, amid the steady expansion of legislative support for this measure from across the political spectrum – hawks

and doves, progressives and conservatives, coastal and heartland – even traditional allies of Ankara.”

In a “Dear Colleague” letter distributed throughout the U.S. House earlier today, Representatives Schiff and Bilirakis argued, “As we confront atrocities that are being committed in the present day, it weakens our standing and our moral clarity that the Congress has for too long been silent in declaring the events of 1915 as a genocide. As Turkish bombs fall on Kurdish cities, extremist groups backed by Turkey commit war crimes, and hundreds of thousands of civilians flee for their lives, it is surely not lost on Turkish leaders that for decades their campaign of lobbying and bullying has silenced the Congress from the simple act of speaking the truth about the events of 1915.”

Representatives Schiff and Bilirakis then called on their congressional colleagues to, “to join us to make clear that the United

States will never be complicit in genocide denial, and that we will call out the atrocities of today and those of a century ago. As we confront continuing mass atrocities around the world, and as we work feverishly to restore calm and end the fighting in Northern Syria, Congress’s silence about the Armenian Genocide of a century ago undermines our moral standing. It must end.”

The Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.296), introduced in April, 2019, is a bi-partisan measure that locks in permanent U.S. recognition and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, ends U.S. complicity in Turkey’s denial, and promotes public education regarding the crime as a genocide prevention tool. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) have spearheaded the Senate version of the resolution (S.Res.150). Over 110 U.S. Representatives and more than 18 Senators are cosponsors of the measures.

Los Angeles to dedicate a square to William Saroyan

The Los Angeles City Council has voted to designate William Saroyan Square with a plaque at the crossing of Commerce Avenue and Valmont Street, [Glendale News-Press](#) reports.

However, the dedication of an intersection in Tujunga-Sunland to an Armenian American author has sparked controversy between local residents who have claimed the initiative will overshadow the corner's existing historical significance and those who believe the opposition is grounded in ethnic discrimination, author Lila Seidman writes.

The designated area is adjacent to Bolton Hall, a historic stone building built in 1913 that was originally used as a community center for a local Utopian community. It has since been used as an American Legion



hall, a public library, Tujunga City Hall and a jail, and is now a local history museum.

"It's the location, that is what people are opposed to," said Liliana Sanchez, president of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council.

It also happens to be an intersection that has hosted several Armenian cultural events, according to L.A. City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, who spearheaded the initiative.

A dedication ceremony for the square to

the Pulitzer Prize-winning author is scheduled for Oct. 19, to coincide with the annual Sunland-Tujunga Armenian Cultural Festival, which is held along Commerce Avenue.

"It's unfortunate that more people aren't taking this opportunity to embrace the diversity of our community," said Rodriguez, who represents the Tujunga area, along with neighborhoods including La Tuna Canyon, Sylmar, Pacoima and North Hills.

Supporters, including then-Councilman Ara Najarian and current mayor, argued that it was long overdue for Glendale to have a street named to honor the city's large Armenian American community.

In October of last year, [a ceremony was held](#) to unveil the new street sign.

Armenian lavash on CNN's list of World's best breads



The CNN has included Armenian lavash in its list of the 50 of the world's best breads

"When your Armenian mother-in-law comes towards you wielding a hula hoop-sized flatbread, don't duck: Lavash is draped over the country's newlyweds to

ensure a life of abundance and prosperity," the CNN writes.

"Maybe that's because making lavash takes friends," the author concludes.

To shape the traditional breads, groups of women gather to roll and stretch dough

across a cushion padded with hay or wool. It takes a practiced hand to slap the enormous sheets onto the inside of conical clay ovens, where they bake quickly in the intense heat, the article further elaborates.

The CNN also reminds that the bread is so central to Armenia's culture it's been designated UNESCO Intangible Heritage.

Lavash is a traditional thin bread that forms an integral part of Armenian cuisine. Its preparation is typically undertaken by a small group of women, and requires great effort, coordination, experience and special skills.

A simple dough made of wheat flour and water is kneaded and formed into balls, which are then rolled into thin layers and stretched over a special oval cushion that is then slapped against the wall of a traditional conical clay oven. After thirty seconds to a minute, the baked bread is pulled from the oven wall.

2019 Aurora Prize awarded to Yazidi activist Mirza Dinnayi



The fourth annual Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was awarded today to Mirza Dinnayi, Co-Founder and Director of Luftbrücke Irak (Air Bridge Iraq).

Driven by his passion to save lives, the Yazidi activist has found a way to overcome numerous bureaucratic and logistic obstacles to help the most vulnerable members of the Yazidi community during numerous conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

He was named the 2019 Aurora Laureate at the Ceremony in Yerevan that was held during the Aurora Forum. The Aurora Prize is granted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors.

Tom Catena, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative Chair and 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate, praised the 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate Mirza Dinnayi by saying: "What makes Mirza Dinnayi an outstanding human being is the fact he couldn't live in good conscience knowing that good people are left behind, that the innocent are suffering.

Trying to help others while facing an unspeakable evil can be challenging and frustrating, but he never wavered. I am delighted to congratulate Mirza Dinnayi with being awarded with the Prize and welcome him to the Aurora family."

As the 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate, Mirza Dinnayi will receive a \$1,000,000 grant, through which he is given the opportunity to continue the cycle of giving by supporting organizations that have inspired his work. He has chosen to donate the funds to three organizations that provide medical care and rehabilitation

to victims of ISIS terror:

Air Bridge Iraq;
SEED Foundation;
Shai Fund.

Vartan Gregorian, Co-Founder of the Aurora Prize and Member of the Selection Committee, added: "The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative empowers those who risk everything for the sake of others and show extraordinary courage and conviction in situations of adversity, and Mirza Dinnayi is a perfect example of that. He embodies the power of compassion, of personal commitment, of a burning desire to save lives. As one of the Aurora Co-Founders and a member of the Selection Committee, I am very proud that our shared vision has helped showcase the work of Mirza Dinnayi, who now, without doubt, will be able to achieve even more."

Working on behalf of the Yazidi community, Mirza Dinnayi has dedicated his whole life to saving the victims of the Iraq war, evacuating women and children from territories controlled by ISIS and providing those tortured and violated with rehabilitation and support. It was Dinnayi who brought to Germany the future Sakharov Prize Laureate Lamya Haji Bashar. Today, she is a renowned human rights activist and has one of Aurora's scholarships named after her.

Leading international humanitarian figures and Aurora Prize Selection Committee members, including Nobel Laureates Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former president of Ireland Mary Robinson; former foreign minister of Australia and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; former president of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo and Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London and Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee Lord Ara Darzi gathered in Armenia to attend the inaugural Aurora Forum and celebrate the 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate.

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative also honored the contributions of the other two 2019 Aurora Humanitarians who received a \$50,000 grant each: Zannah Bukar Mustapha, Director and Founder of Future Prowess Islamic Foundation in Nigeria, and Huda Al-Sarari, Yemeni lawyer and activist.

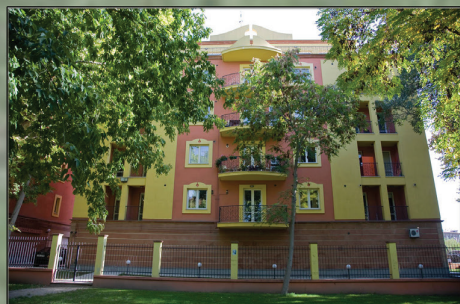
The 2019 Aurora Prize Ceremony was part of the Aurora Forum, held in Armenia on October 14–21, 2019 and convening thought leaders and change-makers from across the world to share knowledge, perspective and ideas, which together can deliver practical action and change. The Forum far-reaching agenda



is driven by partner institutions with a shared commitment to address global challenges and local development.

ARMENIA

Yezeguelian Hotel & Residence



In the Green Park
Near Congress Hotel
24 Studios and Apartments
€250 Per Week
(Payment Upon Arrival)

**In the Center
of Yerevan**



Warm Welcome
24/7 Security
Free Cafe & Bar

All Conveniences
Air Conditioned
Apartments



Kitchen, Refrigerator
Safe, TV, Internet



Modern
Rest Rooms

RESERVATIONS:

011 374 91 57 01 70
011 374 91 73 91 91

Yezeguelian@aol.com

Paris Office: 34 Avenue des Champs Elysees
Phone: 011 33 1 43 59 66 72
Yerevan Address: 8, Khorenatsi St.

cooltech®

The latest in non-invasive full body contouring.



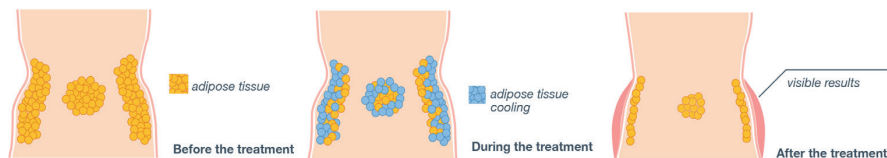
Full body contouring



Vacuum criolipolysis is the new technology for the non-surgical fat reduction:

**Very effective!
Pain free!
Safe and easy!**

Each procedure 70 min,
30-40 % reduction in treated area
in 2 month



The address: Baghramyan 1st DL, 2-nd building, 2-nd floor.
Call +374 60 536 536. www.cityspa.am



AZAD

AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Switzerland

AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Durachweg 15
CH-8200 Schaffhausen
Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10
Fax: +41 52 632 09 11

AZAD Pharma AG

Bahnhofstrasse 9
CH-3125 Toffen
Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10
Fax: +41 31 810 40 11

Canada

AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

1895 - 55th Avenue
Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9
Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99
Fax: +1 514 636 75 55

Atlit Inc.

16 Westminster Ave.,
Suite 306A
Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1
Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91
Fax: +1 514 369 81 67

China

Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza,
#102 Moganshan Road
310051 -Hangzhou China

Phone +86-571-8761 5336
Mobile +86-153-5505-0903
Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a
DE-78315 Radolfzell
Phone No: +49 7732 939101510
Fax: +49 7732 9391016

Armenia

AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

Vanahovit 8, Proshian
Ashtarak Ave., Kotayk Marz
Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62
Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպաքանակը՝ 1500
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:
TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
GAYANEH ARAKELYAN
Director of the weekly:
MARINA HARUTYUNYAN
Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**
Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**
Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604
Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
03U898368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia:
28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA
Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

Address in France: Masion De L'Armenie,
Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,
Glendale, CA, USA, 91206
Tel.: +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝ Խաչակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009