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## HIGHLIGHT

### Yerevan to host European Chess Championship 2014

At the suggestion of the Armenian Chess Federation, the European Chess Championship 2014 will be held in Yerevan.

The tournament will be dedicated to the 85th birth anniversary of Armenian legendary chess player, world chess champion of 1963-1969 Tigran Petrosyan. An analogous international chess competition will be conducted in Armenia for the first time.

The European Individual Chess Championship is a chess tournament organized by the European Chess Union. It was established in 2000 and has since then taken place on a yearly basis. Apart from determining the European Champion, another object of this tournament is to determine a number of players who qualify for the FIDE world championship.



## Vartan Oskanian starts to speak about the need to get rid of political monopoly

By David Petrosyan

Last week the National Security Service (NSS) of Armenia issued a statement, which bears evidence of the criminal case opened in connection with a number of serious tax abuses committed by Vartan Oskanian, former Armenian Foreign Minister, currently a parliamentary deputy from the Prosperous Armenia Party and the founder of the Civitas Foundation.

The NSS opened the criminal case under Article 190, Part 3 Point 1 of the RA Criminal Code (legalization of incomes obtained illegally in large amounts by an organized group through abuse of the official position).

The matter concerns a preliminary investigation into the criminal case related to the sale of 100% of the shares of Huntsman Building Products OJSC, which was established in Armenia and owned by Polymer Materials and Huntsman

International Corporations, for about \$2 million, but as a result of the transaction's wrong formulation, the failure to submit it to tax authorities, and the non-fulfillment of the tax liabilities, about \$1,135,000 of the indicated sum was not used for charitable purposes and this money was transferred to the account of the Civitas Foundation's founder Vartan Oskanian and the member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees Tigran Karapetian. The criminal case was also opened based on the fact of illegal use of this money for private profit.

In addition, the Civitas Foundation violated its regulations and the requirements of the law, failing to submit a statement on the sources of finance, the funds used in the reporting year, including the abovementioned \$2 million.

Such is the official information about the case. The following circumstance is noteworthy: the state-

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## RPA nominates its candidates of ministers

The Executive Body of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) has completed its meeting at the RPA central office on June 15.

The issue of Armenia's new government was on the agenda.

The RPA leadership headed by RPA Chairman, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan participated in the meeting.

Following the meeting, RPA Spokesman, Vice-Speaker of the Armenian parliament Eduard Sharmazanov informed journalists that, pursuant to RPA Chairman Serzh Sargsyan, the RPA Executive Body discussed the issue of Armenia's government and approved the president-proposed candidates.

Below is the list of the ministers and nominees for ministerial posts representing the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA):

**Armen Gevorgyan**, nominee for Minister of Territorial Administration;  
**Artem Asatryan**, nominee for Minister of Labor and Social Affairs;  
**Derenik Dumanyan**, nominee for Minister of Health;  
**Hrair Tovmasyan**, nominee for Minister of Justice;  
**Armen Yeritsyan**, Minister of Emergency Situations (Rule of Law party);  
**Edward Nalbandian**, minister of Foreign Affairs;  
**Aram Harutyunyan**, nominee for Minister of Nature Protection;  
**Tigran Davtyan**, nominee for Minister of economy;  
**Armen Movsisyan**, nominee for Minister of Energy

and Natural Resources;

**Armen Ashotyan**, nominee for Minister of Education and Science;

**Hasmik Poghosyan**, nominee for Minister of Culture;

**Seyran Ohanyan**, Minister of Defense;

**Hranush Hakobyan**, nominee for Minister of Diaspora;

**Gagik Beglaryan**, nominee for Minister of Transport and Communication;

**Vache Gabrielyan**, nominee for Minister of Finance.

Also, the Rule of Law party holds the portfolios of minister of agriculture and urban development.

At its sitting on Friday, the party's Political Council decided to nominate **Samvel Tadevosyan** to the post of Minister of Urban Development and **Sergo Karapetyan** to the post of Minister of Agriculture.

On June 18, Armenia's newly formed government is to hold its first and special meeting.





## Nalbandian Calls Davutoglu Remarks 'Racist'

After three days of Azeri incursion attempted at breaching the lines of contact resulted in the deaths of three Armenian, one Karabakh and five Azeri soldiers, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu made a statement, in which he expressed his concern for the loss of Azeri soldiers.

In response to a reporter's question about Armenia's reaction to this statement Nalbandian said that Davutoglu's statement seemed to imply that he was only concerned about the loss of life on the Azeri side, adding that Turkish Foreign Minister's statements sounded "racist."

"We have never heard him being concerned about the killings of Armenian soldiers as a result of aggression from the Azeri side. While the international community condemns the bloody incidents and urges the sides to refrain from the use of force, these sort of statements by Turkey in fact encourage Azeris to continue their aggression," emphasized Nalbandian.

"While Azerbaijan is not only not reacting, but is continuously rejecting the Minsk Group Co-Chairs' proposals on the withdrawal of snipers from the line of contact, the consolidation of ceasefire, the creation of investigation mechanisms of the violations of ceasefire, the Turkish side is attempting to shift this responsibility from

Azerbaijan to others. The Turkish side is pretending as if it is unaware as to who is responsible for any lack of progress in Kazan on reaching an agreement of the basic principles," responded Nalbandian.

"Twenty years ago Armenia did not oppose Turkey's inclusion as a member of the Minsk Group, because some countries expected that Turkey would be unbiased and would have its input in the peaceful resolution of the conflict. The past 20 years have shown that Turkey is not only biased, but through its posturing harms the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. Thus, a question arises: Does such behavior by Turkey warrant a membership in the Minsk Group?," added Nalbandian.

"Armenia has always stood for the creation of mechanisms for investigations of border incidents, and, unlike Azerbaijan, when we agree to something, we do not backtrack the following day," said Nalbandian.

"I want to recall that relevant elements for the establishment of mechanisms are included in the statements made by the presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan in March 2011 and January 2012 in Sochi. We respect those agreements and we support the creation of the mechanisms," explained Nalbandian.

## RA NA President Receives the Ambassador of Kuwait

On June 13 the RA NA President Hovik Abrahamyan received the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the RA Bassam Muhammad al-Kabandini.

Welcoming the ambassador, the NA President underlined that Armenia attaches high significance

and the head of it was Arayik Hovhannisyan.

The Ambassador conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of the President of the Parliament of Kuwait Ahmed al-Saadun to Hovik Abrahamyan on being re-elected in the NA President's post, as well as the invitation of the official visit to



to the development of relations with Arab states of the Persian Gulf, National Assembly press service told Noyan Tapan.

Hovik Abrahamyan highlighted the cooperation with Kuwait in different spheres, the activation of relations between the parliaments of the two countries, and the partnership in international parliamentary structures. The NA President noted that in the newly elected Armenian Parliament Armenia-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship Group had already been shaped,

Kuwait, noting that the visit would greatly contribute to the development of friendly relations of the two countries and the activation of inter-parliamentary relations. Bassam Muhammad al-Kabandini underlined that his country gave importance to the development of partnership with Armenia in all directions and noted that his mission would be to promote the development and reinforcement of the relations between Armenia and Kuwait at best. To the Ambassador's conviction, with respect to the deepening of inner-state relations the development of inter-parliamentary relations is of big importance.

During the meeting other issues of the development of the relations of the two countries were also discussed.

## Armenian President hosted OSCE Chairman-in-office

Serzh Sargsyan received delegation headed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland Eamon Gilmore on June 12

The President welcomed the guest, congratulated on the assumption of the OSCE Chairmanship and expressed hope that under the leadership of Eamon Gilmore the chairing country will successfully carry out its high mission. Serzh Sargsyan stressed the importance of the visit of the delegation headed by Mr. Gilmore to Armenia, underscoring that visits by the Chairmen-in-Office present a good opportunity to familiarize first hand with the region's problems and challenges as well as to discuss issues related to the OSCE activities, exchange views on the issues of mutual interest.

The parties spoke about reforms carried out in Armenia in different areas, internal developments, the NK peace process and about the recently recurring incidents on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and



the NK-Azerbaijani line of contact.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office noted that his visit is aimed at the peaceful and safe resolution of the NK conflict. He underscored that in order to achieve peace it is essential to adhere to the basic principles of the conflict resolution. According to Eamon Gilmore, the OSCE remains true to the principles of the right of people of self-determination, territorial integrity and non-use of force and supports works of the OSCE Minsk Group in moving the peace process forward. He stressed that OSCE rejects any use or threat to use

force and believes that there is no military solution to the problem.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office expressed concern with the incidents that took place recently on the border and the line of contact and noted that OSCE supports every effort which is aimed at the prevention of such incidents and creation of the investigation mechanisms.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the President of Armenia expressed gratitude to the OSCE and its Office in Yerevan for the constant assistance provided to our country and efficient cooperation.

## Eamon Gilmore plans to pay bilateral visit to Armenia

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Eamon Gilmore, who is in Yerevan on a regional visit, and Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandyan met June 12.

Welcoming the guest, Edward Nalbandyan said: "Despite the geographical distance, our people have a relationship dating back to centuries. This time you have arrived as OSCE chairman-in-office and I hope to host you soon in Yerevan as deputy PM and FM of friend Ireland too."

"Armenia has backed Ireland's candidacy in the elections for OSCE chairing country, and we, being an active OSCE member state, during the Irish chairmanship will promote the steps directed toward enhancement of productivity and viability of the organization," added Mr Nalbandyan.

Thanking for warm reception, Eamon Gilmore said he was glad to visit Yerevan and plans to arrive in Armenia on a bilateral visit as well.

During the meeting a thorough discussion was extended over ensuring of peace and security in South Caucasus, which is an important issue of the agenda of the Irish presidency.

Armenia's FM presented to OSCE Chairperson-in-Office the latest developments over the process of Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement and the Azerbaijani steps



directed toward straining the situation in the region.

"Armenia has always stood up for peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict and in this regard our position is in compliance with that of international community, manifested in the statements of OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries made in L'Aquila in 2009, in Muskoka in 2010 and in Deauville in 2011," said the FM.

In that context OSCE Chairperson-in-Office stressed that the Irish chairmanship is concerned about the tension of the situation and aims to take steps in the direction of strengthening trust, removing snipers from the line of contact, agreeing on a mechanism for investigating incidents on the frontlines. He added that OSCE absolutely supported peaceful settlement of the conflict in the format of Minsk Group.

Eamon Gilmore also positively

assessed the democratic reforms conducted in Armenia, and reconfirmed OSCE's multifaceted support to that process.

The ministers referred to agenda issues of the OSCE activity and reforms of the organization.

### OSCE Chairman Meets with Bako Sahakian

Foreign Minister Gilmore also held a meeting with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan in Yerevan.

After discussing the recent developments regarding the Karabakh conflict, Sahakian reinforced that it would be impossible to arrive at a comprehensive resolution for the conflict with the direct participation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the negotiations.

Sahakian reiterated official Stepanakert's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the OSCE Minsk Group-mediate format, but pointed out that Azerbaijan's continued use of force and anti-Armenian policies significantly hinder the resolution process and urged the international community to appropriately condemn Azerbaijan.

He also emphasized the need for Gilmore to visit the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.



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## Vartan Oskanian: The criminal case that has been opened against me is politically motivated



"In order to be money laundering, there must first be dirty money," says Oskanian

Armenia's National Security Service on June 12 issued a statement outlining its alleged money laundering investigation of former foreign minister Vartan Oskanian, who further expanded on his claim that the investigation is "politically motivated."

In its written statement, the NSS alleges that Oskanian and the Civilitas Foundation, a think-tank he founded four years ago, have been laundering money citing a \$2 million donation that Civilitas received from two US-based companies. The NSS also alleged that Civilitas failed to declare the donation to tax officials. The donation was reportedly transferred to the organization from the sale of the companies' Armenian subsidiary, the Huntsman Building Products.

In his statement, which was posted on the Civilitas Facebook wall, Oskanian pointed out that the case was filed by the NSS on May 25 just a day after his party, the Prosperous Armenia Party, decided to not join the government coalition

headed by President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia.

"Today the National Security Service issued a statement trying to prove that the criminal case they have initiated is not politically motivated," said Oskanian. "I repeat that it is clearly politically motivated and I do want to say the following: money laundering, Oskanian, Huntsman are words that cannot be placed together in one sentence."

"In case of laundering money, the source of the funds are known, the buyer is known, the transfer of the funds to me and to Civilitas according to the donor's wishes have been transparent and electronic. The attorneys have said that no tax obligation was created as a result of the transaction. And the donor's funds "shall be considered as a donation and the Recipient has the right to use in its discretion and for the implementation of its statutory objectives," explained Oskanian.

"Only those with political motivations will attempt to reduce a good man's good work to political currency," said Oskanian.

"The fact that the National Security Service deals with it means that there definitely was a political order to fabricate something against Oskanian or Civilitas. I can't find any other explanation right now," Oskanian told RFE/RL.

Oskanian's claim of political motivation was backed up by fellow members of the Prosperous Party of Armenia, as well as former President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's Armenian National Congress.

Armenian Revolutionary Federation Bureau and parliamentary bloc member Vahan Hovhannisyan did not rule out that the criminal case pending against Oskanian could be linked to his recent political activities.

Having not studied the specifics of the case, Hovhannisyan could not provide a legal analysis, but he said that having known Oskanian and his family, he highly doubted that the former foreign minister could be involved in such a serious crime.

"I know one thing, if political persecution is being veiled under the guise of a criminal case that is absolutely unacceptable for me and the ARF. We have always been and will continue to oppose to such situation," said Hovhannisyan.

Armenia's Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan was quoted by RFE/RL to have told reporters that he ruled out political motivations in the case. "Nobody has been charged. We are only talking about clearing up some circumstances."

"Unfortunately, when the state tries to carry out some actions to clarify phenomena hidden behind one or another piece of information people immediately allege a political subtext," Sargsyan told reporters.

## U.S. Envoy questions criminal case against Oskanian



U.S. Ambassador John Heffern on June 14 expressed concern over criminal proceedings launched against Vartan Oskanian and the Civilitas Foundation before visiting the think-tank, founded by the former Armenian foreign minister, together with Yerevan-based European diplomats.

"The timing of it is troubling. The fact that this would happen at this time in the political calendar is troubling," Heffern told Radio Liberty, referring to the money laundering case brought by Armenia's National Security Service (NSS).

"The Civilitas is a very important partner for us, and we think it's really important for Armenia politics and for the media," he said. "So we are very interested in the case and we are following it very carefully."

"I don't know the facts who did what to whom and who is accused of doing what, which money went where," Heffern said. "So I can't comment on the sub-

stance of it."

The U.S. envoy added that he hopes to hear more details of the case when he visits Civilitas and meets with its management later in the day.

The Yerevan-based ambassadors of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Romania were also present at the meeting, suggesting that their governments too were concerned over the NSS investigation. Some of those governments as well as the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan have sponsored Civilitas projects.

"I conveyed to them the information that we have about the matter and our views," Salpi Ghazarian, the Civilitas director, told Radio Liberty after the meeting. "We are very grateful for their attention and their understanding."

"We explained that there were no illegal actions, that the foundation's activities have been and remain transparent," Ghazarian said. "We also gave explanations about the [Huntsman] donation and Civilitas's activities and conveyed to them our concerns." She said the authorities launched the probe to pressure not only Oskanian but also the CivilNet online TV service that was launched by Civilitas last year.

Ghazarian added that she has been summoned the NSS for questioning on Friday.

Oskanian has already been twice interrogated by NSS investigators. The latter have not formally charged him or anyone else yet.

## Authorities fear that Armenian National Congress' "voice" will reach PACE - ANC Coordinator



(PACE). Zurabyan himself informed this during a press conference on June 12.

In his words, Abrahamyan noted that the old delegation can still function for six more months following Armenia's NA elections, which were held on May 6.

Zurabyan, however, believes that even if the law allows this, NA Speaker should have acted according to logic, that is to say, a new delegation should have been formed and this would have reflected the election outcome.

"Not doing this means they are afraid the Congress' voice will reach PACE," added Levon Zurabyan.

The opposition Armenian National Congress' (ANC) National Assembly (NA) Faction leader, the ANC Central Office Coordinator Levon Zurabyan met with NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan and raised the issue of forming Armenia's new NA delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

## Armenia's lawyers go on strike demanding settling the problem of legal system



The lawyers claim that courts don't act as a body of justice otherwise they wouldn't meet all the requirements of the government and wouldn't support all the accusations of the prosecutor's office.

Member of the Chamber of Lawyers Lusine Sahakyan noted that "the right of fair legal proceedings is not observed in our courts".

On December 22, 2011, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated the importance of enhancing trust toward the legal system at the meeting devoted to legal and judiciary problems. "We have repeatedly noted that reforms in the sphere should enhance society's trust to legal system. The path towards this suggests us putting forward and settling problems which impede enhancing citizens' trust. Unfortunately, I have to note that the current results are not satisfactory and we can't speak of serious changes in the sphere", the President said.

Over 500 members of the Chamber of Lawyers of Armenia went on a one-day strike to call the attention of the judicial power to the problems existing in the system.

The lawyers presented their demands and uncovered the statistics which according to them illustrates the situation in the judicial system today.

"The courts' activities make the deficit of justice more severe and deepen people's mistrust towards the state and courts", said Deputy Chairman of the Chamber of Lawyers of Armenia Ara Zohrabyan.

## The newly appointed Ambassador of Ecuador in the Republic of Armenia presented his credentials to S. Sargsyan

On June 13, the newly appointed Ambassador of Ecuador in the Republic of Armenia Patricio Alberto Chaves Savala (residence in Moscow) presented his credentials to President Serzh Sargsyan.

The President of Armenia congratulated the Ambassador on the commencement of his diplomatic mission in our country and wished him every success. Serzh Sargsyan underscored that Armenia was interested in the development of relations with Ecuador and expressed hope that after the creation of the legal field between the two countries, establishment of close relations between the business communities

and exchange of information on the economies of the two countries, it would be possible to unfold mutually beneficial cooperation in different areas.

Ambassador Patricio Alberto Chaves Savala noted that in Yerevan he has already had meetings with the of different Ministries, agencies, representatives from the area of education and science and discussed issues of mutual interest and possible cooperation. He assured that during his tenure, with the support of the Presidents of the two countries, he would do his best to develop and strengthen the Armenian-Ecuadorian relations.





## 2.1 million dollar reimbursement to heirs of Armenian Genocide victims

French AXA Insurance agency will give a 2.1 million-dollar reimbursement to the heirs of the victims of Armenian Genocide, who were involved in a judicial process for more than a year now. Glendalenewspress.com informs about this.

According to the source during a hearing Monday, US District Judge Christina Snyder said if attorneys agree on the plan, checks to about 100 claimants should be cut.

"Let's get that done sooner, rather than later," she said.

The deal on the payout, reached between a group of attorneys who have sparred over control and accounting of the fund, comes after the firm Holthouse, Carlin and Van Tright verified the claims.

There should be about \$700,000 remaining in the fund after the payout, with some claims still pending.

During the review by Holthouse, Carlin and Van Tright, however, accountants found 17 checks that were endorsed by "Boyajian and Associates," headed by attorney Berj Boyajian, even though they were made out to other individuals, according to a motion filed in court.

Glendale-based attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan had originally requested a review of all 13,000



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claims made to a compensation fund set up by France-based insurer AXA S.A. to look for possible discrepancies, but his attorney, Roman Silberfeld - along with attorneys Mark Geragos and Brian Kabateck - reached an agreement earlier this year requiring only that claims for \$15,000 or more be reviewed.

The checks signed by Boyajian and Associates totaled about \$312,000, according to the motion filed by Silberfeld.

Silberfeld cites two claimants who had checks made out to them but that were cashed by Boyajian. When contacted, they said they did not authorize anyone to deposit the checks on their behalf.

In an interview after the court hearing, Boyajian said he deposited six checks into a trust fund - a move that was authorized by his clients.

The money in the trust fund will eventually go back to his clients or their beneficiaries, Boyajian added.

## Normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations will positively impact region - U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

Philip Gordon, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, attended the annual session of the American-Turkish Council, and spoke of the need to ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols.

Reflecting on the Armenian-Turkish relations, Gordon noted that their improvement will have a positive impact on the region, Haberler news agency of Turkey informs.

"This region needs diplomatic and not closed-ties and open borders," noted Gordon, and stressed that there still is time to settle the matter and the U.S. wishes for Turkey to take steps toward ratifying the protocols.



ing the protocols.

And reflecting on the current difficulties in Turkish-Armenian relations, Philip Gordon pointed to the Cyprus issue and the Armenian Genocide resolutions being introduced to the U.S. Congress.

## Elmar Mammadyarov speaks of peaceful settlement of Nagorno Karabakh conflict in the Netherlands

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov has left for the Netherlands and met with his counterpart Uri Rozenthal. Along with various issues the parties have discussed the recent incidents of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, APA agency reports.

In regard to the regional security issue, the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister has stated for a regular time that they are ready to settle the issue only in a peaceful way, according to international law and principles.

For a regular time the Azerbaijani officials have made pathetic and thunderous statements



in presence of foreign representatives. Despite Baku's regular announcement on peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Azerbaijani side never stops violating the ceasefire regime and opening fires in the directions of the Armenians, which proves about its false position.

## Israeli minister calls to recognize Armenian Genocide

An Israeli cabinet minister said on Tuesday that the Jewish state ought to change its policy and recognize the 1915 mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks as an act of genocide, The Jewish Journal reports.

Gilad Erdan, a close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, answered a motion in parliament by opposition lawmakers marking the massacre's anniversary.

"I think it is definitely fitting that the Israeli government formally recognize the Holocaust perpetrated against the Armenian people," Erdan, Israel's environmental affairs minister said.

Israel has long avoided acknowledging the mass killings of Armenians as genocide, in deference to already strained ties with Turkey which rejects that view.

Relations with Turkey have been tense since the 2010 killings of nine Turkish activists in a commando raid on a Gaza-bound ship. Turkey withdrew its ambassador to Israel after that incident and suspended military cooperation.

Erdan said the Israeli government had not formally changed its policy on the Armenian's past tragedy, adding: "we should definitely support holding an open and



in depth discussion that analyses the data and facts."

The Israeli lawmakers voted that the issue would face further debate in the education committee. Any parliamentary decision on the issue would not be binding on the government.

Yigal Palmor, a spokesman at Israel's Foreign Ministry, said Israel's formal position on the Armenian tragedy remained that the issue "must be decided by historians and not be subject to political deliberation."

The Armenian issue has stirred emotions in Israel where many feel that the Jewish people who suffered six million dead in the Nazi Holocaust during World War Two

have a moral obligation to identify more closely with the Armenians' ordeals.

"Those who demand recognition of the murder are not engaged in lobbying but are simply seeking historic justice," Israeli Parliament speaker Reuven Rivlin, a member of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, said.

Nino Abesadze, a lawmaker with the centrist Kadima party, counseled against linking the issue to relations with Turkey.

"We must not link our sentiments about the Armenian tragedy to considerations about other dangers in the region. Events such as genocide are above politics," Abesadze said.

## Oxford Analytica: Mediators can exert pressure on both sides in Paris

The Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers will meet in Paris on June 18. OSCE Minsk Group French, Russian and U.S. Co-Chairs are widely expected to exert pressure on both sides to de-escalate tensions.

This is the forecast of Oxford Analytica British Research Center.

Oxford Analytica says that Azerbaijan is following a new military strategy based on a build-up of procurement and preparations for attaining operational readiness by 2014, threatening to go to war by the 20th anniversary of the ceasefire if there is no progress in the Karabakh peace process.

"Bolstered by a steady build-up in weapons and spending, the Azerbaijani General Staff recently warned it would take just ten days to liberate the occupied territories and reach the Iranian-Armenian border. However, despite such rhetoric, the



Azerbaijani armed forces remain unready for a new war, while the Armenian side poses no offensive threat and simply seeks to secure its earlier gains. Nevertheless, Azerbaijan seems unwilling to climb down from its threats, underestimating the potentially destabilizing impact of domestic disappointment with unfulfilled promises and expectations of military victory," the research says.

Oxford Analytica reminds that Azerbaijan's attacks coincided with

a regional tour by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and seriously disrupted its agenda.

According to Oxford Analytica, reflecting recognition of the new scale of risk, there is now a new sense of diplomatic urgency. Yet under the current OSCE mediation format, such urgency will be difficult to sustain, and nearly impossible to succeed. One of the reasons is Russia's stance, whose interests are better served by either the status quo or an expansion of tension.

## Vartan Oskanian starts to speak...

From page 1

ment of the NSS maintains the presumption of innocence regarding Armenia's ex-foreign minister, although very often officials and official bodies as well as the press don't take the trouble to abide by that legal provision.

In connection with the aforesaid, we should note that:

- before the statement of the RA NSS had been posted on Armenian sites of the Internet, a website published an interesting analysis of the possible versions of how Vartan Oskanian could launder money of

the Civitas Foundation. The analysis was made by a certain correspondent of a website based in the U.S. and the content of the analysis surprisingly coincided with the arguments put forward by the NSS;

- the events (the transaction and the subsequent operations) described in the NSS statement took place in 2010-2011, and judging from the official statement, U.S. money was laundered;

- according to V. Oskanian and the press reports, the criminal case was opened on 25 May 2012, i.e. the day after the leader of the Prosperous

Armenia Party Gagik Tsarukian made a statement to the effect that he has no intention of entering a coalition with the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA);

- the "money laundering" case is being investigated by the NSS, and not by fiscal authorities or the Office of the Prosecutor General. This circumstance is explained by the fact that the matter concerns large sums. Yet, five years ago, in a "money laundering" case, the NSS kept another ex-Foreign Minister Alexander Arzumanyan in custody

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## 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. Moskovyan 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, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan 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
- ♦ **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. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, 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 Abovyan 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. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyán 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 colds water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **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

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str.** 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**, 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm 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 for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **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, fire-place, 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
- ♦ **3105. Cascade, Antartain**, 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, Kharkovyan 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

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view -1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str.** half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **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

- ♦ **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 cottege 4 flats, total-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
- ♦ **853. Amiryán 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

- ♦ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan 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
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**, 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**, 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**, 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryán str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str.**, 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built,, 150 sq.m, capitally

repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD

- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**, /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**, /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **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.**, 18/10, 2 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

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**, 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land -1000 sqm**, basement + 2 floors` 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 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
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Djrevej**, 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
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **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 Marshak 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

## PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str**, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4rh floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyán 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
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyan street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 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
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD



## US Ambassador candidate to Azerbaijan Morningstar responded NKR and Genocide issues

Azerbaijan's escalation of violence against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh and ongoing repression of human rights took center stage during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing for U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan designee Richard Morningstar, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

In successive questions, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe Chairwoman Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Senator Robert Menendez sent a clear message that the U.S.- Azerbaijan relations should not solely focus on energy concerns and must reflect the fundamental issues of democracy building and human rights as well as deterring renewed Azerbaijani aggression and finding a peaceful and lasting resolution to the NagornoKarabakh conflict.

"We join with Armenians in New Jersey, New Hampshire and across America in thanking Senators Menendez and Shaheen for shining a spotlight on the failure of the Obama Administration to stand up to Azerbaijan's escalating threats and acts of anti-Armenian aggression and worsening human rights record," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "We were especially gratified, in light of Baku's recent cross-border attacks into both Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh that Senator Menendez was able to secure assurances from Ambassador-designate Morningstar

regarding the very strict scrutiny that clearly must be applied to any potential U.S. military transfers or sales to an Azerbaijani government that has openly pledged to use its growing arsenal to renew its aggression."

US-Azerbaijan Relationship More than Energy:

"Azerbaijan's integration with the West can and must span well beyond pipelines," said Ambassador-designate Morningstar in his prepared testimony, after underscoring the broad levels of energy and security cooperation between the U.S. and the Caucasus nation. "The United States must also continue to work with Azerbaijan on advancing democratic and economic reforms, including promoting respect for the rule of law, transparency, and fundamental freedoms."

Morningstar went on to stress that "to achieve a more secure and prosperous future for the region, there is no higher immediate priority for the United States than the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

Senator Menendez Condemns Azerbaijani Aggression; Demolition of Djulfa Cemetery:

In his questions to Morningstar, Sen. Menendez called specific attention to recent cross-border attacks by Azerbaijan against Armenia, threats by President Aliyev that "Armenian

will live in fear," and the assertion that "Our [Azerbaijan's] main enemies are Armenians of the world." Menendez continued, asking "do you think, based upon those types of statements, that the proposed sales of military hardware to be used in conjunction with Azerbaijan's military helicopter fleet is really in the



national interest of the United States?"

Morningstar responded that "that it is fair to say, and I will say, that any language that is counterproductive, such as you have said, that any actions by any party that bring about loss of life, as the Secretary of State said last week, create increased tensions, can create escalations that can have unpredictable and unforeseeable consequences and make even more difficult the task of achieving the settlement in Nagorno Karabakh." He stopped short, however, of expressly calling out the Azerbaijani government's aggression against Armenia.

In terms of military sales to

Azerbaijan, Morningstar argued, "There are increasing tensions with respect to other neighbors, in particular with Iran. And we have to provide, I think, security assistance, possibly military assistance in ways that cannot be used to exacerbate any situation with respect to Armenia or Nagorno Karabakh."

Menendez was quick to respond, reminding Morningstar that "I didn't hear President Aliyev say 'My main enemy or security concern is Iran,' he said that, 'Our main enemies are the Armenians of the world.' [...] I have a real problem with going ahead and selling military hardware to the Azerbaijanis based upon what has happened."

In response to Sen. Menendez's question about why the Azerbaijani destruction of the Armenian cemetery in Djulfa was not included in the State Department Religious Freedom Report, Morningstar replied: "I don't know. But I can say that if I am confirmed I will make every effort to visit the cemetery and that any kind of desecration such as that is unacceptable, outrageous and I will do my best to get there, and soon." Menendez continued undeterred, stating that "I would assume the only impediment to your best effort will be the Azerbaijanis not letting you go? I'm trying to understand what your 'best effort' is?"

You're going to do everything possible to go?" referencing the Aliyev regime's reported refusal to allow former Ambassador Bryza to visit the region. "Yes," replied Morningstar.

As with past nominees, Sen. Menendez pressed Morningstar regarding his position on the proper recognition of the Armenian Genocide, asking "I don't expect you to answer any differently than I have had previous nominees before this committee do, but I have to ask you whether or not you contest any of the facts what transpired in 1915 as it relates to 1.5 million Armenians who were brutally massacred and marched to their deaths in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire?" Morningstar replied "No, I do not."

Senator Shaheen focused her questions on Azerbaijan's human rights record and urged Morningstar to do more than "jawboning" in terms of getting positive movement with regards to democracy building efforts in the country. She went on to ask Morningstar about the effect of Israel's proposed \$1.5 billion arms sale and its affects on regional stability. In his opening remarks, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry cited the importance of finding a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Ranking Republican Richard Lugar (R-IN) focused his questions on the energy sector and Azerbaijan's role in the region



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## Vartan Oskanian starts to speak...

From page 4

for six months and confiscated \$40,000 from ex-Deputy Minister of Defense Vahan Shirkhani, that is to say, the matter concerned much less money. The case of Alexander Arzumanyan and Vahan Shirkhani never went to court;

- to judge by various sources of information, the NSS has not so far carried out any searches and seized any documents in the office of the Civiltas Foundation and in apartments of the Foundation employees and Vartan Oskanian. For the time being, V. Oskanian as a witness provides explanations to the NSS investigators, in other words, he shows his readiness to cooperate with investigators. However, at any moment he may decline to give evidence or may turn from a witness into an accused, and in that case the NSS will have to seek support of the Office of the Prosecutor General, while the latter will have to present the respective arguments to the parliamentary deputies because V. Oskanian has immunity as a deputy.

Vartan Oskanian himself made it clear that he views everything that has happened to him in the political context. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and the Vice Speaker of the parliament Edward Sharmazanov ruled out any political connotation in the Oskanian case.

Interestingly, the ex-foreign minister is becoming increasingly radical

in his political rhetoric, stressing the need to deprive the RPA of its political monopoly in Armenia, as well as his mistrust of the legal system. Yet, in February and March of 2008 when ten Armenian citizens were killed in the center of Yerevan, he somehow overlooked the problem. Moreover, he was one of the most consistent advocates of the political monopoly and the legal system.

In 2009 the same legal system sentenced V. Oskanian's predecessor, ex-foreign minister Alexander Arzumanyan to five years in prison, within the framework of "the case of seven". At that time V. Oskanian neither protested against that sentence nor recognized A. Arzumanyan as a political prisoner, believing that Armenia's legal system is fair. Now that he is concerned, Mr. Oskanian has started to speak about the need to combat the political monopoly and about his mistrust of the legal system and political persecutions.

All three political forces that set up the Inter-Party Center for Public Oversight of the Elections (Prosperous Armenia Party /PAP/, the Armenian National Congress, and the ARF-Dashnaksutyun Party) have made it quite clear - in one form or another - that they, too, do not rule out a political connotation in the "money laundering" case and in the circumstance that the RA NSS asked V. Oskanian to appear as a witness.

On the whole, these events can be assessed in different ways, but the author's point of view (at the moment of writing the article) is as follows:

- the ongoing processes show that the presidential pre-election campaign has de facto begun in Armenia;

- the "money laundering" case shows that the level of contradictions between the RPA and the PAP is quite high and that all the talk that in the autumn these two parties will merge in a political ecstasy is unfounded. This confirms the fact of a split within the once monolithic "party in power" in Armenia;

- V. Oskanian is one of the persons most closely connected with ex-President Robert Kocharyan. The relations of R. Kocharyan and the incumbent president are rapidly deteriorating. Apparently, President Serzh Sargsyan fears that not only R. Kocharyan, but also V. Oskanian will be put up as candidates in the upcoming election;

- in this situation, the actions of Armenian special services are aimed at taking over the control of considerable flows of funds in the country ahead of the start of the presidential campaign.

In our opinion, what has happened to Vartan Oskanian and the Civiltas Foundation shows that this summer (which is usually considered a "dead season" from the political point of view) may prove pretty eventful.



# Italian cuisine, Italian cinema, and Italian music. Mauro Maur in Yerevan

by Marianna Martynova

Yerevan again hosted the festival "Week of Italian Cuisine" - a long-awaited, real holiday for gourmets.

As a rule, this annual festival started with a press conference given by the Italian Ambassador to Armenia Mr. Bruno Scapini who introduced those present with the program of the upcoming week. What the festivals held so far in Yerevan have in common is that they offer a lot of Italian dishes, both well-known and unfamiliar, but all of them delicious and beautiful. The festival of Italian cuisine has probably not become so popular, but for new and unusual features that distinguished each festival from those held previously. Last year the master class given by the famous Italian cook Luigi Mandruzzato was such a novelty. This year another cook, Eduardo Boviello demonstrated his skills at making culinary masterpieces. Besides, he was in charge of the preparation of the gala supper which took place in the Congress Hotel, while Mr. Scapini's decision to pamper the guests with food not only for the stomach, but also for the soul became the surprise of the 2012 Week of Italian Cuisine.

This year Yerevan residents once again received a wonderful present: at the invitation of Mr. Bruno Scapini, Italian trumpeter, composer, pedagogue, and conductor Mauro Maur with the program "Great Music of Italian Cinema" visited Armenia during the Week of Italian Cuisine.

A famous musician, a connoisseur of ancient music, and a renowned performer of contemporary one, Mauro Maur is a soloist of Solisti Veneti and First Trumpeter for the Orchestra of the Opera House in Rome.

As is generally known, unlike many musical instruments, the trumpet was not a solo instrument for many centuries. Until the 20th century, trumpet solos were played in the times of Bach and Handel.

During the concert "Great Music of Italian Cinema" the famous Italian trumpeter performs a

duet with Francoise De Clossey, piano.

It is not often that one can enjoy such a combination - the trumpet and the piano. Superbly performed by the two musicians, the music is very pleasing to the ear. The duo has given performances in numer-



ous famous concert halls throughout the world such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Munich Kunsthalle, the Grand Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory, the Opera House of Rome, and in the best halls of Venice, Milan, and London.

Prior to the Yerevan concerts of Mauro Maur, we asked him a few questions.

This is your first visit to Armenia. Have you visited any places of interest in our city so far?

Until now we have seen few things here - this allows us to perform more.

How many concerts are you going to give in Armenia? Where will these concerts take place?

The visitors of the Mezzo Cafe will have the opportunity to listen to our music this night. Next day we will perform for the guests of the gala supper to be held in the Congress Hotel within the framework of Week of Italian Cuisine in

Yerevan.

Francoise De Clossey is the gem of your duo. She has won audiences by her performance, also thanks to her charisma and charming smile.

Pianist Francoise De Clossey is half Italian. She grew up in Canada

and currently resides in Italy. We have lived and done creative work together for seven years already.

I see! You mix the pleasant with the useful!

No (laughs), only the pleasant. I don't like "the useful" - when there is "the useful", "the pleasant" is out of the question. We have only "the pleasant". (laughs)

The Armenians know and love Italian music, including classical music performed by Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, and Jose Carreras, as well as pop singers such as Adriano Celentano, Toto Cutugno, Al Bano, and Raffaella Carrà. What famous tunes will be played at today's concert?

Some of the pop singers you have just mentioned and their songs are not as popular in Italy as they are in Armenia and Russia.

Today's concert will feature soundtracks from famous films, as well as Aram Khachaturian's music.

We have much in common.

Yerevan is a sister city of the Italian city of Carrara in Tuscany, many Armenians are enthusiastic about Italian music, cinema, and painting, and ... we are fond of Italian cuisine. You are probably aware that Yerevan abounds in restaurants specializing in Italian food, not to

What Armenian dishes did you try?

Yesterday I tried dolma. I liked it very much.

There was a concert in the Mezzo in the evening. The hall was packed. Mr. Scapini and other employees of the Italian Embassy in Armenia attended the concert.

Wonderful music was playing throughout the evening. It was music written for great films of great Italian directors such as Visconti, Fellini, and Antonioni, the unforgettable tunes by Italian composers Ennio Morricone and Nino Rota. The sounds of the trumpet floated naturally and freely, they were powerful and resembled the human voice. The audience was excited as it was difficult to believe that it was the trumpet - an instrument that seems to be little suited for the expression of one's innermost feelings and emotions.

Thanks to his excellent rendition and vibrant musicianship, Mr. Maur won the hearts of all those who were present in the cozy and hospitable hall that evening.

The trumpeter provided interesting explanations from the stage, telling the audience about his vision of music and films, recalling his meetings with the famous composers with whom he collaborated, and citing various details related to their collaboration. For example, he said that one of the famous tunes composed by Ennio Morricone was adapted by his son Andrea as a soundtrack and dedicated to Francoise De Clossey.

Among the fans of Mauro Maur have been many well-known people.

Giulietta Masina, who was the wife and muse of the Italian film director Federico Fellini and is considered one of the best actresses of the 20th century, requested that Mauro Maur play "La Strada" by Nino Rota for her funeral.

The Italian brand means great actors, great artists, great film directors, great musicians, and ... great cuisine. One of the aims of the current Week of Italian Cuisine was to introduce the Armenians to yet another Italian name - Mauro Maur.

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## We all come from the childhood



by Marianna Martynova

The 1st of June! The first day of the summer! The first day of the longest school holidays! On that day people all over the world, both adults and children, celebrate one of the most popular and brightest holidays in the year - International Children's Day.

Despite the fact that officially the 1st of June is not a non working day, the atmosphere in the streets of Yerevan was festive. The tunes of children's songs were coming from numerous cafes of the city, you could see a lot of people with balloons and ice-creams, the amusing characters of favorite cartoons were strolling along city streets, and the children's laughter was ringing everywhere.

The welfare of children is believed to depend on adults' attention. Unfortunately, in Armenia there are low-income families, in which the parents cannot provide their children with the bare necessities of life such as enough food, toys, and a good education. Orran (which means "haven" in Armenian) benevolent non-governmental organization has helped such families for many years. For their part, the staff of the Armenia Marriott Hotel has rendered assistance to Orran.

Christmas, New Year, Easter, and International Children's Day are those festive occasions, which the hotel employees spend with the children of Orran every year. The kids always look forward to an invitation to their favorite hotel where they will have the opportunity to make decorations for the Christmas tree, bake and decorate cakes and pastries (and then eat them), run for a while

on the grass in the courtyard of the hotel, and have a delicious ice-cream.

One of the kids asked an



employee of the hotel once: "Are you going to visit us?" The employee promised. And now the promise has been kept!

On the 1st of June a group of hotel employees, led by General Manager Ami Miron and Executive Chef Rolf Graber, paid a visit to Orran. Attaching importance to this aspect of the hotel's social activities, Mr. Miron personally made sure that everything was ready for the children's arrival. On that day, a number

of famous anchor persons, stage actors, and singers joined the hotel staff, thanks to which the festive event held at Orran's center was a success.

In the courtyard of Orran's center, under the canopy of trees, tables were put and a barbecue grill was installed, over the fire of which the invited celebrities - under the guidance of Rolf Graber - grilled patties of ground meat for hamburgers as well as hot dogs. It was delightful to enjoy a hamburger, a hot dog, or a pizza prepared by favorite actors and singers, in the open air, in the company of other children. Singers Artur Ispirian, Nara, and Arminka "worked" at the big table laden with salads and snacks, while the well-known actor Ashot Ghazarian got into the role of a cook at the barbecue grill and started grilling meat in a very artistic manner. When the kids were full up and became tired of



playing and running about, the solemn moment arrived - a huge cake and lots of ice-creams were brought!

The cake deserves special mention. It was large, square, and colorful. Cartoon characters made of colored cream were placed on its top, while its sides were decorated with fairy-tale creatures made of marzipan.

Other surprises also awaited the children.



Several employees of Areximbank came to congratulate the children. And, of course, no festive event is a success without presents. Every now and then the children would stare in wonderment at the beautiful parcels with soft toys inside. According to Areximbank representative Alexander Hakobian, in addition to giving presents to the kids (there were pencils, pens, exercise books and sketchbooks in the parcels), the bank also allocated a

sum for Orran.

When the event was coming to a close, the children cheerfully sang a song for the guests.

Each of the adults felt a child for a moment. Everyone was in high spirits. It is hard to say who enjoyed the party to a greater extent - the children, for whom it was held, or the adults who organized it. After all, it is not the most important thing. The main thing is that everybody felt so good!





## Armenia: Before and after DCFTA

*In February this year the European Union's Trade Policy Committee has unanimously decided to launch negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with Armenia. This agreement will largely eliminate trade barriers between the two sides, but the precondition is that Armenia's economy has to undergo considerable quality changes. DCFTA talks with the EU will start in June, but a preparatory meeting, a so called, "zero round" on the subject has already been held in Brussels.*

*The Policy Advisor on Trade at the EU Advisory Group to Armenia, Willem van der Geest explained in an interview to Mediamax and Banks.am portal, what changes are going to take place in Armenia's economy and how long this will take.*

**- Negotiations are starting between the EU and Armenia on a DCFTA agreement. How do you evaluate this stage of the negotiations and what questions are on the agenda?**

- It's absolutely right to say that the DCFTA negotiations are now starting. In 2009 the European Commission came with a very large fact finding mission to Armenia. They identified a whole number of areas, and then 3 areas were taken as key priorities. These were: technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, as well as intellectual property rights. So the preparation has been going on for about three years, but on the 3-rd of May the first official, they call it "zero round" was held, it's really a preparatory meeting, during which it's discussed how these negotiations are done, what are the areas that will be covered etc.

It took place in Brussels, and the official first round of the negotiations will take place in the middle of June in Brussels. It's too early to evaluate them at this stage. But the start of these negotiations was very constructive and positive. I think there is a good understanding between the EU and Armenia.

**- During your recent lecture at Russian-Armenian University you said that these negotiations can last for 3 years or more, depending on the speed at which Armenia implements economic reforms. There are actually some reforms taking place in the fields of food security, taxes and customs, antimonopoly regulation etc. In your opinion, will Armenia manage to reach the agreement in three years or this will become a longer story?**

- I think that 3 years is a realistic estimate. To say it can be done shorter is not realistic because there are many areas to be tackled. But fortunately Armenia already has quite a simple structure of customs tariffs, so shift will take place relatively easy. It's not such a large economy, so in that sense I think 3 years is a realistic estimate, it's definitely possible.

**- Does this transition suppose more legislative or administrative changes?**

- A number of legislative changes have to take place, some institutions must become stronger and there has to be good implementation. In some areas, like, for example food safety, the work has already started: the govern-

ment adopted a strategy for food safety in November 2011 and the work is already going on. In other areas work is still starting. For example very little has yet been done in the area of trade in services.

So those areas still need to be tackled during the negotiations. And for some sectors where the changes are quite far reaching, more time is needed for complying with international standards, so there will be transition time after DCFTA comes into effect. For example certain industries will be given 2-3 years after the signing of DCFTA to comply with those standards.

**- It seems that economic reforms in Armenia are taking place slowly. When we compare economic reforms in Armenia and Georgia, it seems that although the same reforms are taking place in both countries, in Georgia they're taking place much faster**



**than here. What's your opinion?**

- It's fair to say that the reforms are going a bit slowly, but it's not unusual. If we compare it to when a number of Central and Eastern European countries joined EU, like Bulgaria and Romania, it also took quite a number of years to pass the necessary legislative changes, make the necessary reorganization of the government agencies, so it's slow but not unusual.

I don't really know enough about Georgia to compare, but it's true that some reforms were quite swift there, especially in 2004 and 2005. But there's a perception from the international observation, that some of the reforms there have not given the expected results. So sometimes it's better to go a bit slower but do it properly rather than do kind of popular movements and later find out that it doesn't work. So, as long as there's tangible and steady progress, a gradual approach is OK.

**- One of the major preconditions for DCFTA is free economic competitiveness in the internal market and strict regulation of monopolies. How is this process going to take place? What is Europe's, or, perhaps, world's best practice of stopping monopolies, especially when, and that's not a secret in Armenia, many of them are merged with the authorities?**

- Pushing monopolies back is crucial. In

every economy, whether it's French or German, Armenia or Georgian, there are monopolies. There are certain monopolies that are called natural monopolies, because they're based on the networks, for example, airport, natural gas and electricity distribution, water, railway etc. They will always stay throughout the world. The key is that they are regulated. And the regulation must be such that a new entrepreneur can enter and use those networks.

**- But in Armenia there are dozens of unnatural monopolies. How should they be dealt with?**

- Here the issue of competition policy comes in. Entrepreneurs that wish to enter into a particular field, for example importing food-stuff, mobile phones, cars etc., must be sure that they're not hindered by existing operators.

In European Union we have the Directorate General for Competition, which analyzes

whether there are instances of price fixing between colluding groups or unfair competition, and they give major fines. There's famous example of Microsoft: European Commission fined Microsoft for \$500 mln, because of the way they were handling their Internet Explorer. There are cases of even larger fines: Glass producers in France, Germany and Japan fixed the price amongst them, which is forbidden. The Commission found the evidence of that price fixing, it was a cartel, and they gave enormous fines: some ^ 1.5 bln was to be paid by 3 companies, which were smashed.

So what is important for Armenia is that the State Commission for Protecting Economic Competition (SCPEC) has sufficient powers to take those kinds of actions. They must have access to the accounts of companies that they suspect. For example they must be able to do surprise inspections. If they find that there is collusion, the penalty has to be so high, that the lawbreaker will not contemplate to do it again.

Of course we know that companies will always try to make deals under the table. This is why the regulator needs to be stronger. And this is an example of legislative and institutional change that will have to take place in Armenia to deal with this problem.

We cannot expect all monopolies to disappear overnight. It will take a long time, because

they're strong and entrenched, maybe through corruption and bribery they get certain officials or administrations to help them, so I think that anticorruption drive has to be also part of these measures. It's a whole package, it's not only competition policy, you need several related measures.

**- What will actually change for an average Armenian firm, which is in trade relations with EU, after Armenia joins the DCFTA? What will change for EU resident companies, trading with or investing in Armenia and what will change for an average Armenian citizen?**

- Armenian firms in general will have better access to the European markets. So if they are exporting they'll find it easier to get into the European market. If they're dependent on inputs they import from Europe, they will find it easier to bring them into the country, so that will make them more competitive. There is small number of Armenian companies that are exporting to Europe but virtually every company is importing from Europe. About half of total imports come from the EU.

What will change for EU resident companies: the DCFTA Chapter that will deal with services and investment will treat European companies the same way it treats Armenian national companies. So, they will find it easier to operate here. It will be more attractive and also more secure. So there'll be increase of investment, because of this change of regulations, which is good for Armenia from the growth point of view.

It will take time for an average Armenian citizen to feel the change, because we're talking about time frame of 5-7 years until the changes take effect. But in the longer term there'll be a greater choice of goods in the markets. Goods will be somewhat cheaper because there will be less barriers on their entry. Of course the increase of exports will also lead to greater employment opportunities, so there will be more jobs.

**- Some Armenian businessmen doubt that DCFTA will somehow make it more difficult to do business in Armenia. What's your opinion?**

- I think that it's a misunderstanding and we are trying to explain it. Of course some industries will have to upgrade the quality of their production in order to get into foreign markets. This is the globalization; you cannot stay with low standards. People in Armenia don't want low standards either. Of course this is a challenge for many industries, but if they don't invest they will lose. And this is why we're talking about transition period, so we don't do it overnight and the industries will have from 2 to 5 years to improve their technology after the new regulations are adopted.

For example, we say, that we want higher standards for food safety. This is also demand from ordinary consumers in Armenia, but at the same time this is a requirement for entering the EU market. So companies have to invest to meet those standards. There's no another way.

*Ruben Harutyunian  
talked to Willem van der Geest*

## Tatev Rebirth and DILIJAN International School programs discussed by Vice PM



Issues of implementation of Tatev Rebirth and DILIJAN International School programs were discussed at the meeting held by acting Vice Prime Minister of Armenia, Minister of Territorial Administration Armen Gevorgyan.

Ruben Vardanyan, people responsible for implementation of

the programs and representatives of interested structures took part in the meeting.

The meeting focused on the issues of providing necessary infrastructures and conditions to organize construction works of DILIJAN International School. The participants of the meeting

stressed the necessity of submitting the new master plan of DILIJAN meeting the criteria of development of the town to discussion.

An agreement on establishing a task force involving representatives of all the interesting bodies was reached as a result of the meeting. The task force is sup-

posed to quickly respond to emerging issues and propose solutions.

Armen Gevorgyan stressed the importance of these projects from the standpoint of balanced development of regions noting that they are the center of the Armenian government's attention.



## 59 organizations, including 21 foreign ones, participate in DigiTec Business Forum this year

The 5th annual DigiTec Business Forum was held in Yerevan's Armenia Marriott Hotel on June 15-16. The motto of the Forum was "Smart Country - Digital Solutions for Innovative Economy".

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan delivered an opening address. On behalf of the Armenian government, he congratulated all the participants of DigiTec 2012. In his words, Armenia emerged from the global financial and economic crisis as a stronger country. "Our economy is now more diversified than in 2008, and in this sense its resistibility has considerably increased," he said, noting that the information technology industry has played an important part in this. "The use of IT increases productivity in all sectors of the economy: five years ago the neighboring countries surpassed us in the indices I have mentioned. Five years later, we declare that we rank first in the region in all these indices," Tigran Sargsyan stated.

Executive Director of the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) Karen Vardanyan spoke about the objective of the Forum: to promote the creation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled innovative economy and to ensure the best environment for exhibiting ICT products and services.

According to Karen Vardanyan, the main problem is to decrease the existing barrier between providers of technology solutions and the business community. "A few years ago Armenia ranked 116th in the

use of technologies, today its position a bit improved: we are in 94th place, but I think this place is unbecoming to us not only in terms of upholding the honor of the country.



The number of organizations participating in DigiTec Business Forum has increased by 48% this year. In 2011 some 40 organizations took part in the Forum, whereas this year



their number made 59, including 38 Armenian and 21 foreign organizations.

The difference of this year's event from the D i g i T e c

Business Forums held in previous years is that it has attracted more foreign participants. We had guests representing various organizations from 13 countries, which means

that the interest in the Armenian market has grown," UITE Executive Director Karen Vardanyan said during a talk with Noyan Tapan correspondent.



As part of its activities, the UITE organizes a number of events aimed at creating a favorable business environment for the ICT sector. Among such events are annual



DigiTec Expo, DigiTec Business Forum, the meeting-forum of ICT leaders, ArmRobotics, Armenia's Open Championship of Computer Game Designers, and a series of

meetings entitled "Information Technology for Business".

During the Forum, business visitors had the opportunity to see a wide range of technology solutions



exhibited by domestic companies such as ArmenTel, e-Works, Innovative Greenhouse, Flexible Applications, Webex Technologies, Good Line, Griman, Key Solutions,



Sprint, Paradox, and Lime Tech, as well as by the Nork Information and Analytical Center, the Armenian Association of Telemedicine (AATM), the Gyumri Economic Development Foundation (GEDF), to name a few. Director General of ArmenTel Company Igor Klimko expressed an opinion that for Armenia's IT

companies offering interesting solutions, DigiTec Business Forum is a good platform allowing them to display their solutions to large companies. He added with confidence that the dialog and partnership established between various companies thanks to the Forum form a basis for the economic development and prosperity of the country.

During the exhibition organized within the framework of the Forum, a number of startup IT companies will display their software solutions, this contributing to a dialog between the IT industry and other sectors, while the invited speakers will inform Armenian companies and policy makers about the best international experience.

The two-day DigiTec Business Forum involved the following events:

DigiTec Business Forum, ArmRobotics, Armenia's Open Championship of Computer Game Designers, and the series of events entitled "Information Technology for Business".

The participants of the conference on the problems of technology solutions' introduction discussed the ways and methods of efficient introduction of ICT and other innovative technology solutions.

The seminars focused attention on the latest solutions and services designed by ICT companies.

DigiTec Business Forum is held under the high patronage of Armenian Prime Minister and with the assistance of the USAID Enterprise Development and Market Competitiveness (EDMC) Project.

The project started in 2008.

## New HIV/AIDS prevention program for migrant workers

With 1,217,951 Euro allocated by the European Union, World Vision will launch a cooperation program on the prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS in the South Caspian countries and the Russian Federation.

In Armenia, the program will be implemented in Gegarkunik and Lori Marzes - the regions with the highest number of migrant workers.

According to a survey conducted among Armenian migrant workers, the process of emigration from the country continues, with migrant workers constituting an overwhelming majority of the emigrants. Most migrant workers live and work illegally in the host country, which limits their chances of receiving medical services, including preventive ones. The majority of Armenian migrant workers are married men, aged 20-50, from the country's poorest regions, and they endanger the health of their families.

As part of the program, World Vision Armenia will seek to unite governmental organizations and NGOs with the aim of securing access of migrant workers to such

vital services as medical aid, care and assistance both in their homeland and the host country.

Shaghik Marukhyan, manager of World Vision's operations in Armenia, attached importance to Russia's involvement in the program in the sense that most migrant workers from Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan leave for Russia where they risk contracting HIV.

In Armenia the program will be implemented in cooperation with Real World - Real People NGO. Among other partner organizations are the Republican Center for



the program as well as for the community-level concerned parties in order to efficiently solve acute HIV/AIDS problems, create a regional network, and to develop and implement joint programs of training and protection of public interests.

Head of the Epidemiological Unit of the Republican Center for AIDS Prevention Arshak Papoyan said that there has been an increase not in the number of HIV positive people, but in the number of those who undergo examinations as such people consult a doctor only when the clinical signs of the disease appear after the latent period of 7-10 years.

In response to Noyan Tapan correspondent's question about whether the Armenian government assists the program, Hasmik Harutyunian, manager of the Global Fund Project Coordination Team of the RA Ministry of Health, replied that 1,217,951 Euro allocated by the European Union is a sufficient amount for the program's implementation, and now the most important thing is to ensure that this sum is spent most effectively.



## Ronald S. Mangum: "Our cooperation has been very successful"



Here we are presenting the interview of Noyan Tapan with Country Director of Armenian Representative Office of American Bar Association CEELI Inc Mr Ronald S. Mangum.

**How long has your organization been operating in Armenia? What is its mission?**

The American Bar Association began operating in Armenia in 1995 under the name of Armenian Representative Office of the American Bar Association CEELI, Inc. (ABA CEELI). We are still registered under that name in Armenia, but the organization is known in the United States and generally as ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI).

Our mission is to provide technical support to the Government of the Republic of Armenia (RA) in moving its legal institutions closer to international and European norms. We work with the Ministry of Justice, the Association of Judges of the RA, the Judicial Department of the RA, the Chamber of Advocates and with several law schools in Armenia. We have also worked with partners in an election monitoring program in national elections since 2008.

Funding for ABA ROLI activities in Armenia is provided mainly through grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).



**Which programs implemented by your Organization in Armenia do you consider most important? Why?**

It is very difficult to single out one or two programs that are most important, so let me address several in specific areas:

**Legal System reform:** ABA ROLI has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice in the development of many Armenian laws. Most recently we have provided recommendations and advice on proposed changes to the RA Criminal Procedure Code.

**Judicial Reform:** ABA ROLI assisted the AJRA and Judicial Department in developing a Code of Judicial Conduct. This code provides guidelines to the judiciary on ethical behavior and is intended to further the independence of the judiciary and to assure the Armenian public that judicial decisions are transparent and free of corrupt influence. ABA ROLI just published a revised edition of commentaries to the code. ABA ROLI has provided repeated training to judges on applying decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in Armenian court cases. ABA ROLI periodically conducts a Judicial Reform Index (JRI) that assesses the current state of the Armenian Judiciary. The last JRI was published in 2008 and ABA ROLI is in the process of finalizing a current JRI. The JRI is relied on by many international donors, as well as the RA Judiciary and Ministry of Justice, as an independent assessment of the RA Judicial system.

**Legal Profession Reform:** ABA ROLI assisted in the formation of the Chamber of Advocates of the RA as a professional association of Armenian Lawyers. ABA ROLI also created the first computer-based bar examination for licensing of new advocates, which completely eliminates the ability for outside influence in the licensing of advocates. ABA ROLI provides courses of Continuing Legal Education to advocates, particularly training on promoting and enforcing individual human rights

and taking cases to the ECtHR.

**Legal Education Reform:** ABA ROLI has worked with several law schools in Armenia to institute legal clinical training for law students. The legal clinics not only provide practical training for students, but also provide free legal assistance to vulnerable Armenian citizens. The ABA ROLI Street Law Program has provided education on basic human rights to thousands of Armenian school students.

**Election Reform:** In 2007 and 2008, ABA ROLI initiated a program of election "ambulances" - cars that provided on the spot legal assistance to voters to discourage fraud and assist voters to secure their rights. In addition to the election day activities, ABA ROLI trained judges, advocates and civil society members in changes to the election codes, and provided information on voting rights to Armenian citizens through the law school legal clinics. This program was continued in 2012.

**Criminal Law Program:** ABA ROLI has been integrally involved in providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice in modernizing the Criminal Justice System of the RA. In 2010, ABA ROLI conducted a Pre-Detention Assessment tool. ABA ROLI has provided recommendations to the MOJ on changes to the Criminal Procedure Code and has provided extensive training to prosecutors and public defenders in trial advocacy skills.

**Do you implement any programs in cooperation with Armenian state bodies or non-governmental organizations? If so, please present these programs, indicating their significance to and their real effect on the vital activity of Armenian society.**

Some of our technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice, AJRA, Judicial Department, and Chamber of Advocates is listed above. We also work with the Council of Court Chairmen, the Cassation Court, the Constitutional Court and the Administrative Court, as organs of the RA.

We have co-sponsored training programs with several International and Armenian NGOs, and we worked particularly closely with Counterparts International and Civil Society Institute in our election monitoring program.

**What programs do you plan to implement in the near future?**

ABA ROLI has just completed an update of our Judicial Reform Index (JRI), which is a periodic assessment of the state of reform of the Armenian Judiciary. The last JRI, which is relied on by many international organizations, such as the OSCE and World Bank, was published in 2008. The latest JRI will be unveiled this fall.

The Ministry of Justice has plans to revise the RA Civil Procedure Code and ABA ROLI has already indicated that it is



ready to provide technical assistance for that project. We will continue working with Armenian law schools to expand legal clinic programs and we will assist the Chamber of Advocates to develop its new School of Advocacy and Continuing Legal Education programs.

The MOJ has indicated that it will work on revising the RA Criminal Code after the Criminal Procedure Code is approved. ABA ROLI anticipates working closely with MOJ, advocates and the Judiciary to make recommendations to the new Criminal Code.

**Does the work carried out by you attract interest of society? What about society's support?**

Because our programs support basic human rights in Armenia we perceive that there is a high degree of interest in all of our programs. We believe that Armenian citizens want an efficient and effective legal system, with competent judges free from extra-judicial pressures, and competent advocates who will help those citizens obtain their rights.

**Is your cooperation with Armenian authorities successful?**

So far, our cooperation has been very successful. Many of our recommendations have been incorporated into law or practice.

**What kind of difficulties have you met during your operations in Armenia?**

We have not met with specific difficulties, but we continue to find that an overly technocratic mindset (much of it a holdover from Soviet times) among RA officials, particularly at the lower levels of implementation, cause nearly every pro-

gram to take much longer than necessary and involve much bureaucratic 'red tape.'

**What things do you consider positive in present-day Armenia? In your opinion, what should be changed in the country?**

Among officials in the Ministry of Justice, the Chamber of Advocates and the RA Judiciary there is an understanding of changes that are necessary to provide an open, transparent and corruption free legal system that protects the rights of the individual Armenian citizen. The challenge is to find the political will to support and enforce those changes.

**What is the most tangible achievement in the elections of 2012?**

It is hard to say because of different programs that we get involved. I guess I would say the election project was very visible to the Armenian public we worked closely with several organizations with the Armenian Civil Society Institutes: with Counterparts International, we worked with the Chamber of Advocates, Administrative Courts with the Associations of Judges. So it was a very good collaborative project and as far as we can, at least on the election day things were very calm and pretty orderly. I guess I mentioned two other things we have done: one is the training of the Court Judges on European Court of Rights procedures how to cite the cases from European Court, how to look them up, how to put them into decisions, and we train judges and Judicial systems during that.





## VivaCell-MTS continues to support Armenian students worldwide

By Andy Barsamian

On June 7 VivaCell-MTS announced providing students willing to obtain new skills and qualifications with modern tools of learning. The videoconference hall and the smart board provided by the Company to the International Center for Research and Education in Agribusiness will serve the purpose.

The Internet is a perfect means to secure a virtual learning environment. Distance learning model is one of the tools for that. It allows students learn in a foreign university while staying at home.

Owing to the support by Armenia's leading telecommunications operator, the online education project generated in partnership with the Texas University that was once only a plan envisioned by the center is now a reality. VivaCell-MTS has invested more than AMD 8 million into equipping a video-conference hall and obtaining of other equipment. Professional equipment to provide HD audio and video quality, monitors and a video camera distantly controlled by the instructor provide imaging that allows making the virtual auditorium look as realistic as possible. The HD quality guarantees naturalness of the voice, which lets minimize the feeling of distance, organize a face-to-face discussion and get maximum information. The first live video conference was organized with the Texas University. The center now also has a smart board and a projector.

"The Internet widens the learning opportunities. I believe the live

distance learning tool will change students' set of mind and behavior. It will let the young people be more independent, more result oriented and responsible, while the instructors by the monitors on the two



ends will provide the required advice. The virtual cooperation between the universities of various countries will help form wider worldview. It is equally helpful in terms of comparing and correlating the mentalities and cultures of various nations. We strive to make all the information resources available to the students," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

Armenia's leading telecom operator believes the technological solutions and the online learning opportunities are well on demand to provide quality education, the Company's officials say.

And no lesser importance has been attached to the support of the students in Armenia's marzes, especially on the borders of the country.

So on June 12 VivaCell-MTS

informed that the project for providing Armenian universities with communication infrastructure continues.

This time Armenia's leading telecommunications operator has



provided the Yerevan State University Ijevan branch with valuable equipment necessary for organizing the educational process: a 3G router operating in the frames of "Home-Zone Turbo" package, a

Wi-Fi corner, an auditorium equipped with 7 computers connected to the Internet, a switch and a laser printer.

The technically equipped educational laboratory, the huge information flows provided by the Internet, and contemporary methods of education are now available for the University.

New technologies help to save time, ensure high level awareness and rapid decision-making skills. These terms guarantee the probability of success. Productive usage of information sources is the first thing that students must learn.

VivaCell-MTS believes that the modern technologies and the advanced learning tools will boost the activities of the University.

Speaking about Armenian student youth, we should not forget to

and continuously developing technological solutions.

Business success begins with the realization of the mission of contributing to the economic development and VivaCell-MTS, with its new model of management culture, driven by corporate social responsibility, is a good example of this.

The first meeting of VivaCell-MTS General Manager with the graduates of the AGBU Manoogian-Demirchyan School was held 2 years ago during his visit to the USA. Now, another group of students has an opportunity to get acquainted with the success story of VivaCell-MTS.

"Desire, determination and hard work is the formula for success, which, however, should be based on respect. I wouldn't be mistaken to say that corporate social responsibility is a means of demonstrating respect for the customer, society and country in general. Love towards the Motherland should be proven in everyday work. VivaCell-MTS considers its employees as the Company's most expensive capital. Regardless of the position and the level of responsibilities, everyone must be appreciated", said VivaCell-MTS General Manager.

The meeting of the students with the leading company's General Manager was interesting and educational. Comparing the experience of companies operating abroad, they came to the conclusion that VivaCell-MTS's achievements are sustainable and competitive for keeping the leading positions in the market.

## Armenian chapel - 192nd historic building of Stockholm

As reports The Union of Armenian Associations in Sweden, no one knows for sure who built the chapel. But perhaps it was the Armenian Ohan Demirgian, a diplomat who created a lot of attention in Stockholm's social life since he arrived to Sweden in the 1860s to submit some Barbary horses as a gift to King Charles XV from Egypt's monarch. Demirgian received a court yard as a summer place and held lavish parties there. The chapel has been used as a conservatory, chapel,

Armenian chapel and an artist's studio, according to Dagens Nyheter. Union of Armenian Associations in Sweden welcomes the news. "Armenians have for years expressed interest in the building and it has at some occasion used for holding an Armenian church service in the chapel. We hope it will remain as an important symbolic building of an interesting era in the Swedish cultural heritage" writes The Union of Armenian Associations in Sweden in a statement.



The chapel at a court yard will be Stockholm's 192nd historic building

## Agnieszka Holland to be among the guests of "Golden Apricot"

World famous film director Agnieszka Holland will be among the honorary guests of "Golden Apricot" 9th International Film Festival. Press center of the Golden Apricot told Armenpress that "In Darkness" film by Agnieszka Holland will be presented within the program of "Yerevan Premieres". In the framework of the festival Holland will be granted "Parajanov Taler" Award for her outstanding contribution to the world cinema.

Agnieszka Holland was born 28 of November 1948 in Warsaw but went to Czechoslovakia to study film directing at FAMU in Prague. She began her film career working in Poland with Krzysztof Zanussi as assistant director, and Andrzej Wajda as her mentor.

She wrote several scripts with Wajda before directing her own films, which were soon winning awards at festivals - [Cannes (1980), Gdansk, Berlin (1981),



Montreal (1985,1987), Golden Globe Award (1991)] - and gaining notoriety as part of the Polish New Wave. Holland is best known in the United States for her Oscar-Nominated "Angry Harvest", "Europa, Europa", and Warner

Bros. films: "Olivier, Olivier" and the "The Secret Garden".

In 1994 she has directed "Red Wind" in the United States, a thriller for television produced by Sydney Pollack, which was aired on Arte in the series Fallen Angels. A year later she made "Total Eclipse". In 1996 she has directed "Washington Square" in the United States, starring Jennifer Jason Leigh and Albert Finney.

Her 2011 film In Darkness, which is involved in the program of "Golden Apricot", has been selected as the Polish entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 84th Academy Awards. In January 2012, the film was

named as one of the five nominees. The Polish director Agnieszka Holland gets it about right with her true-life Holocaust drama In Darkness, about a group of Jews who survived by hiding in sewers for 14 months.



## DID YOU KNOW?



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

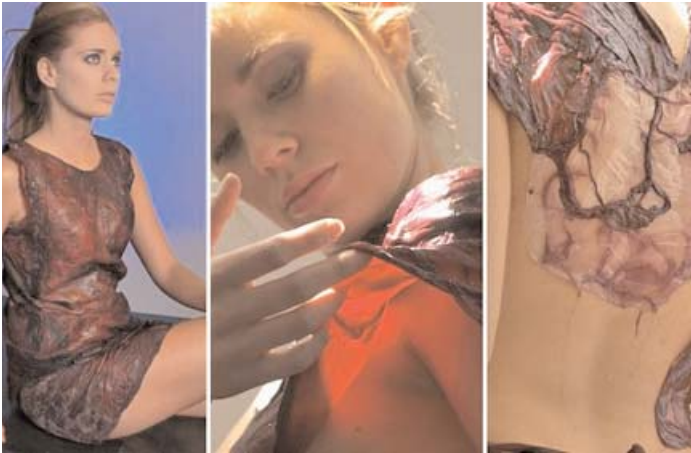
## Australians make dresses made from red wine

A team from the University of Western Australia have added bacteria to red wine and managed to create a cotton-like fabric that can be used to make anything from dresses to t-shirts and swimwear, *Oddity Central* reports.

Although still in the early stages of development, this technique of making clothes from wine could one day become mainstream, at least according to the people who came up with the idea.

"By combining art and science knowledge and with a little inventiveness, the ultimate goal will be to produce a bacterial fermented seamless garment that forms without a single stitch," lead researcher Gary Cass said. Still, the technology is far from perfect, and there will probably be a long time before people will be wearing casual clothes made from Pinot Noir or Merlot.

The process of creating wearable fabric from wine starts by adding a bacteria called acetobacter to batches of red wine, to convert it into vinegar. A scum-like layer forms on the surface of the wine, in the process, which is harvested and dried on an inflatable mannequin to get the desired shape. After it has dried, the mannequin is deflated, but the fabric retains its shape. Sounds pretty simple so far, but there is one major downside to this wine-made clothing. When it dries, the fabric becomes as fragile as tissue paper and tears very easily, so the clothes have



to be kept damp when worn. That's not going to be a problem on hot summer days, but during the winter...

Scientists behind the project hope to team up with other experts, in order to make their red wine fabric tougher. Although they look pretty cool, wine clothes are nowhere near as advanced as Anke Domaske's milk garments. Those look like actual clothes and have already went into mainstream production. Still, with time, we might just see people wearing wine on the streets some day.

## ARMENIAN POETRY

Siamanto  
(1878-1915)

Prayer

The swans, in discouragement, have migrated from  
the poisonous lakes this evening,  
And sad sisters dream of brothers under the prison  
walls.  
Battles have ended on the blossoming fields of  
lilies,  
And fair women follow coffins from underground  
passages,  
And sing, with heads bowed down towards the  
ground.  
Oh, make haste! Our aching bodies are frozen in  
these pitiless glooms.  
Make haste towards the chapel, where life will be  
more merciful,  
The chapel of the graveyard where our brother  
sleeps!  
An orphan swan is suffering within my soul,  
And there, over newly-buried bodies,  
It rains blood - it pours from mine eyes.  
A crowd of cripples pass along the paths of my  
heart,  
And with them pass barefooted blind men,  
In the divine hope of meeting some one in prayer.  
And the red dogs of the desert howled all one  
night,  
After hopelessly moaning over the sands  
For some unknown, incomprehensible grief.  
And the storm of my thoughts ceased with the rain;  
The waves were cruelly imprisoned under the  
frozen waters;  
The leaves of huge oaks, like wounded birds,  
Dropped with cries of anguish.  
And the dark night was deserted, like the vast infi-  
nite;  
And, with the lonely and bloody moon,  
Like a myriad motionless marble statues,  
All the dead bodies of our earth arose to pray for  
one another.



## American-based Armenian Danny Tarkanian edges out Cegavske in CD4 race



In a race that will likely determine his political future, Danny Tarkanian nosed his way to victory in a crowded Republican primary, winning the chance to take on Democrat Steven Horsford in Nevada's newest congressional district, *The Las Vegas Sun* reports.

Despite waging a tough campaign from a sizeable financial deficit, state Sen. Barbara Cegavske was unable to overcome Tarkanian's ironclad name recognition throughout the district, which stretches from North Las Vegas through the state's southern rural counties.

Cegavske, a conservative state senator, relied on a targeted voter identification campaign that propelled her to victory in Clark County. But Tarkanian crushed Cegavske in the rural counties, indicating her much weaker turnout effort in that part of the district.

Tarkanian, a Las Vegas lawyer and businessman, has staked his political future on this campaign, saying he likely wouldn't be able to run again after four straight losses - a record his primary opponents used against him.

Kenneth Wegner, a perennial candidate with some tea party backing, came in third. Las Vegas businessman Dan Schwartz, who spent much of his own money on the race, trailed in fourth place.

Tarkanian will compete with Horsford in November.

Although voter registration in the district favors Democrats by 9 points, Republicans hope they will outperform those statistics on Election Day. The district stretches from urban North Las Vegas - where Democrats often struggle to get voters to the polls - through the southern rural counties - where Republicans vote almost religiously.

Tarkanian demonstrated his strength in those counties in his primary victory. Tarkanian more than doubled Cegavske's showing in rural Nevada.

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

During the next year opportunities for travel will probably increase. Relationships with siblings, roommates and/or neighbors will be more rewarding and your overall daily attitude becomes more optimistic. Focus of attention on communication (written or oral) will be highlighted. Educational opportunities are attractive and expanded. You may become a teacher in your field.

### Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19) :

You will likely have improvements in financial income or other personal resources. This may develop either as the result of general good luck or increased effort. Optimistic attitudes concerning money could lead you to overextend resources. Your sense of self-esteem is increased by several notches as you demonstrate what you have learned in recent years.

### Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Jupiter in your sign will lighten any load, renew your sense of optimism and reinforce your self-esteem. Help and cooperation of others will be more available to you, especially if you make your requests in person. The spiritual dimension of your life will improve and travel or education becomes more prominent. The only difficulty with this transit is the tendency for weight gain.

### Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Any effort toward becoming more acquainted with the deeper parts of yourself will be well rewarded. Positive results can be achieved through psychotherapy, dream work, meditation, hypnosis and/or prayer. Assistance will come to you through unexpected (and possibly mysterious) sources. Your desire to contribute to the greater social good will increase and yield good "karma".

### Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21) :

Effort invested in organizational or group social causes will be returned in bounty. Networking with friends and acquaintances may play an active role toward helping you attain personal goals in life. Relationships with stepchildren (and more generally to other people's children) will improve and become a source of pleasure. Corporate financial resources may increase.

### Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Any reasonable effort in the area of profession, career or social status should meet with favorable results during the next few months. There may be additional travel, or educational/teaching opportunities associated with career endeavors. Relationships to superiors will be more supportive. Opportunities develop to improve relationships with the family of origin.

### Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :

Jupiter augurs improvements and good fortune through any or all of the following: legal or ethical issues, contacts with foreign lands or people who live at a distance, the internet, higher education, teaching, publishing and long distance travel. Events of the next year will broaden your perspective on all of life and expand your sense of connection to a larger circle of others.

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

Gain comes to you through areas of shared financial resources. These may include: compensation from insurance or other group holdings, increases in partner's income, sale of property, gains through inheritance or gifts, increase in the value of stocks, bonds or other mutually held property, or tax benefits. Debts owed to you will be paid, whether financial or favors. Intimate life is on the upswing.

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

The year brings improvements in all your most intimate relationships. This may be the year to get married or develop a beneficial business partnership. Those with client bases will note considerable expansion. The period is favorable for attracting positive assistance through professional consultants, e.g., doctors, counselors, etc. Travel and/or education are on the increase.

### Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Jupiter will increase the physical vitality, heal anomalies, and offer improvements in work conditions. Relationships to coworkers will be enhanced and equipment may be updated. This is the time to look for a better job (or it may find you). Any type of self-improvement program, but especially those relating to the physical body, will have highly beneficial results. Many will adopt pets.

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

The time has come to relax and let yourself remember how to play. All types of creative work will be enhanced and those with children will find greater satisfaction and a more rewarding relationship in the next year. Those who want children or a new love affair will likely be granted their wish. Give yourself permission to explore new possibilities in creative self-expression.

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

Jupiter will bring improvements to your domestic life. This may manifest in a new home or other property, such as a car. It especially favors home decorating or expansion projects. Domestic problems of the past may be improved or resolved during this period. Opportunities to improve and augment relationships to the family of origin will be presented.

## HUMOR

### Cut Your Hair

A young man comes home and says "Dad, just got my driver's license and would like to use the family car."

Father replies, "O.K., son. But, first, you have to get good grades in school, keep your room clean, make the yard is neat, and cut your hair. Come back in a few months and then we'll see."

Well, several months pass and the young man comes into the house with his report card in his hand. "Dad, I got great marks on my report card. I've been keeping my room as neat as a pin, and the yard is always ship-shape. How about letting me use the car?"

Father replies, "That's all true, but son you didn't cut your hair."

Son says, "But, dad, Jesus had long hair."

Father replies, "Yes, son, you're perfectly right. And he walked everywhere he went."

## Quote of the week





## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

# MEZZO

*classic house club*

## CLUBS

## MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan

**June 18, 25 at 9.30 p.m.**  
Marina and City Project Band  
**June 19 at 9.30 p.m.**  
Upstairs Band  
**June 20, 26 at 9.30 p.m.**  
Art Voices Band at Mezzo  
**June 21 at 9.30 p.m.**  
"Nuance" ethno-jazz  
**June 23 at 9.30 p.m.**  
CHIGAPO & THE GENIUSES Band  
**June 24 at 9.30 p.m.**  
'Impression' Band

## ULIKHANYAN CLUB

Gevorg Kochari St., 4

**June 20 at 9 p.m.**  
The Dionysus rock band Live  
**June 24 at 11a.m.- 9 p.m.**  
Crossroads Blues Band at Ulikhanyan club

## CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

**June 23 at 8 p.m.**  
Music Cascade: Chico & Friends Jazz Band: Concert-presentation dedicated to Duke Ellington

## CLUB 12

41/1 Abovyan Street

**June 21**  
Greek party  
**June 22**  
Retro disco party  
**June 23**  
Latino party from Fiesta Caliente

## FRIENDS BAR

Pushkin str., 49

**June 22 at 8 p.m.**  
Meloman Game

## THEATRES

## YEREVAN STATE PANTOMIME THEATRE

Moskavian str. Building 3

**June 21 at 7 p.m.**  
Flowers Manuscript

## STATE MARIONETTE THEATRE

Mashtots Ave. 43.

**June 23 at 12.30 p.m., 14.00 p.m., 15.30 p.m.**

Play for kids  
Once upon a time  
**June 24 at 12:30 p.m., 14:00 p.m.**  
Play for kids  
The Naked King

## SUNDUKYAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

Grigor Lusavorich st., house 6

**June 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 at 7 p.m.**  
The Adventures of Masha and the Bear  
**June 20 at 7 p.m.**  
King John

## MHER MKRTCHYAN ARTISTIC THEATRE

Movses Khorenaci st., house 18

**June 22 at 3.01 p.m.**  
The Golden Key  
**June 23 at 7.01 p.m.**



The Baker's Wife  
**June 24 at 7.01 p.m.**  
Barefoot in the Park  
**June 29 at 5.01 p.m.**  
Don't Go Away Mad

## H. TUMANYAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

**June 20 at 7 p.m.**  
Operation Nemesis  
**June 23 at 12 a.m., 2 p.m.**  
Goldfish  
**June 24 at 12a.m., 2 p.m.**  
Little Red Riding Hood  
**June 28 at 7.30 p.m.**  
C'est la vie

## HAMAZGAYIN THEATRE

26 Amiryan Str.

**June 21, 28 at 7 p.m.**  
A Cup of Kindness  
**June 22, 23, 24 at 7 p.m.**  
Blaise  
**June 29, 30 at 7 p.m.**  
The three penny opera

## H. PARONYAN STATE THEATRE OF MUSICAL COMEDY

Vazgen Sargsyan st.

**June 21 at 7p.m.**  
Napoleon Korkotyan  
**June 22 at 7 p.m.**  
Lover in Hot Bed  
**June 23 at 7 p.m.**  
Beware of Women  
**June 29 at 7 p.m.**  
You Can't Get Rid of Me  
**June 28**  
Twelfth Night  
**June 30 at 7 p.m.**  
Love Stir

## YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATRE

Mashtots ave, 58.

**June 21 at 7 p.m.**  
Gentlemen, Everything is Collapsing but We Can Still Live and Have Fun  
**June 22 at 7 p.m.**  
Royal Concert  
**June 23, 24 at 7 p.m.**  
Scotch & Whisky

## K. STANISLAVSKI STATE RUSSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

Abovyan st., house 7

**June 18, 19 at 7 p.m.**  
Don Juan Avia  
**June 21 at 7 p.m.**  
Classmates

**June 22 at 7 p.m.**  
Remember the War  
**June 23, 28 at 7 p.m.**  
Filumena Marturano

## HENRIK MALYAN THEATRE OF FILM ACTORS

Vardanants 18  
(entrance from Vernissage)

**June 22, 23 at 7p.m.**  
Marriage

**June 25 at 7p.m.**  
Train Stories

**YEREVAN THEATRE OF THE YOUNG SPECTATOR**  
Moskovyan St., 3 Building

**June 29 at 7 p.m.**  
Demone

## CONCERT HALLS

## ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

46 Mesrop Mashtots Poghota

**June 19, 20 at 7 p.m.**  
Flora Martirosyan. Recital

**ARMENIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
Conductor: Eduard Topchyan

**June 22 at 7 p.m.**  
APO & Bernd Glemser  
Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra  
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Eduard Topchyan  
Soloist: Bernd Glemser, piano  
(Germany)  
Conductor: Christopher Warren-Green (UK)  
Program:  
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 2  
Faure: Pavane  
Debussy: La Mer  
**June 26 at 7 p.m.**  
Gala Concert  
Opera Theater Symphonic Orchestra  
Musical Director and Principal Conductor: Karen Durgaryan  
Soloists:  
RA Merited Artist Gevorg Hakobyan  
Artsvik Demurchyan  
Syuzanna Melkonyan  
Perch Karazyan  
Kristine Sahakyan  
Hayk Tigranyan  
Tamara Dadoyan  
Greta Bagiryan  
Arnold Kocharyan  
Gurgen Baveyan  
Anna Mnatsakanyan  
Artavazd Khachikyan  
Program: Armenian and Western

European composers' works

## KOMITAS CHAMBER MUSIC HOUSE

**Talalyan Brothers Viola & Cello Festival**  
**June 21, 25 at 7 p.m.**  
Parade of Cellos

## ARMENIAN CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL ART

1/3 Pavstos Buizand

**June 12-30 at 6 p.m.**  
"Remote Sensing" A Group  
Exhibition of Contemporary Art from Italy  
**June 21 at 7p.m.**  
Rusty Pumpkin 4 +, Rusty Teenagers, Rusty Pumpkin Annual Alternative Media Festival

## YEREVAN MODERN ART MUSEUM

Mashtots ave. 7

**June 18 at 1 p.m.**  
Internal Time- Harutyun Jinanyan

## CINEMA

## CINEMA MOSCOW

18 Abovyan Str.

### Red Hall

**June 18 at 11 a.m.**  
Wrath of the Titans  
**June 18 at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 9 p.m.**  
Dark Shadows  
**June 18 at 7 p.m.**  
Innocents

### Blue Hall

**June 18 at 12a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.**  
Madagascar 3 3D  
**June 18 at 10 p.m.**  
Prometheus 3D



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