

14th "Golden Apricot" Film Festival opens in Yerevan



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President's address on Armenia's Constitution Day

Dear Compatriots,
I congratulate you on Constitution Day.

The historic choice of the people of Armenia is to build a free, democratic and social State. This objective is clearly articulated in the Basic Law of our country. Over the past few years, the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia served as a strong legal bearing for our State and our people even in the most difficult situations. Naturally, during this period, significant changes occurred in our social and political life that led to the need for a constitutional reform, which today has become a reality in our country.

As you may know, we are in a transitional stage now. We are transitioning to a parliamentary system of governance. Our conviction is that the new amended text of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia provides greater opportunities for furthering democracy, maintain-



ing the power balance between different branches of government, as well as for a well-balanced and harmonious development of our country, in general.

We will undoubtedly have a more equitable and a more stable statehood

and society as a result of constitutional reforms.

Once again, I congratulate all of us on this remarkable day and wish we would be implicitly loyal to the letter and spirit of our Constitution.

Prime Minister receives Armenia-accredited EU Ambassadors



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received on July 7 EU-member States' ambassadors accredited in the Republic of Armenia, led by the Head of EU Delegation to Armenia.

Noting that Armenia is prepared to develop cooperation with the EU in all areas of mutual interest, the Prime Minister emphasized that the EU-Armenia constructive and partnership-based dialogue adds momentum to this process.

Karen Karapetyan introduced the priorities set out in the 2017-2022 Program of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the ongoing reforms and the projected key activities. In particular, the Head of Government presented the work done in the spheres of public administration, human rights, judiciary reform, fight against corruption, economy (GSP + generalized system of privileges, free economic zones), as well as the results

recorded so far and the upcoming steps.

Describing as ambitious and impressive the program of the government and the reform agenda, EU Ambassador Piotr Switalski reaffirmed European Union's readiness to work with Armenia in order to deepen and further strengthen bilateral relations.

Welcoming the steps undertaken by the Government of Armenia as part of its anti-corruption policy, including electoral processes, judiciary reform, human rights, business environment, and a number of other areas, the EU side underscored that they would continue to assist Armenia in the aforementioned key areas.

The meeting discussed a number of other issues of mutual interest. In particular, Prime Minister Karapetyan thanked the guests for their readiness to support his government's programs and reforms and went on to stress the importance of meetings held in such a format in terms of both discussing issues high on bilateral agenda and outlining the areas of future cooperation.

Armenia, EU to start talks on Single Support Framework 2017-2020 – Foreign Minister



“Armenia and the EU have finalized the Partnership Priorities for 2017-2020 and tomorrow in Yerevan we are going to start the talks on the Single Support Framework of the EU assistance to Armenia for the same period,” Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said, addressing the Informal Ministerial Meeting of Eastern Partnership in Chisinau.

“On many occasions we have underlined the importance of the Riga Joint Declaration, its four main areas of cooperation, principle of differentiation and other provisions that have guided our efforts within the Eastern partnership during the past two years. Armenia has registered sound achievements: Horizon 2020, COSME, launching negotiations on the Common Aviation Area Agreement, as well as the “Creative Europe”, that we intend to finalize soon, but first of all, the new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement that we initialed and plan to sign in Brussels this November,” Minister Nalbandian said.

Among the pending issues he mentioned the launch of the Visa Liberalization Dialogue. “Facilitating and intensifying the mobility and

people to people contacts has been put in the core of the Eastern Partnership and should continue to remain as such,” he added.

“In terms of the future of our cooperation, I would like to refer to the ideas expressed by Commissioner Johannes Hahn at the Ministerial meeting in Luxembourg, specifically, the ones related to the expansion of the TEN-T network, harmonization and reduction of the roaming tariffs and funding the development of the Small and Medium Enterprises of partner countries in local currencies. I believe that these proposals can be integrated in the agenda of our future cooperation, which I hope will be equipped with many other productive programs,” the Armenian Foreign Minister noted.

Minister Nalbandian also recalled the “20 deliverables for 2020” document, which is a programmatic plan of action that outlines the prospects of cooperation within the Eastern Partnership.

“It goes without saying that drafting of the Final Declaration is one of the most challenging tasks ahead of us in preparations of the Summit. Armenia stands ready to contribute to the meaningful document that will reflect the true spirit of cooperation and direct our efforts for the years to come. The agreed language of the Riga Declaration may serve as a basis for overcoming contentious issues as they arise. I share the opinion of those colleagues who believe that there is no need to poison the atmosphere of the upcoming Summit with the issues that we all know can block the consensus,” Armenia’s top diplomat stated. “The successful cooperation with the European Union has contributed to the Constitutional reform process and parliamentary elections held in Armenia this April, that were praised by our partner countries and specialized international organizations,” he said.

“Armenia is committed to continue the reforms. The European Union has been and will remain our trusted partner in these processes. Armenia appreciates the partnership with the European Union and looks forward to the future fruitful cooperation,” Minister Nalbandian stressed.

14th “Golden Apricot” Film Festival opens in Yerevan

The “Golden Apricot” Yerevan International Film Festival opened in Armenia’s capital with the traditional apricot blessing ceremony and will continue through July 16.

The stars of directors Frunze Dovlatyan, Yuri Yeznkyan and film photographer Sergey Israelyan were unveiled on Charles Aznavour Square. The traditional red carpet ceremony at Moscow Cinema marked the official opening of the festival.

Welcoming speeches were delivered by founding director of the festival Harutyun Khachatryan and Ralph Yirikian, the General Manager of VivaCell-MTS, which is the general partner of the festival. After the start of the festival the competition programs and the inter-



national jury boards were presented. It was followed by the screening of the opening film “Khaspush” by Hamo Beknazaryan.

According to the organizers, this year, the annual film festival, founded in 2004, received 1,100 film submissions from 96 countries. However, only 47 films will be competing in three main categories: International Feature Competition (12 films), International Documentary Competition (16 films) and Armenian Panorama National Competition (19 films).

Armenian business leader sees less corruption on Russian border

Russia has twice sacked the chief of its customs checkpoint on the border with Georgia this year following corruption alleged by Armenian traders and truck drivers, the head of Armenia's largest business association said on July 6.

Arsen Ghazaryan of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs said corruption and bureaucratic red tape on the Russian side of the Upper Lars border crossing, heavily used by Armenia, remain a problem. "Corruption cases at the Lars checkpoint have decreased but not been completely eliminated," he added.

According to Ghazaryan, who also owns a major Armenian cargo company, the Russian customs service has twice replaced its top officers there since January in order to lower "corruption risks."

The mountainous crossing processes a large part of Armenia's trade with Russia which was worth almost \$1.4 billion last year. Russia solidified its status as Armenia's number one trading partner in 2017.

Some drivers of Armenian trucks delivering agricultural products to the Russian market claimed last week that Russian customs officers at Upper Lars are extorting illegal extra payments from them. Ghazaryan said



he has also heard such stories from Armenian entrepreneurs. But he complained that they rarely report them to relevant authorities in Armenia or Russia for fear of having more problems. "We complain but do not report," the business leader told journalists.

Karine Minasyan, Armenia's representative to the Moscow-based executive body of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union, said that she has never received such formal complaints. "As of now, I have not received letters from the Armenian business community," she told RFE/RL's Armenian service

(Azatutyun.am).

Armenia's Minister for Economic Development and Investments Suren Karayan downplayed the scale of the problem. He argued that Armenian exports to Russia soared by over 50 percent in 2016 and are on course to rise further this year.

Karayan attributed the sharp rise to Armenia's controversial accession in 2015 to the EEU which was supposed to simplify customs procedures in its duty-free trade with Russia and other ex-Soviet republics making up the trade bloc.

Moscow urges Baku to stop discrimination against Russian citizens with Armenian surnames



Russia demands that Azerbaijan's authorities stop discriminating Russian citizens with Armenian surnames arriving in the country, the Foreign Ministry said on July 4, TASS reports.

"We have to state that Russian citizens arriving in Azerbai-

jan are indeed subject to discrimination on ethnic grounds," the ministry said in a statement.

Russia calls on Azerbaijan to halt the "outrageous discriminatory practice that is incompatible with friendly relations between the two countries," it said. "Certainly, we will draw conclusions from this situation."

According to the ministry, since the start of the year 25 Russian citizens have been denied entry to Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani authorities detained them for several hours, in some cases without providing them with food, water and medical assistance, and then expelled them at their own expense. The authorities cited the citizens' Armenian surnames as the reason for the move, and there were some cases when "persons with Russian surnames, names and patronymic names were questioned to find out if they have Armenian ancestors."

The ministry stresses that it has repeatedly demanded in official requests that Azerbaijan should stop this practice, but received no clear answer. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said in a note that "to prevent any undesirable incidents, Azerbaijan is forced to apply certain regulations in regard to some persons."

Defense policy experts from China visit Armenia



On 7 July 2017, the National Defense Research University of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia (NDRU, MoD, RA) hosted the delegation of experts in defense policy from the People's Republic of China (PRC) headed by Major General Chan Inli, former Head of the School of Defense Studies of China's National Defense University.

The delegation also included high-ranking military personnel - experts in China's national defense, military reform and modernization, and international military cooperation.

The delegation was accompanied by the newly-appointed Military and Air Attaché of the PRC in the RA, Senior Colonel Zhang Fenghua and representatives of the Department of Defense Policy, MoD, RA.

The guests were welcomed by the NDRU Head, Doctor of Political Science, Professor, Lieutenant-General Hayk Kotanjian.

The meeting was also attended by the NDRU Deputy Head for Research – Head of the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), PhD in History Benyamin Poghosyan, the NDRU Deputy Head for Education, Head of the Institute for National Strategic Defense Security Education, Colonel Suren Davtyan, Advisor to the NDRU Head,

Analyst, Associate Professor, Doctor of Psychology, Colonel Vazgen Margaryan, Head of the Center for Regional Strategic Analysis, NDRU, INSS, PhD in History David Manasyan and Research Fellow of the NDRU, INSS, PhD in Economics Azat Davtyan.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lieutenant-General Hayk Kotanjian presented the activities of the NDRU and the prospects of its development.

Speaking about the cooperation between Armenia and China in the field of strategic studies, Professor Kotanjian touched upon the steps taken towards

the establishment of cooperation between the NDRU and similar institutions of China, particularly, mentioning the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the NDRU and the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS), as well as the arrangement for signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between the NDRU and the Xian Institute of Contemporary International Studies (XICIS).

A professional discussion followed on a number of topics of strategic importance, in particular, on the possibility of involvement of the South Caucasian states into the "Belt and Road" program proposed by China, the cooperation between the state and private sectors aimed at developing China's military-industrial complex, as well as issues related to the prospects of relations between China and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the EEU.

The Armenian participants of the discussion highly appreciated Chinese experience in the field of military industry and presented the vision of developing this sphere in Armenia.

The guests highly appreciated the research programs supervised by Lieutenant-General Hayk Kotanjian, particularly highlighting the involvement of young Research Fellows in them.



Armenian Minister stands by higher growth forecasts



Armenia's economy will grow by around 5 percent annually in the coming years thanks to reforms planned by the government, Finance Minister Vartan Aramyan insisted on July 6.

Aramyan stood by ambitious growth targets that were set by the government in its five-year policy program approved by the parliament on June 22. The 120-page program says that faster growth will cut the official poverty rate, which currently stands at around 30 percent, by 12 percentage points by 2022.

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and even the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) have forecast lower growth rates for the next few years.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan

asked Aramyan about the reasons for the CBA's less optimistic outlook at a weekly cabinet meeting in Yerevan.

"The Central Bank estimates growth potential for the next three years at 3.2 percent to 4.5 percent," the minister replied. "With the mid-term spending program [for 2018-2020] presented by us, we expect growth rates of 4.7 percent, 5 percent, and up to 5.7 percent in the coming years."

He said that the CBA expects more modest rises in investments and domestic consumption than the Finance Ministry.

The Armenian authorities posted virtually zero GDP growth last year amid a continuing recession in Russia. They say that it will accelerate to at least 3.2

percent this year.

The government program describes exports as "the key engine" of the projected faster growth. It says that the government will strive to facilitate Armenian manufacturers' access to Russia, the European Union and other major export markets. It also reaffirms Karapetyan's repeated pledges to improve the business environment.

In Aramyan's words, the government will also stimulate economic activity with greater capital spending on infrastructure projects benefitting businesses. They are due to be financed by extra tax revenues.

"We plan a fairly ambitious increase in [budgetary] receipts," Karapetyan said on Thursday. "We plan a very tough expenditure management. Saved funds will be channeled into economic growth, in the form of capital spending on infrastructure."

"We are setting targets on the tax-to-GDP ratio, our external debt management and the [budget] deficit that are quite difficult to achieve," he added. "That will require maximally coordinated work from all of us."

The government's aggregate tax revenue was equivalent to just over 21 percent of GDP last year. The government has pledged to raise that ratio to 23.5 percent by 2022 through a major reform of tax administration.

Armenia, Iran to cooperate in science and research



Armenia and Iran have inked a memorandum of Understanding, under which the parties will cooperate in educa-

tion, science and research. The document was signed by Armenian Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtchyan, and Iran's visiting Minister of Science, Research and Technology Mohamamd Farhadi.

Under the MoU, the parties will promote cooperation between scientific organizations, universities and research institutions of the two countries and reinforce ties between the scientific communities of the two countries.

The sides will also coordinate the funding of joint research projects in areas of mutual interest, namely physics, biology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, water sciences and engineering, environmental sciences, high performance computing, technologies and innovations, language and culture, etc.

The two countries will boost the cooperation between research institutions by exchanging information about education systems and programs. They will also set up a joint commission on education, research and technologies, which will hold meetings once in two years.

Yerevan welcomes its first solar-powered bus stops



Yerevan has taken another major step towards solar-energized future. On 7 July, Head of the European Union Delegation, EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr Świtalski tested the city's first solar-powered bus stop within the EU Energy Days 2017.

The Delegation of the European Union to Armenia has initiated the installation of solar panels at two bus stops of Yerevan to promote the use of renewable energy in the country. Situated on Moskovyan and Baghramyan streets, the bus stops will enable residents and visitors of Yerevan to charge their cell-phones and other digital gadgets with free solar energy. Each solar powered bus stop can fully charge up to 24 phones daily. Each phone requires 5 watt to charge. The charging duration depends on the brand and technical specifications of the gadgets.

Held under the umbrella of EU Energy Days initiative by the European Union Delegation to Armenia, its partner institutions and the EU-funded projects, a series of events took place from 3 to 7 July 2017 in Yerevan and regions to highlight the reforms in energy sector implemented with the support of the European Union as well as to showcase the recent developments and to share perspectives of fostering renewable, alternative and sustainable energy practices in Armenia through the EU-funded projects and institutional partners. The purpose of the week-long initiative was also to raise awareness on trends and actions of energy efficiency, security and diversification in Armenia among citizens, public and private institutions, busi-

nesses, CSOs and active youth groups.

The EU4Energy Week featured forum discussions, public talks and site visits to present the impact of EU-funded projects in energy sector and help Armenia's urban and rural communities increase energy efficiency.

The EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr Świtalski comments on the EU Energy Days in Armenia, "The energy sector in Armenia is and will continue to be a key priority for the EU for the coming years; it responds to one of the main constraints for economic growth and raises the living conditions of many Armenians in the regions as well as it helps to strengthen energy independence."

The European Union has extended long-term assistance to increasing Armenia's energy efficiency locally, regionally and nationally.

An important milestone for Armenia was joining the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P) agreement in March, 2016. The agreement signed with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with a contribution of €10 million to E5P, enables Armenia to access grant funds of €20 million. The funds are projected for priority municipal energy efficiency and environmental projects, such as rehabilitation of water and waste water systems, solid waste management, street lighting and the insulation of public buildings.

A large-scale EU-funded project with a vital strategic role in the region is the Caucasus Transmission Network, implemented in partnership with KfW and EIB. It envisages construction of a cross-border energy exchange between Armenia and Georgia through a HVDC/back-to-back station. The project will foster diversification of energy supply in Armenia and regional integration.

Another major project targeting the energy sector is Access to Renewable and Efficient Energy in Municipalities Vayk and Spitak (AREEM). Supported by the European Union and implemented by Habitat for Humanity Armenia, it aims to save 15% to 30% energy in 45 residential and 2 public buildings of Spitak and Vayk towns, reduce CO2 emissions, increase awareness and knowledge of tenants in selected residential buildings on the importance of energy efficiency and increase capacity of Spitak and Vayk municipalities to implement sustainable energy projects.



US Ambassador and AMCHAM Board visited Amulsar and ContourGlobal Hydro Cascade

On July 5-6, the Members of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Armenia visited Lydian Armenia's Amulsar Gold Project construction site and the pits area in Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions, as well as, ContourGlobal Hydro Cascade (Vorotan Hydropower Complex) also in Syunik.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia is the leading business association in the country with around 100 members from all business segments. Its board members represent the leading business entities in Armenia with US-related investments.

Lydian Armenia, a subsidiary of Lydian International Limited and ContourGlobal, represent the largest US investment in Armenia at this point.

Lydian International Limited is a Toronto Stock Exchange listed company, registered in the UK, with major US investment funds participating in the financing of its Amulsar Gold project. Capital investment for Amulsar construction, due to complete in 2018, will amount to 370 million dollars. The project construction is already securing over 750 jobs in Armenia. Construction jobs will peak at 1300 and 700 permanent jobs will be created during 10 years of operations.

ContourGlobal is a developer and operator of thermal and renewable energy businesses. ContourGlobal manages, owns

and operates an existing portfolio of 62 power plants with approximately 4,000 megawatts ("MW") of installed gross capacity in operation. Its current portfolio spans 20 countries and 3 continents with a weighted average sovereign rating of BBB (weighted by capacity), utilizing a wide range of fuel types, technology and equipment.

In July 2015, ContourGlobal Hydro Cascade CJSC, the local subsidiary, acquired Vorotan Complex of Hydroelectric Power Stations CJSC, a complex of three hydroelectric power stations with an overall capacity of 404.2 MW and an average annual power generation of 1 billion kWh.

Ambassador Richard Mills and AMCHAM Board visited Amulsar construction site and one of the surrounding communities of Amulsar project, the village of Gndevaz, to familiarize themselves with the small and medium enterprise development projects that Lydian supports. Since the start of exploration at Amulsar in 2006, Lydian has invested over 3 million USD in socio-economic development projects in the Amulsar surrounding communities. The two-day trip was concluded with a visit to Vorotan Complex.

Ambassador Richard Mills emphasized the importance of foreign direct investments for the economic development of Armenia.

"Lydian's Amulsar project and Contour Global's investment in Vorotan Hydro-

power Plant have been the largest foreign investments in Armenia over the past few years. The success of these investments demonstrate the importance of the Armenian government's commitment to provide a level playing field for businesses and to create a favorable investment climate. I am especially pleased to see that these investments not only offer economic opportunities to Armenia but also bring new culture of corporate social responsibility. As a committed supporter of Armenia's EITI membership, we hope that the development of Amulsar Gold Mine will establish a new benchmark for transparency, environmental and social responsibility and good governance in the mining sector in Armenia," Ambassador Mills said.

Lydian Armenia's Managing Director Hayk Aloyan, a member of AMCHAM Board, thanked Ambassador Mills and AMCHAM Board for the visit: "Lydian is committed to develop Amulsar project in line with good international practice and modern standards of environmental and social management. We hope to demonstrate, both during construction and mine operation, that doing business in a socially responsible manner is not only possible but also beneficial for the company. We believe that investments brought by Lydian and Contour Global highlight Armenia on the international investment map and have the potential to attract more foreign investments for the benefit of our country."

The President of AmCham, Ara Hovsepyan, who is also the General Manager of ContourGlobal Hydro Cascade CJSC, concluded: "It is important to see and understand the values that such high scale investments like Lydian's and ContourGlobal's bring into Armenian economy. We are not only talking about monetary values, but rather and mostly about high standard of work culture and health and safety, openness and transparency, abiding by the rules and promotion of sustainable social initiatives. These are the values that companies like Lydian and ContourGlobal are ready to champion in the Armenian economy in the years to come."



MEP Eleni Theocharous: Azerbaijan using “human shields” on the frontline



Member of the European Parliament Eleni Theocharous has issued a statement on new Azerbaijani attacks against Nagorno Karabakh. The statement reads: “On July 4, 2017, yet another time the repressive regime of Aliyev, where ordi-

nary human life has little value, has used its own population as a human shield while violating the cease-fire. Azerbaijan had installed a multiple rocket launcher system very close to an inhabited village and used this to shell Nagorno-Kara-

bakh.

It is a vicious and inhumane tactic of the current Azerbaijani Government to unscrupulously use the tragedy of common people for propaganda purposes, violating all the norms of ethics.

It is an undeniable fact that this very same Government has vehemently rejected to install an independent investigative mechanism which can prevent a cease-fire violation, innocent human losses and create a favourable atmosphere for negotiations and peace.

I am deeply sorry for the loss of innocent lives on the Azerbaijani side. Meanwhile, I call on all those who are concerned with the situation to be objective, to raise their voices also when the Azerbaijani armed forces carry out ISIS-style beheadings in Nagorno-Karabakh, showcasing body parts as trophies on social media and mutilate bodies of 90-year-old Armenian civilians, as in April 2016.”

Azerbaijan’s threats to use force a challenge to regional security – Armenia’s Foreign Minister



Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has chided Azerbaijani delegation for using the Eastern Partnership as a platform for provocative statements.

Responded to remarks of the head of the Azerbaijani delegation at a press conference following the Informal Ministerial Meeting of Eastern Partnership in Chisinau, Minister Nalbandian said “time and time again the representatives of Azerbaijan abuse this platform making provocative statements instead of addressing its theme – the coopera-

tion within the Eastern Partnership.”

“Security in our region continues to be challenged by the persistent threats of Azerbaijan to use force in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. On April 2016 Azerbaijan unleashed a large scale aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh that was accompanied by grave violations of international humanitarian law, atrocities against civilian population, including children, women and elderly persons, mutilation of bodies, Daesh-style beheadings,” the Armenian Foreign Minister said.

“On July 4th Azerbaijani leadership once again resorted to the tactics of notorious terrorist organizations and as many times before used its civilian population as a human shield for shelling the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh by heavy weaponry, including by TR-107 multiple rocket launcher systems. In response, the Defense Army of Nagorno-Karabakh was obliged to exercise self-defense against the aggressive actions of the Azerbaijani side,” Minister Nalbandian stated.

“As long as Azerbaijan fails to implement its international commitments under 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, refuses to implement the Vienna and St. Petersburg Summit commitments, especially on the creation of the mechanism for investigation of the ceasefire violations, that can become also a mechanism for prevention, the Azerbaijani leadership bears full responsibility for all consequences,” Armenia’s top diplomat stated.

City Spa, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

Depilation: Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

And that's not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.

You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor's consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

Localized fat removal: In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposuction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellashape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



Anti aging Facial treatments and Care: City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



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Trump and Putin hold first face-to-face talks, agree on ceasefire in Syria



Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin have held their first face-to-face talks, on the sidelines of the G20 summit in the German city of Hamburg, the BBC reports.

"It's an honour to be with you," Mr Trump told Mr Putin, who responded: "I'm delighted to meet you personally."

"Putin and I have been discussing various things, and I think it's going very

well," Mr Trump told reporters while sitting alongside Mr Putin at the start of the talks, which were open to the media.

"We've had some very, very good talks. We're going to have a talk now and obviously that will continue. We look forward to a lot of very positive things happening for Russia, for the United States and for everybody concerned."

Mr Putin said that while they had spo-

ken by phone, a phone conversation was never as good as meeting face to face.

Both men ignored shouted questions from reporters as the meeting went into private session.

Speaking afterwards, Mr Putin said: "I've had a very long conversation with the US president. We had a lot of issues to discuss, including Ukraine, Syria, and other problems, also some bilateral issues."

"We have again returned to the fight against terror and to cyber security."

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson largely confirmed these were the topics covered, saying the leaders connected quickly and had positive chemistry.

Russia and the United States have agreed on a ceasefire in the south of Syria from 12.00 Damascus time on July 9, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday after the talks of Russian and US presidents, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, TASS reports.

"A ceasefire will come into force in that zone (Syria's south – Daraa and Quneitra) at 12.00 Damascus time on July 9," he said. "The United States has made a commitment that all the groups present there will observe the ceasefire."

Creative Armenia launches operations in Yerevan Terry George, Atom Egoyan join grand jury for \$5,000 filmmaking challenge

After last month's United States launch, realized in partnership with The Promise and the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, Creative Armenia has opened operations in Yerevan. The news was announced at a reception held at the Grand Hotel Yerevan, in the company of the republic's leading cultural organizations, production companies, embassies, and ministries.

"Creative Armenia's presence in Armenia is vital to the fulfillment of our mandate," said founder Garin Hovanisian. "From Los Angeles to Yerevan, ours is a global endeavor to discover talent and empower stories of impact in the digital age."

Creative Armenia is a non-profit organization conceived at the cross-section of entertainment, human rights, and creative technologies. It debuts with a variety of cultural programming: awarding fellowships, running a digital magazine, producing cutting-edge content, and

provoking cultural activity through its signature Creative Challenge series.

The first in this series is a video challenge from Oscar-winning director Terry George (Hotel Rwanda, The Promise). The challenge is simple: Can you film a human rights story in 60 seconds? There is one catch: You can't use dialogue. The prize is \$5,000. And the final evaluation is conducted by a world-renowned jury.

The composition of the jury was announced at the Yerevan reception: Oscar-winning director Terry George; Cannes-winning director Atom Egoyan (The Sweet Hereafter, Ararat); social impact campaigner Bonnie Abaunza (Blood Diamond, The Promise); social impact filmmaker Carla Garapedian (Screamers); Jessica Peake (Assistant Director of the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA); and Peter Bisanz (Executive Director of the Skoll Center for Social Impact Entertainment

at UCLA).

The deadline for Challenge 001 has been extended to July 31 to accommodate submissions from Armenia. Citizens living in Armenia and Artsakh are waived the application fee. But the challenge remains open to all filmmakers, without restrictions of geography and nationality, and all creative people are encouraged to apply at www.creativearmenia.org

Founded in partnership with a major anonymous benefactor, the Gulbenkian Foundation, and The Promise, Creative Armenia is represented by creative teams in Los Angeles and Yerevan, and empowered by a founding board of advisors including Grammy-winning musician Serj Tankian, producer Dr. Eric Esrailian, actress Arsinée Khanjian, actor Simon Abkarian, playwright-performer Eric Bogosian, filmmaker Carla Garapedian, and designer Michael Aram.

Azerbaijan's inadequacy leaves no room for chances of peace – Artsrun Hovhannisyan



Azerbaijan speaks about peace, but never uses an opportunity to instigate hatred towards Armenians even among the youngest of its citizens, Spokesman for the Armenian Defense Ministry Artsrun Hovhannisyan says.

“The country fails to demonstrate even the slightest sign of adequacy, which nullifies the chances of establishing peace or at least good-neighborly relations,” Hovhannisyan said in an interview with Public Radio of Armenia.

“The Armenian side has stated on many occasions that in the face of Azerbaijan we have to deal with a terrorist state. The recent report about Baku’s support for terrorist

organizations comes to reinforce the assertions,” the Spokesman said.

According to him, Azerbaijan is a ‘country sponsoring terrorism.’ “It has directly exercised terrorism against the Armenian people and keeps doing so. Today we see documents proving Azerbaijan’s support for international terrorism,” Artsrun Hovhannisyan said.

As for the recent provocation of Baku, which forced the Artsakh Defense Army return fire, the Spokesman says “it amounted to a gross violation of a number of international norms.” He referred to the Geneva Convention that defines humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone, which prohibits

deliberately using civilians to shield military operations. Meanwhile, he said “we have a number of proofs of Azerbaijan violating the norms.”

“Disrespect for the rival is just one side of the medal. The other side is Azerbaijan’s attitude towards its own population,” Harutyunyan said. “We have long known they don’t give a damn about their soldiers, but the same attitude towards the civilian population is a different thing,” he added.

Azerbaijan places its missile systems in residential areas, thus making the civilian population a target of retaliatory fire. According to Hovhannisyan, the fact should be brought to the attention of both the people of Azerbaijan and the international community. “People in Azerbaijan should realize that Baku, which keeps manipulating the fact of civilian losses, bears responsibility for the death of the 2-year-old child. This is yet another expression of Azerbaijan’s ‘unhealthy’ propaganda,” he noted.

“Azerbaijan speaks about peace, but never misses an opportunity to instigate hatred towards Armenians even among the youngest of its citizens,” the Defense Ministry Spokesman said.

He believes that “the most important message we have to understand is that Azerbaijan’s inadequacy leaves no room for establishment of peace or at least good-neighborly relations.”

Argentina celebrates 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Armenia

Agencia Prensa Armenia – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina and the Armenian Embassy in the country commemorated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with an event on the night of Wednesday, July 5.

Rodolfo Zlauvinen, the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, opened the event by pointing out that Argentina has been one of the top five investors in Armenia for more than a decade and spoke of a “fluid political dialogue”: “It is not surprising that all the presidents of Armenia, since their independence in 1991, have visited Argentina.” He also stressed that the Argentinian-Armenian Parliamentary Friendship Group “is one of the most active we have.”

“The Argentine people have always been close to the Armenian people in having to confront their past. That is why the Argen-

tine Congress adopted the law that declares every April 24 as the Day of Action for Tolerance and Respect Between the Peoples,” he added during his speech, in reference to the Law 26,199 that formally recognizes the Armenian Genocide.

Ester Mkrtumyan, Armenian ambassador to Argentina, brought Armenia’s desire to “give new content to the cooperation with Latin American countries”.

“We want Argentina to be a special gateway for Armenia in Latin America. Reciprocally, Armenia may be the bridge that links Argentina to the Eurasian Economic Union, which represents a market of two hundred million people.”

“The Argentine Armenian friendship is solid and durable, since it is based on the common values of both peoples, proof of which is the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by law in 2006,”

added Mkrtumyan.

Lawyer and former judge Leon Carlos Arslanian expressed that “the fact that the Armenians and their descendants are not just a migratory phenomenon but a diaspora, is merit of the humanist principles that conjoined the institutional design of Argentina. The diaspora is an incoercible force charged with ethics and moral worth. It is not only the search for new and promising horizons, but above all, it seeks three objectives: the preservation of life, the struggle for truth to prevail and the demand for justice.”

During the ceremony, which was attended by representatives of all Armenian institutions, including Kissag Mouradian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church for Argentina and Chile and Dr. Daniel Stamboulian, there were a number of artistic shows of tango and Armenian dances.

SBS urged to recognise Armenian genocide



The Australian Jewish News

A group of 43 eminent Australians, including 13 with a Jewish background, have signed a statement calling on SBS to drop a commentary style which casts doubt on the Armenian genocide.

Lecturer Meher Grigorian, a director of the Australian Institute of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, told *The AJN* of widespread anguish about the broadcaster's equivocation on the 1915-23 events, in which between 1 and 1.5 million people were killed, some dying of starvation.

SBS policy, formulated for the 2015 centenary, is to refer to the Armenian genocide as a "mass killing of Armenians considered by many to have been a genocide, which Turkey denies".

He claimed the policy was developed after pressure from the Aus-

tralian Turkish Advocacy Alliance (ATAA), but in a Senate Estimates hearing, SBS managing director Michael Ebeid rejected any link between ATAA and his network's reporting policy.

However, the historical record makes it "untenable" for SBS to continue justifying its policy as "balancing community sensitivities", said Grigorian.

The statement, whose signatories include Sydney Holocaust academics Professors Konrad Kwiet and Colin Tatz, quotes US Professor Deborah Lipstadt that "denial of genocide ... is not an act of historical reinterpretation ... The deniers aim at convincing innocent third parties that there is 'another side of the story' ... when there is no credible 'other side'".

Grigorian said SBS does not have similar policies on the Holocaust and genocides such as in Nanking (Nanjing), China before World War II and Rwanda in the 1990s, and ABC style is to recognise the Armenian genocide.

Although the Australian government has not officially recognised the Armenian genocide because, according to Grigorian, it wants to maintain its relations with Turkey, he said the special broadcaster's charter obliges it to stay independent.

Moreover, 29 countries have recognised the genocide, as have the NSW and South Australian governments. "Only one of the 43 signatories of this statement is of Armenian heritage. The rest are either experts in the Holocaust, in genocide or in human rights," Grigorian said.

An SBS spokesperson told media the broadcaster "prepares editorial guidance on a range of subjects to ensure it explores topics sensitively, taking into account strongly held views by the range of communities it serves".

CSTO police Special Forces drills kick off in Armenia

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member states' Special Forces assigned to the organization's joint Collective Rapid Reaction Force (KSOR) have launched three-day drills in Armenia, the CSTO press service said in a statement on Tuesday, Sputnik reports.

"Training with the heads of CSTO member states' interior ministries (police) special units, allocated to the organization's

Collective Rapid Reaction Force, was launched on July 11 under the supervision of CSTO Deputy Secretary General Valery Semerikov," the statement said.

According to the statement, police officers from Russia, Armenia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, as well as National Guard officers from Russia and Kazakhstan, are taking part.

The drills, providing the participants

with the opportunity to work on special operations scenarios and exchange experience in training methods, are set to last for three days on the base of the Police Educational Complex of the Republic of Armenia.

The CSTO added that the training session is aimed at enhancing professionalism of police chiefs, as well as at boosting the potential of KSOR Special Forces units.



Photo: Sputnik/ Maksim Blinov

U.S. House may vote to block F-35 sale to Turkey



Political fallout from the May 16th attacks by Turkish President Recep Erdogan's security detail against peaceful protesters in Washington, DC continued into Congressional appropriations season, with the introduction of four amendments – by Reps. Dave Trott (R-MI), David Cicilline (D-RI), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), and Don Beyer (D-VA) – to impose sanctions on Turkey, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

"We welcome the leadership of Armenian Caucus Co-Chairman David Trott, House Foreign Affairs Committee members Dana Rohrabacher and David Cicilline, and Representative Don Beyer for offering amendments sanctioning Turkey over the May 16th attack by President Erdogan's bodyguards against peaceful protesters in Washington, DC," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian.

"We join with our Hellenic, Kurdish and Assyrian American friends and the full range of our coalition partners in looking forward to the House Rules Committee clearing these – and any other constructive amendments that may be offered – for timely consideration on the floor of the House, where we expect they will receive broad, bipartisan backing."

Rep. Cicilline's proposal would block a pending sale of F-35 jets to Turkey "until the President of the United States certifies that the Government of Turkey is cooperating with the criminal investigation and prosecution of Turkish Government employees involved in the assault on civilians in Washington, DC." Rep. Cicilline has been outspoken in condemning the attacks, noting that "this was a particularly brazen act, on the heels of a highly publicized meeting with our President, and one has to wonder why President Erdogan felt so emboldened, that in the bright D.C. sunshine, in front of cameras and hundreds of people, he sent his attack dogs out. As Secretary Tillerson said, this is simply unacceptable."

Rep. Trott's amendment would block the proposed sale of semi-automatic guns to Turkey, targeted for use by Erdogan's security detail. Rep. Trott and Rep. Pallone were recently joined by over 30 House members, including House Intelligence Committee Chairman and Ranking Democrat Devin Nunes (R-CA) and Adam Schiff (D-CA), respectively, in calling on Secretary of State Tillerson to block the sale.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Democrat Ben Cardin (D-MD) were among the first to express concerns about the pending sale.

Rep. Rohrabacher's amendment would prohibit the transfer of U.S. defense articles to Turkey and, instead, make them available to Kurdish Peshmerga forces, who have played an instrumental role in the battle against the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL). Rep. Rohrabacher, who serves as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, presided over the hearings spotlighting the Erdogan-ordered

attacks in May.

Rep. Beyer's amendment would ban Erdogan's security forces who took part in the May 16th attack from securing U.S. visas for future travel to the United States. Rep. Beyer has been outspoken in condemning the brutal beatings, calling for the expulsion of the Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. and signing multiple Congressional letters condemning the attacks.

These proposed measures – part of over 300 amendments to the National Defense Authorization Bill – are scheduled to be first considered by the House Rules Committee on Wednesday, July 12th. Amendments approved by the Committee will then be taken up on the House floor as early as Thursday of next week.

The ANCA's Hamparian captured live videotape at the scene of the May 16th attack, which took place in front of the Turkish Ambassador's residence, where President Erdogan was scheduled to have a closed-door meeting with representatives of The Atlantic Council, a think-tank in Washington, DC which receives Turkish funding. Hamparian's video served as source footage for CNN, AP and other news outlets, transforming a violent incident into a global spotlight on Turkey's violence, intolerance, and aggression.

Hamparian testified before a May 25th Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing on this matter. Joining him at the hearing were Ms. Lusik Usayan, Founder and President of the Ezidi Relief Fund; Mr. Murat Yusa, a local businessman and protest organizer; and Ms. Ruth Wedgwood, Edward B. Burling Professor of International Law and Diplomacy, at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Usayan and Yusa were victims of the brutal assault on May 16th by President Erdogan's bodyguards.

On June 6th, with a vote of 397 to 0, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously condemned Turkey's attack, taking a powerful stand against Ankara's attempts to export its violence and intolerance to America's shores. H.Res.354, spearheaded by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), Ranking Democrat Eliot Engel (D-NY), House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), has received the public backing of House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI). A companion measure has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA).

The House vote followed broad-based Congressional outrage expressed by over 100 Senate and House members through public statements, social media, and a series of Congressional letters.

On June 16th, US law enforcement issued 18 arrest warrants – including a dozen against Turkish President Recep Erdogan's bodyguards – in connection to the May 16th attacks. Two Turkish-Americans have already been arrested for assault, and two Turkish Canadians have also been charged. During a June 15th press conference, Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and Police Chief Peter Newsham detailed the exhaustive investigation carried out by the Metropolitan Police Department and other law enforcement agencies leading to the arrest warrants.

Mayor Bowser condemned the attacks, calling them an "affront to our values as Washingtonians and as Americans and it was a clear assault on the first amendment."

Chief Newsham explained, "We have dignitaries that are in and out of this city on a daily basis. Rarely have I seen, in my almost 28 years of policing, the type of thing that I saw on Sheridan Circle on that particular day. You had peaceful demonstrators that were physically assaulted and the message to folks who are going to come to our city either from another state or from another country is that's not going to be tolerated in Washington, DC."

In response to a question from The Armenian Weekly, Chief Newsham acknowledged that investigators are looking into the role of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the May 16th attack, but indicated that, despite the available video and other evidence, there is not yet sufficient probable cause to seek his arrest.

Code-teaching app developed in Armenia wins Grand Prize in Facebook's FbStart contest



A code-teaching application developed in Armenia has been named the winner of the FbStart program, TechCrunch reports.

Facebook has announced its "FbStart Apps of the Year", which is an event which recognizes the most successful apps from the global FbStart program. This year's Grand Prize winner is

SoloLearn (iOS/Android) which is a free mobile-first app for anyone who wants to learn how to code.

SoloLearn's CEO and Co-founder Davit Kocharyan came up with the idea for the app in his native Armenia, where most of their team is based, to teach coding to the local population.

The app's idea is to educate members through game mechanics, peer-to-peer sharing, and user-generated content. SoloLearn

community members compete in head-to-head challenges and unlock hidden lessons. It offers 12 free courses, including JavaScript, Swift, Python, C++, and HTML/CSS.

Yeva Hyusyan, CEO and Co-founder of SoloLearn told Mike Butcher of the TechCrunch the app had hit two major milestones. She said the first is that it's turned into the "friendliest" community of peer learners. "You get an answer from your peers in our Q&A forum within minutes; we have over half a million public codes on SoloLearn today that are used as a great peer-to-peer learning tool; tens of thousands interactive peer-to-peer challenges are completed daily," she said.

The second is that users are generating a lot of the content themselves.

The app has also gotten more traction, with

now 5+ million profiled learners; 1.5M quizzes completed daily; 3 codes are compiled every second; and over 1,000 answers are published every day. Some 40% of users are based in India, 25% in the US, and the rest is across Europe.

Developers participated in FbStart for the chance to win up to \$100,000 in prizes to help scale their business. The event got 900 submissions from 87 countries.

In addition to SoloLearn, the other "Apps of the Year" were:

EMEA: Mondly [iOS/Android] – "A language learning platform that's the first company to launch a VR experience for learning languages (featuring speech recognition and chatbot technology)."

Asia-Pacific: Maya [iOS/Android] – "A free app that makes it easy for women around the world to track their periods, monitor related symptoms, set health reminders, track pregnancy and connect with health experts. Has 7 million downloads in 190 countries."

Latin America: ReservaTurno [iOS/Android] – "A mobile app to book beauty appointments on the go."

Social Good: Golden [iOS/Android] – "A global platform that helps people find local volunteer opportunities based on the activities they prefer to do for fun rather than skills-based requirements."

OSCE ODIHR publishes final report on Armenia's parliamentary elections

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) final report on Armenia's 2 April 2017 parliamentary elections noted that fundamental freedoms were generally respected and candidates were able to campaign without restrictions. Noting an overall lack of public trust in the electoral process, the report, published on 10 July 2017, recommends that authorities and political parties take measures to discourage vote-buying and any form of pressure on citizens to attend campaign events or vote in a particular way.

The report welcomes recent legal reforms and recommends that remaining gaps and ambiguities in the law be addressed, including with regards to campaigning, campaign finance regulations, and legal standing and deadlines for complaints and appeals. In order to ensure uniform

implementation of the law, the report recommends that the Central Election Commission clarify legal provisions through binding decisions and provide additional guidance to lower-level commissions.

Noting that the elections were well administered, the report encourages intensified efforts to enhance access to voting procedures for people with physical disabilities and reduced mobility. The report also encourages more accessible and comprehensive voter education materials.

Praising the improved accuracy of voter lists, the report calls on the authorities to continue measures to reduce the number of voters without a complete address. The report positively noted the publication of scanned copies of signed voter lists from polling stations as an important deterrent of voter impersonation, but recommends that the authorities take measures to guar-

antee the protection of voter's private data.

Noting shortcomings in the oversight of media during the campaign, the report recommends setting clear guidelines for media conduct, improving media monitoring methodologies, and extending the authority of the media regulatory body outside of the official campaign period. In addition, measures to ensure the full transparency of media ownership are proposed.

To enhance the transparency and effectiveness of campaign finance oversight, the report recommends that the Oversight and Audit Service should have adequate resources, technical expertise and independence.

The removal of burdensome procedures for observer groups to register are among the report's other recommendations, so as to ensure the full transparency of the electoral process.

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This type of care includes personal care aides, home care aides, and home health aides. Home health aides might also provide limited assistance with things such as taking blood pressure or offering medication reminders.

Nursing care is more related for patients after surgery, traumas, different chronic diseases

Rehabilitation service is for people who need professional rehabilitation in their recovery periods after some types of diseases and surgery. Dementia /Alzheimer /special care is for people with dementia in all stages when you worried about their safety or a health problem.

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Armenian violinist Ani Batikian performs with London Phoenix Orchestra

On 29th June 2017, the talented and award-winning Armenian violinist Ani Batikian performed in a concert with the London Phoenix Orchestra, conducted by Lev Parikian at the prestigious venue of Cadogan Hall near London's Sloane Square. Themed as "The Art and Folk Music of Eastern Europe", the evening consisted of pieces selected to convey how folk dances and art inspire a composer's music.

The works included the "Little Suite" by Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski, based on dances from the south of Poland, followed by Aram Khachaturian's Violin Concerto in D Minor, which uses thematic elements from Armenian folk melodies, and Modest Mussorgsky's orchestral arrangement of "Pictures at an Exhibition". The concert also included the world premiere of a commissioned orchestral piece with violin solo written by Ani Batikian's composer husband, Roland Roberts, inspired by marine painter Hovhanness Aivazovsky's most famous painting "The Ninth Wave".

It was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the artist's birth being celebrated this year. Batikian's performance of Khachaturian's violin concerto was inspiring and flawless, showcasing her remarkable skill



and art as a violinist. Throughout Khachaturian concerto Ani was able to hold the audience's attention, enthraling them with her enchanting performance and captivating with the sweet sound of Montagnana violin, worth almost £900,000 and lent by Ingles & Hayday, Sotheby's violin experts.

Roland Roberts' composition, in the Russian Romantic style with Armenian elements, beautifully conveyed the story of Aivazovsky's painting, taking the listener on a journey from the calm before the storm to a dynamic crescendo as the sailors face the battering waves. The symphonic orchestra powerfully displayed a palette of colours and possibilities alongside the expressive beauty of a solo violin. Aivazovsky's most famous painting now has a dedicated composition to accompany it.

The audience was enraptured by the piece with the composer taking stage beside his wife at the end. The musicians of the London Phoenix Orchestra, founded in 1924, played with much passion and skill under Parikian's guidance as conductor. The event was sponsored and co-organised by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of London.



Armenia puts into circulation stamp dedicated to Amberd castle



On July 10th, 2017, a postage stamp dedicated to the theme "Europa 2017. Castles" was put into circulation.

The postage stamp was cancelled by Vahan Martirosyan, RA Minister of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, H.E. Mr. Piotr Antoni Świtalski, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Armenia, Vassilis Maragos, Head of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission, Juan Pablo Gechidjian, Manag-

ing Director of "HayPost Trust Management" B.V., Hovik Musayelyan, President of the Union of Philatelists of the RA.

The stamp is issued within the frameworks of "EUROPA" international programme of the Association of European Postal Operators (PostEurop).

The postage stamp depicts the ancient Armenian castle named Amberd, which means "fortress in the clouds". The inscription of the castle's name on the postage stamp in Armenian and English languages is done in medieval style. The postage stamp with nominal values of 350 AMD is printed in "Cartor" printing house in France. The author of the stamp's design is the designer of "HayPost" CJSC Vahagn Mkrtchyan.

Amberd is one of the well-preserved castles of Armenia dated X-XIII cc. The castle is surrounded and protected by the gorge on three sides and only the northern side remains unprotected. According to some sources, the castle used to serve as a summer residence for Armenian Kings and Princes. It is situated at the height of about 2300 meters above sea level and one-hour drive from Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

You may be trying to accomplish something related to property. The rules or the laws are getting in the way. Perhaps there is a piece or a part that is at a distance and you must

wait for its arrival. Maybe you can be creative and search for another way around the objective.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Yesterday your ruling planet, Venus, entered the second house of income and self-worth. She will remain there until the end of July. Your concerns about finances will feel lightened. Debts owed to you may be paid. Meanwhile others will

let you know how much you are appreciated.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Venus entered your sign yesterday and will be traveling “with you” through the end of July. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. She is a people attractor. Of-

ten when Venus is prominent we become more interested in art forms and other things of beauty.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Your plans and ideas may be challenged by another at this time. You must have clarity about who you have become. In order to hold your own in this situation. Do your best to generate a win-win situation out of

the duel, and avoid a frank battle of wills. Each of you has a truth. A larger perspective will house both.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Use care not to make promises for which you can't deliver. Someone who seems powerful in your life may be asking you to perform some task that is beyond realistic. Maybe it is you. Don't let yourself get trapped into a high stress situation. It

could be hard on your health.



Virgo

(August 22–September 22)

Negative attitudes or habit patterns of thought may be your undoing this week. Reach beyond them for a meditative place that gives answers to serious questions and encouragement from your source. Avoid

signing contracts at this time because it is possible your thinking is skewed.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Use special care with your body this week. You might overdo. Think carefully before you respond to the requests of others. Their needs may be beyond your abilities. Be espe-

cially cautious if the request is prefaced by flattering remarks about your talents.



Scorpio

(October 23–November 21)

Old issues may surface in any relationship. This time frame is an exercise in truth telling and open discussions of what you know. If you sense that someone, whether you or

the other, is not forthright, do your best to create an environment of trust. Give attention to noises or signs that your vehicle is not operating well.



Sagittarius

(November 22–December 20)

Please read the lead paragraph because it applies to you in spades this week. Forward motion is halted in a variety of directions. You need more

resources (i.e. time, money, energy) to accomplish your aim and at this time those resources are scarce. Consider whether there is a creative way to move forward if you think outside the box.



Capricorn

(December 21–January 19)

The Capricorn Goat is so focused on his or her direction that he sometimes becomes overbearing and pushy to others. Now is a time in which partners or other significant

people are not cooperating. They may be fatigued with your constant management and delegation of projects. Ease off if you want to maintain these relationships.



Aquarius

(January 20–February 17)

Beware the liar. The probability is high you will encounter one this week, someone who believes his own story, thus making it unclear if

(s)he is telling the truth. Check out the sources and ask other people who may know something about the situation. Don't accept anything of importance at face value.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

It is possible that you are not feeling well this week. You may be subject to allergy symptoms that keep you subdued. Your self-talk is likely to be on the dark side and mainly due to your fears for the future. The Inner

Critic is not necessarily in touch with the whole truth, even though it feels real enough when it rattles on in your head.

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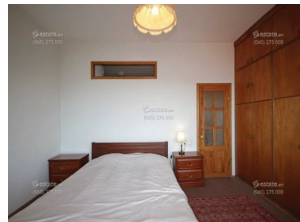
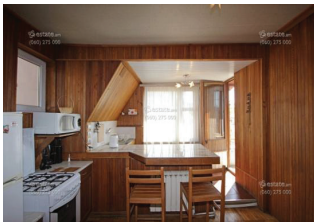
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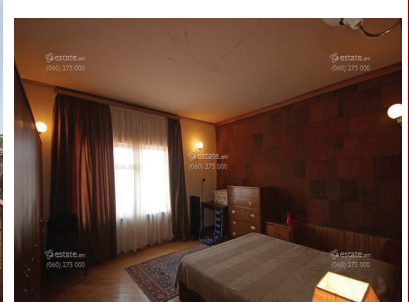
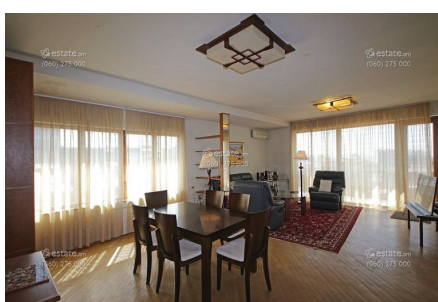
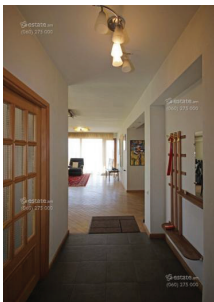
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 The publisher: NT Holding LTD
 Circulation: 1500 print copies and
 15.600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format
 Տպվելը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպարանակը՝ 1500
 Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
 ՆՏ Խղիկինգ ՍՊԸ
 Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
 03Ա898368, տրված 11.01.2013 թ.

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 Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան
 Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993.
ISSN 1829-0604
 Registration certificate and the date:
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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