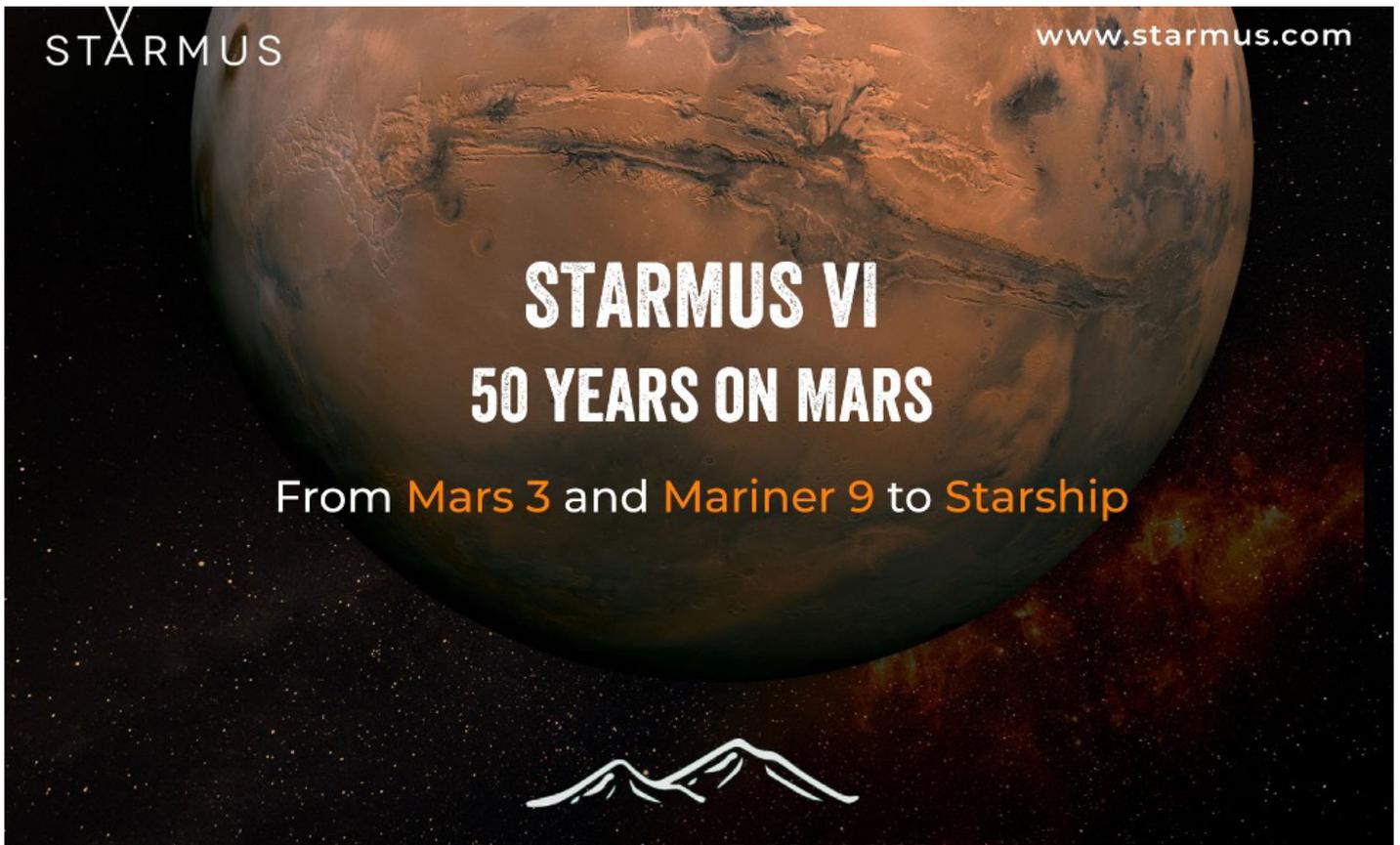


Mysterious like the universe: Starmus VI festival opens with a concert in Yerevan



The Starmus VI festival of music and science opened in Yerevan on September 4 with a concert at Sports and Concert Complex after Karen Demirchyan.

At the beginning of the concert Edvard Moser, Nobel Laureate Neurophysicist, offered a lecture on “Brain and Music.” Moser, who shared the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with long-term collaborator and then-wife May-Britt Moser, and previous mentor John O’Keefe for their work identifying the brain’s positioning system, spoke about the specificities of the brain in perceiving music. Moser said that music is a social phenomenon and performing music can contribute to the brain’s interpersonal coordination mechanisms.

After the lecture, American keyboardist Derek Sherinian, English drummer Simon Phillips and American bassist Ric Fierabracci took the stage for the concert program. Jazz pianist and composer Tigran Hamasyan performed pieces from his 2020 The

Call Within album together with bassist Marc Karapetian and drummer Arthur Hnatek.

The Sonic Universe concert on September 5 will feature Rick Wakeman, System Of A Down lead singer Serj Tankian, the Sons Of Apollo super group, jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan, Russian rock musician Andrey Makarevich, cosmonaut-musician Chris Hadfield. The Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra will also be on stage throughout the concert.

The Stephen Hawking medal in the fields of popularization of science, film production, and arts will also be awarded during the concert.

Leading scientists, astronauts, famous musicians and artists are expected to take part in the festival, creating new opportunities for cooperation for Armenia.

For a week Armenia will turn into an international center of technologies, science, music and arts.

Armenian, Azerbaijani Deputy PMs chair the sitting of commission on border security and demarcation

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Armenia highly appreciates US and French envoys’ rejection of Azerbaijani invitation to visit Shushi

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New opportunity for Armenian companies: BAJ Accelerator launches 9th cohort to accelerate the growth of startups

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Mourad Papazian denied entry to Armenia over “2021 attack on Pashinyan’s motorcade” in Paris, PM’s Office says

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Ensuring the security and rights of Artsakh Armenians a milestone for achieving stability and peace in the South Caucasus – MFA

Ensuring the security and rights of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as a comprehensive and lasting resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by using the experience and potential of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, continue to be a milestone for achieving stability and peace in the South Caucasus, the Foreign Ministry of Armenia said in a statement on the 31th anniversary of proclamation of the Republic of Artsakh.

On September 2, 1992, the joint session of the deputies of all levels of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and Shahumyan region adopted the declaration



of independence of Nagorno-Karabakh.

This step was the logical consequence of the policy of ethnic cleansing against Armenians by the Azerbaijani SSR, which is still manifested today.

“In contrary to the constant statements by the authorities of Azerbaijan that the

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Nagorno-Karabakh territorial unit no longer exist, it is a fact that around one hundred and twenty thousand Armenians continue to live in Nagorno-Karabakh, and as a member of the international community, they have equal and inalienable rights, and the conflict cannot be considered resolved until the core needs of the Armenians of Artsakh are not addressed,” the Foreign Ministry said.

“The Republic of Armenia continues to be committed to providing all the necessary conditions for the secure life of the people of Artsakh in their homeland,” the statement reads.

Armenian, Azerbaijani Deputy PMs chair the sitting of commission on border security and demarcation



Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan and Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev chaired the second sitting of the commission on de-

marcation and border security and the state commission on the demarcation of the state border between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia.

Before the meeting held in Moscow, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk met with Mher Grigoryan and Shahin Mustafayev and welcomed the continuation of the commissions’ work.

The parties discussed organizational and procedural issues, exchanged detailed thoughts on the regulation of joint activities of the commissions and further work. Gratitude was expressed to the Russian side for organizing the meeting at a high level.

An agreement was reached to hold the third meeting within the agreed terms.

Azerbaijan keeps Armenian POWs and civilians hostage, in violation of all human rights – MFA

Azerbaijan continues to ignore the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the introduction of interim measures to provide information on Armenian hostages, as well as the urgent measures indicated by the International Court of Justice on December 7, 2021, which oblige Azerbaijan to stop its racist and discriminatory policies against Armenians, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on the Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

“Enforced disappearance of people is by its very nature a violation of fundamental human rights. It violates a whole range of human rights established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as international human rights covenants and other key international human rights instruments,” the Ministry said.

It noted that “this complex crime violates all human rights, including the right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy and the right to know the truth about the circumstances of the disappearance. International law considers enforced disappearance to be a crime against humanity under certain circumstances.”

“International humanitarian law aims to prevent people from disappearing as a result of arbitrary arrests, detention and other violations during captivity. After the ceasefire signed on November 9, 2020, Azerbaijan continues to hold Armenian prisoners of war and civilians, as hostages, and the fates of hundreds of missing and forcibly disappeared as a result of the first and 44-day Karabakh wars remain unknown,” the

statement reads.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the lack of cooperation on the part of the Azerbaijani authorities makes it impossible to accurately estimate the number of missing persons and to obtain reliable information about the fate or whereabouts and whether they are still alive.

“Azerbaijan continues to ignore the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the introduction of interim measures to provide information on Armenian hostages in Azerbaijan, as well as the urgent measures indicated by the International Court of Justice on December 7, 2021, which oblige Azerbaijan to stop its racist and discriminatory policies against Armenians,” the MFA said in the statement. “The issue of disappearances is a humanitarian priority that must be depoliticized and resolved with strong

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Armenia, Azerbaijan leaders agree to continue substantive negotiations on drafting of the peace treaty

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev met in Brussels on August 31 under the mediation of European Council President Charles Michel.

Issues related to the release of prisoners and the clarification of the fate of the missing, border delimitation and border security, de-blocking the region, the normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, and the Nagorno Karabakh issue were discussed.

An agreement was reached to continue substantive negotiations at the level of foreign ministers on the drafting of the peace treaty. The meeting of the foreign ministers will take place within a month.

The next meeting of the Commission on Delimitation and Border Security will take place in Brussels in November.

The next meeting of the leaders of the countries will take place in November.

The discussions in Brussels were broad and not easy, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Government



sitting on September 1.

He stressed that Armenia's goals remain unchanged.

"As I have stated in my public speeches, the Republic of Armenia has adopted the peace agenda, and we need resoluteness to call it to life. It's not easy, the possible solutions are not obvious, but we must continue to work consistently," he said.

He stressed that it is a necessity and the people's desire that lasting and comprehensive peace is established in the region as soon as possible, "and we must concentrate on solving this issue."

PM Pashinyan said there are no other details to talk about for now.

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Arbitrary interpretation of negotiations creates an impression that Azerbaijan intends to undermine the peace process, Armenian FM says



The position of the Armenian side regarding the five provisions proposed by Azerbaijan remains unchanged, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan has said.

"As we have stated before, we find

nothing unacceptable in the proposals forwarded by Azerbaijan on March 10, 2022. Another thing is that these proposals do not address all issues of the Armenia-Azerbaijan comprehensive peace agenda. With our response forwarded to the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, we completed the agenda, and therefore, on that basis, we are ready for the continuation of peace negotiations," the Foreign Minister said in a statement as he responded to speculations on the Brussels meeting of August 31st.

This was once again confirmed by

Prime Minister Pashinyan during the recent discussions held in Brussels.

"Not listening or trying not to listen to this position gives the Armenian side a reason to question the sincerity of Azerbaijan's intention in achieving peace. Moreover, the continued arbitrary, false interpretations of the negotiations and the avoidance to implement the agreements make an impression that Azerbaijan intends to undermine the peace process and continue its policy of ethnic cleansing through the use of force," FM Mirzoyan stated.

Traffic between Republic of Artsakh and Armenia now carried out through alternative route bypassing Berdzor

Traffic between the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia is now carried out through an alternative route, bypassing the city of Berdzor. The new Stepanakert-Goris route, which starts from the intersection of Berdadzor sub-district of Shushi region, is in operation from 20:00, August 30.

Russian peacekeepers have been deployed along the road. The traffic police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and rescuers of the State Emergency Service of the Republic of Artsakh also perform an enhanced service here, monitoring the safe entry and exit of citizens.



Armenia highly appreciates US and French envoys' rejection of Azerbaijani invitation to visit Shushi



Armenia highly appreciates the stance of the French and US Ambassadors, who rejected the Azerbaijani government's invitation to visit Shushi, Spokesperson for the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Vahan Hunanyan told *Armenpress*.

The comments come after foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations accredited to Azerbaijan participated in a conference in Shushi.

"We reiterate our position regarding the inadmissibility of unilateral visits to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. We are convinced that the population of Nagorno-Karabakh should be involved in the programs of international cooperation and support. At the same time, we highly

appreciate the position of those countries which, having a deep understanding of the conflict, refused to participate in such unilateral action," the Spokesperson said.

French and US Ambassadors to Azerbaijan ignored an invitation to visit Shushi for an event. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's Assistant Hikmet Hajiyev described the rejection as "disrespect for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity," adding that the American and French sides consider the conflict to be unresolved.

Armenia, Iran have ongoing joint application in UNESCO

Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia Alfred Kocharyan received on September 2 General Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran's East Azerbaijan province Ahmad Hamzehzadeh, the ministry said in a news release.

During the meeting Deputy Minister Kocharyan said that the friendly relations between Armenia and Iran continue for centuries, by strengthening and developing with time.

"The ongoing and future programs are the evidence of this. Particularly, there is an experience of preparing joint applications to UNESCO in the field of cultural heritage. At the moment we have an ongoing application. The Blue Mosque in downtown Yerevan is a good example of preservation of heritage", he said.

Touching upon the cooperation in tourism sector, Alfred Kocharyan stated that Iranian citizens capture the 3rd place with visits to Armenia. He said that exhibitions

also contribute to this, which the sides are participating on mutual principle.

The Deputy Minister assured that the Armenian side is ready to discuss the possibility of implementing new projects and initiatives.

In his turn the Iranian official said that the close ties between Iran and Armenia have a history of centuries. He stated that one of the priorities of the new government of Iran is to develop the relations with neighbors, and for that the bordering provinces serve as a linking hub. Ahmad Hamzehzadeh said their province is implementing numerous effective programs with neighboring countries. He said there are around 4000 cultural heritage objects in the province, 4 of which have got a world conformation, including 5 churches.

"We carry out the preservation of all these churches in cooperation with the Armenian community of Tabriz, and this is vivid evidence how important the Armenian cultural heritage is for us.

No matter whether they are Armenian



or Iranian, these monuments belong to the whole world", he said.

He also proposed to organize mutual visits to the churches of the two countries that got world confirmation aimed at developing tourism. Ahmad Hamzehzadeh thanked for the preservation of Iranian literature in Yerevan's Matenadaran, as well as the Blue Mosque. He proposed to jointly achieve the world confirmation of the Mosque.

In his turn Deputy Minister Alfred Kocharyan thanked for the preservation of Armenian culture in Iran. "Cultural heritage has no nationality, it is universal and belongs to all of us", he stated.

Lavrov says Yerevan, Baku and Moscow have made progress in reaching agreements

The trilateral working group consisting of representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia has made significant progress in reaching agreements on the unblocking transport links in the South Caucasus, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference following talks with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian, *TASS* reports.

"The issues of unblocking trade, economic, transport ties in the South Caucasus are being handled by a trilateral group chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers

of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. It is working rhythmically, contacts on delimitation of the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia were held recently. This trilateral working group, established by the decision of the three presidents of November 9, 2020, has made significant progress in reaching agreements. I hope they will be formalized in the very near future. What is especially important is that this work is not carried out in a vacuum, not in isolation, but in close coordination with broader transport projects, including the North-

South corridor project, which our Iranian partners are also interested in," he said.

Abdollahian noted, in turn, that Iran has a very privileged geopolitical position. "We see the strengthening of transit routes, including the diversified North-South routes, as an important factor for development, as well as for food security in this region," he added. The Iranian Foreign Minister also expressed the country's readiness to complete the construction of the unfinished section of Rasht – Astara.

UN Committee concerned about ill-treatment of POWs, destruction of Armenian cultural heritage by Azerbaijan



The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on August 30 issued findings on Azerbaijan, Benin, Nicaragua, Slovakia, Suriname, the United States of America and Zimbabwe after reviewing the States parties in its latest ses-

sion.

The findings contain the Committee's main concerns and recommendations on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as positive aspects.

In light of the hostilities that erupted in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020 and beyond, the Committee expresses deep concern about allegations of grave human rights violations committed by the Azer-

bajani military forces against prisoners of war and other protected persons of Armenian ethnic or national origin.

The Committee is also disturbed by reports on the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage, including churches, monuments, landmarks and cemeteries.

It recommends that the State party conduct thorough and impartial investigations of all human violations and strengthen its efforts to ensure accountability and end impunity.

Ruben Vardanyan renounces Russian citizenship, moves to Artsakh

Businessman and philanthropist Ruben Vardanyan has announced his decision to move to Artsakh and create the Artsakh Security and Development Front. He calls on Armenians from all over the world to join the struggle for Artsakh, as he considers it to be "the root of Armenianism."

In a video message Vardanyan said he has renounced Russian citizenship in order to come to Artsakh as an Armenian citizen, "because it's the right thing to do."

In addition, Vardanyan appealed to Azerbaijan, urging them to stop "compressing the spring": "We will not allow you to gradually force the Armenians out of here. It's impossible," he said.

Ruben Vardanyan expressed gratitude to the Russian peacekeepers in Artsakh. "I think that the mandate of the peacekeepers should be clarified, and the terms of their



stay should be extended until we can ensure the security of the people of Artsakh on our own," he added.

Vardanyan also drew the attention of the international community to the inadmissibility of ethnic cleansing.

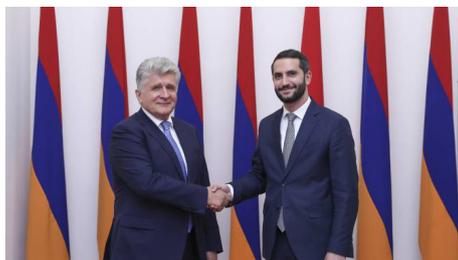
Ruben Vardanyan's video message dated September 1 was recorded in Artsakh near the Tnjri tree, one of the oldest trees

in the world, which is over 2,000 years old.

Ruben Vardanyan and his family, together with a diverse group of partners around the world, have made more than \$1.5 billion in commercial and philanthropic investments in key areas for human development – global education, healthcare, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), humanitarian issues, succession and philanthropy.

The best known of the projects are the investment company Troika Dialog, SKOLKOVO Business School, Phoenix Advisors and PhilinPhilgood in Russia, United World College Dilijan, the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), the Wings of Tatev cable car in Armenia and the global Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

Armenian Vice Speaker of Parliament introduces UN Assistant Secretary-General on security situation in NK and region



Vice Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Ruben Rubinyan met on September 2 with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and Americas, Miroslav Jenča, the Parliament's press service said.

During the meeting Ruben Rubinyan

presented the current security situation in Nagorno Karabakh and the region caused by the 2020 war unleashed by Azerbaijan. He emphasized the necessity of eliminating the current humanitarian crisis, the problems connected with the displaced people, the elimination of Armenian religious and cultural heritage in Artsakh.

The UN Assistant Secretary-General thanked for reception and detailed presen-

tation of the current situation. Highlighting the importance of the close cooperation between Armenia and the United Nations, Miroslav Jenča expressed readiness to support and continue the mutual partnership. He said that the UN is making efforts to preserve peace and stability in the region.

The sides also discussed the current normalization process between Armenia and Turkey.



A trade and business delegation consisting of leading manufacturers and traders in the field of textile, Communications and Information Technology (ICT), mining, machinery and construction industries

Iran dispatched trade-business delegation to Armenia

was dispatched to Armenia from August 23 to 25, Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said, Mehr News reports.

Iran's Commercial Attaché to Armenia Akbar Godari said a Business Conference was held at the venue of Iranian Embassy to Yerevan on August 24 between Zanjan province Chamber of Commerce and the Employers' Union of the Republic of Armenia.

During the meeting held between the

Chairman of Union of Employers of Armenia Gahic Markaryan and Deputy Chairman of Zanjan Chamber of Commerce Zarrabi, the two sides discussed high capabilities of traders of the two countries.

In this business meeting, suitable Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were made in the field of textiles and joint production of products between Iranian and Armenian producers, Godari added.

iGorts: 70% of second stage of program participants repatriated

50 Diaspora-Armenian specialists received certificates during the closing ceremony of the iGorts 2021 program in the government of Armenia.

The ceremony was attended by High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia Zareh Sinanyan, deputy ministers, program participants who arrived in Armenia from abroad a year ago for working in a public sector.

Zareh Sinanyan thanked the participants for the dedicated work in their fields.

"Within the framework of iGorts program, projects were implemented in healthcare, education, culture, social, labor, territorial administration, economy and investment sectors. All our participants are amazing specialists in their spheres. Most of the participants, nearly 70%, have made a decision to repatriate, some part will stay

in the public administration and others will start working in the private sector", he said.

"We have selected the participants with special criteria, as the applicant must have had a Master's or a higher degree and been ready to live and work in Armenia for a year", Sinanyan said.

Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ruben Sargsyan stated that Armenia highly needs the professional and human resource that this program provides. iGorts program is also a good opportunity for exchange of experience and introduction of a new culture.

Vahan Mkrtychyan, who was born and lived in Russia for many years, told ARMENPRESS that this program was the best

mean of returning back to the homeland. "I was working at the Yerevan City Hall



through the program. It gave me a great circle, ties, friends and enabled to understand how the Armenian government is working today", he said.

Iran commissions new power transmission line to Armenia

Iran has inaugurated a power transmission line to Armenia, among over 2,000 electricity-related projects, *IRNA* reports.

The 90-kilometer Heris-Meghri power transmission line can export 400 kilowatts

of Iran's electricity to Armenia.

Power Distribution Companies of Iran have inaugurated over 2,000 projects as Iran is celebrating the Government Week.



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political will and cooperation. In the absence of such an approach, justice and social healing, and therefore long-term peace, will remain elusive, the Ministry said, calling on the international community to take responsibility for providing

unconditional access to the entire territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which can alleviate the current humanitarian crisis.

"On the International Day of Enforced Disappearances, we express our solidarity with the families of the victims and all those who suffer from these inhuman acts.

We fight for the rights of the disappeared, we continue to fight for justice and against impunity for this crime. We reiterate our urgent call to end impunity for enforced disappearances," the Ministry concluded.

Fly Arna announces direct flight to Sochi

Fly Arna, Armenia's national airline and a joint venture company between the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) and Air Arabia Group, has announced the launch of its fourth new route to Sochi in Russia, starting from September 23, 2022.



The new direct flights from Zvartnots International Airport to Sochi International airport, will connect the two cities with three direct flights weekly.

“Sochi is the second city in Russia that Fly Arna operates its direct flights to after Moscow. We are extremely proud with the new addition to our network from our base in Zvartnots International Airport. The new route will provide our passenger the oppor-

tunity to explore the marvelous city and enjoy its historic sites. We look forward to welcoming our passengers aboard”, said Gayane Antonyan, Fly Arna’s spokesperson.

Located on the Black Sea and called often the “Black Sea Pearl”, Sochi is popular for its beaches, picturesque mountains, and museums that bring together hundreds of visitors every year.

Customers can now book their direct flights between Yerevan and Sochi by visiting Fly Arna’s [website](#), calling the call center (+374 41 38 00 83) or through travel agencies.

Fly Arna is working continuously on

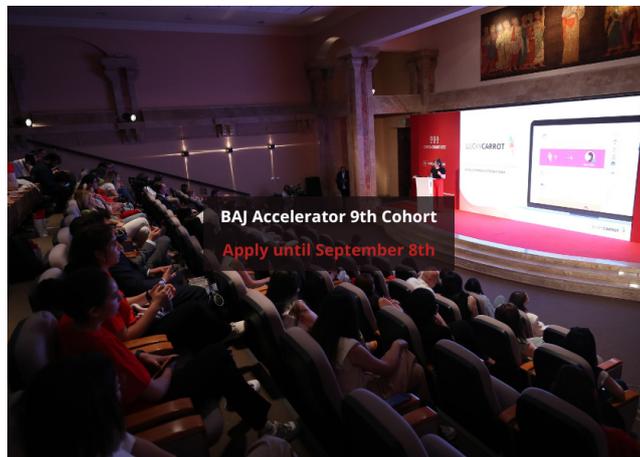
expanding its network and soon will announce the launch of new routes while providing value-driven products and affordable onboard services, starting with the Airbus A320 aircraft cabin configuration that is designed to provide a generous seat pitch that customers on-board can relax during their flight. Customers can also enjoy a wide variety of delicacies varying from light snacks to sandwiches found on-board “Sky Café” menu at affordable prices. Additionally, tuning into a variety of free entertainment through the in-flight streaming service, “SkyTime”, which offers a wide selection of movies, TV shows as well as music and audio books.

New opportunity for Armenian companies: BAJ Accelerator launches 9th cohort to accelerate the growth of startups

[Orion Worldwide Innovations](#) and [BAJ Accelerator](#), a startup growth and ecosystem acceleration hub, will host the 9th cohort of startup growth acceleration program on September 18-23, 2022. 94 startups participated in the previous 8 cohorts, of which 53 were Armenian (operating in Armenia or other countries). For participation in the program, startups can apply until September 8 by filling out the [application form](#).

BAJ Accelerator brings fast-paced drive with the unique vision of “Less Talk, More Deals” slogan. As a result of the program, Armenian startups raised more than \$27M of investments last year.

Several participants of the previ-



ous May 2022 cohort: [HiHub](#), [Lucky Carrot](#), [Text'nPayMe](#), [Manot](#) and [Epicured](#) have successfully completed the acceleration program and are already in the active phase of attracting investments.

“Orion is the leading founding partner of BAJ Accelerator, a New York based entity that connects the Armenian startup ecosystem with the capital of the world:

New York. At present, work is being done to invest around \$50M. Participating in the accelerator program starting in September will give startups the opportunity to address gaps, develop skills, and prepare to pitch to the world’s largest venture capital firms, investors, angel investors, and multifamily offices,” said Emma Arakelyan, CEO & Founder of Orion Worldwide

Innovations and Co-Founding Partner of BAJ Accelerator.

BAJ Accelerator is a growth stage accelerator and is for startups at the Pre-Seed to Series A+ levels. BAJ Accelerator is the first one in the world that accelerates technology development, and matures the startups by making them subject to investments.

Fitch affirms Armenia at 'B+', outlook stable



Fitch Ratings has affirmed Armenia's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B+' with a Stable Outlook.

KEY RATING DRIVERS

Credit Fundamentals: Armenia's 'B+' IDRs reflect strong per-capita income, governance and business environment indicators relative to peers, as well as a robust macroeconomic and fiscal policy framework and credible commitment to reform, underpinned by IMF support. Set against these strengths are a high share of foreign-currency denominated public debt, relatively weak external finances, and geopolitical risks.

Positive Economic Spillovers from Ukraine Conflict: The Ukraine conflict and sanctions on Russia have triggered a substantial migration of Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian citizens to Armenia since March, with visitor numbers rising 515% yoy in 1H22. This is further supported by a 200% yoy increase in money transfers from Russia to Armenia in 1H22. A large proportion of the migrants are believed to be highly educated professionals, particularly from the information and communications technology sector. These trends helped boost growth 13% yoy in 2Q22 (1Q22: 8.7% yoy) and should provide momentum in 2H22. Fitch has upped its real GDP growth projections for 2022 to 6.4% as remittances boost personal consumption, and export performance (particularly to Russia) holds up. Fitch expects growth will average 4.7% in 2023-24.

Geopolitical Risks: Armenia maintains a cautious approach to managing relations with the US, UK and EU with regards to sanctions on Russia. While authorities are committed to de-risking the banking sector to avoid sanction violations, trade relations with Russia remain sizeable. As of June 2022, Russia accounted for 31% of Armenia's exports and 36% of imports, and an estimated 40% of FDI. Russia was the source of 32% of money transfers (including remittances) before the Ukraine conflict started. Armenia is also exceptionally

dependent on Russia for its energy supply, and since the start of the Ukraine conflict, has started making payments for Russian natural gas imports in rubles. There is little sign that diversification of export markets is likely to occur in the short to medium term.

Relations with Azerbaijan have worsened in recent months, with military engagement between the two countries in Nagorno-Karabakh in August resulting in casualties on both sides, and further reported territorial gains by Azerbaijan. Tensions are expected to remain high in the short term as Azerbaijan has begun resettling residents in the region, although Fitch does not presently expect this will have broader macroeconomic implications.

Overheating Risks: The large influx of migrants and resultant boost to demand added to inflationary pressures, with consumer price growth reaching an 11-year high of 10.3% in June, well outside the Central Bank of Armenia's (CBA) 4% (+/- 1.5pp) target. Property rentals, driven by rising demand from expatriates, rose by 23.4% yoy in June and will pose upside risks to inflation. The strength of the dram, which appreciated 16% against the US dollar in February-July, acts as a restraint on price growth to some extent, given the very high dependence on food imports. Retail energy price pressures are more limited, given that Armenia has locked in natural gas supplies from Russia at 2021 prices. The CBA has raised rates by a cumulative 175bp in 2022 to 9.5% as of August, and is expected to reduce rates only gradually, to 8.5% by end-2023. While the inflation targeting regime is broadly credible, the high level of dollarization (42% of banking sector deposits and 39% of loans to residents as of July 2022) impedes the transmission mechanism of monetary policy to some extent.

Reduced External Liquidity Risks: The large increase in money transfers and other remittances, and the drawdown of the final USD35 million tranche of a USD415 million IMF Stand-By Agreement Facility in 1H22 boosted FX reserves to a 20-year high of USD3.5 billion as of July (representing an 11.4% increase since February 2022). However, Fitch expects the trend to level off in the context of historically large current account deficits (CAD; annual average of 5.3% of GDP in 2012-21). Fitch projects the CAD to reach 4.8% of GDP in 2022 and average 6.2% in 2022-23 (current 'B' median: 4.1%). The

net external debt levels of Armenia, at a projected average of 46.4% in 2022-24, will remain well above the current 'B' median of 25.5%.

Solid External Creditor Support: Armenia benefits from strong support and technical assistance from a range of multilateral and bilateral creditors. As of end-1H22, 48% of general government debt was owed to official lenders. Authorities intend to rely on a pipeline of concessional borrowing to build up cash buffers in 2022-24. These include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the French Development Agency, which will keep borrowing costs low and reduce liquidity risks.

Fiscal Overperformance Likely in 2022: Tax revenue overperformance owing to strong nominal growth in 1H22, as well as capex under-execution will help reduce the fiscal deficit from 4.6% of GDP in 2021 to 3.1% in 2022 (below the pre-pandemic five-year average of 3.5%). A strong dram reduces debt servicing costs and is net positive for the budget. Fitch forecasts the fiscal deficit to further fall to 2.6% in 2023 and 2.3% in 2024, outperforming the 'B' median of 4.4%. We anticipate that authorities will remain committed to returning to adherence to fiscal rules in 2022, following the activation of the escape clause for 2020 and 2021.

High FX Debt: Exposure to exchange rate volatility is the key risk to debt dynamics in the medium term, given that 64.7% of gross general government debt (GGGD) was foreign-currency denominated at end-June (current 'B' median: 63.4%). Fitch projects the substantial appreciation of the dram vs the US dollar in 2022 and strong nominal GDP growth will reduce GGGD/GDP by nearly 10pp to 50.5%, but that subsequent depreciation could lift it back to around 54% in 2023-24.

ESG – Governance: Armenia has an ESG Relevance Score (RS) of '5' Political Stability and Rights, and '5[+]' for the Rule of Law, Institutional and Regulatory Quality and Control of Corruption. These scores reflect the high weight that the World Bank Governance Indicators (WBI) have in our proprietary Sovereign Rating Model. Armenia has a medium WBI ranking at the 49th percentile reflecting a recent record of peaceful political transitions, a moderate level of rights for participation in the political process, moderate institutional capacity, established rule of law and a moderate level of corruption.

International community obliged to prevent ethnic cleansing in Artsakh – PM Pashinyan



The international community is obliged to make efforts to address the humanitarian problems caused by the 44-day war and to prevent the implementation of the policy of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a statement on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of proclamation of the Republic of Artsakh.

He said “the Republic of Armenia will continue to support the maintenance of normal life in Nagorno-Karabakh, security and human rights protection.”

Below is the full text of the statement:

31 years ago on this day, the joint session of deputies of all levels of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region and Shahumyan region made a decision on the adoption of the declaration of indepen-

dence of Nagorno Karabakh by exercising the right to self-determination.

This decision of our compatriots was the answer to the existential threat, the manifestations of which were the massacres in Sumgait, Baku, Kirovabad. This decision was made as a guarantee for the protection of the security and rights of Artsakh Armenians.

The declaration of independence was followed by the referendum held on December 10, 1991, the 1st Artsakh war, the 4-day war, and the 44-day war. The fact that our compatriots continue to live in Nagorno Karabakh or in a part of it, remained the same. And they have the right to live in their own home, in a safe environment where their rights will be protected. Basically, this is the essence of the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

All statements about the non-existence of Nagorno-Karabakh as a territorial unit and Nagorno-Karabakh issue being solved are irrelevant, unless the issues of security and protection of the rights of the Artsakh Armenians are irrevocably addressed,

and accordingly, the issue of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, regarding which the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairmanship has a mandate approved by the international community that has never been revoked.

The international community is obliged to make efforts to address the humanitarian problems caused by the 44-day war and to prevent the implementation of the policy of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Republic of Armenia will continue to support the maintenance of normal life in Nagorno-Karabakh, security and human rights protection. Today, we express our appreciation to the Person who embodies Nagorno-Karabakh, and our task is to ensure through peaceful, civilized means, through negotiations his inalienable right to live and create peacefully.

Today, we humbly remember our brothers and sisters who were martyred for the protection of the rights of our compatriots in Nagorno-Karabakh, and our obligation to them is ensuring peaceful Nagorno-Karabakh, peaceful Armenia, peaceful South Caucasus.

New report details violations of the rights of the people of Artsakh by Azerbaijan in August 2022

The Human Rights Ombudsman Published an Ad Hoc Trilingual Report on the Violations of the Rights of the People of Artsakh by Azerbaijan in August 2022

Artsakh Human Rights Ombudsman’s office has published an ad hoc trilingual report (Armenian, Russian, English) on the violations of the rights of the people of Artsakh by Azerbaijan in August 2022, which has been sent to the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, organizations with a primary mandate of human rights protection and other human rights institutions.

The first section of the report presents details on the systematic and continuous crimes committed by Azerbaijan against the people of Artsakh after the November 9, 2020 Statement. After the establishment of the ceasefire, Azerbaijan committed more than 112 crimes that caused human casualties and significant material damage. As a result of those crimes 3 civilians and 15 military servicemen were killed, 126 persons were subjected to attempted murders (48 civilians, 78 militaries), and 65 people (14 civilians, 51 militaries) were wounded in various degrees. The section also made a reference to the Azerbaijani aggression launched against the people of Artsakh in August 2022 and its conse-

quences.

The second section provides details on the existential importance of the Corridor connecting the Republic of Artsakh to the Republic of Armenia (Lachin Corridor) for the people of Artsakh, the inadmissibility of changing its legal regime, and Azerbaijan’s illegal demand of changing the route of the Corridor much earlier than was agreed under the November 9, 2020 Statement. It has been stated in the section that to advance its illegal demands, Azerbaijan continuously uses or threats to use force, grossly violating international law.

The third section introduces details on the depopulation of Berdzor, Aghavno, and Nerkin Sus communities of the Kashatagh region of Artsakh, resulting in gross violations of fundamental human rights, also referring to the European Court of Human Rights’ interim measures issued on August 19, 2022, and expanded on November 3 of the same year, which call on the parties “to refrain from such actions that could lead to a violation of the rights of civilians protected by the Convention.”

The fourth section provides some proof of the drastic increase in hate speech and other manifestations of Armenophobia by the state officials and public figures of

Azerbaijan, parallel to the August escalation. It has been stated that Azerbaijan is clearly violating the order of the International Court of Justice issued on December 7, 2021, particularly paragraph 2, according to which Azerbaijan must “refrain from engaging in or tolerating hate speech against Armenians... punishing all acts of racial discrimination, both public and private, against Armenians, including those taken by public officials.”

The fifth section makes a reference to the necessity of clarifying the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping mission, which will provide effective mechanisms for properly countering the ceasefire violations and for ensuring stable and lasting peace.

The report was prepared on the basis of studies conducted by the Human Rights Defender’s Office, on the visits to various communities, citizens’ houses, on private conversations with citizens, and information received from state-authorized bodies. The aim is to document the cases of violation of the rights of the people of Artsakh by Azerbaijan and their various manifestations and to draw the attention of international institutions and human rights organizations to the situation in Artsakh.

Armenian-Australians demand answers after Australian diplomat attends Azerbaijani propaganda event in occupied Shushi



The Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) has protested on behalf of the Armenian-Australian community with a letter to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), following the participation of a representative of Australia's Embassy to Turkey and Azerbaijan to a propaganda event hosted by Baku in the ethnically cleansed and occupied village of Shushi in the Republic of Artsakh.

Defence Attaché, Captain Ben Esler was in Shushi for a “reconstruction conference” hosted by Azerbaijan’s petro-dictatorship of Ilham Aliyev despite Australia’s allies who Co-Chair the United Nations-sanctioned OSCE Minsk Group, the United States and France, boycotting

the event being hosted in a village that has been ethnically cleansed of its Armenian populations, where Armenian churches are being converted into mosques.

In the ANC-AU’s letter, Executive Director Michael Kolokossian questioned the unacceptable decision of Australia to participate in the event.

Kolokossian asked: “In what wisdom did Australia feel obliged to visit the currently occupied, and ethnically cleansed territory of Shushi whilst our closest allies—most notably the U.S and France of the OSCE Minsk Group, tasked with managing a peaceful resolution to the conflict—rejected invitations to the ‘reconstruction conference’ in Shushi which has never been part of Azerbaijan?”

The ANC-AU also explained that Australia’s participation in such a conference in the occupied territories of Shushi represented “outright complicity in Azerbaijan’s systematic campaign of cultural genocide in the occupied territories of Artsakh, which the European Parliament has condemned as ‘historical revisionism’”.

Kolokossian added: “Why is Australian taxpayer dollars funding Australian diplomatic delegations to petro-dictatorship’s occupying territories, and accused of committing systematic cultural genocide?”

“Seeing as Australian diplomatic representatives are touring the occupied city of Shushi, they should take a quick pit-stop at Baku’s ethnic hatred ‘theme park’ celebrating dead Armenian soldiers before coming home.”

Kolokossian added: “The Azerbaijani government is not ‘reconstructing’ Shushi, they’re dismantling and desecrating the sacred Armenian Holy Saviour Cathedral, falsifying the region’s historical roots as part of their propaganda campaign in claiming ownership of a region that was never there.”

The ANC-AU letter has requested an urgent meeting with members of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss this grave and concerning matter to the Armenian-Australian community.

Earlier, Australia’s Ambassador to Turkey, Miles Armitage, celebrated the visit of his Defense Attaché in a Twitter post.

March and rally in Stepanakert mark 31st anniversary of proclamation of Artsakh Republic

Hundreds marched from Freedom Square in Stepanakert to Renaissance Square to mark the 31st anniversary of proclamation of the Republic of Artsakh. The march was concluded with a rally.

The event opened with the national anthem of the Republic of Artsakh. It was followed by words of blessing by Bishop Vrtanes Abrahamyan, head of the Artsakh Diocese of Armenian Apostolic Church.

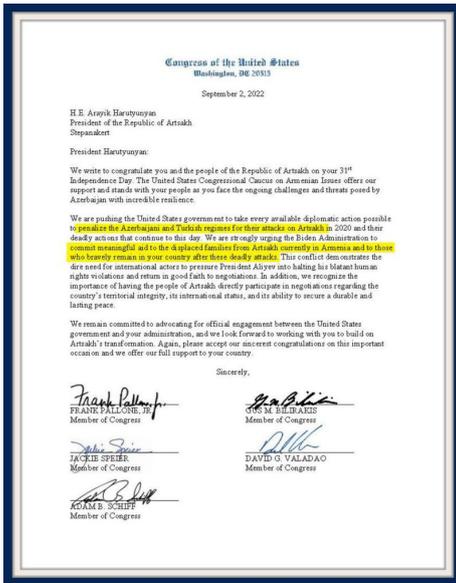
gave a word of blessing. “Justice elevates a nation, while sin destroys nations. These words from the Bible come to our

mind when we think about the past, present and future of our country at this moment of revaluation of the independence of Artsakh. Independence is a divine gift which is the foremost and most vital requirement for a nation to live a dignified and creative life. In a perfect world, rights are the source of power, but unfortunately, today power begets right. Therefore, we are forced to protect our God-given rights and freedom by force,” he said.

Foreign Minister David Babayan said:

“September 2 is the birthday of the Republic of Artsakh. We used celebrate September 2 until 2020, which is natural after the many losses we have had. We are obliged to remember this day and when the time comes, to celebrate as well, because thousands of representatives of the nation, the best brothers and sisters, have sacrificed their lives for the bright future of Artsakh.”

Congratulatory messages by dozens of politicians from a number of countries were read out during the rally.



US lawmakers congratulate Artsakh on 31st anniversary of proclamation

offers our support and stands with your people as you face the ongoing challenges and threats posed by Azerbaijan with incredible resilience,” the lawmakers said in a letter to Artsakh’s President Arayik Harutyunyan.

“We are pushing the United States government to take every available diplomatic action possible to penalize the Azerbaijani and Turkish regimes for their attacks in 2020 and their deadly actions that continue to this day. We are strongly urging the Biden Administration to commit meaningful aid to the displaced families from Artsakh currently in Armenia and to those who bravely remain in your country after these deadly attacks. This conflict demonstrates the dire need for international actors to pressure President Aliyev into halting his blatant human rights violations and return in good faith to negotiations. In addition, we recognize the importance of having the people of Artsakh directly participate in negotiations regarding the country’s territorial integrity, its international status, and its ability to secure a durable and lasting peace.

The members of Congress noted that “this conflict demonstrates the dire need for international actors to pressure Presi-

dent Aliyev into halting his blatant human rights violations and return in good faith to negotiations. In addition, we recognize the importance of having the people of Artsakh directly participate in negotiations regarding the country’s territorial integrity, its international status, and its ability to secure a durable and lasting peace.”

“We remain committed to advocating for official engagement between the United States government and your administration, and we look forward to working with you to build on Artsakh’s transformation. Again, please accept our sincerest congratulations on this important occasion and we offer our full support to your country,” Frank Pallone, Gus Bilirakis, Jackie Speier, David Valadao and Adam Schiff said.

Congressional Armenian Caucus leaders – Rep. Frank Pallone, Gus Bilirakis, Jackie Speier, David G. Valadao and Adam Schiff – have congratulated the Republic of Artsakh on 31st Independence Day.

“We write to congratulate you and the people of the Republic of Artsakh on your 31st Independence Day. The United States Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Artsakh Foreign Minister David Babayan to hold consultations in Washington, DC



Republic of Artsakh Foreign Minister David Babayan will hold policy consultations across Washington, DC – including Congressional briefings, think tank roundtables, university lectures, and community gatherings – during an upcoming visit to Washington, DC coinciding with an Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Federal Policy Seminar.

Minister Babayan will offer the keynote speech at an ANCA event dedicated to Artsakh security and liberty held at the his-

toric Woodrow Wilson House, the museum honoring the U.S. president who championed efforts to secure a U.S. mandate to support the Armenian Republic in 1918. He will also be the featured speaker at the “Capitol Hill Salute to Artsakh’s Independence,” organized in cooperation with the Congressional Armenian Caucus, which will be held on Monday, September 19th.

“We welcome Minister Babayan’s consultations across Washington with U.S. policymakers and foreign policy stakeholders – as well as his remarks on Capitol Hill, at the Wilson House, and at our policy conference – as a meaningful contribution to constructive U.S. engagement on Artsakh Republic status and security issues,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “Artsakh’s voice – in Washington and on the world stage – represents the unbend-

ing resolve, the abiding democratic aspirations, of the Armenian nation to endure, to survive, and thrive on the very frontier of world freedom against the forces of darkness and dictatorship.”

The ANCA Federal Policy Seminar – a four-day series of presentations, roundtable discussions, and Capitol Hill visits for chapter and community leaders – will focus on targeted initiatives to advance ANCA strategic priorities: saving Artsakh, strengthening Armenia, holding Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable, and securing justice for the Armenian Genocide.

Following his Washington, DC visit, Babayan will be traveling to California for a series of events and meetings with Armenian American community leaders and elected officials.

COAF & Embassy of Japan launch public transportation upgrade in Armenia's Lori region



agreement, channeling over US\$90,000 into the modernization of Lori's transit system. Within the scope of the initiative, COAF purchased a new, state-of-the-art bus, making travel accessible to everyone crossing the region, including the elderly and those with disabilities. The new service will operate at higher frequencies, connecting seven rural communities, with integrated stops at the COAF SMART Center in Debet village and the forthcoming Dsegh Health Center.

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and the Embassy of Japan in Armenia celebrate the inauguration of a new bus service as part of a larger initiative, designed to improve rural public transportation in Armenia's Lori region. This collaboration will expand the region's transit system and upgrade it with four key objectives in mind: ensuring public transport is accessible to all, including people with disabilities; boosting the quality of transport services to better match passengers' needs; reinvigorating intraregional mobility; and improving environmental compatibility.

Earlier this year, COAF and the Japanese Embassy in Armenia signed a grant

to offer passengers easily identifiable stops equipped with necessary travel information, COAF will build four shelters and two bus signs in communities located along the Dsegh-Vanadzor route starting this month. These efforts complement a previous project implemented by COAF, whereby the organization established a new, fully-equipped bus stop within the scope of its SMART Village initiative implemented in Lori's Debet village.

Alongside infrastructure modernization, COAF will promote the use of digital technology to increase access to public transportation. This will include launching an app to provide real-time travel information and a cashless payment option. Residents will also be provided with reloadable bus cards to facilitate travel.

The event takes place at the COAF SMART Center in Debet, Lori, featuring opening remarks by the Japanese Ambassador to Armenia H.E. Mr. Masanori Fukushima, the Deputy Governor of Lori Province Hovhannes Avetisyan, and COAF Managing Director Korioun Khatchadourian. During the ceremony, attendees are taken on an inaugural bus ride to the Debet Municipality where COAF will hand over the bus to the "Pambak Communal" community-serving non-profit organization.

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Speakers of Starmus VI festival to give lectures at educational establishments in Armenia

On September 5-10, Yerevan universities and Armenia's educational centers will host speakers participating in the STARMUS VI festival, who will share their knowledge and experience, revealing the secrets of the universe. The speakers will give lectures at the following educational establishments:

- Yerevan State University,
- National Polytechnic University of Armenia,
- Armenian-Russian University,
- American University of Armenia,
- State University of Economics of Armenia,
- National Agrarian University of

- Armenia,
- Haybusak University of Yerevan,
- RA National Academy of Sciences,
- Alikhanyan National Scientific Laboratory (Yerevan Institute of Physics),
- UN office in Armenia,
- Kvant school,
- School of physics and mathematics,
- Shirakatsi Seminary,
- TUMO Center for Creative Technologies,
- AIB school,
- Technological center of the En-

terprise Incubator Foundation in Gyumri,

- CSMART center in Gyumir,
- LOFT, Vanadzor

Students of educational institutions will have a unique opportunity to listen to world-famous scientists, astronauts, astrophysicists, such as Jim Baghian, Garik Israelian, Kip Thorne, Charlie Duke, Nagin Cox, Joel Parker, Tony Fadel, Donna Strickland, Jean-Jacques Dordain and others.

The event will be held under the auspices of the President and Prime Minister of Armenia.

Happy to be back in Armenia: Luis Figo joins Armenian iGaming platform as Brand Ambassador

Former Portugal international Luis Figo says it's an honor for him to return to Armenia.

"The last time I was here I was participating in the Legends Match," Figo said, referring to the 2018 July all-star Europe vs. Latin America football match.

"When you come to play football, you don't have much opportunity to see and get to know the culture of the country and meet people. You just come to the airport and then to the hotel. That's why I am very happy to return to Armenia, now I have time to get to know the country," Figo said at a press conference in Yerevan, Armenpress reports.

The football legend has joined the Armenia-based Digitain iGaming platform as Brand Ambassador.

Luis Figo pledged to do his best to advance the company's projects and plans to

visit various countries for business meetings in the next six months.

Speaking about his career, the former Portugal international said: "Playing football was my dream and I never expected to reach such level. I think that in football, just like elsewhere, if you don't have teamwork you can't succeed as an individual. Success depends on certain people. There can be exceptions, but what matters is team spirit and team victory," Figo said.

The football star said he was lucky to play in the world's best teams with the world's best players. Asked what team he'd prefer to play for, if he had the chance to choose, Figo said he had been watching the matches of Liverpool since childhood, but didn't have the chance to play for the club during his career.

Comparing the football of his time to the present-day football, Figo said that life,



society and technologies have developed and the difference is very big.

"I think everything has changed, there is difference in the training of the footballers, the equipment, boots, staff, technologies, there is very much information these days, but nothing has changed in terms of emotions," Figo said.

The former player said he has never wanted to become a coach. "I wanted to be a manager but never a coach."

IBM's Leon Stok to receive Armenia's highest IT award

Leon Stok, Vice President of IBM's Electronic Design Automation group, will be the recipient of Armenia's Award for the global contribution to humanity through information technology (Global IT Award).

His team delivers world-class design and verification flows and tools being used to design the world's largest supercomputers, IBM Z and Power systems and IBM Quantum Systems. IBM ranks among the world's largest information technology companies, providing a wide spectrum of hardware, middleware and software as well as cloud computing and data analytics as well as consulting services in areas ranging from mainframe computers to nanotechnology.

The company has also served as a major research and development corporation over the years, with significant inventions like the floppy disk, the hard disk drive, and the UPC barcode.

Leon's main contribution is in innovating chips for IBM products such as Automation, Robotics, Artificial intelligence, Cloud computing, Consulting, Blockchain, Computer hardware, Software, Quantum computing fueling IBM's core strengths – its cloud, data analytics, mobile, social,



and security businesses.

Leon Stok studied electrical engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, from which he graduated with honors in 1986. He obtained a Ph.D. degree from Eindhoven University in 1991. At IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Leon Stok pioneered logic synthesis, as part of the team that developed BooleDozer. Subsequently he managed IBM's synthesis group and drove the first commercial application of a fully integrated physical synthesis tool PDS, IBM's Placement Driven Synthesis tool. From 1999-2004 he led all of IBM's design automation research as the Senior

Manager Design Automation at IBM Research. He drove key innovations in DFM using RRR (Radically Restrictive Rules), in static timing analysis using Statistical Timing in large block physical synthesis.

Dr. Stok has published over sixty papers on many aspects of high level, architectural and logic synthesis, low power design, placement driven synthesis and on the automatic placement and routing for schematic diagrams. He holds 13 patents in EDA. He was elected an IEEE Fellow for the Development and Application of High-level and Logic synthesis algorithms.

Inaugurated in 2009, the Global IT award honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to humanity through advancing the world of IT. The award highlights Armenia on the world IT map as a growing high-tech destination.

The Award consists of golden medal, diploma and trophy evoking High Technologies.

The medal for the Laureate of the State Award of the Republic of Armenia represents a winged lion authored by Karen Aghamyan, President of the Artists' Union of Armenia.

World Air Sports Federation recognizes Armenia's ballooning record

The World Air Sports Federation (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, FAI), has registered the Armenian ballooning record set by SkyBall, the founder of ballooning in Armenia.

Two experienced pilots – Sergey Bazhenov from Moscow and Nairi Barseghyan from Armenia – took off from Russia's Orenburg region on February 16 and landed near the city of Neftekamsk (Bashkortostan), covering a distance of 485 km 764 m. The flight lasted 34 hours and 41 minutes. The latter was submitted to the World Air Sports Federation for registration as a world record.



After several months of observations, a positive conclusion was given by the Federation, and for the first time the World Aviation Sports Federation registered a world record held by Armenia.

The relevant certificates were handed during a solemn ceremony on Monday attended by Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan, Head of Armenia's Tourism Committee Sisian Boghossian, Representative of the Civil Aviation Committee Aram Yeghoyan and others.

"This is our joint victory, because with this flight we not only proved that there are no unattainable goals for us, but also that we have the ability to outline new victories. The milestone has already been set and we must consistently raise it," Nairi Barseghyan said in his speech.

Armenian baritone wins Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition



Armenian baritone Grisha Martirosyan has won the 10th Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition held in Dublin, the *Journal of Music* reports.

Martirosyan is a graduate of the Yerevan State Conservatoire in Armenia and also studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. In 2019, he won first prize at the Gohar Gasparian Armenian National Singing Competition and is currently a member of the Mascarade Emerging Artists programme in Florence

The Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition was established in 1995 by Irish soprano and vocal coach Veronica 'Ronnie' Dunne, who passed away

in 2021. The competition is held every three years in Dublin and has a prize fund of €30,000.

Each of the six finalists in this year's competition performed three arias with the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Laurent Wagner. For Martirosyan's performance, he sang 'Si può' from Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, 'Avant de quitter ces lieux' from Gounod's *Faust*, and 'Vision fugitive' from Massenet's *Hérodiade*.

Nobel laureate Donna Strickland lectures at Armenian-Russian University

Nobel laureate, renowned physicist Donna Strickland offered a lecture on "Generation of high-intensity ultrafast optical pulses" at the Armenian-Russian University on September 5 within the framework of the international school dedicated to modern applications of optics and photonics (MAOP-2022). Hayk Sargsyan, director of the Engineering-Physics Institute of the Armenian-Russian University, and Davit Hayrapetyan, the head of the Chair of General Physics and Quantum Nanostructures of the University, made opening remarks.

"It is a great honor for us to host you at

the Armenian-Russian University. You are the second Nobel laureate in physics whom we have the honor to host at our university. The first was the Nobel Prize laureate Zhores Alfiorov, who gave a lecture on "Semiconductor revolution in the 21st century" on October 11, 2011," Hayk Sargsyan noted.

Donna Strickland has arrived in Armenia to participate in the Starmus Vi festival of science and

arts. The guests will offer lectures at different educational establishments of Armenia.



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Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.

Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

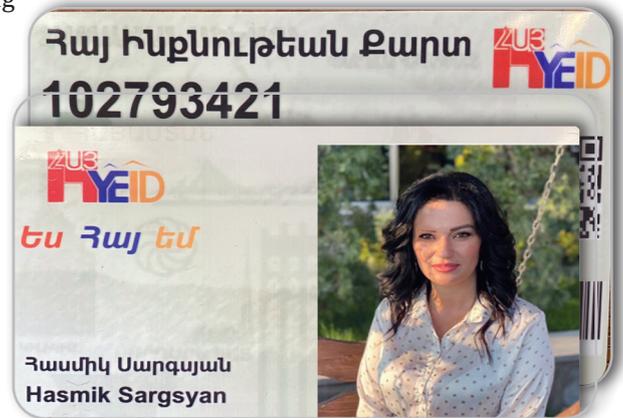
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