

Armenian soldier returns home after azeri captivity

An Armenian soldier who was taken prisoner near Nagorno-Karabakh last year returned to Armenia early on Thursday one month after being released from Azerbaijani custody and deported to a third country.

Hakob Injighulian received a hero's welcome from his relatives and friends at Yerevan's Zvartnots airport. The 23-year-old appeared in good health and high spirits. He claimed, though, to have been tortured and intimidated during his yearlong captivity in Azerbaijan.

"It's great to be back in Armenia," Injighulian told the press.

Injighulian crossed into Azerbaijani-controlled territory east of Karabakh in disputed circumstances in August 2013. Shortly afterwards he was paraded on Azerbaijani television saying that he surrendered to Azerbaijani forces because of being ill-treated by one of his commanders.

The Armenian military said that the soldier was forced to make such statements under duress. It insisted that he crossed the "line of contact" around Karabakh by accident.

Injighulian confirmed the official Armenian version of his disappearance as he spoke to reporters at Zvartnots. He said he was forced to put on an Azerbaijani army uniform and allege abuse at the hands of his



Armenian commanders in his televised appearance.

"There were beatings, humiliation, and verbal abuse. They said that 'if you don't do what we want you'll meet the fate of that shepherd,'" Injighulian said, referring to Manvel Saribekian, a 20-year-old resident of an Armenian border village who was found hanged in an Azerbaijani prison in 2010 just weeks after wandering into Azerbaijan.

According to Injighulian, Azerbaijani military authorities also warned him beforehand against disclosing key details of his treatment to representatives of the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who repeatedly visited him in custody. He claimed that Azerbaijani officials also threatened to kill him if he asks to be repatriated, rather than sent to a third country.

"They threatened to shoot me," the soldier said. "I did all that for the sake of my life. That's why I'm standing here right now," he added.

Injighulian was flown from Azerbaijan to Romania in late August. He was reportedly kept in a Romanian refugee camp until

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Armenia thankful to Greece for criminalizing the denial of Genocide: Serzh Sargsyan

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received on September 30 the visiting President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias.

The two Presidents had a tête-à-tête meeting at the Presidential Palace, following by negotiations with the participation of delegations and a document signing ceremony.

"It's a great honor for me to host the President of friendly Greece," President Sargsyan told reporters after the meeting.

"We had a detailed discussion on all issues on the bilateral agenda and the routes of expansion of collaboration. We agreed that the inter-state relations between Armenia and Greece have always been on a high level," the Armenian President said, emphasizing the reciprocal visits, the development of economic, scientific-educational, cultural, decentralized and inter-parliamentary ties.

Serzh Sargsyan hailed the constructive dialogue established between the Defense Ministries of the two countries and reminded that the cooperation



between Armenian and Greek servicemen in peacekeeping operations received the highest assessment.

"During the meeting we reiterated the willingness to deepen the cooperation between our countries in multilateral formats, including in the framework of the Greece-EU partnership. I stressed Armenia's resoluteness to develop relations with the European Union in all possible directions and voiced hope that friendly Greece would support us on that path," President Sargsyan said.

The Armenian President said he briefed his Greek counterpart on the latest developments in the settlement of the Karabakh issue. "Armenia highly appreciates Greece's balanced and constructive position on the issue, which envisages support to the OSCE Minsk Group activity and the ways of solution proposed by the mediators," he added.

"We are grateful to Greece for being one of the first to recognize the Armenian Genocide with the force of law and for

the recent important legislative steps in the struggle against its denial. The adoption of the anti-hate crime law on Combating Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism was an effective tool for struggling against denial," President Sargsyan said.

"In 2015 the Armenian people will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Armenia will become one of the important platforms for the international struggle against this crime against humanity," the President said and added that he has invited Greek President Karolos Papoulias to participate in the commemoration events to be organized in Yerevan on April 24.

During the meeting the two Presidents discussed a number of urgent issues on international agenda, as well. "As representatives of the two ancient Christian nations, we are especially concerned about the state of Christian communities in the Middle East," President Sargsyan concluded.



Greek President pays tribute to the memory of Armenian Genocide victims

President Karolos Papoulias of the Hellenic Republic arrived in Armenia on September 29 for a two-day state visit at the invitation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

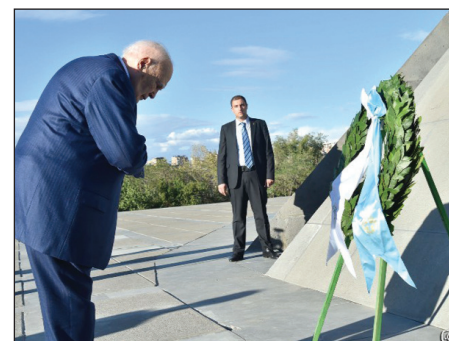
The Greek President visited Tsitsernakaberd to pay tribute to the memory of the Armenian Genocide victims.

Within the framework of the visit, the Greek President held meetings with President Serzh Sargsyan, the President of the RA National Assembly Galust Sahakyan and Prime Minister Hovik

Abrahamyan.

A signing ceremony of documents aimed at strengthening and deepening the Armenian-Greek relations took place in the RA Presidential Residence followed by the joint press statement of President Serzh Sargsyan and President Karolos Papoulias on the results of the negotiations.

Within the framework of the Greek President's visit, an Armenian-Greek business forum took place in Yerevan with the participation of the presidents of the two countries.



Karolos Papoulias also visited Garni Historical and Cultural Museum-Reservation in Armenia.

Armenian President, UNDP Administrator discuss regional issues and challenges



President Serzh Sargsyan on September 29 received the Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Helen Clark, President's Press Office reported.

The president praised the activity of the UN Office in Armenia, including the work implemented by the UNDP in more than two decades. Serzh Sargsyan noted that the UN Office in Armenia has made considerable effort into carrying out reforms in multiple spheres, making pos-

itive changes as a result of those reforms and realizing development programs in numerous communities. The Armenian President also highly appreciated Mrs. Helen Clark's personal contribution.

At the meeting, the parties attached great importance to Armenia's permanent dialogue and close cooperation with various UN organizations, especially the UNDP for the benefit of Armenia. Helen Clark underscored that the UNDP is determined to underpin Armenia's devel-

opment. Mrs. Clark attached great value to discussing Armenia's development priorities with the RA Government with an aim of fulfilling that mission and drafting a new United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Armenia.

The UNDP Administrator thanked the President for Armenia's active engagement in activities of the UN and its different organizations, including the decision to be involved in the organization's peace-keeping missions. Helen Clark also presented her appreciation for Armenia's contribution to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and its assistance to thousands of Syrians moved to Armenia as a result of the Syrian crisis, as well as for Armenia's readiness to be engaged in the process of working out a new UN development agenda as stated by the RA President at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in New-York.

At the meeting, the interlocutors also touched upon regional issues and challenges.

Armenian Ruling Party Confident Of More Election Wins



President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) remains confident of staying in power as a result of Armenia's next national elections due in 2017 and 2018, one of its deputy chairmen said on September 29.

Galust Sahakyan, who is the Speaker of the Armenian parliament, was asked by journalists to clarify whether he thinks the RPA will hold on to power after those elections. "Of course," he said. "Do you think that the Republican Party will leave the political arena?"

Eduard Sharmazanov, Sahakyan's deputy and the chief RPA spokesman, similarly stated in April that the party will remain "the leader of Armenia's political system and scene over the next decade." "If anybody wants to become president or prime minister of Armenia, they will have to go through [the RPA headquarters located in Melik-Adamian Street," Sharmazanov said in remarks condemned by the opposition.

Armenia's current constitution bars President Sargsyan from seeking a third five-year term after completing his tenure in 2018. An ad hoc presidential commission currently working on a constitutional reform planned by Sargsyan has not called for abolishing this restriction.

Instead, it is expected to recommend Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic. Opposition leaders say that this is aimed at enabling Sargsyan to maintain the reins of power in another capacity.

Like other RPA leaders, Sahakyan dismissed this speculation. "Under any political system, the Republican Party has sufficient political capital to always be the main player," he said.

Serzh Sargsyan said in April that he will "not aspire" to the post of prime minister if Armenia becomes a parliamentary republic. Some opposition leaders have speculated that he plans to continue pulling the strings as speaker of the next parliament to be elected in 2017.

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Parliament majority blocks changes in controversial Tax Law

The pro-government majority in the Armenian Parliament rejected on September 30 an opposition bill that would delay the enforcement of controversial new taxation rules which have sparked angry street protests by small traders.

The National Assembly failed to make a quorum at an extraordinary session forced by the opposition but boycotted by its deputies representing the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA). The boycott meant that the NA could not even debate amendments to an Armenian tax law that were put forward by the four main opposition parties represented in the parliament.

The law in question mandates a single turnover tax for small firms and individual entrepreneurs with annual revenues not exceeding 58 million drams (\$140,000). Earlier this year the government pushed through the parliament amendments that cut the turnover tax rate from 3.5 percent to 1 percent.

At the same time the amendments, effective from October 1, obligate those entities to provide tax authorities with documentary evidence of all of their

transactions with larger suppliers. Failure to do so would make them liable for hefty fines. The official purpose of the measure is to combat tax evasion among large-scale importers of goods.

Hundreds of small business owners, most of them selling goods in markets, have staged a series of street protests against this requirement over the past week. They say that they cannot comply with it because wholesale traders routinely refuse to issue receipts to them.

The traders secured the backing of the parliament's opposition minority as they demonstrated outside the National Assembly building in Yerevan on September 29-30. Representatives of the four minority factions told them that they have initiated an extraordinary parliament sitting to demand that the entry into force of the new tax rules be postponed until January 2016.

"Don't be too buoyed" cautioned Aram Manukyan of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC). "The authorities will counter your joy. They will do everything to ensure that the sitting doesn't take place."

Only 37 members of the 131-seat par-



liament, virtually all of them opposition deputies, showed up for the planned debate later in the day, meaning that the extraordinary sitting cannot go ahead. The angry crowd demonstrating outside the chamber did not disperse after that.

"What do they [the authorities] want from us?" one protester told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "They have created no jobs for us. We are barely managing to get by on our own."

The protests spread to Armenia's second largest city of Gyumri on September 30. News reports said some 700 local traders gathered there to also demand the repeal of the controversial measure.

IMF Again Lowers Armenian Growth Forecast

The International Monetary Fund announced a further downward revision of its economic growth forecast for Armenia on September 30, singling out the fallout from Western economic sanctions against Russia.

"We have found here that growth is weaker than we expected," said Mark Horton, the head of an IMF mission visiting Yerevan. "We thought that growth would be around 3.5 percent this year. But it looks like it will be possibly around one percentage point lower than that."

The IMF predicted a year ago that the Armenian economy will expand by 4.8 percent in 2014. It forecast higher growth rates for the following years. The fund began revising these growth projections downwards in April amid Russia's intensifying standoff with the West over the crisis in Ukraine.

Horton said that the sanctions imposed by the United States and the European

Union on Moscow are reflecting negatively on Armenian exports to Russia and remittances from hundreds of thousands of Armenians working in Russia. He also pointed to lingering uncertainty over the date and terms of Armenia's accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Armenian businesspeople have "lots of questions" about that, he told reporters.

The IMF official said economic growth is proving to be slower than anticipated also because of the Armenian government's failure so far to fully meet its 2014 spending targets. In particular, he explained, the government has yet to finance some of its big capital projects that would significantly add to the country's GDP.

"Armenia is facing a challenging period ahead with the developments in the region and with the uncertainties around the sanctions," Horton warned. He said the

government should seek to offset the unfavorable external factors with major structural reforms implemented "as decisively as possible."

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian and key members of his cabinet reaffirmed their stated commitment to such reforms at a meeting with the IMF mission held earlier in the day. Abrahamian was quoted by his press office as telling Horton that the government has already moved to improve the country's business environment and reduce tax evasion and corruption.

The government lowered its economic growth forecast for 2014 to 4 percent from 5 percent in July. It said that GDP will increase, in real terms, by 5 percent next year and 5.3 percent in 2016.

Horton offered a less upbeat outlook, however. He said Armenia's growth rate will likely reach only 3.3 percent in 2015 and average 4-4.5 percent in the following years.

Tsarukyan's Party speaks of fresh elections



Gagik Tsarukyan's Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) has moved closer to publicly demanding regime change in the country during its ongoing nationwide rallies staged jointly with two established opposition parties.

The PAP, the Armenian National Congress (ANC) and the Zharangutyun (Heritage) party took their anti-government campaign to Armenia's southeastern Syunik province at the weekend, holding two rallies in the towns of Sisian and Kapan.

"You may be wondering what prompted the trio to unite, launch a process and hold rallies in the regions and in Yerevan soon now that no [regular] elections are coming up. True, no elections are coming up, but it's possible to force [snap] elec-

tions," Vartan Oskanian, a senior PAP figure, told hundreds of demonstrators in Kapan.

Oskanian, who served as foreign minister from 1998-2008, declined to elaborate on this statement when asked for comment on September 29.

Another senior PAP member, Stepan Markaryan, said that the PAP and its allies "at this point have no plan to force elections." "It's an idea, expressed in a speech, which cannot be ruled out in theory," Markaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. He said the opposition trio is focusing for now on 12 other demands issued to the government as well as President Serzh Sargsyan's plans for constitutional reform rejected by them.

Markaryan said at the same time that fresh national elections are becoming necessary. "Hardly anyone believes that the current parliament reflects the views or configuration of various segments of the society," he said "So there is always need for elections."

ANC and Zharangutyun leaders have publicly stated that their joint actions with the PAP are aimed at forcing President Serzh Sargsyan to step down. Oskanian and other PAP figures have been more cautious in their speeches at the ongoing rallies. The PAP has the second largest faction in Armenia's parliament, and its participation is essential for the success of the opposition campaign.

"It is obvious to everyone that the gap between the public and the authorities is deepening," said Markaryan. "I don't know what solutions there will be. The issue of radical and very solutions is becoming pressing."

Armenia, EU to discuss new formats of cooperation



Armenian and European Union officials will meet soon to try to work out a new legal framework for bilateral relations that would not contradict Armenia's upcoming membership in a Russian-led alliance, officials said on October 1.

According to Traian Hristea, the head of the EU Delegation in Yerevan, the two sides are planning "brainstorming" sessions on new formats of their cooperation in the new geopolitical environment.

"The discussions are in the preparatory stage, and we are working with our Armenian partners," Hristea told reporters.

"Very soon we will have a bilateral meeting aimed at preparing a new package of proposals."

The EU official declined to give concrete dates for such talks. "I think the most important thing will be their substance, rather than the deadline," he said.

Armenia's First Deputy Economy Minister Garegin Melkonyan confirmed that Yerevan and Brussels are trying to chart a new course one year after the collapse of an Association Agreement negotiated by them. He said they will open talks on the matter by the end of this year.

"Without going into details at this point, I will just note that we will work and hold discussions in this regard in the coming months," Melkonyan told "I think we will clarify the areas where we will continue our joint work."

The vice-minister, who was personally involved in three-year negotiations on the Association Agreement, did not deny that the Armenian government hopes to complete its accession to the Russian-led

Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) before proposing concrete deals to the EU.

"I would not link the two things so directly," he said. "But in a sense it is possible to see a connection. Why? Because there are some areas and directions where we are trying to see what prospects and formats of future cooperation can be identified."

A spokesman for the EU's Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele told RFE/RL last week that Yerevan should detail its "new obligations stemming from membership" in the ex-Soviet bloc before it can negotiate new accords with the EU. "Whenever our [Armenian] partners are ready to give us ideas on how they want to proceed with us we will be ready to respond," he said.

President Serzh Sargsyan precluded the signing of the wide-ranging association deal with the EU in September 2013 when he announced his unexpected decision to make Armenia part of the union comprising Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Azerbaijan not ready to solve the Karabakh issue: Armenian FM

On September 29 Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received Helen Clark, UN's Deputy Secretary General and UNDP Administrator.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the UNDP mission in different parts of the world, referred to the results of joint programs, the future projects.

The parties discussed the urgent issues on international agenda and the role of the UN in their resolution. The UNDP Administrator hailed Armenia's participation in peacekeeping activities.

They expressed deep concern over the violence in the Middle East, Syria and Iraq. In this regard, Minister Nalbandian welcomed the Resolution unanimously adopted by the UN last week, which outlines the main directions of struggle against radicals.

The meeting of the Armenian Foreign Minister and the UNDP Administrator was followed by a joint press conference.

"Azerbaijan is trying to transfer the negotiation process on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict to different platforms,

where there is no deep understanding of the issue," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said at a joint press conference with Helen Clark, UN's Deputy Secretary General and UNDP Administrator.

The comments come after in a speech at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov quoted the resolutions on Nagorno Karabakh adopted by international and regional organizations.

"I think you mentioned that the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister did not mention the OSCE and the Minsk Group CoChairs engaged in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict and have an international mediating mandate and help the parties find a solution. The organizations the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister referred to do not have that mandate and are not involved in the settlement of the issue.

"Azerbaijan is trying to transfer the negotiation process on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict to different platforms, where there is no deep understanding of the issue. This is yet another proof of the fact



that Azerbaijan is not ready to solve the issue. It's not ready for a solution on the basis of the norms and principles of international law reflected in the five statements adopted by the heads of Minsk Group co-chairing countries," Minister Nalbandian said.

"Armenia has declared on many occasions that it's ready to continue the negotiations on the basis of the provisions and proposals incorporated in those statements," he added.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan recently spoke about the intention to recall the Armenian-Turkish protocols. Minister Nalbandian said there are no concrete terms of recalling the documents from the Parliament.

Armenian soldier returns home...

From page 1
returning home.

Just days after Injighulian crossed the Karabakh "line of contact" the Armenian military offered to exchange him for Firuz Farajev, an Azerbaijani soldier detained by Armenian troops on the border with Azerbaijan in July 2012. Farajev was unexpectedly freed and deported to a third country later in August 2013, after the Azerbaijani side turned down the offer.

Throughout Injighulian's captivity the Armenian authorities repeatedly assured his family that he will not be prosecuted in case of returning home. The former prisoner of war confirmed that he was informed about these assurances.

Injighulian's current legal status was not immediately clear. There were no uniformed military officials at Zvartnots during his arrival on a transit flight from Moscow.

The freed conscript expressed readiness to complete his two-year military service after undergoing a thorough medical examination. "There were nine months remaining until the end of my military service," he said. "I want to continue it."

François Rochebloine: Settlement impossible without Karabakh's participation

Negotiations cannot be effective without the participation of Nagorno Karabakh, Member of the French National Assembly, Chairman of the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle François Rochebloine declared in Stepanakert.

"The ongoing negotiations cannot reach results without the participation of representatives of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The participation was ensured during the signing of the ceasefire agreement and was envisaged in documents signed after that. We must repeatedly speak about the issue, as many people seem to have forgotten about this," Rochebloine said.

Taking into consideration the recent changes on international arena, namely the Scottish referendum, which means greater role ascribed to the right of peoples to self-determination, the French MP



said: "The people of Artsakh did it in 1991, when independence was proclaimed."

François Rochebloine is not concerned that Azerbaijan will rush to react to such statements. The French lawmaker's name is high on Azerbaijan's black list, but this does not prevent him and his friends from visiting Artsakh and contributing to its development.



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- ♦1440. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- ♦1715. **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- ♦1680. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- ♦1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- ♦1698. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- ♦3003. **Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2 bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1560. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- ♦2818. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished. Price: 400.000 USD
- ♦1156. **Komitas Ave.**, Hambarzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2949. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2300. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

- ♦2998. **North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682. **Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958. **Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- ♦1104. **Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- ♦2950. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- ♦2836. **Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- ♦2990. **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally

repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable

- ♦1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986. **Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- ♦2122. **Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2121. **Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- ♦2013. **Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- ♦1402. **Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m., facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- ♦2090. **Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- ♦2406. **Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m
- ♦2310. **Monument, Babayan str.**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price: 350 USD negotiable
- ♦2107. **Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2413. **Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2414. **Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦3348. **Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦3146. **Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- ♦3432. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-

501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

- ♦3576. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- ♦3606. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- ♦3574. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- ♦3590. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD



- ♦3651. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- ♦3401. **Antarayan str.**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- ♦74. **Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- ♦107. **Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.
- ♦87. **Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- ♦93. **Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.
- ♦94. **Masiv**. 3 floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- ♦130. **Antarayan str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦131. **Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

- ♦2037. **Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- ♦2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- ♦2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- ♦1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- ♦2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- ♦942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- ♦1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- ♦1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2187. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- ♦2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD
- ♦2267. **North Avenue** Newly built, 7th floor, 170sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished equipped. Price: 2500 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- ♦2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m,

- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.



- ♦1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- ♦2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sqm, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- ♦999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- ♦1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- ♦1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if neces-

- sary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- ♦327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- ♦1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- ♦1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- ♦1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- ♦1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- ♦1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- ♦1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- ♦2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m., 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2033. **Abovyan str.**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- ♦2031. **Vardanants str.**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- ♦2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Zakhar Bron: "I was Fortunate to be a Student of Khachaturian, Gabrielyan, Talalyan ..."

Joint Concert of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, Zakhar Bron, Vahagn Papyan and Mone Hattori at the Second Aram Khachaturian Intl Festival



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

On September 30 at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall a joint concert of the world famous musicians - violinist and pedagogue **Zakhar Bron** and pianist **Vahagn Papian** with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, the official orchestra of the Festival was held in the framework of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival and dedicated to the 115th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Armenian violinist **Avet Gabrielian**. In the concert a 15-year-old violinist girl, one of the world most promising young violinists, a student of Professor Bron **Mone Hattori** of Japan took part as well.

The concert program was a rich and an interesting one: Double Concerto for Two Violins, Strings and Basso Continuo by J.S. Bach (soloists Zakhar Bron, violin (Germany); Mone Hattori, violin (Japan), Violin Concerto No. 1 by Henrik Wieniawski (soloist Mone Hattori), Edward Grieg's Piano Concerto (soloist Vahagn Papyan, piano (Israel) were performed.

As it was expected, the concert was a great success evidenced by the endless applause which turned to a standing ovation.

At a news conference held on September 29 Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the SYOA **Sergey Smbatyan** told reporters that the concert program of the Festival was quite saturated; numerous world known soloists were invited to Armenia who are very demanded in the world - the number of their concerts comes to 100-150 per year.

"We have been cooperating with Vahagn Papian not the first time and we really appreciate working together", - said Maestro Smbatyan. According to him, he felt a bigger responsibility in the eve of the concert because he was a student of Professor Bron. "We all gathered now here have been tied strong creative ties. We have long been familiar with and cooperating with Vahagn Papian", - said Mr Bron.

In his reply to The Highlights questions Z.N.Bron said he visited for the first time Armenia 30 years ago when he brought to our country "the same age little boy Vadim Repin", who is a world-renowned musician

today, and that was his second visit to Yerevan.

"During my student years in Moscow I was lucky enough to come often to the class of Aram Khachaturian as I had close ties with many of his students... Aram Ilyich was certainly a unique artistic personality, and a very colorful person as well", - said Zakhar Bron. "And in my own class such a super-gifted Armenians, like, say, Nikolay Madoyan who demonstrated real miracles of musical performing art learned", - he continued. Maestro Bron closely contacted with Avet Gabrielyan, and studied the quartet art in the class of another ethnic Armenian, Professor Davidian of the Moscow Conservatory. "Those remarkable figures belonged to a generation which should embody the most important compo-



ment of the artistic aspect of musicians today - dedication, unconditional responsibility for their level of creativity. In this regard, we were lucky - our teachers were Gabrielian, Talalian, Davidian, Rostropovich, Yankelevich ...".

Answering a question from a young lady reporter, Zakhar Bron said: "My experience tells me that in Armenia I will meet a very talented young colleagues. And when it happens, I myself is like born again, fresh ideas come to me, and I try to implement them for the benefit of young talents, while I myself am becoming richer..."

After news conference Zakhar Bron gave a violin master class for young musicians - in a crowded auditorium. It is noteworthy that the receipt of applications to participate in a workshop under the theme "The Master Creates Masters" by the world recognized teacher has been announced for a month ahead.

Pianist and conductor Vahagn Papian noted that he already has had experience in cooperation with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia. "Every time I get a great pleas-

ure to work with young people, because there is no such "adult" orchestra that would work with such a big enthusiasm as do the youth orchestras", Papian said. Speaking of the Aram Khachaturian International Festival, Maestro Papian said that, with no doubt, every musical event dedicated to Aram Khachaturian was a tribute from our people and musicians to the memory of the Great Composer.

Asked by your author about his ties with the Homeland Armenia and that if he would ever "repatriate", Vahagn Papian said: "When in 1990 I left Armenia, I thought that I was going to a permanent stay abroad. Several years passed, and I realized that I did not go anywhere... You know, the life has changed: people, especially we the artists have been working in different countries around the Globe. At present I conduct an orchestra in Israel, and I am satisfied with it. There was a time when I worked in Kazakhstan as well - in parallel with this. So I am pleased to discuss a proposal from Armenia as well...".

15 year-old Mone Hattori who arrived in Armenia with her Mom, said she had not previously performed works by Aram Khachaturian, however, this young genius promised to learn the Violin Concerto by Khachaturian because she "likes Khachaturian's works". Her

teacher Zakhar Bron informed us, the mass media that Mone's father and grandfather have been widely known in Japan composers. Professor Bron also reiterated the resolve of his young student to learn Khachaturian Violin Concerto, because, in his words, "I'm saying this not because TV cameras are on: this music is an eternal one, and any artist must play it."

The Wednesday October 1 saw an evening of chamber music at the Fest held at the Khachaturian House Museum: Youth Orchestra conducted by Sergey Smbatyan, Zakhar Bron and **Irina Vinogradova** (piano) played works by Beethoven, Schnittke, Saint-Saens, Ravel and Sinding.

On October 2 a concert of Elgar's, Mendelssohn's, Tchaikovsky's works dedicated to the 90th birthday of the legendary Soviet Armenian undercover intelligence agent **Gevorg Vartanian** (1924-2012) was held.

As we've spoken on the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, we thought it would be a relevant thing to give The Highlights



readers a kind of "the SYOA retrospective chronicle» for the last month.

The joint news conference of Ralph Yirikian and Sergey Smbatyan

The joint press conference of **Ralph Yirikian**, the Founding General Manager of VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading telecom operator company and **Sergey Smbatyan**, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, took place on September 16, 2014 at the VivaCell-MTS Headquarters. The new 2014/2015 concert season, the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival and an unprecedented innovative project of SYOA which had been realized thanks to the support of VivaCell-MTS, were presented during the meeting.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture of Armenia the SYOA announced launch of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival and the new concert season presenting an unprecedented and unique concert during which the Orchestra was to perform jointly with the world-renowned musician, DJ Switch (United Kingdom) and Bagrat Terteryan, the head of the Armenian Association of Beatbox. The audience was to be presented the Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra by Gabriel Prokofiev and the Concerto for Beatboxer, Turntablist and Orchestra by Miles Hancock (world premiere). The Grand Opening Ceremony of the Festival was to be dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Yerevan State University and was to be implemented under the patronage of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia with the support of the British Council.

Sergey Smbatyan, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestra mentioned, that the combination of the orchestra with a DJ on the same stage has long ago captured the European audience. "The orchestra is constantly trying to suggest unusual formats for our concerts, which, however, later will be accepted and loved by the audience", said the conductor.

During the press conference it was announced that one more initiative of the Youth Orchestra had been realized thanks to

the support of its General Partner VivaCell-MTS: the connoisseurs of classic music were to be given a unique opportunity to follow all the concerts of the SYOA, particularly the whole season of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival, regardless of their location, the only condition was the availability of internet. (Starting from September 16 the concerts have been

online broadcasted on the official website of the Festival www.akhif.am and the official website of the Orchestra www.syoa.am).

"Technology is at the service of culture: the more we can use technology to endorse the spheres, which are our Nation's main pillars, the better we will stand out and sustain. The voice of culture is nowadays louder with the tools we can use to make it



reach. VivaCell-MTS is happy to supply the Youth Orchestra with such means for music to reach more people", commented VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

It was also mentioned by Sergey Smbatyan that numerous events were going to be implemented within the framework of the Aram Khachaturian Intl Fest – concerts, master-classes, screenings of films, etc. Yerevan will host famous musicians as well as young talents from all over the world who will perform beautiful pieces by Khachaturian.

A Festive Concert by the SYOA on The Independence Day on the Hills of Nork

On September 21 the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia presented a concert which announced the start of the new season of the Public Television of Armenia as well as celebrated the Independence Day of Armenia.

It was for the second year in row that the Youth Orchestra presented a concert which launched the new TV season of the Public Television on the Hills of Nork.

The concert held on September 21 was attended by the First Lady of the Republic of Armenia Mrs **Rita Sargsyan**, the Management and the Board members of the Public Television, many others guests.

Headed by its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan**, the Orchestra presented compositions by Aram Khachaturian, soundtracks of the world famous movies, performed jointly with singers sisters Inga and Anush Arshakyan, Andre and Hayko.

Sergey Smbatyan and German Symphony Orchestra presented a concert dedicated to the Independence Day of Armenia

The Independence Day of Armenia was celebrated also in Berlin. On September 21 the German Symphony Orchestra headed by **Sergey Smbatyan**, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, performed in Berlin. During the evening the German Orchestra performed the pieces from Khachaturian's "Gayane" ballet. **Sergey Smbatyan** informed The Highlights that he had been invited to conduct the German Orchestra specifically for the September 21 concert. The evening was dedicated to the Republic of Armenia, its Independence Day and the millenia old culture of our nation. The German audience greatly enjoyed the Armenian music. It is worth mentioning that the recording of the concert will be broadcasted by the end of October in Germany. **Sergey Smbatyan** emphasized that nowadays when there were a lack of Armenian culture in Berlin, it was much more important that our music had been presented by one of the best orchestras in Germany.

Photos by SYOA/Luci Sargsyan



Recent News from VivaCell-MTS

VivaCell-MTS presented the intricacies of business ethics and responsibility

VivaCell-MTS hosted the instructors and the winners of the “Business Assignment” contest organized in the summer camp of the Junior Achievement of Armenia. Teachers representing various regions got acquainted with the experience of the leading telecommunications operator in Armenia in the field of human resource management. The young people were more interested in the marketing strategy of the company.

“The modern world offers serious strategic tools to the humanity. Yet, one needs to master certain skills and knowledge to use and manage them in an efficient way. Theoretically, it's easy. In practice, though, not only the market with its requirements and given problems, but also the management of human resources becomes an important challenge. VivaCell-MTS practices an ethical, flexible and responsible attitude to administration. I suggest revealing the intricacies of business ethics and responsible business through interactive communication with our specialists,” commented VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

After the lecture the young people mentioned that the market research, development of a technologically justified strategy, solutions, and their implementation are not enough to be a responsible company. They have discovered for themselves the importance of both the commercial and the social products, the ways of elaborating ideas during the planning, the evaluation of the possible impacts of the market and the competition, the manifestation of integrity in competition and much more. The young people also revealed for themselves the importance of having the customer satisfaction and the necessity to minimize the possibility of making mistakes in the core of rendering services.

VivaCell-MTS cooperation with the Junior Achievement of Armenia organization in the sphere of management is an efficient solution for the youth. The opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge in practice lets one identify the necessary stages, the possible obstacles and the ways to overcome them.

“Super 0 Daily” service is now available also for “Dialect” tariff plan subscribers

Now VivaCell-MTS’ “Super 0 Daily” service, providing an opportunity to make



unlimited on-net calls for 1 day is also available for “Dialect” tariff plan subscribers.

To note, the service is particularly convenient for those who communicate often not only with the “Dialect” tariff plan but also with other VivaCell-MTS subscribers.

To activate the service the subscriber needs to send *024# command.

Upon the expiration of the activity period, the service is automatically prolonged, in case there are enough funds on subscriber’s account balance. To terminate the automatic prolongation of the service one needs to send the *024*0# command.

Service activation fee is AMD 150.

For more information one can visit www.mts.am or pda.mts.am mobile site, contact 111 free of charge hotline, chat with us through “111 Online”, or approach one of our service centers across Armenia.

VivaCell-MTS implemented the 5th draw “365”

VivaCell-MTS continues the draw for its “Personal” and the “City Talks” tariff plans subscribers, who are users of the “Special” package in active status. To remind, the “365” draw is based on a-smartphone-a-day-within-a-year principle.

VivaCell-MTS hosted the 30 winners of the fourth draw at its headquarters and awarded them with the MTS Ego smartphones. During the current year 150 subscribers of VivaCell-MTS received MTS Ego smartphones as a result of the draws. So far, from the end of the previous year till now, 250 MTS Ego smartphones have been handed to the winning subscribers from different regions of Armenia.

The draw was videotaped without interruption on September 25, 2014. Specially designed software “Microsoft.NET Random class selection on the system time”, allows selecting winners from the database randomly. Bilaterally disconnected phone numbers did not participate in the draw.

The “Special” package provides 1500 minutes of on-net airtime and 150 SMS messages for sending to RA mobile networks for only AMD 2500 per month.

“MTS Connect LTE” modem for free in case of subscribing to an “MTS Connect LTE” or “Internet Express” tariff plan

In case of a one-year subscription to one of the “MTS Connect LTE” or “Internet Express” tariff plans, the “MTS Connect LTE” E3372s-153 USB modem is provided free of charge.

The price of the modem without subscription is AMD 29 900.

For more information one can visit www.mts.am or pda.mts.am mobile site, contact 111 free of charge hotline, chat with us through “111 Online”, or approach one of our service centers across Armenia.

Orran Charitable Ninth Annual Dinner

On September 26 in Armenia Marriott hotel the annual fundraising gala dinner of the Orran Day Care Center has gathered numerous businessmen, diplomats, artists, representatives of show business and mass media.



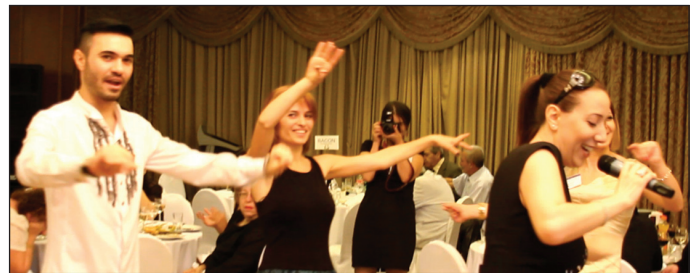
During the dinner the lottery of the champagne glass, which had become a tradition, took place, which followed the auction and the donation ceremony.



The items on the auction list were: small donkey, the wooden cart, made by Orran children, Yerevan-Vienna-Yerevan business class plane ticket, two days stay voucher for two people at the Armenia Marriott Hotel, Cognac Erebouni by Yerevan Brandy Company, one of sculptures made by Tsolak Simonyan.



During the dinner about \$ 180.000 was raised, out of which VivaCell MTS led by Ralf Yirikian provided \$ 139.000.



The raised money will be directed to the expenses of food, medicine, social, educational and other expenses for the children of 185 needy families and 80 lonely old people of Yerevan and Vanadzor.



Armenia President visits China embassy on National Day



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on Wednesday paid a visit to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Yerevan, and in connection with the Chinese National Day.

The President congratulated Ambassador Tian Changchun, the Embassy staff, and the Chinese people on the 65th anniversary of the PRC.

In addition, Sargsyan issued a message of congratulations to President Xi Jinping of China.

“Armenia attaches great importance to the consistent development of friendly relations and political dialogue, and the further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation with China.

“I am convinced that the Armenian-

Chinese partnership will continue to increasingly develop for the benefit of our peoples,” the Armenian President’s message specifically reads.



'Complex' Problem: Yerevan's Hamalir building becomes Defense Ministry property

One of Armenia's largest entertainment complexes that also represent an original architectural structure was recently transferred to the Defense Ministry and got the status of a military unit over the debts contracted by its owner.

Representative of the former owner of the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concert Complex (Hamalir) Sayat Grigoryan argues that the building was "seized". Another controversial aspect of what happened is that the name of the building was changed after its transfer to the Defense Ministry.

"It is ridiculous, it's like turning La Scala into barracks," Grigoryan commented to media on September 30. At the press conference he wore a military uniform as a sign of protest.

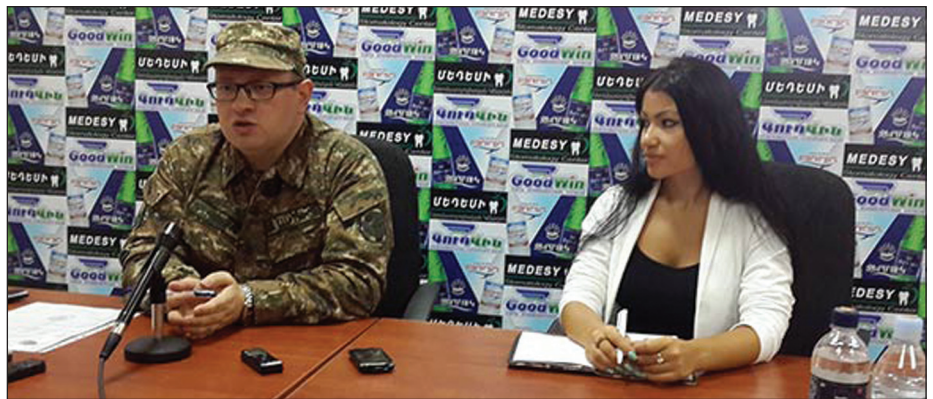
The Service for the Mandatory Execution of Judicial Acts (SMEJA) of Armenia's Ministry of Justice first put up Hamalir for action in May. It said its owner, Bamo Company, had failed to repay its debts to the state budget running into tens of millions of dollars.

The bidding price for the building constructed in 1983 and situated on a total area of 46335.7 square meters (including other auxiliary structures and territories) was first set at 19 billion, 350 million drams (about \$47.2 million), but it was repeatedly slashed after the failures of offers to attract bidders.

The Hamalir administration challenged the process, in particular, insisting that it was not legal to hold auctions while the case was still at the stage of litigation. It also pointed out other violations during the process.

At the latest auction the building was evaluated at \$31 million. The representative of Hamalir's already former owner insisted at Tuesday's press conference that they had made several times more investments than planned on top of the sum that was paid for the purchase of the Complex and annual expenditure for its maintenance.

"We have a corresponding contract that entitles us to extend the contract, taking into account the fact that we have made an investment of \$42 million instead of \$10 million. We spent \$1.2 million annually on maintenance and still



had plans for new investments. In a law-abiding state they would not demand the repayment of the money at once, but would allow the extension of the deadline and we would have returned that money," said Grigoryan, giving assurances that the Complex had always operated at a loss, because it was built not as an income-generating facility, but as an "edifice for pride".

Government representatives, however, said that the company had actually been given extensions for debt repayment, but could not properly use those opportunities.

Grigoryan said they were also concerned that the state would not be able to allocate enough money even for the annual maintenance of the building and Hamalir would fall into decay again.

"It will again be in a neglected state. In 2005, when we purchased that state-owned facility, it was in a terrible condition... We have changed, reequipped everything, and today we have the most powerful and expensive system here. We are fighting for our reputation, we don't want our hard work to be lost," said Grigoryan.

The Hamalir administration has turned to court over what it views as violations committed during the auction process. Grigoryan said that after exhausting all judicial instances in Armenia they would also turn to the European Court.

Grigoryan also voiced concern that the SMEJA documents have already distorted the name of the complex, removing "Karen Demirchyan" from it and calling it "real estate at the address of the sport complex operating in Tsitsernakaberd Park".

The case is also alarming for members of the family of Karen Demirchyan, the Armenian leader in the late Soviet period and leading politician in post-independence Armenia who was assassinated during the October 27, 1999 parliamentary shooting.

Karen Demirchyan's son, Stepan Demirchyan, told ArmeniaNow that apparently it was a case of misunderstanding, but in any case, he said, they would turn to the Defense Ministry for explanations.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry spokesman did not comment on this subject, saying that they would not react to "provocative" and "ungrounded" speculations. At the same time, he gave assurances that the name of Karen Demirchyan would be kept, while the status of a military unit was only necessary as a basis for legal documentation.

Co-author of Hamalir's architectural design Hrach Poghosyan said he could not imagine how the only edifice in Armenia that was awarded with the State Prize of the Soviet Union should be used as a "military unit".

"I think it is something of a formal thing, because the Defense Ministry is divided into some sections and this section is called a military unit. If it were the Ministry of Culture it would have been, say, the monuments section," the architect said. "I think that the Defense Ministry and the Prime Minister will prove wise enough and will provide a right solution to the matter, as this structure should work, it should not be closed."

*Gohar Abrahamyan
ArmeniaNow reporter*

Genocide Conference in Romania Held Despite Turkish Protests



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

I just returned home from two hectic weeks of travel. First, I participated in the Armenia-Diaspora Conference in Yerevan, where I co-chaired a panel on the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, and spoke in two other panels proposing the formation of a democratically elected Diaspora-wide structure to represent the seven million Armenians residing outside of Armenia and Artsakh.

I then flew to Bucharest, Romania, to join scholars, activists, journalists and clergy from a dozen countries in the first-ever international Armenian Genocide conference.

The always vigilant Turkish Ambassador to Romania went to great lengths to undermine not only the Armenian Genocide conference, organized by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Romania, but also the inauguration of a Khachkar or Cross Stone dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

Turkish Ambassador's efforts failed miserably as the Khachkar was inaugurated as scheduled on Sept. 26, and both the Vice Mayor of Pitesht and Governor of Arjesh attended the ceremony along with other Romanian dignitaries and Genocide conference participants. In fact, when the Ambassador objected to the inauguration of the Khachkar, the Mayor of Pitesht sharply rebuked him by telling him that he has no right to interfere in the internal decisions of a Romanian city!

The Turkish Ambassador next tried to block the international Armenian Genocide conference. Turkey has a major influence over Romania due to a large amount of trade between the two countries. The Ambassador must have been particularly upset by the fact that the Romanian government was funding the Genocide conference. Fortunately, the Ambassador could not disrupt the conference which was held as planned. It was attended by specialists from Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Iran,

Lebanon, Romania, Syria, and the United States.

The only surprise was the location where the conference participants were staying. As I walked into the Tempo Hotel lobby, I noticed that there were several Turkish newspapers, including Zaman (in Romanian!), on a rack next to the front door. Upon further inspection, I discovered a brochure that described the hotel as being owned by Muslim Turkish Cleric Fethullah Gulen! Even though the hotel was conveniently located just one block from the Armenian Church headquarters in Bucharest, where the conference was being held, some of the Armenian participants felt uncomfortable staying in a



Turkish hotel. We wondered how the Turkish hotel owners felt, after discovering that they housed scores of Armenian genocide specialists from around the world!

Curious as to what was being discussed at the conference, the Turkish Embassy had sent two of its employees to take notes which the Turkish Ambassador must have dutifully forwarded to Ankara. Fortunately, there were no unpleasant incidents. The two Turkish diplomats kept a low profile and did not attempt to disrupt the conference. Likewise, none of the Armenian participants attempted to interfere in the work of the Turkish Embassy officials.

In addition to the lecture I delivered at the conference on the subject of "Genocide Recognition or Quest for Justice," I had the pleasant task of introducing two of my books on the Armenian

Genocide in Romanian translation, which were just published by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Romania. The first book is a collection of one hundred of my columns published in recent years in The California Courier and other newspapers. The 400-page book is titled, "One hundred columns on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide." My second book, "The Armenian Genocide, Documents and Declarations, the World Speaks Out, 1915-2015," was also published by the Armenian Diocese in Romanian translation.

Both the Diocese and the Armenian community leaders have an active publication program, having translated into

Romanian many important books on the Armenian Genocide, despite the dwindling of the Armenian community due to waves of exodus to Western Europe and North America.

There are two prominent Varujans in the local Armenian community. The first is Senator Varujan Vosganian, President of the Armenian Union of Romania, and Vice President of the Writers Union of Romania. He is a former Minister of Economy and Trade and author of a widely read autobiographical novel on the Armenian Genocide. The second is Varujan Pambuccian, Parliament member and President of National Minorities represented in the Romanian Parliament.

Many of the scholars were in Romania for the first time. They pledged to support the local community's efforts, particularly on the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide

Armenian Bar Association stands strong for Kessab's recovery

On the evening of August 27, 2014, a large audience of concerned community members gathered in Glendale, California to attend a town hall meeting which focused on the plight of the Armenian community in Kessab, Syria. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Bar Association, the event featured as keynote speakers Garo Ghazarian, Chairman Ex-Officio of the Association and Stepan Apelian, a resident, business owner, and community leader of Kessab, Asbarez reports.

Kessab is a town located in the north-west corner of Syria, nestled in the mountains which rise above the Mediterranean Sea. The town's inhabitants are almost entirely made up of Armenians. Kessab is one of the few Armenian villages that survived the Genocide and was able to continue as a vibrant community. In March, 2014, the historic town was invaded by heavily-armed militia who entered Syria from the Republic of Turkey. Engrained with the collective memory of the Genocide, most of the residents of Kessab fled to the neighboring city of Latakia, Syria. The insurgents inflicted violence upon the community and, in the process, looted and destroyed Armenian churches, schools, homes and businesses.

Ghazarian, who co-chairs the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee-Western United States, was the first speaker. He explained to the

audience that hearing of the violence that was being wrought upon his ancestral home of Kessab, he decided to travel as close as possible to Kessab so as to get a first-hand assessment of the situation and determine the immediate needs of the refugees. In an interview conducted by the Los Angeles Times Beirut Bureau Chief, Patrick McDonnell, on April 9, 2014, Ghazarian explained his reasoning as follows: "The preservation of this village and its people is of utmost importance to the Armenian people." Through the efforts of Ghazarian, refugees from Kessab who had reached Beirut were interviewed by McDonnell. He wrote of their harrowing stories and the Los Angeles Times brought their tragic situation to world attention by publishing the Kessab community's plight in the first section of the newspaper.

Ghazarian further explained to the town hall participants that he could not stay home in Los Angeles, while the residents of his family's hometown were in peril. In an interview following the lecture, Ghazarian, drawing from his eyewitness observations, added: "I witnessed the emotional and individualized recountings of the Kessabtsis' exodus from their sacred ground. We must insist that the international community as well as Turkey's own ally, the United States, stop paying lip service to Armenians, and to start an investigation of Turkey at all lev-



els. We must demand more than mere utterances of 'concern.' We must demand action to not only halt Turkey's continued disregard of the rights and liberties of Armenians, but also the undertaking of sustainable efforts to remedy what will no doubt become an irreversible reality on the ground for our fellow Armenians of Kessab."

With the shock and awe of dozens of pictures, Apelian was able to convey to the audience a sense of the terror and destruction which the Armenian community faced by the invading forces. He explained that several churches, schools and businesses were gutted of everything that was contained within them. Sparing nothing in their ruinous wake, the aggressors went as far as to desecrate the crosses of our Armenian churches. Apelian emphasized that Kessab poses an opportunity and challenge to the world-wide Armenian nation to galvanize itself in aid of its fellow Armenians and to help rebuild our collective past and future.

Armenian Esabelle Dingizian elected Vice-Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag

Esabelle Dingizian, a Swedish-Armenian Green Party politician, has been elected third Vice-Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, according to Riksdag's official website.

The Riksdag elected Urban Ahlin (Social Democratic Party) as the new Speaker on 29 September for the electoral period 2014-2018.

Tobias Billström (Moderate Party) was elected as First Deputy Speaker, Björn Söder (Sweden Democrats) as Second Deputy Speaker, and Esabelle Dingizian (Green Party) as Third Deputy Speaker.

Esabelle Dingizian has been a member of the Riksdag since 2006. She has been member of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and deputy member in a number of committees including the Committee on the Labour Market and the Committee on Education. Esabelle Dingizian is Member of Parliament for the Stockholm County Council constituency.



Armenian cross-stone blessing in Singapore



On September 28, the Pontifical visit of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, commenced.

During the visit a Divine Liturgy was held in the St. Gregory the Illuminator church of Singapore, upon completion of which His Holiness offered a Blessing service for the memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, that is placed in the courtyard of the church, as well as the blessing service of two carved cross-stones (khachkars) dedicated to the memory of His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Paleozian of Blessed Memory, former Primate of the Diocese of Australia and New Zealand.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the local Armenian community, students of the Singapore International School, clergy of sister Christian churches and diplomats.

In the evening, a reception was held in the famous Raffles Hotel, that was originally established by Armenians.

During the event, His Excellency Mr. Armen Sargsian, Ambassador of Armenia to Singapore, delivered remarks. In his speech, the Ambassador emphasized that the pastoral visit of Catholicos of All Armenians to Singapore once again proves the concern of His Holiness in the restoration and conservation of churches, and the special treatment of Holy Etchmiadzin towards the local Armenian community.

The Catholicos of All Armenians offered His blessings to the attendees; congratulating them on the successes of the previous years and urging them to continue the noble mission of Armenian preservation.

On September 29, a concert was held in the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church Hall; with performances by the talented local Armenian musicians.



Artefacts found in Armenian challenge assumptions about Stone Age technology

Stone Age artefacts discovered at a site in Armenia have shown how innovative humans were in terms of technological development 325,000 years ago, according to the International Business Times.

Published in the journal *Science*, researchers studied thousands of stone artefacts from the Nor Geghi 1 site in Armenia.

Researchers from Royal Holloway, University of London, together with an international team from across the United States and Europe, have found evidence which challenges the belief that a type of technology known as Levallois - where the flakes and blades of stones were used to make useful products such as hunting weapons - was invented in Africa and then spread to other continents as the human population expanded.

They discovered at an archaeological site in Armenia that these types of tools already existed there between 325,000 and 335,000 years ago, suggesting that local populations developed them out of a more basic type of technology, known as biface, which was also found at the site.

"The artefacts found in Armenia have not been brought from outside, as they are older than those found in Africa," Boris Gasparyan, Research Associate at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, told reporters today. He added that the tools found in Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Syria are also younger than the ones found in Armenia.



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Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

You likely will feel edgy and irritable at this time. Perhaps you feel trapped by the "rules" and want to break free. You can probably do so, but consider the cost. You'll be abandoning a potentially good relationship. If there is no doubt in your mind, by all means, take a flyer and move elsewhere.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Someone with whom you had a contract or a promise may drop out or back away from the deal for now. This experience may echo one in your history in which you felt "dropped" or somehow downgraded. This situation may be improved on or around Nov. 9. Don't take it on as a personal definition.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20):

Your planetary ruler, Mercury, is turning retrograde. Whatever your good health routines, you may feel the need to go back and start over. It is possible that some circumstance is preventing you from continuing forward in this area. Clean out old paper accumulations. Put them in a "wait" stack and hold them until Mercury goes direct.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21):

This is a challenging week. In the beginning you must learn information which is difficult and detailed. Then it may be changed and you start all over again later. A similar situation occurs with your home or property. A contractual deal that you thought complete turns out to have a flaw and needs re-working.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You may experience a type of highly wired mental energy that can keep you on edge. If this becomes uncomfortable, counteract it with physical activity and things that will draw your attention into your body rather than to what is flying through your mind. Make a point to drive and handle tools with caution. Your reflexes may be off.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22):

The probability is high that you will discover some error made in the past that must be rectified fairly soon. It may be as simple as finding a bill that was forgotten and left unpaid. Or it could be a little more complicated and involve a previous misunderstanding with a loved one.

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

Your partner or a significant other may upset the status quo of your life. Somehow this triggers your security fears. Old tensions may rise and threaten to overwhelm you. This time calls you to rise beyond your childhood and remember you now have maturity that you did not as a child. Don't go back there.

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

You had a plan to start a new project right away. But now Mercury turns retrograde in your sign and you have to table the plan, at least for now. You may be given an option to do a short term piece of work that will make extra money. Don't hesitate to take it. Do not listen to a self-destructive tape that tells you this is impossible.

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

A painful memory or person from your history may rise for attention once again. Do whatever you must to protect yourself from reopening an old injury. On another front, aspects favor love, romance, and activities related to your children. You might have a spark of inspiration that gives you a creative idea.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19):

You may be applauded for your ethical and moral behavior patterns. Others will let you know your efforts have been noticed. If you are one of those who slip-slip-slide around the edges, then a person of minor authority may find the error and bring it to the attention of others. One gets what is deserved on this aspect.

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

You may be taking a sober look at one or more relationships. Even the very closest friends cannot know each other from the inside. Sometimes we forget this fact and need to become aware that we are actually separate beings, helping others when we can. Sometimes our energy is too low to be there for one another.

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

Beware that you are in a sensitive frame of mind and may misinterpret that which is said to you. You may be the one who hears what you want to hear. So take your impressions with a grain of salt until you clarify what was originally intended.

The Color of Pomegranates to be screened at Abu Dhabi Film Festival

The Color of Pomegranates, directed by Sergei Parajanov, will be screened at Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF) to be held from October 23 to November 1, 2014, according to the festival's official website.

ADFF has announced collaboration with Martin Scorsese's The Film Foundation/ World Cinema Project (WCP).

As part of the collaboration, two newly restored international masterworks - The Color of Pomegranates, directed by Sergei Parajanov and Manila in the Claws of Light, directed by Lino Brocka - will be screened during ADFF, which takes place from October 23 to November 1, 2014. Both films were digitally restored in 4K resolution by the Cineteca di Bologna / L'Immagine Ritrovata and The Film Foundation / World Cinema Project and will be shown with existing English subtitles as well as new Arabic subtitles, provided by ADFF.



Ali Al Jabri, Festival Director, said: "Cinema is an international language and ADFF strives to bring about enthusiasm, variety and a celebration of this universal form of expression. We are delighted to be collaborating with WCP to present these landmark films from Armenia and the Philippines as part of our strong commitment towards the global cause of film preservation and restoration. Each film is a cinematic revelation depicting a culture seldom seen by audiences on-screen."

The Color of Pomegranates (1968) by Armenian director Sergei Parajanov, is a biography of the Armenian poet Sayat Nova that attempts to reveal the poet's life visually and poetically depicting his coming of age, discovery of the female form, falling in love, entering a monastery and dying, all framed through both Parajanov's imagination and the poems of Sayat Nova.



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