

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund’s 2019 Telethon raises 9,856.100 USD



Armenia/U.S. -- A screenshot of the annual telethon organized by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, November 29, 2019.

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund’s 2019 Telethon has raised 9,856.100 dollars.

Donations were made both from Armenia, Artsakh and different countries of the world.

The 22nd Telethon of the Fund was held under the slogan “To my beloved Armenia: Water and Sun for Communities”.

The Telethon lasted 12 hours: the first 4 hours were held in Yerevan, and the remaining 8 hours were broadcast from Los Angeles.

The funds raised will be used for implementing drinking water supply and solar energy projects in Artsakh and in three provinces of Armenia – Lori, Shirak and Tavush. Overall, more than 100 communities will become program beneficiaries and will be provided with daily water supply, free heating and energy.

The mission of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund is to form a pan-Armenian network system aimed at ensuring the proportionate, stable and inter-related development of the communities of Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora, based on the common identity.

Last year the Telethon raised 11,109.633 dollars.

USA supports Armenia’s democratic and economic reforms – Ambassador	Arsen Torosyan wants new tax for national health insurance	New ADB strategy to support Armenia’s economic diversification	Government sees no change in Russian gas price before April
p. 2	p. 4	p.7	p. 5

Armenian PM, Kyrgyz President discuss development prospects of economic ties in Bishkek

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met with President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov on the sidelines of his working visit in Bishkek, the PM's Office told Noyan Tapan.

Welcoming the Armenian PM, the Kyrgyz President said today's meeting is a good occasion to discuss the development prospects of both the bilateral and multilateral ties.

"Mr. Prime Minister, during our chairmanship at the CSTO we have made all efforts for the further development of the Organization. We are interested in overcoming all possible challenges with joint efforts, as well as developing the relations with friendly Armenia", he said.

In turn PM Pashinyan thanked for the warm welcome and added that the bilateral



political relations have a long history, and the two governments should take actions to develop the economic cooperation. "We have an opportunity to give a new impetus to the commercial relations, as the necessary potential exists for that. The geographical distance is not a problem in the 21st century, we need to start such initiative that will contribute to boosting the economic

ties between the two countries", Pashinyan said.

Touching upon the current domestic political situation in Kyrgyzstan the PM said he is happy for the stabilization and normalization of the situation in the country. "We are closely cooperating within the CSTO, EAEU and CIS which creates a good opportunity for the bilateral and multilateral cooperation", the Armenian PM said.

During the meeting the officials discussed a number of issues relating to the Armenian-Kyrgyz relations, highlighted taking actions for the economic partnership, expanding the business ties. The Armenian PM and the Kyrgyz President also exchanged views on the cooperation within the frames of integration unions.

USA supports Armenia's democratic and economic reforms – Ambassador



Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Avinyan received U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy on November 27. Director of USAID Armenia Office Deborah Grizer was also present at the meeting.

As the Office of Tigran Avinyan informs, attaching great importance to the continuous development of the Armenian-American relations, Deputy PM Avinyan highlighted the U.S. support to the reform

implementation in Armenia. The Deputy PM also noted that the 1st session of the U.S.-Armenian strategic dialogue was a serious step for raising the bilateral cooperation to a new level.

Ambassador Lynne Tracy noted that the Government of the USA supports the democratic and economic reforms in Armenia, as well as its anti-corruption agenda and participation in regional security initiatives. Citing the 40% increase of the U.S. assistance to Armenia, she noted that they are ready to assist the implementation of reform programs.

During the meeting Deborah Grizer presented the projects being implemented by the USAID in Armenia.

The interlocutors also discussed a range of issues of bilateral interest referring to public administration reforms, high technologies and justice. Referring to the process of digitalization, Tigran Avinyan noted that the Government plans to digitalize the overwhelming part of public services in a period of nearly 3 years.

Supporting war-affected Syrians a moral mission for Armenia – PM

Supporting war-affected Syrians is a kind of moral mission for Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an interview with the Italian *Corriere della Sera*.

“At the time of the Ottoman Empire the Syrian people saved so many Armenians. Therefore, at a time, when Syrians suffer, we could not stand aside. I am happy that we can honor our moral debt. Our medical staff has performed numerous surgical procedures. Many women and many Syrian children have been treated by Armenian doctors. Syrian children have been provided with spaces where they can play safely,” the Prime Minister said,

Armenian doctors and mine-clearance specialists have been carrying out humanitarian mission in Syria since February 2019.

Nikol Pashinyan said Armenia is worried about the Turkish invasion. “We have condemned it. We believe that the international community must take action so that the Turkish forces in Syria today are brought back to the Turkish territory.”



The Prime Minister attached importance to the US House recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

“It’s very, very important. It helps prevent possible further genocides. In addition, this type of decision is changing the atmosphere in our region. It sends a message that equally aggressive policies would not be accepted by the international community. More than a century after the genocide, Turkey is still perceived by the Armenians as a possible threat to our security. And for about thirty years our border has been closed on the Turkish side,” he said.

PM Pashinyan reiterated Armenia’s will-

ingness to establish diplomatic relations with Turkey without any preconditions.

He expressed gratitude to the Italian Chamber of Deputies for recognizing the Armenian genocide. “We work with our foreign partners to get as much recognition as possible and to achieve global recognition,” the Prime Minister said adding that “while Europe is not much informed, there a large phenomenon

of Armenophobia in Azerbaijan.”

He reminded that former Arsenal man Henrikh Mkhitaryan had to miss the Europa League final, because “an Armenian surname is a big problem in Azerbaijan.

“European fans wearing T-shirts with his name were stopped by the police. A week ago, a driver, a citizen of Azerbaijan, was arrested only because he was listening to a song by an Armenian musician. And last year we had cases of American citizens, Russians, Turks not allowed to enter Azerbaijan because they had Armenian last names,” Pashinyan stated.

Azerbaijan should abide by its commitments – MFA Armenia

The Foreign Ministry of Armenia has issued a statement over the recent incident on Artsakh-Azerbaijan contact line. As Noyan Tapan was informed from the press service of the MFA Armenia, the statement runs as follows,

“We strongly condemn the ceasefire violation by Azerbaijan which caused a severe injury to Rafael Azizyan, (born in 1997) a serviceman of the Artsakh Defense Army. This unprovoked incident caused by a sniper shot indicates that the Azerbaijani side makes a deliberate attempt to violate the ceasefire.

Such incidents gravely hinder the peace process and contradict the agreements reached with the mediation of the Minsk Group Co Chairs, aimed at creating an environment conducive to peace. Even amidst the new domestic developments, Azerbaijan should uphold its commitments.

This incident, which occurred ahead of the next ministerial meeting to be held under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-



Chairs, even more underlines the priority of the implementation of the agreements aimed at strengthening of the ceasefire, including through the introduction of relevant mechanisms.

We wish a speedy recovery to the wounded serviceman”.

Opposition nominee to head Armenian anti-corruption body



An Armenian anti-corruption body tasked with scrutinizing asset declarations submitted by top state officials will be headed by one of its newly appointed members nominated by the opposition Bright Armenia Party (LHK).

The Commission on Prevention of Corruption is a successor to a largely ineffectual body that had been set up by the former Armenian authorities. It is empowered to not only process asset declarations but also ask law-enforcement bodies to prosecute officials suspected of engaging in corrupt practices or making false disclosures. The commission will also be able to conduct its own inquiries into possible conflicts of interest among them.

Under a relevant Armenian law passed in 2017 and amended this year, the commission will consist of five members. The Armenian government, the Supreme Judicial Council and the three political forces represented in the parliament each nominated one member. The Armenian appointed all five nominees in secret ballot on November 19.

The commission members in turn chose the LHK nominee, Haykuhi Harutyunyan, as their chairwoman on November 26. Prime Nikol Pashinyan hailed their choice.

“A candidate nominated by the opposition has been elected chairwoman of the Commission on Preventing Corruption,” Pashinyan wrote on Facebook. “Just another fact about the New Armenia.”

Edgar Shatiryan, a commission member installed by Pashinyan’s My Step alliance, also vied for the post but was not backed by any of his colleagues. He announced his decision to leave the commission later on Tuesday.

Shatiryan insisted on Wednesday that the resignation was not the result of his failure to become commission chairman. At the same time, he said the fact that none of the other commission members voted for him means they do not trust him.

Shatiryan also dismissed media speculation that My Step leaders had promised that he will run the commission.

The Armenian government has pledged to strengthen the commission as part of its anti-corruption strategy and a three-year action plan adopted by it in October. Justice Minister Rustam Badasyan said Armenian judges will be a key focus of the body’s activities.

Arsen Torosyan wants new tax for national health insurance

The Armenian Ministry of Health has called for a new 6 percent income tax that would finance the planned introduction of public health insurance covering the country’s entire population.

Health Minister Arsen Torosyan made a case for the extra tax on November 26 as he presented an official “concept” for the insurance system drawn up by the ministry. He said it is the only realistic way of making medical services accessible to all Armenians.

Public access to healthcare in Armenia declined significantly following the collapse of the Soviet Union as cash-strapped governments allowed hospitals to legally charge their patients. Most Armenian hospitals were privatized in the 1990s.

Currently only state-run polyclinics are required to provide basic medical aid to the population free of charge. Healthcare, including surgeries, is also supposedly free for children aged 7 and younger. Their parents often have to make hefty informal payments to doctors, however.

Also, for the past several years the state



has partly covered healthcare expenses of civil servants, schoolteachers and other public sector employees.

Torosyan argued that those expenses put an extremely heavy financial burden on the majority of people suffering from serious illnesses and their family members. “The bad thing is that given the incomes of our population those expenses are mostly disastrous and make our people poorer,” he said in a live Facebook broadcast.

According to Ministry of Health estimates cited by Torosyan, a national health insurance system covering a wide range of surgeries and other medical treatment would require 250 billion drams (\$525 million) in annual government funding. The Armenian government plans to spend only 109 billion

drams on healthcare next year.

“Calculations show that the additional tax can be the source of [the required] 140 billion drams,” the minister said.

Torosyan said the 6 percent tax rate is affordable for 41 percent of officially employed Armenians earning 150,000 drams per month or more. The financial impact on other citizens would be mitigated by tax cuts enacted earlier this year, he claimed.

The proposed insurance scheme sparked heated debates on social media, with many users voicing strong opposition to it.

The proposed healthcare tax has not yet been discussed by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s cabinet.

Pashinyan’s My Step bloc promised “accessible and high-quality healthcare” in Armenia in the run-up to the December 2018 parliamentary elections won by it. Its election manifesto said that a compulsory insurance system will be put in place for that purpose. Torosyan, who is a senior member of the bloc, said in January that the government plans to start introducing the system in 2021.

EU Official cites key hurdle to Visa-Free travel for Armenians

(RFE/RL – Yerevan) - The European Union is in no rush to lift its visa requirements for Armenia's citizens because of a large number of Armenians seeking asylum in EU member states, a senior official from Brussels said on November 26.

EU leaders pledged to start a "visa liberalization dialogue" with Yerevan at their Eastern Partnership summit with Armenia and five other former Soviet republics held in Brussels two years ago. The pledge followed the signing of a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the EU and Armenia.

Both the current and former Armenian governments have since pressed the 28-nation bloc to set a date for the start of official negotiations on visa liberalization.

Luc Devigne, a deputy managing director at the European External Action Service, indicated that the EU has not yet opened such talks because thousands of Armenians overstay their Schengen visas and seek asylum in Europe. "This is not a political issue.



This is a working issue," Devigne told reporters in Yerevan.

"I'm pretty sure that when the conditions are fulfilled, when there are no problems of overstaying [EU visas] or asylum seekers, the decision will be positive," he said.

According to Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister Avet Adonts, Yerevan has been discussing the matter with various EU member states in an effort to address their concerns.

"We are trying to understand problems with visa liberalization, if there are such problems, and to jointly find mechanisms and tools for solving them," Adonts said at

a joint news conference with Devigne dedicated to the second anniversary of the signing of the CEPA.

In Devigne's words, one such solution is closer cooperation between Armenian and EU immigration authorities.

Tens of thousands of Armenians have emigrated to Europe for mainly economic reasons since the early 1990s.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated in September that number of Armenian asylum seekers there has fallen considerably since last year's "Velvet Revolution" that brought him to power.

He cited official EU statistics showing that there were 1,815 first-time Armenian asylum applicants in the EU in the first half of this year, down from 2,475 in the same period of 2018. The number of such asylum seekers stood at 3,250 in the first half of 2017.

"This is one of the most important indicators characterizing the New Armenia," Pashinyan wrote on his Facebook page.

Government sees no change in Russian gas price before April

The price of Russian natural gas supplied to Armenia will not change at least until next April, Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan said on November 28.

"I cannot give now any information about [what will happen] after April 1," he told reporters.

Russia's Gazprom giant raised the gas price by 10 percent, to \$165 per thousand cubic meters, last December. The figure was set for this year, meaning that the two sides need to negotiate a new supply contract for 2020 and possibly the following years. Reports in the Armenian press have claimed that Gazprom is planning another price rise.

Grigoryan said Russian-Armenian negotiations on the issue are continuing. He



insisted that a higher gas price is not a foregone conclusion.

"We are negotiating and doing everything to prevent price fluctuations that would be put a problematic burden on our economy and ordinary consumers," said the official.

The issue was on the agenda of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's talks with Rus-

sian President Vladimir Putin held in Yerevan in October.

"We did not talk about details," Pashinyan told Russian journalists last week. "We talked about a gas price for Armenia that will not break Armenia's economic dynamics."

"I am very happy to note that the gas price for Armenia will not go up at least until next spring," he said. "This is good news."

Gazprom set in December 2018 the wholesale cost of Russian gas imported by Armenia. The retail prices set by Armenia's Gazprom-owned gas distribution network for domestic consumers have not changed so far.

Armenia, Iran discuss expansion of bilateral trade

During a meeting between the head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and Armenian ambassador to Iran the two sides emphasized the need to preserve and expand trade relations between Iran and Armenia under a trade agreement between Iran and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Tehran Times reports.

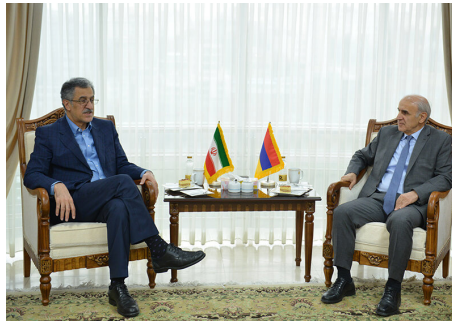
The meeting was held on November 25 and was followed by a conference on investigating the ways to expand bilateral trade held at the same place, TCCIMA portal reported.

As reported, benefiting from barter trade and the facilities provided by Iran-EAEU trade agreement for bolstering trade cooperation between Iran and Armenia was the main issue discussed between TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and Armenian Ambassador Artashes Toumanian.

The trade agreement between Iran and EAEU officially came into force on October 27.

Khansari appreciated the cooperation with the Armenia Embassy in Tehran in terms of facilitating trade between the two countries and expressed hope that Iranian private sector benefit from this condition.

The official further mentioned banking



problems as the only barrier for expansion of trade between Iran and its neighbor Armenia and said that TCCIMA, Armenian Embassy and Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce should find strategies to remove this hurdle.

Toumanian for his part appreciated TCCIMA's action to hold the conference on investigating the ways to expand bilateral trade between the two countries and underlined that the stable ties between TCCIMA and Armenian Embassy has created some appropriate cooperation for removing the problems in the way of trade for Iranian and Armenian companies.

Referring to the centuries-old relations between the two neighbors, the envoy said that the Armenia Embassy in Tehran is completely ready to help Iranian private sector.

While the U.S. renewed sanctions on Iran are aimed at isolating the Islamic Republic both politically and economically, Iran's relations, especially in the economic sectors, with its neighbors are seemed not to be affected by the sanctions.

The northwestern neighbor Armenia is one of the countries preserving and expanding its economic relations with Iran regardless of the sanction condition.

It has been several times emphasized by the Armenian officials as during a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran in late February, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan voiced his country's willingness to boost cooperation with the Islamic Republic in all areas, including agriculture, transport and tourism.

As previously announced by Iran's commercial attaché to Yerevan Mohsen Rahimi, the value of trade between Iran and Armenia has hit a record high of \$364 million in 2018.

The official put the worth of Iran's export to its neighbor at \$269 million and said that natural gas, petrochemicals, iron and steel, tiles and ceramics, fruit and nuts have been the major Iranian products exported to Armenia in the past year.

Armenian PM challenges Serj Tankian, Kim Kardashian and Alexis Ohanian

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has challenged System Of A Down frontman Serj Tankian, Reddit and Initialized Capital co-founder Alexis Ohanian and TV personality and entrepreneur Kim Kardashian, urging them to donate to Hayastan All Armenian Fund.

Speaking live during the Fund's 22nd annual Telethon, the Prime Minister called on the three prominent Armenians to make monthly donations to the Fund and pass the challenge on to others.

"Before coming here, I visited the Hayastan Fund's website, made the necessary adjustments to transfer just 10 thousand AMD to the Fund's account every month. If five million Armenians around the world do the same thing, we will have over \$1 billion on average annually," PM Pashinyan stated.



The Prime Minister added that it's now important for Serj Tankian, Kim Kardashian and Alexis Ohanian to challenge another three Armenians and make it publicly so that anyone who that accepts the challenge, passes it on to three others.

"We will thus have a pan-Armenian budget," Nikol Pashinyan noted.

System of a Down front man, rock star Serj Tankian and Initialized Capital and Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian have

accepted Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan's challenge to join a monthly donation campaign of around 10,000 drams to the Hayastan All Armenian Fund charity organization.

"I hereby accept the challenge by PM of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan to donate \$23/mo to the All Armenia Fund (<https://www.himnadram.org/en/donate>) and in turn challenge @esrailian @vaheberberian and @angelasarafyan to meet this challenge. Feel free to join the challenge and challenge others to do the same. We can do more with larger numbers of people donating less than a small group donating more. #allarmeni-fundchallenge", Tankian said on Facebook.

Alexis Ohanian, in turn, accepted the challenge and tweeted to Pashinyan "You got it, @NikolPashinyan".

New ADB strategy to support Armenia's economic diversification

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has endorsed a new 5-year Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Armenia focused on increasing economic diversification and ensuring that economic growth benefits all Armenians.

Armenia became an upper middle-income country in 2018, but the country faces several development challenges including the economy's heavy dependence on commodities, persistent poverty, and women's labor force participation that is below 50%.

Under the new CPS for Armenia, 2019–2023, ADB will focus on investments in priority infrastructure, improving essential public services, and encouraging greater regional cooperation and integration. Strengthening institutional capacity and supporting governance reforms will be a cross-cutting priority. ADB's strategy is fully aligned with the Government of Armenia's long-term plan to develop an inclusive, export-oriented economy and establish the country as a leading hub for information technology and innovation.

"Armenia has made strong progress in rebalancing its economy towards more resilient and environmentally sustainable growth in recent years," said ADB Country Director for Armenia Mr. Paolo Spantigati. "Today, as Armenians look forward to a brighter future, our partnership will support the government's efforts to establish a more resilient economy that is underpinned by fiscal responsibility. By diversifying the economy and investing in human capital, the strategy will help ensure that all citizens reap the benefits of continued growth."

Under the new strategy, ADB will ensure the sustainability of road network investments and expedite the implementation of



ongoing transport projects, including the North–South Road Corridor Investment Program. In the energy sector, ADB will support infrastructure upgrades and encourage greater deployment of solar and wind power. This will help diversify Armenia's energy mix and reduce its dependence on imported gas.

"Given the importance of the private sector to sustainable economic growth, ADB will promote the participation of private enterprises in infrastructure and social sector projects," said ADB Senior Economist for Central and West Asia Mr. Rajesh Vasudevan. "We will also invest in the local financial sector to help grow small and medium-sized businesses—a key source of jobs and a top priority for the government." ADB will invest in expanding access to education and ensuring better learning outcomes in schools to improve the long-term employability of Armenians.

To promote regional cooperation and integration, ADB will provide finance and knowledge to support the development of economic corridors and cross-border infrastructure improvements. A new Western Caucasus economic corridor will be created to help Armenia capitalize on its strategic position as the preferred link between the Eurasian Economic Union, of which it is a member, and the European Union to the

west.

The strategy places emphasis on integrating gender into ADB's operations in Armenia, including specific education curricula and health services designed to maximize access for women and girls. This will support the government's efforts to reverse the low female labor force participation and improve school-to-work transition rates for girls.

ADB's strategy outlines strong support for the government's investments in technology, including helping to introduce artificial intelligence in the urban sector. It will support the country's burgeoning digital transformation and innovation ecosystem by nurturing partnerships across government, academia, and industry. With an estimated 8 million Armenians in the diaspora, the government also sees a thriving domestic technology industry as a means of connecting with its citizens overseas and creating jobs for Armenians interested in returning home.

ADB has been working with the Government of Armenia since 2005 and has committed 31 loans totaling \$1.46 billion, including 11 private sector loans. ADB has committed technical assistance grants totaling \$14.9 million. As of 30 June 2019, ADB's active portfolio comprises 13 public and private loans totaling \$809.8 million.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. In 2018, it made commitments of new loans and grants amounting to \$21.6 billion. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

CSTO has necessary measures to prevent new escalation around Nagorno Karabakh – Armenian PM

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan participated in the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in Bishkek on November 28. The session was attended by the leaders of the CSTO member states – Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The narrow format session of the leaders was followed by an extended format session with the participation of the delegations, the Armenian PM's Office told Noyan Tapan.

The members of the Collective Security Council discussed issues relating to the international and regional security, mutual cooperation between the CSTO member states within the organization and at the international arena.

In his remarks PM Pashinyan said Armenia will continue contributing to further raising the CSTO efficiency and international reputation. The PM said he sees a great potential for the development of cooperation between the member states and stated that one of the current directions is the development of cooperation in the field of high technologies, which was mentioned during the 17th session of the inter-state commission on military-economic cooperation held in Armenia in September.

"I am happy that we managed to come to an agreement over the appointment of the new CSTO Secretary General. I am convinced that Stanislav Zas' experience will be important in this responsible position", the Armenian PM said.

Thereafter, he touched upon the security situation in Armenia and the whole region, talked about the settlement process of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Pashinyan expressed confidence that the militaristic tendencies absolutely do not have any prospects, adding that there is no alternative to the peaceful negotiations and the peaceful settlement of the conflict. The PM said the stance of the Azerbaijani leadership is dangerous not only for the security of the South Caucasus, but also that of the CSTO states. "I think that a new escalation will bring devastating consequences not only in the South Caucasian region,



but also outside of it. Being in a war situation Azerbaijan can become a convenient springboard for the Islamic extremists, who are searching for new territories for their operations after losing the influence in Syria. Moreover, from geopolitical terms Azerbaijan is a very convenient platform through which the extremists can carry out their operations at all directions, in south, north, west and east", the Armenian PM added.

However, Nikol Pashinyan noted that CSTO has all the necessary measures to prevent a new escalation over Nagorno Karabakh. According to him, in order to prevent the possible escalation the CSTO states, based on the interests of preserving security, should leave Azerbaijan's applications on acquiring new weapons without a response. "We are honest in our aspiration to peace and are ready for a constructive dialogue over the peaceful settlement of the conflict based on the concept that I presented. We will continue the negotia-



tions within the frames of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, the only negotiation format accepted internationally, to which the CSTO has repeatedly expressed its support.

In this respect I want to specifically thank the Russian co-chairmanship of the Minsk Group", he said.

The Armenian PM also touched upon the situation in Syria and attached importance to the strengthening of peace and stability in the country. "The events taking place in that country are extremely concerning. Armenia condemned the recent Turkish military invasion to Syria's north-east which creates a direct threat to the ethnic Armenian population living there. The

national and religious minorities are becoming the main targets of terrorists and their sponsors. We all were shocked from the murder of an Armenian priest and his father in Qamishli.

The real reasons for violently entering into the territory of a neighboring sovereign state are clear and have nothing in common with the matters announced by Turkey. The violation of the principles of international law by Turkey is unacceptable and should definitely be condemned by the international community.

Armenia supports Syria's territorial integrity and sovereignty. We will continue providing all possible humanitarian aid to the good people of Syria as it's very vital for them today", the Prime Minister said.

Pashinyan highlighted that in today's changing world it's important for the allies to unite efforts to resist the emerging challenges. "The mutual commitments assumed within the CSTO should definitely be respected, and the relations between the member states should be a priority. We see our collective power in this, and this is the development precondition of our organization", he added.

Pashinyan wished success to Russia on its 2020 chairmanship at the CSTO, adding that Armenia supports the implementation of priorities within this chairmanship.

Based on the session results the CSTO heads of state approved a number of documents.

The session participants also discussed the current military-political situation in the CSTO collective security regions.

Sen. Graham Shows His True Colors in Phone Call with Fake Turkish Minister



By Harut Sassounian

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) has become infamous for blocking a motion by Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) urging the Senate to vote on the Armenian Genocide Resolution by bypassing the Foreign Relations Committee.

The Axios news website reported that, as Sen. Graham was leaving the White House meeting with President Erdogan on November 13, one of President Trump's aides asked him to object to the Armenian Genocide Resolution being taken up by the Senate, without first going through the Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Graham told Axios he agreed to block the Resolution "because he [Erdogan] was still in town. ... That would've been poor timing. I'm trying to salvage the relationship, if possible." When asked if he felt uncomfortable blocking the Armenian Genocide Resolution, Sen. Graham told Axios: "Yeah, because I like Bob [Menendez]. He's been working on this for years, but I did think with the president of Turkey in town that was probably more than the market would bear." Sen. Graham then added: "I'm not going to object next time."

The Politico Magazine revealed last month that, in a phone call with a Russian prankster Alexey Stolyarov, who presented himself as the Defense Minister of Turkey Hulusi Akar, Sen. Graham told him that he was more than willing to work with Turkey to improve its relations with the United States.

Sen. Graham's spokesman Kevin Bishop confirmed to Politico that the Senator had in fact been deceived by the Russian prankster: "We have been successful in stopping many efforts to prank Senator Graham and

the office, but this one slipped through the cracks," he said. "They got him." Actually, the Russia prankster had fooled Sen. Graham on more than one occasion.

Contradicting his public statements, Sen. Graham told the fake Turkish Defense Minister that he agreed with Turkey's position that the Kurds were a 'threat.' Graham also said that he and President Trump were opposed to placing sanctions on Turkey for buying the Russian S-400 missile system.

Here are some excerpts from the phone call:

Prankster: "So as far as I understand, President Trump has entrusted you with these negotiations," the man Graham assumed to be Akar said, according to the audio of the 16-minute call.

Sen. Graham: "Yeah, sort of. Let me tell you what he [President Trump] told me: 'I don't wanna impose sanctions on our ally Turkey.'"

Prankster: "Yes, but what has President Trump said about the free-trade agreement?"

Sen. Graham: "Okay. So, he told me to call President Erdogan and make this offer. ... I don't know what to tell you other than I am doing all I know to do and President Trump is very sympathetic to the situation of President Erdogan, but the Congress is not sympathetic. Democrats are not sympathetic at all, and we've lost some Republicans here when it comes to Turkey. And Turkey is too valuable of an ally to get in a dispute with."

According to GQ Magazine, the Russian prankster had called Sen. Graham earlier in July from a Turkish cell phone he had bought especially for this occasion. The prankster told Sen. Graham that he would serve as the point of contact for him with the Turkish government. Sen. Graham agreed to call the prankster back after he spoke with Trump.

On August 12, Sen. Graham called the prankster back and boastfully told him: "I met with the president; I spent the weekend with him. We played golf yesterday and had dinner over the weekend, and we talked about our friends in Turkey, and I told him my desire was to change the conversation and to get you back in the F-35 program and sign a free-trade agreement and move it in a new direction, and that's what he would like to do."

"And did you tell him about our conversa-

tion?" the prankster asked.

"Yes," said Sen. Graham. "... We want to have a stronger relationship with President Erdogan. I personally like President Erdogan. I think President Trump likes President Erdogan. I think he's a strong man, and we need to deal with strong people. So, I think the next thing to do is to have the two presidents talk with each other."

The prankster then asked what he should report to President Erdogan, to which Sen. Graham replied: "Here's what we should do. Let me call the president back this afternoon. I'll call you tomorrow, and here's what I think we should do. We should have a call between the two presidents... and I think the conversation should be - you can tell President Erdogan that I spent the whole weekend with him, and the president does not want to sanction Turkey. He thinks that's crazy. I personally think that's crazy. We need to find a way around that."

In his phone call with the Russian prankster, Sen. Graham also confirmed that President Trump has a personal interest in the Turkish state bank that had violated U.S. laws by trading with Iran! According to a Bloomberg report, President Trump had told then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to ask the Attorney General to drop the case of the Iranian-Turkish gold trader Reza Zarrab, who was arrested in the U.S. for his role in the Turkish bank's fraudulent transaction. Erdogan had lobbied U.S. officials for Zarrab's release.

While the disclosures in the phone calls are not stunning, it is a serious security risk that a Russian prankster, who is allegedly connected with the Kremlin, is able to pass himself off as the Defense Minister of Turkey to talk to Trump's close ally, Sen. Graham, who then conveys the Russian's messages to Trump. Sen. Graham then reports his conversation with the U.S. President back to the Russian.

It is often said that "politics makes strange bedfellows." This is so true in the case of Trump and Graham, who have gone from being vicious enemies to close friends. During the 2016 presidential campaign, candidate Trump called Graham "crazy," "a nut job," and "one of the dumbest human beings I've ever seen." And, in turn, Graham called Trump, a "kook," "crazy," and "jackass." Now they are close friends and play golf together!

Washington DC recognizes the Armenian Genocide

The District of Columbia has joined 49 U.S. States and the U.S. House of Representatives in recognizing the Armenian Genocide and calling for its inclusion in the DC school curriculum, reports the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

The full text of the Resolution below:

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION 23-103 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Adopted November 8, 2019

To recognize and reflect on the 104th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and on the importance of educating District of Columbia residents on the Armenian Genocide.

WHEREAS, on April 24, 1915 the Ottoman Turkish government began a premeditated campaign of brutal atrocities, including pogroms, deportations, forced death marches across Anatolia into the Syrian desert, starvation, crucifixions, kidnapping, massacres en masse, and genocide against its Christian Armenian minority population, resulting in the death of an estimated one and one half million Armenians as well as over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Syrians and others were massacred as part of the planned complete eradication of those indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire that continued until 1923;

WHEREAS, on July 16, 1915, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, wrote to the U.S. Secretary of State, Robert Lansing, and reported that “Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress”; WHEREAS, on May 28, 1951, the United States Government affirmed the Armenian Genocide in a statement to the International Criminal Court, which stated that “The Roman persecution of the Christians, the Turkish massacres of Armenians, the extermination of millions of Jews and Poles by the Nazis are outstanding examples of the crime of genocide”; WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives officially acknowledged the World War I mass killings of Armenians as the Armenian Genocide through adopted legislation in 1975 and 1984;



WHEREAS, on April 22, 1981, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation which stated that “Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it – and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples – the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten” ; ENROLLED ORIGINAL2

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2015, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry rightfully condemned the Islamic State’s persecution of Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minorities, including Armenians, in Iraq and Syria as genocide; WHEREAS, the United States was the first country to recognize the Armenian genocide and raised millions of dollars to aid the surviving victims of the genocide; WHEREAS, forty-nine U.S. states and twenty-eight countries have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide and likewise called upon the Government of Turkey to acknowledge their history;

WHEREAS, to this day revisionists still inexplicably deny the existence of the Armenian Genocide;

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey continues to deny and distort the facts of the Armenian Genocide, and honors the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide as national heroes;

WHEREAS, Near East Relief was the first Congressional-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities from annihilation after S. Ambassador to Constantinople Henry A. Morgenthau, pled for assistance upon personally witnessing the systematic massacre of Armenians;

WHEREAS, Near East Relief’s efforts resulted in delivering one hundred seventeen million dollars of assistance between 1915 and 1930, including the delivery of food, clothing, and materials for shelter, setting

up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages;

WHEREAS, the generous philanthropy of the American people directly resulted in the salvation of the Armenian and Assyrian refugees nation from being completely annihilated by the Genocide by saving more than one million refugees, including more than one hundred thirty thousand orphans through their humanitarian assistance; WHEREAS, Near East Relief evolved into the Near East Foundation in 1930, and continues to provide humanitarian aid to people throughout the Middle East and Africa;

WHEREAS, James Cannon Jr., Frank Morrison, and Ray Lyman Wilbur of the District of Columbia helped lead the humanitarian efforts of Near East Relief by serving on the Board of Trustees from 1915 through 1930;

WHEREAS, the Near East Relief Committee of the District of Columbia was the 3rd largest committee of any state in the United States from 1915 through 1930;

WHEREAS, since the 1890s, Armenian Americans and organizations contribute richly to the District of Columbia’s social mosaic and add to our community’s economic, political, and educational development; and

WHEREAS, recognition and reaffirmation of this tragedy educates people about the horrors of man’s inhumanity to man and works to prevent future occurrences of genocides.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Armenian Genocide Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the 104th Anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and encourages educators in the District of Columbia to teach about human rights, the Armenian Genocide, and consequences of genocide denial.

Sec. 3. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the Chancellor of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and the President and each member of the State Board of Education.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Soviet spy who helped stop attack on WWII Allied leaders dies

For the second time in less than two months, Congressional Armenian Caucus leaders have called on the U.S. Departments of State and Defense to restore military aid parity to Armenia and Azerbaijan, or risk emboldening an already aggressive Azerbaijani government to escalate its attacks against Armenia and Artsakh, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“We join with Reps. Pallone, Schiff, and Speier in challenging the Administration’s reckless military aid tilt toward Azerbaijan’s corrupt Aliyev regime,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “In light of Azerbaijan’s relentless aggression, we call on Congress to zero-out any and all security assistance to Baku, or – at the very least – match every dollar in military aid to Azerbaijan with another to Armenia.”

In September, 2019, Congressional Armenian Caucus founding Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Co-Chair Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Vice-Chair Adam Schiff (D-CA) expressed concerns to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper about the proposed significant increase in security assistance to Azerbaijan for Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019, totaling \$102 million, compared to \$7 million in military assistance to Armenia over the same period. They noted that Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, adopted in 1992, prohibits aid to Azerbaijan due to its ongoing blockade and aggression against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

“While the State Department has the authority to extend a waiver of Section 907, we do not believe the waiver the State Department noticed on April 18, 2019, is an appropriate use of this authority considering Azerbaijan’s continued efforts to destabilize the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh and given the ruling regime of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s documented culture of corruption



and oppressive tactics against dissenters,” stated Representatives Pallone, Speier, and Schiff in their September 27th letter.

In response to State and Defense Department assertions that \$102 million in security aid to Azerbaijan “will neither undermine efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, nor be used for offensive purposes against Armenia,” Representatives Pallone, Speier and Schiff were adamant.

“Without question, the increase of security assistance to Azerbaijan creates an imbalance in the region and ignores a twenty-year precedent in U.S. foreign policy. We are concerned that rewarding Armenia’s autocratic neighbor with this windfall at such a time of historic change in Armenia sends negative signals about the importance we place on democratic values. Returning to parity in military assistance is the only way the U.S. will be able to retain its credibility as a regional power capable of bringing Azerbaijan and Armenia together.”

In their November 18th letter, the Congressional Armenian Caucus leaders go on to request that Armenia be provided with “training and equipment to build partner capacity that will help secure its borders and create military parity in funding with Azerbaijan. This funding would increase Armenia’s capacity for counterterrorism, counter-illicit drug trafficking, and weapons of mass destruction interdiction operations – especially on its southern border with Iran. We also ask for robust funding of confidence building measures on each side of the border between Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia – including those that would implement the 2015 Royce-Engel Peace Proposal – to establish a clearer pathway to peace for all parties in this conflict.”

Baku’s State-Sanctioned Torture Campaign Aimed to Weed Out ‘Armenian Spies’

The horror of a state-sanctioned torture campaign by the Azerbaijani military has been documented in an article by BBC Russia.

According to the Russian language article reported by BBC’s Magerram Zeynalov systematic torture was used in post-Soviet Azerbaijan to weed out alleged spied for Armenia.

“Dozens of torture victims, 25 convicted for high treason and 9 deaths from torture,” Zeynalov writes in his article titled “Die or Confess. Tortures were used to look for Armenian spies in the Azerbaijani army,” the English translation of which was provided Wednesday by Armenpress.

According to the BBC article, in May 2017 Azerbaijani authorities claimed they had arrested servicemen in the Azerbaijani army for allegedly spying for Armenia. In Azerbaijan, the case was dubbed the “Terter Case,” in reference to the name of the location where the suspects were taken to be tortured.

It was only in 2019 that details from this notorious case were made public.

Zeynalov spoke with the wife of Corporal Ruslan Ojagverdiyev, a soldier who was tortured to death. According to his wife



Ravanna, he would be alive today had he confessed and accepted the charges. Ravanna recalled how on June 15, 2017 her husband left for his military base and never answered phone calls again. She said she was later told by the military that her husband has been taken somewhere, without elaborating.

“And already in the morning I was told that my husband has died,” she said

The official coroner’s report lists the corporal’s death as a heart attack during exercise. Ravanna was suspicious about the autopsy report from the very beginning, and later when another autopsy was performed it revealed that her husband died from a trauma to the chest. Ravanna is one of the many family members of deceased servicemen to have sued the military prose-

cution of Azerbaijan. At court proceedings, she learnt about the details of her husband’s death from testimonies of others.

“They gagged my husband, choked him, demanded him to confess that he was a spy, they told him ‘You have a choice, confess or die,’” she said.

Moreover, Ravanna later found out that her husband’s death was caused by the false report of another serviceman, who himself made it after suffering torture.

Another spouse of a victim told BBC that a police officer was standing near her husband’s coffin at the funeral and was not allowing it to be opened.

Vagif Abdullayev, an officer who survived the tortures, said he was starved, stripped naked and put into freezing water, beaten and tortured with tasers.

The article mentions that human rights activists in Azerbaijan are “creating lists of political prisoners” in Azerbaijan since mid-90s, i.e. the time when Heydar Aliyev, incumbent President Ilham Aliyev’s father, took presidency.

Human rights activities Oktay Gyulaliyev said that probably the convicted servicemen of the Terter case will also be included in the list.

Cafesjian Center to present 20th century graphic arts from the Armenian Diaspora



The Cafesjian Center for the Arts Announces the Opening of the Exhibition, *Exiles and Dreamers: Panorama of 20th Century Graphic Arts from the Armenian Diaspora*, featuring a selection from art historian and curator Vigen Galstyan's collection. This is the 4th exhibition in the *Yerevan Collectors' Choice* series at the Center.

Selected from a private collection of international, twentieth century graphic arts, the show brings together close to sixty works created by forty-four Armenian artists liv-

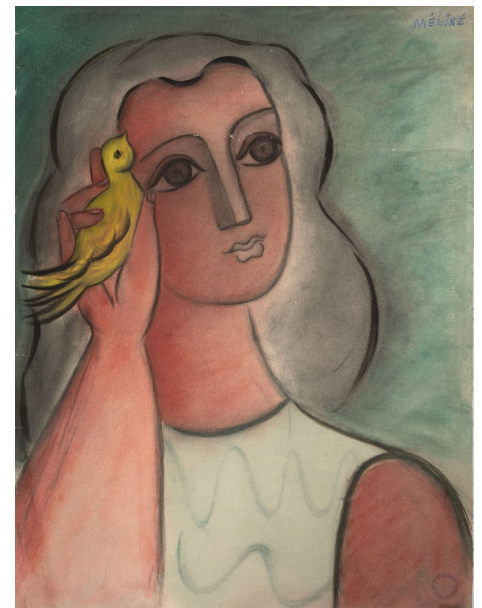
ing and working on different continents, in different countries and artistic centers. The exhibition generally traces the development of modern art throughout the last century from the perspectives of diasporan-Armenians who participated in its development.

Some of these perspectives are well known in Armenia and elsewhere, while many others must be discovered anew. Collectively, they allow us to explore how the creative practices of diasporan artists enhanced notions of modern Armenian art, which were being formulated in Eastern Armenian centers between the 1900s and the 1990s.

"For an institution founded by a private collector, the Cafesjian Center for the Arts has always focused on presenting art not generally accessible to a wider public. However, *Exiles and Dreamers* unveils not only a hidden treasury of graphic art, but also uncovers a constellation of Armenian artists from the Diaspora who are unknown even in local professional circles. Most of them have never been exhibited in Armenia before", stated the Acting Executive Director of CCA, Vahagn Marabyan.

The public dates for the exhibition are November 29, 2019 to March 1, 2020. The admission will be free of charge.

The Cafesjian Center for the Arts is dedicated to bringing the best of contemporary art to Armenia and presenting the best of Armenian culture to the world. Having celebrated its grand opening in November 2009, CCA continues to exhibit unique works of modern art, offers a wide variety of exhibitions and a diverse program of lectures, films, concerts and numerous educational initiatives for children and adults. The annual visitation of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts exceeds 1,000,000 people.



Armenia ranks 61st in 2019 Legatum Prosperity Index

Armenia is ranked 61st among 167 countries in the 2019 prosperity index published by the London-based Legatum Institute. Armenia has moved up the rankings table by six places.

The [Legatum Prosperity Index 2019](#) quantifies prosperity in 167 countries across the globe, which together contain 99.4% of the world's population. Almost 300 country-level indicators, grouped into 65 policy-focused elements, are used to measure the current state of prosperity in these countries and how it has changed since 2007.

According to the report, Armenia per-



forms most strongly in Education and Investment Environment, but is weakest in Natural Environment. The biggest improvement compared to a decade ago came in Social Capital.

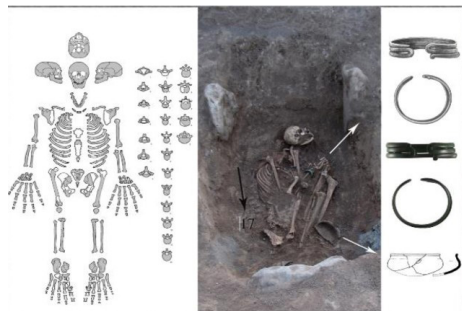
Denmark tops the ranking followed by Norway and Switzerland. Armenia's neigh-

bor Georgia is placed 53rd, Turkey and Azerbaijan are ranked 91st and 92nd respectively, Iran is 119th.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Belarus and Russia are placed 73rd and 74th respectively, Kazakhstan is 68th, Kyrgyzstan is 88th.

Overall, the world is more prosperous than it has ever been, with Denmark overtaking Norway as the strongest performer. North America remains the most prosperous region, although, as a result of its prosperity stagnating, the gap with Western Europe has narrowed.

Grave of Amazon-like female warrior found in Armenian highlands



In the highlands of Armenia, archaeologists have discovered the grave of a woman who seemed to live as a professional warrior and was buried as an individual of rank.

In a study published by the *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, a group of Armenian researchers led by Anahit Khudaverdyan of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia detail their study of a skeleton from the Bover I necropolis in Lori Province.

The paper focuses on the traumas in the craniological material found at the burial site. The number of skeletal fractures (one antemortem and three perimortem) emphasizes the fact that for this Early Armenian female from Bover I interpersonal violence was an ever-present aspect of life.

The study first reported by *Forbes* suggests that this individual belonged to the Early Armenian period of the 8th-6th century BC, and was a young female, based on morphological characteristics of the skull and pelvis, appx. 20 to 29 years old based

on dental wear, stage of fusion of the cranial sutures, auricular surface morphology scoring system.

Despite the gracile skeleton, the muscular attachments were strong, indicating considerable work activity. Both upper limbs were mechanically loaded (physical stress). The pectoralis major and deltoid muscles had been used in flexing and adducting the hand (at the shoulder) and drawing the bow via the chest (medial rotation). Several traumatic events left their signs on the bones.

In addition to her muscular frame, an iron arrowhead was discovered embedded in the woman's left knee, an injury that had healed long before her death. Khudav-



erdyan and colleagues think that the bow and arrow used to cause this injury were home-made weapons frequently used for war or hunting.

Three other injuries to her skeleton appear to have been caused around the time of her death, and likely contributed to it. Her left

hip and right thigh bore chop marks, while her left lower leg had been stabbed.

"The sheer number of injuries emphasizes the fact that for this Early Armenian female from Bover I, interpersonal violence was an ever-present aspect of life," the archaeologists write.

Warrior graves elsewhere in the Armenian highlands present similar skeletal evidence. The archaeologists point out that at the site of Qarashamb, there are at least five male warrior burials. But this burial from Bover I is one of the few examples of a likely female warrior, in spite of the fact that women and men in this culture were known to have fought together.

The researchers believe that this kind of female warrior may have been the basis for the ancient Greek tale of the Amazons.

"Maybe such women were the prototype of the Amazons referred to in Ancient sources including Strabo as living in the Caucasus Mountains," the study reads.

During the period the finding dates back to the Kingdom of Urartu or Ararat was flourishing in Armenian Highland from the 9th c. BC to 585 BC. It was an uncommon developed culture that had comprehensive contacts with the major empires of the ancient world spreading between the Mediterranean and India, and rivaled with them for cultural, trade and military hegemony.

Wine tasting in the Netherlands paves the way for the export of Armenian beverages



From November 21 to 25, the Vine and Wine Foundation of Armenia jointly with the Embassy of the Armenia in the Netherlands organized tasting and presentation of Armenian wines in three Dutch cities –

Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam.

Tasting and master class for wine specialists and buyers was organized in Amsterdam on November 21 within the framework of the conference on Eurasian Economic Union and the Netherlands: Prospects and Opportunities for Business Collaboration.

Presentation were organized in Rotterdam and The Hague on November 23 and 25 respectively.

Attending the events were high-ranking officials, wine experts and distributors.

The events were organized with a view of making Armenian wines better known

in the Netherlands and paving the way for the export of wine and brandy, said Zarui Muradyan, Executive Director of the Vine and Wine Foundation.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

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



Leo (July 22–August 21)

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



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

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



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

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



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

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



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

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



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Gain comes to you through areas of shared financial resources. These may include: compensation from insurance or other group holdings, increases in partner's income, sale of property, gains through inheritance or gifts, increase in the value of stocks, bonds or other mutually held property, or tax benefits.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

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



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

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



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

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



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

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

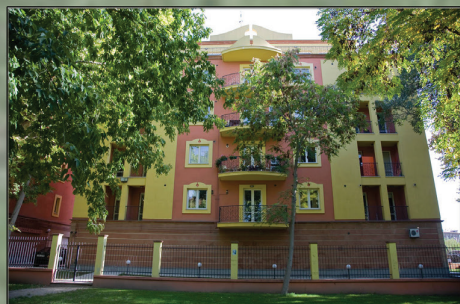


Pisces (February 18–March 19)

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

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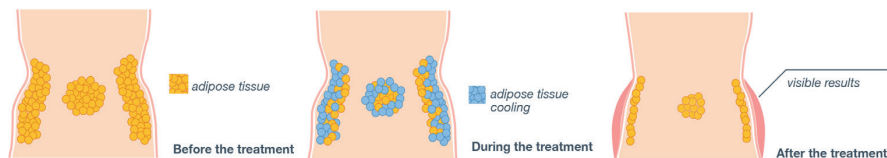
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