

California Senate recognizes Artsakh's independence

Moments ago, the California State Senate has voted to pass Assembly Joint Resolution 32 with a majority vote of 23-0, recognizing the independence and self-determination of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Asbarez reports.

Wednesday's vote on AJR 132 also called for U.S. recognition of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, marking a major milestone in the growing American movement supporting the national and democratic aspirations of the citizens of this independent and historically Armenian country.

The historic vote specifically voiced encouragement for Artsakh's continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation, and formally called upon the President and Congress of the United States to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.



The Resolution, authored by Assembly member Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles), passed in the State Assembly in May. State Senator Kevin De Leon (D-Los Angeles) spearheaded the resolution through the State Senate.

"The passage of this important resolution was a long and challenging journey that started with

the introduction of this resolution back in January. We worked so hard to make it move forward, and we are so proud today that the California State Senate stood with me in support of the people of Artsakh in their ongoing quest for freedom, democracy and independence," stated Assembly member Gatto.

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Artsakh Celebrates 23 Years of Independence

The Republic of Artsakh celebrated the 23rd anniversary of its declaration of independence on Monday. A number of country-wide events in Artsakh and Armenia were held in celebration of the Sept. 2 anniversary.

In Artsakh, the first school lessons of the academic year were about Artsakh's Independence Day, with many government leaders and war veterans participating in teaching school-children about Artsakh and what it means to be courageous.

The opera "Ring of Fire" by Avet Terteryan was performed in Shushi. Concerts, sporting events, and folk festivals were also held throughout Artsakh. The day concluded with a fireworks show at Stepanakert's Revival Square.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan participated in the events in Artsakh.

On September 2, 1991, a joint session of Artsakh's local government and Shahumyan's regional council declared independence for the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Artsakh's sovereignty was confirmed in a referendum on December 10, 1991, when 99.89 percent of the population voted for independence.

Today the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is an accomplished state with modern attributes, democratic traditions, independent foreign policy, dynamic economic development, and a capable army supported by the people.

Artsakh's President Bako Sahakyan issued a statement on the day of the anniversary.

"September 2, 1991 was a turning point in the life of the Artsakh people and became the starting point in realizing our



centuries-long dreams," Sahakyan said. "It marked the birth of the Artsakh Republic, which was the outcome of our people's long struggle and strong will. We finally gained our right to live freely and independently in our land in accordance with universal human and national values, democratic norms, and international principles."

"On that path we faced both severe challenges and gained great victories, which were attained at the cost of incredible losses and hardships, the blood shed by our hero sisters and brothers," the President said.

Sahakyan said that the failed attacks on Artsakh by Azerbaijani forces starting a month ago proved that the Artsakh Republic was strong and unconquerable; that Artsakh's soldiers have defended their home and the whole of Armenia for 23 years and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Armenia provides \$100 000 in aid to Iraqi Yazidis



On September 2 Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian together with Bradley Busetto, the UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, Aziz Tamoyan, President of the National Union of Yazidis, Shaikh Bro Hasanyan, the religious leader of the Yazidis of Armenia handed a note to Christoph Bierwirth, the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on transferring 100 000 USD to the account of the UNHCR Geneva Headquarters for providing support to the Yazidis who have suffered from the actions of extremists in Iraq and have been displaced from their homes.

Addressing the guests of the event Foreign Minister Nalbandian said: "During the recent weeks the world's attention is focused on the massive crimes committed

by the extremists in Iraq against religious and ethnic minorities. As a result of violence thousands of people have been displaced from their homes, amongst them Yazidis, Christians, Muslims. As a result of the atrocities there are many victims.

By the directives of the President of Armenia, the Foreign Ministry has initiated respective measures: the Armenian representatives in the international organizations have voiced the urgency of the problem and called on the international community to take immediate actions. Armenia was the co-author of the respective resolution adopted at the UN Human Rights Council on September 1, 2014.

The people and Government of Armenia share the indignation and concern of Yazidi citizens of Armenia concerning the current tragic developments.

As you know the Armenian Government has made a decision to offer an aid of 100.000 USD to the displaced Yazidis of Iraq and today we hand the note about transferring that sum to the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in

Armenia." The President of the National Union of Yazidis Aziz Tamoyan expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Armenia for sharing the concerns of Yazidis, for voicing about this problem in the international arena, for standing by Yazidi people in this difficult situation and giving assistance.

Bradley Busetto, the UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia in his speech welcomed this humanitarian step and solidarity of Armenia with the Iraqi minorities who are facing the threat of genocide. As the UN Resident Coordinator stated, Armenia's participation in the humanitarian activities of the UN shows the important role of Armenia as a member of international humanitarian society. He assured that the UN does everything possible to support and assist those who have suffered from violence in Iraq.

Christoph Bierwirth, the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Armenia, highly appreciated Armenia's decision to help Iraqi Yazidis which is an important contribution in supporting the displaced people.

Putin Approves Treaty on Armenian Entry to Eurasian Union



Russian President Vladimir Putin has reportedly submitted an agreement on the Eurasian Economic Union to the Russian parliament for ratification, Itar-Tass reports, quoting the Kremlin's press office.

The agreement on the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union was signed by the presidents of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan on May 29, 2014, in Astana.

The agreement is the basic document defining the accords between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan for creating the Eurasian Economic Union for the free movement of goods, services, capital and workforce and conducting coordinated or common policies in key sectors of the economy, such as energy, industry, agriculture and transport.

The agreement stipulates the transition of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan to the next stage of integration after the Customs Union and the common economic space.

The agreement on the Eurasian Economic Union is set to come into force

on the territory of the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan from January 1, 2015.

Putin has also approved the government's proposal for Armenia's accession to the treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Russian president approved the government's proposal on signing the corresponding agreement with Armenia, the Kremlin's website said.

The Russian president's instruction "deems it expedient to sign the Agreement at a session of the Higher Eurasian Economic Council at the level of the heads of state," the document said.

Meanwhile, on Monday, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev cancelled a planned visit to Yerevan that was expected to focus on Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) reported, quoting Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian.

Abrahamian announced Medvedev's trip, scheduled for September 8-9, on August 19, more than a month after the two men met in the Russian city of Sochi.

Abrahamian clarified on Monday that the Russian premier was supposed to arrive in the Armenian capital along with his counterparts from the two other EEU member states: Belarus and Kazakhstan. They had "tentatively" agreed to discuss the concrete terms of Armenia's member-

ship in the Russia-led bloc, he said.

Abrahamian told reporters that prime ministerial talks will not take place because "the matter [has] been transferred to the level of the presidents," RFE/RL reports. "As you know, [Kazakhstan's President Nursultan] Nazarbayev has stated that the [Kazakh, Russian and Belarusian] presidents will gather in Minsk on October 10," he said.

One of the issues on the agenda of the Minsk summit is the signing of the accession treaty with Armenia that Putin approved, drafted in June by the EEU's executive body, the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Both Belarus and Kazakhstan have been less enthusiastic about Armenia's entry into the EEU than Russia, and the signing of the treaty before the end of this year is therefore not a forgone conclusion. It remains to be seen whether Yerevan's membership bid will be further complicated by what appears to be friction between Moscow and Astana.

On Aug. 25, Nazarbayev told a Kazakh TV channel that he will not hesitate to pull his country out of the EEU if it poses a "threat to our independence." In what some observers see as a stark warning to Kazakhstan's longtime ruler, Putin publicly said four days later that the Kazakhs "had never had statehood" before the Soviet collapse and that most of them favor closer ties with Russia.

Levon Hayrapetian Transferred Back to Prison after Hospital Visit

Russian-Armenian businessman and philanthropist Levon Hayrapetian, who is under detention in Moscow, was transferred back to detention facility after a one-day visit to a civic hospital for medical examination, Armenian News (News.am) reports.

The Russian-Armenian businessman was transferred to a civic hospital on September 1.

Hayrapetian, 65, was arrested by Russian Federal Security Service officials on July 15. A Moscow court allowed the businessman's two-month imprisonment while investigators conduct a probe into his alleged criminal connections and involve-

ment in some illegal financial dealings. He was officially charged on July 24 with money laundering and embezzlement and his shares in the Russian oil company Bashneft, said to be worth \$8.5 million were frozen.

Hayrapetian is considered to be one of the wealthiest Armenians in the world. He

is known to have invested millions of dollars into developing Nagorno-Karabakh's infrastructure and renovating the area's historical-cultural monuments. His charity included a mass wedding for hundreds of Karabakh couples in 2008 and sponsorship of the construction of a military college in Martakert.

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One year on: The terms of Armenia's accession to EEU still unclear

A year after Armenia declared plans to join the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the terms of Armenia's accession are still unclear, although some concrete dates have been mentioned on several occasions. A few days ago Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the issue will be solved at consultations in Minsk scheduled for October 10.

Chairman of the Armenian National Assembly's Standing Committee on Financial-Credit and Budgetary Affairs Gagik Minasyan predicts that all CIS countries will finally join the Eurasian Economic Union. "This is an additional security guarantee," he says.

Gagik Minasyan says no customs checkpoint will be built between Armenia

and Karabakh, and there will be no changes in the relations between the two after Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union

The MP says the name of the structure corresponds to its essence, i.e. the Union will not solve political issues. His confidence further reinforced after Kazakh President's recent statement that his country could quit EEU membership should it threaten Kazakhstan's independence.

Gagik Minasyan tries to find something positive in every negative phenomenon. Thus, he sees the sanctions against Russia as another opportunity for our businessmen.

"This opens new perspectives, because the Russian market provides good opportunities for the export of our products.



There are reports about the rise of prices of the goods imported to Russia, and this is another incentive for us to enjoy favorable conditions for the export of goods to the Russian Federation by adopting a correct pricing policy."

Armenia placed 85th in Global Competitiveness Index 2014-2015

Armenia is ranked 85th in the Global Competitiveness Index 2014-2015 released by the World Economic Forum. Switzerland is in top of the chart, followed by Singapore, the USA, Finland and Germany. The top ten includes also Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the UK and Sweden.

Armenia's neighbor Georgia is placed 69th, Azerbaijan is 38th, Turkey is 45th, Russia - 53rd.

The Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015 assesses the competitiveness landscape of 144 economies, providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity. The Report series remains the most comprehensive assessment of national competitiveness worldwide.

The Global Competitiveness Report's competitiveness rank-

ing is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), which was introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2004.

Defining competitiveness as the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, GCI scores are calculated by drawing together country-level data covering 12 categories - the pillars of competitiveness - that collectively make up a comprehensive picture of a country's competitiveness.

The 12 pillars are: institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication, and innovation.

Vazgen Safaryan: Construction of Iran-Armenia railway should be on the agenda

"Armenia exported 63 tons of agricultural products to Russia in 2013; if we manage to double the number, it will be a serious success," Vazgen Safaryan, Chairman of the Union of Domestic Commodity Producers, told a press conference on September 2.

Speaking about the closure of Upper Lars checkpoint as a result of landslide, he said although the gate is now open, the problem has not been completely solved. He reminds that the issue of constructing a tunnel here has been raised several times throughout history. "The realization of the project was interrupted twice because of the two World Wars and the collapse of the Soviet Union," Safaryan said, adding that the issue should be put on

Armenian-Georgian agenda.

"Besides, we should think about a second route - the construction of the Iran-Armenia railway. Armenia should also speak to Georgia about the opening of the Abkhazian railway," he added.

According to Vazgen Safaryan, today there is an unprecedented opportunity for exporting Armenian products to the Russian market, but this requires a more flexible credit and tax policy.

"Armenia exported 63 tons of agricultural products to Russia in 2013; if we manage to double the number, it will be a serious success," he said.

At the same time, exports should not be boosted at the expense of interests of local consumers, Safaryan said.

Black Sea Silk Road Corridor Project web portal, app presented



development of 21st century social technologies to promote tourism in the local communities. The public presentation of the web portal and the app will be held in November 2014.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU), AMAP is the leading organization in the Black Sea Silk Road Corridor project, a two year initiative between five partners in Armenia, Georgia, Turkey and Greece.

The project fosters cross-border cooperation and economic development in more than 173 communities along the corridor.

In addition to physically marking the corridor with signs and panels, AMAP is creating a companion web portal and six smart-phone apps.

For the first time, visitors to this amazing region will have the IT tools to self-navigate, visit cultural and natural sites and enjoy the hospitality of local B&BS, guest houses, craft artisans and other essential services. Embedded within the apps are social networks and SnapShot photos, an instant picture messenger.

Critical to the Project is the connection that is being built across borders to connect tourists to local communities.

With multi-dimension all information about each site on the corridor combined with access to local services, financial resources are brought into local (often rural) communities.

Other sponsors include the EU-Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation, the Honorary Consul for Italy in Gyumri, the Armenian Travel Bureau and Arminco Communications.

On August 29, AMAP Human Development NGO organized a sneak preview of the Black Sea Silk Road Corridor (BSSRC) Project web portal and app at the Erebuni museum. Participants included U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern, Head of USAID/Armenia Karen Hilliard, and supporters and colleagues of the AMAP NGO.

The presentation highlighted an important milestone in AMAP's work on the Black Sea Silk Road Corridor and the

France donates seven rescue-fire vehicles to Armenia

French organization "Civil Defense without borders" has donated seven fire-rescue vehicles to the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations, Deputy Director of the Rescue Service, Major-General Nikolay Grigoryan told reporters on August 29.

Chairman of the NGO, Fire Service Colonel Bernard Zhanen, in turn, prized the capacities of the Armenian Ministry.

Bernard Zhanen first visited Armenia after the Spitak earthquake, as a volunteer with his friends - firefighter-rescuers. Since then he has returned to Armenia many times, each time with a new useful initiative. In September 2011, on the occasion of the Emergency Employee Day, for his great personal contribution to the system Bernard Zhanen was awarded by President Serzh Sargsyan with a Medal of Honor. He is also an adviser to the Minister of Emergency Situations of Armenia.

"He has donated tens of vehicles, as well as other equipment to Armenia within the framework of our cooperation; a number of training courses for specialists, Governors and Mayors have been organized," Nikolay Grigoryan said.

"The Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations is the best in the Commonwealth of Independent States. We now have a wonderful crisis management center, which not all countries can



afford," he added.

Armenia and France plan to establish voluntary rescue teams. Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Yeritsyan is the author of the initiative. The work will be voluntary, but the staff will enjoy certain privileges.



Want to stay in Georgia for over 90 days? Get a visa

The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published the list of countries with which it will keep visa-free regime, Armenia among them. The recently adopted law on the "Legal status of foreign citizens and persons with no citizenship" comes into force from September 1. Under the law, all foreign citizens, who arrive in Georgia for a long stay, have to have visas.

Although Georgia will keep visa-free regime with Armenia, some provisions of the new law will apply to Armenian citizens. The latter will be eligible to stay 90 days in Georgia within the period of 180 days. This mostly applies to those, who visit the neighboring country for vacation or as a guest. However, those, who visit Georgia for education, business or to join their families, have to apply to the Georgian Embassy in their country to get visa, and on that basis receive residence permit in Georgia, Georgy Tabatadze, Head of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, told Public Radio of Armenia.

The residence permits, in turn, will be either temporary (from 1 to 6 years) or permanent. Those who have had Georgian citizenship before will get permanent residence permits through a facilitated procedure. Thus, Georgia is going to implement visa regime with 24 countries from September 1, while visa free regime will still be in force for 94 countries, including NATO and EU member states and the neighboring countries, from where many tourists visit Georgia.

According to Georgy Tabatadze, the changes aim to regulate the migration processes that emerged as a result of extremely open visa policy. Besides, Georgia has launched visa talks with the European Union, which requires to bring the Georgian migration policy into compliance with European standards.

Pasadena to host discussion on Armenia's IT Industry and the Diaspora

Three entrepreneurs, Harmik Baghdasarian, Al Eisaian and Aram Ter-Martirosyan from Los Angeles who have established various successful Information Technology (IT) related businesses in Armenia will present their stories, successes, and difficulties. They will address how to be profit-driven, establish and maintain high standards, how to compete and operate in Armenia, and most importantly how to commit time and resources. This lecture hosted by the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA), will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16 reports Asbarez.

"This will be a great opportunity for people who are thinking to establish businesses in high tech in Armenia to hear how these three entrepreneurs have succeeded" stated AESA President Vasken Yardemian. "It will provide us with great opportunities to learn from their experiences and share their entrepreneurial insights on how to create something that people want."

Harmik Baghdasarian has a B.S. in Computer Science from London University, England. He has been involved in implementation of large scale ERP systems for various global organizations, such as Epson Inc, Sony Enterprises, and Able Freight in US. Harmik has been an active member of the community and has been actively involved in working with Armenia in pursue of creating IT related jobs. In October of 1997 started outsourcing software development projects to Armenia and has been continuing it since then. His current organization Ogma Inc., has been officially working in Yerevan Armenia as a software development company and has been able to complete a large number of successful projects in areas of Web and mobile development.

Al Eisaian is an entrepreneur, technology investor, and advisor. He has an MBA from Pepperdine University and a BSEE from Oklahoma State University. His most recent company, IconApps, Inc., where he served as founder and Chairman & CEO, was acquired by Science Inc. Al has served as the Global



Head of Product Strategy and Marketing for Opera Solutions, a global Big-Data analytics company from 2010-2011. In 2005 Al co-founded and served as Executive Chairman of Integrien Corporation in Armenia until its acquisition by VMware in 2010 for \$103 million. Al co-founded and served as CEO of CreationPoint Systems, a systems management software and services company from 2001-2005. Al served as the SVP and General Manager of LowerMyBills, Inc. acquired by Experian Corporation (for \$400 million) from 2000-2001. Al has invested and is an advisor in several technology start-up companies.

Aram Ter-Martirosyan holds a B.S. from UCLA in Computer Science and Engineering and M.S. in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. He started his professional career in 1993 at Lexi International, a telecommunications company, as a software engineer and very rapidly advanced to senior software engineer, project manager, and ultimately, software architect. In 1999, Aram joined Hi-Tech Gateway, Inc. as Cofounder and CIO, which is a software development company in Armenia involved in developing telecommunications related programs that have extensive experience in developing web-based and mobile applications. Since 2005, Aram Ter-Martirosyan cofounded ConnectTo Communications, Inc., which is providing a wide array of telecommunications services for consumers and businesses including telephone, Internet, wireless, security and IPTV services.

Yazidis say aid provided by governments fails to reach refugees



No one knows how many Yazidis were killed in Iraq massacres, but some estimates suggest the number reaches 20 thousand. Representatives of two NGOs, who had taken the money raised in Armenia to Yazidis who found refuge in Turkey, have just returned to Yerevan.

About \$11 thousand was collected for Yazidi refugees as a result of fund-raising in Armenia. More than 22 thousand Yazidis have found refuge in five Turkish cities at

the Iraqi border. The money raised in Armenia was enough to solve the urgent needs of 150 of them, Head of the Sinjar Union of Yazidis NGO Boris Murazi told reporters in Yerevan.

"Accommodation is the main problem the refugees face in Turkey. They live in parks that have been turned into refugee camps," he said, adding that the money collected in Armenia was used to by 25 metal constructions, where it will be possible to

live, even if the refugees have to spend the winter in Turkey.

Boris Murazi said the aid provided by governments fails to reach Iraqi Yazidis. "The German Government sent \$25 million, but the money went to the Kurdish Government," he said, adding that it's not clear whether \$100 thousand donated by the Armenian Government will reach the target or not.

Representatives of the Yazidi organizations cannot name the exact number of victims, but say the massacres constituted genocide.

Vice-President of the Yazidi National Committee NGO Sashik Sultanyan spoke about a new phenomenon widely spread among "Islamist radicals." They have established a new business. They agree to transfer a concrete Yazidi from Turkey to Iraq against \$700. He added that there are not only Arabs, but also Kurds, Azerbaijanis, Dagestani among the "Islamist radicals."

Although thousands of Yazidis have found refuge in different countries, they see their future only in their return, as otherwise the Yazidi people will lose their identity, the speakers said.

Turkish-Armenian relations will be normalized only after Karabakh settlement: Erdogan



Turkish-Armenian relations will not be normalized until the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared in Baku today. "Ankara has repeatedly stated this," he said, Trend agency reports.

Otherwise, the situation between Turkey and Armenia will continue as before," he added.

He noted that a number of issues were

discussed at the meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. "Turkish-Azerbaijani relations will further develop in a different way. At present, the problems in the region should be resolved jointly by the two countries," he stated.

Speaking ahead of his official visit to Azerbaijan, Erdogan said Turkey could contribute to resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, World Bulletin reported.

Peace and stability in the South Caucasus will be a cornerstone of Turkish foreign policy, he said on September 2.

Erdogan also praised the level of cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan, in particular the gas and oil pipelines crossing the countries that not only "contribute to cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan but also to regional prosperity and stability."

U-Turn Anniversary: One year on, 'pros and cons' of Armenia's Eurasian integration still debated

By Naira Hayrumyan

Exactly one year ago, on September 3, 2013, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan at a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Moscow stated that Armenia intends to join the Customs Union of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. It happened a few days after European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton stated about full harmonization of the text of the Association Agreement between Armenia and the 28-nation bloc.

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1 ROOM

- ♦1696. **Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- ♦1726. **Khorenatsi str.**, 4/4, 35sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 55.000 USD.
- ♦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

BBC: The last Armenians of Myanmar

One of the oldest churches in Myanmar, also known as Burma, is struggling to keep going - its congregation only occasionally reaches double figures. But the opening up of the country to outside investment and tourism is offering new hope.

"Reverend John Felix, priest at the Armenian Church in Yangon, also known as Rangoon, can't speak Armenian - but then neither can his congregation. Not that there is much of a congregation these days - just seven, myself included, on a recent Sunday morning," Andrew Whitehead writes in an article published by the BBC.

The 150-year-old church enjoys an imposing location, at a street corner in downtown Yangon. It's a beautiful building, a patch of calm in a bustling city. The Armenian Orthodox church of St John the Baptist - standing, suitably, on Merchant Street - is almost all that's left of what was one of the city's main trading communities.

"To judge from church records, there were once a few hundred Armenian families in Burma but the last 'full' Armenian died last year. Across the country, there are no more than 10 or 20 families who are part Armenian - and just a handful still come to the church," says Felix.

Rachel Minus, in her mid-30s, can sing in Armenian - and does with reverence - but can't speak the language. She attends on Sundays with her father, who also tolls the church bells.

"My grandfather was full Armenian and our family name is derived from the Armenian surname of Minossian. We're part Armenian and this church and its services mean a lot to us," she says. On that Sunday, just one other worshipper was of Armenian descent. Percy Everard has been coming to the church for decades. His wedding, the priest believes, was the last to be conducted at the church - but it's so distant no one is quite sure how long ago it took place.



In the early 17th Century, large numbers of Armenians fled the Ottoman Empire and settled in Isfahan in what's now Iran. From there, many traveled on in later years to form a commercial network, which stretched from Amsterdam to Manila.

Their influence in the British Raj reached its peak in the late 19th Century, when census records suggest that about 1,300 Armenians were living principally in Calcutta, Dhaka and Rangoon.

Their closeness to the Burmese royal court gave them a particularly privileged status in Rangoon's trading community. The land on which the church stands is said to have been presented to the Armenians by Burma's king.

The region's most prestigious hotels - including The Strand a short walk from the church in downtown Yangon and the even more famous Raffles in Singapore - were established by Armenians.

Archaeologist 'digs' using drone for fieldwork in Armenia



A Purdue University archaeologist is utilizing drone technology to capture details and data from Bronze Age field sites in Armenia, the University's official webpage reports.

"Drones are a new tool in archaeolo-

gists' toolkits," said Ian Lindsay, an associate professor of anthropology who has been excavating in the South Caucasus region for 15 years. "It's a good alternative to kites, balloons or sitting in the bucket of a crane with a camera trying to visually document these ancient sites. Drones offer a detailed aerial perspective that we've never had before, and by leveraging this technology archaeologists can be more efficient in the field as drones give us an immediate sense of spatial science scale useful for planning excavation."

Lindsay's 3:49 minute video of various field Armenian sites from this summer is available online. The drone, flying 300 meters from the ground, navigated the valleys and mountains of the Tsaghkahovit Plain and Mt. Aragats region to provide a

view that is better quality and less expensive than images captured by satellite or mapping imagery. Lindsay is co-director of Project ArAGATS, Archaeology and Geography of Ancient Transcaucasian Societies, that focuses on the exploration of southern Caucasia's rich past and the preservation of modern Armenia's diverse cultural heritage.

Funds from Purdue's College of Liberal Arts and Office of Executive Vice President for Research and Partnerships supported the new drone technology. Lindsay also is collaborating with Adam T. Smith, Cornell University professor and co-director of the Project ArAGATS, and the Aragats Foundation, which encourages and supports archaeological tourism, education and development in Armenia.

Sarkis Hatspanian: Like a mouse, Erdogan is playing with Serzh Sargsyan



The program of Turkey's 62nd government led by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu pays special attention to the Armenian issue. "Davutoglu attaches great importance to the Armenian issue, but as he said earlier 'Turkey's foreign policy will not change,'" Sarkis Hatspanian, an expert on regional issues, said on Monday in Noyan Tapan News Agency.

Sarkis Hatspanian says Turkey's 62nd government will work for nine months as the country is on the threshold of parliamentary elections and all forces need to demonstrate their abilities to the full.

"In the current government three persons are ill-disposed to Armenians. For example, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has had a major role in Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and has a pronounced pro-Azerbaijani orientation. Today he is the country's foreign minister and a flagman of Turkish diplomacy. Armenia should be well prepared for this," said Mr Hatspanian.

A group of Turkey's senior officials is expected to arrive in Armenia on the eve of the 100-year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and they are expected to visit the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex.

"The issue of the Genocide is actually a

problem for them but I think they will try to soft-soap Armenians," he said. "But neither their visit, nor their bowed heads can change anything as Genocide is the only crime that does not recognize time and demands a legal response but, as you can see, to this date our authorities have not made any concrete and practical steps to remedy the situation. They believe that they are doing us a favor by coming here, which again proves that our diplomacy is on a low level."

The expert does not rule out the possibility of opening the Armenian-Turkish border on the threshold of the Genocide anniversary. "While our authorities pretend to be innocent and are sitting idle, Turkey is taking definite steps and will likely open a section of border by then. Like a mouse, Erdogan is playing with Serzh Sargsyan."

U-Turn Anniversary: One year on, 'pros and cons' of Armenia's Eurasian integration still debated

From page 7

A year after that event many in Armenia still cannot say for sure whether it was the right decision or not. Immediately after the September 3, 2013 announcement opinions were voiced that President Putin had achieved Yerevan's decision through direct intimidation by threatening to destabilize the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. Now, after the bloody events in Ukraine, which lost Crimea to Russia and is now at war with Russia-backed separatists in the east of the country after renouncing Eurasian integration, one can state with certitude that if there had been any threats regarding Nagorno-Karabakh, then they were quite real. And those who support Eurasian integration reasonably argue that the September 3 decision saved Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, there is also another opinion in Armenia. For the country Eurasian integration is regarded by many as an obviously unfavorable economic and political path. According to the Association of Informed Citizens of Armenia, after the country's entry into the Customs Union duties on 60 percent of imported goods will increase considerably, which means that the prices of these goods will rise.

There are also great political costs - the relations between the West and Russia are getting tense against the backdrop of the events in Ukraine, the sanctions against Moscow are becoming tougher and the likelihood of possible military clashes is rising. NATO has declared its intention to expand its presence in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States, Russia, in turn, is changing its military doctrine.

Armenia is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which may well be involved in possible military operations. CSTO Secretary General Nikolai Bordyuzha did not rule out the involvement of CSTO peacekeepers in operations in Ukraine. This means that Armenia may unwillingly be drawn into war as an ally of Russia.

So far official Yerevan has managed to maintain certain neutrality. Moreover, President Sargsyan offers turning Armenia into a kind of platform for communication between the European and the Eurasian unions. Armenia maintains the GSP + free trade regime with the EU, at the same time it is going to sign an agreement with the Eurasian Union. And Yerevan offers itself as a transit point between the two markets.

However, neither Europe nor the

Eurasian Union have accepted the offer from Yerevan, perhaps because both sides feel rather confrontational and unwilling to cooperate. And if this confrontation reaches a critical point, Armenia may be against the entire Western world.

Moscow will not allow Yerevan to remain neutral for long. On September 1, Putin ordered the signing of the agreement on Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Union. Earlier, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that the issue of Armenia's accession to the bloc would be resolved at the summit of the Eurasian Union in Minsk on October 10.

Director of the Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute Alexander Iskandaryan believes, however, that Armenia is unlikely to sign the agreement on October 10. He explains it by the differences within the Eurasian Union and the deepening contradictions between the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan. Astana and Minsk have already twice torpedoed Armenia's Eurasian integration, advancing a condition regarding Nagorno-Karabakh. Now Armenia claims that the Karabakh issue has been resolved, but no one knows yet how it has become possible to settle the matter.

Didier Fohlen: It's time for Armenia to change the way it looks at mining

The Amulsar project is a gold mine which is going to operate at the border of Vayots Dzor and Syunik Marzes, approximately 12 km south of Jermuk. The process for extracting gold from the rocks is going to be heap leaching which has never been seen in Armenia. The advantage of the heap leach facility is that it is a fully enclosed process in terms of water and process effluent and it also doesn't generate any tailings. In the end of the mine life the heap leach will be fully reclaimed.

"We are also going to have an important programme of reforestation in order to have as less as possible visual impacts. In terms of investments, we are initially planning to invest of about \$ 320 million, plus \$ 60 million for all the vehicles and fleet. Totally, the initially planned investment will be around \$ 380 million," Didier Fohlen, Executive Vice President (EVP) at Lydian International Limited, said in an interview with Public Radio of Armenia.

"Throughout the 11 year of mine life we are planning to have operational expenses of about \$ 950 million. We estimate employment during the construction will peak at 1500 jobs, and during operation 780 permanent jobs. We will pay taxes which will be in the range of \$ tens of millions annually. We are going to have a significant impact on local economy employing a number of people in the surrounding villages," he added.

Despite this, NGOs in Armenia are clearly negative about the mining industry. "It's easy to understand why, given the legacy of the existing mines most of which are the heritage of the Soviet Union. In many countries, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, Chile, Russia, China, companies like Lydian operate mines in line with international best practice.

They operate the mines in a responsible way favoring full transparency of their operation, monitoring closely the environmental and social impact. They care for public health and safety of their workers.

The key question to NGOs would be "why not to doing it in Armenia?" We want to see change in Armenia by bringing new players who are committed to do things differently. We have seen recently a number of NGOs complaining against the company. If they don't want to engage directly with us, we have proposed them mediation. So far we haven't had a positive response. We are open, transparent and ready for constructive dialogue around facts and we believe that's the only way to move forward," the Vice President said.

Evaluating the Company's investment considering the fluctuations in the metal commodity markets, Mr. Fohlen said: "All mining executives wish to have higher metal prices. The gold price at this stage is on a good growing curve. We, of course, expect that it is going to be higher.

If you are committed to international best practice, if you want to be seen as a responsible company operating in a country like Armenia, you build environmental and social issues in the design of the project, from construction into operation and for final closure. These are the right activities that are going to allow you to protect the environment and local communities; and it is exactly what we are doing for Amulsar.

As an example, we are doing the rehabilitation of the exploration areas that we don't need anymore for the purpose of operation.



We are finalizing this month a very detailed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) project which will lead to a number of management plans to be implemented throughout the construction and the operation of the mine. Finally, we have developed with the support of international experts a very detailed closure plan to show our commitment to close the mine properly, including ongoing reclamation and final rehabilitation."

Lydian International is now waiting for permits to start production and mine operations and hopes to get it by the end of the year. "We can start the construction in the beginning of the next year, and the production will commence at the end of 2016 as we have planned in various presentations and discussions with the Government and our shareholders," Didier Fohlen said.

He said the communities will get jobs and additional revenues from the project, the Vice-President said. "But that's not the only key priority for us. Our priority is to develop the local economy.

At the same time, we will not start employing a significant number of people without providing them with training. We have an extremely ambitious plan which we are probably going to conduct in the coming months. We intend to have a training center around the mine which will be a place where people will learn. Since we came to Armenia, we have provided people with the opportunity to study geology, mining, environment and these people are from the adjacent villages.

Education and training for villagers and the development of the local economy together with mining will be a key priority. A mine basically employing around 780 people will probably generate an overall indirect employment of several thousand people. We also started carrying out a number of social and community development projects.

At least in two adjacent villages we have developed agricultural projects with local institutions, NGOs, and foundation. This project allowed bringing new skills, new technologies in the field of agriculture and promoting a culture of creating new business," he concluded.

Azerbaijan Calls California Resolution On Artsakh a Mere Piece of Paper



By Harut Sassounian

Publisher, The California Courier

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry harshly condemned the California Legislature last week after the State Senate adopted resolution AJR 32 that "encourages and supports the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation" and "urges the President and Congress of the United States to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic."

The resolution also acknowledged that Karabakh (Artsakh) "has historically been Armenian territory... and yet was illegally severed from Armenia by the Soviet Union in 1921 and placed under the newly created Soviet Azerbaijani administration."

Both Houses of the California Legislature overwhelmingly supported the Artsakh resolution - the State Senate by a vote of 24-0 on August 27, and the State Assembly with a vote of 72-1 on May 8. Thus, California joins Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island in passing such pro-Artsakh resolutions.

The actions of the California Legislature infuriated the Government of Azerbaijan and its diplomats in the U.S. Elman Abdullayev, spokesman of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry, dismissed the Artsakh resolution, calling it "nothing more than a piece of paper." The Consul General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles blasted the local Armenian community, the State of California and AJR 32. To justify his failure to block the resolution, he alleged that California Senators received "massive financial contributions for their election campaigns" from the "Armenian lobby." Forgetting that he represents one of the most autocratic regimes in the world, the Consul General of Azerbaijan had the audacity to lecture U.S. officials on the "serious flaw in America's political system that needs an urgent fixing."

Before making such baseless accusations, the Azeri Consul General should have searched the internet to see how much money, if any, the 24 Senators who voted for the Artsakh resolution had received from Armenian-Americans. Campaign contributions are a public record in the United States, unlike Azerbaijan where visiting politicians are wined and dined and sent home with stacks of cash, cans of caviar, and gold ingots!

The Consul General also credited the passage of AJR to the "inordinate amount of effort by the Armenian lobby in California, where around one million Armenians reside." The one million number is yet another exaggeration by the Azeri diplomat who went on to falsely claim that the Armenian "ethnic lobby" resorted to "threats, blackmail and other means" against California Senators.

The Azeri Consul General then bragged about his efforts against AJR 32, claiming that he and his Consulate undertook a number of "serious measures," including "letters of protest to all Senators [and] holding numerous meetings with them...."

Despite his frantic activities, not a single Senator voted against the Artsakh bill! Incredibly, the Consul claims he scored a major victory because the final vote was 24-0 in favor of Artsakh, and not 40-0, as some Senators were either absent or abstained!

Conveniently, the Consul General forgets to mention his biggest supporters in opposing the Artsakh bill: the powerful lobbying firms that Azerbaijan has hired in Washington and Los Angeles, at great expense. One of these firms, JCI Worldwide, led by Seth Jacobson, sent to all 40 California Senators a letter signed by Rabbi Dov Newman, Chabad of Beverlywood; Rabbi Mendy Cohen, Chabad of Sacramento; and Rabbi Yonah Bookstein, Pico Shul. The three Rabbis told the Senators that they "strongly oppose AJR 32.... Azerbaijan is an important ally to Israel and Jewish people. Jews live free and protected in Azerbaijan for thousands of years.... As Rabbis and leaders of Jewish communities across California, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Azerbaijan and demand that you vote No on AJR 32." These Rabbis clearly embarrassed themselves by sending such a ridiculous letter, since they failed to convince a single Senator to vote against the Artsakh resolution. Furthermore, their circulated letter was a big waste of Azerbaijan's petrodollars, as JCI's expensive lobbying proved to be worthless.

One wonders if President Aliyev is aware that Azerbaijan's Consulate in Los Angeles and Embassy in Washington are wasting millions of dollars on useless lobbying firms. Do the citizens of Azerbaijan, who mostly live in abject poverty, know that their leaders are wasting their country's resources on political activities overseas just to counter a "piece of paper"? Indeed, if the California Senate resolution was a meaningless "piece of paper," as the Azeri foreign ministry official claims, why did Azerbaijan spend so much time, effort and money trying to block its passage?



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Developments in the Middle East a new challenge to Armenia and Diaspora

The recent events in the Middle East hint that the essence of motives and the geopolitical goals have changed. The situation will inevitably affect the large Armenian communities formed in the Middle East after the Armenian genocide, but all this is not directed against Armenians, editor-in-chief of the Beirut based Aztag daily Shahan Kandaharian and editor of the Los-Angeles-based Asbarez Daily Editor Apo Boghigian told reporters in Noyan Tapan. The ongoing instability and new developments in Middle East countries with large Armenian communities are of strategic importance for Armenians both in Armenia and Diaspora, they said.

According to Shahan Kandaharian, the trend of events has considerably changed and has grown into struggle for resources.

"The Arab Spring has now changed its face, and the radical expressions of Islamism constitute the major threat today both for the region and the world," he said.

Kandaharian said the situation in Lebanon is relatively calm as compared to the neighboring countries. He believes Lebanon will not engage in this global war. He considers, however, that hard days are awaiting the Armenians in the Middle East. The question refers to the migration of Armenians, who are leaving mostly in two directions - Lebanon or Armenia. Whether they move permanently or temporarily is a different question, he added. Speaking about the American Armenian Diaspora, editor of Asbarez daily Apo Boghigian said, in part: "We should create a situation, where we can turn the loss into some gain. The US is an environment, where there is an issue of survival. The problems of assimilation and maintenance of the Armenian organizations can no longer remain unsolved. We need to search for new ways, new methods."

Thus, the new situation is a challenge to Armenia, and particularly the Ministry of Diaspora. The major problems are the preservation of the language and provision of authentic information to avoid unnecessary panic. As an unsuccessful example of media coverage, Apo Boghigian pointed to the Kessab events.

Ani ruins reveal hidden secrets from below

The underground secrets of the historic Ani Ruins, an ancient, 5,000-year-old Armenian city located on the Turkish-Armenian border in the eastern province of Kars, have been revealed, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

While speaking at the recent "International Ani-Kars Symposium," history researcher Sezai Yazici said secret water channels, undiscovered monk cells, meditation rooms, huge corridors, intricate tunnels, unbelievable traps and corners that make one lose their sense of direction were just some of the unknown underground structures located at the ancient site.

Yazici said a number of experts, academics and researchers attended the Kars Symposium, which was held at Kars' Kafkas University from Aug. 14 to 16. At the symposium, Yazici's presentation titled, "Underground Secrets of Ani," drew a lot of attention since no previous publications on the underground structures had been mentioned before.

"In 2011 while working on a United Nations project in order to promote Kars and to reveal its historical and cultural heritage, I came across some pretty interesting information. One of the most important names of the first half of the 20th century, George Ivanovic Gurdjieff, who spent most of his childhood and youth in Kars, had chosen [to stay in] an isolated place in Ani along with his friend Pogosyan where they worked for some time together in the 1880s. One day, while digging at one of the underground tunnels in Ani, Gurdjieff and his friend saw that the soil became different. They continued digging and discovered a narrow tunnel. But the end of the tunnel was closed off with stones. They cleaned the stones and found a room. They saw decayed furniture, broken pots and pans in the room. They also found a scrap of parchment in a niche. Although Gurdjieff spoke Armenian very well, he failed to read Armenian writing in the parchment. Apparently, it was very old Armenian. After a while, they learned that the parchments were letters written by a monk to another monk," Yazici said, speaking about how he became



interested in the underground structures.

"Finally, [Gurdjieff and his friend] succeeded in understanding the letters. Gurdjieff discovered that there was a famous Mesopotamian esoteric school in the place where they found the letters. The famous school was active between the sixth and seventh centuries A.D. and there was a monastery there," he added.

Yazici said Gurdjieff was the first person to mention the monastery that was located under the Ani Ruins.

"Gurdjieff's discovery, nearly 135 years ago, could not have been confirmed until the excavation works of 1915. Years later, an Italian excavation team confirmed that it was a monastery. Before Gurdjieff, many travelers also observed that a significant population had lived in caves or rock houses in Ani," he said.

"The tunnels are above 500 meters in Ani. Most of underground structures and caves were used as houses. The metrical sizes of most of the underground structures have been measured and maps have been made for most of them," the researcher said, confirming that there were currently 823 underground structures and caves in Ani today.

Yazici said among the most important underground structures were the Giden Gelmez Tunnel, Yeralti Anisi (Underground Ani) and Gizli Kapilar (Secret Doors). "On the other hand, Ani also has four complicated structures. It is very difficult to reach some of them. It is time to mention these underground structures in the promotion of Ani. The Culture and Tourism Ministry should put signs showing the places of underground structures and build walking paths. Underground structures draw great interest in the world," Yazici said.

Five Years after "Football Diplomacy": Armenia's FM attends inauguration, invites Erdogan to centennial



By Gayane Mkrtchyan

Five years after the failure of "football diplomacy" a new stage of Armenian-Turkish relationship is anticipated toward the centennial of the Armenian Genocide; it was launched by President Serzh Sargsyan who invited the newly-elected Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan to attend the ceremony of the Genocide centennial.

The invitation was handed to the Turkish president by Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandyan on August 28, at the swearing-in ceremony of the Turkish newly-elected president. This act was criticized by Armenian opposition who said that the invitation was meant to melt the diplomatic ice in Armenian-Turkish relationship.

"The fact that Armenia sends a Foreign Affairs Minister is clearly conditioned by Armenia's desire to remove some diplomatic processes. And the only diplomatic processes related to Turkey are the same old Zurich Armenian-Turkish protocols which were mentioned variously by us. This is one of the biggest Armenian failures," ANC vice-President Levon Zurabyan told Azatutyun radio station.

The so-called football diplomacy started in 2008 when the-then Turkish President Abdullah Gul came to Yerevan and after a meeting with President

Sargsyan the two country leaders presided at a Armenia and Turkey National Football teams' match. After a year, on October 14 of 2009, Sargsyan left for Bursa, Turkey to witness the national football teams' match. Four days earlier in Zurich an Armenian-Turkish protocol was signed which is refused to be validated by the Turkish side until today.

Turkologist Hakob Chakryan considers the Armenian FA Minister's move as proper saying that it was the first time Turkey invited Armenia to an inauguration, and Armenia shouldn't have refused.

"This is just a ceremonial invitation, and our president will participate in that ceremony together with leaders of many other countries, or together with FA ministers. In any case, it is no harm for Armenia to participate, especially when there is no mandatory element in the invitation. On the other hand, if they did not go, Turkey would have used it in the International arena to show that Armenia leads rivalry policy against turkey," the Turkologist said.

Nevertheless, with no diplomatic relation the two country presidents regularly express hints to each other at public meetings.

On July 24 in Tsaghkadzor to a question of a young participant of the fifth all-Armenian Olympiad of Language, Literature and Armenian Studies whether

Western Armenia, together with Ararat will be returned to us, President Sargsyan answered. "It all depends on you and your generation. I think my generation accomplished our responsibility; in the beginnings of the 90s we could protect one of our motherland's parts - Karabakh - from the enemy."

President Erdogan evaluated these words as provocation and an attempt to spread hatred, and it drives Armenian youth to darkness.

"There can be no such diplomacy. Sargsyan made a serious error... He must apologize," said the Turkish president.

Later, on August 6 during his presidential campaign the-then Turkish Prime-Minister and presidential candidate Recep Erdogan, speaking of his own identity, made a scandalous announcement at a TV show 'The Candidates Speak' on NTV channel.

"The called me a Georgian. I apologize for this, but they called me even a worse name - an Armenian. But I'm a Turkish, both on paternal and maternal sides," Erdogan said.

At an interview with Armenian ArmNews TV channel President Sargsyan responded to Erdogan's offence. "I think there is nothing surprising anymore. And I truly think that it would have been equally offensive for Armenians to find out that Erdogan is Armenian. Thus, nothing surprising here, either. It is a different thing that people of such position must be more reserved. And they are not. We are well-aware of the Turkish position.

We were assured of it variously, as well as at the negotiations of the protocols. Thus, we were very careful so that in the protocols there were no points to restrict us in Karabakh negotiations. Thus everything is simple and clear here."

Reflecting on Erdogan's attitude toward Armenians, turkologist Artak Shakaryan said. "It seems like Erdogan realized his mistake, he has already tried to correct it. During his last meeting he said that no matter what nationalities the minorities are, they all are equal citizens of Turkey and no one will be humiliated because of the language they speak.

Turkish director's film on Armenian Genocide premieres at Venice Film Festival



German-born Turkish director Fatih Akin's film on the Armenian Genocide - *The Cut* - premiered at Venice Film Festival Sunday, Reuter's reports.

Akin acknowledged at a news conference that he'd received hate mail about the film and even a death threat on Twitter, but said "please don't make too much out of that".

"The film that Fatih made is the film that the Armenians have been waiting for. Everybody always says, 'When are we making a film, a film about the Armenian genocide?'," Simon Abkarian, one of the actors in the film, said at a press conference.

"It took time. The first generation

had to survive, the second generation had to live and the third generation had to react and claim what we had to claim, which is the recognition of the genocide, most of it. And I think that one film is never enough to tell such a story, we have to make more."

"*The Cut*" is the last in what the director calls his "Love, Death and the Devil" trilogy and focuses on the plight of Armenians who are uprooted from their villages and sent on death marches into the desert, conscripted into forced labor gangs or killed outright.

The main figure is Nazaret Manoogian, played by Tahar Rahim, an Armenian blacksmith who is separated

from his wife and young twin daughters in the middle of the night by Turkish soldiers, who take him to a work camp, after which his town is cleared of Armenians.

He survives the forced labor in the desert and avoids having his throat slit when his would-be executioner takes pity and only pretends to kill him.

After Turkey's defeat in the war, he begins a quest that takes him to Cuba and America in search of his missing daughters who have fled there, after their mother and the rest of their family were killed.

Nazaret ends up in North Dakota working on a railroad construction crew and is brutally beaten with a shovel when he intervenes to stop one of the workers raping a native American woman. Her plight recalls the rape of an Armenian woman by Turks that Nazaret saw in Turkey but could do nothing to stop.

"I had to create an empathy, an empathy for the hero, an empathy for the story," Akin said.

"One trick I used was I took the genocide on the native Americans and used it just as a snap of an idea, you know, so that even people who deny the fact of the genocide to the Armenians can identify themselves with the hero in that moment, to reflect about it later."



International conference on Armenian Genocide centennial to be held in NY



An international conference marking the Armenian Genocide's centennial will take place on March 13-15, 2015 at New York's Marriott Marquis Hotel, the Armenian Weekly reports.

The three-day conference will feature a prominent lineup of historians, policy-

makers, authors, and artists from around the globe.

The program will consist of concurrent morning and afternoon panels and discussions focusing on justice and reparations for cases of genocide, the responsibility to protect (R2P), genocide

research, activism for justice and accountability, building solidarity, and artistic responses to genocide and mass violence.

The conference, entitled "Responsibility 2015," is being organized by the ARF Eastern US centennial committee, under the auspices of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of America, Eastern Region.

Evening sessions bringing together policymakers, political leaders, artists and celebrities known for their activism and humanitarian work will highlight the theme of responsibility to confront past injustices and struggle towards preventing new ones.

Photography and art exhibits with the theme of survival will be held at the same venue for the duration of the conference.

The organizing committee consists of the following scholars and activists: Khatchig Mouradian and Hayg Oshagan, co-chairs; George Aghjayan, Kim Hekimian, Antranig Kasbarian, and Henry Theriault.

Georgian director shooting a film about relations between peoples in the Caucasus



After a break of 20 years, famous Georgian director Eldar Shengelaia plans to shoot a film about the relations between the peoples of the Caucasus. "The film titled "The Caucasus Trio" is about Armenians, Georgian and Azerbaijanis.

"The film urges peace between peoples in the region," Eldar Shengelaia said in an interview with Public Radio of Armenia.

"Unfortunately the works are now stalled, because [producer] Rustam Ibrahimbekov is ill. We hope he will get well soon and join the team," he said.

Azerbaijani scriptwriter Rustam Ibrahimbekov is involved in the film as a producer from the Russian side, but is not the author of the script.

"The film is more about the relations between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, but it's not political, it's a human story," the filmmaker said.

What's interesting is that no Armenian and Azerbaijan actors are involved in the film. "This was my decision," Shengelaia said.

"The filming is nearly completed. Some minor details remain to be worked on before the film is presented to public," he added.

Eldar Shengelaia is considered one of the legendary Georgian directors. His films are included in the "golden fund" of Soviet cinematography. Two years ago he was a guest of honor at Golden Apricot International Film Festival, where he received "Parajanov's Thaler" Award. Shengelaia considers Sergey Parajanov his teacher and friend, and has played a role in Parajanov's return to cinematography.

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Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

Listen to the important people in your life who comment upon what you are doing. You have significant power now and could readily run over those you care about like a steam roller. Allow the "other" equal space or there will be pay back time later when the power is on the other side.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Venus, your ruling planet, moves into the sector of life related to children, recreation, and romance. The goddess of love is happy in this territory and often brings new energy and light wherever she goes. Your opportunities to share your love, personal or humanistic, will be rewarding.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

It is of paramount importance that you control your mouth this week. Although you have an opinion about whatever is happening, let it go and say nothing unless asked for it. Being "right" is not as important as maintaining human relations.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Because you are moon-ruled, your moods are prone to ebb and flow with the tides. This is hard for children and adolescents, but adult Cancerians eventually learn to ride the emotional flow up and down more easily. The Full Moon on the 8th brings with it a great increase in communications.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You want to make a grand gesture, but the cost may be too great. It is best to proceed with general routine. Maybe you could offer a service instead of giving an expensive gift. You have a creative talent. There is a workaround to whatever may be holding you back.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

There may be a crisis with your children or a lover this week. There are elements of obsessive thinking and criticism involved. Be intentional about keeping an open mind and don't insist on a black and white answer. Ultimately this situation is about necessary change and growth through metamorphosis. Pretty words, but not a lot of fun.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

You may hear unfortunate news this week about a family member or someone from your past. It may bring up a resentment you put away a long time ago. This kind of feeling has energy and needs to be expressed. Maybe you should talk to someone you trust or write in your journal. See a therapist if necessary.

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

Think carefully about what is truly important to you now, at this time in your life. Don't allow old habits or rules from the past to make your decision for you. If you do let that happen, you will truly resent the outcome. Rise above your circumstances to a level that can see beyond your ego and the situation becomes more workable.

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

Your exuberant heart wants to reach out in a wide circle, but a controlling power in your life is preventing you from taking action. You may feel you do not have the internal or external resources required to give what you desire. Search your religion or philosophy to find assistance.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

The pressure of pending change is making itself known in your work arena. The fulcrum is a situation that may no longer be tolerable. It is true that change is absolutely necessary, but perhaps a shift to a totally fresh solution would take the emotional sting from the situation.

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

Listen closely to your inner self. If you have tolerated a rule well beyond its time, you may rebel and demand to do something different now. This is so even if you are the one who made the rule. Surprise, changeability, and general rebellion are the qualities prominent during this period.

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

The Full Moon is in your sign on Sep. the 8th. In the three days before it is exact, you may be feeling moody. If you are a woman you may also be gaining temporary weight. You and everyone around you may be excitable now. Ground yourself with exercise or some kind of project that keeps you in touch with the earth.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Raphael Patkanyan (1830-1892)

IF

IF my white hair could once again be black,
And my old strength return to me at need,
And if I could become a valiant youth,
With sword in hand, upon a fiery steed;

I to the field of Avarair would go,
Field where Armenian blood rained down like dew.

O my loved nation, Thorkom's ancient race !
I would give back your long-lost crown to you.

To the Armenian maidens I would say:
" Sell now your costly garments beautiful;
Put by adornment, luxury, and pearls;
Our swords are rusty, and their blades are dull.

" Give us your muslin robes, Armenian maids,
That we our bleeding wounds may stanch and stay;
Weave bandages for us of your thick hair;
' T is thus you need to show? your love to-day."

Were I a rich man, in whose coffers deep
The gold and silver to great heaps had grown,
I would not be, as many are, alas !
A patriot in vain words, and words alone.

Not bright champagne, nor Russia's crystal cross,
But store of balls and powder I would buy;
Against Armenia's foemen I would go
With a great host, freely and fearlessly.

Or if I were a nation's potent king,
I to my army would give strong command
To march with fleet steps toward Armenia,
To help the poor oppressed Armenian land.

But if for one brief day, one little hour,
One moment's space, I were the Lord of all,
What a sharp spear at our blood-thirsty foes
I with strong arm would hurl, and make them fall!

O guileful Russian ! Base and vicious Turk !
O vengeful Persian! O fanatic Greek,
Armenia's age-long rival! On your sons
My two-edged sword should righteous vengeance wreak!

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