

Armenia, Vietnam to deepen cooperation in a number of areas



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who is paying an official visit to Vietnam, met with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyễn Xuân Phúc on July 5.

The Prime Minister of Vietnam personally welcomed Nikol Pashinyan’s delegation on behalf of the government of his country and himself, noting:

“I am confident that our meeting will promote the development, expansion and strengthening of cooperation in all spheres. Mr. Prime Minister, it is emblematic that you are visiting Vietnam on the 60th anniversary of the landmark visit paid to Armenia by founder of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Hồ Chí Minh. We are glad that Armenia has overcome difficulties and is taking steps towards economic development, which is sure to enhance Armenia’s standing in the international arena,” he said.

Nguyễn Xuân Phúc expressed conviction that the Armenian Premier’s visit will boost the ongoing bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation. The Vietnamese Prime Minister noted that numerous Vietnamese citizens have been educated in Armenia in the Soviet era and have contributed to the country’s progress with their knowledge.

Thankful for the warm welcome, Nikol Pashinyan noted that his visit aims to promote the Armeni-

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Nikol Pashinyan congratulates Donald Trump on U.S. Independence Day

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has sent a congratulatory message to U.S. President Donald Trump on Independence Day of the United States of America. The message reads:

“Honorable Mr. President,

I would like to cordially congratulate you and the fellow American people on the Independence Day.

The declaration of the Independence of the United States made a great impact on the course of the world history, becoming a source of inspiration for many nations pursuing freedom and democracy.

We are proud that the Armenian-American community has made its unique contribution to the development and prosperity of the United States, becoming an essential link connecting our two nations.

Over the past year, Armenia has undergone an unprecedented transformation. Democracy was reinstated in our country. The limitations on the freedom of speech were revoked. The new government, formed through free, fair and transparent elections, has been taking bold steps towards enacting the rule of law and strengthening the achievements of democracy.

Today the reforms of the judiciary system and the fight against corruption are a high



priority. We highly appreciate the American financial and technical support provided to Armenia since our independence.

It has always been essential for the development of our country. The U.S. assistance nowadays will also allow implementing the reforms more smoothly and promptly and making democracy in Armenia irreversible.

I would like to acknowledge the inaugural session of the Armenia-US Strategic Dialogue which recently convened in Yerevan. It demonstrated the progress in relations between our countries based on common values. Armenia is interested in expanding

these relations and enhancing bilateral cooperation in diverse areas.

I highly appreciate the role of the United States in the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. I am hopeful that through joint efforts we will succeed in achieving a peaceful settlement to foster regional stability and security.

I avail myself of this opportunity to once again congratulate you and the American people on the Independence Day, wishing peace, progress and prosperity.”

Unconditional enforcement of the Constitution a sacred duty, Armenia's PM says



The unconditional enforcement of the Constitution is a sacred duty, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Constitution Day

address.

“The events that took place last year in our country, which fully met the letter and spirit

of the Constitution, once again demonstrated that our steps are aimed at ensuring and strengthening the rule of law in Armenia,” the Prime Minister said.

“The unconditional enforcement of the Constitution is our sacred duty, and we will be consistent in reforming the judiciary and building a truly independent judicial system. We feel the full support of our society in this matter, which gives an additional impetus to our actions,” he added.

PM Pashinyan added that “with persistent steps, we will rule out any encroachment on the constitutional order and will ensure that the citizens of Armenia enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.”

Armenian PM in Singapore on official visit



Accompanied by his spouse Anna Hakobyan, Nikol Pashinyan on July 7 arrived in Singapore on an official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong.

Nikol Pashinyan joined Senior Minister of Industry and Trade of Singapore Co Poh Koon, as well as the representatives of the Armenian communities of Singapore and neighboring countries and regions - Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Australia, to attend the unveiling of a sculpture of Vanda Miss Joaquim flowers at the First Botanic Garden on the newly opened Armenian Street adjacent to St. Gregory the Illuminator Church. The sculpture was contributed by the Armenian community on the initiative of benefactor Khajag Margaryan.

Referred to as Vanda Miss Joachim, the orchid, which is also known as Singaporean or Aloha Princess Orchid, is a hybrid species that has become the national flower of Singapore - a state symbol. The well-known type of orchid was named after Singapore-based Armenian florist Agnes Joachim (Ashkhen Hovakimyan) who discovered the flower in Yeghegnut.

The Prime Minister signed the Book of Honorable Guests. Later on, he met with the representatives of the Armenian communities from Singapore and the neighboring countries. In commemoration of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the Premier laid a wreath at the Armenian cross-stone at the Memory Garden. There are many Armenian gravestones in the Garden.

Greeting those present, Nikol Pashinyan stated: "Today, through the efforts of our compatriots, we eternized our fellow countrywoman's contribution to Singapore. You may know that Singapore's national sym-

bol, the orchid named after our compatriot, was created by Ashkhen Hovakimyan, known as Agnes Joachim in Singapore. This is a symbolic event, which demonstrates our nation's creativity."

According to Nikol Pashinyan, in many parts of the world we will meet situations where Armenians are behind the symbolic values created in their countries.

"I am convinced that this is a full description of our people's essence. I think the peculiarity of the modern time is that the creative genius of the Armenians must ultimately triumph in Armenia as well. The way we have to go should help us join those countries to which our compatriots have made landmark contributions. Singapore is one of the miracles of the 20th century, analysts and economists have written volumes of stories to understand how it happened and eventually created a country every corner of which has a meaning that is a unique proof of development and human creative genius," Nikol Pashinyan said, noting that his answer is one: the ability to organize and encourage human life.

"I consider it to be the main symbol of today. Today, in fact, we have put a record of the Armenian nation's talent and genius. I hope the numerous examples of this kind should remind us everywhere that we are talented and creative people that have contributed to the development and welfare of many nations. We can do the same in the Republic of Armenia and I believe that today's event is emblematic in this respect," the Head of Government said.

The Prime Minister noticed that there are dozens of Armenians who have left an indelible mark in this country.

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an-Vietnamese political, economic and humanitarian ties.

"We will discuss a wide range of issues and I am confident that our decisions will contribute to the development of our states. The distance between our countries cannot be an obstacle to the development of cooperation," Nikol Pashinyan said. According to the head of the Armenian government, the two countries are well-poised to expand relations and the governments should take specific steps to tap the existing potential.

The parties discussed issues related to the promotion of trade and economic ties, cooperation in information technologies, including engineering laboratories, tourism, healthcare, education, science, and environmental protection. Touching upon the expansion of trade and economic ties, the interlocutors prioritized the active work of the intergovernmental commission.

An agreement was reached to hold a business forum on the sidelines of the upcoming session of the intergovernmental commission, due this fall in Yerevan. Both sides expressed confidence that it would impart fresh impetus to the development of joint investment programs and economic cooperation between the two countries. Reference was made to the possibility of importing Armenian brandy and wine into the Vietnamese market.

Nikol Pashinyan and Nguyễn Xuân Phúc agreed to start discussions over the signing of an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. The parties expressed conviction that the creation of a free trade zone between the Eurasian Economic Union and Vietnam will catalyze the development of economic cooperation.

The two prime ministers stressed the need for expanding cooperation in tourism and highlighted the steps taken to facilitate the visa regime. They highlighted the development of the applicable legal framework and the furtherance of direct contacts between the regions and the trade chambers of the two countries.

Reference was made to the ongoing cooperation within the framework of international organizations, including the UN and the International Organization for Francophonie, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Armenia, Cyprus mull creating trilateral parliamentary platform with Greece



Armenia and Cyprus are willing to form a parliamentary platform for trilateral cooperation with Greece. The issue was discussed during Armenian Parliament Speaker Ararat Mirzoyan's meeting with Demetris Syllouris, President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus.

Demetris Syllouris noted that he would actively reflect on the formation of the trilateral inter-parliamentary platform.

During the meeting, Ararat Mirzoyan underlined the importance of mutual understanding and atmosphere of trust established between the Armenian and Cypriot peoples, the centuries-old brotherly ties, historical, cultural commonalities and spiritual values.

The House of Representatives of Cyprus was the first in Europe

in 1975, and the second in the world to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 1975. Furthermore, in 2015 it unanimously adopted a resolution criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide, and established April 24 as a Memorial Day.

With the same conviction on 24 March 2015 the Armenian National Assembly unanimously adopted a statement condemning the genocide against the Pontic Greeks and Assyrians by the Ottoman Empire.

On behalf of the Armenian National Assembly Ararat Mirzoyan expressed his gratitude to the members of the House of Representatives of Cyprus for the ratification of the RA-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Agreement on June 28 of this year.

With regards to Nagorno Karabakh problem, Ararat Mirzoyan noted that the status and security of Artsakh are top priorities, and the problem cannot be solved without decisive word of the latter. He noted that the OSCE Minsk Group has been and will remain the only format for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Regarding the Cyprus problem, Mirzoyan reaffirmed the support of the Armenian side to Cyprus. The parties condemned the encroachments of Turkey in the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Cyprus, which hit regional security and stability.

The sides talked about efforts towards tourism development between the two countries, as well as the cooperation between the universities.

Putin, Pashinyan discuss Eurasian Union

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan discussed Armenia's current presidency of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) during a phone conversation on July 5.

The Kremlin and Pashinyan's press office said they also spoke about Russian-Armenian cooperation within the framework of another Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states: the Collective Security Organization (CSTO).

Statements released by them indicated that Putin and Pashinyan focused on an EEU summit in Yerevan scheduled for October 1 as well as the possibility of expanding the trade bloc's "external relations."

Earlier this week, Pashinyan had similar phone calls with the presidents of the three other EEU member states: Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. His office said they specifically discussed prospects for the signing of a free-trade deal between the EEU and Singapore.

"All of the phone calls related to current and long-term issues on the EEU agenda," Pashinyan said in a Facebook post that an-



nounced his conversation with Putin.

Pashinyan is due to visit Singapore later this week. The Armenian leader spoke with Putin from Vietnam where he arrived on Thursday on the first leg of his tour of Southeast Asia.

Pashinyan praised the EEU when he spoke at the bloc's last summit held in Kazakhstan in late May. Speaking about the priorities of the rotating Armenian presidency of the EEU, he singled out planned trade deals with other countries, including India, Egypt and Israel.

Constitutional Court Chairman Rules Out Resignation

(Yerevan – RFE/RL) - The chairman of Armenia's Constitutional Court, Hrayr Tovmasyan, said on July 4 that he will not resign despite having his legitimacy challenged by the court's newest judge and the ruling My Step alliance.

The judge, Vahe Grigoryan, claims that only he and another judge of the 9-member court, Arman Dilanyan, can make valid decisions because they were appointed after constitutional amendments which took effect last year. Citing the amended constitution, Grigoryan says the Constitutional Court now consists only of "judges" and does not comprise Tovmasyan and six other "members" appointed before April 2018.

In a joint statement issued last week, the seven members as well as Dilanyan dismissed Grigoryan's "peculiar interpretations" of the constitution and said they "cannot have any legal consequences."

Tovmasyan referred to that statement when he was asked by journalists to comment on the dispute. "There is no situation, no problem that needs to be resolved," he said. "I don't see a problem. If I don't see a problem I can't speak of solutions."

Grigoryan elaborated on his claims in a lengthy letter to Armenia's government, parliament and top judicial officials pub-



cized on June 28. He urged them to help resolve the "crisis" and proposed three different solutions, including the election of seven new Constitutional Court judges by the National Assembly. None of those state institutions has officially replied to Grigoryan's letter so far.

Echoing statements by other political allies of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, a senior My Step lawmaker, Vahagn Hovakimyan, effectively sided with Grigoryan on Thursday. He said that Tovmasyan and the six other court members are now in a legally "vulnerable" position.

"From the standpoint of the public and many lawyers, they can no longer make decisions on constitutional justice in the name of the Republic of Armenia," Hovakimyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

But Gevorg Petrosyan, a senior lawmaker representing the main opposition Prosper-

ous Armenia Party (BHK), continued to strongly disagree with such statements. "That letter [by Grigoryan] must be folded as a relic and put aside," he said. "There is no legal dispute here. There is a political one."

Petrosian has repeatedly argued that an article of the amended constitution makes it clear that the Constitutional Court members appointed before 2018 can serve as judges until they turn 65.

Grigoryan's claims were also dismissed as "nonsensical" by Davit Harutiunyan, a former justice minister affiliated with the former ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

"Even if I say that earth is flat that won't bring about a crisis," said Harutiunyan. "What would I do if someone appealed to me with a proposal which I find nonsensical? Nothing."

Tovmasyan, who will turn 49 next week, was a senior lawmaker representing the former ruling party until Armenia's former parliament controlled by the HHK appointed him as Constitutional Court chairman in March 2018. He is also one of the main authors of sweeping constitutional changes which former President Serzh Sarkisian controversially enacted in 2015.

Armenia, Singapore discuss cooperation opportunities in technological sector

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's official visit to Singapore continues. On July 8 PM Pashinyan met with the representatives of Temasek Holdings foundation led by co-chair of the investment group Nagi Hamiyeh, the PM's Office told Armenpress.

During the meeting Nikol Pashinyan stated that the Armenian government is interested in discussing the cooperation opportunities with the Temasek Holdings, given the latter's productive activity in a number of sectors of the economy, including high technologies. Pashinyan said the technological sector is one of priorities of the Armenian government as Armenia plans to build a technological economy the locomotive of which will be the IT field. He said since the Soviet times Armenia had a developed engineering system, currently engineering companies successfully operate in the country. The PM informed that in



the past 7 years the IT field in Armenia has grown 5 times. Pashinyan introduced the government's actions aimed at fighting monopolies, corruption, adding that institutional reforms are being carried out in a number of directions. "We invite you to get acquainted with Armenia's technological opportunities and activities of companies", the PM said.

Nagi Hamiyeh stated that there is a small, but organized Diaspora in Singapore the

representatives of which successfully operate in different areas, including technological. The company representative added that Temasek Holdings is ready to discuss the cooperation and investment opportunities with the Armenian government, including in the field of engineering education. The co-chair of the investment group introduced the foundation's activities in Singapore, China, US and India.

Thereafter, the sides discussed the prospects of creating a joint venture foundation, implementing startup programs, exchange of experience and technical cooperation.

The company representatives were invited to attend the 2019 World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) to take place in Yerevan in autumn. They accepted the invitation with pleasure. The sides agreed to continue the discussions in Yerevan.

Armenian PM, Vietnamese businessmen discuss opportunities for implementing investment projects in Armenia

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with the leadership of Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, including about two dozen major businessmen from Vietnam.

President of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Vu Tien Loc said he was aware of the results of effective negotiations held between Nikol Pashinyan and his country's Prime Minister. He noted that the representatives of industry, agriculture, technology and trade in attendance of the meeting were interested in establishing and deepening ties with Armenian partners.

Pashinyan briefed the host side on the steps taken by his government to improve the business environment in Armenia, stressing that there are no man-made obstacles for investing in Armenia today.

"The Government's objective is to transform Armenia into a technological country. The Armenian IT sector has grown fivefold over the past few years.



The IT sector keeps winding up in Armenia, and I am glad that our IT specialists have already agreed to implement joint pilot projects," Nikol Pashinyan said. The Prime Minister mentioned agriculture, tourism, education and textile industry as prospective areas for cooperation.

The head of the Armenian



government noted that our country enjoys free trade regimes with Georgia and the Eurasian Economic Union. Armenia will soon have a similar regime with Iran. The Republic of Armenia has signed GSP and GSP+ trade arrangements with EU countries, the United States and Switzerland.

"I feel that our country can be of great interest to the Vietnamese business circles not only in the aforementioned areas, but also in terms of importing Armenian beverages - brandy and wine, and processed agricul-

tural products. I am confident that they can be competitive on your domestic market," Nikol Pashinyan said.

The leaders of major companies, such as Sovico, Vingroup, Contrexim, Huang Som, Tiscovina, Hapro, Kangaroo, Voci, Constrexim Hod and others, came up with concrete proposals to implement investment projects in Armenia.

Prime Minister Pashinyan told Armenian Minister of Economy Tigran Khachatryan to follow up the discussion on the proposals. The Premier said he looked forward to seeing Vietnamese businessmen at the Armenian-Vietnamese business forum due this fall in Yerevan, which is a good opportunity to establish new business contacts.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan gave an interview to Vietnam's leading Nhan Dan TV, during which he dwelt on the Armenian-Vietnamese relations and touched upon the results of the talks held in Hanoi.

Armenian Official unsure about Russian gas price in 2020



The head of an Armenian regulatory body said on July 4 that it is not yet clear whether the price of Russian natural gas imported by Armenia will change next year.

Russia's Gazprom monopoly raised the wholesale price from \$150 to \$165 per thousand cubic meters in January. But under an agreement reached by it with the Armenian government, the cost of its gas for Armenian households and corporate consumers will remain the same for now.

Garegin Baghramyan, the chairman of the Public Services Regu-

latory Commission (PSRC), expressed confidence that Armenia's Gazprom-owned gas distribution network will not ask the PSRC to raise the retail prices as well this year.

But Baghramyan could not say whether the Russian gas tariffs for Armenia will rise, fall or remain unchanged in 2020. He said the government is continuing to negotiate with the Russian side on the issue.

"I can't say at this point what will happen. Like I have said before, each party negotiates to try achieve a more economically beneficial result," he told reporters, adding that Yerevan hopes to convince the Russians to cut the gas price.

Reports in the Armenian and Russian media have said that Moscow is on the contrary keen to raise the current tariff set below international market-based levels. Baghramyan dismissed these reports as mere "presumptions."

The gas issue is expected to be on the agenda of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Yerevan slated for October. Putin most recently discussed it with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan at a meeting held in Saint Petersburg on June 6. Pashinyan said after those talks that a low gas price is essential for continued economic growth in Armenia.

California to provide \$5 million for Armenian American Museum



Asbarez – California Governor Gavin Newsom signed the 2019 – 2020 state budget with \$5 million included for the Armenian American Museum. The 2019 – 2020 budget provides \$4 million in new funding for the museum and \$1 million in reallocated funding. The approval brings the State of California's total investment in the museum to \$8 million.

Governor Newsom proposed the new funding for the developing cultural and educational center in the May revise of his

2019 – 2020 budget proposal following a successful meeting between the Governor's office and museum leadership.

"My staff was enlivened by the progress and vision of the Armenian American Museum," stated Governor Newsom when expressing his support for the historic project during a recent interview. "We have to continue supporting the museum to raise more awareness of the extraordinary contributions of the Armenian community and to reflect on their history."

In early May, the museum's Board of Trustees, Construction Committee, and Alajajian Marcoosi Architects met with Governor Newsom's Legislative Secretary Anthony Williams. Initiated by State Senator Anthony Portantino, the meeting was an important opportunity for museum leadership to present its vision for the cultural and educational center, provide a guided tour of the museum site at Central Park, and have a productive discussion directly with the Governor's team.

"I'm very pleased that Governor Newsom

has proudly embraced the Armenian American Museum and put his support behind this amazing project," stated Senator Portantino. "The Governor clearly recognized the significance of the project to the State of California for all of California to embrace and Mr. Williams left the board briefing quite impressed with this historic effort."

"We are grateful to Governor Newsom as well as to Senator Portantino and the State of California for supporting the Armenian American Museum," stated Executive Chairman Berdj Karapetian. "We have reached a historic milestone for the project and look forward to the historic groundbreaking of the landmark center."

The Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California is a developing project in Glendale, CA with a mission to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Armenian American experience.

"Smart lock" created in Armenia's Vanadzor

The Smart Electronics company based in Vanadzor, Armenia, have created a smart lock. If you have it, you can forget the key, according to Smartnewsblog.

It took a four-member group a year to develop the devise.

The lock can be installed on the door and controlled from anywhere.

"The lock can be opened with the smart phone's Bluetooth or Internet through apps available for both iOS and Android," the company's CEO Arkady Khumarov told Smartnewsblog.

According to him, what's most important about the new devise is its security. "That's why the most advanced security technologies have been applied," Khumarov added.

The smart lock will work on batteries, but one-time charging will be

enough for a year.

Arkady Khumarov said the lock will go on sale, when they find financing to fund the production.

The devise is expected to cost about \$60-70 in the initial stage, but the price will be cut, when the quantity increases.



The United States of America Celebrates Independence Day



Yerevan, Armenia – On July 2, 2019, the U.S. Embassy celebrated the 243rd anniversary of the independence of the United States of America with an evening of Motown music, American food, and fireworks. At the event, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Deborah Grieser reaffirmed U.S. support for democratic development in Armenia. “It has been exciting to be here in Armenia over the past year to see Armenians forge a new democratic path,” she said. “The United States is committed to continuing to work with our Armenian partners across all sectors of society to ensure that the democratic vision of the Armenian people is realized.”

In her remarks, Chargé Grieser also noted the important role America’s third president, Thomas Jefferson, played in the founding of the United States, and high-



lighted his understanding that revolution was only the starting point of effecting change. The Embassy was pleased to welcome Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan as the guest of honor.

Independence Day, which Americans celebrate as the birthday of the United States of America, takes place on July 4 each year, in honor of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Five members of the renowned Hover State Chamber Choir performed the Armenian and U.S. National Anthems in honor of the occasion.

The theme of the event was “Motown,” a uniquely American genre of music that is a distinct mixture of 1960s pop, R&B and soul music. Gisele Jackson & Raphael Wressnig’s Soul Gift band entertained the guests with their renditions of Motown classics as well as original music.



Armenia Fund mobilizes grassroots support for innovative housing program in Gyumri Court Ruling



Armenia Fund, based in Los Angeles, has launched a major campaign to raise grassroots support for its expanded housing program in Gyumri, Armenia. The campaign



consists of an ongoing Phoneathon as well as a special Telethon that will take place in Los Angeles on July 14.

Called “Our Gyumri,” Armenia Fund’s new housing program is set to provide close to 60 homeless families in Gyumri with renovated and fully-furnished apartments, complete with all necessary household

appliances. As significantly, the program is designed to help secure the livelihoods of beneficiary families, by providing them with a broad range of job-training and work opportunities.

Armenia Fund has helped mitigate homelessness in Gyumri since 2014, by provid-



ing renovated and furnished apartments to economically-vulnerable families still living in ramshackle, unsanitary huts known as domiks. To date, nearly 55 homeless

families have been given apartments through Armenia Fund’s housing-assistance program, implemented in partnership with ARTN TV. This year, Armenia Fund has initiated a considerably expanded program, intent on accelerating housing assistance while presenting beneficiaries with an unprecedented path to prosperity.

“Our goal is to end the indignity of homelessness for many more families in Gyumri, while also contributing to the ongoing recovery of this wonderful city,” said Maria Mehranian, President of Armenia Fund. “Everything is in place for implementing the newest phase of our program. All that’s needed now is the timely support of our community, here in California and beyond, so that we can continue to transform the lives of our long-suffering compatriots in Gyumri,” she concluded.

To be broadcast by ARTN TV on Sunday, July 14, from 6 to 10 p.m., Armenia Fund’s special Telethon will be dedicated to the city of Gyumri. Reports and documentaries

about Gyumri’s people, institutions, and achievements, as well as information about Armenia Fund’s housing program will be provided.

Recent News from the Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator

Children of VivaCell-MTS Employees Visit their Parents' Workplace to Get Acquainted with a Range of Professions



VivaCell-MTS is happy to announce the second Career Shadowing program, initiated after the positive feedbacks received on pilot project.

The Career Shadowing is intended for the children of the Company's employees aged 14 to 17. It aims at helping them choose their future profession and get to know their parents' workplace.

The participants of the program will have an opportunity to get involved in the work of a department of their choice and to observe daily operations of the Company from within in the course of their summer holidays. It is expected that children will shape certain understanding of the different aspects of telecommunications. The program will provide a pass time, which will be both fun and interesting. There will be educational and entertaining events organized for children.

Each participant will be mentored by a designated employee to be able to make a more educated choice of future profession. During the program, children will see what the day at VivaCell-MTS looks like, how the work goes, what the cooperation and teamwork are, how the work decisions are made, how the work is distributed, and so on.

"Career orientation program for children of our staff has several components. First,

the company welcomes the initiative of employees, to help children spend their summer holidays more meaningfully. Second, it has an important educational underpinning: children see the process of creating a value by their own parents, appreciate their enthusiasm and professional qualifications. This is very important in terms of shaping respect for parents. Moreover, through helping parents and their colleagues children feel the team spirit, and become a part of the team. And most importantly, children get a chance to see how many specializations there are and may

choose their future professions more knowledgeably. Of course, we are far from the idea that children should choose their parents' professional paths, but we give them the opportunity to get acquainted with it," Vi-



vaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph C. Yirikian** said.

VivaCell-MTS carries out a number of career development programs for students, as well as open doors for schoolchildren and representatives of different youth organizations.

AND...IMPORTANTLY...



General Partner of the Armenia's Fifth International Medical Congress Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator VivaCell-MTS Declared about Plans to Introduce Mobile ID into Health Care System

RA Prime Minister **Nikol Pashinyan** welcomed the participants and took part in the official opening of the Congress. President of the Republic of Armenia **Armen Sargsyan** and His Holiness **Karekin II**, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians addressed a message to the participants of the Congress. President of the Congress Professor, a Knight of the numerous state awards of Armenia and Artsakh Republic **Armen Charchyan**, RA and Artsakh Republic Health Ministers **Arsen Torosyan** and **Arayik Baghryan** and Founding General Manager of the General Partner of the Congress Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator VivaCell-MTS **Ralph C. Yirikian** delivered speeches. In his speech VivaCell-MTS' Founding General Manager Mr **Ralph C. Yirikian** informed that the Company attaches importance to the development of electronic health care which is a global trend. Mr Yirikian informed that an agreement has already been reached with the "Electronic Healthcare National Operator" CJSC, administering



the electronic health care system of the Republic of Armenia to introduce Mobile ID in the e-healthcare system. The Mobile ID will be the cornerstone with the help of which registration and strict identification of beneficiaries should be carried out in the Electronic Health Information Database.

Maestro Constantine Orbelian: “Many Projects are Planned, and our Morale is High!”

An amazing concert of rising superstar Hasmik Grigoryan in memory of her father Gegham Grigoryan the Great expected...

By Gourgen James Khazhakian,
Chief Correspondent

-Maestro Orbelian, let us begin our conversation with your latest (and rather extensive) tour...

-We started in China, in Shenzhen, the city which is situated directly opposite Hong Kong. It is interesting to note that even by the Chinese standards the development of this city in mainland China is amazing: while mere 30 years ago its population was only 30 000, today it is...22 million inhabitants! On the 29th of May there, in a really luxurious concert hall we performed with the rising star from Kazan, *Ayida Garifulina* (coloratura soprano), who performs on such stages as the Vienna Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, the Bolshoi Theatre and others, who sung with such singers as *Placido Domingo* and *Robbie Williams*.



-Did you achieve success with the “Chinese comrades”?))) Was the house sold out? Did they demand “encore”?

-Words cannot describe the reception we had, you ought to have seen it!...Then we had a concert in Kaunas in Lithuania, opening the biggest classical music festival in Lithuania, “Pazaislis”, with Verdi’s Requiem, together with the native of Rostov-on-Don, graduate of the Yerevan Conservatoire *Karina Grigoryan (Flores)*, American singer of Greek descent *Eleni Matos*, who is already known to our



Yerevan public, our “own” *Hovannes Ayvazyan* and *Haik Tigranyan*, the State Choir of Kaunas - everything was wonderfully performed...

On the 12th of June, the National Day of Russia, in St Petersburg, in the Konstantinovsky Palace, the northern residence of the President of Russia, we had a concert with *Liparit Avetissyan*. I must say a few words about the venue: the Konstantinovsky Palace, on the way to Petrodvorets, was destroyed during the World War II, and it was practically built a new in 2003, to mark the 300th anniversary of St Petersburg, and since then the Konstantinovsky Foundation holds four concerts annually. I will not allow my sense of modesty to hide the fact that all those years my spouse, the Honored (Merited) Artist of the Russian Federation *Maria Safaryants* has acted as the Chief organiser of those concerts. On the 13th of June I flew to New York, where on the 14th the world-famous Lithuanian singer *Elina Garanca* with the orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera gave a stunning recital of Gustav Mahler’s cycle at the Carnegie Hall.

Next day we flew with Elina to Buenos

Aires, where our Latin American tour was scheduled to start, and there we were overjoyed to meet the famous singer *Maria Gulegina* (nee *Meitarjyan*, of the Armenian descent – *G.Kh.*) who was singing in “Turandot”, and she completed her performances there just a few days ago. Elina gave a concert in Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, then two concerts in San Paolo in a fantastic concert hall which one hundred years ago served as a railway station, then for half a century was a derelict building, and then finally was turned over into a concert hall with wonderful acoustic characteristics, with marble columns and everything... A wonderful orchestra and tremendous public...





Next stop - Lima, Peru. There there was a new National Theatre building, and a new orchestra, and I started working with them from a clean sheet. In the first half of the concert Garanca performed arias from the opera "Adriana Lecouvreur" by F. Cilea, "Samson and Delilah" by Camille Saint-Saens and "Cavalleria Rusticana" by P. Mascagni. In the second she sang "sarsuela" (self-styled Spanish musical comedy – **G.Kh.**), parts from "Carmen" and four arias as "encore". It would not be considered an overstatement to say that she created a total furore!

I must note that in all the three cities I have signed memoranda on cooperation with appropriate organisations.

-Well, after such an impressive account of the Latin American events let us return to our Armenian matters. What



have you got to share with our native audiences, Maestro?

-The 10th of July will see our concert with **Hasmik (Asmik...) (Geghamovna) Grigoryan**, just having been honoured with two top opera awards - in London and in Austria. It is praiseworthy that traditions of the outstanding singer, People's Artist of Armenia and Lithuania **Gegham Grigoryan** of the blessed memory are being furthered by his daughter! Naturally, the concert is dedicated to his memory... **Some info:** *At a press conference held on Saturday with the participation of Hasmik Grigoryan and Maestro Constantine Orbelian, replying a question about more frequent performances in the Motherland Armenia, a superstar of the world opera noticed that her performances are already scheduled for ... 5 (! – G.Kh.) years in advance. And ... world theaters, like, to say, "La Scala", put the performances exclusively for herself, so, in 2021, the "New York Metropolitan Opera" "itself" puts on the opera of Richard Strauss "Salome" starring Hasmik. ... Despite the fact that Hasmik lives abroad, she speaks quite well Armenian, and have close ties with her brothers, - from the second marriage of Maestro Gegham Grigoryan. "After the untimely death of my beloved father, I dedicate all my achievements, victories to him" ... The ascended superstar of the opera scene received bouquets ... well, of course, white roses, including from your author ... Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Puccini and Tigranyan are in the concert program, and, naturally, the Opera House orchestra as well as choir will perform in the 10 July concert. She also stressed that it was always comfortable and pleasant for her to work with such a Master as Constantine Orbelian, Jr. - ... Our friend and "Armenian son-in-law" Gianluca Marciano is arriving soon to conduct our orchestra in "Il Traviatore" and "Poliuto"... Then our artists go on vacation until September...*



-You must excuse my insistence - and what next?

-It so happened that in our Theatre current repertory there is no full-scale Russian opera, and we want to stage "Eugene Onegin"...

For concert performances we are preparing to stage Umberto Giordano's oper "Andrea Chenier", parts of which were recently performed by **Hovannes Ayyazyan** and **Gevorg Hakobyan**... By the way, that opera has never been performed in the Soviet Union or in the post-Soviet republics, not even in concert... And sheet music was not available, I had to purchase everything. And **Mkrtych Babajanian** is preparing the cast for concert performances of Verdi's opera "Un Ballo In Maschera". About ballet: we are preparing a new staging of "Old Gods" by Vache **Sharafyan**, and choreographer **Lera Kasparova** from St Petersburg is expected soon with the aim of acquainting herself with our artists and it is possible that she will stage "Antuni" by the great **Komitas**. Another new name in ballet - 10-11 November are scheduled for staging "Crystal Palace" by the Maltese composer **Alexey Shor**, (Shor was born in the Soviet era Kiev - **G.Kh.**), that ballet with opera elements was recently shown in our Theatre, attended by the author and his father, but this time it is our own staging and the costumes are being made, and sets are getting ready, paid for by the European Fund for Promotion of Culture from Malta. That work by Shor (whose grandpa served as an army officer in the Soviet era Leninkan - **G. Kh.**) will be included in the repertory of our Theatre.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

It is important that you have mental activity this week. If your mind is not productive, then you may become irritable and say things you don't really mean. You want to take the initiative in romance and this is a good time for that. If you are with children, play really active games. Wear them out.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Give attention to the lead paragraph. Mercury is turning retrograde in your sign and will be more likely to affect your daily affairs than many of the other signs. Don't even try to finalize anything while a retrograding Mercury is with you. You may even reverse decisions which you have recently made.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Take yourself outdoors this week and enjoy the summer weather. Go somewhere or do an activity that soothes your nerves and offers peace. It is possible that you need to blow off steam in a heavy exercise. Travel and seeing new scenery will allow you to relax and get away from stressors.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

Venus is your ruling planet and "she" represents your cooperative and affable personality, along with your attraction to beauty in all its forms. Between July 3 and July 26 she is traveling through the sector which is related to home, property and family matters. You may want to make the environment more attractive, whether at home or at work.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Over the next few weeks you may want to contact people who have been significant in your past. It is time to dig deeply into yourself so you can be as fully honest as possible within important relationships. Speak from your heart and do not allow your ego, which wants only to look good, to take your words hostage.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

This is a week of scrutiny. It is possible that you are being tested now. You will get what you deserve. If you have prepared well, you will win the prize or the honor. You may have begun a challenging project during late fall/winter which is now ready for unveiling and evaluation.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Please note the lead paragraph. Your ruling planet is Mercury, which is changing directions this week. You may be subject to impulsive decisions. If you are waffling on an opinion the best response is "no, wait". You likely don't have all the necessary information for a clear judgment.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

The new moon eclipse occurs in the territory that defines your life direction. Circumstances may change, pressuring you to alter your previous path. Something new may develop that catches your attention. Your leadership gifts come to the foreground at this time.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

You may feel isolated or as though no one around you can possibly understand who or what you are. In some way life circumstances may be preventing you from communicating. The inner critic could overrun your mind if you allow it. Remember that feelings come and go like waves. They never remain the same.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

The new moon eclipse in your sign may open a new thought process about your personal identity. How do you wish to define yourself before the world? What do you need in order to improve your relationships? Patterns from your childhood history may need to be uncovered, repaired or removed in order to allow your growth into more mature relationships.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

You are in the mood to learn. You want to pursue information that will help you move in your life direction. Talking, texting, emails and browsing the internet are prominent among your activities of the week. Use tact when expressing opinions. Your tone of voice may present as fact, when really it is your personal viewpoint.

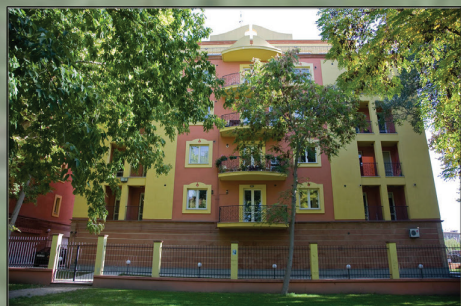


Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Take every precaution not to abuse your body during this period. Drugs or alcohol could have peculiar side effects that you don't understand. You are in a low physical cycle and will be unable to push yourself as hard as normal on any physical task. If you are affected emotionally, try not to worry about it. Your body/feelings will right themselves in due time.

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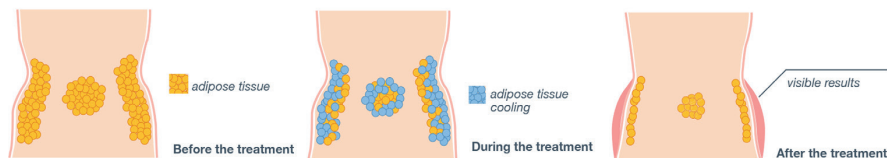
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