

Armenia's President, Pope Francis meet in the Vatican

Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan had an audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican on April 5. The President thanked the Pontiff for his commitment to the development of relations between Armenia and the Holy See and for the sincere and warm dialogue established.

President Sargsyan also expressed gratitude for the Pope's decision to erect the statue of 10th century Armenian monk Gregory of Narek in the heart of Vatican. He informed that a copy of the statue will be unveiled in Armenia's religious capital of Etchmiadzin.



Thus, the President said, Gregory of Narek and his legacy will become an eternal symbol

of solidarity between the two Christian communities.

President Sargsyan and Pope

Francis expressed willingness to keep developing and deepening the interstate relations between Armenia and the Vatican, and strengthening the existing religious and cultural ties between the two countries.

The President and the Pontiff then exchanged gifts. Serzh Sargsyan donated a silver model of the Armenian St. Gayane Church to the Pope.

Pope Francis, in turn, presented a marble copy of the sculpture of the Holy Family kept in the Vatican Museum, as well as the copies of his most recent three books.



President meets with the Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta

President Serzh Sargsyan met with Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Thanking the Sovereign Order of Malta for the warm welcome shown to his delegation, the President of Armenia evoked fond memories of Grand Master's first-ever visit to Armenia, which President Sargsyan considered to be a landmark event in the annals of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the Maltese Order. As the President pointed out, it paved the way for the furtherance and expansion of bilateral cooperation which evolves in the spirit of friendship.

The President of the Republic of Armenia and the Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta concurred in the fact that the relations between Armenia

and the Sovereign Order of Malta boast huge development potential and expressed confidence that with continued high dynamics of dialogue the sides might make a better use of existing potentialities. Mindful of developing multifaceted relations, the interlocutors highly valued the agreement which was signed earlier today.

At the end of the meeting, the President of Armenia signed in the Book of Honorary Guests of the Sovereign Order of Malta: "It is a great honor for me to be hosted at the Rome Masters Palace of the ancient spiritual order. I am grateful for today's warm and friendly welcome. Our deeply-rooted bonds are marked by mutual respect and support in many ways.

I am confident that we will continue to strengthen and enrich the relationships between the Republic of Armenia and the Sover-

eign Military Order of Malta in the same spirit for the benefit of all of us.

I wish the Order's leaders, members, and thousands of volunteers every success in their historic mission aimed at promoting faith and assisting those in need around the world," Serzh Sargsyan mentioned.

In honor of the President of Armenia and his delegation, the Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta hosted an official dinner, during which Serzh Sargsyan and Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto exchanged toasts, touching upon the historical affinities and friendship between the Armenians and the Maltese Order.

Earlier a cooperation agreement was signed between the Republic of Armenia and the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

St. Gregory of Narek statue unveiled in Vatican Gardens

The statue of 10th century Armenian monk Gregory of Narek was unveiled on April 5 at the Vatican Gardens. Pope Francis and Armenian Patriarchs blessed the bronze statue.

Attending the event were Pope Francis, Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I.

St Gregory of Narek is recognized as a Saint in both the Catholic Church and in the Armenian Apostolic Church. His legacy lives on through this ecumenical effort which is centered on him. In an interview with Vatican News, Mikayel Minasyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Holy See, described St Gregory of Narek as a symbol of brotherhood and a bridge between the two Churches and for all Christians, "above all those of the Middle East".

Gregory of Narek was a 10th century Armenian monk, poet, and mystical writer and composer. His most well-known literary work is a book of prayers, known as the "Book of Lamentations". It is considered a masterpiece of Armenian literature. St Gregory himself defined the work as an "encyclopedia of prayer for all nations". He voiced hope that his book would provide guidance in prayer for people of all walks of life in order to reach God.

Today's occasion is the high point of an ecumenical journey between the Catholic Church



and the Armenian Apostolic Church, Vatican News said.

For the first time in history, all three Armenian Church leaders are gathered together with the Roman Pontiff. It is something that Pope Francis prayed for in 2015.

"Through the redemptive power of Christ's sacrifice, may the blood which has been shed bring about the miracle of the full unity of his disciples. In particular, may it strengthen the bonds of fraternal friendship which already unite the Catholic Church and the Armenian Apostolic Church."

The ground for ceremony was laid by Pope Francis on 12 April 2015 when he celebrated Mass in St Peter's marking the centenary of the genocide of a million and a half Armenians whom the Pope referred to as martyrs. "A century has passed since that horrific massacre which was a true martyrdom of your

people, in which many innocent people died as confessors and martyrs for the name of Christ," Pope Francis said on that occasion.

During that same liturgy, Pope Francis elevated St Gregory of Narek to the dignity of Doctor of the Universal Church. The Pope characterized St Gregory as a monk who "knew how to express the sentiments of your people more than anyone," and who, as "an extraordinary interpreter of the human soul, offers words which are prophetic for us."

Later in June 2016, he visited Armenia. Calling the genocide "the first of the deplorable series of catastrophes of the past century," Pope Francis praised the faith of the Armenian people, "who, illuminated by the light of the Gospel, even at the most tragic moments of their history, have always found in the cross and resurrection of Christ the strength to rise again and take up their journey anew with dignity."

A copy of the same statue is currently in production and will be placed in the gardens of the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin where an inauguration ceremony will be held at the end of 2018. The Cathedral of Etchmiadzin is the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and is considered by scholars to be the oldest Cathedral build in ancient Armenia, and is among one of the oldest Cathedrals in the world.

Outgoing Armenian Ministers Told To "Keep Up Tempo"

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan on April 5 told members of his cabinet to continue to work as usual despite having to tender their resignations immediately after Armenia's new president takes office on April 9.

Armen Sarkissian will replace the outgoing President Serzh Sargsyan but will have largely ceremonial powers due to the country's transition to a parliamentary system of government. The Armenian constitution requires Karapetyan and all ministers to step down on the same day. But they will continue to perform their duties until the formation of a new cabinet.

The National Assembly controlled by the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) is due to elect a new prime minister on April 17. The latter will have five days to nominate his cabinet members who will be formally appointed by the new president in the next two or three weeks.

"Based on the constitutional requirement, we are going to submit the government's resignation," Karapetyan told a weekly cabinet meeting in Yerevan. "Using this occasion, I want to thank all of you for our joint work."



"Don't feel happy," he added with a smile. "We have to keep working with the same tempo. Don't ease the tempo."

Serzh Sargsyan is widely expected to replace Karapetyan as prime minister and thus remain in power. Karapetyan, for his part, is tipped to become first deputy prime minister. Observers expect few ministerial changes.

The next Armenian premier will be based in a building in Yerevan that has housed President Sargsyan and his staff for the past decade. Justice Minister Davit Harutiunyan revealed on Thursday that he will also "perform a part of his duties" in another office which is currently occupied by Karapetyan and serves as the venue for cabinet meetings. Those duties are "directly related to the work of the government,"

he said without elaborating.

"The prime minister's powers have been expanded to such an extent that he will be performing a considerable part of the current president's duties," Harutiunyan told reporters. "In this sense, the presidential administration building is adapted for properly exercising a number of powers."

Under a controversial bill passed by the parliament last month, journalists will no longer be able to watch cabinet meetings in Yerevan live from an adjacent press room. The prime minister could only make "a part of a meeting" open to the press.

Armenia's leading media associations have criticized this change, saying that it will make the government less transparent.

Harutiunyan, who is the key author of the bill, again dismissed the criticism. He said the government will continue to publicize the agendas of its weekly meetings beforehand. Also, he said, journalists will be briefed on key decisions made by the executive.

Harutiunyan argued earlier that in virtually all countries of the world cabinet meetings are held in closed session.

Congratulations Hay Vostikan !



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2018 is a jubilee year for the Republic of Armenia, and though, unfortunately, it existed two and half year only – due to the bolsheviks-turks “honeymoon”, that was a time for many lessons for us today and glorious pages written in the Armenian millenia-old and richest history.

And, definitely, one of them is creation of the Armenian National Police.

And, as police.am says, “... for the Police it is the double jubilee. The law enforcement system marks the hundredth anniversary of its founding proudly realizing that it is a unique state-of-the-art institution that has been serving the law and the people for a hundred years with the absolute devotion.

The festive celebrations of the jubilee year’ve started on 6 April.

The Chief of the RA Police, Colonel-Gen-

eral **Vladimir Sergeyi Gasparyan**, Police high-ranking officers, veterans and guests laid wreaths and flowers to the monuments of The Founder of the First Republic of Armenia, the First Minister of Interior **Aram Manukyan** of the glorious memory and the Soldier of the Law and Order , by this paying tribute to the politicians established and led the Police and their colleagues who did not spare their lives



when being in the service:

The festive day continued with a solemn session.

Under the Police march, the Flags of the Republic of Armenia and the Police were brought to the hall.

The National Anthem of the Republic of Armenia sounded.

Chief of the Police of the Republic of Armenia Vladimir Gasparyan adressed with a congratulatory message on the occasion of the jubilee the Police Staff, the veterans, their families..

After that **President Serzh Sargsyan’s** decree on awarding state awards to a group of the Police officers was published.

Awards were given by the Police Chief, Colonel-General Vladimir Gasparyan.

And a number of the Police officers were awarded by the orders of the Speaker of the National Assembly Ara Babloyan and Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan.

Dozens of the Police officers were awarded by the orders of the Minister of Defense, the National Security Service Chief, the Prosecutor General, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Emergency Situations, the Chief of the Special Investigation Service, the Investigative Committee Chairman and the Chief of the Artsakh Republic Police.

And by the orders of the RA Police Chief Vladimir Gasparyan 1235 Police officers and 110 veterans have received encouragement”.



Artsakh's Martuni, French Bourg-de-Péage sign Friendship Declaration

A Friendship Declaration has been signed between the city of Martuni in Artsakh Republic and Bourg-de-Péage city in Drôme department, France.

On behalf of Martuni, the Declaration was signed by Mayor Mher Khachatryan, and on behalf of the city of Bourg-de-Péage – Mayor Nathalie Nieson. Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh to France Hovhannes Gevorgyan was also present at the signing ceremony.



The Declaration is aimed at establishing friendly relations

between the two cities based on mutual trust and respect. The Declaration, in particular, reads that the cities of Martuni and Bourg-de-Péage undertake to establish cooperation in the spheres of culture, education, and art, based on solidarity and respect for human dignity.

Thus, Bourg-de-Péage became the 10th of the French cities that had established friendly relations with the towns of the Republic of Artsakh.

Canadian Minister Statement on Genocide Remembrance Month

Horizon Weekly – Minister of Canadian Heritage Melanie Joly has issued a statement on Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month. The statement reads:

“Humanity has witnessed many genocides, including the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, the Holodomor, the Armenian genocide, the Srebrenica massacre and the genocide of Yazidis. Canada has welcomed survivors of these atrocities and the descendants of those who per-



ished.

We have a duty to remember. Genocide Remembrance,

Condemnation and Prevention Month is an opportunity to reflect on these tragedies and

learn from them to prevent them from happening again.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, I encourage Canadians to take this time to remember those who suffered and those who lost their lives to genocide, and to commit to protecting human rights and dignity everywhere, including for those of minority groups.”

Three years ago, April was designated as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month.

Azerbaijan to send protest to France over Artsakh Parliament Speaker's visit



Azerbaijan's Embassy in France will present a note of protest to the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France over the visit of Nagorno Karabakh's Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulyan, said Hikmat Hajiyev, spokesman for the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, Azeri media report.

He emphasized that from now on, “Azerbaijan will act under the principle of reciprocity in relations with France.”

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The Speaker of the National Assembly of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) is paying a working visit to France.

A Friendship Declaration was signed between the city of Martuni in Artsakh Republic and Bourg-de-Péage city in Drôme department, France within the framework of the visit.

Foreign Investment in Armenia down in 2017

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Armenia fell by 27 percent last year despite robust economic growth recorded by the government, official statistics show.

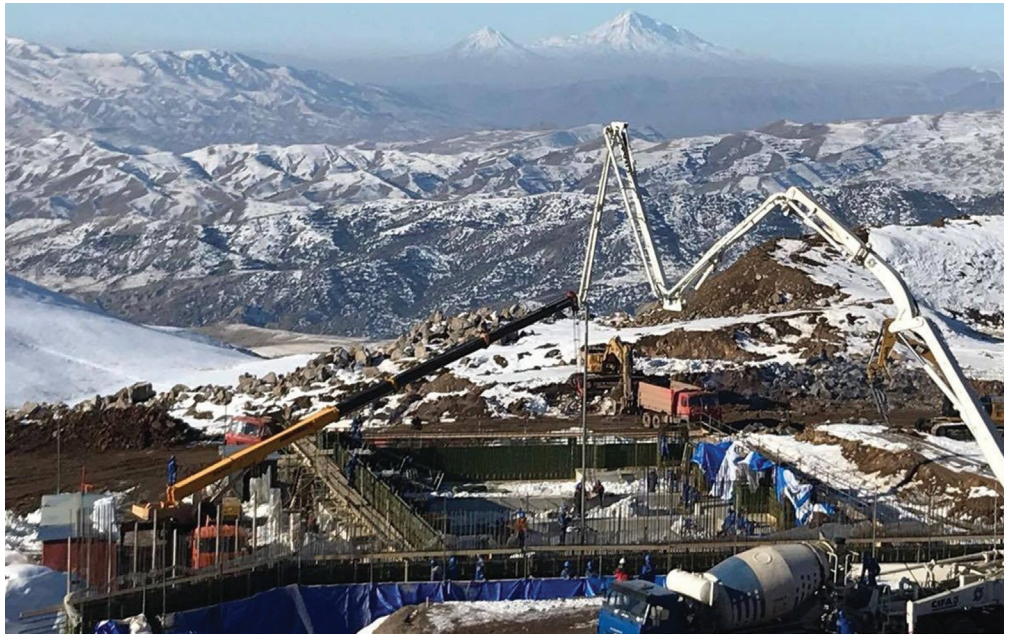
According to the National Statistical Service (NSS), FDI inflows totaled nearly \$246 million in 2017, down from \$338 million in 2016. They stood at \$178.5 million in 2015.

The Armenian Ministry for Economic Development and Investments on Friday declined to comment on reasons for this sizable reduction in FDI.

Vahagn Khachatryan, an economist affiliated with the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), said the drop shows that foreign investors do not trust in Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan's reform pledges and, in particular, his cabinet's stated efforts to improve the country's business environment.

Khachatryan said that investors continue to be scared away by bureaucratic red tape, government corruption and a lack of competition. Neighboring Georgia attracted \$1.8 billion in foreign investment last year because it has a more investor-friendly environment, he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Shortly after being appointed prime minister in September 2016, Karapetyan pledged to help attract over \$3 billion in domestic and foreign investments in



the next few years. He said at least \$830 million will be injected in the Armenian economy in 2017.

Karapetyan's government claimed to have honored the latter pledge earlier this year. In a 12-page report, it said \$856.5 million worth of various "investment projects" were implemented across the country in 2017. Private investors accounted for just over two-thirds of this figure, the report said, adding that the remaining investments were financed from the state budget as well as foreign loans and grants obtained by the government.

The NSS reported last month that the

Armenian economy grew by 7.5 percent in 2017 after stagnating in 2016. Opposition politicians and other critics of the government question the credibility of this growth rate.

NSS figures show that the British island of Jersey was the main source of foreign investments made in Armenia last year. The tax haven is home to an Anglo-American company, Lydian International, which is currently building a massive gold mine in the southeastern Vayots Dzor province. Lydian has pledged to invest a total of \$370 million in the Amulsar gold deposit.

Microsoft willing to support advancement of Armenia's digital agenda

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received Ronald Binkofski, Microsoft General Manager for Kazakhstan & Multi Country CIS.

The meeting focused on the joint efforts toward developing Armenia's digital agenda to be made by the Government of Armenia, represented by the Digital Armenia Foundation, and Microsoft Corporation.

Karen Karapetyan prioritized the implementation of Armenia's digital agenda in cooperation with Microsoft. In turn, Ronald Binkofski came up with recommendations for



introducing digital systems in public administration and local self-governance, increasing the scope of online services, and developing an integrated e-government system.

Ronald Binkofski assured of Microsoft's willingness to share its long experience and capabilities and assist the Government with the advancement of Armenia's digital agenda.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a number of other issues related to bilateral cooperation.

Armenian research team awarded for innovation in preventing gender-based violence

The World Bank Group and Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) have awarded US\$99,500 to an Armenian technology business foundation to help reduce incidents of gender-based violence (GBV).

The Award, part of the 2018 Development Marketplace for Innovation to Address Gender-Based Violence, will support the Armenian Enterprise Incubator Foundation (EIF) to deploy mobile applications and digital technologies that empower women with real-time expert support and information, and that collect critical data needed to inform policy on a larger scale.

The Award will also enable EIF to promote dialogue among stakeholders in the field of GBV and ICT professionals.

"I am very pleased to congratulate the Enterprise Incubator Foundation, our long-standing partner, with this outstanding award," said Sylvie Bossoutrot, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia.

The World Health Organization



(WHO) estimates that 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

"Studies show that gender-based violence can cost economies up to 3.7% of GDP due to lost productivity, in addition to the direct harm caused to women and men," said Caren Grown, Senior Director, Gender, World Bank Group. "The World Bank Group is proud to support the Development Marketplace winners, whose projects seek to find sus-

tainable and scalable approaches to preventing GBV for us today and for future generations."

Launched in 2015 in memory of Hannah Graham, daughter of a longtime World Bank Group employee, the Development Marketplace is an annual competition for researchers to find innovative solutions that can help individuals, communities, and nations stamp out GBV.

This year's winners, chosen from more than 250 submissions from research institutions, NGOs, and aid and other organizations

around the world, come from Armenia, Cambodia, Colombia, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, and South Africa.

Winning teams received up to US\$100,000 each and were chosen based on overall merit, research or project design and methods, significance, team expertise, and ethical considerations.

The SVRI Grant, a global innovation award started in 2014, previously awarded more than US\$1 million to nine projects in seven countries. With more than 5,500 members, SVRI is one of the largest global research networks focused on preventing violence against women. SVRI supports research by disseminating and sharing knowledge and nurturing collaboration and networking, and improves policy and practice by supporting and funding research and capacity development. It hosts an international forum every two years to advance and expand research on sexual and intimate partner violence.

Armenian companies attend "Aru Almaty" jewelry expo in Kazakhstan

Seven Armenian producers participated in the 30th "Aru Almaty" international jewelry exhibition in Kazakhstan on 5-8 April, 2018 with the support of Business Armenia.

The expo is held twice a year with the support of the Government of Kazakhstan and the National Association of Jewelers.

"Aru Almaty" is viewed as a potential gateway for the Armenian producers to the large Asian market. It is the only international jewelry exhibition in Kazakhstan and across Central Asia.

As a result of last year's participation, Armenian producers have signed export contracts worth 38 million AMD, and the "Mitsario Gold" company has opened a branch in Kazakhstan.

"Specialized exhibition-sale is a very favorable platform to meet retail and wholesale buyers and make deals, especially taking into account that Asian countries have started to recover from the crisis, restoring the jewelry trade and market turnover volumes. We aim at



utilizing this growth rate to restore and increase Armenian jewelry exports and sales in Kazakhstan and the neighboring region," stated the International Commerce team leader Mr. Narek Aleksanyan.



Aru Almaty featured hundreds of companies from Armenia, Belgium, India, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Armenia a good example of broad opportunities of polycentric world – Defense Minister

Armenia is a good example of the opportunities of polycentric world, Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan has said.

“We have been hearing from day one of our independence that Armenia should make a geopolitical choice in compliance with the “either ... or” principle. We have always been guided by the principle that the country’s stance on certain processes, especially cooperation with other countries, should be based on deep mutual respect, tender attitude towards common history, and the value system the policy is being built around,” Minister Sargsyan said, addressing the Moscow Security Conference. He said it first of all applies to security issues.

The Minister said Armenia is taking serious efforts to make it clear to its partners and especially strategic partner Russia that its policy is being built on the juncture of interests of regional and global players, not the manipula-



tion of their confrontation.

“There will always be “well-wishers” trying to present Armenia to the West as a “puppet state under Russia’s leadership,” at the same time presenting the country to Russia as a “defector trying to sit on two chairs,” Vigen Sargsyan said.

“Fortunately, Armenia’s consistent and open policy of developing a system of relations with all centers of “polycentric world” is

yielding results,” he said.

“As a CSTO founding country, Armenia sees the organization and the bilateral cooperation with Russia as a main external element of ensuring its security. We are proud to have consistently advocated the strengthening of OSCE potential. We’ll keep doing our best to increase the capacities of the CSTO rapid reaction forces and formation of its peacekeeping potential,” he said.

He noted that “simultaneously, Armenia is successfully cooperating with the North-Atlantic Alliance within the framework of the Individual Partnership Action Plan.”

“Aside from participating in UN peacekeeping operations in Libya and Mali, Armenia participates in NATO missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo,” the Minister said.

“Being a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, Armenia has signed a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the European Union. Meanwhile, we have friendly relations with China, India, Iran, Arab states and Latin America. We see no controversy here, as we are confident that this is how relations should look like in a polycentric world,” Vigen Sargsyan said.

The Minister emphasized that maximum openness and reliability in relations are the main principle for Armenia.

Karabakh conflict settlement among Russia’s priorities – Sergey Lavrov

Settlement of the Karabakh conflict is among Russia’s priorities on post-Soviet space, Russian’s Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says.

Speaking to Armenian media outlets, Lavrov said Russia is taking collective efforts towards the resolution of the issue a member of the OSCE Minsk Group. He added that, taking into consideration Russia’s special relations with Armenia, Russia is also trying to come forth with own initiatives, in line with the common course of the Co-Chairs.

“The work done between 2009 and 2011 was truly very intensive. The President of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan had about ten meetings,” he said.

The Foreign Minister added that another meeting planned in Kazan allowed to hope for



serious positive outcomes, as all concerns of Yerevan and Baku was taken into consideration in the draft documents prepared by the Russian side with support from the American and French Co-Chairs.

He added, however, that additional questions and comments arose during the summit itself.

“This happens,” Lavrov said. “We are not making a big tragedy of this. Efforts will continue, I’m confident that much of what the “Kazan document” includes is still in demand. This is confirmed by reactions from Yerevan and Baku on the contacts on the level of Presidents, Ministers and Co-Chairs, who have

been visiting the region regularly,” he added.

“Nothing of what was worked out in that period has been lost. However, of course, some new ideas have emerged, which the Co-Chairs are currently promoting during their contacts with the parties. The most important is to move away from mistrust that sometimes emerges during negotiations and concentrate on the plenty of realistic, pragmatic ideas,” Lavrov said.

“They [the ideas] only need to be put on paper, although conceptually the parties agree with the need to do this, but difficulties arise when everything starts to take shape in concrete formulations. I think we’ll continue to consistently promote them and achieve results,” the Russian Foreign Minister stated.

Italy's President to visit Armenia later this year



On a visit to Italy, Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan had a meeting with his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella.

Mr. Mattarella expressed gratitude to President Sargsyan for his support to the development and reinforcement of Armenian-Italian relations in all domains – political, economic and cultural.

The Italian President noted that Armenia and the South Caucasus in general are of strategic importance to his country. Sergio Mattarella revealed plans to visit Armenia later this year (probably in June) to further reinforce the Armenian-Italian friendship, which, he said,

will give new impetus to the deepening of relations.

The parties also referred to Armenia-EU relations and the signing of the Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Cooperation Agreement. The Italian President said Armenia plays a leading role as a bridge of communication and is a vivid example of how the East and the West can exist as one whole.

He said Armenia is also a good example of how the cooperation can benefit all and added that Armenia can open an access to EAEU countries.

During the meeting reference was made to

the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Emphasizing that Armenia supports the priorities of the Italian Chairmanship of the OSCE and Italy's balanced stance on conflict settlement.

The Italian President emphasized that his country supports the efforts exerted by the OSCE Minsk Group toward the peaceful settlement of the conflict and is not going to discuss another format of the negotiations, hoping that the organization will find the right way to resolve the problem with the conflicting parties and the problem will be settled through compromise as soon as possible. He emphasized that one of the priorities of Italy's presidency in the OSCE is the settlement of protracted conflicts.

On learning from President Sargsyan that Armenia is switching over to a full parliamentary system in a few days, Sergio Mattarella said it was amazing to see the country make a smooth transition from one governing system to another. In this connection, Serzh Sargsyan noted that either Italy set an example for Armenia while converting into a parliamentary republic. Its constitutional principles have also been applied in our country.

The Presidents of Armenia considered the Armenian-Italian joint peacekeeping mission in Lebanon within the framework of the international peacekeeping mission as another example of Armenian-Italian friendship.

Artsakh Permanent Representative to the U.S. addresses an event at Yale University

On April 3, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic) to the United States Robert Avetisyan addressed the discussion entitled "Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan: the Prospects of Breakthrough in the Negotiation Process" held in the Yale University, U.S. State of Connecticut. The discussion was initiated by the Armenian Student Club of the University.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia John Evans and former U.S. Co-Chairperson of the OSCE Minsk Group Carey Cavanaugh also participated in the event. The discussion was moderated by the University's Senior Research Fellow, former Adviser to the U.S. President (2004-2007) Thomas Graham.

In his speech, Robert Avetisyan briefed on the position of the Republic of Artsakh on the settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Karabakh and touched upon the current situation in the negotiation process, noting the need to create



conditions for its intensification.

In this context, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh emphasized that for ensuring progress in the peaceful settlement of the conflict the tri-

lateral format of the negotiations should be restored, with the full-fledged participation of Artsakh at all its stages.

Robert Avetisyan also answered the questions of the participants.

EMS Conference

Emil Artin International Conference

Dedicated to the 120th Anniversary of Emil Artin (03.07.1898-20.12.1962)

Yerevan, the Republic of Armenia, May 27-June 2, 2018.

The conference is organized by:

- Armenian Mathematical Union
- Yerevan State University
- American University of Armenia
- Committee of Emil Artin Junior Prize in Mathematics
- Institute of Mathematics of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
- University of Bergen

Academically supported by the Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum where specialists will meet to share ideas of latest research in Algebraic Structures, Mathematical Logic, Number Theory, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science.

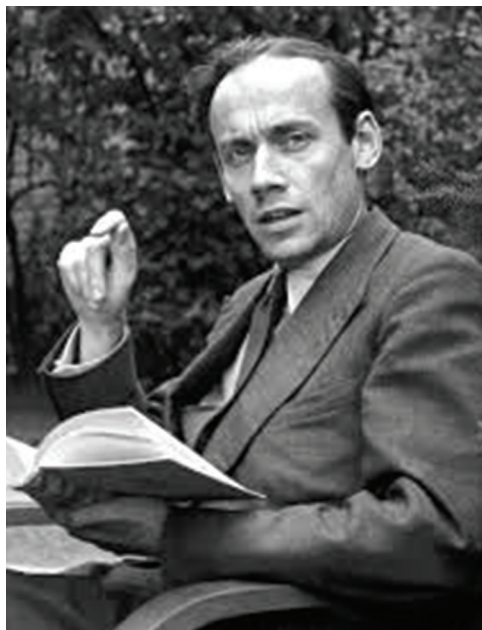
The conference will be held at the Yerevan State University and American University of Armenia.

Conference Topics:

- Classical and non-classical Algebraic Structures,
- Algebra and Logics, Number Theory,
- Geometry and Topology, Analysis and Equations,
- Boolean and De Morgan functions, Cryptography and Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics,
- Universal Algebra, Computer Science and IT,
- Artin L-functions, Dynamical Systems,
- Quantum information theory, Quantum Logic and Quantum Computation, Quantum Groups and Quantum Quasigroups.

Invited speakers that confirmed their participation:

- Sergey Adian (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Ara Basmajian (City University of New York, Hunter College, USA)
- Lilya Budaghyan (Bergen University, Norway)
- Tullio Ceccherini-Silberstein (Universita' del Sannio, Italy)
- Rostislav Grigorchuk (Texas A&M University, USA)
- Alexander Guterman (Moscow State University, Russia)
- Vadim Kaimanovich (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Jörg Koppitz (Potsdam University, Germany)
- Aleksandar Krapež (Mathematical Institute SASA, Belgrade, Serbia)
- Hayk Melikyan (North Carolina Central University, USA)
- Daniele Mundici (University of Florence, Italy)
- Alexander Olshanskii (Vanderbilt University,



USA)

- Alexey Parshin (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Evgeny Plotkin (Bar Ilan University, Israel)
- Victor Pambuccian (Arizona State University, USA)
- Nikolay Romanovskiy (Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, Russia)
- Anna Romanowska (Warsaw University of Technology, Poland)
- Hanamantagouda Sankappanavar (State University of New York at New Paltz, USA)
- Armen Sergeev (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Victor Shcherbacov (Institute of Informatics and Mathematics Moldova Academy of Sciences)
- Ivan Shestakov (São Paulo University, Brazil)
- Jonathan Smith (Iowa State University, USA)
- Katrin Tent (University of Münster, Germany)
- Anatoly Vershik (St.Petersburg Dept. of Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Mikhail Volkov (Ural Federal University, Russia)
- Efim Zelmanov (University of California, USA)
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Registration fee for the conference is \$200 for participants and covers the conference materials and coffee breaks. **Banquet:** \$50. All fees are due upon arrival, at the registration desk.

Important dates:

The deadline for conformation of participation and submission of abstracts is April 1, 2018 by E-mail address: amu@ysu.am. Please submit one-page abstract in LaTeX and PDF formats (in English) to amu@ysu.am.

Working days: May 28, 2018 (Registration, 9:30; Opening ceremony, 10.00) – June 1, 2018.

Arrival: May 27, 2018; departure: June 2, 2018.

Additional information can be requested by e-mail: amu@ysu.am

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We are looking forward to welcome you in Yerevan, Armenia for the Emil Artin International Conference.

Sincerely,

Prof. Yu. Movsisyan

President of the Armenian Mathematical Union

Chamlian students for MCC STEM education grant for Armenia

Vahan and Anoush Chamlian Armenian School students rallied support for expanded Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education funding for Armenia, urging leaders of the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to sign a second compact which would fuel the country's growing technology sector.

"As students ourselves, we know that education represents the single most positive force for good in the world," Chamlian students wrote in a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Vice-Chair of MCC. "As Americans of Armenian heritage, we want to strengthen the bonds of faith and friendship between the American and Armenian peoples. As young people, preparing for the economy of tomorrow, we understand that science, technology, engineering and math are the keys to our future. For all these reasons, we encourage you to strengthen the U.S.-Armenia partnership by leading the way toward a new MCC Compact between our two nations."

"We are grateful to have been able to share this opportunity with our students. In line with our school's mission and Expected School-wide Learning Results, our students are proud to be active participants in the Armenian Community as leaders and volunteers," said

Chamlian Principal Dr. Talin Kargodorian.

Earlier, students from the Ari Guiragos Minassian Armenian School in Orange County, CA, put pen to paper, calling on then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to lead the effort to secure a potentially transformative MCC grant for Armenia. The students are part of a growing grassroots movement calling for concrete U.S. assistance programs which will fuel job growth and expand U.S.-Armenia trade.

Armenia's first MCC compact, awarded in 2006, focused on rural poverty reduction, with over \$176 million expended on irrigation infrastructure refurbishments, accompanied by strategic assistance to the nation's farmers, agribusinesses and water supply institutions, as well as investments in rural road construction and maintenance.

The ANCA has been working closely with House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and House Select Committee on Intelligence Ranking Democrat Adam Schiff (D-CA) on securing a second \$140 million compact focusing on STEM Education for public schools in the Republic of Armenia.

During the ANCA-Western Region's 2017 Grassroots Conference, Rep. Schiff, who represents the Chamlian Armenian School,

explained, "I think it is a fantastic concept for a STEM project in Armenia – that can really develop those technological gifts and talents of the Armenian people – and, can overcome the economic barriers by its neighbors."

"A second MCC Compact for Armenia with a focus on STEM education represents a high priority for the ANCA – a program which could help build the already growing technology sector in Armenia, by preparing the work-force necessary to help reach its potential," said the ANCA's Elizabeth Chouldjian. "We are inspired by the Armenian American student initiative and leadership to help bring this effort to fruition."

Parallel to discussions with Congress and the Administration, the ANCA has held talks with U.S. universities interested in partnering on an MCC Armenia compact.

The MCC is an independent U.S. foreign aid agency, established by Congress in 2004 and charged with leading the fight against global poverty. Country-specific programs are selected by the MCC board through a competitive selection process, based on its review of a broad range of merit-based governance criteria. Since its launch, MCC provided over \$10 billion in grants, including a grant in 2006 to Armenia for rural roads and irrigation.



New report details Germany's role in Armenian Genocide



The German Reich provided the Ottoman Empire with the weapons to carry out the Armenian genocide, a new report claims. Prussian officers also laid the “ideological foundations” for the massacre, according to the author, Deutsche Welle reports.

Turkish forces mainly used German rifles and other weapons to carry out the 1915-16 genocide of the Armenian people, a new report has found.

Mausers, Germany's main manufacturer of small arms in both world wars, supplied the Ottoman Empire with millions of rifles and handguns, which were used in the genocide with the active support of German officers.

“German officers who served in Turkish-Ottoman military staff actively helped carry out individual murders,” the report by Global Net – Stop the Arms Trade (GN-STAT) said. “The majority of the aggressors were armed with Mauser rifles or carbines, the officers with Mauser pistols.” Many German officers witnessed and wrote about the massacres in letters to their families.

The report represents the first “case” being researched and developed by Global Net, a new multilingual worldwide network of over a 100 organizations, and a database for activists, whistleblowers, journalists, artists, and others interested in arms exports. It is already preparing new case studies about the illegal G36 deal that Heckler & Koch made in Mexico, and which is about to go to trial in Stuttgart, and the \$110 billion (€90 billion) arms deal that the United States struck with Saudi Arabia last year.

The Turkish army was also equipped with hundreds of cannon produced by the Essen-based company Krupp, which were used in Turkey's assault on Armenian resistance fighters holding out on the Musa Dagh mountain in 1915.

In 2015, German President Joachim Gauck acknowledged Germany's “co-responsibility” for the Armenian genocide, while a book published in the same year by journalist Jürgen Gottschlich detailed the political collusion of Turkey's most important European ally in the first world war, which provided military advice and training for the Ottoman Empire throughout the Wilhelmine period. But the new GN-STAT report is the first to detail the sheer extent of the material support provided by Mauser and Krupp.

“Mauser really had a rifle monopoly for the Ottoman Empire,” said the report's author Wolfgang Landgraeber, a filmmaker who has made several films about German weapons exports. Mauser is now defunct as a company, but Krupp's successor, German steel giant ThyssenKrupp, has never publicly acknowledged the part it played in the genocide.

“The question of who actually supplied the weapons, not only for the genocide but also for the First World War in Turkey, no one has really addressed that question before,” said Landgraeber. “And to what extent German officers took part in murders by actually picking up the rifles and firing them themselves — that wasn't known before.”

Many of the first-hand German accounts in the report come from letters by Major Graf Eberhard Wolffskehl, who was stationed in the southeastern Turkish city of Urfa in October 1915. Urfa was home to a substantial Armenian population, which had barricaded themselves inside houses against Turkish infantry. Wolffskehl was serving as chief-of-staff to Fahri Pasha, deputy commander of the fourth Turkish army, which had been called in as reinforcement.

“They (the Armenians) had occupied the houses south of the church in numbers,” the German officer wrote to his wife. “When our artillery fire struck the houses and killed many people inside, the others tried to retreat into the church itself. But ... they had to go around the church across the open church courtyard. Our infantry had already reached the houses to the left of the courtyard and shot down the people fleeing across the church courtyard in piles. All in all the infantry, which I used in the main attack ... acquitted itself very well and advanced very dashingly.”

While German companies provided the guns, and German soldiers the expert advice on how to use them, German officers also laid what Landgraeber calls the “ideological foundations” for the genocide.

Another figure the report focuses on is the Prussian Major General Colmar Freiherr von der Goltz, a key figure who became a vital military adviser to the Ottoman court in 1883, who saw himself as a lobbyist for the German arms industry and supported both Mauser and Krupp in their efforts to secure Turkish commissions. (He once boasted in his diary, “I can claim that without me the rearmament of the army with German models would not have happened.”)

“Not publicly, but among his friends and relatives, von der Goltz would show himself an Armenia-phobe,” said Landgraeber. “Several witnesses heard him describing them as ‘a greasy trader people.’ He helped persuade the Sultan to try and end the Armenian question once and for all.”

Landgraeber also considers von der Goltz a source for later Nazi ideology. The Prussian officer published a military book in 1883 entitled “Das Volk in Waffen” (“The People Armed”), in which, as Landgraeber puts it, “he adopts positions that Hitler would take up later — for example, the aim of a military campaign should be to destroy the enemy totally, not just to fight and force a capitulation. He believed in total war. That was also the ideological foundation that he gave the Ottomans, and which they used in the Armenian issue.”

Landgraeber is keen to underline that the new research does not absolve the Ottoman Empire of its guilt — but simply fills in the gaps in the historical record. “It happened as we have researched it, and nothing should be sugarcoated — but the entire picture should be more complete.”

Transcaucasian Trail: British traveler creating 3,000-kilometer hiking route crisscrossing Armenia and Georgia

British traveler Tom Allen has come up with the idea of creating the Transcaucasian Trail – an ambitious, 3,000-kilometer hiking route that will crisscross Armenia and Georgia all the way from the Iranian border to the Georgian-Turkish frontier, and will make odysseys on foot through these rugged and hardly accessible mountains possible, the CNN reports.

Allen's strong resolution comes from his adventurer background. Before becoming the Transcaucasian Trail's "explorer in chief," for several years he toured the world on a bicycle, curating one of the world's most successful bike touring blogs and filming a few acclaimed independent adventure documentaries.

"Janapar: Love, on a Bike" (2014) recounts how Allen, who is originally from England, met his Armenian-Iranian wife Tenny and ended up staying in the region – a most romantic prelude to getting involved with trail-building operations.

"Armenia is somewhere I ended up accidentally, but seeds germinate where they fall, right? So here



I am, building a trail for everyone, helping other people in a way that aligns with the values I'd developed on the road," he said.

The Transcaucasian Trail launched in 2016 as the "Transcaucasian Expedition" thanks to a grant and 4x4 vehicle Allen received from the Royal Geographic Society and Land Rover in London.

By the end of the summer of 2017, his team of local experts and international volunteers completed the first 100 kilometers of trail, through Armenia's Dilijan National Park.

At the same time, a sister oper-

ation led by the Transcaucasian Trail's co-founder, American and former Peace Corps volunteer Paul Stephens, has completed a section of the trail in the Svaneti region of northwestern Georgia.

"Quite simply, we will both keep forging ahead for as long as it takes to connect the two trunks at the Georgian-Armenian border," explains Allen.

The final, enormous trail may take up to a decade to complete, says Allen – and several months to hike in its entirety. Hikers will be able to join the first fund-raising expeditions in the summer of 2018.

Besides the vehicle and the initial financial grant, Allen has also been sourcing funds locally.

"Forming an NGO was a necessary step to receive funding and form partnerships with other local organizations," he explains.

"At this stage, we are partnering with Caucasus Nature Fund, [which] supports small infrastructure projects in the protected areas of the Caucasus, and the Hovnanian Foundation, whose current focus is on developing hiking in Armenia."

Another important issue is, given the bloody history surrounding Armenian national borders, how much neighboring Azerbaijan will make or break the project.

As for Azerbaijan, Tom Allen said: "Azerbaijan hasn't been left out. We just haven't found partners there yet."

"Development of the trail eastwards towards the Caspian Sea will depend on finding another Paul or Tom who makes it his or her life's work to bring it into existence. And as much as I'd love to kick off the process in Azerbaijan myself, I've got my hands full already."

A fruit garden meant for agricultural purposes is on sale in an administrative district of Yerevan.

The garden covers an area of 40 hectares.

The total number of trees is 1150 of which 500 apricot trees, 350 black plums, 200 Greek nuts and other.

The area is supplied with water both for drinking and irrigation it also has gas and electricity.

Moreover the road leading to the garden is covered with asphalt and there is a farm house and a greenhouse nearby.

For further information phone 099 10 54 53

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

The Sun is shining brightest in your sign now. Remain conscious that you cannot know all the facts because some things are hidden from you. Therefore decisions are challenging. On a Mercury retrograde it is useful to try out solutions and experiment, but don't sell the farm based only on what you can see today.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

A changing social situation or a particular friend wanders across your radar this week. You are left with a lot to think about as a result. Your feathers may be ruffled a bit, but this is no major deal. Stay in communication with your partner. The role of woman as Lover versus woman as Caretaker may be mildly challenging now, whether you are male or female.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Take whatever you hear with just a grain of salt this week. Rumors are spreading rapidly. Take plenty of time before you react or express an opinion. You don't want to appear overbearing or opinionated.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Making decisions too quickly will set you up for financial trauma later. Double check all figures before you make a purchase. Your desired object may be something that is too good to be true. If you have even one thought of that nature, set the purchase aside until you can be certain.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

You may have many opinions this week, but don't believe everything you think. Your objectivity is limited right now so you may be missing an important perspective. Travel to somewhere you have been before could prove fun and may lift your spirits.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You may discover an error in your taxes or bank accounts. Check your accounting carefully to insure that you are covered. Mistakes are common during times like these. See the lead paragraph for additional information.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

It is favorable to attend to matters concerning home and security now. Perspective is a general challenge to all this week. Make a conscious effort to avoid jumping to conclusions with little evidence. Concentrate on the long-term view if you can and wait until you have all the facts.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Keep your tongue on a tight tether. Whatever you say may come back to haunt you on May 12. Drive with caution. Your reflexes may be out of sync, setting you up for an accident or injury. You can prevent it with careful handling.



Sagittarius

(November 22–December 20)

You have a desire to celebrate. The temptation to overspend is strong. Consider what would be fun and interesting that doesn't require a lot of money. Activities concerning education, publishing, the law, and travel have positive aspects. You are talkative and in an exploring frame of mind. Curb your tendency to be opinionated.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Slow down. Your mind may be racing you into a ditch. Social and romantic life is favored this week, particularly over the weekend. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

This is a good time to kick back and enjoy the days. Your home is your sanctuary. Don't allow it to work you to death. Smell the spring flowers.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Be careful if you feel compelled to buy. You are likely to splurge on an item that ultimately doesn't fully offer what you think. The promise is big, but the result may fall short of your expectations.

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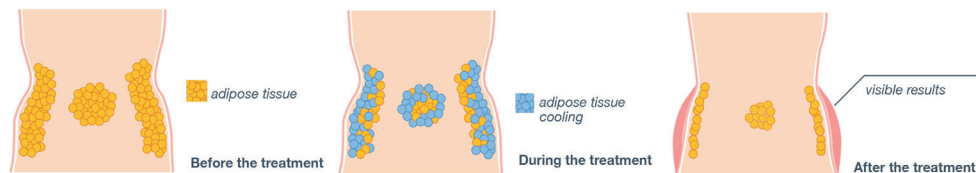
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