

The 2014 FIDE Candidates Tournament kicks off in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia)



The 2014 FIDE Candidates Tournament kicks off in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia) on March 12th and will continue through April 1st.

The FIDE Candidates Tournament will determine the challenger who will face, later this year, the current title holder World Champion Magnus Carlsen for the prestigious FIDE World Championship.

The eight participants are Viswanathan Anand of India, Levon Aronian of Armenia, Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan and four Russian players - Vladimir Kramnik, Peter Svidler, Sergey Karjakin and Dmitry Andreikin.

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French President to visit Armenia in May

Within the framework of the working visit to Paris, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian met with his French counterpart Laurent Fabius.

The Ministers discussed the preparations for the forthcoming visit of the President of France, Francois Hollande, to Armenia this May.

The interlocutors hailed the high level of political dialogue, referred to the perspectives of further development and expansion of economic cooperation. In this context Minister Nalbandian has stressed that there are about 160 companies in Armenia work-

ing with French capital and has welcomed the growth of French investments in Armenia.

The Armenian-EU relations and the Karabakh settlement process were also on the agenda. Appreciating France's constructive involvement in the process together with the United States and Russia, Minister Nalbandian attached importance to their joint efforts targeted at the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

Minister Nalbandian reiterated Armenia's willingness to continue to work jointly with the Minsk Group co-chairing



countries to reach a final resolution.

The parties discussed the urgent international and regional issues, particularly the Ukrainian crisis and the possible ways of its settlement, as well as Iran's nuke programs.

E. Nalbandian: Armenia stands for settlement of the Ukrainian crisis through dialogue

"Armenia stands for the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis through dialogue, in peaceful and negotiated manner based on the UN Charter, international law," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said in comments to the "First News" Service of Public TV.

Asked what influence the Ukrainian crisis might have on the Nagorno Karabakh peace process, Minister Nalbandian said: "We are committed to the peaceful and fair solution of the Karabakh issue within the format of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship,

to the supremacy of the Karabakh people's right to live and create, to determine their destiny in their own country."

"Together with the three Co-Chairs we will continue our joint efforts for exclusively peaceful settlement of the Karabakh issue," the Minister said.

NKR praises Crimea referendum

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (the Artsakh Republic) considers the referendum held on March 16 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as yet another manifestation of realization of the right of people to self-determination.

"The right of every people to choose its path of development and determine its destiny on its own through democratic expression of will, as it is enshrined in the UN Charter and a number of fundamental international documents, is a key principle of international law.

The experience of recent years, in particular the referendums envisaged in Catalonia and Scotland prove that the recognition and realization of the inalienable right of people to self-determination is the most optimal and democratic way for the peaceful settlement of this kind of issues.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic hopes that the situation following the referendum in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea will be addressed and resolved in the legal context exclusively by peaceful means," the Ministry said in a statement.

J. Warlick: Karabakh is the issue where the US and Russia can cooperate

"We should consider what is to be learned from events in Ukraine for conflict in Armenia and Azerbaijan," US Co-Chair James Warlick said in a Twitter post.

"While the US cannot accept Russia's actions in Ukraine, there are areas where we can continue to work together, such as peace in Nagorno-Karabakh," Warlick said.



Implementation of "roadmap" of Armenia's accession to CU discussed at RA Government

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received member of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Minister Timur Suleymanov, who coordinates the economic and financial policy of the structure.

The parties discussed the activity of the working groups set up to implement the "roadmap" of Armenia's accession to the Customs Union. The interlocutors exchanged views on the discussion on services and investments, tax and customs policies, customs duties and issues of intellectual property.

The parties summed up the interim results of the work done so far and expressed willingness to continue the consultations with an aim of working out a coordinated approach on all issues in the near future.

It is expected to complete the discussions in the format of working groups by the end of March.

Timur Suleymanov expressed gratitude to the Armenian Government for the productive cooperation and for organizing the activity of the working groups on a high level.

Catherine Ashton visits Armenian Cathedral in Iran



On March 10th, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Catherine Ashton visited the Armenian Holy Savior Cathedral in New Julfa, Iran, the Prelacy of New Julfa informs.

Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Isfahan, Bishop Papken Charian expressed gratitude to the European Union for recognizing the Armenian Genocide and referred to the ECHR ruling on Armenian Genocide denial case.

He praised the constant support of the Iranian authorities to the maintenance of the Armenian Churches and cultural values, and reminded a few years ago neighboring Azerbaijan demolished the Armenian cross-stones in Old Julfa, which was a cultural genocide. The Primate voiced hope that the European Parliament will condemn the vandalism to prevent the reoccurrence of such genocides elsewhere in the future. Catherine Ashton assured she would pursue the protection of human rights.

At the end of the visit Ms. Ashton left a note in the Commemoration book of the museum.



Armenia welcomes Switzerland's decision to appeal ECHR ruling on Armenian Genocide denial

Armenia commended Switzerland on March 12 for asking the European Court of Human Rights to reconsider a recent ruling that public denial of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey cannot be deemed a crime.

The ruling was handed down in December as a result of an appeal lodged by Dogu Perincek, a Turkish pro-establishment politician.

Perincek was fined by a Swiss court in 2007 for declaring during a lecture tour in Switzerland that the 1915 slaughter of some 1.5 Armenians is an "international lie." The punishment stemmed from Switzerland's anti-racism legislation that bans any act of denying, belittling or justifying Genocide. It was upheld by the Swiss Federal Court.

The European court ruled that the Swiss verdicts violated an article of the European Convention on Human Rights that guarantees freedom of expression.

Switzerland's Federal Office of Justice announced on Tuesday that it will ask the Strasbourg-based court's Grand Chamber to review the case. In a statement cited by the Reuters news agency, it



said it is primarily seeking to clarify the scope available to Swiss authorities in applying the anti-racism legislation.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry welcomed the development. "Consistency in the fight against genocide denial is important for averting new crimes against humanity," the ministry spokesman, Tigran Balayan, said in written remarks.

The European court ruling has implications for other European states such as France which have tried to criminalize the refusal to apply the term genocide to the mass killings and deportations of Armenians in the disintegrating Ottoman Empire.

Turkey responds to Switzerland's decision to appeal European Court ruling on Armenian Genocide denial

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey has issued a statement in response to the referral of judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the case of "Perincek v. Switzerland" to the Grand Chamber by Switzerland. The statement reads:

"In a judgment published on 17 December 2013, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) had ruled that Switzerland breached Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights on "freedom of expression" in the case of D. Perinçek v. Switzerland.

We have learned through the written statement by the Swiss Federal Office of Justice on 11 March 2014 that Switzerland has decided to object to this judgment and refer it to the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR. Having full confidence in the rule of law, we expect that the Grand Chamber will confirm once more and forcefully that "freedom of expression", which is the building bloc of democratic societies, is safeguarded.

In this way, we believe that the efforts to politicize the law will be aborted once again."

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Still no agreement on Armenian-Azeri Summit



International mediators appear to have failed to arrange a fresh meeting of Armenia's and Azerbaijan's presidents during a series of consultations held with the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the last three weeks.

The U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have repeatedly met with the foreign ministers of the two warring nations since February 22 in an effort to organize the next Armenian-Azerbaijani summit which they hope will break the current impasse in the Karabakh peace process.

In a joint statement issued in Moscow late on Wednesday, they stressed "the need for further talks at the highest level to advance the peace process" but announced no agreements on the summit's date and agenda. They said they discussed with the ministers unspecified "issues raised by the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan during their November 2013 meeting in Vienna."

"The Co-Chairs plan to visit the region in the next month," concluded the statement

issued the day after their latest talks with Foreign Edward Nalbandian that were held in Moscow.

The troika met with Azerbaijan's Elmar Mammadyarov in Paris on Monday. Writing on his Twitter page ahead of that meeting, James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair, said, "We hope the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan will meet this month. Only they can address the most difficult issues of peace."

There have been suggestions that Russia's deepening confrontation with the West over the crisis in Ukraine could further complicate the protracted search for Karabakh peace. The United States and the European Union are threatening to impose sanctions against Russia in retaliation for its military intervention in Ukraine's autonomous republic of Crimea.

Warlick insisted in another tweet early on Thursday that the U.S, France and Russia will continue to "work together to support efforts for peace." "Consultations in Moscow on Nagorno-Karabakh were valuable," he wrote.

Armenian, Azerbaijani FMs to meet in The Hague

The Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia will meet in The Hague, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister, Elmar Mammadyarov told journalists on March 18.

According to reports in Azeri media, the meeting will be held as part of the Nuclear Security Summit to be held in The Hague (the Netherlands) on March 24-25.

The Azerbaijani FM also said that the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group will visit the region in April.

"We cannot always hold negotiations, it is necessary to start discussing a big peace agreement," Mammadyarov said.



Armenia, NATO discuss perspectives of cooperation

The delegation headed by Frank Boland, Director of Force Planning at the NATO Defense Policy and Planning Division of the NATO International Staff, is paying a three day visit to Armenia to coordinate the new package of objectives of Armenia-NATO cooperation within the framework of the Planning and Review Process (PARP) of the Individual Partnership Action Plan.

On March 12 the delegation had a meeting with Armenia's First Deputy Defense Minister David Tonoyan. The latter noted that the discussions will provide an opportunity to discuss the commitments of Armenia and NATO to implement defense reforms and outline the perspectives of continuation of joint international peacekeeping mission and capacity development.

Stressing the importance of Armenia-NATO cooperation within the framework of IPAP and PARP, Frank Boland noted that the implementation of commitments contributes to the reinforcement of bilateral cooperation and enhances the development of separate components of the sphere of defense.



Regime change 'Still not on Tsarukyan's agenda'



The Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) insisted on March 12 that it is not seeking President Serzh Sargsyan's resignation despite increasingly criticizing his government's economic policies and cooperating with established opposition groups.

Stepan Markaryan, a senior PAP figure, said the party's leader, Gagik Tsarukyan, did not discuss "regime change" with top representatives of Levon Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (ANC) at a meeting on Tuesday. The PAP believes that the anti-government forces represented in parliament should strive instead for the resignation of Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and his cabinet, he said.

Markaryan confirmed that the ANC's parliamentary leader, Levon Zurabyan, and two other senior members of Ter-Petrosian's party reaffirmed its insistence on President Sargsyan's removal from power at the start of the meeting with Tsarukyan. "But nobody addressed the issue after that," he said.

"The president's resignation is not on the agenda of the four parties," Markaryan told reporters, referring to the PAP, the ANC as well as the opposition Dashnaksutyun and Zharangutyun (Heritage) parties. Tsarukyan's party is against trying to topple the president because it wants to spare the country "upheavals," he said.

Tsarukyan began a series of consultations with the three opposition parties late last week after toughening his criticism of the government's economic track record. The four parties are currently working on a joint motion of no confidence in the government, which is due to be put forward in the Armenian parliament controlled by President Sargsyan's Republican Party (RPA).

The ANC has refused to declare itself an opposition party ever since it pulled out of Armenia's ruling coalition in May 2012. Tsarukyan has described it as an "alternative" to the country's current leadership.

Armenia to attend the MITT International Travel & Tourism Exhibition in Moscow

The National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia, along with 10 tourism companies, will represent Armenia at the MITT International Travel & Tourism Exhibition in Moscow, Russia from March 19-22.

MITT is Russia's largest travel exhibition with over 1,800 participating companies from 198 destinations. In 2013, the event recorded an attendance of 37,000 visitors.

Armenia's rich cultural, historical

and Christian heritage will be presented in travel guides and maps in Russian during the exhibition.

The Russian market is one of the target destinations of NCFA's tourism promotion. Thus, Armenia's participation in this travel show aims to increase the growth of inbound tourism flows from Russia, while maximizing the potential of Armenian-Russian cooperation in the tourism sector.

Armenian National Committee of Poland formed in Warsaw

In Warsaw, Poland, at the initiative of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (ANC of Europe) and in the presence of Executive Director Kaspar Karampetian, the Armenian National Committee of Poland (ANC Poland) was formed, in which the participating members are devoted to the promotion and success of Armenian national goals, Asbarez reports.

With its plans and activities, the ANC of Poland will try to raise awareness within the friendly and hospitable public and political spheres of Poland, regarding our human rights issues and the fair demands of our people. Moreover, it will pursue Armenian issues in a dignified manner, by establishing close relations with the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, along with the existing Armenian associations in Poland. The ANC welcomes any proposal and suggestion from the members of its community, hoping thus, that their compatriots in Poland will support actively the task at hand.

The ANC of Poland salutes all the Armenian National Committees worldwide, and believes that becoming part of that network of dedicated activists of the Armenian Cause will contribute to the success of our collective work.

During its first meeting the ANC of Poland adopted its basic working agenda and plan of activities for the months to come, which will be announced in due course.

In its turn, the EAFJD will provide all possible means of support to the development and strengthening of the ANC Poland, as well as its political initiatives, whenever that is felt necessary.



Promoting equal rights and equal opportunities in Armenia: Women in Local Democracy Project

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia and the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration (MTA) organised the first Community of Practice in the framework of the EU funded project Women in Local Democracy on 14 March 2014. The event brought together around 60 female community leaders, representatives of regional authorities, community civic groups, representatives of local media and NGOs, working in the area of gender equality.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia Bradley Busetto and the First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration Vache Terteryan welcomed the participants and shared their vision and approaches in the area of local democracy and women participation.

"The European Union is convinced that a truly democratic and representative government assumes adequate participation of women in the political processes," noted Ambassador Hristea. "Participation in local government is a critical issue for women as it is an effective instrument to improve the condition of women at community levels," he added.

UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia Bradley Busetto stated that in the strive to create a vibrant, participatory and gender-balanced local governance in Armenia the project will continue to encourage and support women to participate in decision-making processes at all levels. "We invite you, active representatives of your communities, to contribute to the development of new mechanisms and solutions, and enable women and men to voice their problems and concerns," Bradley Busetto said.

The RA Ministry of Territorial Administration presented the ongoing reforms and plans in the area of local self-governance, as well as highlighted the areas where the project support is responsive to the national priorities.

The two-day event will provide an opportunity for community representatives to highlight progress and existing challenges in the local governance and the advancement of gender equality at the local level, seek solutions for enhancing inclusive and gender-balanced local governance, as well as identify respective capacity gaps. The event will also contribute to strengthening of project synergies with the ongoing and planned national reforms in the area of local governance.

Representatives of UNDP in Armenia and its local partners - Armenian Association of Women with University Education, International Center for Human Development and Armenian Public Relations Association - presented the project progress, results, achievements, challenges and further opportunities. A number of beneficiaries joined the presentations to share their perspective.

The two-day event will conclude with a Statement by participants to national and international actors on their aspirations in regard to participatory governance and women engagement in local governance in Armenia.

The Women in Local Democracy project is implemented since April 2012 with the financial support of the European Union and works in ten regions of Armenia. The EU funding is €525,000.

The project aims at promoting women's participation in local elections, building capacity and knowledge of potential local female leaders through a number of capacity development activities, innovative methods and techniques, thus reducing gender-specific constraints that women face in social and political decision-making processes in Armenia.



The level of groundwater resources in the Ararat Valley has significantly dropped

On March 18, the USAID Clean Energy and Water Program (CEWP) presented to water sector stakeholders the findings of the Study of Groundwater Resources in the Ararat Valley, Armenia. Participants included Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Territorial Administration Armen Gevorgyan, Head of USAID/Armenia Karen Hilliard, officials from the Ministries of Nature Protection, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources, as well as representatives of the regional governments of Ararat and Armavir provinces, the Armenian National Assembly, and sector related scientific institutions.

The level of groundwater resources and groundwater springs reserves in the Ararat Valley has significantly dropped over the last 6-8 years, according to the study. Over 30 communities in the valley suffer from shortages of potable and irrigation water, which leaves a negative imprint on the socio-economic and health conditions of the villages. The study voices the strong need for political action on the part of the Armenian Government to address these issues through improved management and control mechanisms, including the introduction of water conservation measures. These steps will ultimately help to remedy the situation and restore the level of groundwater resources in the Ararat Valley— the country's vital agricultural hub.

The study was a one-year collaborative effort of international and local experts, including specialists from the ArmWaterProject Institute and Mel-Hov companies. Completed in February 2014, the assessment reviews and analyzes previous studies of the groundwater balance, past and present groundwater use in the Ararat Valley, existing aquifers (layers of penetrable rock or sand that can absorb and hold water), and water extraction and recharge rates from the aquifers. The study also provides important recommendations for sustainable use of existing groundwater resources considering current and projected water demand in the valley.

First Armenian-Serbian business forum in Yerevan



The first Armenian-Serbian business forum was convened in Yerevan on March 11. The forum featured representatives of nine companies from both countries representing different spheres.

Armenian Minister of Economy Vahram Avanesyan briefed his

Serbian counterpart on the three main directions of Armenian economy - improvement of business environment, foreign economic relations and export-oriented industrial policy.

Serbian Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkic said in his speech that Serbia is interested in boosting the commodity turnover between the two countries.

Director of the Armenian Development Agency Robert Harutyunyan noted that the trade between the two countries increased four times in 2013. Last year the commodity turnover made \$8.5 mln; the exports from Armenia to Serbia totaled \$5.6 mln, and the imports made \$2.5 mln.

Executive Director of the Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Arayik Vardanyan noted that the Armenian goods are not properly presented on the Serbian market and added that the "forum provides a brilliant opportunity to get to know each other and find edges of cooperation."

Liquor Ads again allowed on Armenian TV

In a move condemned by the opposition minority in Armenia's parliament, pro-government lawmakers have essentially repealed a legal ban on advertising strong alcoholic drinks on television.

Armenian TV stations have for years been allowed to advertise only beverages such as wine and beer containing limited amounts of alcohol. Under amendments to a law on advertising passed by the National Assembly on March 12, they can now also air commercials promoting vodka, brandy and other types of distilled liquor after 10 p.m.

Several deputies from the ruling Republican Party (RPA) who initiated the amendments claimed that their main aim is to shore up the broadcast media which they said is struggling to survive. They estimated that hard liquor ads will enable broadcasters across the country to earn 1 billion drams (\$2.5 million) in additional revenue each year.

"As long as TV channels are not financial-

ly self-sufficient they will have no funds to produce high-quality programs," one of those deputies, Samvel Farmanyan, said during heated parliament debates.

Opposition lawmakers dismissed the official rationale for the bill, saying that it is in fact designed to benefit a handful of already lucrative private TV networks based in Yerevan. At least two of them are reputedly controlled by Mikael Minasyan, President Serzh Sargsyan's influential son-in-law currently serving as Armenia's ambassador to the Vatican.

Nikol Pashinyan, a deputy nominally affiliated with the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC), has claimed that Minasyan is also behind another bill that would ban any advertising by the Armenian Public Television, the country's largest broadcaster. "At least 1.5 billion drams worth of funding is thus being channeled into the media empire of the Armenian ambassador

the Vatican and, more importantly, Serzh Sargsyan's son-in-law," he declared.

Aram Manukian, another ANC deputy, likewise claimed that lifting the ban on liquor advertising "serves business interests of a single person." "How can you impose the will of one person on the parliament?" he said, appealing to the pro-government majority.

The ANC as well as the three other minority factions in the 131-seat National Assembly boycotted an ensuing vote on the controversial measure backed by 66 deputies. Only one legislator, the RPA's Ara Babloyan, voted against it. Babloyan is a former health minister who heads a parliament committee on public health.

Armenia's current health minister, Derenik Dumanyan, also spoke out against allowing strong alcohol ads on TV. Even so, the government as a whole did not object to the bill.

Customs Union, Israel may create free trade zone

The Customs Union, bringing together Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, and Israel have launched the work of a joint research group to study the prospects for the creation of a free trade zone, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) reported on Tuesday.

The joint group is comprised of experts of the EEC, ministries and departments of the Customs Union and the State of Israel, the Voice of Russia reports.

According to the EEC Trade Minister Andrei Slepnyov, "the task of the research group is to conduct a deep system-oriented analysis of the prospects for the creation of a free trade

zone between the countries." "The group is to determine which questions such an agreement might cover and outline possible approaches to the mutually advantageous settlement of sensitive issues for specific sectors," Slepnyov said.

On the results of their study, the experts will present a special report and recommendations on the basis of which a decision may be taken to launch negotiations on a free trade zone between the Customs Union member countries and the State of Israel.

The EEC said that modern free trade agreements are aimed at creating favourable conditions for the further development of trade-economic cooperation. In addition to the classical



issues of liberalization of trade in goods through the reduction of customs duties, such agreements often include other disciplines, for example, issues related to trade in services and other measures of easing mutual investment activity, the development of cross-border trade in services, ensuring the necessary protection and encouragement of capital investment.



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

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

3 ROOMS

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

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable

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

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.- 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms,

study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system



swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- ♦942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnisred, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- ♦1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- ♦1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD

- ♦1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2187. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, firmished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- ♦2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8,9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- ♦2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price:

2000 USD.

- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- ♦2249. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 9/7, 186sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one of which in bedroom, open balcony, capially repaired, climat control, furnished, equipped., parking. Price: 3500 USD negotiable.
- ♦2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1191. **Aygestan**, Land-400 sqm, 2 storied bld.- 270 sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathroom, study, capially repaired, partly furnished, garden, swimming pool, garage. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system.



Price: 8000 USD.

- ♦999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- ♦1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- ♦1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

- ♦1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.

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

PREMISES

- ♦1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- ♦1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- ♦1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- ♦1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- ♦2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.

World Bank supports improvements in education in Armenia

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a US\$30 million financing for the **Education Improvement Project in Armenia**. The project will support the improvement of school readiness for children entering primary education and the physical conditions in upper-secondary schools. It will also promote greater links between higher education institutions and labor market in Armenia.

For over a decade the Government of Armenia has been pursuing reforms in the education sector targeted at strengthening the quality of education services delivered. These reforms include but are not limited to the development of the new national curriculum framework, standards, and syllabi for general education, extension of the general education system from grade 11 to 12, establishment of the Assessment and Testing Center (ATC) for enhanced capacity to assess student performance, and provision of universal access to internet to all schools in Armenia. The latter has considerably improved access and the quality of general education.

The new project will support improving the school readiness among those entering first grade by expanding preschool coverage in impoverished rural areas benefiting approximately 2,400 children per year. 17 high schools will be rehabilitated with enhanced construction and safety standards to benefit approximately 10,200 high school students in all regions. The rehabilitated high schools, would provide more appropriate teaching and learning environments to the students, including safer infrastructure, adequate ICT equipment and digital teaching and learning materials. The project activities will specifically

cover vulnerable population including ethnic groups and disabled children.

"Establishing equitable and high-quality education system has been a corner stone of Armenia's education reforms in the past decade," says Jean-Michel Happi, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "This project will continue improving the relevance of educational services through accessible quality education at all levels, including for higher education, thus contributing to building country's human capital necessary to enhance the competitiveness of the economy."

The project will also support strengthening of the National Center of Education Technology for monitoring the school network and providing adequate ICT coverage and publicly available relevant and timely data to all educational institutions and to the society. The quality of general education would be also increased through the revisions and improvements in curriculum. This would indirectly benefit almost 370,000 students per year. The support for Tertiary Education through the envisioned mainstreaming of the Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF) would impact about 3,000 students annually, whose academic programs would be modernized and made more responsive to the needs of employers.

"The project will address the readiness to school of over 12,000 five year old children living in rural impoverished areas that lack pre-school services," says Cristian Aedo, World Bank Task Team Leader of the project. "This will positively impact the poor population as it will improve the opportunities for children to be comparably successful at later stages of their educa-

tion. The project will actively engage in activities that will boost the learning environment from full rehabilitation of 15 percent of high schools across the country to development of electronic content."

Over these years the Government has successfully increased the enrollment at preschool level along with pursuing reforms of higher education after joining the Bologna Process in 2005. To successfully complete the process, this project would be specifically focused on community-based pre-schools and enhancing enrollment rates in participating kindergartens and schools; the improvement in teaching and learning conditions in high schools; and curriculum revisions. The project will support the development of an integrated information system that will provide necessary data and analysis for policy making and recurrent improvement of general secondary and tertiary education. The proposed activities will also enhance partnerships between universities and the private sector for modernizing the higher education sector in Armenia.

Total financing of the project is US\$37.5 million, of which US\$7.5 million will be the Government's contribution. The World Bank will provide a US\$15 million credit on standard blend IDA terms at a fixed interest rate of 1.25% per annum with a maturity of 25 years and a 5 year grace period, as well as a US\$15 million IBRD loan of variable spread, with a 10 year grace period and the total repayment term of 25 years.

Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, the commitments to Armenia total approximately US\$ 1,818.04 million.

Referral Centre for Reintegration provides support to Armenian returning migrants

A Referral Centre for Reintegration was established with EU support on 11 March 2014 in Yerevan. The Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea and the Head of the State Migration Service of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration Gagik Yeganyan, delivered welcome speeches during the opening of the centre.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea highlighted the fact that in the light of the Mobility Partnership Declaration the Targeted Initiative for Armenia project shows the importance that the European Union attaches to the further development of the migration flow management in Armenia. It also shows the scale of assistance in order to strengthen the institutional capacity of the institutions concerned to manage migration and to facilitate migrants' reintegration process.

In his opening speech Mr Gagik Yeganyan stated that from now on



Armenian nationals will be able to benefit from individual reintegration support at the Referral Centre for Reintegration, which has been established at the State Migration Service within the framework of the Targeted Initiative for Armenia project.

According to the Director of the Targeted Initiative for Armenia, Virginie Artot, the centre provides returning Armenian nationals with a one-stop shop

after their return in Armenia, where they are informed about the possibilities for reintegration and are referred to the most appropriate services to get reintegration assistance. "In order to provide a wide range of reintegration assistance the State Migration Service and the Targeted Initiative for Armenia project are already actively cooperating with 4 organisations providing reintegration assistance," she added.

The Targeted Initiative for Armenia project is the flagship project under the Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Armenia. The aim of the project is to strengthen Armenia's migration management capacities with special focus on reintegration activities. The project is being implemented by a Consortium of 8 EU Member States under the lead of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII). The implementation period of the project is 3 years, and the overall budget is € 3 million.

Armenia to introduce tax breaks for IT startups



The Armenian government on March 13 moved to offer small information technology (IT) companies significant tax breaks which it hopes will give a further boost to one of the most dynamic sectors of Armenia's economy.

The government approved a package of draft legal amendments that would exempt newly established IT firms employing up to 15 people from profit tax for three years. The bill also envisages a preferential income tax rate for their employees, equivalent to 10 percent of their gross wages. The minimum payroll tax rate in Armenia is currently set at 24.4 percent.

Presenting the bill that will almost certainly be passed by the parliament, Economy Minister Vahram Avanesyan said the government expects that between 40 and 60 IT startups will emerge each year thanks to the tax breaks. He said they will also

encourage foreign software and microchip design companies already present in Armenia to register their subsidiaries with local tax authorities.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan also stressed the importance of the proposed incentives for Armenia's burgeoning IT industry. "In terms its development, the IT sector has reached a point where new and qualitative changes are needed so that Armenia can occupy a special place on the world IT map with its comparative advantages and specificities," he said at a weekly session of his cabinet.

Sargsyan promised government support for the sector when he touted its rapid expansion at a conference held in Yerevan last October. He said IT firms have become "comparable" to Armenia's export-oriented mining enterprises in terms of output and workforce involved.

There are currently some 300 such firms employing between 7,000 and 10,000 engineers. According to government data, the sector grew by an average of 23 percent annually from 2008-2012. Its combined output was worth around \$244 million in 2012.

Earlier in 2013, Tigran Sargsyan and Russian Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov inaugurated Armenia's first-ever tax-free business zone created for high hi-tech manufacturing companies. It is located in the premises of an electronics plant and a research institute in Yerevan runs by a Russian company.

A U.S.-Armenian joint venture, Armtab Technologies, became in December one of the first companies allowed by the Armenian government to operate in the tax haven. Armtab plans to start assembling tablet computers there this year.

Expert: Bill "On state support in IT sector" will cover start-up companies

The bill "On state support in IT sector" envisaging tax privileges for IT enterprises will cover start-up companies, not the incumbent ones, Karen Vardanyan, CEO of the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE), said at today's press conference in Yerevan.

He has said that the IT sector in Armenia is developing slowly due to poor financing. Nevertheless, he added that the IT sector can increase its average annual growth from 22% to 30% even without any tangible investment.

He stressed the need to conduct reforms in the education system, develop business in the IT sector and create a single state structure to protect the rights of innovation activities. "For the moment the innovation activity is under control of various ministries and each of them is hogging the cover", said Vardanyan. He recalled that all those proposals have been submitted to the Armenian Government 4 years before.

Vazgen Safaryan, Head of the Union of Armenian Manufacturers, thinks that the bill will support the small business in the IT sector. He recalled that at the moment the share of the IT sector in Armenia's GDP is 2-3%. The bill will give an opportunity to considerably increase that share. In particular, the bill envisages creation of new 40-50 IT companies, which will employ 15-20 specialists each. "I think that the Government should provide tax privileges not only to the IT sector, but also to other sectors of small and medium business by increasing the annual VAT tax- exempt amount from 58.7 mln AMD to 100 mln AMD.

Economist Vardan Bostanjyan, in turn, said, "In 2010-2011 the Armenian Government provided the IT sector with as much money as singer Nune Yesayan raises during each of her concerts - 80 mln AMD".

To recall, the average monthly revenue of the IT sector in Armenia is 20 mln USD. 500 IT companies of Armenia



employ 12 thsd specialists, with 10 thsd of them being engineers.

To note, the UITE was founded in 2000. It unifies a number of companies to protect their economic interests, stimulate the IT sector, etc. The founders of the UITE are Migma, Algorithm, Link, ArmSoft, Arminco, and Sedit.

Arminfo

Shifting Inter-Relationships between Armenia and Diaspora



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

The Diaspora Ministry of the Republic of Armenia invited a small group of scholars and analysts to Yerevan last December to discuss the Diaspora's changing role in relation to the homeland. The participants in the "Changing Diaspora in an Ever-changing World" roundtable had come from Argentina, Armenia, Germany, Lebanon, Russia, Ukraine, and the United States.

The discussion centered on the formation of the Diaspora, current challenges, Armenia-Diaspora collaboration, improved links for closer cooperation between Armenia and Diaspora, and the quest for new working mechanisms and perspectives.

Here are excerpts from my presentation at the meeting:

The Diaspora encountered a completely new set of circumstances after Armenia's independence. The sudden realization of the long-cherished dream of free Armenia caught many Diasporans by surprise. New words appeared in their vocabulary: Artsakh (Karabagh), earthquake, blockade, protocol, opposition, coalition government, regime change.

Most Diasporans had a hard time distinguishing between the actions of an individual, group or organization and the rights and obligations of a state. At the same time, Armenia's new leaders could not fully comprehend the patriotic sentiments, wishes and desires of Diasporan Armenians, causing a disconcerting rift between the two sides.

Complicating matters, the Diaspora is not a monolithic group, but is composed of distinct subsets, having taken shape at different times in foreign lands under various cultural and linguistic influences.

When asked by journalists in Armenia about Diaspora's views on a particular issue, I have difficulty answering such a question. How can anyone encapsulate the diverse views of seven million Diasporans? To reflect the opinion of the majority of the Diaspora, one would need to form a pan-Armenian body, either by expanding the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's functions beyond fundraising or creating a brand new structure that would represent Armenians worldwide, except those in Armenia and Artsakh, based on the principle of 'one man, one vote.' The elected representatives would have the right to speak in the name of all Diaspora Armenians and meet periodically

with the leadership of Armenia and Artsakh to consult and coordinate their priorities on pan-Armenian issues.

Leaders of all three wings of the Armenian nation (Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora) can then discuss their respective positions, and agree on the role each would play. Such a division of labor is preferable over unending internal feuds and conflicts that sometimes take place, as was the case during the signing of the Armenia-Turkey Protocols.

It is incumbent upon Armenia's leadership to be more sensitive on issues that are important for Diaspora Armenians and consult with them before taking final decisions.

Understandably, Armenia's leaders are not obliged to take orders from anyone outside the country's borders. While having the final say over all matters, they nevertheless have the moral duty and obligation to consider the views of key Diasporan organizations, in the absence of a Diaspora-wide elected body. In any case, Armenia's authorities are responsible before the nation for their actions. They are praised when taking the right decisions and criticized when they do not.

It must be stated that an elective Diaspora-wide structure, no matter how difficult to establish, would be far more inclusive and representative than appointed leaders - despite their devoted efforts - who merely represent their respective members. It is imperative to include large segments of our people in all activities, so that we become more effective in our endeavors, particularly at a time when Azerbaijan and Turkey are organizing their Diasporas and spending tens of millions of dollars to undermine our just demands on the eve of the Genocide Centennial.

As we often state: "Azerbaijan has oil, Georgia has a sea, and Armenia has a Diaspora!" However, a disorganized and dwindling Diaspora would be of little value for our national cause. It can neither preserve itself nor be of any assistance to the homeland.

We must do everything possible to have a powerful homeland and a strong Diaspora. The survival of each is dependent on the vitality of the other. Despite the valiant efforts of the Diaspora Ministry, we must realize that the magnitude of what needs to be done is so enormous that it exceeds the capabilities of any one ministry. There is a clear need for the concerted efforts of Armenia's entire leadership to make Diaspora Armenians feel welcome and at home!

Rep. Sherman urges Secretary Kerry to advocate U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide

During a hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) praised Secretary of State John Kerry for his Senate record on the Armenian Genocide and encouraged him to continue to advocate for U.S. affirmation, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly).

"I commend you as Senator Kerry for your incredible record fighting for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and hope that as Secretary Kerry you will do likewise," stated Sherman.

Inviting the Secretary to submit his answers for the record, Rep. Sherman also raised concerns about Azerbaijan's hostile acts against Armenians and recounted the brutal murder in Hungary at a 2004 NATO Partnership for Peace training program of Armenian Army Lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan by Azeri Army Lieutenant Ramil Safarov, as well as continued threats by Azerbaijan's president to shoot down any planes flying in and out of the Stepanakert airport in the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

"The Azeri soldier that murdered a sleeping Armenian soldier at a NATO exercise has been promoted and praised and in light of that and other aggressive actions, I hope that you will review and perhaps withdraw any military assistance to Azerbaijan," stated Sherman. He added, "I hope that you will also warn the Azeris that it is simply outrageous for them to threaten to shoot down civilian aircraft that try to fly into the Nagorno Karabakh airport."

"We commend Congressman Sherman for raising these critically important issues with Secretary Kerry," stated Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "On the eve of the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Congressman Sherman's remarks serve as a timely reminder to the Administration to fulfill its commitment," Ardouny continued.

Major exhibition in the US documents the role of the Armenian Church during the Genocide

The Armenian National Institute (ANI), Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA) and the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) jointly, and in cooperation with the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan and the Republic of Armenia National Archives, announced the release of a major exhibit consisting of 20 panels with over 150 historic photographs documenting the role of the Armenian Church during the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Mirror-Spectator reports.

Titled "The First Refuge and the Last Defense: The Armenian Church, Etchmiadzin, and The Armenian Genocide," the exhibit explains the importance of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin during the Armenian Genocide. It also examines the vital leadership role played by the clergy during the Armenian Genocide, especially the all-important intervention of Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants in alerting world leaders about the massacres, effectively issuing the first "early warning" of an impending genocide.

The sacrifices of the Armenian clergy are well documented. Thousands, among them several primates in Western Armenia and other parts of the Ottoman Empire, paid the price of martyrdom for their faith during the Armenian Genocide. Far less well known is the extent to which the Armenian Church in Eastern Armenia, then under Russian rule, came to the assistance of the Armenian people in its hour of plight.

The exhibit provides ample evidence of the aid extended by fellow Armenians to the refugees fleeing Ottoman Turkey as the Young Turk regime pursued its path toward the destruction of the Armenians. It is now almost forgotten that the first people to come to the aid of the fleeing and starving were Armenians across the Russian-Turkish border who welcomed their countrymen into their homes and threw open the doors to their schools, hospitals, and other facilities to house, care, and feed the hungry, the sick and the homeless.

At the epicenter of this outpouring of aid was Echmiadzin, the primary destination of the Armenians fleeing the massacres along the border regions of the Ottoman Empire, especially as a result of the great exodus of the Armenian population of Van. They had



dared resist extermination only to find themselves abandoning their homeland, when the Russian forces that arrived to deliver them shortly thereafter retreated. After the slaughter of 55,000 Armenians in Van province alone in April 1915, the survivors, 100,000 in all, concentrated in the city of Van, were left with no choice other than exile. As armed Turkish and Kurdish bands pursued them every mile of their trek across the rugged landscape of mountains, valleys, and rivers cutting through gorges, the exodus turned into the road of massacres.

With testimony from survivors and witnesses, the exhibit reconstructs this particular chapter of the Armenian Genocide, a chapter often overlooked in the context of the mass deportations of the Armenians from all across Ottoman Turkey to the interior of the Syrian desert where hundreds of thousands perished from hunger, thirst, and slaughter. The episode in Van was no less tragic as the death toll was no less ferocious even after thousands seemingly reached safety only to die of exhaustion, fright, starvation, and raging epidemics as the resources in Eastern Armenia were quickly overwhelmed and Echmiadzin transformed overnight into a vast and fetid refugee camp.

With three maps, 12 historic documents and news clippings, as well as 16 survivor testimonies specific to the details of the events documented with over 150 photographs, the exhibit reconstructs the Armenian Genocide in a single region of historic Armenia and reveals how the people of Eastern Armenia became aware of the

policies of the Young Turks during World War I. The exhibit combines images retrieved from archives and repositories in Armenia and America and connects them together in this first extensive narrative exhibit on the Armenian Genocide.

These dramatic pictures highlight the role of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin during the critical years of 1915 and 1916. They also explain the invaluable national role of Armenian church leaders as exemplified by four of its outstanding catholicoses, namely Mkrtych I Khrimian, Gevorg V Sureniants, Khoren I Muratbekian, and Garegin I Hovsepian, the first three, Catholicos of All Armenians and the fourth, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

The exhibit also explores the role of the laity in responding to the appeals of the Armenian Church and reveals how the Eastern Armenian intelligentsia, as represented by figures such as Hovhannes Tumanian, the most prominent writer of his era, and the famed artist Martiros Sarian, closely cooperated with the Mother See in order to assist the Western Armenian refugees.

Numerous other important figures are also represented through photographs and testimony in the exhibit, including United States President Woodrow Wilson, U.S. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, American missionary in Van Dr. Clarence D. Ussher, Prince Argoudinsky-Dolgoroukov, Komitas, Alexander Khatisian, Aghassi Khanjian and General Andranik Ozanian.

UK Citizen in Armenia loses home after 20 years to person he trusted the most

By Zaruhi Mejlumyan

A citizen of the UK, Roy Harrison was unable to purchase property when he moved to Armenia nearly 20 years ago. So he asked his co-worker and translator, Zhirayr Zabounyan, to buy property in Tzaghkadzor in his name. Despite investing over 60 million AMD and living in the house all this time, the UK national was unable to prove in court that the house belongs to him. Zabounyan effectively claimed the property after all this time.

Speaking to Hetq in Russian, Harrison said how upon seeing Tzaghkadzor, loving the terrain and nature, he wanted to buy some land and build a house. But since he's not a citizen of Armenia, he asked Zhirayr Zabounyan to write up the paperwork in his name. By Harrison's account, in 2000, he purchased the partially constructed house on 3 Orbeli Street in Tzaghkadzor in Zabounyan's name, along with the adjacent land, which belonged to Armen Mouradyan and his mother. Harrison worked as the director of the Huntsman Building Products plant in Yerevan, where Zabounyan was the deputy director.

Harrison claims he has invested 60 million AMD to demolish the partially built house and build a new one, where he lived. He has always had the original copy of the property deed and the house keys. In 2006, Harrison asked Zabounyan to transfer the property to his name as he had acquired special residency status in Armenia and, according to law, could now own property. Zabounyan refused. In 2008, after being in the UK for a short period of time, Harrison returned to Armenia and found he couldn't enter his home — the locks had been changed. His neighbors informed him that Zabounyan accompanied by police officers broke the lock.

The British national appealed to the Armenian president's office, which forwarded his appeal to the police. The Armenian police replied, saying that claims that police employees participated in breaking locks were not substantiated. Then he received a request in writing saying that Zabounyan is asking him to vacate his home. From this point on, one



court process after another began, but not having a written contract with Zabounyan, Harrison was unable to prove in Armenia's courts that the house belongs to him. The only written proof was former owner Armen Mouradyan's statement that he sold the house to Roy Harrison; however, also included in the case was his mother Garanik Mouradyan's written statement that the house was sold not to Roy Harrison but to Zhirayr Zabounyan.

In conversation with Hetq, Harrison says his only mistake was trusting Zhirayr, which is why he never formalized their arrangement with any official documents. He even asked the court to use a lie detector so that he can prove the house is his. After losing this case, Harrison and his attorney, Armen Oumrshatyan, attempted to submit a claim regarding the 60 million AMD spent on construction; however, the lower court refused the claim on the basis that there is no contract for the work carried out.

Harrison's attorney informed Hetq that the court examined only 4 out of the 22 witnesses and issued its verdict. "If the court heard also the other witnesses, it would've been convinced that those people worked on the house, did construction work, and were paid by Roy Harrison,"

Oumrshatyan said. Harrison mentioned that he hired Molokans, individual tradesmen and laborers, with whom, naturally, he didn't sign any contracts. He paid them based on verbal agreements. "I didn't consider such things then because I didn't think that my house would be seized from me one day. This couldn't have happened in the UK. There's an English saying that goes 'My home is my castle.' For us, a home is sacred. In England, people trust each other and there is no abuse of trust. I trusted Zhirayr," he said.

The Civil Court of Appeal today also refused Oumrshatyan and his client's claim to oblige Zabounyan to pay Harrison for the 60 million spent on the house.

Zabounyan's attorney, Hayk Osepyan, told Hetq: "I find that the demand of obtaining money from my client is unfounded. I think this was a means to once again try to get money from Zhirayr Zabounyan, which failed."

Harrison informed Hetq that he's not preparing to leave Armenia; he lives here with his wife and is preparing to make investments. Asked if he's not afraid of making new investments, he said, "Well, not everyone is bad, right?"

hetq.am

Armenian Cellist becomes Concertmaster at Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra

The young Armenian cellist Sevak Avanesyan has become the first lead cellist, or concertmaster, of the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra, his father Samvel Avanesyan reported to Armenpress.

Avanesyan was appointed to the position after winning a contest to determine who would replace the vacant seat left by the Philharmonic's previous concertmaster.

"128 candidates out of 1000 applicants were provided with the opportunity to participate in the contest. Competition was intense," Avanesyan's father Samvel said. "As Sevak did not allow us to be present at the contest, I called him at the end of the day with fear in my heart and he told us that four of them had passed to the finals."

Later the winner was revealed to be Sevak Avanesyan, whose performance won the jury's admiration.

Sevak Avanesyan was born in 1989 in Armenia, into a musical family. After the Spitak Earthquake of 1988, they moved to Yerevan, where he started studying the cello at age 5 with well-known Armenian cellist, Medea Abrahamyan, student of legendary Mstislav Rostropovitsch. He went on to study at the Tchaikovsky Specialized Secondary and Musical School in Yerevan until 2003. That year, his entire family moved to Brussels,



Belgium, where he joined the class of Viviane Spanoghe at the Royal Conservatory. He graduated there with the highest distinction in 2010. The same year he was accepted in the class of the renowned cellist Claudio Bohorquez at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin.

Besides his regular studies, Sevak Avanesyan has received precious advice from world famous artists, such as Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Maria Kliegel, Liuis Claret, Peter Bruns, Garry Hofman, Wolfgang Boettcher and Igor Oistrakh.

Since the youngest age, Sevak Avanesyan has travelled the world. As a member of the "Young Virtuosos" of AMAA. Sevak performed as soloist and chamber musician in Europe, USA, Canada, China, in halls as prestigious as the Salle Gaveau in Paris, the Ford Hall of Toronto, the Sidney Opera House, and

the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels. More recent concert seasons brought him to such venues as the Festival de Radio France Montpellier, the Festival of Menton and the Brahms Festival in Brussels.

An ardent chamber musician, Sevak Avanesyan is a permanent member of the Avanesyan Piano Trio, studying with the Artemis Quartet at the Queen Elisabeth College of Music. The Avanesyan Piano Trio received the Golden Label prize from the Belgian Music Press Association in 2012.

He has equally collaborated with Augustin Dumay, Philippe Graffin and Pascal Devoyon, Pavel Gililov, as well as with some of the most respected musicians of the younger generation: Alexander Khramuchin, Lily Maisky, Julien Libeer, Alissa Margulis, and his brother Hrachya Avanesyan.

He is a laureate of many international competitions, such as the International Cello Competition "Gerardmer" (France), the European Competition for Young Soloists (Luxembourg), the Sint-Pieters-Woluwe Cello Competition, the Belgische Stichting Roeping (Belgium), and most recently the Lions Club International Cello Competition. Sevak Avanesyan plays on the very first Matio Gofriller cello from 1689 kindly given to him by Mischa Maisky.

Apartment is for rent

A two room apartment is for rent on the M.Baghramyan Avenue. It is situated on the 2nd floor of a 4 storey stone residential building. During the whole period of staying you can use the furniture and technical equipment. It is being heated with central heating system. The kitchen is furnished with classic wooden and functional furniture. There is the Lovers' park one station down. A little far you can find a supermarket, underground station.

093 626744



Animated film extolling national values won't make it to the big screen in Armenia

By Mary Mamyan

Working with pencil, animation artist Igor Patrik sketches the next scenes of Vishapagorg (Dragon Carpet) a film that first appeared in 2007.

He's working with Gayaneh Martirosyan to finalize the fifth and last installment of the film whose main heroes are Goharik, a school pupil, and the little dragon.

The two protagonists travel around the globe via a magic carpet. By following their adventures, viewers are introduced to Armenian fables and traditions, letters and culture.

Gayaneh, the film's scenarist, says the film is an attempt to inculcate viewers with a familiarity of national values. Sadly, the film won't make it to a wide audience.

Armenia's National Film Center placed an order for the film to be made, and the two artists do not have the right to market it.

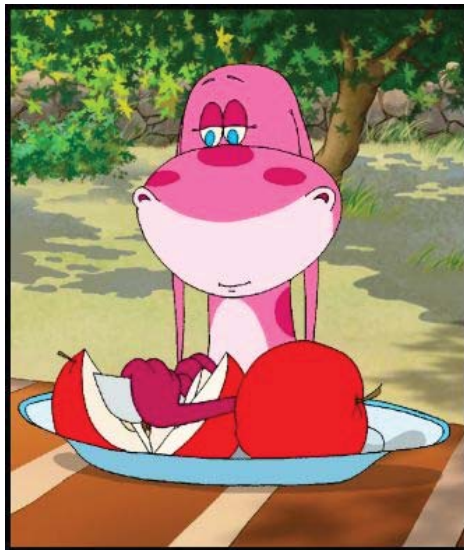
Nevertheless, the two have made DVD copies of parts of the film; distributing them to people they know. The film has been televised twice



many around today. It's too bad that they won't show it. They show foreign cartoons instead that aren't for kids," Gayaneh says.

Each installment of the film averages 20-30 minutes. But the six member team has only come up with a ten minute segment per year. Igor says there's a lack of trained cartoonists and that the work is demanding

Igor paints all the movements by hand even though, as he notes, many have animators now use computer graphics. He says that they do not have the resources to buy such equipment, which makes the entire process drastically less time consuming. Nevertheless, he believes one still needs to know how to sketch by hand.



The artists do not know what will happen to the film once completed. When I asked if the film has ever been shown overseas, Gayaneh says no. Upon hearing this, a coworker smiles and says, "Yeah, it's been shown. I sent a copy to America."

The director corrects herself and says that she too has sent the film to the States, adding that while she doesn't consider it a masterpiece, Diaspora Armenians enjoy watching it because of its national flavor.

"It's a children's film and there aren't

and detailed.

"You have to get the movements just right. The stills have to flow naturally," he says.

Igor says that there are probably decent young animators in Armenia; it's just that the crew hasn't located any. Even a good paint artist needs a minimum one year of experience to master the intricacies of cartoon sketching. He says that more women enter the field than men due to the comparatively low wages.

He's been a cartoonist for over forty years and has produced such works as Hayeli (Mirror), Kadj Nazar (Brave Nazar), Dzakhord Panos (Unlucky Panos), and many others.

Igor says the interest in cartoon animation has waned in the post-Soviet era.

"We are just preserving what was there. Nothing's being advanced," says Gayaneh. "But even this is nothing to scoff at. Cartoon animation has died altogether in some countries." hetq.am

Հավելված N 2
 Հայաստանի Հանրապետության
 կենտրոնական ընտրական հանձնաժողովի
 2012թ. հոկտեմբերի 5-ի N 309-Ն որոշման

ՀԱՇՎԵՏՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

244 կուսակցության 2013 թվականի հունվարի 1-ից դեկտեմբերի 31-ն ընկած
 ժամանակահատվածում ստացած և ծախսած միջոցների մասին

ԿՈՒՍԱԿՑՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՀԱՇՎՈՒՄ ՄՈՒՏՔ ԱՐՎԱԾ ԴՐԱՄԱԿԱՆ ՄԻՋՈՑՆԵՐ

Աղբյուրները	Չափը (հազ.դրամով)	Հատկացման ձևը (բանկային հաշիվ/դրամարկղ կանխիկ/փոխանցում)	Արժույթի տեսակը
1	2	3	4
1. Մնացորդը հաշվետու տարվա հունվարի 1-ի դրությամբ	36	Բանկային հաշիվ	ՀՀ դրամ
2. Մուտքի վճարներ			
3. Անդամակցության վճարներ - ստացված է 16050 արդավից	228	Բանկային հաշիվ	ՀՀ դրամ
	1888	Դրամարկղ կանխիկ	ՀՀ դրամ
4. Ֆիզիկական անձանց նվիրատվություններ			
5. Իրավաբանական անձանց նվիրատվություններ			
- Զանգեզուրի ՊՄԿ ՓԲԸ	3000	Բանկային հաշիվ	ՀՀ դրամ
- Քաջարանի մասնաճյուղի Զանգեզուրի ՊՄԿ ՓԲԸ	5000	Բանկային հաշիվ	ՀՀ դրամ
- Զանգեզուրի ՊՄԿ ՓԲԸ	2000	Բանկային հաշիվ	ՀՀ դրամ
6. Օրենքով նախատեսված կարգով ստացված բյուջետային ֆինանսավորում			
7. Օրենքով չարգելված այլ աղբյուրներ			
Ընդամենը (ըստ արժույթների)	12152		ՀՀ դրամ

Տ. Սարգսյան



Կուսակցության ղեկավարի/կուսակցության իրավասու պաշտոնատար անձի/ անուն, հայրանուն, ազգանուն, ստորագրություն

1

ԾԱՆՄԱԿԱՆ ՄԻՋՈՑՆԵՐ ԵՎ ՄԱՅՈՐՈՂ ՏԱՐՎԱ ՎԵՐՋՈՒՄ

Ծախսի անվանումը	Չափը (հազ.դրամով)	Ծախսի կատարումը հավաստող փաստաթղթերի անվանումը և տվյալները	Արժույթի տեսակը
1.	2.	3.	4.
1. Ֆիզիկական անձանց տրված վճարներ (աշխատավարձ, ծառայությունների մատուցման վճարներ)			
2. Սոցիալական վճարներ			
3. Գույքի վարձակալության վճար	906	Հաշիվ ապրանքագրեր	ՀՀ դրամ
4. Կոմունալ վճարումներ	1180	Հարկային հաշիվ	ՀՀ դրամ
5. Հարկեր, տուրքեր	10000	Բյուջե վարձավճար (արևելավճար)	ՀՀ դրամ
6. Գույքի ձեռք բերման համար կատարված ծախսեր			
7. Տրանսպորտային ծախսեր			
8. Գործուղման ծախսեր			
9. Այլ ծախսեր			
Ընդամենը (ըստ արժույթների)	12086		ՀՀ դրամ
Դրամական միջոցների մնացորդը ստացված վճարում (ըստ արժույթների)	66		ՀՀ դրամ

Տ. Սարգսյան



Կուսակցության ղեկավարի/կուսակցության իրավասու պաշտոնատար անձի/ անուն, հայրանուն, ազգանուն, ստորագրություն

244 Կենտկոմն անշարժ և շարժական գույք չունի
 Տ. Սարգսյան



2

ARMENIAN POETRY

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

This is a good time to think deeply about your role in the important relationships of your life. If you feel apologetic about anything, this is the time to present it. You may have a need to write out the ideas on your mind. Sometimes seeing words on paper rather than speaking can give you an altered perspective.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19) :

Someone from behind the scenes is giving you a boost toward the top. This could be related to work or another area that is focal in your life. This is a time of revelation for artists. An idea may strike you, seemingly from nowhere. The reality is that the idea comes from your rapid processing of collective processes.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Now that your ruling planet, Mercury, is moving forward again you will want to catch up on projects that dropped into the detour. Anything related to travel, education, publishing, and children should be positive. Your love life is on the upswing too. The post-shadow is still in operation, but you will catch up.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Your mind and heart are clearly in sync at this time. You are likely at peace with yourself. There is a solid and practical solution at hand and you do not have to quarrel with yourself over it. Activities involving your children and/or other creative products of your being are favored. Love life flows smoothly.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21) :

You have a steady mind and hands now. It is a good time to work on a project that requires concentration and careful work. You will find satisfaction this week with the routine activities of life. You may be spending time with older people, whether friends or relatives.

Emotional healing seems to be featured, whether you are the healer or the healee.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

See the lead paragraph on the home page. Other full Moon's may come and go, but this one brings you a broad picture of how you are progressing toward a stronger, healthier life. If you have not been treating your body or mind well, it will surely complain. You may decide

upon a system for self-improvement after your assessment.

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

If you are interested in love and romance, then this is the week for you. If not, take advantage of the positive and creative forces around you. Write what you have been thinking about or re-deciding. Paint or do anything with color and design. This is a time to be enjoyed.

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

You will "catch more flies with honey than vinegar" this week. A family member is ready to offer assistance or help you with good and practical advice. Watch your tendency to be mouthy later in the week. It will gain you nothing but hard feelings. If you are angry, write a letter and then tear it up.

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

You may be encountering a challenge in the world of taxes, loans, or collecting debts. There seems to be a detour in one or more of these areas, requiring that you jump extra hoops or wait for someone else to cooperate. This is a week with lots of phone calls and chatting with people, yet little seems to move forward.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

A project begun in November is showing signs of growth and development at this time. Although it needs more work, at this point it shows signs of manifestation. You may be in the midst of persuading others to your point of view. They are listening, so carry it further. Your mind is both steady and imaginative now.

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

Activities involving education, teaching, publishing are positive at this time. Romance is a little on the intellectual side, but you don't really object to that. Talking and sharing together is a strong way to connect. Legal interests go your way. Others are seeing you in the best of lights.

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

The Mercury retrograde of Feb. may have carried you far afield from an important project of communication. Concentrate on clearing the decks now so that you will be ready to start fresh next week. You have fortunate aspects concerning education, publishing, and the internet.

Vahan Teryan

(1885-1920)

SENTIMENTAL SONG

Do you remember the forest
The stream that was like a fairy
tale
A dream
And the silent evening's voiceless
speech
Do you remember?
It was far far away
Do you remember the shining
earth
That smiled in loving eternal
mirth
How that Spring sang with magi-
cal power
Do you remember the stream, the
forest?
Do you remember the night com-
ing on
Stream and wood like a fairy tale
Do you remember far far away
Come to the world of endless
memories
Come!

STREET SONG

The sad song sung by a wander-
ing singer
Sounds beneath my window
How many times have I heard it
before?
So it seems
as though I had woven that song
You would think
it was I who cried in that song.
You would think
I was singing that song
out of longing for you.

Translated by James Russell

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****21 March**

19:00. Zandra McMaster & Liparit Avetisyan . Conductor: Eduard Topchjan. .Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.
19:00. King John. Author: William Shakespeare. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.
19:00. 44 degree. Author: Astghik Simonyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.
14:00 .Abu Hasan's Slippers. Author: A. Lisitsyan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.
19:00. Julius Caesar. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. Royal Concert. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyany. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

22 March

19:00. Train Stories. Author: V. Saroyan. H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors.
19:00. Blaise. Staging: Hrachya Gasparyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.
12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Gndlik-Bokonik

19:00. Gentlemen, Everything is Collapsing but We Can Still Live and Have Fun. Author and Staging Director: Ara Yernjakyany. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors. **Yearning**. Directed by: Grigor Babayan.
19:00. Educational Theater of State Institute Of Theater And Cinematography. **I'm Not Complaining**.
19:00. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.. **For the Sake of Honor**. Author: Alexander Shirvanzade
19:00. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.. **The Great Silence**.

23 March

19:00. A Cup of Kindness. Staging: Sos Sargsyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.
19:00. A Streetcar Named Desire. Author: Tennessee Williams. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.
12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Dog and the Cat. Staging: Anna Elbakyan. State Marionette Theater.
14:00. Beauty and the Beast. Director: Armen Margaryan. State Musical

Theater.

25 March

19:00. The Forty Days of Musa Dagh. Author: Franz Werfel. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.
19:00. Foyer Concert. Goethe's Rose in the Araratian Valley. Author: Shmavon Grigoryan. National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

26 March

19:00. State Dance Ensemble of Armenia. Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
19:00. NCOA & Federico Mondelci. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Vahan Mardirossian . Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.
16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. State Musical Chamber Theater.
19:00. Aunt from Paris. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.
19:00. Flight. Staging: Pantomime Theater. Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

27 March

19:30. The Beautified Project. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

28 March

19:00. APO, Lavard Skou-Larsen & Ashley Wass. Conductor: Lavard Skou-Larsen (Austria/Brazil). Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
19:00. Chief. Educational Theater of State Institute Of Theater And Cinematography.
19:00. Richard III. Author: W. Shakespeare. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.
19:00. Anush. Author: H. Tumanyan. State Musical Chamber Theater.
19:00. Ak. Ak. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.
19:00 .Oh Anna, Anna or Passionate Sunday, Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. UNDER GROUND. Author: Ara Yernjakyany. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.



(Gingerbread Man). Stage Director: Armen Elbakyan. State Marionette Theater.
14:00. Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. State Musical Chamber Theater.
18:00. Golden Chicken. Author: Vladimir Orlov. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.
19:00. Tchao!. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
16:00. Magic Ball. Author: Ara Yernjakyany. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

Chamber Theater.
12:00, 14:00, 16:00. That Same Huri. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.
14:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Author: Charles Perrault. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Endless Return. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. Gentlemen, Everything is Collapsing but We Can Still Live and Have Fun. Author and Staging Director: Ara Yernjakyany. Yerevan State Chamber

Monastery of Bardzrakash St. Gregory in Armenia among 'Europe's most threatened heritage'



The Monastery of Bardzrakash St. Gregory in Dsegh, Armenia is among the 11 monuments and sites shortlisted for 'The 7 Most Endangered' 2014 programme of the leading European heritage organisation Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank

This monastic complex, dedicated to St. Gregory, the first official head of the Armenian Church, dates from the 10th to the 13th centuries. Situated in the cultural landscape of the village of Dsegh, deep in a verdant gorge, the stone structures of the main buildings lie in ruins, without roofs, and encroached on by vegetation.

The rehabilitation of the monument would help establish Dsegh as a centre for tourism and boost the local economy. However, it can

only be accomplished with international expertise and support. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia nominated the monument for 'The 7 Most Endangered' 2014.

This year, civil society organizations and public bodies from all over Europe submitted their nominations. Eleven sites were shortlisted by an international panel of specialists in History, Archaeology, Architecture, Conservation and Finance. The final list of 7 sites will



be selected by the Board of Europa Nostra. 'The 7 Most Endangered' for 2014 will be unveiled at a press conference on 5 May at the House of Europe in Vienna by high-level representatives from Europa Nostra and the EIB Institute.

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