

The First Russian-Armenian Museum Forum "Museums of Russia and Armenia: Dialogue of Cultures" Held in Armenia on 21-23 November



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Edward Nalbandian: Azerbaijan's disproportionate military spending a serious threat to regional and international security

On November 25 Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian delivered an address on the foreign policy of Armenia at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Representatives of state agencies of Sweden, diplomatic missions, research centres and universities, political analysts attended the event. Minister Nalbandian answered numerous questions raised by the attendees regarding the foreign policy of Armenia, Armenia's approaches on regional and international issues.

Referring to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, Minister Nalbandian mentioned, that Armenia shares OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' approach, that there is no alternative to peaceful resolution.

Edward Nalbandian said, in part:

"The more the international community appeals to the sides of the conflict to prepare populations for peace and not for war; the more we hear from the Azerbaijani leadership increasing bellicose warmongering, anti-Armenian hate-speech, persecution of those civil society activists who pursue confidence building and reconciliation projects. The more the international community is calling on the sides to withdraw snipers from the line of contact and to create a mechanism of investigation of ceasefire violations, the more sniper shootings, provocative incidents, subversive acts are coming from the Azerbaijani side, resulting in numerous casualties.

The more oil and gas revenues are enriching the Azerbaijani budget, the more weaponry and armament are purchased by Baku. Over the last decade, Azerbaijan's military budget has plummeted from 163 million to 3.6 billion USD, more than 20 times, and Baku now is bragging that during the upcoming year the military budget will increase by 27% to reach 4.8 billion USD. The disproportionate military spending and acquisition of excess armaments by Azerbaijan poses a serious threat to regional and international stability and security.

Baku rejected all versions of the Basic Principles of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, including those

presented at the Saint-Petersburg (June 2010), Astrakhan (October 2010), Sochi (March 2011) and the last one in Kazan (June 2011) summits. The Kazan summit was followed by almost 2 years of stagnation in the peace process. During this period Azerbaijan increased ceasefire violations and provocative actions along the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. But the most notorious case was the pardoning and glorification of Azerbaijani officer Safarov who beheaded a sleeping Armenian officer with an axe while both were participating in a NATO course in Budapest.

When in Vienna last November, thanks to the efforts of the Co-Chairs, top level meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan resumed some time after the notorious "Safarov case", there was some hope that the negotiations could move forward. Unfortunately, those expectations were not met. Azerbaijan did everything to undermine the situation in the conflict zone.

The Azerbaijani side made several subversive incursions, which resulted in many deaths, drastically raising the tension on the ground. An Armenian villager who had mistakenly wandered into the territory of Azerbaijan was arrested, humiliated in front of cameras, a tactic used by notorious terrorist organizations, and was found dead the following day.

Inside Azerbaijan the harassment of eminent journalists, civil society activists, representatives of intelligentsia is an expression of "witch-hunt," as these dissidents are represented as "Armenian spies." Thus the external "enemy's image" is used to demonize, discredit the opponents of the Baku regime. This all seriously has endangered the negotiation process.

During the last three months the Co-Chair countries, first the President of Russia in Sochi, then the Secretary of State of the USA in Newport, and then the President of France in Paris, with participation of the Heads of States of Armenia and Azerbaijan, organized Summit meetings to reduce the tensions and prevent further escalation of the situation.

Immediately after the Paris meeting the

leadership of Azerbaijan raised another wave of anti-Armenian provocative rhetoric, and the Defense Minister of that country claimed again that his country would solve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue through military means.

The recent shooting down by the Azerbaijani armed forces of the helicopter of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army during a training flight, which took the lives of three young servicemen, is Baku's latest criminal provocation. The Azerbaijani army for almost ten days continuously kept the area of the helicopter shooting under intensive fire, hindering rescue teams, the OSCE, International Committee of the Red Cross representatives to approach that site and evacuate the bodies of killed crew members.

Facing this yet another gross violation of international humanitarian law by Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army had to undertake a special operation to evacuate the body of one of the crew members, the remains of two pilots of downed helicopter.

Baku continues to oppose itself to the international community which was once again demonstrated by its reaction to the statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the helicopter shooting. Azerbaijan is clearly losing the sense of reality and day by day is deepening the gap between itself and the civilized world.

Baku is not only ignoring the appeals of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, the international community on non-use of force, consolidation of ceasefire, creation of a mechanism of investigation of incidents on the line of contact, implementation of confidence-building measures, but is acting contrary to them bearing full responsibility for the escalation of the situation.

All those facts demonstrate that Azerbaijan has become a serious threat to the security and stability in the South Caucasus.

We fully agree with the Minsk Group Co-Chairs that the use of military force can not resolve the conflict. The sooner the Azerbaijani leadership understands this, the more the negotiation process could bring results for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

Yerevan reaffirms support for closer EU ties



Armenia's government reaffirmed on November 26 its stated commitment to strengthening ties with the European Union even after its upcoming accession to a Russian-led alliance of former Soviet republics.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry said Deputy Foreign Minister Karen Nazaryan made this clear in Brussels on Tuesday at a meeting of senior diplomats from other ex-Soviet states that are involved in the EU's Eastern Partnership program.

"In his speech, the deputy minister stressed that within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Armenia is ready to continue developing cooperation with the EU in all possible direc-

tions," the ministry said in statement.

President Serzh Sargsyan was reported to give similar assurances to the Yerevan-based ambassadors of EU member states at a dinner meeting held in the presidential palace in the Armenian capital. He thanked the EU for its continuing economic assistance to the Armenian government mainly aimed at facilitating various reforms.

The EU's executive body, the European Commission, announced earlier this month that it will allocate up to 170 million euros (\$212 million) over the next three years to support the Armenian private sector and assist in judicial reforms promised by the authorities in Yerevan. Its European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn portrayed the promised aid as further proof of the EU's commitment to "very close cooperation" with Armenia.

According to Sargsyan's office, the president and the EU envoys also discussed implications of Armenia's upcoming accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Serzh Sargsyan was quoted as stressing the importance of "combining various integration systems."

Sargsyan's unexpected decision last year to seek EEU membership led the EU to abandon a planned Association Agreement envisaging Armenia's inclusion into a "deep and comprehensive free trade area."

Economy Minister Karen Chshmarityan said on November 11 that Yerevan now hopes to negotiate an alternative trade deal in Brussels.

Baku's provocations aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region: Armenian Parliament Speaker



The provoking actions of Baku are aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region, Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Galust Sahakyan said, speaking at the plenary session of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly in Saint Petersburg.

The Speaker said, in part:

"On November 12, 2014 the MI-24 helicopter of Nagorno Karabakh training flight was shot down by the Azerbaijani armed forces during a training flight leaving the three crew members dead.

The helicopter fell close to the line of contact determined by the ceasefire agree-

ment signed between Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia in 1994. However, the crash site was under heavy fire from the Azerbaijani side for ten days, which was making it impossible to remove the bodies of the pilots. Even representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the OSVE were not allowed to approach the site.

This provocation of Baku is clearly aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region. Such impudent steps are a challenge to the international community and primarily the mediators in the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijan's provocations in August of the current year at the Armenian-

Azerbaijani border and the line of contact with Nagorno Karabakh brought the region to a dangerous line, beyond which large-scale military actions could be launched.

Only thanks to adequate actions of the Armenian side, the personal involvement of the Russian President and the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs it became possible to avoid large-scale war.

The feeling of impunity and the lack of targeted condemnation only strengthen the illusion of military solution in the minds of the Azerbaijani ruling elite, which leads to increased threat of destabilization of the situation in the region at the fault of the Azerbaijani side.

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Armenia's Embassy opens in Sweden

On an official visit to Sweden, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with his Swedish counterpart Margot Wallstrom.

The Foreign Ministers of the two countries discussed the steps towards expansion of bilateral relations, the Armenia-EU cooperation and referred to urgent international issues, including the Ukraine crisis and the ways of its settlement.

Minister Nalbandian said Armenia is interested in the development and expansion of cooperation with Sweden and added that the opening of the Armenian Embassy in Stockholm would contribute to the deepening of ties.

Edward Nalbandian briefed his Swedish counterpart on the steps taken by Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

"At this point it's important to overcome the extremely negative situation created immediately after the Paris summit as a result of the provocative actions of Azerbaijan, namely the downing of the helicopter during a training flight, which left the three pilots killed," the Minister said.



The same day the Armenian Embassy was solemnly opened in Stockholm. Attending the event were high-ranking officials of the executive and legislative authorities of Sweden, Ambassadors accredited to Sweden, public figures, representatives of the Swedish Armenian community.

British liquor giant sued by Armenian businessman

Diageo PLC, the world's largest alcoholic beverage company, has been taken to court in Armenia by the former Armenian distributor of a major Russian vodka brand now belonging to the British giant.

In an ongoing case heard by a court in Yerevan, the Armenian firm MF Spirits is seeking nearly \$3.5 million in damages for Diageo's refusal to honor contractual obligations of the previous, Russian owner of the Smirnov brand.

MF Spirits became the vodka's exclusive distributor in Armenia after a five-year supply agreement that was signed in 2005 with the Smirnov Trading House, then a subsidiary of the Russian business conglomerate Alfa Group. Less than a year later, Diageo paid the Russians \$50 million to settle a long-running dispute over the rights to the Smirnov and Smirnoff trademarks.

The settlement took the form of a joint venture in which Diageo gained a commanding 75 percent share. (The liquor group bought the remaining 25 percent from Alfa Group in 2008). The venture, called D Distribution, has since been selling Smirnov, Smirnoff and other

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Georgia ready to provide Armenia free route to EEU

Georgia is ready to provide Armenia with a free transit corridor for exporting its goods to the Eurasian Economic Union, Armenian deputy economy minister Emil Tarasyan said on November 26 during a public discussion on Armenian exports to the Russia-led trade bloc organized by the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Armenia.

According to him, the issue on the transit of Armenian cargo through the territory of Georgia was included in the list of the main documents that Armenia signed with the Eurasian Economic Union, "because Armenia is the only country of the trade bloc that shares no common border with any of the bloc's members."

"Today we are working to secure an uninterrupted shipment of Armenian goods to the Eurasian Economic Union's markets," said Tarasyan, adding that Armenian goods will be exempted from customs checks at the border.

Armenia formally joined the Eurasian Economic Union on October 10. The agreement was signed by the heads of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia in Minsk, Belarus. The agreement on establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union comes into force in 2015.

Russia may open a "green corridor" for Armenian trucks at Upper Lars border crossing on its frontier with Georgia,



Gagik Kocharyan, a senior official of the Armenian economy ministry, said.

The Upper Lars is the only overland conduit to the outside world for Armenian businesses. It is of utmost importance for Armenia, which is subjected to transportation blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey.

According to Kocharyan, Armenian diplomats in Russia are discussing now the green corridor "issue with the Russian side.

In turn, the chairman of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Arsen Ghazaryan, said Armenian business people are facing problems now when going through the Upper Lars crossing because of the large number of trucks.

"Since Turkey did not join the Western sanctions against Russia, it has significantly increased its exports to the Russian Federation, carried out mainly by trucks. As a result, Armenian trucks have to stand in long lines at the checkpoint," said Ghazaryan.

Opposition group decries assault, arsons



An Armenian opposition activist was assaulted and injured in Yerevan on November 27 shortly after a series of arson attacks on cars belonging to six other members of a vocal anti-government movement.

The movement called Preparliament said that the activist, Gevorg Safaryan, was hit by a blunt object and knocked unconscious by an unknown person in the city center before being rushed to hospital. It described the attack as a politically motivated attempt on Safaryan's life ordered by the Armenian authorities.

The incident occurred after unknown assailants set fire early on Thursday and Wednesday to seven cars owned by other anti-government activists. Six of them are affiliated with Preparliament.

The vehicles were seriously damaged by what appeared to be petrol bombs placed on their wheels. None of them

exploded as a result.

Vartan Hakobyan, one of the Preparliament members, said his car would have been completely destroyed had the arson not been noticed by a stranger. "The driver of a minibus shouted and extinguished the fire with water," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "By the time I rushed out of my home the fire was put out."

All of the damaged cars had stickers displaying Preparliament's emblem and latest slogan: "Centenary without regime!" The motto refers to Preparliament's pledge to topple the government on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey that will be marked on April 24, 2015.

"The organizer is the ruling regime which is intertwined with criminal elements," charged Varuzhan Avetisyan, the owner of another car set on fire. He said



he was alerted by his neighbors.

Dozens of Preparliament members voiced similar allegations as they rallied outside the Armenian police headquarters in the capital on Thursday to protest against the arson attacks. The police dismissed the allegations.

"I don't want to respond to these ludicrous claims," said Ashot Aharonyan, a police spokesman. Aharonyan said that the national police chief, Vladimir Gasparyan, is personally monitoring a preliminary police inquiry into the incidents. "I can assure you that we will have results soon," he added.

Aharonian spoke to RFE/RL's Armenian service just hours before the violent attack on Safaryan. "This incident proves that what happened in the previous nights ... is a preplanned assault which is politically motivated and directed against the 'Centenary without regime!' movement," Preparliament said in a statement issued later in the day.

Preparliament, which is led by prominent public figures, has been campaigning, including through anti-government rallies, for regime change for the past few years. The group has not attracted large crowds so far and is not represented in the Armenian parliament.

Armenian Troops Start Lebanon Mission



Armenia has joined a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon with a contingent of 32 soldiers that will serve on the country's borders with Israel and Syria under Italian command.

The troops were flown to Lebanon on November 26 after a ceremony at Yerevan's Zvartnots airport that was attended by Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and Italy's ambassador to Armenia, Giovanni Ricciulli. Many of them have previously participated in Western-led multinational missions in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You are going to Lebanon primarily to make your contribution to international peace and security," Ohanian told the

departing troops in a speech. He emphasized the fact that Lebanon is home to a sizable and influential Armenian community.

"Lebanon is not Kosovo or Afghanistan," the minister went on. "Lebanon is part of the zone of Armenia's security interests in the Middle East. So be aware that with your service in the UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) you will be contributing to Armenia's external security."

Ohanian described the deployment as "historic" in ensuing comments to reporters. "Our compatriots have lived on the Mediterranean coast, in Lebanon, for many years side by side with peoples of various religions. It is extremely important to maintain peace there," he said.

"We will make every effort and use all of our skills to maintain the honor of our nation and army," one of the soldiers told before boarding a military-transport plane with his comrades.

Plans for the Armenian deployment in Lebanon were first announced by Yerevan in June last year. Armenia's top army general visited Italy shortly afterwards to discuss its practical modalities. The UNIFIL mission is led by an Italian general and numbers around 11,000 troops from over 30 countries.

Some 120 Armenian soldiers are currently deployed in Afghanistan, while 35 others serve in Kosovo.

Tsarukyan's party denies discord with opposition ally

Gagik Tsarukyan's Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) said on November 25 that it expects continued cooperation with one of its two main opposition allies, the Zharangutyun (Heritage) party, despite apparent differences between them.

Raffi Hovannisian, the Zharangutyun leader, said last week that Zharangutyun, the BHK and another major opposition party, the Armenian National Congress (HAK), still lack a common "full agenda" despite a series of anti-government rallies held in recent months. Hovannisian said the opposition trio should clarify its objectives if it is to make any further progress in its campaign for "regime change." He also demanded that its further decisions be made "only by consensus."

The warning, which seemed primarily addressed to the BHK, led to speculation about a major rift between Zharangutyun and its two allies challenging President Serzh Sargsyan.

Mikael Melkumyan, a senior BHK lawmaker, denied such suggestions. "If their statements do not contradict the trio's common positions ... then there is nothing wrong with them," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "Raffi's statements do not contradict the trio's activities in any way."

Melkumyan said that Zharangutyun can raise any issue at regular meetings of senior representatives of the three parties.

Zharangutyun is represented at those meetings by its deputy chairman, Armen Martirosyan, and parliamentary leader, Ruben



Hakobyan. None of them agreed on Tuesday to comment on the implications of Hovannisian's latest statement.

Hovannisian specifically wants the trio to demand Sargsyan's resignation and the holding of a snap presidential election. Tsarukyan's party, which controls the second largest parliamentary faction, has so far refrained from explicitly calling for Sargsyan's ouster.

Zharangutyun plans to hold a separate rally in Yerevan on December 5. It will rally supporters in Gyumri and Vanadzor the following day.

Long Shot: Ruling party spurns opposition lawmaker's initiative on presidential impeachment

By Sara Khojayan

While the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) is skeptical about the success of the impeachment of opposition MP Nikol Pashinyan against President Serzh Sargsyan, there is speculation in the political field that this bid will become an acid test to help distinguish "non-governing parties" from the real opposition.

Pashinyan, who initiated his own political movement named 'Civil Contract', said that he will turn to minority faction MPs with a suggestion of starting the process of impeaching President Sargsyan.

The politician said that he is preparing a bill, and in order for it to be discussed at external plenary sessions of the NA 44 signatures of non-governing forces are necessary. And since even after receiving 44 votes and putting the question up for discussion, to pass the president's impeachment at the parliament would require 66 votes, many think that thus Pashinyan is first of all checking the "non-governing" troika.

Opposition lawmaker Alexander

Arzumanyan, for instance, thinks that Pashinyan this way wishes to clarify, at last, who is an opposition.

"He says, you speak of change of government, you say, external elections, you do not show the way, here, I suggest a way, we will see from the votes," Arzumanyan told reporters on Thursday.

However, the troika does not appear to be in a hurry to react to Pashinyan's appeal.

The Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), which has 36 members in parliament - the second largest faction after the ruling RPA, and its member Mikayel Melkumyan said that as a member of the troika they have their own program, by which they proceed.

"Suspension of the constitutional reform, realization of 12 points, Electoral Code - a hundred percent proportional election system, publication of list of voters who go to the polls and early elections. There is a tactic, a strategy, all that must be done in steps. We must not turn to some movements that might be seen as inappropriate for the moment. We move along our program," Melkumyan said.

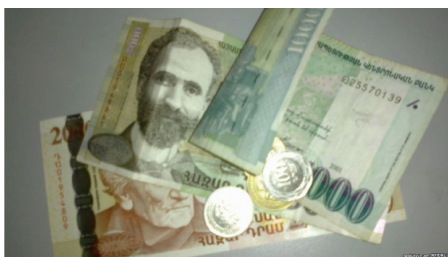


The other member of the troika, Heritage Party, still refrains from commenting on Pashinyan's initiative, and is waiting for the grounding of the bill, and the Armenian National Congress has not yet discussed this question and has no position.

Such indefiniteness and the absence of the question of Sargsyan's resignation on the agenda of non-governmental forces allows, nevertheless, the RPA to claim that Pashinyan's initiative will be inefficient.

"I strongly doubt the success of this process, let alone any serious progress, because there are already political forces that negatively speak of the process, also that there is no such problem in their agenda," Shahmazanov commented.

Business leader wants exchange rate stability



The head of Armenia's largest business association stressed on November 26 the importance of preventing "sharp" exchange rate fluctuations following a depreciation of the national currency, the dram.

"The key thing for the market is a stable and floating exchange rate, and if there is a depreciation it should be within a 1-2 percent range during one or three

months. Sharp fluctuations are always dangerous for business," said Arsen Ghazaryan of the Armenian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

The dram has lost roughly 5 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar since the beginning of this month amid slowing economic growth in Armenia. Most of that depreciation occurred in a matter of hours on Monday. The dram's exchange rate was stable on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) sought to downplay the dram's weakening, attributing it to "recent developments in the regional and international financial markets." The CBA said the exchange rate "adjustment" will spur growth by making Armenian exports more competitive.

"The Central Bank's analyses are quite in-depth, and they look to the future," Ghazarian told reporters. "We, the business community, have always wanted [exchange rates] to be stable and predictable."

The business leader was ambivalent about a weaker dram, saying that it is good for exports but can push up the prices of imported goods on which Armenia is very dependent. Citing unnamed experts, he also suggested that the Armenian currency is overvalued even after its latest depreciation.

"Specialists believe that the dram should be worth less in order to have a normal exchange rate," said Ghazarian. "But we have what we have. We have for years strengthened the dram."

British liquor giant sued by Armenian businessman

From page 4

world-famous Diageo drinks -- including Johnnie Walker whisky, Gordon's gin and Guinness beer -- in the former Soviet Union.

The MF Spirits owner, Georgi Mkrtchyan, claims that D Distribution executives visited Yerevan later in 2006 to assure him that the Smirnov distribution contract remains in force and urge him to continue promoting the brand in the local market. He says that he received more such assurances, both in person and through extensive e-mail correspondence, in the next two years, even though Diageo stopped supplying vodka to MF Spirits.

According to Mkrtchyan, D Distribution notified him in early 2009 that it will not resume those supplies anytime soon because of the small size of the Armenian market and its primary focus on Russia. "If I knew that beforehand I would not have kept spending money on the Smirnov distribution," the Yerevan-based businessman told. He claimed to have spent over \$260,000 on advertising and wages of MF Spirits personnel and logistics from 2006-2008, in line with understandings reached with D Distribution.

Mkrtchyan said he decided to sue Diageo after its Russian subsidiary refused to cover even half of the advertis-

ing expenses which he put at around \$60,000. "I don't know why they refused to pay any compensation," he said. "I can't understand the logic behind it." "I was also ready to accept other arrangements with them that would allow me to recoup some of my expenditures," he added.

MF Spirits filed a lawsuit against Diageo and D Distribution in 2011, demanding about 1.5 billion drams (\$3.4 million) in compensation. The bulk of the sum is the amount of revenue which the Armenian distributor says it would have earned from Smirnov sales in 2006-2010.

Diageo denies any wrongdoing. Armenian lawyers representing it in the litigation say that the alcohol producer, which posted a net profit of \$4 billion last year, acquired only the vodka brand and is not liable for the obligations of the previous Smirnov owner. MF Spirits says, however, that Diageo is refusing to prove the absence of such liability with documentary evidence of corresponding details of the 2006 settlement.

A district court in Yerevan opened hearings on the lawsuit late last year despite the Diageo lawyers' claims that it has no jurisdiction over the case. They again said at the last court session on November 19 that only a Russian court can rule on the dispute. The presiding judge, Zaruhi Nakhshkarian, dismissed their objections.

D Distribution insisted afterwards that Armenian courts "do not have legal authority over these claims." "We continue to look forward for the proceedings to be concluded competently, fairly and with due process," it said in a statement e-mailed to RFE/RL's Armenian service. "We also deny that the claims being made would be valid in any other court should they be made."

The Diageo subsidiary declined to elaborate on its denial. The multinational company's head office in London, for its part, did not reply to a written request for comment.

Both Armenia and Russia are signatories to the 1993 Minsk Convention that commits 12 ex-Soviet states to recognizing and enforcing each other's court verdicts. MF Spirits lawyers say a possible Armenian ruling against D Distribution would therefore have to be enforced by Russian authorities.

Mkrtchyan, 39, is no stranger to dealings with big Western corporations. Other firms owned by him are the exclusive distributors in Armenia, including through their own stores, of Swiss watch brands like Tissot and Longines, U.S. cosmetics maker Avon Products and Danish furniture retailer JYSK.

"I've never had any problems with those companies," Mkrtchyan said. "They have fulfilled not only what they promised but even what they didn't."



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

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- 2682. **Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958. **Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104. **Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2950. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- 2836. **Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990. **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- 2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986. **Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175. **Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3348. **Blur, Barbysus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146. **Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

- 3583. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- 3432. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD
- 3576. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- 3606. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- 3574. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD



- 3590. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- 3401. **Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2187. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2286. **Sose str**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD

- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq



- m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish). Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable
- 1142. **Djrevej**, 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.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basement, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

The First Russian-Armenian Museum Forum: a Promising Beginning under Patronage of the President Sargsyan



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

The First Russian-Armenian Museum Forum entitled "Museums of Russia and Armenia: Dialogue of Cultures" aimed at the highlighting the role and significance of museums in the preservation of cultural heritage, discussing the contemporary challenges and achievements of the sphere and outlining the opportunities and prospects for development and exchange of experience and organized by the Ministries of Culture of Armenia and Russia (and with support of the two countries' Natl Committees of the Intl Council of Museums) was held in Yerevan from 21 to 23 November under high patronage of the RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**.

On 21 November President Serzh Sargsyan held a meeting with a number of the Armenian and the Russian museum directors at the House Museum of Aram Khachaturian who were taking part in the Forum as well as with the guests of the exhibition "Two Giants, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Fyo-dor Chalyapin: A Look from the XXI Century" which has been opened a bit later by the RA Minister of Culture **Hasmik Poghosyan** and the Deputy Minister of Culture of Russia **Yelena Milovzorova** with the President Sargsyan attended. The Armenian President welcomed the forum being held in Yerevan and wished it success. Serzh Sargsyan attached great importance to promoting cooperation on a regular basis and listened to the projects and proposals of the participants aimed at pursuing the forum's goals.

"The exhibition is dedicated to the two most striking figures of the world culture who multiplied the glory of the Russian music, - *Sergey Vasilievich Rachmaninoff, composer, pianist and conductor, and Fyodor Ivanovich Chalyapin, singer, actor and director. The lives of two great men, the similarities and differences in their lives and creative ways appear in all the grandeur and drama. Different in nature, origin, upbringing and education, Chalyapin and Rachmaninoff creatively and personally enrich and complement each other,*" Yelena Milovzorova said at the opening ceremony. The Russian delegation included the heads of the world famous Russian museums such

as the State Historical Museum of Russia, the State Russian Museum, the State Tretyakov Gallery, the State Museum of A.S. Pushkin, and others.

The participants of this first Forum discussed a wide range of issues relating to the preservation of the cultural heritage and the further development of inter-museum cooperation between the two countries at a roundtable at Holy Etchmiadzin and the international conference "Museums of Russia and Armenia. Dialogue of Cultures" at the St. Mesrop Mashtots Institute-Depository of the Ancient Manuscripts, "Matenadaran". The Forum events were chaired by the Deputy Minister of Culture of Russia Yelena Milovzorova and Deputy Minister of Culture of Armenia **Arev Samuelyan**. On November 21 in the library of the main spiritual center of all Armenians worldwide – the Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin the above-mentioned roundtable was held attended by the heads of the leading museums of the two countries. "The idea of a round table in Holy Etchmiadzin was a

creator of the high culture."

"Today, the problem is very difficult to be solved as we have a lot of challenges for the classics in art, in life, in culture", His Eminence continued. "Therefore, museums, and we all have to carefully and jealously keep all the spiritual, cultural heritage, in order to convey his to our descendants". "Temples of the Holy Etchmiadzin are the treasures of the world civilization, they are included in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage", recalled Deputy Minister of Culture of Armenia Arev Samuelyan. "Cooperation between the Ministries of Culture of Russia and Armenia accounts many years", stated Russian Deputy Culture Minister Elena Milovzorova. - For many years we have been actively implementing many projects and ideas for the benefit of our countries and peoples." According to Mrs Milovzorova, "inter-museum relations are an important part of the bilateral Russian-Armenian cultural cooperation, and now there are all the prerequisites for the expansion of these contacts and relationship."

On the next day, November 22, the Forum hosted a conference on the issues related to museums and education, information technology. There was presentation of major museum projects in Armenia and Russia. The outcome of the first Forum were nine agreements on cooperation between museums in Russia and Armenia signed and a Resolution adopted. They've agreed that it would be good to hold such forums regularly and alternately. Indeed, this meeting and, obviously, the next ones will be useful, especially for the Armenian museum staff, who, due to various reasons, fell pretty behind the international museum life and activity. As many problems - from museum specialists training, particularly restorers, to creation of a single scientific standard for the museum documentation based on the European experience,

as well as creation of a unified database of the cultural heritage of the two friendly peoples, historically-culturally interconnected for a very long.

To note, at present the Tretyakov Gallery and the Armenia National Art Gallery are working on the organization of major exhibitions of the Armenian artist **George Yakulov**. Next year April it will be held in Moscow, and the collection will also

include some fifty works of this brilliant artist from the Armenian museums. In Autumn 2015 Yakulov Moscow exhibition to be held in Yerevan as well.

To add, there is also an agreement



genius one", Archbishop **Nathan Hovannisian** said and added: "As the Armenian Church for the Armenians, alike the Christian church in the world, for many ages has been not only a bearer, but also a



between the Armenia Natl Gallery and the Russian Museum (St.Petersburg) on the holding of exhibitions of both the Russian and the Armenian artists. There is also an interesting idea to hold an exhibition of works by a prominent Russian artist **V. Polenov** and his gifted student, a great master of Armenian painting **Yeghishe Tadevosyan**.

As to the Museum of the History of Armenia, next year, at the Historical Museum of Russia the Armenian culture will be represented, where in addition to our

museum exhibits the items from Echmiadzin and Matenadaran will be displayed. And the Museum of History together with the Museum and Exhibition Center "RosPhoto" in St. Petersburg is preparing an exposition of the old Armenian photos. To recap, at the Historical Museum they have an agreement with the legendary Hermitage of St.Petersburg on the publication of the book-album of Urartu (the ancient state at the territory of Armenia).

In his interview with The Highlights Advisor to the Armenian President on the

International Humanitarian Cooperation, Minister of Culture of Armenia in 1996-98 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Professor **Armen B. Smbatyan** (who was an active participant of the Forum) said in particular: "...By the moment there are good examples that are the obvious evidence of the effective cooperation between museums of Armenia and Russia, which could be intensified and obtain a new content if we Armenia will abandon the stereotypes of the national culture and the ways of its presentation abroad and will closer with the colleagues of Russia, our strategic ally country, with who we've been interconnected by numerous both visible and invisible ties and where millions of our fellow citizens live".



Mikhail Kalashnikov Monument, Museum and Memorial Cross Opened in the Territory of the Russian Military Base in Gyumri

By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

The opening ceremony of the monument of the legendary Soviet/Russian gunsmith Mikhail Kalashnikov was held on Nov. 7 in Gyumri, in the so-called "Grand Fortress" where now the 102nd Russian military base located.

The Monument is a part of the Memorial Complex of Military Glory which also includes the Museum of Military History of the 102nd Russian military base that is a recipient of the Order of Alexander Nevsky. So there a solemn ceremony was held during which the monument by the Armenian sculptor **Ruben Nalbandyan** was opened the gunsmith widow Fairuza Burganova. Erection of this monument (unveiling of which was dedicated to the 95th anniversary of Mikhail Kalashnikov) as well as renovation and refurbishing of the Museum was initiated by the Base Commander Colonel **Andrey Ruzinsky** and a St. Petersburg – based businessman, public figure and philanthropist of the Armenian descent, Ret. Major of the Russian Armed Forces **Hrachya Poghosyan** and implemented due to generosity of Mr Poghosyan, with the support and assistance of "Slavyanka" and "Agnor Story" companies.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Armenian Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Armenia **Ivan Volinkin**, Acting Military and Air Force Attache at the Russian Embassy Colonel

Andrey Beryozkin, authorities of Shirak Marz (Region) and Gyumri, the reps of the Armenian Armed Forces, Russian Embassy, the Armenian society, mass media.



As Armenian Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan** stated at the ceremony, the name of M.T.Kalashnikov has become a symbol of an entire gun era. "The life of Mikhail Kalashnikov is an example of true valor, honor, hard work and patriotism, and the weapons created by him for more than half

a century remain unsurpassed in their simplicity, reliability and infallibility. Designer's world-famous creation, the Kalashnikov Rifle rightly recognized as the best small arms of the twentieth century", said Ohanyan. "Today's event demonstrates the continuity of generations, the good traditions of the Armenian-Russian friendship and brotherhood," Armenian DM said. "At this point, in the same city where centuries ago a monument was erected at the " Hill of Honor " to honor the people, the generals and officers who died defending the common Christian values, the identity of the Armenian people, so in the same city a monument to the legendary arms designer, Hero of Russia, Lieutenant-General Mikhail Kalashnikov erected. Eternal glory to the winner soldiers who fought here for the freedom and independence of our Nations ", stated Mr Ohanyan. Minister Ohanyan said that a set of the Armenian Armed Forces medals having 15 pieces has been donated to the Museum.

The event was attended by the Deputy Defense Minister of the Russian Federation in 2001-2007 Army General **Alexey Moskovsky** who highlighted the role of the Armenians -scientists and engineers in creation of the military power of the Soviet Union and Russia such as **Andranik Iosifyan, Samvel Kocharyants, Artem Mikoyan, Iosif Hakopian, A. Ter-Stepanian** and many others.

In turn, the Russian Ambassador **Ivan**

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Mikhail Kalashnikov Monument, Museum and Memorial Cross Opened in the Territory of the Russian Military Base in Gyumri

From page 11

Volinkin called a symbolic one the fact that the monument of Mikhail Kalashnikov is located on the territory of Alexandropol Fortress which was an outpost of the Russian army in the Caucasus for centuries. *"The strength of the Russian weapons was known in the world since ancient times by all those who tried to seize our land, to sow discord and to threaten our allies,"* said Mr Volinkin. He also noted that the Military History Museum opened has had a unique collection of exhibits and documentary evidence, telling us about the heroic events of the history of the fortress and the Russian-Armenian military glory.

Russian and Armenian soldiers fought side by side here in the Caucasus and were able to defend their Nations' independence, and this monument will serve as a reminder of the combat brotherhood and friendship between our peoples to future generations, Ambassador Volinkin stated.

At the end of his speech, Ambassador of Russia delivered the message of the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation Army General **Sergey Shoigu** to participants of the ceremony, which said in particular: *"Opening the monument of Mikhail Kalashnikov, we pay tribute to the legendary Russian small arms designer, Hero of Russia, two-fold Hero of Socialist Labor, a wonderful person and a great patriot of his country. In the country's history, probably, we will not find another example of that how creative thinking of an engineer-inventor, put into life, has multiplied the glory of the Russian arms, lifting it on an unattainable height. Mikhail Kalashnikov's inventions are unmatched. They embodied the features of the Russian people - reliability, strength, and unpretentiousness. It is no accident that the Kalashnikov rifle has become the standard for the weapons in the twentieth century that proved this right in combat. The famous gunsmith worked not for war but for peace..."*

Widow of Mikhail Kalashnikov **Fairuza Burganova** in his speech thanked

everyone, especially the Commander **Andrey Ruzinsky** for such a solemn event and expressed deep appreciation to **Hrachya Poghosyan** for "such a wonderful gift", the monument to Mikhail Kalashnikov in the very eve of his 95th birthday. In his speech **Hrachya Poghosyan** expressed his gratitude to the Base Commander Colonel **Andrey Ruzinsky** for "comprehensive assistance in

(Advisor to the Deputy Secretary-General of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly **Hrachya M. Poghosyan** is a philanthropist well-known both in Armenia and Russia. At his funds in recent years 9 monuments dedicated to the Great Patriotic War were created and restored in Russia as well as restored a number of religious monuments in Armenia including **St. Echmiadzin**. Mr Poghosyan is an active member of the Armenian community of St. Petersburg, an honorary citizen of two Russian and Armenian cities and a number of veterans' public organizations. He was awarded the Order of the Russian Orthodox Church "Glory and Honor" of the 3rd degree, the Medal "For Strengthening Military Cooperation" by the Russian Defense Minister, the highest award of the Armenian Apostolic Church - the Order of St. Gregory the Illuminator, other orders and medals. Received a commemorative Kalashnikov rifle with an inscription from M.T. Kalashnikov himself. Has numerous diplomas, certificates and gratitude letters for his active social, spiritual and patronage activities).



the installation of the monument at the base as well as the high assessment of his work and his efforts to strengthen the brotherly relations between the Armenian and the Russian peoples".

Mr Poghosyan handed to the Base commander a gift to the museum, - original copy of the battle flag of the 153rd His Imperial Highness Grand Duke **Sergey Mikhailovich Baku Infantry Regiment** created with the participation of the staff of the Military Historical Museum of Artillery of St. Petersburg.

The final event of the celebration series held at the "Hill of Honor" military cemetery where the opening ceremony of the Memorial Cross in memory of the fallen officers and generals of the Russian Army during Russian-Turkish and Russian-Persian wars of the 19th century was held. The Cross was created due to efforts of the Head of the Jajour Community in Shirak region **Socrat Souvaryan**.

Consecration of the Kalashnikov monument, Museum and Cross was held, with participation of the Armenian clergymen, under chairmanship of the Head of the Moscow Patriarchate Secretariat, Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia **Kirill Bishop Sergius** of Solnechnogorsk.

Author's note

...Some people sometimes criticize presence of the military base of Russia in Armenia, and, especially prolongation of the relevant treaty between Armenia and Russia in 2010 for 25 more years (until 2044) calling it even a "threat to Armenia's

independence”.

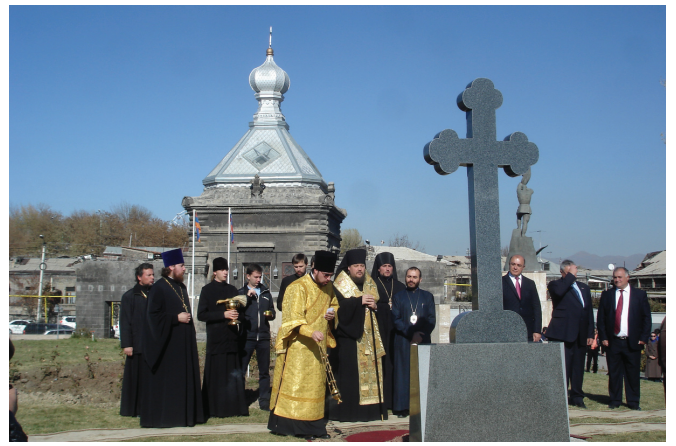
...Being traditionally open for any discussion, however, here The Highlights would like to make a citation from a speech by the-then British PM Sir **David Lloyd George** at the Paris Conference (1919-20) which sounds about the following: the British Navy WILL NOT ascend the Ararat Mountain.

Having a big hope that the Armenian officials, when dealing with their Moscow (as well as other member countries’) colleagues, will **really** do their **very best** to get the maximally possible favorable conditions for us the Armenians within the Customs Union, Eurasian Economic Union, etc., at the same time we’d register

that the long(-suffering) history of the Armenian people has been proving for many times that the Russian “cossack” (see a pic below) WILL...

Any comment?

P.S. And, to a person who, nevertheless, would like to make a “comment”, we’d advice to talk this issue with the commanders of the last big war (1992-94) we the Armenians WON...



Viasphere vs Aram Vardanyan, Part Two, Armenia: “Zenith”

In The Highlights # 37 (23 October) issue we’ve published an official press release from Viasphere Technopark CJSC, our Weekly’s long time subscriber according to which on September 24th and 25th a jury reached a verdict against Aram Vardanyan on all counts presented to the jury in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California in the case of *Viasphere International, Inc. vs Aram Vardanyan*. To remind, “after two weeks of testimony and the introduction of a large number of exhibits and witnesses, the jury found in favor of Viasphere International on all of its claims. Specifically the jury found by clear and convincing evidence that Vardanyan had acted with **fraud, malice and oppression** in concealing from the company, its board of directors and shareholders the true nature of his activities at Technopark while serving as General Director for 10 years.

As a result of the verdict, Viasphere was awarded damages of \$1,074,213.00, which included punitive damages...”

That was in America...

As to Armenia, on 19 November the court of the Arabkir and Kanaker-Zeytun districts of Yerevan heard another similar case - Viasphere accuses Aram Vardanyan in misappropriation of Technopark intellectual property and product, e.g. “Zenith” anti-hail system.

According to Viasphere executives, in 2008, in the basis of improved design of “Zenith” anti-hail system two ideas were laid: to accelerate and enhance the detonation inside the unit, 4 authors working in “Viasphere Technopark” suggested, first, instead of two wicks on the sides to place one in the center of the unit, and second, to expand the windows therein to accelerate the release of oxygen after detonation. And this was confirmed by all 4 authors when giving testimony in court on 19



November.

In the words of Viasphere executives, two years later Aram Vardanyan officially registered his son Arman as the author of “Zenith” who had no relation nor to the Project and neither to inventors group. Moreover, the property, finance and IP of Technopark were registered as of “Barva” company that belongs Vardanyan. Thus, his son “suddenly” became the author of “Zenith”, Viasphere heads say. The plaintiff, Viasphere has an important witness (who, among others, was testified in court in California) – a former employee at the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations Robert Hovsepian, who corre-

sponded with “ViasphereTechnopark” personally on anti-hail units and knew who was the real designer and owner of “Zenith”. There are relevant documents that reveals the truth, Viasphere reps said.

“Armenia, in general, is a reliable, secure place in terms of investment”, Viasphere Technopark CEO/Chairman Tony Moroyan said in his interview with Armenian mass media reps. “But everywhere there are unscrupulous people who are trying to deceive foreign investors, and many of the latter, to avoid legal troubles, just leave the country hurted and sware to have no business at Homeland... As to myself, I want to prove that people in Armenia as well are able to protect their own property, to get justice through the courts. But if we lose, it would be hard to me to explain it in the United States and other countries and so to continue to promote Armenia, to attract investment here ...”, Moroyan stated.

Next court hearing is to be held in February 2015.

As “Golos Armenii” semi-weekly writes, “...so his victory in Armenia will become not only Tony Moroyan’s victory, but the one of our country, our statehood. This victory will certainly be in need by our fellow from America, but even more it is necessary for all of us. To believe and have hope for a better future...”

The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia: Non-Stop Concerts...

The next performance of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia within the framework of the Festival of Contemporary Armenian Music

Headed by its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan**, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia performed within the framework of the Festival of Contemporary Armenian Music on October 3 at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. During the concert-closing ceremony of the Festival, the Youth Orchestra performed jointly with the world-renowned musicians – the violinist **Boris Livshits** (Switzerland) and the pianist **Ran Jia** (China).

The audience was presented the Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra by **Michael Kokchaev**. According to the composer, the piece had been inspired by the painting "Adam and Eve" by Marc Chagall. The concert program also included compositions by **Arthur Aharonian, Konstantin Petrosyan, Edward Sadoyan and Aram Satyan**. During the 4 days of the Festival of Contemporary Armenian Music the listeners were presented pieces by 40 Armenian composers.

Sergey Smbatyan: "The name of Khachaturian contributes to realization of projects at international level in Armenia"

A concert dedicated to the 55th anniversary of a prominent Armenian military and political figure (who was Defense Minister, and PM) of the blessed memory **Vazgen Sargsyan** (05.03.1959-27.10.1999) was presented by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia within the Aram Khachaturian International Festival on November 5 at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. At the beginning of the concert the audience was presented a film about the above mentioned prominent military and political figure. Moreover, a unique exposition of personal belongings (the conductor's tailcoat, baton, etc.) of the great composer Aram Khachaturian was presented in the foyer of the Concert Hall. During the evening, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia performed jointly with the Khachaturian Trio. The concert program included the concertos by Maestro – the Concerto-Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra (the soloist **Karen Kocharyan**), the Violin Concerto (the soloist **Karen Shahgaldyan**) and the Piano Concerto (the soloist **Armine Grigoryan**). The violinist Karen Shahgaldyan praised the mission of the Orchestra: "They've doing a pretty significant work both on the number of concerts, and on the level, quality and choice of concert programs, as well as the promotion of contemporary Armenian music." Speaking on the cooperation with the Youth Orchestra and Sergey Smbatyan, the cellist Karen Kocharyan noted that the musicians of the Orchestra accept the vision

of the soloists and don't dictate their own interpretation. "The musicians of the Orchestra are passing through their own prism the performances of the soloists. They must believe in what the soloists create if they want to achieve the harmony. I have noticed this valuable ability in the Youth Orchestra!", noticed Karen Kocharyan. Sergey Smbatyan, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Youth Orchestra highlighted the symbolism of the concert held within the framework of the Aram Khachaturian International Festival at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall and pre-



sented jointly with the Khachaturian Trio. "The name of Khachaturian contributes to realization of projects at international level in Armenia. This year we pay tribute to the greatest representatives of our nation: each concert of our festival is dedicated to one of those prominent figures,"- said Sergey Smbatyan.

To remind, the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival is being organized by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia with the support of the RA Ministry of Culture.

World premieres of previously unpublished chamber compositions by Avet Terterian

World premieres of previously unpublished chamber compositions by Avet Terterian were presented within the framework of the Armenian Composers' Art Festival on November 7 at 19:00 at the Komitas Chamber Music Hall. The concert program included: Sonata for Violin and Piano (world premiere) Two Pieces for Two Pianos and Percussion (world premiere) Piece for Two Pianos and Trumpet (world premiere) Piece for Two Pianos and Four Violins (world premiere) String Quartet No.1 String Quartet No.2

And on 19 Nov. a concert dedicated to the 85th anniversary of prominent conductor and pedagogue People's Artist of Armenia **Yuri Davtyan** by the soloists of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia accompanied by the SYOA conducted by Sergey Smbatyan.

The pieces by Arvo Pärt, Benjamin Britten and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov were presented within the framework of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International

Festival

A concert dedicated to the 170th anniversary of Russian famous composer **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov** and the 145th anniversary of the renowned Armenian Diaspora businessman and philanthropist **Calouste (Galust) Gulbenkian** was held within the framework of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival on November 27 at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The State Youth Orchestra presented the following program:

Arvo Pärt

Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten for String Orchestra and Bell (Armenian premiere)

Benjamin Britten

Cello Symphony

Soloist: **Philip Higham** (cello/ UK)

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

"Scheherazade" Symphonic Poem

Conductor: Sergey Smbatyan

The concert was implemented under the patronage of the **Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia**.

The anniversaries of Vladilen Balyan and Geghuni Chtchyan celebrated

The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia held a concert dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the famous composer **Vladilen Balyan** and 85th anniversary of the renowned composer **Geghuni Chtchyan** on November 29 at the Aram Khachaturian House-Museum. The audience enjoyed a chamber music evening presented by the ensembles of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia. The concert program included the pieces by Vladilen Balyan and Geghuni Chtchyan.

Closing Ceremony of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival

The Closing Ceremony of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival will be held on December 4 at 19:00 at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The evening will be dedicated to the 135th anniversary of **Aram Manukian**, the Founder of the First Republic of Armenia (1918-20). The concert program will include:

Aram Khachaturian, Violin Concerto, soloist **Mayu Kishima** (violin/ Japan)

Aram Khachaturian, Symphony No.3 (Symphony-Poem)

Aram Khachaturian, Ode to Joy for mezzo-soprano, harp ensemble, violin ensemble, choir and orchestra, soloist: **Maria Domashenko** (mezzo-soprano/ Russia)

The National State Academic Choir of Armenia (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor: **Hovannes Tchekidjian**)

Conductor: Sergey Smbatyan

Armenian Helicopter Crew Buried With Military Honors



The three pilots of an Armenian combat helicopter shot down by Azerbaijani forces near Nagorno-Karabakh received full military honors on November 25 as they were laid to rest in a state funeral attended by top military officials and hundreds of ordinary people.

Thousands of other Armenians filed past the remains of Major Sergey Sahakyan, 38, Senior Lieutenant Sargis Nazaryan, 25, and Lieutenant Azat Sahakyan, 22, placed in closed coffins inside a Yerevan church on Monday. Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, led a requiem service there in the presence of President Serzh Sargsyan and other Armenian leaders.

"We are proud of having such soldiers," Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan said in a speech delivered at Yerevan's Yerablur military cemetery during the funeral. "Eternal glory to the heroes, to the Armenian army guaranteeing our security!" he added.

The commander of Karabakh's Armenian-backed army, General Movses Hakobyan, also attended the funeral. Hakobyan gave relatives of the three officers medals that were posthumously awarded

to them by Bako Sahakyan, the Karabakh president.

Bako Sahakyan decorated them at the weekend hours after the Karabakh Defense Army announced that it has retrieved "the corpse of one of the crew members, the remains of the two other pilots and some necessary parts of the helicopter" downed in the Aghdam district east of Karabakh on November 12. The army said its commandos reached the helicopter's wreckage lying in no man's land in a "special operation" that left at least two Azerbaijani soldiers dead. It said they neutralized heavy gunfire from nearby Azerbaijani army positions aimed at preventing the recovery of the bodies.

The Azerbaijani military denied suffering any casualties in the area. It claimed that the Armenian side did not gain access to the helicopter crash site and will hand "other remains" to the families of the dead pilots.

The Defense Army sought to disprove the Azerbaijani allegations with aerial images of the site purportedly taken before and after the operation. It also demonstrated, in a short video footage, the body of one of the crew members that was apparently not burned to ashes after an Azerbaijani shoulder-launched rocket hit the Mi-24 gunship.

The Defense Ministry in Baku had repeatedly rejected international mediators' calls for Azerbaijan to give the Armenian side "humanitarian access" to the wreckage. It accused the U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group of adopting a pro-Armenian stance.

Baku says that the helicopter was downed after attacking its frontline positions. The Armenian side strongly denies that, saying that the Mi-24 did not cross the frontline and carried no live ammunition. It has also pledged a strong retaliation for the incident that has raised fresh fears of another Armenian-Azerbaijani war for Karabakh.

CSTO to discuss the downing of the Armenian helicopter by Azerbaijan



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received on November 28 Nikolay Bordyuzha, the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the preparation for the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council and the Statutory Bodies and the issues on the agenda. They also referred to the process of implementation of the deci-

sions made at the previous session.

The CSTO Secretary General briefed the Armenian President on the results of the current activity of the organization, the achievements registered as a result of cooperation, the development of CSTO military component, the process of implementation of the program of development of the main directions of the military cooperation between the CSTO member states, the current activity of the CSTO joint headquarters, as well as issues connected with the security in the South Caucasus.

In this context the interlocutors referred to the recent downing of the helicopter of NKR Armed Forces by the Azerbaijan during a training flight and its aftermath. Nikolay Bordyuzha said the issue will be discussed at the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council.

Dink's Assailant Ready to 'Speak Up'

The triggerman who shot dead Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink almost eight years ago has finally decided to "speak up" about the murder, according to a news report.

"I will speak up," assailant Ogün Samast, who was only 17 years old when he shot Dink in front of his office in Istanbul on Jan. 19, 2007, was quoted in daily Taraf as stating in a letter sent to the prosecutor in charge of the investigation.

Samast, who is jailed in the high-security F-type prison in Kandira, Kocaeli, said in his letter that he wanted to give a new testimony, Taraf reported on Nov. 25.

In a statement delivered two years ago, Samast explained that the murder was committed in line with a "three-stage plan," Taraf reported.

"There is a matter which I haven't so far explained anywhere, including before the court. I met a person three months before the murder ... I will explain who this person is and his relation with the Dink murder,"

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Hayastan All Armenian Fund's 17th Telethon Raised \$12.4 million

\$12.4 million was raised at 17th Telethon of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.

With proceeds from the 2014 Telethon, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund will complete the asphaltting of the entire highway as well as install all remaining safety and navigation components, including traffic signs and lane marks.

Initiated at the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's 2013 Board of Trustees meeting, the Vardenis-Martakert Highway

construction project is of major economic and strategic significance. When completed, it will function as an additional lifeline between Armenia and Artsakh, helping boost the economies and specifically tourism industries of the twin republics.

Toward the realization of this major construction project, as well as other important projects, the worldwide affiliates of the fund have been carrying out a multitude of public-awareness and fundraising campaigns since the beginning of 2014. In Armenia, from



November 1, the fund launched SMS- and postal-donation programs, encouraging grassroots support of the initiative.

Erevan Chorale to perform annual Christmas concert in Cambridge

On Dec. 14, the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cambridge will present the Erevan Chorale and Orchestra's annual Christmas Concert, beginning at 7 p.m. The Chorale and Orchestra will present a festive program of Armenian sharagans, Armenian and Western Christmas carols, as well as special performances dedicated to the 145th anniversary of Komitas Vartabed and the 100th anniversary of the composer Aram Satunts, the Armenian Weekly reports.

The Erevan Chorale and Orchestra will host a number of soloists, including soprano Narine Ojakhyan who, after graduating from London's Royal Academy Music, has performed in various concerts and festivals throughout the world and has won a number of international prizes. David Gevorkyan on duduk will play works by Komitas, and soprano Kate Norigian will perform Armenian and American Christmas songs.

The evening will feature the U.S. premiere of "Ave Maria" by Aram Satyan, the president of the Composers Union of Armenia, a special guest of the concert. The Erevan Chorale and Orchestra will perform under the direction of composer and conductor Maestro Konstantin Petrossian.



3,000-year-old settlement in Eastern Turkey reveals Armenian traces

The discovery of a large 3000 year old archaeological settlement in Eastern Turkey has been widely reported in Turkish media, last year, PeopleOfAr reports.

The news has reached international audiences through the English translations from sources such as the Worldbulletin.

The article reports:

"3,000-year-old settlement found in eastern Turkey"

Largest archaeological settlement of Tunceli province was discovered

An archaeological settlement dating back to 3,000 years ago was discovered in eastern Tunceli province of Turkey.

Thanks to the efforts of Turkish researcher Serkan Erdogan from Faculty of Science and Letters of Bitlis Eren University, and Culture and Tourism Director of Tunceli Ismet Hakan Ulasoglu, a 3,000-year-old settlement near Rabat hamlet of Cemceli village was discovered.

Being the largest archaeological settlement of Tunceli, a citadel-like settlement containing overtones of early iron age, Urartian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantium period, Islamic middle age and Ottoman era was predicted to be one of the most important centres situated at an old transportation network.

Having encountered iron dross, ceramics, historical bridge and weight objects, researcher Erdogan thought that the area in question was an important economic production centre in different eras of the



history.

Erdogan said that the discovered citadel was wider than three football stadiums."

What the report doesn't mention however, is that there are clearly visible old Armenian texts (as is seen in the picture above) inscribed on the ancient stones found at the sight. Whether the Turkish researchers are aware of this or not remains a mystery. Nevertheless the Armenian traces are undeniable. Tunceli province (formerly Dersim Province) was historically part of the Greater Armenian region of Sophene (Tsopk). Later it was annexed to the Byzantine empire and eventually occupied by the Seljuk Turks. Nonetheless the Armenian population remained thriving up until the first world war. After the tragic events of the Armenian Genocide most of the Armenian population has vanished from Eastern Turkey including Dersim Province. Today it is largely populated by the majority Alevi Zaza Kurdish and Sunni Turkish people. Yet the Armenian traces are still found among the ruins of the ancient stones.

"KAAR-MED"

PRIVATE CLINIC CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Private Clinic "KAAR-MED" has been functioning on the market for medical services for more than 15 years. The Clinic is located in Warsaw (10 Bitwy Warszawskiej street) close to the centre of the city within easy reach of Dworzec Zachodni railway station and other city communications networks.

Our Patients can use a private parking located directly at the entrance to the Clinic with special places for ambulance and disabled people. Clinic is fully adapted and friendly for wheelchair users.

The Clinic specialisation is gynaecology and obstetrics including full pregnancy care, "one day surgery" and aesthetic medicine procedures as well as plastic and cosmetic gynaecology. "KAAR-MED" employs gynaecologists and physicians of all specialisations who have clinical experience gained in leading Warsaw hospitals.

We offer a wide range of laboratory, microbiological and genetic tests, diagnostic imaging techniques (USG) including prenatal tests such as pregnancy ultrasound, prenatal imaging findings, Harmony Prenatal Test, Doppler ultrasonography tests and many others.

The "KAAR-MED" Clinic is fully outfitted with the latest medical equipment used for diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of gynaecology and obstetrics diseases:

- Voluson ultrasound imaging system (pictures)
- Toshiba ultrasound imaging system
- Colposcope
- Cryosurgery machine
- Electrocoagulation apparatus
- ELLMAN Pelleve Unit (radio frequency surgery and wrinkle reduction system)
- Other equipment by "Aesculap" and "Stainless" companies

Our clinic fulfils all the official norms (stated by the Direction of the Health Minister of Poland of 02.02.2011) concerning professional, technical and sanitary conditions for health care organizations.

We are looking forward to see You in "KAAR-MED" Clinic and shall do out best to make You feel comfortable, safe and professionally treated here.

**10 Bitwy Warszawskiej,
02-362 Warsaw, Poland**

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Meryl Streep, Stevie Wonder among 18 awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom by Obama

President Barack Obama on November 24 bestowed America's highest civilian honor on trailblazers in the arts, sports and politics, along with a couple of entertainers who are among his personal favorites, the Associated Press reports.

The 18 notables who gathered in the White House East Room to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom left even the president himself in awe. Obama said the ceremony is one of his favorite events because it celebrates "people who have made America stronger and wiser and more humane and more beautiful."

He revealed the first record he ever bought was by honoree Stevie Wonder and

confessed a crush on Meryl Streep, gushing about her ability to promote empathy on and off the screen through charitable works.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is reserved for individuals who have made "meritorious contributions" to U.S. security, world peace or cultural endeavors. Obama said he took great pleasure in being able to present the award to Ethel Kennedy, since it was her brother-in-law the former president who expanded and elevated the honor more than a half century ago.

Others receiving the award included NBC journalist Tom Brokaw, author Isabel Allende, Native American activist Suzan



Harjo, actress Marlo Thomas, economist Robert Solow, former Rep. Abner Mikva of Illinois, physicist Mildred Dresselhaus and golfer Charlie Sifford. Composer Stephen Sondheim was scheduled to receive the award, but Obama said he couldn't make it and will be included in next year's class of honorees.

Dink's Assailant Ready...

From page 15

Samast was quoted as saying at the time.

Dink was assassinated by Samast in broad daylight on a busy street outside the offices of the bilingual Turkish-Armenian weekly *Agos* in the city's Sisli district. The assassination caused outrage across the country, sending hundreds of the thousands to the streets in mass rallies.

Samast was sentenced to 22 years by a children's court for the murder, but lawyers representing the Dink family have repeatedly expressed their dismay over the lack of investigation regarding individuals or groups who allegedly commissioned the murder.

In late October, the trial took a significant turn after the court in Istanbul overseeing the case announced that it would focus on the "criminal organization" allegations against suspects, a move that lawyers representing the victim's family had demanded since the start of the retrial.

Accordingly, Samast is also likely to be tried on new charges, as the court ruled to associate his case with the main murder trial.

In early November, the Constitutional Court said civil servants and institutions allegedly implicated in the murder should be investigated.

Former Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah was supposed to testify to the prosecutor in charge upon the top court's decision. However, Cerrah met the prosecutor and notified him of "his excuse" for the postponement of his testimony, *Taraf* also reported, adding that Cerrah wants to be accompanied by his lawyer, who is currently abroad, during the testimony.

Preparation of Armenian lavash added to UN Heritage List

The preparation of Lavash - a popular flatbread integral to Armenian cuisine - has been integrated on the UN Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Committee decided that this element satisfies the criteria for inscription on the list as follows:

"The knowledge and skills related to preparation, consumption and use of lavash have been transmitted within families as part of their everyday life; they constitute a fundamental component of identity and a symbol of friendship and reconciliation;

"Inscription of the element on the Representative List could increase visibility of intangible cultural heritage in general and promote awareness of the importance of foodways as part of the cultural identity of communities;

"The proposed safeguarding measures include formal and non-formal education, organization of festivals and exhibitions, eco-tours for children and the development of tourism initiatives, as well as research, production of documentaries and publications and establishment of a new museum;

"The nomination was prepared with wide and active participation of communities, associations, researchers, local government bodies and academic and scientific institutions; free, prior and informed consent of communities was provided;

"The element is included in the Intangible Heritage List of the Republic of Armenia, which is regularly updated and can be accessed via Internet.

Lavash is a traditional thin bread that forms an integral part of Armenian cuisine.



Its preparation is typically undertaken by a small group of women, and requires great effort, coordination, experience and special skills. A simple dough made of wheat flour and water is kneaded and formed into balls, which are then rolled into thin layers and stretched over a special oval cushion that is then slapped against the wall of a traditional conical clay oven. After thirty seconds to a minute, the baked bread is pulled from the oven wall.

Lavash is commonly served rolled around local cheeses, greens or meats, and can be preserved for up to six months. It plays a ritual role in weddings, where it is placed on the shoulders of newlyweds to bring fertility and prosperity. The group work in baking lavash strengthens family, community and social ties. Young girls usually act as aides in the process, gradually becoming more involved as they gain experience. Men are also involved through the practices of making cushions and building ovens, and pass on their skills to students and apprentices as a necessary step in preserving the vitality and viability of lavash making.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

See the lead paragraph on the home page because Mars is your ruling planet. You are likely to be the leader of the pack throughout this week. Hopefully you have a task that is good for all involved, and those who are needy of your help. You hold the big picture in your heart and can convey it to everyone.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Relationships take on an increased depth over the next few weeks. Even long term partnerships will be sharing more intimately than usual about feelings. Positive influences and opportunities or gifts come your way. Money owed to you will be paid. Resources grow over the next month.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

For the next three weeks you will want to experiment with and try on multiple points of view. You probably will be taking "polls" among friends and associates. Make a special effort to keep up with keys, tickets, and other small items. You and partner may have a misunderstanding. Talk it through until you both feel clear.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Watch your diet this week. You may overdo on some food or drink that could cause you to feel "off" in the belly. You have favorable aspects concerning romance, social, and family life with husband and children. The arts and all things of beauty are of a special pleasure to you now.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Before the holiday you may feel completely burned out. Before the end of a week your energy returns. You will take on a project that involves learning something new that brings you power. You will have found a way to protect yourself from disillusionment.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Here we are at Thanksgiving, just as your planetary ruler moves into the sector involving home, hearth, and family. It looks as though you are the designated hostess, although given your nature, this may happen every year at this time. This year it may feel like herding cats as people shift gears and change plans.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Your ruling planet is Venus, goddess of love and the arts. "She" draws your attention to parties in neighboring areas and with those of your usual environment. Those with siblings may enjoy improved relationship through this period. You'll be inclined to add luxury items to your vehicle, or maybe even purchase a new one.

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

You are pressured by circumstances to find a new means to take care of yourself. Therefore now is the time in which you must pull together all your internal resources to find solutions. You have far more than you believe buried in your tote sack of talents and gifts to offer.

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

Mercury travels rapidly through your sign between Nov 27 and Dec. 16. During this period there likely will be greater emphasis on communications, errands, and other short distance travels. Your mind will be quick and your attitude persuasive. This heralds a time of leadership for you and may represent a time of celebration.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You have a challenging aspect that requires that you to work really hard to hold onto your personal power in the face of circumstances that are not at all conducive to your use of it. Even if you feel really alone in the world there are helpers in the background who are there for support. Will power is your ally.

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

There are fears lurking in the back of your mind that may cause you to feel discouraged and prone to quit. Make an effort to shine a bright light upon them. Are they real or imagined? Is there any way to bring them out of the darkness so you can engage them directly?

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

Developments in your career or life direction may cause you to feel ineffective this week. Don't allow this one experience to alter your sense of self-identity. You are an intuitive person who can almost always assist others to feel better. But you cannot accomplish this goal if the Other does not want to feel better.

Shakespeare Folio found in French library



A rare and valuable Shakespeare First Folio, regarded as the most important book in English literature, has been discovered in a small French town, the BBC reports.

The book had lain undisturbed in a library in Saint-Omer, near Calais in northern France, for 200 years. It was discovered by librarians planning an exhibition on the historic links between the region and England. "The work has several pages missing, including the title page," librarian Remy Cordonnier told the press. The loss of the first page and introductory material may have led to the book being catalogued as an unexceptional old edition, he added.

The Folio collects 36 of Shakespeare's 38 known plays for the first time, and was originally printed in 1623, seven years after the playwright's death. Edited by his friends and fellow actors John Heminges and Henry Condell, it is credited with being the reason his literary legacy survived. It is the only source for 18 of his plays, including Macbeth.

It is thought that 800 copies were produced, of which 233 are believed to still exist. New discoveries are made roughly once a decade, and they are scrutinised by scholars for minor variations (each copy is different) and what they might reveal about Shakespeare's intentions.

They rarely change hands but one of the last Folios to be sold at auction, in 2006, fetched £2.8m (£3.6m in 2014). The copy discovered in Saint-Omer is only one of two known to reside in France.





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