

Stéphane Visconti appointed OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair



French ambassador Stéphane Visconti has been appointed co-chairman of the Minsk Group. Since 1992, this group has been instructed by the OSCE to mediate between Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to put an end to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Minsk Group has been represented since 1997 by a co-presidency composed of France, the United States and Russia, each of which is represented by an ambassador.

The co-presidency of the Minsk Group maintains a high level of engagement in political negotiations and the implementation of confidence-building measures.

Ambassador Stéphane Visconti was successively Consul General of France in St. Petersburg and Munich. He also served as adviser to the Prime Minister and then to the Mayor of Paris for international relations. Until recently he was the French Ambassador to Latvia. He succeeded Ambassador Pierre Andrieu.

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President Sargsyan meets representatives of customs authorities of EEU member states

President Serzh Sargsyan received on November 30 Heads of delegations of the Customs agencies of the Eurasian Economic Union member states who have arrived in Armenia to participate at the 21st session of the Joint Board of the Customs agencies of the EEU member states, President's Press Office reports.

The President of Armenia welcomed the guests and stressed the importance of the Board's meeting held today in Tsakhkadzor. Stressing that customs services represent an important structure which interact on a daily basis with the business community of the EEU member states, Serzh Sargsyan noted that impressions regarding the EEU are also being shaped based on their work and cooperation; the improvement of business environment considerably depends on the activities of the customs agency of any country, as well as the formation and development of the goods, services, capitals and labor markets at the common economic area.

The President of Armenia expressed hope that current issues and decisions adopted during the meeting in Tsakhkadzor will promote the resolution of the mentioned issues and implementation of the objectives set by

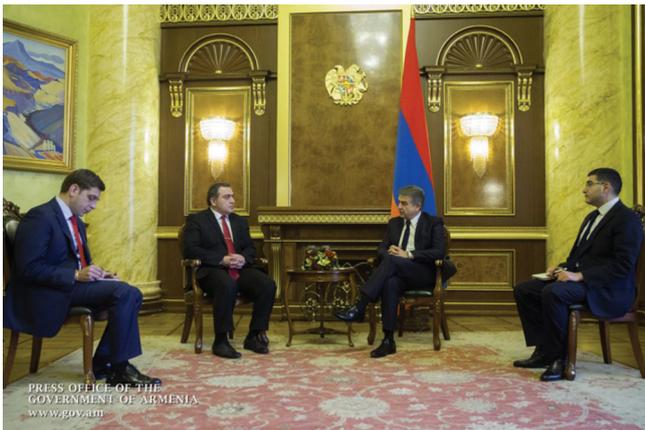


the members of the Union in the framework on the integration processes.

Heads of delegations of the Customs agencies of the Eurasian Economic Union member states presented to Serzh Sargsyan the results of the 21st session of the Joint Board and expressed thanks to the Armenian colleagues for organizing the meeting at a high level. They underscored that any union is

based first and foremost on mutual trust, and the works of the Joint Board of the Customs agencies is aimed at strengthening that trust through the daily close cooperation. The participants of the meeting reported to the President on the works aimed at the improvement of the new Customs law, problems and challenges existing in the Customs area, and prospects of development.

Armenia, Georgia interested in developing cooperation



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received on November 29 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Georgia to the Republic of Armenia Giorgi Saganelidze.

Pleased with the current level of political dialogue between Armenia and Georgia, the Prime Minister said more vigorous efforts are needed to overhaul economic cooperation and tap the existing potential.

Giorgi Saganelidze stressed that the Armenian-Georgian relations are based on centuries-old friendship between the two peoples, and Georgia is interested in developing mutually beneficial cooperation with our country.

During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed a broad range of issues high on bilateral cooperation agenda. In particular, they exchanged views on the joint projects and future plans in energy, logistics, transportation and other areas.



Three Opposition Parties Signal Election Alliance

(Yerevan –RFE/RL) Three Armenian opposition parties critical of Russia have agreed to join forces and challenge the government in the parliamentary elections slated for April.

One of them, Hanrapetutyun (Republic), was the first to announce their “explicit understandings on cooperation” late on Thursday. “The three parties will make a joint statement on December 12,” it said.

The two other parties are Nikol Pashinyan’s Civil Contract and Edmon Marukyan’s Bright Armenia. Both relatively young men hold seats in Armenia’s parliament. They traded bitter recriminations ahead of a recent municipal election in Vanadzor, the capital of the northern Lori province and the Bright Armenia stronghold.

Hanrapetutyun is a much older party led by Aram Sargsyan, a former prime minister. It was a key opposition force in the 2000s but has kept a low profile in recent years and is not represented in the current National As-



sembly.

Hanrapetutyun and Bright Armenia have a pro-Western orientation, while Civil Contract advocates a more neutral Armenian foreign policy. Still, Pashinyan voted against Armenia’s membership in the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union two years ago.

Marukyan said on December 2 that the three groups intend to form an electoral alliance. “Everything else – the strategy, tactics, what we are going to do – is still being discussed,” he told RFE/RL’s Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). “We will provide detailed information about that on December 12.”

Marukyan said the planned bloc is open to other opposition forces, notably Raffi Hovannisian’s Zharangutyun (Heritage) party. “I can confirm that there have been consultations with Zharangutyun as well, and I think that we are not yet done and changes are still possible,” he said.

So far the consultations appear to have not involved at least two other major opposition parties: former President Levon Ter-Petrosian’s Armenian National Congress (HAK) and former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian’s Hamakhmbum (Consolidation). Both parties, which support Armenia’s close ties with Russia, have called for opposition consolidation ahead of the April elections.

Hanrapetutyun’s Sargsyan indicated on Friday that he would not team up with any party which he considers pro-Russian.

Meanwhile the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) which expects to win the elections seemed unfazed by the looming opposition alliance. “The opposition has no chance to win the elections or fully unite,” said its spokesman, Eduard Sharmazanov.

Sargsyan scoffed at the remark, saying that the HHK has clung to power through vote rigging and repression. “Things would have been much sadder if Sharmazanov had praised us,” said the veteran oppositionist.



Armenian government approves military-industrial policy strategy

At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, the Military-Industrial Commission approved the draft on Military-industrial and military-technical policy strategy.

Deputy Defense Minister, head of the State Military Industry Committee David Pakhchanyan said the strategy aims to turn the scientific-technical and industrial-technical potential into practical innovative means, which will help ensure the competitiveness of the production of the military industry complex.

Pakhchanyan underlined that the document has been worked out on the basis of the experience of the years of independence and the analysis of the April events.

He noted that the strategy also aims to boost the development of

military industry, implementation and development of innovative technologies and organization of local production.

The main objective is to create a scientific-technical complex with a view of implementing the priorities of development of the military-technical policy.

According to Pakhchanyan, with the “nation-army” formula in the spotlight, it is necessary to review the education process in Armenia in order to turn the school-higher educational establishment-industry-science link into a scientific-educational complex.

During the meeting reference was made to development of the military industry complex and other issues related to the military-technical policy.

Discussions on Armenian Genocide recognition under way at Syrian parliamentary panels

Vice-Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov received on November 29 Syrian MPs Omar al-Arab and Alan Bakeri.

The Vice-Speaker welcomed the visit of Syrian lawmakers to Armenia and noted that the Armenian-Syrian friendship has centuries-old history, which has been reinforced after Syria's provision of refuge to Armenian genocide survivors.

Edward Sharmazanov attached importance to the cooperation between the two countries, particularly the reinforcement of inter-parliamentary ties. He expressed gratitude to the Syrian Parliament for holding a debate on the Armenian Genocide.

"The denial of genocide is fraught with threats of reoccurrence of the crime. Turkish denialism and impunity bore terrorists like the Islamic State," Sharmazanov said.

During the meeting reference was made to the Syria crisis. The Armenian Vice-Speaker wished strength to the Syrian people and voiced hope that peace and law would be re-



established in the country. He stressed Armenia's stance on the fight against terrorism and assured of the willingness of the Armenian lawmakers to raise their voice for the sake of peaceful settlement of the Syrian issue.

The Syrian MPs, in turn, conveyed the words of gratitude of the Syrian authorities

and people to the Armenian nation for supporting them at times of hardship. They also attached importance to the deepening of inter-parliamentary and informed that discussions on recognition of the Armenian Genocide are under way in Syrian parliamentary commissions.

Yerevan hosts 4th conference on Armenian-French decentralized cooperation

The 4th Conference on Armenian-French Decentralized Cooperation was held in Yerevan in December 1. Attending the event were Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration David Lokyan, Yerevan Mayor Taron

Margaryan, French Ambassador to Armenia Jean-Francois Charpentier, high-ranking representatives of local self-government bodies of Armenia and France.

"The Armenian-French cooperation

has been developing and reinforcing in different directions over the past years," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said in his opening remarks. He put a special emphasis on the development of inter-parliamentary ties, expansion of economic cooperation, continuous deepening of cultural and scientific-educational exchange.

Speaking of decentralized cooperation, Minister Nalbandian reminded that "joint programs are being implemented in the fields of tourism, agriculture, education, culture, healthcare and other within the framework of more than 70 agreements signed between the Armenian and French cities and regions."

He voiced confidence that the fourth conference would open new perspectives and reveal new horizons for decentralized cooperation between the two countries.



Armenian Assembly commends U.S. funding to support Armenian election process



The United States has pledged to fund concrete measures designed to improve confidence in the election process and help prevent fraud in next year’s Armenian parliamentary elections. The Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) strongly encouraged the U.S. government support this initiative considering its importance to strengthening the democratic process in Armenia.

U.S. funding will support agreements signed by the Armenian government and three leading opposition parties on voting conduct for the April 2017 elections. Funds will go toward equipment required for live online broadcasts of voting and ballot counting, as well as electronic verification of voters’ identity, and other amendments to Armenia’s Electoral Code. The United States joins the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Germany in providing financial support towards the new voting processes and equipment for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

“Both the government and the opposition deserve credit for working out the agreement which sets Armenia apart,” stated Armenian

Assembly Co-Chairs Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian. “The need for national unity was dramatically reemphasized after the April war initiated by Azerbaijan and the ongoing ceasefire violations attempting to goad Armenia to respond,” the Assembly Co-Chairs continued. “We commend the U.S. and the EU for providing financial assistance to support this initiative to further the rule of law in Armenia. We are nonpartisan in both the American and Armenian contexts but this type of support to improve confidence in the democratic process serves us all,” they concluded.

According to the statement by the United States Embassy in Armenia: “The U.S. Government welcomes the agreement that was reached in June and September between the Armenian government and parliamentary political factions – with input from civil society representatives – on strengthening the integrity and credibility of the Armenian election process. We consider this agreement a meaningful step towards restoring public trust and accountability in Armenia’s electoral processes.”

“With our fellow international donors, all of whom are working in partnership with the United Nations Mission to Armenia, the U.S. Embassy will help fund the efforts of the Armenian government, political opposition, and civil society to strengthen trust in the Armenian electoral process via same-day voter authentication and the publication of signed voter lists after the elections, all as agreed in the June and September agreements,” stated the U.S. Embassy in Armenia.

French Ambassador welcomes plans to hold Francophonie summit in Armenia



French Ambassador to Armenia Jean-Francois Charpentier has welcomed the decision to hold the next summit of the International Organization of the Francophonie in Armenia.

“The 16th summit of the Francophonie in Antananarivo unanimously decided to hold the next summit of the heads of the member states of the International Organization of the Francophonie in Armenia in 2018.

I warmly congratulate Armenia for this decision and for the commitment to the values and ideas cherished by the Francophonie,” the Ambassador said in a statement.

“I’m confident it will serve as yet another opportunity to boost the role of the French language in Armenia,” Amb. Charpentier said.

Nairit Chemical Plant Declared Bankrupt

Armenia’s chemical plant Nairit was recognized on November 30 bankrupt by the court of Yerevan’s Shengavit district, according to the official judicial website datalex.am.

The court obliged Nairit Plant to pay more than AMD 1.23 billion, which includes also AMD 160 million fines, to the Electric Networks of Armenia.

On November 14, Armenia’s ministry of energy infrastructures and natural resources announced a tender, with involvement of private investors, to re-launch Nairit chemical plant’s production facilities.

Companies may submit also preliminary projects of the re-launch of the plant’s production infrastructures.



Tom Hanks urges support for Children of Armenia Fund

Hollywood star Tom Hanks has called for support to the Children of Armenia Fund gala to be held on December 9, 2016.

In a video message shared on Children of Armenia Fund’s Facebook page the actor said he can’t attend the gala, but urged others to join it.



“I can’t be there, which makes me a fool, because I don’t pass up meals at Cipriani easily,” he joked.

“My great friend, Andrea Martin, who I love dearly, is taking on the spirit of Armenia itself by organizing this great gala,” Hanks added.

“Please join it, please help out, explore your Armenian roots,” the actor said.

Armenia, EU to start negotiations on comprehensive air transport agreement

On 1 December 2016 the Council adopted a mandate that will allow the Commission to start negotiations on a comprehensive air transport agreement with Armenia.

Comprehensive EU-level aviation agreements aim to increase Europe's international connectivity, ensure a high-quality service and more choice for the passengers, and boost the international competitiveness of the EU's aviation industry.

The agreement with Armenia will take the form of a Common Aviation Area Agreement, since Armenia is one of the countries with which the EU is creating closer ties under its neighborhood policy.

"Nowadays, we can hardly imagine travel without aviation. Aviation agreements are great means to enable Europe to tap into the growth markets elsewhere and to connect the EU directly to other regions. I warmly welcome the Council's green light today to open negotiations with Armenia. Once



negotiated, the agreement will promote a vibrant exchange of travellers, lower prices and ensure new business opportunities for our companies. It will be a great example of cooperation between the EU and Armenia in the context of the Eastern Partnership," said

Árpád Érsek, Slovak Minister for Transport, Construction and Regional Development and Chair of the Council.

The Commission will carry out these negotiations on behalf of the EU and its member states.

Armenia-US economic cooperation to continue during Trump administration



According to the minister counselor at the Armenian Embassy in the US, Armenia will continue economic cooperation with the US during the next US Administration.

Economic cooperation between Armenia and the United States will continue during the next US Administration, Minister

Counselor at the Armenian Embassy in the United States Hrachia Tashchian told Sputnik.

"We do not see any reason that could stop or halt the economic cooperation between Armenia and the United States," Tashchian said on the sidelines of the third annual "Doing Business With Eurasian

Economic Union" Conference in Washington. Tashchian stressed that the United States was a key economic partner for Armenia. "US-Armenia Intergovernmental Joint Task Force is among the main tools fostering cooperation and discussion of a wide range of issues – from energy security to the technical assistance in implementing civil aviation and tax administration reforms", Tashchian said.

Trade and Investment Framework Agreement – another important tool of cooperation – signed last year and tailored to help the parties identify areas conducive to the development of mutual trade and investments.

Tashchian noted that over the last two years there have been two major US investments in the energy and mining sectors of the Armenian economy. The diplomat also mentioned the large presence of US IT companies in Armenia. Information Technology is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the Armenian economy, and the Government strongly supports its further growth, Tashchian concluded.

EU to provide €7 million for electoral reform in Armenia



The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Members States' Heads of Mission in Armenia

Following the important first steps in the implementation of the agreement on electoral reform between the coalition and the opposition parties, drawing on consultations with civil society representatives, we count on the government to spare no efforts in realising this reform. We appreciate the commitment of the authorities to allow a fair and open competition. We expect the

Central Election Commission, the law enforcement bodies and the judiciary to do their best to fulfil this promise. We perceive the presence of political will as a key prerequisite for a fair electoral process.

In partnership with the UNDP and the United States, the European Union has responded positively to the government's request for assistance in funding implementation of this electoral reform package. EU financial support of up to €7 million will close the identified financial gap and will thus allow for the smooth implementation of the electoral reform agreement. This includes support to election observation. Together with the contributions of Germany and the United Kingdom, European support amounts to 90 percent of the overall financial assistance to the electoral process.

The European Union attaches great importance to the transparency, integrity, inclusiveness and effectiveness of electoral processes. Therefore, we will continue to support the efforts of all stakeholders to ensure full alignment with international standards, including those related to the prohibition of the use of administrative resources and electoral corruption and to ensuring unhindered work by observers and media.

Ensuring free and fair future elections will be crucial for Armenian democracy and for the country's relations with the European Union. We stand ready to continue to support Armenia on its democratic path based on the future EU-Armenia Agreement and within the larger framework of the Eastern Partnership.

Armenia, Russia sign combined forces agreement

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and his Armenian counterpart signed an agreement on establishing combined forces, a RIA Novosti reports.

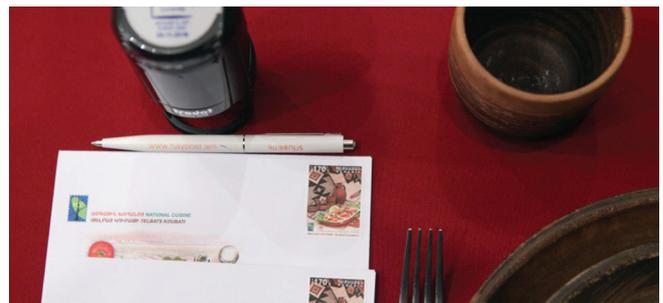
Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan said the group would include Russia's military base in Armenia, as well as units of the Armenian armed forces. The ministers signed a coopera-

tion plan for 2017.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed off on a decree to establish a combined task force on November 14. Previously, Russia and Armenia signed the agreement that established regional Unified Air Defense System as part of Joint Commonwealth of Independent States Air Defense System in December 2015.



Armenia cancels new stamp dedicated to national cuisine



On November 28th, 2016, 1 postage stamp dedicated to the theme "The Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications. National cuisine" has been put into circulation.

The postage stamp has been cancelled by the President of "Development and preservation of Armenian culinary traditions" organization Sedrak Mamulyan and the Acting Chief Executive Officer of "HayPost" CJSC Haik Avagyan. The postage

stamp with nominal value of 170 AMD has been printed in "Cartor" printing house in France. The postage stamp depicts an old Armenian traditional festive dish "Telbats Koubati", which consists of fish with vegetables baked in puff pastry.

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Designer: Vahagn Mkrtchyan
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1 ROOM

- 1792.**Amiryan str.** Newly built, /10th floor, 78sq.m, 1 bedroom, one bathroom and a guest toilet, open kitchen, capitally renovated.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, ,furnished,parking.. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated,parking, Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str, /Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor,116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms,capitally repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m.,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 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

- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

- 2175.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

- 2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.

- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.

- 2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD

- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.

- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.

- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price:

30USD per sq.m

- 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

- 3802.**Vahagni distr.** Newly built, land- 1550 sq.m, 3storied bld-880sq.m, 9bedrooms, capitally renovated. Price: 880.000 USD.

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m,capitally repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD

- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD

- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, hjeating 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

- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m.,3 storied building-750sq.m.,6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m.,2 storied building-720sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system,sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD

- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD

- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.

- 3401.**Antarayin str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 142. **Verin Antarayin str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

- 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**. 3floors,8 flats,each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.

- 130.**Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m.,available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable

- 131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- 2362. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 160sq.m, 2bedrooms, a study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnisred, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnisred, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2373. **Tumanyan str.**, 6/3, stone bld, 100sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally renovated, furnished. Price: 1300 USD
- 2363. **Arami str**, Newly built, /4th floor, 120sq.m, 2 bathrooms and a guest toilet, a dressing room, capitally renovated, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 2358. **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capitally renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2347. **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500

- USD
- 2303. **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD

- 1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable



- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335. **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336. **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337. **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 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, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

National Day of Lebanon

The Lebanese community has celebrated the 73rd Independence Day of Lebanon on 22 November at Marriott hotel. The reception held by Ambassador of Lebanon Dr. Jean Makaron was attended by 300 guests who enjoyed meeting each other and sharing not only wishes and ideas but also delicious food and drinks. It should be noted that the Lebanese community counts around 800 families, most of them are businessmen and businesswomen, professionals, they all succeeded in their fields and they interacted in a positive way with the Armenian community. Distinguished guests have attended this reception: RA Minister of Territorial Administration and Development Mr. Davit Lokyan, head of the parliamentary fraction of the Republican Party of the NA of Armenia Mr. Vahram Baghdasaryan.

Ambassador Makaron highlighted in his speech many important points as follows:

A special welcome to all Armenian officials, to my colleagues Ambassadors, my fellow Lebanese and all distinguished guests.

First of all, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all Ministries for their assistance and cooperation with our Embassy, especially to MFA and Ministry of Agriculture.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: "We have no need of cannons or bombs to bring peace. We need only love and kindness."

Based on this beautiful quotation I can say that there is no greater love than loving our country and there is no greater kindness than respecting and helping others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace is the ultimate goal of all diplomats who strive to promote understanding and harmony in our world.

We were born to live in a society where compassion is the principle and where justice is the foundation.

We were born to sacrifice ourselves not only for the good of our country but also for the good of humanity as well.

In this spirit I am pleased to say that despite all challenges, the Lebanese citizens and the Armenian citizens share the same value, which is their noble commitment to live in a free and peaceful society.

I am pleased to announce to all Lebanese present here, that a council of the Lebanese community in Armenia has been founded this month and we are counting on this council to promote cooperation between Lebanon and Armenia.

And the good news is that all Lebanese have welcomed the election



this month of a new president. This election helps indeed to create hopes for a better future in Lebanon.

God bless Armenia and Lebanon.

The Ambassador of Lebanon has the honour to announce that the council of the Lebanese community includes the following members: Samir Khnayzir, Mr. Sam Samuelian, Mrs. Caroline Zakarian, Mr. Nicholas Abou Fayssal, Mr. Raffi Semerjian, Mr. Nicholas Tawil, Mr. Shant Torikian, Mr. Raffi Mekhjian, Mr. Vatche Pilibbosian, Mr. Noubar Tatarian and Mr. Ardziv Avakian.



Armenia Finally Counters Pakistan's Anti-Armenian Policies



*Harut
Sassounian*

I am pleased to learn that the Republic of Armenia has finally decided to counter Pakistan's persistently pro-Azeri, pro-Turkish, and anti-Armenian policies.

Last week, Radio Free Europe (RFE) reported that Armenia vetoed Pakistan's request for observer status in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), in response to Pakistan's anti-Artsakh (Karabakh) position.

Armenia argued that "Pakistan has refused to not only establish diplomatic relations with Armenia but also formally recognize the latter as an independent state," according to RFE. Indeed, Pakistan is one of a handful of countries in the world that is yet to recognize Armenia after a quarter century of independence!

This relatively minor episode is a welcome development which shows that Armenia's leaders are willing to flex their muscle from time to time. Such a move would also serve notice to other countries that Armenia is ready and willing to defend its interests and undermine those of its antagonists when necessary.

Pakistan's anti-Armenian stance pre-dates Armenia's independence. I recall vividly the speeches of Pakistan's Ambassadors to the United Nations in 1970's and 1980's, in support Turkey's denials of the Armenian Genocide, during the sessions of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland.

After Armenia became independent in 1991, Pakistan continued its hostile policies against Armenia and Artsakh, staunchly supporting both Azerbaijan

and Turkey. Mercenary Mujahideen terrorists from Pakistan and Afghanistan were hired by Azerbaijan to fight Armenians during the Artsakh War. Since then, the leaders of Pakistan and Azerbaijan have visited each other on numerous occasions to bolster their economic and military ties. For example, Pakistan's Defense Minister Syed Athar Ali, during a visit to Baku in 2010, discussed with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev the "strengthening of cooperation in the military sphere and defense industry," according to APA (Azeri Press Agency). In response, President Aliyev thanked Pakistan for voting in the UN General Assembly in favor of "the resolution on the situation of the occupied Azerbaijani territories and for not recognizing Armenia in connection with the aggression against Azerbaijan."

In March 2015, during his visit to Baku, Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain declared: "We have always backed Azerbaijan's fair position on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Pakistan does not recognize Armenia as a state." He also announced that Pakistan's Senate had recognized as genocide the killings of Azeris by Armenians in Khojalu during the Artsakh war.

On April 5, 2016, during the barbaric attack by Azerbaijan's military on Artsakh villagers, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry falsely blamed Armenia for "violating the ceasefire" by "continuous artillery firing." Later that month, during his visit to Islamabad, Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Yavar Jamalov told Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Azerbaijan is keen on purchasing military hardware from Pakistan. A similar discussion was held on September 27, 2016, during a meeting in Baku between Pakistan's Defense Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain and Aliyev.

On October 14, 2016, during his reciprocal visit to Azerbaijan, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told Aliyev about his country's interest in holding joint military training. Nawaz also "called for complete return of occupied Azeri lands, withdrawal of Armenian forces, and return of displaced persons and refugees." In return, Aliyev expressed his country's support for Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir, in opposition to India. A month later, when Azerbaijan's First Deputy Prime Minister Yaqub Eyyubov visited Pakistan, Hussain reminded him that Pakistan was the third country after Turkey and Romania to have recognized Azerbaijan. Hussain also thanked Azerbaijan for supporting Pakistan in its dispute with India over Jammu and Kashmir, and pledged to continue backing Azerbaijan's claims on "Nagorno-Karabakh" (Artsakh).

Not to be outdone by Azerbaijan, Turkish President Erdogan visited Pakistan on November 17, 2016, where he was welcomed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his "second home." In return, Erdogan proclaimed: "The whole world should emulate Pakistan!"

The Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora should continue countering Pakistan and other anti-Armenian states to discourage them from causing further damage to Armenia's interests. Below are several suggested actions:

- Armenia should vote against pro-Pakistani issues in the UN General Assembly;

- Armenia should block Pakistan's efforts to associate itself with the Eurasian Economic Union;

- Armenia should side with India in its dispute with Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir;

- Armenian-Americans should urge the U.S. Congress to hold hearings on Pakistan's grave human rights violations.

Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan Visits Russia



*Compiled by
Gourgen
Khazhakian*

**Chief
Correspondent**

*On 27-29 delegation led by the Armenian Minister of Defense **Vigen A. Sargsyan** was in the Russian Federation on an official visit.*

According to observers, this first foreign visit of DM Sargsyan was a quite fruitful, and a saturated one, - as The Highlights readers could see in a chronicle based on the info from Defense Ministry Press and Information Dept.:

The delegation led by the Minister of Defense also visited the “Rosvertol” helicopter plant where has got acquainted with the production.

On **November 28th** the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia also visited the headquarters of the Southern Military District of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (whose jurisdiction includes No.102 Military Base located in Armenia). He met with the commanding staff of the Southern Military District and discussed the enhancement of cooperation through the Joint Forces of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation as well as questions concerning co-

public of Armenia to the Russian Federation. Representatives of legislative and executive bodies of the Russian Federation, reputable political analysts and researchers, leaders of the Armenian community as well as individuals who made significant contribution to the development and reinforcement of relations between Armenia and Russia were present at the reception.

During the meeting, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia spoke about reforms taking place in the Armed Forces as well as programs in different Diaspora organization in the context of army-society relations. During the discussion, opinions were exchanged with regards to



On **November 27th** in the City of Rostov, Vigen Sargsyan paid tribute to the memory of Lieutenant-General **Hrach Andreasyan** and Colonel-General **Lev Shustko** who had significant role in the formation and stabilization of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. Minister Sargsyan laid wreaths at their memorials and conversed with the spouses of General Andreasyan and General Shustko. On the same day, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia met with representatives of the Armenian community of Rostov.

On **November 28th** Armenian defense minister paid tribute at the Rostov Memorial for Fallen Servicemen. On the same day, he met with the Governor of Rostov **Vasily Golubin**. The future prospects for a wider and closer cooperation were discussed during the meeting.



ordination of operations implemented by the subdivisions of the Joint Forces.

On the second half of the day, the delegation left for Moscow.

On **November 28th** Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia Vigen Sargsyan, who was in Moscow for an official visit to the Russian Federation, participated in a reception organized at the Embassy of the Re-

strengthening Armenian-Russian strategic cooperation, enhancing friendly relations between the two nations as well as the necessity for adequate operations to address trends developing in the region.

On **November 29th** Vigen Sargsyan visited the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Vigen Sargsyan held a lecture at the Academy. The 400 students

studying at the academy were presented with Armenian-Russian military and military-technical priorities, and with the challenges and threats to regional security. Mr Sargsyan also answered questions from the audience.

Armenian DM has got acquainted with the educational materials and curriculum, and visited the Museum of this leading way

military higher educational institution of the Russian Federation.

On the same day, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia met with the first Deputy President of the Federal Duma of the Russian Federation **Alexander Zhurov**. During the meeting, the parties discussed Armenian-Russian strategic relations, emphasizing the high level of cooperation between the legislative and executive bodies of the two countries.

Vigen Sargsyan emphasized the importance of bilateral and multilateral strategic cooperation between Armenia and Russia for regional security and stability.

The parties also discussed the agreement *“On the Joint Forces of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation”* (the signing of which took place on November 30th during the official meeting with the Minister of De-

icated those who fell during the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War, paying tribute to their memory.

Vigen Sargsyan and members of delegation visited the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War.

On the same day, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia visited the Red Square and laid a wreath at the tomb of a legendary military Commander, the Soviet

and joint field exercises, and military-athletic and other educational programs.

During the meeting, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia Vigen Sargsyan held bilateral meetings with the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation Army General **Sergey Shoigu** and Minister of Defense of the Republic of Belarus Lieutenant-General **Andrey Ravkov**.

During the meeting between the Ministers of Defense of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation, an agreement was signed *“On the Joint Forces of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.”*

The parties also confirmed the 2017 Program for Cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting between the



fense of the Russian Federation).

In the evening of November 29th Vigen Sargsyan met with Armenian cadets and students studying in military educational institutions of the Moscow Garrison, at the Reception Hall of the Armenian Church of Moscow. The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia presented the works taking place in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia and the accomplishments and successes of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and spoke in detail about the “Nation-Army” concept, answering questions posed by the participants.

In the morning of November 29th Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia Vigen Sargsyan visited the memorial ded-

icated those who fell during the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War, paying tribute to their memory.

On **November 30th** DM Vigen Sargsyan participated in the 71st meeting of the Council of CIS Ministers of Defense that took place in Moscow.

During the meeting, documents on cooperation between CIS Ministers of Defense were discussed, works done in 2016 were summarized, and the main directions of works planned for 2017 were noted.

As a result of the meeting, decisions were made concerning the joint realizations of programs concerning the CIS united air defense system, development of communication systems, humanitarian de-mining, preparation of military personnel, combat preparedness

Ministers of Defense of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Belarus, the 2017 Program for Cooperation between the respective agencies was signed.

On **November 30th** within the framework of the official visit to the Russian Federation, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia Vigen Sargsyan met with the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation **Denis Manturov**.

During the meeting, the parties discussed questions bilateral and multilateral cooperation in military industry. References were made to the progress concerning the implementation of the agreements obtained during Denis Manturov’s official visit to the Republic of Armenia in November.

News from VivaCell-MTS

Energy-saving outdoor illumination system reaches Martiros

Martiros village is famous for more than 700 years of history. The bordering community, that has many historical and cultural assets, since 1990, has been left with dark streets specific to the war time. In frames of the “Alternative Energy” project, collaboratively implemented by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS, an external lighting system with 52 LED street lights has been installed along 1,716 m long area.

VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**, FPWC Founder **Rouben Khachatryan**, Head of Zaritap Community **Simon Babayan** and community residents attended the launch of the modern system.

The usage of environmental friendly and energy saving LED lamps are cost-effective especially for villages having limited resources of the budget. LED lamps are more productive and can reduce the community’s outdoor lighting costs up to 80 %.

“Borderland villages remain within the focus of our partners’ and our attention. We do our best to solve the pertaining problems. We often opt for settling those issues on a stage by stage basis to fit the volume of the work to the actual budget. The flexibility of this program allows serving to the needs of our compatriots in various settlements. This year the energy saving system has been implemented in six villages of Vayots Dzor region. The program has embraced two more

settlements,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian. The lamps will lighten the streets of Martiros community from 21:00 to 00:00 in summer, and from 18:00 to 23:00 in winter. The village is to be illuminated the whole night during the holidays.

Due to VivaCell-MTS and “Fuller Center for Housing” Armenia support decent housing conditions have been provided to twenty families in Lori region

In the frames of the housing project, VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian and “Fuller Center for Housing” Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan paid just another regional visit. This time the partners visited the Sukiasyan family in Stepanavan town of Lori region.

The **Sukiasyans** are one of the three families that have received support through the housing project in Lori region in 2016. They had been homeless after the 1988 earthquake and had lived in a metal container for 28 years. In 2000, the family bought a half-built house, but was not able to complete the construction and move into a stone house.

In the frames of the housing project, the Sukiasyan family started the construction of their half-built house, and now, together with the part-



nering organizations, they celebrate the long-awaited housewarming.

“Sixteen long years have passed... and during all these years we were not able to complete the construction of our house. Every time we tried, we came upon an obstacle. My father was even thinking about leaving the country and working abroad to earn the money for the construction, but something kept him and us from doing that. We always thought it is better to live in a metal container, than be separated from each other. May be it was the strong bonds with the Homeland that kept us from leaving. I do not know. What matters is that our father is with us, and that we have built a house of our own. I am sincerely grateful for that!” - said sixteen-year-old Lilit.



Owing to the financial investment of VivaCell-MTS, in frames of “Fuller Center for Housing” Armenia project, the housing problem of 20 families has been solved in Lori region only.

“Five years ago, when we presented apartments to 20 families in Vanadzor who suffered from earthquake, we were hopeful that the look in the eyes of the children growing up in metal containers would change from sad and desperate to bright and optimistic. A child, who no longer has faith in the future, cannot bring positive changes to the country. Fully acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, we have tried to implement one more program with the aim of supporting socially vulnerable families. Thus, owing to the partnership with “Fuller Center for Housing” Armenia, we have succeeded in providing decent housing conditions to twenty more families in this region. My hope is that the hard conditions of life in metal containers will stay in the past and will no longer cast a shadow on the happiness of these families that strive to work and thrive in their Homeland,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

“The story of this family is similar to that of hundreds of other families in Lori region: people, who grew up in metal containers, get married and move into another metal container. Unfortunately, the end of this cycle is still not noticeable. Nevertheless, the housewarming of each house is a step towards a victorious end,” said “Fuller Center for Housing” Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

For the implementation of the housing project in the current year, VivaCell-MTS has invested

about AMD 105 mln. 21 families have finished the construction of their half-built houses; another 21 have renovated the houses. In the frames of the five-year partnership, 135 families have been supported through the housing project in ten regions of Armenia.

Vivacell-MTS stands by repatriated Syrian Armenians with special needs

Vivacell-MTS shows its support to repatriated Armenian children with disabilities who were facing hardship and insecurity in Syria due to the ongoing civil war. Before their relocation to Armenia, these children were taken care of by the “Arevik” Center in Aleppo. In Armenia, they were once again reunited with the efforts of the Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization, which initiated and launched the “Arevik-Armenia” Center two years ago, following the successful 13-year experience of the “Arevik” Center.

With the help of its team of devoted people and as a result of productive cooperation, Aleppo CCO managed to gain success within a short period of time. Today, the “Arevik-Armenia” Center provides free psychological assistance to Syrian Armenians with mental and physical disabilities. The Center also organizes educational trainings, such as mathematics, painting, music, physical trainings, as well as theater therapy, speech development and handicrafts workshops. The successful cooperation with the private sector plays an important role in ensuring the continuous operation of the center and its ongoing multi-functional activities. In 2016, “Arevik-Armenia” Center was included in the social investments program implemented by Vivacell-MTS in Armenia. Thanks to this, the Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization was able to cover the rental expenses for “Arevik-Armenia” Center, the utility payments and the food expenditures for the center’s children, as well as take care of the necessary expenses for organizing cultural trips for them. The “Arevik-Armenia” Center’s team of experts manages to alleviate the everyday problems of the Syrian Armenians with special needs and contributes to their involvement in the civil life.



Youth Orchestra: 2016 Khachatourian Fest Close to the End

Concert programs “Hayfilm Non-Stop” and “Mosfilm Non-Stop” presented to the youth

The concert programs “Hayfilm Non-Stop” and “Mosfilm Non-Stop” were presented on November 15 at the Khachatourian Concert Hall. The concert was held within the framework of the events organized by the Youth Foundation of Armenia on the occasion of youth holidays.

Headed by the conductor *Gianluca Marciano*, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia presented soundtracks from the favorite Soviet films (“17 Moments of Spring”, “Elusive Avengers”, “A Hunting Accident”, “Office Romance”, “Mimino”, “Chaos”, “Pepo”, “White Dreams”, “Slap”, “Mulberry”, etc.).



Along with the music performance, the scenes and the most known expressions from various films were presented on the screen. It is noteworthy that the concert programs “Hayfilm Non-Stop” and “Mosfilm Non-Stop” were included in the festivities due to request of the young audience. The overcrowded hall welcomed the conductor and the orchestra with thunder of applause and refused to let the latter leave the stage.

Within the framework of the Khachatourian Festival the Clarinet Concerto by Jean Francaix performed in Armenia for the first time

Within the framework of the Khachatourian Festival the Clarinet Concerto by *Jean Francaix* was performed in Armenia for the first time on November 17. The soloist Davit Gyulamiryan performed the composition jointly with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia. The

concert program included “La Mer” by *Claude Debussy*. The concert was headed by the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the SYOA *Sergey Smbatyan*.

David Gyulamiryan is the first clarinetist of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia. Speaking of the Khachatourian Festival, he informed that his first meeting with the Festival took place exactly four years ago, while performing as a SYOA member.

“The Festival invites leading musicians to Armenia, uniting them around the Armenian culture. Today I was lucky enough to perform at the Khachatourian Festival as a soloist and share the same stage with all those well-known musicians,” - David Gyulamiryan noted.

As a rule, each musician has a favorite composer and composition. As for Mr. Gyulamiryan, he found it difficult to identify anyone. Nevertheless, he mentioned Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto, which is considered to be some kind of business card for musicians. Gyulamiryan also mentioned the names of such composers as Brahms, Spohr, Weber.

The 4th Khachatourian International Festival is held from October 6 to December 10 under the Patronage of the President of RA *Serzh Sargsyan*. It is held thanks to the joint efforts of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (General Partner of the Orchestra is Viva-Cell-MTS) and the “Classical Music Support” NGO, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of RA, the “Khachatourian” Foundation and the European Foundation for Support of Culture. The sponsors of the 4th Khachatourian Festival are “Jermuk Group” Company, “Ani Plaza” Hotel, the Yerevan Brandy Factory and the ArmSwissBank.

Symphony No. 5 by Mahler presented in the interpretation of the SYOA

On November 26 *Gustav Mahler*’s music was presented at the Aram Khachatourian Concert Hall. The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia headed by conductor *Sergey Smbatyan*, performed Symphony No. 5 by Austrian composer Gustav Mahler within the framework of the 4th Khachatourian International Festival.



Mahler's Symphony No. 5 was completed in 1902; for the first time the Symphony was performed in 1904 headed by the author. The Symphony has an unusual structure: it actually consists of five parts united by the author in three large sections. Mahler himself admitted that the piece is quite difficult to perform.

Professor **David Ghazaryan**, the Chairman of the Musical Society of Armenia, also stressed the complexity of the masterpiece.

"The complexity of the composition appears not only in its duration, but also in the concert parts of the wood-wind in-

struments. The performance of a symphony consisting of 5 parts, requires more than a mature approach. Today the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia proved his maturity!",- the distinguished professor says.

It's hard to remember the last time this monumental piece was performed in Yerevan. *"It's almost impossible to express the feelings one experiences when touching such a music. You just have to listen, enjoy and enrich your soul. The Youth Orchestra presented us those fabulous moments"*,- said Armine Sarkisyan, one of the SYOA dedicated listeners.

It is noteworthy that the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia often refers to the works by Mahler. In 2015 orchestra presented another two monumental compositions by the Austrian composer – Symphony № 1 "Titan" and Symphony № 6, which is also known as the "Tragic" Symphony.

From Komitas to Haydn and the music from cartoons; concert for young audience

On December 1 the Aram Khachaturian House-Museum was overcrowded with the young audience. The Sarian String Quartet presented educational music program for young viewers. The Quartet is the Ensemble of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia; it is comprised of **Erik Manukyan** (1st violin), **Ani Adikyan** (2nd violin), **Elya Balasanyan** (viola), **Yelena Hayrapetyan** (cello).

During the concert the students of several schools were presented pieces by Saryan, Komitas, Haydn, as well as music from their favorite cartoons ("Pui-Pui Mouse," "Chipollino"). The unique format of the evening gave the musicians an opportunity not only to perform, but also to interact with the listeners, speak about the presented pieces, their authors and some musical instruments.

Violinist Eric Manukyan noted that some of the compositions performed during the concert were presented by such staff of the string quartet for the first time.

Violinist Ani Adikyan stressed that their aim is to give children the opportunity to interact with high art. And they have chosen an interactive concert format to make it more interesting for children. The concert for the young audience took place within the framework of the 4th Khachaturian International Festival.

Sargis Balbalyan, the Art Manager of the Festival mentioned that their main goal was to spread classical music, to make it accessible to the general public. According to him, the Festival includes a wide variety of programs for music lovers of all ages. Mr. Balbalyan stressed that the Khachaturian Festival's music programs for children have already become traditional.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Mars, your avatar in the zodiac, is making several favorable aspects with other planets. It is favoring your primary relationship(s), bringing a free flowing understanding be-

tween you and others. You are also generating forward progress with a plan for expanding your work via an electronic solution. You will be taking something old and turning it into a new creation.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

This might be a week in which you let yourself give into chocolate bonbons and other yummy things. Self-discipline is not at its best. Travel ideas are especially appealing. Your partner or a good friend may be the one who provokes temp-

tations, but you are easily led right now.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Your attention shifts to matters of shared resources for the next couple of weeks. "Resources" include time, things of material value, energy and sexuality. The territory is wide, ranging from the mundane study of

the budget all the way to important discussions with partners over the need for greater intimacy.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

A changing social situation or a particular friend wanders across your radar this week. You are left with a lot to think about as a result. Your feathers may be ruffled a bit, but this is no major deal. Stay in

communication with your partner. The role of woman as Lover versus woman as Caretaker may be mildly challenging now.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

You may be surprised to discover something about yourself or your money/debts that you have been avoiding. We are all in denial sometimes. Don't waste time on a guilt trip. Now that you know, it is time to face the facts and collect the threads

of a solution. This is not a good time to have a sexual encounter with someone unknown to you.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Mercury, your ruling planet, moves into the sector of life related to children, recreation, personal creativity, and romance. Your attention will be focused in these areas beyond the end of this year. You can expect

changes, shifts of gear, and surprises in these territories. Something new is developing in these areas, but it may not become apparent until later in Jan.



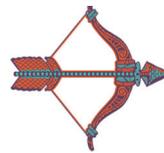
Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

The practical things of life seem to stand front and center between you and a pleasurable week. You may be working on a project with a lot of details that requires your full attention in order to be accurate. You and a significant other may need to have a clear discussion about your expectations of one another.



Scorpio (October 23–November 19)

Your faith will be renewed this week. Your guardian is watching over you. Someone in the background offers help. Your available resources are expanded and you have fresh, interesting work. The gods are with you now.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

You are gathering information that will help you launch future plans. It is possible that others are helping, i.e. a sibling, a roommate, or a friend. It is possible that your research may carry you off into a short trip. It is important, while Mercury is preparing to turn retrograde, that you double check everything now.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Mercury travels slowly through your sign between now and Feb. 6. It will be going through its retrograde cycle before it moves along. Take care with any decision of im-

portance because you likely will find reason to change your mind. New information keeps popping up to muddy the works. This is normal with Mercury retrogrades. Do not beat yourself because you can't seem to move forward.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

The planetary energies are on a roll for you, Aquarius. Mars, the Warrior, in your sign is helping you to tackle more than one project with

determined vigor. Even if you need resources, they will come to you without strain or fuss. Your persuasive power is strong and other will listen to you now.



Pisces (February 18–March 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 al-

ways assist others to feel better. But you cannot accomplish this goal if the Other does not want to feel better.

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Armenia submits the “Earthquake” for the Golden Globe

The film “Earthquake” based on the real events surrounding the disastrous earthquake which struck Armenia in 1988, has been submitted for 2016 Golden Globe Awards.

The terrible earthquake claimed at least 25,000 lives and left about half a million people homeless.

For director Sarik Andreasyan it was a very special project, in which he wanted, after almost 30 years, to tell the story not only of death and destruction but also to show the hope and community spirit in the face of the nightmare, according to the Golden Globe’s official website.

The story is built around a Russian family living in the Armenian city of Leninakan. Anna Berezhnaya (Maria Mironova) with her son Vanya (Daniil Izotov) and daughter Katya (Anastasia Savkina) awaits the return from prison of her husband (Konstantin Lavronenko) who eight years prior was sentenced to prison for the death of two people in a car accident.

Konstantin Lavronenko says that he immediately accepted the invitation for the role: “I knew right away when I heard the suggestion that this is not an easy film, and immediately agreed to

participate. I do not want to repeat the lofty words about the tragedy and memory, but thanks to this movie, we can live and feel the terrible events, and then to feel how beautiful and fleeting life is, how important it is to appreciate each other. It is necessary to empathize with the pain of our loved ones – because, unfortunately, we are starting to get used to the deaths of thousands of people.”

The director Sarik Andreasyan and producer Ruben Dishdisher recall how the original script underwent a lot of changes, despite the fact that they liked it very much. They decided to make the story more understandable to people not privy to the events of 1988. The script added some Russian and French characters, to show the role of other countries in the assistance to the victims.

“The tragedy that united the world” – is the slogan of the film. Part of the filming took place in the Armenian city of Gyumri, former Leninakan – one of the four cities most affected by the earthquake. Some locations there still look the same as they looked after the quake in 1988.



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