



Citizens block entrances to courts after PM issues public call for protests



The entrances to the courts of the Republic of Armenia have been closed since Monday morning after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan made a public call on Sunday night for staging protests outside all the courts and the judicial bodies.

Pashinyan voiced his call in a post on Facebook, declaring the move as a campaign ‘marking the start of the second stage of the Armenian revolution.’ He went live on Facebook on Sunday night, urging for peaceful public rallies.

‘We are blocking the entrances and exits of all the courts without exception starting from 8:30 a.m. to prevent anyone from going inside. My speech will air live at 12:00,’ reads Pashinyan’s post.

It comes after the Yerevan Court of General Jurisdiction ruled to release second President Robert Kocharyan on bail in an open-door hearing on Saturday afternoon. Kocharyan, who held the post of Armenia’s president from 1998 until 2008, is charged with overthrowing the country’s constitutional order in the period of the 2008 post-electoral unrest. Ten people, including eight civilians and two police officers, died in the violent clashes disputing the outcome of the presidential election after Kocharyan, then the outgoing president, imposed a state of emergency to quell crowds of people from protest sites after days of peaceful rallies in central Yerevan.

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Armenian PM attends opening of the Dialogue of Asian Civilizations conference



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan partook in the opening ceremony of the Dialogue of Asian Civilizations conference at the National Conference Center in Beijing. President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, the Presidents of Singapore, Sri Lanka, Greece and the King of Cambodia were in attendance. The forum brings together over 2 thousand participants from 47 countries of the world. Before the conference had started, Xi Jinping welcomed the visiting country leaders, after which a joint video-photo session was held. The conference seeks to strengthen ties, including economic exchanges, as well as to promote close multifaceted interaction

between Asian countries.

Greeting the guests, China's President Xi Jinping expressed the hope that the conference would give fresh impetus to the development and deepening of relations between the participating nations. The Chinese President noted that the forum is a good opportunity for the States to promote dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Addressing the event, Nikol Pashinyan said "Armenians in Armenia and in our world-spread Diaspora have historically developed a mindset that has always been open to interaction with various cultures, traditions, and religions. As noted by great German philosopher Emmanuel Kant, I quote, "Among the Christian nations Armenians have certain commercial spirit, they travel from the borders of China all the way to the coast of Guinea to carry on commerce... and know how to secure a peaceful reception by all the peoples they encounter", end of quote. This is why today we can encounter landmark pieces of Ar-

menian heritage in Jerusalem and Istanbul, Tbilisi and Baku, Hong Kong and Calcutta, Singapore and Dhaka – in all major spots along the ancient Silk Road."

Openness, dialogue and the art of learning from each other is the path to the harmony and peace between the nations, he said.

"Armenia is engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation processes encompassing much of the wider region - be it the economic integration with the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, where Armenia is one of the founding members, cooperation in the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership or the participation in the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative that Armenia joined in 2015. Engagement in different intersecting cooperation frameworks has become one of the compatible advantages of Armenia," he stated.

The Prime Minister concluded his remarks by expressing sincere gratitude to for inviting Armenia to this important forum and wishing the Conference a complete success.

Meeting held between Nikol Pashinyan and Xavier Bettel: Armenia, Luxemburg to give new impetus to bilateral cooperation

On a working visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on May 13 met with the country's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel.

Greeting his Armenian counterpart, the Luxembourg Prime Minister thanked him for the visit. Impressed with the political developments underway in Armenia, Xavier Bettel expressed confidence that the vote of confidence received from the Armenian people would help Pashinyan's government to succeed in implementing the planned programs, initiatives and reforms for the sake of Armenia's development.

The Prime Minister of Luxembourg expressed his strong belief that the governments of the two countries will continue to cooperate in order to upgrade the bilateral relations and strengthen the ties between the two peoples.

Thankful for the warm welcome, Prime Minister Pashinyan said his government keen to develop multifaceted relations between the two countries. The head of the Armenian government attached importance to the development of economic cooperation and trade exchanges. The Premier



stressed the need for taking concrete steps to boost interactions between the two governments. In this connection, Nikol Pashinyan pointed out that the reforms implemented in Armenia have gone a long way toward improving the country's business environment and creating favorable conditions for investment programs.

Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that the Revolution's first phase is complete, and now the Government is set to implement an economic revolution in the country. The Prime Minister of Armenia advised that the World IT Congress will be held in Yerevan this fall and stressed the importance of Luxembourg-based companies' participation in that major event of global coverage.

Nikol Pashinyan and Xavier Bettel discussed prospects of cooperation in different

sectors of the economy - information technologies, processing industry, agriculture, tourism and other spheres. Mindful of boosting business ties, the parties highlighted the importance of business forums. They expressed conviction that the bilateral economic relations have great development potential, and the sides might well expand them through joint efforts.

The Luxembourg Prime Minister said his country prepared to closely cooperate and assist the Armenian government in promoting the planned reforms. Xavier Bettel suggested activating exchanges in the field of education, specifically between universities, and implementing student exchange programs.

During the meeting, the interlocutors took the opportunity to exchange views on Armenia-European Union relations and other topics of mutual interest.

Nikol Pashinyan invited the Prime Minister of Luxembourg to visit Armenia, noting that reciprocated top-level visits may eventually promote the furtherance and strengthening of relations between the two countries and peoples.

Ex-President Robert Kocharyan released from jail



Shortly after a Yerevan court ordered Robert Kocharyan to be freed from pre-trial detention, the ex-president was released from the National Security Service jail in downtown of the city.

Kocharyan's attorney Hayk Alumyan told reporters outside the jail building that the ex-president left the area by car from the back exit.

The court ordered the release around

16:05 May 18th and Kocharyan's lawyer immediately headed to the detention center in downtown Yerevan to submit the warrant.

Kocharyan was freed after a court approved the personal guarantees of Artsakh's President Bako Sahakyan and former President Arkady Ghukasyan, who vouched on May 16th that Kocharyan will not obstruct justice amid the ongoing trial into the deadly 2008 post-presidential election unrest. Kocharyan was the outgoing president at that time.

Robert Kocharyan also served as President of Artsakh in the early 90s.

Heavy police presence was seen outside the courthouse as rival demonstrations

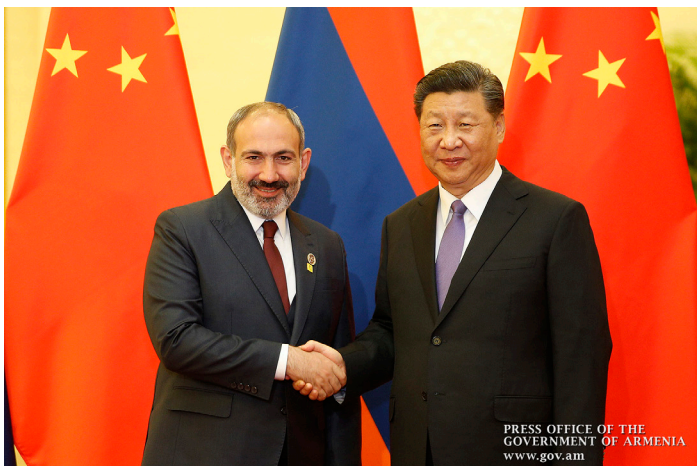
numbering few hundred were taking place.

2nd President of Armenia Robert Kocharyan, who ruled the country from 1998 to 2008, spent two weeks in jail in summer of 2018, but was eventually freed. But on December 7, a higher court overruled the release and ordered him to be remanded into custody pending trial again.

Kocharyan, along with several other former officials, is charged with "overthrowing Constitutional Order" during the 2008 March protests in Yerevan when 8 protesters and 2 security officers died. The former President is accused of unlawfully ordering the military to intervene. He is also charged with bribery.

He vehemently denies wrongdoing.

China stands ready to deepen cooperation with Armenia



China -- Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Beijing, May 14, 2019.

Chinese President Xi Jinping reportedly reaffirmed China's desire to deepen political, economic and cultural ties with Armenia when he met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Beijing on May 14.

"Xi Jinping expressed confidence that bilateral cooperation will develop soon in the areas of trade, industry, transport and culture," Pashinyan's press office said in a statement on the talks. "The Chinese president added that his country will continue to support projects that will contribute to Armenia's development and enhance the well-being of the Armenian people."

"We are united by the common goals of cooperation of civilizations," the statement quoted Xi as saying. "We are well aware of

momentous events in the history of Armenia. We believe that tragic events that befell the Armenian people must be prevented in the future."

"Our peoples represent ancient civilizations," Pashinyan said for his part. "Already in the 5th century Armenian manuscripts described ties between the two peoples."

"Constructive and productive relations with China are very important for us," he added.

Chinese-Armenian relations have been cordial ever since Armenia gained independence in 1991. Xi and former Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian reported "mutual understanding on issues relating to pivotal interests and concerns of the two countries" after holding talks in Beijing in 2015.

China underscored its interest in the South Caucasus country in 2017 when it started building a new and much bigger building for its embassy in Yerevan. It will reportedly be the second largest Chinese diplomatic mission in the former Soviet Union.

Chinese aid to Armenia has totaled at least

\$50 million since 2012. In addition, the Chinese government has spent over \$12 million on building and equipping a school in Yerevan where hundreds of Armenian children study the Chinese language.

Pashinyan attended the inauguration of the Chinese-Armenian Friendship School in August last year. Speaking at the opening ceremony, he said that having many Chinese speakers is an "economic necessity" for Armenia.

China is Armenia's second largest trading partner. According to official Armenian statistics, Chinese-Armenian trade soared by over 29 percent in 2018, to \$771 million. Exports of Chinese goods to Armenia accounted for 86 percent of that figure.

Xi was reported to tell Pashinyan that China is ready to participate in major infrastructure projects in Armenia such as the ongoing reconstruction of the country's highways stretching from Iran to Georgia. A Chinese company is already carrying out highway upgrades in the northwestern Shirak region.

Pashinyan said Yerevan is interested in the implementation of "joint projects" as part of Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road program to re-create the old Silk Road.

According to the Armenian government statement, the two leaders also discussed international security issues and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Democracy in Armenia stronger than ever, US Ambassador says



Democracy in Armenia is stronger than ever, US Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy said on May 15.

She pledged continued support to the Armenian people “as they make choices to develop and solidify their democracy in a way that bolsters the rule of law and protects human dignity.”

The Ambassador laid out the priorities for her tenure in Armenia to members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia, Armenian senior officials and dignitaries, and the press.

The US appreciates that Armenia has a plethora of bilateral and multilateral international relationships, and, as a sovereign, democratic country, makes choices according to its own national interest, the Ambassador said.

“We also understand that as a reality of geography and history, Armenia maintains strong ties to Russia,” the Ambassador said, adding, however, that “Armenia-Russia relationship should not and does not preclude Armenia from also pursuing strong, mutu-

ally beneficial relations with the United States, the European Union, and other potential partners.”

“Foreign affairs are not a zero-sum game,” she stated.

Lynne Tracy stressed that the US will continue to work with Russia on issues of common interest, including working together toward a resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group.

“Today, I am more encouraged than ever with the Minsk Group process. It has been a long road and there are no easy solutions, but the events of recent months have led me to believe that progress is possible. High-level meetings between the sides, a reduction in violence and tensions, agreement on next steps and a commitment to continued dialogue show that progress is not out of the realm of possibility. And I am hearing from Armenians – especially young Armenians – that they are ready for progress,” Amb. Tracy noted.

She noted that Armenia has already shown its commitment to partnering with the United States in the international arena in many ways.

“We value Armenia’s work with NATO in the Partnership for Peace – including your participation in NATO missions, such as the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. Armenia is a solid partner with the US European Command, promoting regional stability in Kosovo. And Armenia’s strong partnership with the state of Kansas and the Kansas National Guard has resulted in fifteen years of fruitful exchanges that have brought our countries closer together,” Lynne Tracy said.

French lawmakers call for Artsakh’s return to the negotiation table

On May 13, 2019, the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle issued a statement on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Agreement on the full cessation of fire and hostilities.

The document, in particular, notes that after the war, which lasted 4 years and claimed 30,000 lives, the peace in the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict zone, though fragile, became the main achievement gained thanks to the Ceasefire Agreement signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Artsakh on May 12, 1994.

The statement also underlines that the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle appreciates the ceasefire in the conflict zone that has been lasting for a quarter of a century and calls for the signing of a trilateral Agreement on lasting peace.

“Peace is always welcomed, and in this context, it is important to note that the Republic of Artsakh, which has been existing for over a quarter of a century in the conditions of conflict with Azerbaijan, is the main guarantor of the right to life of the people of Artsakh. Final peace is not achieved, as the armed confrontation is still underway. However, there is relative peace established thanks to the only trilateral Agreement signed also by Artsakh”, said Chairman of the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle Gui Tessier.

Touching upon the current tension on the Line of Contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan, he noted that



the victims on both sides are a tragedy for the families and societies, adding that the tension hinders the development of the region.

“The positive role of the Ceasefire Agreement convincingly proves that for the achievement of considerable progress in the negotiation process it should involve all the parties to the conflict. Considering this fact, France should contribute to the return of the Republic of Artsakh to the negotiation table for increasing the opportunities for the achievement of progress”, stressed the Chairman of the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle

Artsakh leaders insist on Kocharyan's release

(Yerevan- RFE/RL) - Artsakh's current and former leaders appeared before a court in Yerevan on May 16 to reaffirm their calls for the release of Armenia's Artsakh-born former President Robert Kocharyan from custody.

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan and his predecessor Arkadi Ghukasyan first asked the court to free Kocharyan pending the outcome of his trial on Tuesday. They said they can guarantee that the ex-president will display "appropriate behavior" and not obstruct justice if set free.

The presiding judge, Davit Grigoryan, responded by saying that both Sahakyan and Ghukasyan must come to the court and personally offer such guarantees. The two men did just that. Each of them deposited 500,000 drams (\$1,030) before signing a relevant document in the courtroom.

They then sat next to Kocharyan as the court continued hearings on his lawyers' separate demand for his release.

In a joint letter to Armenia's Prosecu-



tor-General Artur Davtyan sent last week, Sahakyan and Ghukasyan cited Kocharyan's "huge contribution" to the Armenian victory in the 1991-1994 war with Azerbaijan. Kocharyan, who is facing coup charges stemming from the 2008 post-election violence in Yerevan, ran Artsakh from 1992-1997. He was Armenia's president from 1998-1999.

The Artsakh leaders left the courtroom only after the judge decided to continue the trial in closed session at Kocharyan's request. The latter said his further arguments contain state secrets. It was announced af-

terwards that the judge's decision on the ex-president's detention will be made public on Saturday.

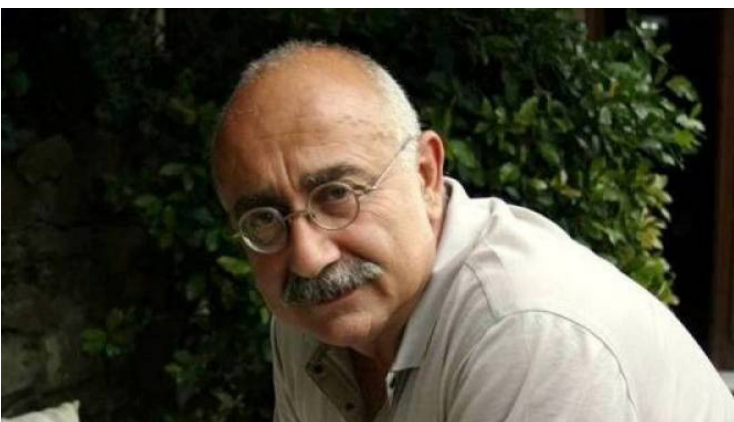
The trial prosecutors oppose Kocharyan's release. One of them, Petros Petrosyan, argued on Tuesday that he expressed a desire to leave the country after being set free in August. Petrosyan said the defendant could therefore flee the prosecution.

Kocharyan condemned that claim as "immoral." "I didn't flee the war," he said. "I didn't escape from a hundred dangers. Why would I escape from them?"

The 64-year-old ex-president as well as his former chief of staff Armen Gevorgyan and retired army Generals Seyran Ohanian and Yuri Khachaturov stand accused of "overthrowing the constitutional order" in the wake of a disputed presidential election held in 2008. They all deny the accusations.

Kocharyan and Gevorgyan were also charged with bribe-taking earlier this year. They deny these charges as well.

Political prisoner Sevan Nisanyan granted Armenian citizenship two years after escaping Turkish prison



Turkish-Armenian scholar Sevan Nisanyan has been granted Armenian citizenship.

"I received my Armenian passport and citizenship papers today from Mr Fadey

Charchoghliyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia in Athens.

I take pride in being a member of a peaceful and civilized nation that has withstood the tribulations of history by its labor alone.

I thank Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and all others who helped me achieve this great honor," Nisanyan said on Facebook, posting a selfie

with an Armenian passport in his hand.

The writer was granted the citizenship in Athens on May 16th at the Armenian embassy.

Nisanyan was serving a 17-year sentence in a Turkish prison since 2014 when on July 14, 2017 he escaped the correctional facility and fled to Greece. He was widely believed to be a political prisoner because of his outspoken criticism against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He was given the nearly two-decade long sentence for "building illegal infrastructures" in a village.

In Greece, the local authorities were quick to grant him temporary residence permit.

Armenian minister meets Atos information technology company's Vice President in Paris

Armenia's minister of transport, communication and information technologies Hakob Arshakyan met with Chief Commercial Officer and Vice President of Atos information technology company Robert Vassoyan on the sidelines of the VivaTech 2019 international technological exhibition in Paris, France, the ministry told Noyan Tapan.

The meeting was also attended by Armenia's Ambassador to France Hasmik Tolmajyan.

Minister Arshakyan introduced Robert Vassoyan on the Armenian government's policy in technology field and the ongoing actions on this path. The



minister informed that Armenia has a new ministry of High Technological Industry and presented the structural changes as a result of which the field of high technologies will develop in Armenia.

In his turn Robert Vassoyan highlighted the efforts of the Armenian authorities aimed at technological development and touched upon Armenia's potential in the field of high technologies. He said he visited

Armenia few years ago and is impressed with the Armenian talents, adding that the Armenian companies of the technological field can compare themselves with the world's leading companies that operate in China, India, US and Silicon Valley. He also expressed readiness to cooperate, contribute to the development of Armenia's technological sector and assist the government's all projects.

Minister Hakob Arshakyan thanked for the proposal to support and cooperate and invited Robert Vassoyan to take part in the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT-2019) which will take place in Yerevan on October 6-9.

PM discussed investment program implementation prospects with representatives of several Chinese companies



On May 16, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with representatives of several Chinese companies, including Ganergy Heavy Industry Group, Hajer, and others in Beijing. The prospects and possibilities for implementing investment programs in Armenia were discussed during the meeting.

Pleased with the results of his working visit to the People's Republic of China, Nikol Pashinyan said such steps as may spur bilateral economic ties will be discussed in the near future. "I am glad to discuss your interests and suggestions. Serious

changes are taking place in Armenia: our country has done away with systemic corruption and economic monopolies. Our steps are aimed at creating equal conditions for economic entities and ensuring attractiveness to business environment," the Premier said, noting that the high-level political dialogue with the PRC has resulted in favorable conditions for Chinese investments.

The Ganergy Heavy Industry Group representatives introduced their activities. They expressed willingness to invest in Armenia's industrial and financial sectors.

Representatives of Zhen E Company said they are ready to import Armenian brandy, wine, processed farm products, and invest in a new industrial zone in our country.

The MZTL executives expressed readiness to establish an elevator manufacturing plant in Armenia. To that end, the Company

is going to transport a small number of elevators to Armenia in order to assess their efficiency.

Prime Minister Pashinyan suggested discussing with the government officials the steps to take ahead, including the prospects for Chinese companies to get engaged in the free economic zone of Meghri.

The Head of Government stressed that the Armenian government views the construction of the North-South Highway as a communication and transport corridor and is pleased that the PRC government is also interested in cooperation under this key project.

By the end of his visit to the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Pashinyan gave interviews to Chinese Xinhua news agency and CCTV.

Prior to returning to Yerevan, Nikol Pashinyan called at the Armenian Embassy in the People's Republic of China. The Prime Minister's working visit to the PRC is complete.

Armenia deepens cooperation with leading German company in digital technologies field



Be creative and develop new technologies which will make easier the people's life and will improve the life quality: this is the activity principle of the German leading company Fraunhofer. The research company with 70 years of history has improved its acting style and expanded the activity geography over years. In recent years Fraunhofer is implementing cooperation programs also with Armenia.

About Fraunhofer

The German Fraunhofer Society is Europe's largest application-oriented research organization. The company has 72 institutes and research bodies in Germany. Majority of over 26.000 employees of the company are qualified scientists and engineers. The organization conducts research at various directions and areas, in particular information, digital and laser technologies, security, energy, communication systems, healthcare, microelectronics, food safety and reprocessing, environment and etc.

The company's turnover comprises 2.6 billion Euros annually. The 2.2 billion Euros of this comes from the research contracts signed with university, international and corporative organizations. Both manufacturing companies and representatives of the service field, as well as state bodies are cooperating with Fraunhofer.

The organization carries out cooperation programs with the world's leading research and innovative companies.

The company executives state that the works of their researchers and programmers greatly affect the improvement of the life quality of the people, improve the methods and technologies, open new prospects by building a brighter future.

Armenia is cooperating with the German company

The cooperation of Armenia with the German company started in 2016 within the frames of the digitization and virtual recovery program of the ancient and medieval manuscripts of Matenadaran. Fraunhofer assisted in digitization and restoration of the manuscript of the Narek prayer book of the 13-14th centuries. This manuscript was in poor condition, some pages even didn't exist. But thanks to the unique technology of the company the digitization and virtual restoration of the pages of the manuscript have been carried out.

The first successful cooperation was important for several reasons. First of all, the digital restoration was the first step towards the physical restoration of the manuscript. In addition, the use of such technologies is vital for restoring such manuscripts, as well as in terms of transferring the values of cultural heritage to the next generations.

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian's visit to Fraunhofer IPK

Highlighting Armenia's technological development President Armen Sarkissian during various visits and events emphasized

his approach that digital and information technologies are going to be the main driving force of the 21st century, and that Armenia has a huge potential in this regard. It's not a coincidence that he has accepted the proposal of German Chancellor Angela Merkel made in Yerevan to visit Fraunhofer IPK and met with the company representatives. Shortly after receiving the proposal the Armenian President visited Fraunhofer IPK during his official visit in Germany in November 2018.

At the meeting with the leadership, the President was introduced on the Institute's activity directions and discussed the future cooperation opportunities with Armenia.

At the end of the meeting President Sarkissian stated: "There are preliminary agreements which will lead us to a new cooperation, and this cooperation is not only that with the Matenadaran. The talk is about a great, industrial cooperation".

From agreements to practical steps

At the invitation of President Sarkissian, Fraunhofer IPK's delegation visited Armenia in May 2019. The purpose of the visit was to explore the Armenian field and turn the agreements reached into tangible results.

The delegation led by Director for European Policy and Business Development at Fraunhofer IPK, Jens Günter, met with President Armen Sarkissian, minister of transport, communication and IT Hakob Arshakyan, the representatives of leading Armenian IT companies, research and educational centers during the visit in Armenia.

"Interesting meetings are taking place, but I think it's still too early to talk about concrete decisions. But I am sure that we will find concrete cooperation directions. It's very impressive to see how Armenia takes care of its youth, creates opportunities for being closer to the IT field", Jens Günter told reporters in Yerevan.

The delegation members left Armenia with great impressions, new ideas and projects. They promised to sum up the results of the visit already with the proposals for concrete projects and new ideas of cooperation. They expressed confidence that Armenia and Fraunhofer IPK have a lot to do in the future especially in automation, artificial intelligence fields and finding new technological solutions.

Time to carry out surgical interventions in judicial system – Pashinyan

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan highlights the necessity to carry out surgical interventions in the judicial system.

“Today I invited you to a meeting to discuss an issue, which, in my opinion, is very urgent and demands an urgent solution. In the past year political changes famous to all of you have taken place in Armenia as a result of which a legitimate government, in other



words an executive power, a legitimate Parliament, in other words, a legislative power, have been established in the country that enjoy people’s trust. However, the events of the past one year continue to show that there has not been and is no judicial power enjoying the people’s power in Armenia, and the activity of the judiciary creates turbulence within our public.

I cannot and do not want to make judgments on the legality and validity of the decisions made by the judiciary. This is not within my powers, although it’s impossible to measure all decisions of courts with the same weight and give a similar assessment. Regardless of everything, it’s obvious that the decisions of the judiciary are deeply mistrusted by the people. And I say this not only as a PM, but also as a representative of the Armenian people who has a political will to speak on behalf of the people, the supreme bearers of power in Armenia.

The people of Armenia know that they have formed a legislative power with their free expression of will, a government, an executive power, based on the results of the internationally acknowledged free, fair, transparent and democratic parliamentary elections. But the people of Armenia still view the judicial power as a remnant of the former corrupt system where conspiracy is constantly being planned and implemented against the people. To what extent this presumption is realistic and well-grounded, it’s another matter, but the fact that the judiciary doesn’t have the trust of the people, means that it also doesn’t have an enough legitimacy to operate, which today is already a threat to the normal life of our country, its stability and national security. Starting from the first day of my election as PM I have been obliged not to have any interference in the activities of the judiciary, and I kept this duty in a sacred way. But on the other hand, I cannot guarantee that the judiciary is not subjected to shadow and illegal influences, mainly by the former corrupt system because these two systems are linked with each other with human, political and other ties”, Pashinyan said in his address on May 20.

The PM questioned the current objective investigation over the 2008 March 1 case under the conditions of the current judicial system.

“I can bring only one example on how confident we can be that today’s judiciary is capable of conducting an objective investigation over the same March 1 case when dozens of illegal actions have been committed by the executive leadership through the

judicial system. And now this is already seen with the decisions of the European Court for Human Rights.

This situation also directly affects our fight announced against corruption crimes. Although it has been stated at the highest political level that anti-corruption fight is a priority for us, but due to the absence of trust towards the judiciary the efficiency of the work of investigation agencies is also affected because quite often these agencies work with the presumption that the judiciary will again throw to water all discoveries due to the organic link with that same corruption system.

These problems, of course, are not new, and I have understood this from the first day of my election as PM. But relying on the values, of the peaceful, democratic and velvet revolution of the past one year, I considered that everyone should have an opportunity to participate in the process of building Armenia and bringing his contribution, including through political or legal repentance, deserving the people’s trust via concrete actions. Also, I hoped that many judges, understanding that their previous judicial activity and value system are not in accordance with the aspirations of new Armenia and do not provide them with a right to make verdicts for the sake of Armenia, will refuse from their status of a judge. However, this didn’t happen, and I consider the judiciary’s current opportunity to deserve people’s trust already exhausted”, the PM said, adding that this situation can no longer be tolerated.

“We cannot tolerate this situation, because, as I said, this is a matter of the country’s stability, normal life and national security. This is also a matter of future economic development because unreliable judiciary is just an obstacle for improving the investment situation in the country.

Therefore, dear colleagues, it’s time to carry out surgical interventions in the judicial system”, he added.

On May 19 Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan called on citizens to block the courthouses across the country starting from May 20 early morning.

Armenia's 'Velvet Revolution' a contribution to Eastern Partnership - FM



Armenia seeks to strengthen relationship with Europe, based on mutual respect and recognition of interests and security concerns, acceptance of our own responsibilities of democratic governance and accountability, Armenia's Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan says in an op-ed for the EU Observer.

The Foreign Minister said Armenia stands out as a particularly significant success for the Eastern Partnership, for three reasons.

First, he said, based on the EU policy of "differentiation," Armenia's unique position as a country committed to seeking greater flexibility and diversity of cooperation frameworks was recognized and rewarded, as evident in the successful signing of the Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

According to the Foreign Minister, the Armenia-EU CEPA represents an alternative avenue for attaining an enhanced and strategically reinforced partnership between Armenia and the EU beyond the Association Agreement format.

Moreover, he added, the CEPA offers a promising framework for the development and deepening of relations, European support for Armenian political and economic reforms, and strengthening Armenia's con-

tribution to regional security and stability.

"A second important achievement for the Eastern Partnership was its appreciation of the shared values between Europe and Armenia, based on both our common civilizational heritage and our mutual aspirations for lasting democracy, freedom, dialogue, and diplomacy," he said.

He stressed, however, that it is the third specific Armenian contribution to the success of the Eastern Partnership that is the most recent and most promising development.

"This contribution stems from the success of Armenia's "Velvet Revolution" last year, which as an important victory for peaceful change, stands out as an affirmation of European values and ideals," the Foreign Minister wrote.

According to him, the non-violent approach to political change in Armenia was the only way to ensure a transition towards genuine democracy, accountability, and good governance.

"Armenia seeks to strengthen relationship with Europe, based on mutual respect and recognition of interests and security concerns, acceptance of our own responsibilities of democratic governance and accountability," Zohrab Mnatsakanyan

added.

He emphasized that Armenia continues on its path toward deeper democracy, equitable economic development and peaceful conflict resolution.

The Foreign Minister noted that "Armenia expects more from the EU and the Eastern Partnership in pursuing a comprehensive approach to security, including the necessity for a values-based policy of engagement in support of peace, security and stability in our region."

"For example, the sustained support to the essential right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) and to the peaceful resolution of the conflict within the internationally mandated format of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship are a test to the consistency of our partners in supporting genuine peace in our region and sensitivity to existential security concerns of our people," Minister Mnatsakanyan said.

"Armenia remains committed to contributing to a further success over the next ten years as well, a commitment only emboldened by our own one-year anniversary of Armenia's Velvet Revolution," the Foreign Minister concluded.

Armenia's future closely linked with new technologies: President Sarkissian meets Chair of Nokia Board of Directors



President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian met with Chair of the Nokia Board of Directors Risto Siilasmaa on the sidelines of the 12th annual economic forum in Kazakhstan, the Presidential Office told Noyan Tapan.

Talking about the drastic changes taking

place in the world, the Armenian President said the world is changing rapidly thanks to technologies, also the companies like Nokia. Armen Sarkissian said Armenia is a platform for innovations and startups, and the country's future is closely linked with the new technologies.

The sides highlighted the role of education considering it as the base of all of this.

Mr. Sarkissian said Armenia has inherited quite a good education system from the Soviet Union and added that in line with this the country is also open to the new one. "We attach great importance to education, science and technologies by encouraging the youth to propose new ideas, study new technologies and create startups", he said.

In his turn Risto Siilasmaa said they are greatly interested in the development opportunities of the technologies field in Armenia. He said those countries will be successful in the rapidly changing world which prepare a good base for these changes.

The President invited the company executives to visit Armenia to explore and discuss the prospective directions of cooperation.

Nokia Corporation is a Finnish multinational telecommunication, information technology, and consumer electronics company, founded in 1865

Armenian, Kazakh leaders discuss bilateral relations

On a working visit to Kazakhstan, Armenian President Armen Sarkissian met with the President of Kazakhstan Kasim-Zhomart Tokaev.

President Kasim-Zhomart Tokaev thanked the President of Armenia for accepting his invitation and his participation at the annual 12th economic forum which this year is titled "Inspiring Growth: People, Cities, Economies."

"Your participation is, undoubtedly, will make the economic forum even more momentous. Our countries have friendly and partner relations, President Nursultan Nazarbaev stands at the origins of that relations. He paid constant attention to the development of the relations with Armenia, and today we can state confidently that the relations between our two countries rest on a very solid base. We also cooperate closely in the framework of regional and interna-

tional organizations such as the UN and CSTO," the President of Kazakhstan noted.

President Sarkissian thanked for the invitation to participate at the forum and noted that he was happy to be in the capital of Kazakhstan Nur-Sultan, which is bearing the name of the first president Nursultan Nazarbaev and who made a considerable contribution to the development of his own country and the development of the Armenian-Kazakh relations.

"Our peoples have been interacting for centuries. Relations between our states have historically deep roots and present a bright example of friendship and cooperation. We live in the 21st century which is very different from the 20th century. And in this context, I believe that cooperation Armenia and Kazakhstan could go even further in the economic area, including new technologies, as well as in the cultural

area," the President of Armenia underscored.

The Presidents of Armenia and Kazakhstan referred to the issues related to the cooperation of the two countries at the bilateral level as well as in the framework of the Eurasian Economic Area and CSTO. They stressed the importance of deepening the cooperation in the trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian areas.

The Presidents highlighted the role of the Armenian community of Kazakhstan from the viewpoint of strengthening and developing the traditionally formed friendly relations between the two countries. President Tokaev spoke warmly of the Armenian community and noted that they are praiseworthy citizens of Kazakhstan and bring their contribution to the social and economic development of the country.

VivaCell-MTS: Energy Saving Outdoor Illumination System Installed in the Borderland Chinari



The program of developing a network of eco-villages in Armenia continues. With the efforts of the partnering organizations VivaCell-MTS and Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC), an energy



saving outdoor illumination system has been installed in the villages of Armenia to provide economic and environmental efficiency.

The village of Chinari, Berd community, Tavush region, borders the adversary from three sides. The shortest direct distance from the state border in some locations reaches 600 meters. Despite the situation, people try to continue living their regular life and practicing agriculture. The lack of infrastructure, though, is a challenge, which complicates the life of this borderland community. There are many problems needing urgent solution, but the outdoor lighting system is a priority

for Chinari to make the road back home from the orchards safer.

The program, which was launched in 2018, envisioned installing outdoor lighting system including 51 LED bulbs. Some 1700 meters of main roads of the village from south to north have been provided with street illumination system.

Borderland villages have been in the focus of VivaCell-MTS attention beyond the network development initiative. The Company, hand in hand with its partner, has been guided by responsible approach well aware of the crucial



long-term impact this type of projects have on the development of the country. The investments of the recent years targeted at the improvement of social life are the proof of that. Earlier a number of pot water and irrigation water supplies projects have been implemented in Chinari, and by end of year the partners plan another program aimed at enhancing the LED lighting system to illuminate the secondary streets of the village and the main road at the entrance of the village.



The opening ceremony was attended by VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph C. Yirikian**, Programs Coordinator **Martin Maralchyan**, Head of the local administration **Samvel Saghoyan** and residents of the village.



“We are back in Chinari to assess yet another implemented program. I believe the efforts made in this direction are extremely important. By investing in borderland villages we solve issues in the settlements, and, to a certain degree, issues that each and every one of us faces. People in these villages keep our families and all of us safe by their everyday efforts. We, in turn, send an important message: keep living and developing your native lands. We are always by your side,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

As compared to other types of bulbs the LED bulbs are more efficient and have longer life span, consuming up to 80% less energy.

The streets in Dovegh will be illuminated from 21:00 till 02:00 in summer, and from 18:00 till 24:00 in



winter. During holidays, illumination will be provided all night long.

Nominations now open for the 2020 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity



As the world awaits the announcement of the 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate, nominations open for the 2020 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. This global annual award, launched by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, seeks to identify and support modern day heroes who do the difficult life-saving humanitarian work on the ground, in many dangerous places around the world. The Aurora Prize, granted on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors, recognizes the importance of aiding people who demonstrate exceptional courage and commitment to help others and have a huge impact on the welfare of humankind. Since 2015, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative has honored these outstanding people, empowering them and raising awareness of their selfless work.

Anyone can nominate. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative seeks those courageous committed individuals who put their own life, health, freedom or reputation at risk to preserve human lives. Once the nominations are submitted online, they are reviewed by a panel of professionals and experts in the humanitarian field. The Aurora Humanitarians and the Prize Laureate are then chosen from the shortlisted nom-

inees by the Aurora Prize Selection Committee comprised of Noble Prize Laureates, former high officials and global human rights activists. A more detailed description of the Aurora Prize criteria and selection process can be found on the Prize website.

Every year the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative grants a US \$1,000,000 award to the Laureate who receives a unique opportunity to continue the cycle of giving by supporting the organizations that have inspired their humanitarian work.

Since the Aurora Prize launch in 2015, more than 2,200 nominations have been submitted from 125 countries in more than 20 languages, putting forward 1,399 unique candidates. A total of 719 submissions were received for the 2019 Aurora Prize, presenting an unprecedented 523 unique candidates. They were sent from 72 countries. The 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate will be announced on October 20, 2019, during the first Aurora Forum.

Over the years, 14 Aurora Humanitarians have been shortlisted and 3 Laureates have been chosen, each of whom has nominated three organizations to receive support from Aurora. Through these organizations, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative helps combat child poverty, advances aid for

refugees and orphans and provides educational, psychological and medical support to victims of war and sexual violence and HIV/AIDS-affected children. This impact is driven by a range of initiatives funded by the Prize across the world, including micro-credit programs, scholarships, primary, secondary and vocational education, provision of medical supplies, and more. Overall, the Aurora Prize has allocated \$3.3 million to support 23 projects worldwide in 11 areas of humanitarian assistance.

Last year, the 2018 Aurora Prize was awarded to Mr. Kyaw Hla Aung, a lawyer and Rohingya Muslim leader who, despite a total of 12 years' imprisonment for peaceful protests against discrimination and violence, continues to fight for equality, access to education and human rights for his community. The Aurora Prize award supports international organizations, chosen by Mr. Aung, that provide medical aid and assistance to refugees in Myanmar.

"The Armenian people went through the tragic experience a century ago, and now the Rohingya people encounter a similar disaster. More than 100 years after the Armenian Genocide, you are the ones who give hope and support to people in extreme need. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative's example should be viral for humanity because it is the only way to tackle humanitarian challenges and make the world a little more secure for human beings from all ethnic groups, races and religions," said the 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate, Mr. Kyaw Hla Aung, who was the third Laureate since the establishment of the prize.

Nominations for the 2020 Aurora Prize open on May 16, 2019, the International Day of Living Together in Peace declared by the UN to uphold the desire to live and act together in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony. Nominations will close on October 31, 2019.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Localized fat removal: In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical lyosaction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellshape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



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



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Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Your focus shifts at this time to matters of home, property, and family. Through the next 7 weeks you may be handling heavy work around your home, and/or making repairs. This is an accident prone time for you. Use caution.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

You likely will bring one or more projects to a successful conclusion. Then your attention shifts to the areas of community, contacts, and broader social relationships. You may become more involved with other people's children for a few weeks. This is a good time to develop your network of contacts.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

This week's focus is on children, whether your own or someone else's. You are asked to call on your creativity to entertain others at this time. That doesn't seem like a difficult job for the playful and inventive Sagittarian. If not entertaining, you may be dabbling in the creative arts.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

Venus enters your sign this week and will be traveling "with you" through the first week of June. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. Often when Venus is prominent, we become more interested in art forms and want to make things in the environment more attractive. We also become more interested in beautifying ourselves.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You have unusually favorable aspects this week. Love and social life is prominent. Business and/or career is flowing in your favor. It is a good time to sign contracts. Money seems to remain the same, but nearly everything else is given a go signal.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Mercury, planet of communications, favors you in multiple ways this week. It offers you opportunities to state your case before those who favorably lean toward you. It brings opportunity for romance, if that is what you want. Those with children may be given good news.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Aspects particularly favor those involved in teaching or learning, activities involving your siblings and also your local neighborhood, interests related to anything high tech or of an electrical nature. You are at the hub of a wheel of communications. Others look to you for your leadership.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

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.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

Aspects favor home, hearth, and family matters this week. It will be a good time to connect with relatives and/or long-time friends of the family. People from this sector will be interested in what you have to say. It is possible that you may be looking for a car or a new home. This is the week you might strike a bingo.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Mars, the warrior, enters your sign this week and will be traveling with you for seven weeks. This energy is best used to handle physically heavy projects or take initiatives that you might not otherwise tackle. You must take charge of the energy and focus it productively so it won't run you ragged.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

This week you will notice a shift into a new direction. It will likely be related to contacting people at a distance, preparing to travel, seeking professional advice, or focused on education. You may feel restless and have a need to move around, even if only locally.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

This is a time during which your devotion to duty will be up front and center. This does not necessarily have to be hard work. It is more like "heart" work, that which you feel called to do. Think carefully about what your commitment wants to be. Don't let any situation overuse your energy.

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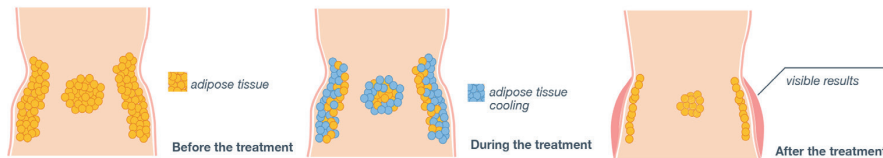
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