

## EU plans large-scale aid, Investments for Armenia



Armenia - Nikol Pashinyan meets EU Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi in Yerevan, July 9, 2021.

Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received a delegation led by European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Olivér Várhelyi.

Nikol Pashinyan welcomed the visit, noting that it reflects EU's interest in developing cooperation with the Republic of Armenia. "Armenia is equally interested in developing relations with the EU," he said.

According to Nikol Pashinyan, after the crisis created by the 44-day war unleashed by Azerbaijan, early parliamentary elections were held in our country, which, according to international observers, met democratic standards. "In fact, for the first time in our country, democratic processes have become a means of overcoming the crisis, as elections in Armenia have usually

caused crises. Thus, a very important institution has been established in our country – the institution of elections, which has also happened with the support of the European Union," said Nikol Pashinyan.

The Acting Prime Minister hailed the fact that EU continues to express its readiness to support programs aimed at Armenia's development. The programs are aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, stimulating the economy, developing small and medium-sized businesses. "We appreciate the tangible package of programs aimed at the progress of Armenia offered by the European Union, which we assess as a response to the irreversible democratic processes taking place in Armenia," Nikol Pashinyan said.

Olivér Várhelyi ex-

➡ page 3

## Happy Birthday, Professor Muradyan !

By Gourgen James Khazhakian  
 Chief Correspondent



Some dozen years ago, at a half-centennial jubilee of a common friend, a prominent radiologist G.A., when entering a solemn hall, I was proposed to take a seat neighboring a middle aged gentlemen looking a 100% Hollywood star, but with typical Armenian eyes...

Fantastic humour, terrible intellectual level and a hugest charm indeed I felt from him in fact immediately...

"Armen, an urologist" he said shaking my hand...

...When getting know next day that the Hollywood star looking doctor has been MD, Science Dr, Professor, Director General of the Izmirlian Medical Center **Armen Abgarovich Muradyan**, I thought that he was (unprecedented for today's Armenia, alas!) modest man when saying just "I'm a doctor"...

...I do not remember what was an occasion for our next coffee, but when I just started to read "Armen's" article on the Armenian famous families published in the local Russian-language newspress, I, then a quarter century experienced journalist and writer, felt smth like a breath of a serious competitor behind me...

Step by step, we've become friends...

One nice day Armen ➡ page 11

**Nikol Pashinyan receives Ara Toranian**

p. 2

**Armenian Opposition Bloc Condemns Fresh Arrests**

p. 4

**Eduardo Eurnekian pledges large-scale investments in Armenia**

p.7

**Human rights, IT, agriculture: Netherlands interested in intensifying cooperation with Armenia**

p. 5

## Nikol Pashinyan receives Ara Toranian



Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Co-Chairman of the Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France Ara Toranian.

Nikol Pashinyan stressed the importance of regular contacts between repre-

sentatives of the Armenian government and the Diaspora, which provide an opportunity to exchange views and take note of each other's positions. The Acting Premier emphasized that the challenges facing Armenia can only be addressed through nationwide consolidation. Nikol Pashinyan added that the most important task in the current situation is the formation of a new national agenda in line with our goals and opportunities. "We must mobilize the pan-Armenian potential to face challenges and advance our national agenda," the Acting Prime Minister said. Ara Toranian presented the activities carried out by the Coordinating Council of Ar-

menian Organizations of France, the steps taken to promote our country's interests in France, as well as their willingness to help expand the ongoing cooperation with the French government. Mr. Toranian highlighted the importance of internal stability, noting that consistent and well-coordinated cooperation is needed with the Diaspora in order to defy the emerging challenges.

"The path you have chosen to strengthen democracy is highly appreciated. We have been and will remain committed to the noble cause of protecting and developing the Armenian statehood," Ara Toranian said.

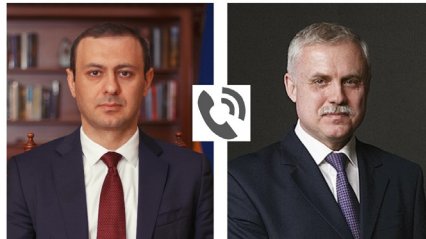
## Armenia's Security Council Secretary expresses concern over CSTO chief's assessments

Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan had a telephone conversation with CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas.

The CSTO Secretary General congratulated Armen Grigoryan on the occasion of the organization and holding of successful early parliamentary elections on June 20.

Armen Grigoryan expressed his concern over some formulations and assessments made by the Secretary General on June 3, 2021.

He stressed that that the current situation cannot be described as an incident, as it is high time that the Azerbaijani service-



men leave the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Taking into account that the actions of the Azerbaijani side are an obvious attempt to occupy a part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan once again stressed that it is necessary to show restraint in the negotiations at the

level of the CSTO Secretariat in order not to jeopardize constructive efforts to resolve the situation.

At the end of the conversation Armen Grigoryan stressed that it is expedient to organize a visit of the CSTO Secretariat to get acquainted with the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Stanislav Zas said over the weekend that the CSTO sees the aggravation of the situation in the south of Armenia as "border incident" between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which does not fall under the provisions of the CSTO charter on collective defense.

## UAE highlights deepening of cooperation with Armenia in high-tech industry

Acting Minister of High-tech Industry of Armenia Hayk Chobanyan met with Ahlam Al-Salami, the Chargé d'Affaires of the United Arab Emirates to the Republic of Armenia.

As ARMENPRESs was informed from the press service of the Ministry, Hayk Chobanyan thanked the guest for the meeting and hoped that it will foster the effective cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of high-tech industry.

The Acting Minister noted that he highly appreciates the platforms already established in the UAE, which implement acceleration, startups, venture fund, artificial intelligence, robotics projects. Chobanyan underlined the prospects for

cooperation with IT companies, as well as highlighted the opportunities to attract UAE investors to the Armenian National Venture Fund.

Ahlam Al-Salami thanked for the meeting and noted that the UAE highlights the deepening of cooperation with Armenia in high-tech industry.

All issues and suggestions raised during the meeting will be conveyed to the relevant authorities of the UAE in order to develop more effective and reciprocal cooperation between the two countries.

At the end of the meeting, Hayk Chobanyan invited Ahlam Al-Salami to take part in the events of the Technology Week to be held in October, as well as the

"ArmHighTech" International Exhibition of armaments and defense technologies scheduled for March 2022, as well as invited to visit the engineering city of Yerevan and get acquainted with the eco-system of the city.





## Nikol Pashinyan meets with leaders of extra-parliamentary political forces

Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan today met with the leaders of about a dozen extra-parliamentary political forces.

The meeting was attended by Liberal Party Chairman Samvel Babayan, Progressive-Centrist Alliance Party Chairman Tigran Urikhanyan, Fair Armenia Party Chairman Norayr Norikyan, Sovereign Armenia Party Chairman David Sanasaryan, Democratic Party representative Tigran Arzakantsyan, European Party of Armenia Chairman Tigran Khzmalyan, Chairman of the Christian Democratic Party of Armenia Levon Shirinyan, United Motherland Party Chairman Mher Terteryan, Conservative Party Chairman Mikayel Hayrapetyan and Head of the Social-Democratic Hnchakyan Party Armenia Office Sedrak Achemyan.

Nikol Pashinyan thanked those pres-

ent for accepting the invitation. “I wish to inform you from a purely organizational point of view that there was a preliminary agreement with other parties as well, but Mr. Sargsyan, the Chairman of the Republic Party and Edmon Marukyan, the Chairman of the Prosperous Armenia Party are not in the country. Nevertheless, we decided to hold this meeting as we had agreed to hold the first such meeting within 15 days.

Today we need to agree on further action, since as agreed, the first meeting should be purely organizational in order to hear your opinions on how we will work. We shall try to set up a permanent format with my participation and representatives of extra-parliamentary forces. We see it as a platform for discussing issues high on the agenda of our public and political life,



economic issues, etc. In a word, we have to build a brainstorming platform where we can discuss all possible issues,” Nikol Pashinyan noted.

The meeting discussed the activities to be held in this format, issues related to agenda formation and proceedings. The first meeting with the participation of Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and involving the leaders of extra-parliamentary political forces will be held in the near future.

page 1 ➔ pressed hope that the global coronavirus crisis is over and that the parties can start implementing programs aimed at the post-crisis future. “We want to participate in the development of Armenia’s democratic institutions and economic recovery. We are ready to contribute to the unprecedented economic and social recovery of your country in cooperation with the Government of Armenia,” said the European Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement, emphasizing that in the near future they will work with the Armenian side on large-scale economic and investment programs.

Among the priorities. Mr. Várhelyi noted that the package of 1.6 billion out of the total \$ 2.6 billion envisaged for Armenia will be directed to a 5-program in the following fields: strengthening of democracy, promotion of economy, development of small-medium business, energy, infrastructure spheres, etc.

“We can make a big difference with these big investments. “These are powerful

and large-scale projects that we can work together to make a reality,” said Olivér Várhelyi.

The Commissioner noted that the EU is ready to assist in overcoming regional challenges, achieving interconnectedness,



and economic integration. Mr Várhelyi added that the EU would provide new programs to help rebuild the 44-day war-torn region, fight the coronavirus, including providing new vaccines, and recognizing vaccine certificates.

Nikol Pashinyan attached importance to the effective implementation of the large investment package provided by the EU to

our country, adding that the forthcoming summit of the Eastern Partnership program will give a new impetus to the Armenia-EU cooperation, including the visa liberalization process and further GSP+ cooperation.

The Acting Prime Minister also referred to the post-war situation, stressed the need to ensure the return of Armenian prisoners of war, and praised the contribution of the European Union, in particular the President of the European Council Charles Michel, to the return of 15 prisoners during the pre-election period. Nikol Pashinyan stressed that Armenia is ready to take humanitarian steps and stressed the importance of joint efforts of the international community to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of Nagorno Karabakh.

Summing up the meeting, the Acting Prime Minister stressed that the large package offered by the EU to Armenia is considered by the Armenian government not so much as an opportunity to attract large financial resources, but as an introduction of European values in our country.

## Nikol Pashinyan meets with Gagik Tsarukyan



Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) Chairman Gagik Tsarukyan as part of consultations with the leaders of a number of political forces.

Thanking Gagik Tsarukyan for accepting the invitation, Nikol Pashinyan noted: “I have already stated that the internal political crisis in Armenia has been overcome following the snap parliamentary elections. We believe that we need to do our best in order to mobilize the national potential on the way to tackling the problems facing our country and find the right formats for this.

The Prosperous Armenia Party has indeed played an important role in the political life of the Republic of Armenia for many years. The PAP did not clear the threshold required to enter the parliament the latest elections. Nevertheless, I do believe that your party continues to be an in-

fluential force in Armenia’s political life. We have faced several challenges in recent months. In the meantime, we had the opportunity to meet and hold a brief discussion last year.

I would like to hear your opinion on the further development of political life, on what we can do so that the extra-parliamentary opposition, in general, the Prosperous Armenia Party, in particular, could interact with the government, since I feel that especially in the current state of affairs, we need such communication formats as may facilitate the implementation of valuable ideas. I do not think that good ideas only come from those who get more votes in parliamentary elections. And if there is a desire on the part of other representatives of the political field to share and convey ideas. We are prepared to make every effort to put them, so to speak, on the line of implementation. Therefore, I would like to hear your position and your views on this issue.”

Gagik Tsarukyan noted, in turn, that not everything is conditioned by the parliamentary mandate. “Mr. Prime Minister, after the elections as I thanked the nation, the participants in elections, those who voted for us, I said that not everything depends on whether or not one has a mandate, and this does not mean that if there is no mandate, we will not communicate with

the people.

We are with the people. We discussed, participated and voiced our point of view, our vision of how we can get out of this situation, no matter we are in parliament or not. We have always done, are doing and will do anything that can serve the common cause to the best of our ability.”

Tsarukyan demanded Pashinyan’s resignation in June 2020, accusing the prime minister of incompetence and misrule. Shortly afterwards he was controversially prosecuted on what he called politically motivated charges. He was arrested in September but freed on bail almost one month later.

Like other opposition groups, the BHK blamed Pashinyan for Armenia’s defeat in the autumn war in Nagorno-Karabakh and demanded his resignation. It joined late last year a grouping of opposition parties that staged street protests in a bid to topple the premier.

Tsarukyan and most of his associates kept a low profile and avoided strong verbal attacks on the government this spring, fuelling media speculation about their readiness to strike deals with Pashinyan. The BHK leader repeatedly stated during the recent election campaign that he would not join a possible coalition government led by Pashinyan as a result of the elections.

## Armenian Opposition Bloc Condemns Fresh Arrests

(RFE/RL) - The National Security Service (NSS) reportedly raided the offices of Armenia’s largest mining company and detained the mayor of a nearby town on July 8 in what the main opposition Hayastan alliance condemned as a continuing government crackdown on its members.

NSS officers searched the office and the apartment of Kajaran Mayor Manvel Paramazyan in the morning before taking him to Yerevan for unknown reasons. The security agency did not explain their actions in the following hours.

Paramazyan’s lawyer, Yervand Varosyan, said in the evening that he is still unaware of his client’s whereabouts or the reason for his detention.

“I’ve only heard something ludicrous: someone had bought some land and resold it to I don’t know whom,” Varosyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service.

Paramazyan was already arrested briefly last December on kidnapping and assault charges denied by him. An Armenian court is scheduled to start his trial on Monday.

Varosyan suggested that the authorities are keen to bring more charges against the opposition-linked mayor because they realize that the court is unlikely to convict him.

“All this became predictable after the



Hayastan bloc won the majority of votes in Kajaran,” the lawyer said, referring to the snap parliamentary elections held on June 20.

Paramazyan has run Kajaran, an industrial town in Armenia’s southeastern Syunik province, since 2016. He was among the heads of more than a dozen provincial communities who issued late last year statements condemning Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s handling of the autumn war with Azerbaijan and demanding his resignation.

Two other Syunik mayors were also indicted late last year. One of them, Arush Arushanyan, runs a community comprising the town of Goris and surrounding villages.

Arushanyan was questioned on Wednesday by another law-enforcement agency, the Special Investigative Service (SIS), in connection with this week’s arrest

of a local official heading one of those villages, Karahunj.

The official, Lusine Avetyan, was charged with ordering five Karahunj residents to vote for Hayastan after allocating financial assistance to them from the local government budget. It was not clear if she will plead guilty to the accusation.

According to some Armenian media outlets, SIS investigators are trying to get Avetyan to implicate Arushanyan in the alleged pressure exerted on the voters. Arushanyan’s lawyer, Erik Aleksanyan, did not rule out such a possibility, saying that the charges leveled against the village chief are politically motivated.

The Goris municipality insisted, for its part, that Avetyan was not in a position to give any cash handouts. It said such decisions could only be made by a municipal commission headed by Arushanyan.

The embattled Syunik mayors and a former provincial governor, Vahe Hakobyan, lead an opposition party affiliated with Hayastan, the official runner-up in the June 20 elections. Hakobyan is also a major shareholder in the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine (ZCMC), a mining giant employing more than 4,000 people, many of them Kajaran residents.

➔ page 5

page 4 ➔ News reports quoted Hakobyan as saying that NSS officers also searched on Thursday morning the ZCMC offices. He said they detained one of the company executives. The NSS did not confirm or deny that.

During the election campaign Pashinyan vowed to crack down on ZCMC's "corrupt" owners and wage "political vendettas" against local government officials

supporting the opposition. His political allies demanded after the elections that those elected mayors step down. They pointed to official vote results that showed the ruling Civil Contract party scoring a landslide victory.

Meanwhile, Hayastan, which is headed by former President Robert Kocharyan issued a statement on Thursday condemning the continuing "repressions" against its

members and saying that they will "further deepen the political crisis" in Armenia.

"The purpose of these illegal actions is clear: to weaken the [new] parliament's largest opposition group and distract it from its efforts to confront internal and external threats facing the country," said the statement. It said Kocharyan's bloc will continue to challenge the "regime that has brought the country to a disaster."

## Human rights, IT, agriculture: Netherlands interested in intensifying cooperation with Armenia



The Netherlands is interested in intensifying the cooperation with Armenia in several directions, Dutch Ambassador to Armenia Nico Schermers said during a press conference on July 7, stating that they are trying to work with their own programs, targeting different fields such as democracy, rule of law, agriculture, IT, etc.

"Several programs with numerous NGOs, different representatives of civil society are being discussed. We are trying to understand what we can do to help Armenia further improve the operation of

democratic structures. We also work on the protection of human rights", the foreign diplomat said.

According to him, interest by the Netherlands on investing in Armenia is increasing. Focus is paid on agriculture development. The Ambassador noted that the Netherlands is the 2nd in the world with export volumes of agricultural goods.

"Armenia also has a great potential for agriculture. Armenia is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, and thanks to this there is a big interest among the investors of other countries. The European countries look for transparency, clarity and safety. If all these factors are ensured, investments will increase", the Ambassador stated.

He said Armenia is an interesting partner also in IT direction. The Ambassador shared his impressions from the visit to the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, adding that he is amazed by the Center's activity and development programs.

Nico Schermers stated that they will try to develop and promote the cooperation between the Armenian and Dutch IT companies, keeping in focus also the tourism sector.

As for the possible investments, the Ambassador said he cannot provide information about concrete programs at the moment, but stated that he is regularly surprised by everyday developments on this direction. There are Dutch companies which are interested in operating in Armenia.

Nico Schermers reminded that the Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has entered into force from March 1, 2021, and before its entry into force preliminary works in several directions have already been done. He says the agreement sums up Armenia's relations with Europe. It contains many provisions on political, scientific, cultural and other partnership.

## Armenian official announces more Russian troop deployments

Russia has begun preparations for deploying its troops in another Armenian province bordering Azerbaijan, a senior Armenian official said on July 7.

"Some of them are already in the [Gegharkunik] province. They will be deployed along the border some time later," the provincial governor, Gnel Sanosyan, told reporters.

The deployment will start in the coming days, Sanosyan said.

Gegharkunik borders the Kelbajar district west of Nagorno-Karabakh which was retaken by Azerbaijan following the autumn war.

Azerbaijani troops crossed several sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and advanced a few kilometers into Gegharkunik and another province, Syunik, on May 12-14, triggering a military stand-off with Armenian forces. Yerevan has repeatedly demanded their withdrawal.

Lieutenant-General Artak Davtyan,



the chief of the Armenian army's General Staff, announced the impending deployment of Russian border guards in Gegharkunik late last month. Davtyan said Moscow and Yerevan are close to reaching a relevant agreement.

According to Sanosyan, the deployment will be followed by the withdrawal of both Armenian and Azerbaijani troops from contested border sections and the start of Russian-mediated talks on the demarcation of the long frontier.

Russia already dispatched soldiers and

border guards to other parts of Syunik following the Armenian-Azerbaijani war stopped by a Russian-brokered ceasefire in November.

The Russian ambassador in Yerevan, Sergei Kopyrkin, confirmed on Wednesday that Moscow and Yerevan are discussing practical modalities of further Russian troop deployments in Armenia.

"As you know, Russian border guard posts have been deployed at various sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border," he said. "They are helping to keep the situation on the border calm and stable so that the local population feels safer and more comfortable in these unusual circumstances."

"Discussions are underway about how such presence can be expanded," Kopyrkin told journalists after inaugurating a Russian cultural center in the Armenian town of Armavir.



## Construction of new bridge on Armenia-Georgia border launched



Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia Irakli Karseladze calls the construction of a new bridge on the Armenian-Georgian border over the Debed River near the Sadakhlo-Bagratashen border checkpoint as one more proof of the Armenian-Georgian friendship.

“We have tradition, we build the bridges together and call that bridges as friendship bridges. We have called this 200-meter-long bridge as “Friendship Bridge” which will open next year. This is the best project in terms of infrastructure, which proves how friendly the Armenian and Georgian peoples are”, he told reporters.

The Georgian minister said this is the first joint project, but added that there are grounds for discussing new joint programs.

Armenia’s caretaker Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Suren Papikyan introduced his Georgian counterpart on the large-scale projects being implemented in Armenia in the infrastructure field. The Georgian minister in turn presented the large-scale programs in their country. He highlighted this experience for the implementation of joint programs. “It can be said that we are on the path of implementing new joint programs”, he added.

Suren Papikyan informed that the issue of constructing the bridge has been discussed since 2012, the loan agreement was signed in 2017, but the construction didn’t begin for key reasons. “As a result of our joint efforts we managed to reach to the point that these works started. Armenia’s northern direction, road not only with Georgia, but also with other countries, including our main partner Russia passes through this bridge. Of course, we have other checkpoints, but this is the most in-

tensively operated route because the road leading to Lars passes through this”, Suren Papikyan said.

*The construction of a new bridge – linking Armenia and Georgia over the Debed River near the Sadakhlo-Bagratashen border checkpoint, launched on July 9.*

*The bridge will be 160 meters long. It will have two-way roads, with a slope of about 2% from Armenia to Georgia. The Debed River passes in the middle of the bridge, which is the border between Armenia and Georgia. The construction will cost 7 million 300 thousand Euros. It is expected to be completed in May 2022.*

*The project is funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the governments of Armenia and Georgia.*



## Removing barriers to bilateral trade discussed between Iran, Armenia

During a meeting between Iranian commercial attaché in Yerevan and Armenian Customs Authorities, the two sides explored the ways to remove the obstacles to boosting bilateral trade between Iran and Armenia, *Tehran Times* reports.

The ways of removing trade barriers between the two countries were also discussed during a meeting between Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum and Armenian Deputy Economy Minister Varos Simonyan last week.

In the meeting held on June 29, the officials underlined the significant growth in the level of trade between the two countries and stressed the need for planning to further develop cooperation within the framework of the preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and achieve the desired level of bilateral trade.

Speaking in the meeting, Zadboum referred to the two countries’ deep cultural, historical, and political relations and stated: “The Trade Development Organization of Iran is ready to hold a meeting of the [two countries] joint industrial, mining and commercial working group in order to identify obstacles and problems facing

bilateral trade and to take appropriate and effective decisions to address them.”

He further expressed satisfaction with the holding of Iran’s exclusive exhibition in Armenia earlier this month and noted that holding such events in the two countries and the exchange of trade delegations is necessary to better introduce export capabilities and to exchange information related to the needs of the two markets.

Zadboum also pointed to the removal of non-tariff barriers and reduction of logistics and transportation costs, along with the expansion of the scope of the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU, as important factors in increasing the level of trade relations between the two countries and called for addressing such subjects in the joint working groups.

Simonyan for his part welcomed the holding of a joint working group on industry, mining, and trade as soon as possible, and announced his readiness to hold expert talks during the meetings of the joint working group between the two countries.

The Armenian deputy minister also met with the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, in which the two sides stressed the need for



boosting joint investment in various sectors.

In this meeting, Shafeie noted that Iran and Armenia could become good trade partners among the EAEU members.

Mining, livestock, and agriculture, textiles, clothing, construction, technical and engineering services, as well as transportation and transit, were among the areas mentioned by the officials for mutual cooperation.

Back in January, Iran, and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini and the Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan in Tehran.

## UAE Firm to Build Large Solar Power Plant in Armenia



An Abu Dhabi-based company will invest \$174 million to build Armenia's first massive solar power plant, it was announced on July 6.

The Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) said the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, also known as Masdar, has won an international tender for the construction of the 200-megawatt facility.

The plant will be located near Talin, a small town 67 kilometers northwest of Yerevan, and cover 500 hectares of land, the ANIF said in a statement. It will be 85 percent owned by Masdar, added the state agency tasked with attracting foreign investment in Armenia.

The statement quoted the head of the ANIF, David Papazian, as saying that the

project will mark the "largest single foreign investment in green energy in the region." "From chairman down, we have worked very hard to finalize this deal," he said.

"This is a vital stage in Armenia's clean energy journey: low-cost solar energy will help power new industries, generate jobs and set the country on the path to a prosperous and truly sustainable future," Masdar's chief executive, Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, said for his part.

The Armenian government called the tender after the ANIF and Masdar signed a "joint development agreement" in Abu Dhabi in November 2019. The ANIF said in December 2020 that the Emirati firm will compete with Russia's Gazprom and China's Hydro Power for the right to build the plant by end of the 2023.

Masdar claims to have already invested at least \$8.5 billion in renewable energy projects in the United Arab Emirates and abroad.

The company expressed readiness in 2019 to build two large solar plants in Armenia with a combined capacity of 400

megawatts. They would nearly match the design capacity of the Metsamor nuclear plant generating more than one-third of the South Caucasus country's electricity.

The ANIF said on Tuesday that "further discussions are underway" on the construction of the second plant proposed by Masdar.

Both the current and former Armenian governments have pledged to significantly increase the presently modest share of renewables in domestic electricity production.

The first Armenian solar power plant with a capacity of just 0.5 megawatts went on stream in September 2017. Six other small facilities were connected to the national power grid by November 2018. Armenian private firms began building several more solar plants in the following months.

A much larger, 55-megawatt facility is due to be built by a Spanish renewable energy firm. The \$50 million project is mostly financed from a World Bank grant allocated to Armenia in 2015.

## Eduardo Eurnekian pledges large-scale investments in Armenia

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted national hero of Armenia, Argentinean-Armenian businessman, philanthropist Eduardo Eurnekian.

In his speech, Nikol Pashinyan note, in part: "I'm glad for our recurrent meeting. Your visit, such meetings are always important, because you are one of the important investors in the Republic of Armenia, in particular, one of the most important Diaspora investors in the Republic of Armenia," PM Nikol Pashinyan said as he welcomed Mr. Eurnekian.

"Our country has gone through very difficult trials. Just a few days ago, in the June 20 elections, our government reaffirmed its mandate under the slogan "There is a future." And I hope that your agenda is aimed at restoring the economic optimism of our country and faith in the future. We value your personal role here a lot," he added.

In his turn, Eduardo Eurnekian congratulated Nikol Pashinyan on the victory of the "Civil Contract" party in the elections. "Mr. Prime Minister, I am very moved by your words. Unfortunately, the pandemic



has changed the agenda of all of us in terms of time, space and flights, but it seems that we are already overcoming it."

"Mr. Prime Minister, I did not want it to be long, I wanted to come as soon as possible, to congratulate you on your victory, because it is very important, we supported your victory from the beginning," Mr. Eurnekian said.

"We invest in different spheres in Armenia. And we tend to continue to make large-scale investments in Armenia. We are currently negotiating with a bank. We see a good growth in the tourism sector in Armenia, and fortunately, we will soon offer a new investment in the airport construc-

tion sector. My cousin Martin, who is currently in charge of all this, will be coming to Armenia very soon to contact the person you will, of course, discuss to discuss the investment plan," he said.

"We should be very pleased with the developments in the wine and viticulture sector in Armenia that we have been able to predict, invest in and reform. Fortunately, today these wines are widespread throughout Europe," the businessman noted.

Nikol Pashinyan and Eduardo Eurnekian discussed the programs implemented by "Armenia International Airports" CJSC in Armenia. In particular, they touched upon issues related to the development, improvement of infrastructure, renovation and further operation of Yerevan's "Zvartnots" and Gyumri's "Shirak" airports, which were given to the company for concession management. The interlocutors also exchanged views on other business programs planned by companies owned by Eduardo Eurnekian in Armenia in the near future.



## Pashinyan, Putin discuss bilateral relations, situation on borders, return of Armenian POWs

The two men met in Moscow for the first time since Pashinyan's party scored a landslide victory in the June 20 elections which were called to end a serious political crisis caused by the autumn war in Artsakh.

Putin congratulated Pashinyan on that victory in his opening remarks at the talks held in the Kremlin.

"I am glad for the opportunity to meet with you, to talk about all the issues that are of interest to us. And of course, I would like to once again congratulate you on the election results," Putin said.

"I think that this is important for everyone, first of all, of course, for Armenia, for the Armenian people, bearing in mind that such complex, very acute and sensitive issues that need to be resolved can only be resolved if there is an opportunity to work effectively. And for this, the most important thing is to have the people's trust. You have it, it was as shown by election results. This is very important, in fact, this is the most important thing. In such difficult times for the life of the country, this is probably the most important condition for further development," the Russian President added.

Nikol Pashinyan, in turn, once offered condolences over the plane crash in Kamchatka and expressed his sympathy to the families and loved ones of all the victims.



He stressed that the meeting is the third in Moscow this year, noting that "it reflects the dynamics of relations between our countries."

"Unfortunately, recently we have been discussing security-related issues very often, because the situation in our region is not very stable. Of course, everyone knows your personal efforts and the efforts of the Russian Federation in achieving a ceasefire in the 44-day war," the acting PM said.

"After the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh, the situation is stable, but from time to time some hotbeds of anxiety and instability arise. And today I want to share with you my assessments and opinions of why and how this is happening. The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan is not yet stable, and we talked about this on several occasions. I want to say that here too, unfortunately, we have had a hotbed of constant concern over the past two

months," he added.

"Until now, I must state that, unfortunately, the issue of prisoners of war has not yet been fully resolved, although, fortunately, there is some good news here: a few days ago, 15 prisoners of war were returned to their homeland, and I want to emphasize your personal role in this and thank. We discussed this topic in our telephone conversation on June 24, and a week later 15 of our compatriots returned to their homeland," Pashinyan noted.

"There is some good news in the economic sphere too. I hope you remember that in 2019 we in Yerevan discussed issues related to the activities of the South Caucasus Railway, and I must say that today the renewal of railway trains in Armenia is in full swing. This is really very good news, because a large investment program is being implemented. This year, exports from Armenia to Russia are also growing after a Covid year," he added.

Pashinyan also thanked Putin for his support in delivering the Sputnik-V vaccine to Armenia. "Today we have already received over 100 thousand doses. Thank God, the situation with the coronavirus in Armenia is pretty good, and against this background there is already a flow of Russian tourists to Armenia."

## New police patrol service launches in Yerevan

The new patrol service of the Armenian police force has started its operation in Yerevan on July 7.

700 trained patrol police officers went to the streets of Yerevan for ensuring public order.

Head of the Patrol Service of the Police Artur Umrshatyan said today is a very responsible day for them because the philosophy and the tasks of the patrol police greatly differ from that of the police external services.

"Both the staff and the executives have a great sense of responsibility. We clearly understand what the public expects from

us and what tasks we need to solve both in the short and long-run. The patrol officers will be everywhere and will do everything to ensure public safety. They will tour both by pedestrian groups and by cars, will regulate the traffic in Yerevan at peak hours", he said.

He highly valued the preparedness level of the patrol police officers, as the programs they have passed in the past five months have been developed in accordance with the international standards.

Artur Umrshatyan informed that this service has been introduced in Yerevan now, but according to the strategy it will

expand in different provinces.

The Patrol Police Chief called on citizens to change their attitudes towards the external service of the police, stating that each patrol police officer, who have passed the trainings, clearly knows what tasks he has to solve.





## Armenian agricultural exports soar

The physical volume of fresh fruits and vegetables exported by Armenia nearly doubled in the first half of this year, a senior government official said on July 7.

“Our exports so far this year make up 104,000 tons, which is nearly twice as much as in the same period of last year,” Deputy Economy Minister Arman Khojoyan said in an interview with the Armenpress news agency.

Khojoyan did not specify the monetary value of those exports. He said instead that those potatoes, tomatoes and apricots accounted for three-quarters of them.

In particular, he said, Armenia exported about 29,000 tons of potatoes, compared with less than 10,000 tons exported in the whole of 2020. He also reported sizable

increases in both the volume and price of Armenian apricots sold abroad.

Khojoyan attributed the sharp gains to this spring’s favorable weather conditions.

They were followed by an unusually hot and dry weather in June. The resulting drought has reportedly had a severe impact on cereal and vegetable crops.

Scores of farmers in various Armenian regions have staged angry protests in the last two weeks against a serious lack of irrigation water supplied to their agricultural land.

The drought has also adversely affected pastures across the country. According to news reports, Armenian farmers dependent on animal husbandry are planning to cull their livestock en masse because of a lack

of hay.

Government officials have not yet estimated the drought’s likely impact on Armenian agricultural output in 2021.

Agriculture generates roughly one-fifth of Armenia’s Gross Domestic Product.

Khojoyan said that Russia and other members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) remain the principal market for Armenian agricultural exports.

“We operate in the common market,” the official told Armenpress. “It’s been a while since we started regarding our market not as a 3 million market reflecting the size of Armenia’s population but as a 184 million market encompassing the whole EEU.”

## CSTO must have sent investigative commission to Armenia-Azerbaijan border before giving assessment – political scientist

Political scientist Garik Keryan says the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), before giving an assessment over the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, must have sent an investigative commission to the border to get acquainted with the situation and then to make such statements.

Commenting on the recent telephone conversation of CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas and Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan about the current situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the political scientist told ARMENPRESS that both officials are in some sense right in their assessments.

“Zas is right because Armenia doesn’t have a demarcated, delimited border with Azerbaijan. If that international border existed by a bilateral document, approved by an agreement, we would say this is our border, and these are the Azerbaijanis who have violated that border. The Secretary of the Security Council is right in his turn because when we look at the map of Soviet Armenia, there are really Azerbaijanis who have crossed the border in our territory, and the correct step would have been if an investigative commission visited the site to



Armenia Armen Grigoryan held a phone conversation with CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas. Armen Grigoryan expressed concerns over some formulations and assessments in the July 3 statement of the CSTO Secretary General.

see in which border sections the Azerbaijanis have crossed Armenia’s border, make respective conclusions and then make such statement. I don’t know on what data the CSTO Secretary General has made that statement”, Garik Keryan said.

In this context he said that the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia has made a right step proposing the CSTO chief to organize a visit of the CSTO secretariat to get acquainted with the border situation.

“In this case Armen Grigoryan is right because for making a decision over any matter a research commission is necessary. But this shouldn’t have been delayed for a month. They must have sent that commission right the next day to examine the situation”, he added.

*Secretary of the Security Council of*

*The Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia expressed conviction that the existing situation cannot be called just an incident, since it’s already a lasting time that the Azerbaijani servicemen do not withdraw from the sovereign territory of Armenia, which is an overt attempt to occupy some of the Armenian territories.*

*At the end of the conversation Armen Grigoryan emphasized that for getting acquainted with the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border on site, it’s would be a good idea to organize the visit of the CSTO Secretariat.*

*“We need to understand that the CSTO potential is applied only in case of aggression, attack. Here, we, in fact, deal with a border incident. Thanks God, there are no casualties, no fires. This is a border incident, it must be solved, and we support the peaceful solution of the issue”, Stanislav Zas said on July*

## Europa Nostra and European Association of Archaeologists call for protecting cultural heritage in Nagorno Karabakh

Europa Nostra and the European Association of Archaeologists have issued a joint statement over the holistic protection of the integrity, authenticity, and diversity of the rich multicultural heritage in and around the area of Nagorno Karabakh.

We present the text of the statement:

“We, representatives of EUROPA NOSTRA and the European Association of Archaeologists – two large European non-governmental organizations committed to the promotion and protection of cultural heritage that are also active members of the European Heritage Alliance and that collaborate closely with the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO – wish to reiterate our joint commitment to the holistic preservation of the integrity, authenticity and diversity of the rich cultural heritage which is located in the Caucasus region and which is the expression of a multicultural and multireligious past and present of this region and of Europe as a whole.

We therefore deplore and condemn any act of damage, destruction or distortion of cultural heritage sites, which has happened as a consequence of a conflict or of the lack of respect for any of the cultures that have flourished in the Caucasus region, and in particular in and around the area internationally known as Nagorno-Karabakh. Referring to many international and European documents, we wish to recall that such acts are clearly not acceptable and unlawful.

We firmly believe in the essential value of cultural heritage as a vital resource and responsibility for present generations to pass on to future ones. We recognize and celebrate the cultural diversities as they are represented in our shared heritage; these can help in building bridges of mutual respect and understanding above ethnic or religious divides, as a critical element of building lasting peace. We are thus convinced that any destruction of heritage, or any distortion and/or misconstruction of (art) history has the opposite effect, often setting the ground for renewed cycles of mistrust, conflict and even violence.



As European heritage networks that collaborate closely and fruitfully with the European Union we therefore applaud and endorse the Conclusions recently adopted by the Council of the European Union welcoming the EU Concept on cultural heritage in conflicts and crises, which enhances the EU’s approach to promoting peace, security, democracy and sustainable development.

More specifically, we welcome the Resolution RC-B9-0277/2021 adopted by the European Parliament on 21 May 2021 in response to the latest conflict in the region. We especially endorse its article 16 which states that the European Parliament “Strongly insists that both parties refrain from any actions destroying Armenian heritage in Azerbaijan and Azeri heritage in Armenia; calls for the full restoration of demolished sites and for greater involvement of the international community in protecting world heritage in the region” as well as its article 21 which states that the European Parliament “Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to continue supporting the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance and the work of international organizations in this area and on the protection of cultural and religious heritage, as well as to support civil society organizations in Armenia and Azerbaijan that genuinely contribute to reconciliation”.

In the light of the above,

As a matter of urgent priority, due to alarming allegations by various parties of deliberate damage, destruction and/or distortion of cultural heritage which has happened in and around the area of Na-

gorno-Karabakh, we call for an impartial European/international team of experts to access the region in order to conduct a comprehensive and objective scientific survey of the rich and diverse cultural heritage in this area, with a related assessment of its state of conservation. We are convinced that this will be in the best interest of both Azerbaijan and Armenia, their people and their culture, as well as of the rest of Europe and Humanity.

More generally, we urge Azerbaijan and Armenia to collaborate and live up to their commitments, responsibilities and international obligations on the basis of the Trilateral Statement ending the recent hostilities which they co-signed with the Russian Federation on 9 November 2020 as well as on the basis of key international and European documents related to cultural heritage signed by these two countries.

We also urge UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the OSCE-Minsk group to join forces in encouraging and assisting positive efforts towards the holistic safeguard of the endangered multicultural and multi-religious heritage in the affected area.

As far as the European Union is concerned, we invite EU Institutions and Member States to apply to the area of Nagorno-Karabakh the principles of the above-mentioned EU Council Conclusions and adopt concrete positive measures in line with the related EU Concept Paper on Cultural Heritage in Conflicts and Crises.

Last but not least, we offer our extensive heritage expertise and experience to contribute to the due protection of the integrity, authenticity and diversity of the rich cultural heritage in and around the area of Nagorno-Karabakh, as in other regions of the Caucasus. We are willing to work with all stakeholders concerned to help use cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) as a bridge between various communities and as a vector for (re)building respect, confidence and dialogue as prerequisites for a lasting peace and prosperity in the wider region”.



## Armen Baibourtian, Eric Esrailian discusses efforts for advancing legal research on Armenian Genocide

Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles Ambassador Armen Baibourtian held a virtual meeting with prominent philanthropist, producer, advocate of social justice, and gastroenterologist Dr. Eric Esrailian. The interlocutors discussed issues of mutual interest, including notions for prospective cooperation projects.

Dr. Esrailian outlined the activities of the Promise Institute for Human Rights at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law. The Promise Institute gained a reputation of being one of the leading centers of human rights education, research, and advocacy in the United States. It is also acknowledged for generating new thinking on human rights. Dr. Esrailian also presented the activities of the Promise Armenian Institute (PAI) at UCLA that is designed to be a hub for topnotch research and teaching on Armenian Studies as well as for coordinating interdisciplinary research and public impact programs across UCLA, and with Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora.

He also briefed in detail about UCLA's Operation Armenia, which is a coordinated effort of a dedicated interdisciplinary team



providing medical disaster relief and long-term humanitarian aid and infrastructure support to Artsakh and Armenia. Eric Esrailian and Armen Baibourtian discussed further efforts for enhancing learning and advancing legal research on the Armenian Genocide in its post-recognition period in the United States.

Ambassador Baibourtian expressed his profound appreciation to Dr. Esrailian for his incessant impactful efforts aimed at recognition of the Armenian Genocide, promoting the Armenian culture, relief endeavors in Armenia and Artsakh, in particular launching of the UCLA's Operation Armenia.

In 2015, Eric Esrailian was announced as a manager and producer for Kirk Kororian's production company, which was set up to raise awareness about the Arme-

nian genocide—Survival Pictures. He produced *The Promise* with Mike Medavoy. The epic film stars Golden Globe Award nominee Oscar Isaac and Academy Award and Golden Globe Award Winner Christian Bale. In 2017, he produced *Intent To Destroy* with Joe Berlinger and Chip Rosenbloom. In 2019, *Intent To Destroy* was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Historical Documentary. Most recently, Esrailian produced Pope Francis documentary titled *Francesco* (2020 film) directed by Oscar nominated director Evgeny Afineevsky and distributed by Discovery+.

Dr. Esrailian is on the Motion Picture & Television Fund (MPTF) Board of Governors. Among others, he joined the Board of Directors of the Hammer Museum in 2012, which is an important art museum and cultural center in Los Angeles. Dr. Esrailian is also on the Board of Directors of the X Prize Foundation, a non-profit organization that designs and manages public competitions intended to encourage technological development to the benefit of mankind. He is also on the central board of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

### Happy Birthday, Professor Muradyan !

page 1 ➔ Muradyan invited to enjoy a concert in memory of his father...

"Who was your Dad of the blessed memory?", I asked him...

"Abgar Muradyan, a clarinetist", Armen Abgarovich replied...

And, again, I was shocked as I attended Armenia's Honored Artist, Professor *Abgar Gourgenovich Muradyan's* concerts for several times in my youth years and heard lot of good words from his colleagues...

As to Armen Muradyan's mother, Associate Professor Mrs *Lilia Chilingaryan* of the blessed memory (1941-2018), one must say that within her more than fifty years of pedagogical activity in the Medical University she shaped thousands of doctors...

When Professor A.A. Muradyan was appointed the Health Minister of the Republic of Armenia, he "shocked" yours truly again: he remained quite accessi-

ble one for old friends: I called him and informed that very good friend of mine, Abbot of the St.Gandzasar Monastery at the Republic of Artsakh (fmr Karabakh) *Fr.Grigor* (Armen when baptized) *Markosyan* (alas, of the blessed memory – 1956-2016) had serious heart/other problems, Mr Minister took phone immediately and organized Ter Grigor's next day detailed observation and treatment...

Being the M.Heratsi Yerevan State Medical University Rector, Prof. Muradyan has been contributing significantly in legendary University's development, no words!

And...

Just after the April War (2016), he created "Homeland Defender House", a rehab center for the Armenian disabled and heavily wounded servicemen, and, I must stress – Armen Muradyan attracted a number of serious sponsors whose contributions allowed to bring and set at the "...House" really unique equipment that lets to integrate seriously our wounded Heroes into the society.

From the very first day of Covid19 pandemic in Armenia Professor A.A. Muradyan was at the battleline...

When I called him in those days and asked for a next coffee together, he said the following: yes, if you are so risky...

Finally, when 44 day war started on Sept.27 2020 in Artsakh, the first blood servicemen were brought just from battlefield to all the three hospitals functioning under aegis of the M.Heratsi Medical University.

When walking at the yard of the University's First Clinic, extremely tired Rector shared with me that only there they had about a thousand injured soldiers and almost the same number of Covid19 patients, and then I've just realized what was a real burden for Armen Muradyan...

But why I've started this quite long story??

Ah, on 10 July was Armen's birthday...

So happy birthday dear friend!

## Armenia to buy American COVID-19 Vaccines

Armenia will buy soon the first batches of coronavirus vaccines developed by U.S. pharmaceutical companies, Health Minister Anahit Avanesyan said on July 9.

Avanesyan told reporters that the country will receive this fall 50,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine and 300,000 doses of the Novavax jab.

She said the Armenian government is also planning to purchase the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine through the World Health Organization's global COVAX Facility. The government has not done that so far because of a lack of ultra-cold freezers needed for storing the vaccine, she said.

Armenian health authorities are currently using only vaccines developed by Russia, China as well as Oxford University and the Anglo-Swedish company Astra Zeneca in their immunization campaign launched in mid-April. According to Avanesyan, only 103,317 vaccine shots were



administered in the country of about 3 million as of Friday morning.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with the health minister and other senior officials on June 30 to discuss ways of addressing a lack of popular interest in COVID-19 vaccinations. He said relevant government agencies must do more to encourage people to get vaccinated.

The vaccination process appears to have gained momentum in the last few days not least because of an apparent influx of people from neighboring Iran keen to get free shots offered to not only Armenians but also foreign nationals visiting the

country. Long lines formed outside polyclinics and other vaccination centers across Yerevan earlier this week.

This prompted the Armenian Ministry of Health to restrict on Thursday non-resident foreigners' access to those facilities. From now on foreigners who do not have Armenian residency permits or arrived in the country less than ten days ago

can get vaccinated only at mobile sites set up in shopping malls and several major streets in downtown Yerevan.

Hundreds of mostly young Iranians continued to queue up outside one such outdoor facility on Friday. Some of them told RFE/RL's Armenian Service that getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is much easier in Armenia than in Iran where priority is given to elderly people and younger citizens have to wait for inoculation for weeks.

Another Iranian, a young woman, said she travelled to Armenia because "we don't have good vaccines in our country."

## Armenian Red Cross Society to provide cash assistance to displaced people

The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS), in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and with the funding support from UNHCR, is joining the Government of the Republic of Armenia in realization of a cash assistance program for the people who arrived in Armenia as a result of the escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the autumn of 2020.

The cash assistance programme will benefit around 14,400 individuals through allocation of the total amount of AMD 979,200,000 AMD – AMD 68,000 per person – during June 2021.

The displaced persons have registered in advance to be included in the cash assistance program by filling out a relevant ap-

plication form on the website of the social service of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

Joining the cash assistance programs of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, during the period of October 2020-June 2021, ARCS has provided the total amount of AMD 1,718,523,000 to 39 000 persons displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. The financial assistance aimed to help the families to meet their basic needs and support their host families.

ARCS, UNHCR's partner NGO for the past many years, is a full member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Movement: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence,

Voluntary service, Unity, and Universality.

As an auxiliary organization to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the ARCS has been operating throughout the country for the past 101 years in the following strategic areas: Disaster Management, Population Movement, Social Support and Health Care, First Aid, Training, Youth, Dissemination of Humanitarian Values, etc.





## School in Artsakh's Khramort village to be renovated on the initiative of EAFJD and the Belgian French-speaking friendship group with Artsakh

On the joint initiative of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) and the Belgian French-speaking friendship group with Artsakh, the necessary funding has been provided for the renovation of the secondary school of the village of Khramort in the Askeran region of the Republic of Artsakh/Nagorno Karabakh. Exterior and exterior renovation work will be carried out, a sanitary unit and a modern, well-equipped school canteen will be built, classrooms will be modernized and transformed into collaborative classrooms. A new heating system will be installed. The project will be implemented within the framework of the "All-Day School Program" in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Artsakh. This program aims to use participatory work, leisure, and homework preparation to improve the



quality of education, remove conditions of inequality regarding homework support from parents, create new opportunities for socialization and employment, provide quality, balanced daily meals for learners, overcome the urban-rural disparity in development and make the regions of Artsakh more attractive to city residents.

In recent months displaced families from the Hadrut region of Nagorno Kara-

bakh, have also moved to Khramort. During the 44-day war, unleashed by Azerbaijan against the native Armenian population of Artsakh, a total ethnic cleansing of the indigenous Armenian population of a number of settlements, regions of Nagorno Karabakh/Artsakh, including Hadrut was carried out by the Azerbaijani armed forces.

Commenting on modernization project of the Khramort school, the EAFJD President Kaspar Karampetian said: "It is crucial to heal the wounds of Artsakh after this devastating war, imposed by Azerbaijan. Children are particularly vulnerable in such situations. We hope that this project will be a step towards improving the conditions of education of the local children and ensure a brighter future for them. It is our duty to contribute to this and we will continue working towards it."

## Dan Brown's 'Wild Symphony' to be presented in Yerevan

World-famous American writer Dan Brown's first children's book *Wild Symphony* and the homonymous musical project will be presented in Armenia. Dan Brown is the author of *The Da Vinci Code* and the *Inferno*.

The project is jointly implemented by the State Symphony Orchestra of Armenia and Zangak publishing house.

Artistic director of the State Symphony Orchestra of Armenia, chief conductor Sergey Smbatyan says it is a great achievement to present a program enjoying international recognition in Armenia. "Wild Symphony" is a unique opportunity for children and teenagers to get acquainted with the orchestra, symphonic music, musical instruments, he said at an event at Yerevan Zoo on July 10.

The conductor noted that the fairy-tale concert will take place on July 24 at 5:00

p.m. at Demirchyan Sports and Concert Complex. The performance of the orchestra will be accompanied by animated episodes projected on the screen; the book will also be read out during the concert. The author's video message will be played.



The concert will be preceded by the presentation of the book.

Emin Mkrtychyan, the executive director of Zangak publishing house, noted that Dan Brown used many elements in the book to please the little readers. The book

presents the behavior of animals through poetic works. And since children like to imitate the behavior of animals, the author tries to convey different tips, knowledge, wisdom to the reader through Maestro Mouse.

The book was first published in English about a year ago, after which it was translated into different languages and published in different countries, enjoying great popularity all over the world. Mr. Mkrtychyan informed that while reading the book, it is possible to listen to the musical performances through the mobile application. The book was translated into Armenian by Sergey Sargsyan.

Dan Brown's "Wild Symphony" has been performed in 37 countries. In this work, the author combines the three most important branches of art: literature, music and painting.

## He cast a spell over all who listened: Peter Gabriel shares tribute to Armenian duduk virtuoso Jivan Gasparayan

When he lifted his duduk to his lips he cast a spell over all who listened, English musician, singer, songwriter Peter Gabriel said in a tribute to Armenian duduk virtuoso Jivan Gasparayan, who passed away on July 6 aged 92

“I fell in love with the music of the duduk when I was introduced to it during the research for the film score of Scorsese’s *The Last Temptation of Christ*. In Armenia they say that when the duduk is played well, everyone cries. The great



master of the instrument was Jivan Gasparayan,” Gabriel said.

“He was a delightful companion, with a great sense of mischief and I loved the soulfulness that poured out of him when we were lucky enough to see him or to play with him,” he added.

“One evening at Real World Studios he stood up in the dining room in the middle of the meal and said, “I am playing this for my mother.” Not a dry eye in the room. When he lifted his duduk to his lips he cast a spell over all who listened. Thank you, Jivan,” Peter Gabriel said.

## Glendale’s Armenian American Museum to break ground July 11

Construction on a museum in Glendale devoted to Armenian history and culture will begin July 11, *San Fernando Valley Business Journal* reports.

In development for more than seven years, the Armenian American Museum, a two-story, 50,000-square-foot contemporary building, will rise at the southwest corner of Glendale Central Park.

The park block itself will soon after undergoing an \$18.5 million upgrade.

Designed by Glendale architecture firm Alajajian Marcoosi Architects, with a distinctive contemporary exterior inspired by rock formations in Armenia, the museum building’s first floor will include a lobby, auditorium, administrative offices and

learning centers. The second floor will feature permanent and temporary exhibition galleries. The structure will also house a single level of basement parking.

The museum has also retained the services of Gallagher & Associates to create its permanent exhibition.

The museum has been made possible through a \$1 per year ground lease agreement with the city of Glendale, which owns the park property and is also host to a sizable Armenian American community.

The museum’s initial lease will run for 55 years with four decade-long extension options for a total of 95 years.

The mission of the Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California

is to promote understanding and appreciation of America’s ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Armenian American experience. The vision is a cultural campus that enriches the community, educates the public on the Armenian American story, and empowers individuals to embrace cultural diversity and speak out against prejudice.



## Germany opens to Armenian tourists

Armenian citizens will now be granted unrestricted entry to Germany, the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Home Affairs informs.

In view of the lower numbers of infections in a number of countries outside of the EU, Germany’s Federal Government is now allowing travelers from the following countries to enter Germany for all normally permitted purposes, including tourism: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Canada, Jordan, Kosovo, Moldova, Montene-**

**gro and Qatar.**

The new rules took effect at 00:00 on Sunday, 4 July 2021.

In making this change, the Federal Government is following a recommenda-



tion that was issued by the Council of the EU on 1 July 2021.

Unrestricted entry is already permitted for travelers from the following non-EU countries and areas: Albania, Australia, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Macau, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the U.S.

Residents of countries and areas on this list may enter Germany without an urgent reason for travel and regardless of their vaccination status.



# ARMENIA

## Yezequelian Hotel & Residence



In the Green Park  
Near Congress Hotel  
24 Studios and Apartments  
**€250 Per Week**  
(Payment Upon Arrival)

**In the Center  
of Yerevan**



Warm Welcome  
24/7 Security  
Free Cafe & Bar



Kitchen, Refrigerator  
Safe, TV, Internet

All Conveniences  
Air Conditioned  
Apartments



Modern  
Rest Rooms

### RESERVATIONS:

011 374 91 57 01 70  
011 374 91 73 91 91

[Yezequelian@aol.com](mailto:Yezequelian@aol.com)

**Paris Office: 34 Avenue des Champs Elysees**

**Phone: 011 33 1 43 59 66 72**

**Yerevan Address: 8, Khorenatsi St.**



# Spacious fully furnished apartment for rent in quiet neighborhood in the center of Yerevan.

**Aghayan street 11/B.**



96 square meters  
 3 rooms; 2 bedrooms  
 Large kitchen  
 Dining room  
 Open balcony  
 1 full bathroom  
 2 fridges  
 Air conditioner, washing machine  
 Dishwasher, Microwave  
 Gas stove, 3 TV's  
 kitchen is stacked with dishes.

**Contact: 091 462 421**



# AZAD

**AZAD Pharma AG**  
**AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG**

**Switzerland**

**AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG**

Durachweg 15  
 CH-8200 Schaffhausen  
 Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10  
 Fax: +41 52 632 09 11

**AZAD Pharma AG**

Bahnhofstrasse 9  
 CH-3125 Toffen  
 Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10  
 Fax: +41 31 810 40 11

**Canada**

**AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.**

1895 - 55th Avenue  
 Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9  
 Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99  
 Fax: +1 514 636 75 55

**Atlit Inc.**

16 Westminster Ave.,  
 Suite 306A  
 Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1  
 Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91  
 Fax: +1 514 369 81 67

**China**

**Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG**

Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza,  
 #102 Moganshan Road  
 310051 -Hangzhou China

Phone +86-571-8761 5336  
 Mobile +86-153-5505-0903  
 Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963

**Germany**

**AZAD Pharma GmbH**

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a  
 DE-78315 Radolfzell  
 Phone No: +49 7732 939101510  
 Fax: +49 7732 9391016

**Armenia**

**AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC**

Vanahovit 8, Proshian  
 Ashtarak Ave., Kotayk Marz  
 Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62  
 Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
 Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող  
 ՆՏ Հորդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպաքանակը՝ 1500  
 Circulation: 1500 print copies and  
 15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:  
**TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN**  
 Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:  
**GAYANEH ARAKELYAN**  
 Director of the weekly:  
**MARINA HARUTYUNYAN**  
 Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**  
 Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

**ISSN 1829-0604**

Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝  
 03ԱՑԳՑ68, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
 Registration certificate and the date:  
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)  
 URL: [www.nt.am](http://www.nt.am)

**Address in Armenia:**  
 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA  
**Tel.:** (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

**Address in France:** Masion De L'Armenie,  
 Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France  
**Tel.:** (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

**Address in USA:** 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,  
 Glendale, CA, USA, 91206  
**Tel.:** +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009