

It was our commitment that colors of our state flag appear on more and more planes. Pashinyan at the launch of Fly Arna



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan attended the event dedicated to the launch of the Armenian national airline Fly Arna at Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport.


The ceremony started with the arrival of the first Airbus A320 airplane of Fly Arna from Sharjah International Airport to Armenia, bringing with it the delegation of Air Arabia Group. The airplane was welcomed at Zvartnots International Airport with a water salute.

The event was attended by Tatevik Revazyan, Chairperson of the Civil Aviation Committee, Tigran Avinyan, Chairman of the Board of the State Interest Fund of Armenia (ANIF), David Papazyan, Executive Director of ANIF, Adel Abdullah Ali, CEO of Air Arabia and other officials.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan welcomed those present and said, "Sometimes it is very difficult to regulate the mind, what to focus on. more on what we have or what we do not have? And

this is a really important question, because what we have inspires us, and what we do not have, can sometimes discourage us in the sense that having so much in Armenia, at the same time we do not have so much that sometimes it seems impossible to fill the gap, accomplish the mission, accomplish the task that fits into the vast space of what we do not have.

And in this sense, we have decided not to be afraid to face all the challenges. And we have decided that we should have more and more and to give up the logic of patching. If we are doing something, we must do everything we can to do it as properly as possible, at the highest possible level.

And our political commitment has been that during the years we are in office, significant changes must take place in the field of aviation, the colors of our state flag must appear on more and more planes. I am glad that we have this opportunity today, I congratulate all of us, because with  page 3

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Issue of incursion of Azerbaijani forces into Armenia's sovereign territory remains open: FM says after CSTO meeting



The Foreign Ministers of the CSTO member states adopted a statement on international security issues with the results of session in Yerevan, as well as approved the consultation plan of the representatives of the CSTO states for the next three years on foreign policy, defense and security affairs, Armenian FM Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint press conference with CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas after the session.

“We completed the session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the CSTO member states and the CSTO Secretary General. This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Collective Security Treaty and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and I want to once again congratulate all of us on this occasion.

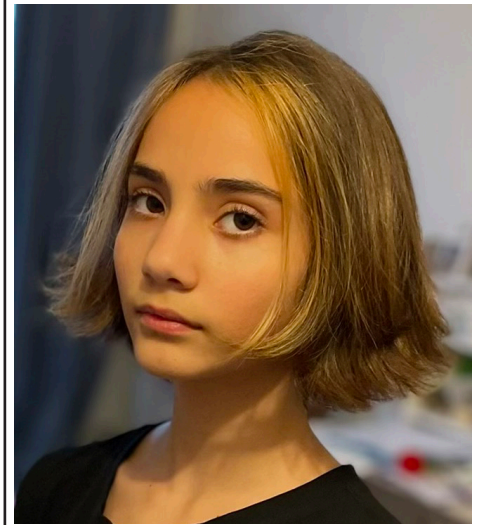
During the narrow and extended-format sessions we discussed with the Foreign Ministers of the CSTO member states the situation development trends in the field of international and regional security and their impact on the security of our states. We also touched upon the issue of improving the crisis response mechanisms, which, as you know, is the priority of Armenia's presidency at the CSTO. In January the Organization responded to the incidents in Kazakhstan on the right time, but the issue connected with the incursion of the Azerbaijani troops into Armenia's sovereign territory, which started in May 2021, still remains open.

We also discussed the implementation process of the agreements that were reached at the level of the leaders of the CSTO member states in September 2021 on the sidelines of the session of the Collective Security Council, as well as Armenia's chairmanship priorities”, the FM said.

Mirzoyan said Armenia has been and remains committed to the initiating cooperation within the CSTO aimed at expanding the mutual partnership between the member states, including developing the foreign policy coordination within the CSTO and raising the role of the Organization in the international arena.

Based on the session results, that took place in the Armenian Presidential Palace,

Condolence to Very Rev. Dr. Rene Léonian's family



On 10 June 2022 we've received a really tragic news from France:

With much sorrow we inform you of the news of our granddaughter Masha Léonian's (14 years old) departure to the heavenly home. Please continue to pray for our family which we need more than ever now.

Very Rev. Rene' Léonian and Mrs. Sylvie
We have no words of relief for Léonian noble family but can only pray that the All-Mighty Lord will be merciful to the innocent soul of little and beautiful Masha.

The Noyan Tapan Media Holding Staff

the CSTO Foreign Ministers agreed to hold the next session of the Council again in Yerevan in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Armenia, Norway keen to strengthen relations

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Norway exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Kingdom of Norway.

In his message, Ararat Mirzoyan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, particularly noted that the mutual respect between the two countries, adherence to democratic values, rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as historically rooted warm ties formed a basis for cooperation over the three decades.

Foreign Minister Mirzoyan emphasized that the Armenian people remember with gratitude Fridtjof Nansen, prominent Norwegian humanitarian, faithful and caring



friend of Armenians, who epitomizes the collective identity of the Norwegian people for the Armenians. Expressing gratitude for Norway's unprecedented support in the fight against COVID-19, Ararat Mirzoyan expressed his conviction that Armenia and Norway will jointly contribute to the de-

velopment of cooperation and the expansion of the bilateral agenda.

Anniken Huitfeldt, Foreign Minister of Norway, noted that as members of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Armenia and Norway have built bilateral relations on the basis of international commitments, shared values and principles. The Foreign Minister of Norway highlighted the importance of further strengthening relations with Armenia, and reaffirmed the Norwegian Government's readiness to continue cooperation with Armenia based on democratic values and respect for human rights for the benefit of the two nations.

Roads will remain under the sovereignty of countries they pass through: Mirzoyan, Lavrov comment on opening of communications



The meeting of the working group on unblocking of regional communications was positive, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a joint press conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Ara-

rat Mirzoyan.

“The rail routes have been agreed on, discussions on the roads and the regime that will be established are nearing completion. It will be simplified, but will definitely be based on the acknowledgement of sovereignty of the Armenian territory. There can be no ambiguity here. There are things that are related to practical actions on the ground, which are related to the creation of infrastructure meant for long years. That’s why here it’s better to weigh everything thoroughly,” Lavrov said.

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said, in turn, that there is a common

understanding on some issues here, and this is first of all related to the understanding that all roads that will be opened or reopened will remain under the sovereignty and authority of the countries they pass through.

“There is no place for corridor logic, and this is common understanding,” Mirzoyan emphasized.

At the same time, he noted that there are details which the parties divert on, but the work continues, and I think we will reach mutually acceptable solutions on these issues.

Deputy Defense Minister to be Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces

The government has okayed amendments to the Law on Defense and related legislation related laws on defense.

Under the new changes, the Deputy Defense Minister will be the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

Referring to the bills, Nikol Pashinyan singled out two important key provisions. “The first is that the head of the General Staff becomes the first deputy minister of defense. Second, the entire procurement system is implemented by the Ministry of Defense. In other words, the General Staff

is not engaged in procurement, the General Staff is engaged exclusively in its functions, I mean in the functions intended for the Armed Forces.”

The Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan said: “In fact, the Armed Forces should be engaged only in the work assigned to them: to protect the borders of the Republic of Armenia, to be engaged in combat readiness, i.e. anything aimed at improving the combat effectiveness of our army. Other tasks should be performed by other departments of the Ministry of Defense,



mainly civilian. All possible tasks that can be delegated must be delegated. As a result, our Armed Forces will have more time to accomplish their mission.”

the participation of our partners from Air Arabia from the United Arab Emirates and the Arme-



nian National Interests Fund, we are establishing this kind of an airline.”

According to Nikol Pashinyan, this has multi-sided significance, because one of the most important achievements of the pre-Covid period was that the Government was able to create an opportunity for citizens to travel at affordable prices. “And this is not just a matter of movement, this

is also a political, civilizational issue, because when as wide sections of our society as possible have the opportunity to travel, to communicate with other countries, it is an opportunity for us to get to know ourselves better, better assess ourselves, have more energy, have a better idea of what to do next,” the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister hoped that “Fly Arna” airline will bring more people to Armenia and will take more people from Armenia. “In this sense, our country will also become a crossroads, from where people go travelling, where they return, where people go for rest, acquaintance, tourism, and those people keep a part of Armenia in their hearts, they take some positive attitude towards Armenia with them. Congratulations again to all of us on doing a step forward on the path of the development of this direction. We know more negative than positive stories about Armenia’s aviation

sector, it’s time to break that chain. I hope that together with our partners we will be able to overcome the weighty package of negative news or the impression left by it with positive news, new developments, new planes, new passengers, new directions,” Prime Minister Pashinyan said.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the CEO of Air Arabia Adel Abdullah Ali, toured the first Fly Arna aircraft to get acquainted with the conditions created for the passengers.

During the official launch ceremony, Fly Arna announced the date of its first commercial flight. The first flight G6501 will be operated from Zvartnots International Airport to Hurgada International Airport on July 3, 2022. Fly Arna’s initial destinations will also include direct flights connecting Armenia with Sharm El Sheikh and Beirut.

Armenian opposition rethinking protest tactics

A leader of the Armenian opposition said on June 10 that it is rethinking the tactics of its “resistance movement” almost six weeks after starting regular demonstrations aimed at toppling Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Ishkhan Saghatelyan insisted that the protests are not dying down and that the opposition has no plans to suspend or end them.

“Yes, we need a new tactic,” Saghatelyan told reporters. “Therefore, there may be changes in our steps and actions. Right now, we are engaged in active discussions and will change some steps and actions.”

He declined to say what those changes will be.

“The movement cannot die down because its collapse or suspension would mean a defeat for the Armenian people,” he said.



Armenia’s main opposition groups represented in the parliament have rallied thousands of supporters on a virtually daily basis since setting up a tent camp in a central Yerevan square on May 1. They accuse Pashinyan of renouncing Armenian control of Nagorno-Karabakh and making other concessions to Azerbaijan that will jeopardize the very existence of Armenia.

Pashinyan and his political allies dismiss the demands for his resignation. They

say that the opposition has failed to attract popular support for its “civil disobedience” campaign.

“There is no political crisis in Armenia,” Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said on Thursday. Echoing statements by other Armenian officials, he said that Pashinyan’s political team won a popular mandate to run the country for the next five years in the 2021 general elections.

Saghatelyan, who has been the main speaker at the protests, dismissed that argument. He said that Pashinyan does not have such a mandate anymore because he broke his election campaign pledge to help the people of Nagorno-Karabakh exercise their right to self-determination.

“They are now talking about ‘lowering the bar’ [on Karabakh’s status] and leading the country to new concessions,” he said.

There is no political crisis in Armenia – FM on ongoing protests

Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan commented on the ongoing protests in the country, stating that there is no political crisis in Armenia.

During a press conference on June 9 with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Mirzoyan told a reporter that he can substantiate his statement by two facts. “Firstly, snap parliamentary elections were held last summer, where the citizens of Armenia gave very clear answers to a number of questions and solved the political crisis that really existed that time. It’s worth noting that these elections were recognized as democratic and transparent by all observer missions. So, this shows that citizens undoubtedly had a chance to express their position and make a decision.

Secondly, we follow, as far as I managed to follow, the small number of people participating in rallies, perhaps, doesn’t show that these rallies are supported by the citizens of Armenia. But I want to note that Armenia is a democratic country, and ev-

eryone has a right to hold peaceful rallies”, the FM said.

Touching upon the logical sides of this process, the FM said he could present his own, personal position. “I see some problems with sound judgment here and I can state why. Firstly, that political forces have a chance to run their activity in the parliament and strongly criticize the authorities and ask the sharpest questions, which, unfortunately or fortunately, they do not use. It is their right again.

And secondly, the most important, the content part of the issue: as far as I managed to follow and understand, the forces that organize and participate in the rallies state that Armenia is not running a right policy over Nagorno Karabakh, is not running a right policy in the directions, the negotiations, I already mentioned, with Azerbaijan, and is not running a right policy in the process of normalizing the relations between Armenia and Turkey, and so on.

And here I want to state that strangely we have not seen statements that, if our

government resigns, and the power is somehow transmitted to these forces, they are going to cancel, for example, the November 9 trilateral statement, or the trilateral statements of 2021 January 11 and November 26, or they are going to withdraw from the delimitation process, or they are going to suspend the process of unblocking the regional communications, etc. In other words, if such an approach was announced, perhaps it would have been logical, because I have already presented our approach and it has been announced long ago.

And I suppose that it would have been logical if these aspiring political forces have had opposite positions on these key matters. As I said, I didn’t manage to follow much, but as far as I managed, I didn’t meet any talk on suspending the processes I mentioned or withdrawing from that processes, which allows me to suppose that the topic that is being discussed is just a way and occasion of manipulation by the opposition”, he said

In new report on Turkey, European Parliament calls for recognition of Armenian Genocide, urges ban on Grey Wolves

Without clear and significant progress on EU-related reforms, Parliament cannot envisage resuming accession negotiations with Turkey, warned MEPs on June 7.

In a report adopted on Tuesday by 448 votes in favor, 67 against and 107 abstentions, MEPs warn that in spite of Turkey's repeated statements that it aims to become an EU member, over the past two years the country has consistently gone back on its commitments in relation to the accession process.

Referring to the European Parliament resolution of 15 April 2015 on the centenary of Armenian Genocide, the MEPs once again encourage Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

The European Parliament commends the recent rapprochement between Turkey and Armenia with regard to the decision to start bilateral contacts, the appointment of special representatives and the resump-

tion of flights between the two countries; considers this attempt a highly positive development which has a positive impact on prosperity and security in the region; encourages both sides to pursue these efforts with a view to fully normalizing their relations and calls for the EU to actively support this process.

The Parliament encourages Turkey to pave the way for genuine reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian peoples, including settling the dispute of the Armenian Genocide, and to fully respect its obligations to protect Armenian and other cultural heritage; expresses the hope that this may lead to a dynamic of normalization of relations in the South Caucasus; further welcomes Turkey's diplomatic efforts to normalize relations with various countries in the Middle East, especially Israel; encourages Turkey, once again, to recognize the Armenian Genocide.



The report also urges Turkey's authorities to increase their efforts to effectively address the dire situation of Armenians and other minorities in the country.

The European Parliament remains worried that the racist right-wing extremist movement known as the Grey Wolves, which is closely linked to the ruling coalition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), is spreading not only in Turkey but also in EU Member States. It calls for the EU and its Member States to examine the possibility of banning their associations in EU countries; calls on the Member States to closely monitor.

Armenian authorities committed to the process of democratic reforms, Deputy Speaker of Parliament tells Venice Commission chief

At a meeting with Venice Commission chief Claire Bazy-Malaurie, Deputy Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly, Head of the Armenian Delegation to the PACE Ruben Rubinyan hailed the effective cooperation with the structure.

Member of the National Assembly delegation to the PACE Arusyak Julhakyan and Secretary General of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe Simona Granata-Menghini were present at the



meeting.

According to Ruben Rubinyan, the

Armenian authorities remain committed to the process of democratic reforms that began after the Velvet Revolution. In this regard, the Vice Speaker stressed the need for the support of the commission.

Reference was made to the work of the newly established Constitutional Reform Council.

The Chair of the Venice Commission highlighted the fruitful cooperation with Armenia.

U.S. Official Meets Armenian Oppositionists



(RFE/RL) - A senior U.S. State Department official has met with leaders of Armenia's main opposition groups holding anti-government protests during a visit to

Yerevan.

Kara McDonald, the deputy assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, arrived in the Armenian capital on June 8 for talks with government officials, politicians and civil society members. The officials included Justice Minister Karen Andreasyan and Deputy Foreign Minister Vahe Gevorgyan.

The U.S. Embassy in Armenia said that during the two-day trip McDonald "underscored the U.S. commitment to continue

helping the Armenian people build a future based on shared democratic values."

It emerged on June 10 that she held a separate meeting with representatives of the two opposition alliances represented in the Armenian parliament.

Gegham Manukyan, an opposition parliamentarian, said they discussed a wide range of issues, including "shameful practices" in the Armenian judiciary and police actions against participants of continuing op-

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page 5 ➔ position rallies aimed at toppling Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. McDonald took note of concerns voiced by the oppositionists, he said.

The U.S. Embassy did not comment on that meeting. The embassy posted on its Twitter page photographs of McDonald's meetings with other individuals, including leaders of four parties not represented in the Armenian parliament.

The parliament's two opposition fac-

tions criticized the U.S. ambassador to Armenia, Lynne Tracy, last month after she seemed to hail the outcome of last year's parliamentary elections won by Pashinyan's party.

One of their leaders, Ishkhan Saghatelyan, accused the United States and other Western powers of turning a blind eye to government pressure on the judiciary, the existence of "dozens of political prisoners" and other human rights abuses. He also said Armenians did not give Pashinyan a

mandate to "cede" Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan.

Saghatelyan is the main speaker at the ongoing street protests which were sparked by Pashinyan's conciliatory policy towards Azerbaijan and Turkey praised by Washington.

Reacting to the protests earlier in May, the State Department urged the Armenian opposition to "refrain from violence and respect the rule of law and Armenia's democracy."

Abandoned Soviet-era sewing factory in Dilijan to be transformed into innovative space for businesses



Andrea Wiktorin, EU Ambassador to Armenia, participated in the official launch of the "Enhancing private sector-led economic growth in Dilijan and adjacent communities" in Dilijan.

The Project aims to stimulate business development and contribute to job creation

in Dilijan through investing in hard and soft infrastructure – an abandoned Soviet-era sewing factory will be transformed into an innovative space for businesses, entrepreneurs, and community services.

The project implemented by Dilijan municipality in partnership with the IDEA Foundation,

Tourism and Urbanism Foundation, and Dilijan Community center is co-funded by the European Union (EUR 1 mln) and the IDEA foundation.

"The European Union continues supporting local and regional authorities in Armenia since we believe strongly in the

role of local actors to champion local development and growth. We hope that the refurbished "Kari Fabrika" will boost economic activity in Dilijan and in the region of Tavush by supporting the incubation and acceleration of regional small and medium businesses and making available much needed advisory and support services in a unique multi-functional space," emphasized Ambassador Wiktorin in her opening remarks.



Nobel laureate Ardem Patapoutian to participate in Science and Business Days in Armenia



The Armenian Ministry of Economy will hold Science and Business Days event on June 13-17, 2022 with a view to identifying the opportunities for the development of cooperation between science and entrepreneurship in Arme-

nia and commercialization of science.

Among the speakers of the event are world-famous Armenian scientists Ardem Patapoutian, Ruben Yenikolopov, Georgi Derluguian, Garik Israelyan, David Bagdasaryan, Tony Safoian and others.

Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan is the initiator of the event.

"Contacts with such people will be a serious impetus for businessmen, scientists and young professionals both in terms of acquiring practical knowledge and ensuring cooper-

ation in the future," says Vahan Kerobyan.

The event will feature a scientific conference, meetings with the business community, exchange of experience, speeches in educational-scientific institutions of Armenia with the participation of students, researchers and staff.

A replica of the Nobel Prize will be presented to the History Museum of Armenia.

The 2021 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine was awarded to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch.



ORION SUMMIT 2022

YEREVAN, MATENADARAN
JUNE 22, 2022DIGITAL JULFA
NETWORK

The Digital Julfa Network – an initiative bringing together the pan-Armenian intellectual, technological, commercial and cultural potential – will be officially launched during Orion Summit 2022.

Mark Chenian, a veteran of investment banking, and a member of the board of directors of the Armenian Society of Fellows, is the keynote speaker at the Orion Summit 2022 which will address the final panel discussion on “Standing up Digital Julfa Network of the 21st Century.” Mark Chenian is a veteran of over 50 years in

Digital Julfa Network to be launched during Orion Summit 2022 in Yerevan

Investment Banking, primarily in Asset & Wealth Management.

The panel will bring together BAJ Accelerator and Orion Worldwide Innovations Founding Partner Emma Arakelyan, Director of the Matenadaran Vahan Ter-Ghevondian, BAJ Accelerator Co-Founding Partner Dr. Armen Kherlopian, and Souren Israelian, head of Law Office of Souren A. Israelian.

Digital Julfa network’s cultural significance will be presented during the panel. The summit will be followed by the reception during which classical pianist and composer, author of “Jazzical Komitas-Passion of Fire” CD Joel A. Martin will perform the works of Komitas with jazz interpretation. An art exhibition of contemporary art works will also be held during

the summit.

Orion Summit 2022 will take place on June 22, 2022, in Yerevan, Matenadaran. The event will bring together world-class founders, investors, advisors, and professionals in technology, finance, business, and other fields.

Orion Worldwide Innovations (“Orion”), is a startup growth and ecosystem acceleration hub and offers a full-service package to make companies investable to enter the US market, enhance their customer acquisition strategies, stay competitive and protect their innovation. Orion is a U.S.-based company formed in 2017, with offices in New York City, U.S., and Yerevan, Armenia, though Orion partners with companies and investor networks worldwide.

Silicon Mountains 2022 International Tech Summit to be held in Yerevan

Silicon Mountains 2022 International Tech Summit will be held at Matenadaran on June 17.

The event, held for the third time, is organized by the Union of Employers of Information and Communication Technology (UEICT) with the support of the Central Bank of Armenia.

Within the framework of the conference, representatives from the Armenian



government, heads of leading ICT compa-

nies, and international experts will discuss the possibility of digital transformation and its application in various fields. The topics for this year are digital transformation, fintech, and cybersecurity.

Only invited participants will be able to attend the event by registering at <https://silicon-mountains.org> The event will also be streamed live on Facebook, YouTube and news.am.

FLYONE Armenia considers launching flights to Tehran and Beirut

The Armenian airline FLYONE Armenia is expanding the geography of flights, Chairman of the Board of FLYONE Armenia Aram Ananyan told a press conference at *Armenpress*, adding that they consider several important destinations in the Middle East.

“We plan to include Tehran and Beirut this year, and if possible, we will expand the geography in other directions. Our goal is to increase the passenger flow to

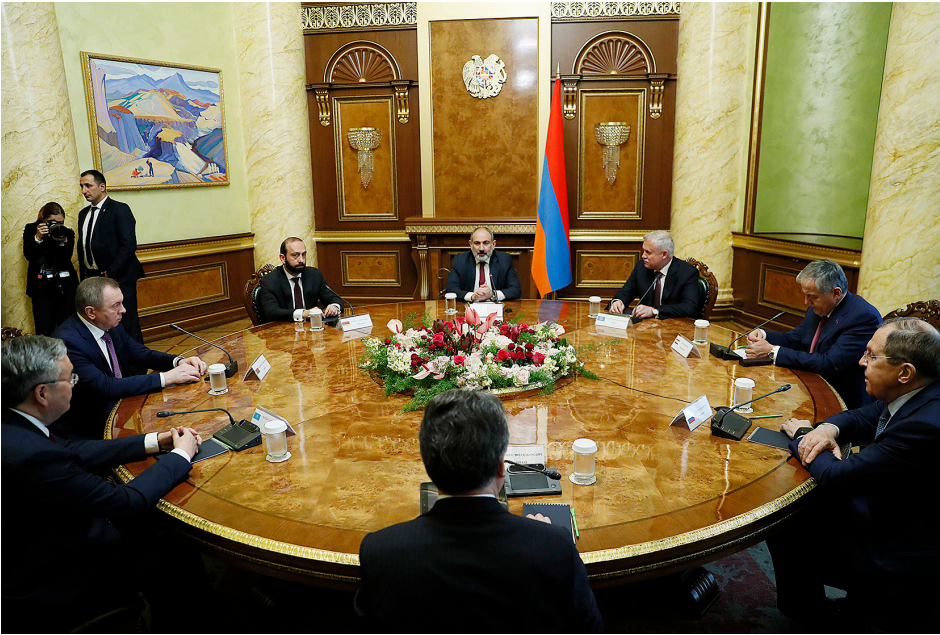
and outside Armenia. The demand for aviation services is increasing globally, and research shows that the demand has surpassed the pre-pandemic figures. As an airline, we should do everything to meet this demand by responding to the international trends,” Aram Ananyan said.

The airline has recently purchased a new aircraft. The third aircraft – Airbus A319 with 144 seats, has already arrived in Armenia. It allows to expand the geogra-

phy of flights, add new directions, increase the frequency of flights and improve the quality of services.



Necessary to work closely to launch crisis prevention mechanisms: PM Pashinyan tells CSTO Foreign Ministers



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the participants of the session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization: Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of Belarus Vladimir Makei, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan Jeenbek Kulubaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin and CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas.

In his opening remarks the Prime Minister said,

“Dear friends,

Welcome to our country, to our capital. And I salute the holding of the session of the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers in our country.

This year we have a double jubilee: we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Collective Security Treaty and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. It is very nice to note that in this ju-

bilee year, after the coronavirus pandemic, the dynamics that we have traditionally had is again being restored. And, as we have said many times, I think that the jubilee is a very good opportunity to analyze the past, to highlight our successes and achievements, to talk about the shortcomings that have been observed during the existence and work of our organization.

You know that the CSTO is one of the most important factors for the security of our countries, and I must say with regret that the situation in the area of responsibility of our organization is not so stable. In this context, I think it is necessary to cooperate closely, exchange information, situation assessments in order to launch the mechanisms for crisis prevention and management at the right time.

I have to mention that we are very happy to host various CSTO events with such intensity. We recently hosted a sitting of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly in Yerevan, and now this important event. We are expecting the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the CSTO member states

on June 17. These are really good opportunities to talk, to discuss the agenda of our organization.

Welcome once again, I hope you have an effective session and time in our republic.”

During the meeting with the CSTO Foreign Ministers, the Prime Minister of Armenia referred to the current regional situation, speaking about the activities of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Delimitation and Border Security Commission, the opening of regional communication routes, the return of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other civilians being kept in Azerbaijan till now. In this context, Nikol Pashinyan highlighted the support of the international community.

The Prime Minister emphasized that Armenia is interested in unblocking regional communications, and all the roads that will be opened will operate under the sovereignty of the countries through which they pass. There can be no “corridor” logic, and this perception is shared by everyone. In the context of the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the issue of the status of Nagorno Karabakh, stressing that the conflict should be settled peacefully within the framework of the format of OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs.

The Prime Minister of Armenia noticed that the issue of the incursion of Azerbaijani troops into the sovereign territory of Armenia since May 2021 still remains open, in connection with which Armenia applied to the CSTO. In this context, the sides exchanged views on the improvement of CSTO monitoring and rapid response mechanisms, which will increase the effectiveness of the organization in meeting the security challenges of the member states.

The root cause of the conflict is about the status of Artsakh, and this is yet to be solved – Ambassador Mkrtchyan

The Nagorno Karabakh is not a territorial dispute, it's a conflict about the rights of the Armenians to live the way they like in the territory which has been theirs for several centuries, for thousands of years, Ambassador Tigran Mkrtchyan said in an interview with Public Radio and Television of Albania.



The Ambassador noted that after the 44-day war Azerbaijan has tried to capitalize on its victory which it gained with the support of Turkey, “but we believe that any conflict especially such conflicts need a fair, just solution where there are no absolute winners and absolute losers.”

“After the conflict, Azerbaijan firstly resisted using the term Nagorno-Karabakh region. They are saying, the Azerbaijani leader is saying, that there is no region called Nagorno-Karabakh for example. Additionally, the Azerbaijani leadership also is saying there is no Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the conflict is solved, and it's in the past. This is what they say,” Ambassador Mkrtchyan said.

“Additionally, and the third point is that they're saying that the internationally mandated format called OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, this format consisting of America (United States), France, and Russia, they're saying that this format does not exist anymore, it's a thing of the past,” he added.

But the reality, he said, is that the Nagorno-Karabakh region exists, there are Armenians who live there and there are Russian peacekeepers located there which came there by the agreement signed between the Azerbaijani president, Armenian prime minister, and Russian president, so

Azerbaijanis gave agreement to having the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh and in that agreement, there is the term Nagorno-Karabakh.

Therefore, the Ambassador said, it's not up to Azerbaijan to delete the name of Nagorno Karabakh from history.

“Similarly, the conflict has not been solved yet. In 2020 there was use of force, there was a violation of all the international principles and international law to impose a solution by the use of force, but the conflict as such has not been resolved because the root cause of the conflict is about the status of Nagorno-Karabakh and this has not been solved yet. And this is the opinion of not only ours, not only Armenia but the international community is of that opinion that the conflict has not been solved and it needs to be solved. And it's not accidental that in the very last statement of the president of the Council of Europe Charles Michel, he mentioned through his spokesperson, it was mentioned that the root causes of the conflict of Karabakh need to be addressed,” the Ambassador emphasized.

He said since the signing of the November 9th statement there have been continuous provocations in Nagorno Karabakh and on the borders with Armenia.

“Violation of the November 9th statement has been constant and continues,

Azerbaijani forces have even occupied several areas on the border area of Armenia, territories of Armenia proper and 1 Armenian prisoners of war are still held in Baku despite the calls of the international community,” Tigran Mkrtchyan said.

He noted that the Azerbaijani leadership is glorifying those who have taken part in war crimes during the war and the anti-Armenian rhetoric is at a peak.

Speaking about Armenian-Turkish relations, the Ambassador said they have historically been quite difficult. “Since independence in 1991, there were plans, there were mutual aspirations to establish diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey, but these relations were not established and the borders were not fully opened because of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. Turkey conditioned the normalization of Armenian Turkish relations and opening of borders with Armenia upon the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. So in the early 1990s, this attempt to normalize relations failed,” he said.

Tigran Mkrtchyan noted that Turkey and Armenia have appointed special envoys for normalizing relations.

“The envoys have met already a few times in Moscow, in Vienna, the foreign ministers met in Antalya, also there are planned meetings in Armenia and Turkey, I mean in the near future hopefully. All of these meetings are taking place under the condition that the process of normalization is going ahead without preconditions again. It is too early to make any conclusions but let's live and see how it will progress,” Tigran Mkrtchyan stated.

Russia's Foreign Ministry Edits Lavrov's Comments About Artsakh's Parukh



Russia's foreign ministry apparently has edited comments made on June 9 by the country's top diplomat Sergei Lavrov, who said that the issue of Azerbaijan's incursion into the village of Parukh in Artsakh's Askeran region in March will be solved within the current talks between Baku and Yerevan on delimiting and demarcating the borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Lavrov, who was speaking at a press conference with his Armenian counterpart, Ararat Mirzoyan, was specifically asked what the Russian peacekeepers were doing to de-occupy Parukh and push Azerbaijani forces back to their initial positions, since 400 residents of the area are unable to return to their homes because of Azerbaijan's continued aggression.

"As for the situation [in Parukh], it is one of the priorities of the Russian servicemen, and our Armenian friends are very

well informed about that," said Lavrov. "There are also some results in terms of easing of tension on the ground, and we view that these issues will be observed and will be definitely solved within the launching substantive border delimitation efforts."

Official Baku was quick to counter Lavrov's statements, insisting that the Parukh region "has no connection with the border demarcation issues with Armenia" since it is located in Azerbaijan's Khojalu region,

"The commissions created by Azerbaijan and Armenia are aimed at delimitating and demarcating of borders between the two countries," Azerbaijan's foreign ministry spokesperson Leyla Abdulayeva said in a statement.

Abdulayeva emphasized that it is not envisioned that the border process will address areas outside of the borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, including those areas where Russian peacekeeping forces are temporarily being stationed.

According to a report by RFE/RL's Armenian service, the Russian Foreign Ministry altering the Parukh reference in the text published on its official website, writing instead: "We hope that the launch of the process of demarcation of the Ar-

menian-Azerbaijani border will contribute to the increase of trust between Baku and Yerevan and prevent incidents like Parukh in the area of responsibility of the Russian peacekeeping contingent."

The Russian "Kommersant" newspaper, meanwhile, quoted Lavrov's unedited statement in an article, stating that the Parukh issue has become a "sore subject" for Baku.

"In March, a confrontation almost started between the Russian peacekeepers and the Azerbaijani soldiers, who occupied the village without agreeing with Moscow. At the same time, from Baku's point of view, the military had the right to do so, as Azerbaijani power extends to the entire territory of Karabakh," wrote Kommersant, according to RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

"Kommersant" states that the foreign ministers of both Armenia and Russia spoke with optimistic emphasis on regional developments, including the normalization of Armenian-Azerbaijani and Armenian-Turkish relations. At the same time, the article added, experts in both Yerevan and Baku do not share that optimism, saying that during recent efforts for the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict settlement, initiatives have failed many times.

Armenian Ambassador draws US lawmakers' attention to Azerbaijan's ceasefire violation attempts

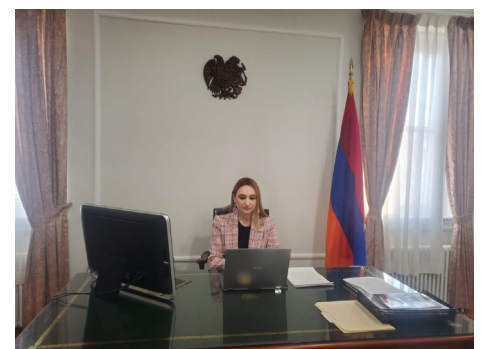
Lilit Makunts, Armenia's Ambassador to the United States, had a remote meeting with Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues, Reps. Frank Pallone and Jackie Speier.

Ambassador Makunts presented the position of the Republic of Armenia on the establishment of regional peace and stability, as well as drew the attention to Azerbaijan's attempts of violation the ceasefire regime and destructive belligerent state-

ments.

In this context, Ambassador Makunts stressed the importance of the OSCE Minsk Group efforts to support the advancement of the peace agenda.

Ambassador Makunts referred to the results of the Armenian Foreign Minister's visit to Washington within the framework of the session of Armenia-US strategic dialogue.



PM Pashinyan visits Ararat Province to get acquainted with the process of subvention programs

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan paid a working visit to Ararat Province. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Hambarzum Matevosyan, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanyosyan, Deputy Minister of Economy Arman Khojayan, Chairman of the Urban Development Committee Armen Ghularyan, Governor of Ararat Province Sedrak Tevonyan,



Within the framework of the visit, the Prime Minister got acquainted with the implementation of projects under subsidy programs in several communities.

Nikol Pashinyan first visited Deghdzut community, where a modular school is being built under the program “Construction of modular buildings for secondary schools with a small number of students”. The Prime Minister toured the construction site to get acquainted with the course of the works.

It was reported that the school is being built in a model jointly developed by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Urban Development Committee, the UNICEF, as well as other concerned international and local organizations. It is based on modern standards of safety, inclusiveness and energy saving. The school is designed for 120 students. Construction began in 2020 and will be completed this year. The cost of the program is 799 million AMD.

The Prime Minister spoke to the school teachers, who thanked the Prime Minister for implementing the program of establishing a modern school in the community and providing students with the best conditions. Nikol Pashinyan urged them to participate in the certification process, to increase their professional qualification, as a result of which teachers’ salaries will increase significantly.

Nikol Pashinyan also talked to the locals, listened to their problems and

urged them to participate in all the Government’s programs to establish modern agriculture, including the drip irrigation program. The Deputy Minister of Economy also provided information to those present.

The next stop of the Prime Minister was at the Berdik-Aygestan road section, where he got acquainted with the reconstruction works. Drainage and asphaltting works are being carried out within the framework of the capital repair program of roads of state significance of the Republic of Armenia. The works are expected to be completed in November this year. The cost of the program is 360 million AMD.

Afterwards, Prime Minister Pashinyan visited Verin Dvin community, where he toured the territory of a refrigerated warehouse for agricultural storage established by the private sector with state support, got acquainted with the latter’s activities. It has a capacity of about 5,000 tons, the construction of which was supported by the Government under agri-food leasing program. The total cost of the program was 400 million AMD, of which 300 million AMD was provided by the state through the above-mentioned program. Prime Minister Pashinyan welcomed the establishment of the facility, emphasizing that the Government will continue to support farms through various programs to establish modern farms.

In this community, the Prime Minister also got acquainted with the construction of a leisure center carried out by the private

sector. \$1.2 million has already been invested in the project. It will also have a modern swimming pool.

The next stop of the Prime Minister was in Aygezard community. Here Nikol Pashinyan got acquainted with the conditions created in the community park renovated under a subsidy program, near which modern football, tennis and basketball courts have been built. The total cost of the project was 44 million AMD, 65% was provided by the community and 35% by the Government.

Here again the Prime Minister talked to the locals, got acquainted with their problems, answered a number of questions. Nikol Pashinyan also visited the shooting range established by the private sector in the community, got acquainted with the created conditions.

Prime Minister Pashinyan also got acquainted with the process of capital repairs of the sections of the Ayntap-Mkhchyan-Artashat-Aygavan national highway. The work carried out within the framework of the state budget program for the reconstruction of state roads is expected to be completed in November this year. The cost of the program is 1 billion 699 million AMD.

The Prime Minister was also introduced to the process of reconstruction of the Yeghegnavan-Aygavan road, which is planned to be completed in November this year. The cost of the program is 259 million AMD.

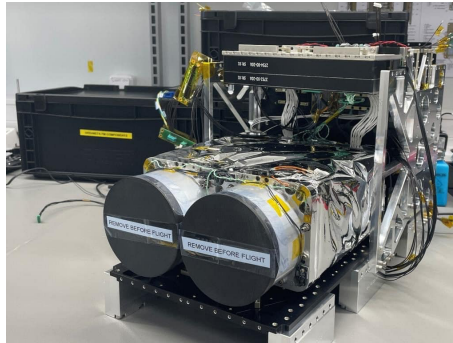
Nikol Pashinyan’s last stop was in the city of Ararat, where the Prime Minister got acquainted with the conditions created in the park reconstructed under the subsidy program. Within the framework of the project, the whole area of the park was tiled, the fountain and the amphitheater were repaired, the benches were changed, an irrigation network and a lighting system are being installed. The cost of the park improvement is 100 million AMD, of which 70% was allocated from the city budget and 30% from the state budget.

ARMSAT_1: Armenian satellite “in good health” and ready to accomplish the public service

The Spanish SATLANTIS company has announced that after the successful launch of Urdaneta from Cape Canaveral, the company will provide a full Earth Observation system to Geocosmos, the Armenian company subsidiary of the RA Ministry of High-Tech Industry. Urdaneta, now renamed to the working title ARMSAT_1, will be the first satellite in space for the country, and Armenia is de facto a member of the selected club of Space countries, according to the prime minister declaration.

“We are proud to transfer our satellite Urdaneta as Armsat_1 the first satellite of the Armenian strategy. We will accompany the government decisions creating jobs, talent and products”, states Jean-Jacques Dordain, president of the Spanish company.

Furthermore, there are a number of larger countries that still do not have a 2m resolution satellite like ARMSAT_1. This



is only the beginning of a long-term perspective, called the Armenian New Space Strategy, that will develop the industry national capacities and the young engineers’ talent, replicating the model proposed by SATLANTIS. In an incredibly fast process of 8 months, Armenia is flying a satellite thanks to this agreement. This strategic perspective is deeply understood by the parties, so that the yearly growth of all KPIs will construct a harmonic development of the Armenian ecosystem as well as

the number of young engineers devoted to the space task.

After the successful launch, the first Armenian Satellite, ARMSAT_1 is in good health and ready to accomplish the public service by delivering actionable data for at least the next 4 years. At 12.31 CEST time on Thursday May, 26th ARMSAT_1 has made its first communication with Earth and it has shown the nominal status of its subsystems, according to a report submitted by SATLANTIS, the Spanish partner of this mission.

The details and first results of this space project will be presented to the public in the Starmus Festival, a science conference where nine Nobel Prizes will be in Yerevan sharing the most advanced scientific view for the next years. The flight of Armsat_1 will present Armenia as an advanced country in front of the citizens, scientists and the international community.

Hard Rock Cafe Yerevan to provide its employees with best conditions of international market

Hard Rock Cafe Yerevan will provide its employees with the best conditions of the international market – competitive salary, health insurance and an opportunity for constant growth.

Hard Rock Cafe Yerevan, which will open in Pushkin str. 3/1, will provide its future staffers with broad educational and training opportunities.

The Job Fair of Hard Rock Cafe was held on June 9, during which the list of jobs required for Yerevan, the job requirements and the criteria for the employees were presented.

Hard Rock Cafe Yerevan Director Bob Khalil told reporters that the preference will be given to Armenians as they better know the desires and demands of the local clients.

“Hard Rock Cafe is not just a restaurant or a café, it’s an entire experience, an environment involving the highest level of standards and service”, Bob Khalil said, adding that Hard Rock Cafe will bring also a new high quality and a perfect service culture.



Dom Arena director Arsen Hovhannisyanyan added that many people have applied for the job.

“It’s already over two weeks we have started collecting CVs. Interviews will soon launch in two stages, and then the participants will be selected. Next week specialists will arrive to hold training. The best 60 will be selected and will work in our field”, he said.

Hovhannisyanyan said that when they were discussing with ANIF (Armenian National Interests Fund) bringing the project to Armenia, it was noted that the company will not only bring a restaurant, but also knowledge, experience, corporate governance

culture, which, unfortunately, is lacking in the sector.

Asked whether the state’s participation to the project is not worrying given that every business wants to be independent, Arsen Hovhannisyanyan said that the cooperation is built in a way that the business is quite free in making decisions. “Of course, there is accountability, well-built relations, but the relations here are within the corporate governance”, he said.

Food Republic and Hard Rock International signed a contract on opening Hard Rock Cafe in Yerevan. ANIF participates in the program within the framework of the Anti-Crisis fund programs of the ANIF subsidiary company established to mitigate the economic consequences of COVID 19. ANIF has 48% participation in the project.

The opening of Hard Rock Cafe in Yerevan is expected in the second quarter of 2022.

The first Hard Rock Cafe opened in downtown London in 1971.

Today the brand is present in more than 68 countries.



The Armenian Diocese of Germany strongly condemns the run over of pedestrians by a 29-year-old man in Berlin on the morning of June 9, killing one and injuring several citizens, including school-age children, the Armenian Diocese of Germany said in a statement.

“According to media reports, the au-

The Armenian Diocese of Germany condemns the mass run over of pedestrians in Berlin

thor of this inhuman, hateful act, most likely, but not yet completely confirmed, is an Armenian citizen of Germany, named Gor H.. Again, according to media reports, the perpetrator had mental problems, most likely acting in a state of mental disorder. We hope that the police and other relevant bodies will find out all the details of this unfortunate incident,” orer.eu quoted the Diocese as saying.

The Armenian Diocese of Germany informed that according to their data, the person who committed the act is someone unknown to the community. “We do not

know anyone who knows him at this time. However, whatever the motives of the act, whoever committed it, the Armenian Diocese of Germany strongly condemns this inhuman act and expresses its solidarity with all the victims. We reject any act of this nature, regardless of the nationality or national-religious affiliation of the perpetrator.

We pray for the peace of soul of the victim of the crime, as well as for the speedy recovery and health of all the wounded,” the Diocese said in its statement.

Government to provide assistance to families building house in border settlements

The government approved today the 2022-2024 state support program for providing housing access to families in border settlements.

“This is a project of boosting the process of improving the housing conditions of families in border settlements. By easing the credit burden, we give the families with the opportunity to settle in a private house built by them in their preferred border rural settlement. This project is one of the important components for the proportionate development of rural communities”, Min-

ister of Labor and Social Affairs Narek Mkrtchyan said at the Cabinet meeting today.

He said that the state assistance for this project is provided to a beneficiary who received a mortgage loan by banks or credit companies. The state assistance is directed to repaying the monthly principal amount and interest rates of the mortgage loan. “The state support provided to the beneficiary for servicing the mortgage loan in ten years will comprise around 20 million 600 thousand drams”, the minister said.



The minister said that the program beneficiaries are spouses registered in the population registrar of Armenia, at least one of whom must be a citizen of Armenia. There is no age limitation and a requirement for having a child. Newly-created families are the main target of this project.

COAF’s smart center offering informal education expected to be built in Armenia’s Kapan town

It is expected to build a smart center in Armenia’s Kapan town, which will offer an informal education, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan said at the joint session of parliamentary standing committees.

Talking about the Kapan program, the deputy minister said that the government examined the number of beneficiary children in 31 rural settlements, the distance of the settlements, their location and the condition of buildings. “And as a result of these studies, it has been planned to organize education in 13 educational facilities, which will be a place for implementation of pre-school, school and additional educa-



tional programs”, she said.

Zhanna Andreasyan said there is a chance to increase the component of informal education. “Within the framework of the EU programs, the possibility of building a smart center by COAF, the Children

of Armenia Fund, in Kapan enlarged community is also being discussed”, she said.

A similar center is operating in Debed community in Lori province, which the deputy minister calls a very good environment of informal education. It offers different course to around 2000 children from 27 communities. “We will have a similar center in Kapan enlarged community. And our formal education program, by joining this atmosphere of informal education, will form an entire ecosystem and will enable to have a high-quality education”, the deputy minister said, adding that this is one of the programs that is being discussed with the EU’s support.

Oscar winning director Terry George to head the jury of Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival



Irish screenwriter, director Terry George will head the International Feature Film competition jury of the Golden Apricot 19th Yerevan International Film Festival. He was nominated for two Oscars: Best

Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium (1993; *In the Name of the Father*), and Best Writing, Original Screenplay (2004; *Hotel Rwanda*). In 2012, he received an Academy Award in the live action short film category for *The Shore*.

Famous works include *The Boxer*, *Some Mother's Son*, and *In the Name of the Father*, *Hotel Rwanda*, other movies.

Terry George's films featured world movie stars such as Helen Mirren, Daniel Day-Lewis, Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell,

Joaquin Phoenix and others.

In 2016, George directed the film *Promise* about the Armenian Genocide, starring Oscar Isaac, Charlotte Le Bon, James Cromwell, Christian Bale, Angela Sarafyan and others.

The 19th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival will take place on July 10-17. The International Film Festival will present films from different countries in the competition sections, as well as films from the most prestigious film festivals.

Armenian ice dancer Tina Garabedian retiring from competitive skating

Armenian ice dancer Tina Garabedian has announced her retirement from figure skating.

"After 20 years of dedicating my life to the sport that I love deeply, I am happy to announce my retirement from competitive skating. I have always felt so beautiful and free when skating, as if the ice is where I belong. It has been my home, where I have spent every morning for as long as I can remember," Tina said in an Instagram post.

"What I have understood is that skating has given me so many opportunities and experiences I could not get elsewhere. I have met so many amazing athletes, built connections with my coaches, have travelled the world doing what I love, gained



the support of wonderful fans, have the honor to represent Armenia internationally and earned the right to call myself an Olympian," Garabedian said.

"This sport has completed my life in so many wonderful ways, I am forever grateful. I have given my all, dedicated all my energy to succeed and it was all worth it. I am so proud of myself for putting in blood,

sweat and tears to finally achieve my goals and make my dream come true. Undeniably I am so grateful to be an Olympian, but the journey to get there has assured me of how strong I really am, both physically and mentally. For that reason, I feel at peace with my decision and wish my teammates at IAM continuous success as their journey goes on," she added.

Tina Garabedian represented Armenia at 2022 Winter Olympics with partner Simon Proulx-Sénécal.

In a lengthy post, Tina Garabedian thanked Simon Proulx-Sénécal, the Armenian Figure Skating Federation, all friends, family and fans.

Forget France, Armenia is the center of winemaking. Euronews's coverage of Armenian winemaking

"Forget France: Armenia is the hub of winemaking!" The leading international media network "Euronews" headlined its reflection, declaring the Armenian plateau the ancient homeland of winemaking.

"Euronews" tells about the 8000-year-old traditions of Armenian viticulture and 6000-year-old winemaking culture, adding that one should not miss one of the oldest winemaking regions, Armenia when thinking about wine. The media emphasizes the fact that the unique exhibits kept in the Wine History Museum recently opened in Armenia open the way for visitors to the past and modern solutions of Armenian



winemaking, showing the deep connection of the region, religion, culture, and medicine with Armenian wine.

"The museum is located only 30 km

away from Yerevan, in Armenia Wine Winery, it is located in 8 meters deep basalt rocks : when you go through an underground tunnel, you feel like you are entering a huge wine cellar."- says "Euronews" adding; "The historical-archeological-ethnographic samples in the museum show how the wine accompanied the Armenians from the cradle to the burial rites." Taking advantage of the museum's tendency to popularize the culture of ancient winemaking, "Euronews" points out the existence of a bibliography, which proves that Armenia is truly the cradle of winemaking.

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Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.

- Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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