

Georgian FM visits Armenia



Armenia - Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and his Georgian counterpart Mikheil Janelidze at a news conference in Yerevan, 25Mar2016.

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Armenian President, Georgian FM discuss bilateral, regional issues

President Serzh Sargsyan received on March 25 Georgian Foreign Minister Mikheil Janelidze. President Sargsyan hailed the intensified high-level contacts and political dialogue between the two countries based on traditional good-neighborly relations and friendship between the two nations.

The parties agreed that despite being part of different integration processes, Armenia and Georgia have a huge potential to exchange experience and implement joint programs.

The Georgian Foreign Minister said, in turn, there are good perspectives for developing the bilateral economic cooperation parallel to the political relations.

Serzh Sargsyan and Mikheil Janelidze attached importance to the balanced policy of the two countries on sensitive issues and the effective Armenian-Georgian cooperation within the framework of international organizations.



During the meeting reference was made to regional security, the existing problems and challenges, the negotiations on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

Armenia's Foreign Minister Hosts Newly Appointed Head of the OSCE Office



On March 24, Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian received Ambassador Argo Avakov, the newly appointed Head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office in Yerevan, on handing over letter of credentials.

Congratulating Ambassador Avakov on the appointment, Minister Nalbandian wished success in the implementation of his

mission, and stressed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would continue to provide full support to the activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Expressing gratitude for good wishes, the newly appointed Head of the OSCE Office assured that he would spare no effort in the maintenance and facilitation of the efficiency of the current projects implemented in Armenia, strengthening of cooperation established with the authorities of Armenia and with the civil society. The sides commended that the OSCE-Armenia relations always were notable for their multi-dimensionality and include active involvement of the Republic of Armenia in the activities of the OSCE in all three directions. Edward Nalbandian highlighted the activity of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, mentioning that the Office is the only OSCE representation in the region that works in full capacity.

Edward Nalbandian and Argo Avakov discussed reforms process in Armenia, projects, realized with the OSCE support.

Azerbaijani leadership has lost its sense of reality, Armenian FM says

The leadership of Azerbaijan names the Co-Chair states provocateurs only because they propose to create a mechanism for investigation of incidents," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said at a meeting with the faculty and students of the Artsakh State University.

"In fact, that criticism is directed not only against the Co-Chairs, but at least against the past and present participating states that presided over the OSCE, the United Nations, European Union, and in general all the states and institutions that have supported and support that proposal," he said.

"The Azerbaijani leadership does not refrain from accepting, that it is behind the cease fire violations and escalation of the situation. It is even boasting of that fact. Leaving aside whether Baku genuinely thinks there is something worth

boasting of, or it is just a propaganda trick for the internal consumption, it should be once again stated that the Azerbaijani leadership has lost its sense of reality," Minister Nalbandian said.

"This refers not only to the Nagorno Karabakh issue. They state, that Azerbaijan is no less than the most economically stable, the most democratic, the most tolerant state and the most secure place in the world in terms of the protection of human rights, that they may set an example for other states, while different international organizations, international HR institutions state the opposite. A kingdom of crooked mirrors is created in that country, the leaders of which, looking in those mirrors, admire themselves and call upon others to live in such a kingdom of crooked mirrors," Edward Nalbandian stated.

14 Detained during Yerevan protest



Fourteen opposition activists were detained in Yerevan on March 24 as they scuffled with riot police while demanding the immediate release of a fellow member of an Armenian opposition grouping arrested in January.

The New Armenia Public Salvation Front has staged a series of street protests in recent days against Gevorg Safaryan's pre-trial detention condemned as politi-

cally motivated by human rights organizations.

More than a dozen women affiliated with the radical opposition movement picketed the main entrance to the Armenian police headquarters on Wednesday. Safaryan stands accused of assaulting a police officer on New Year's night.

The police used force against a simi-

lar number of New Armenia protesters on Thursday after they chained themselves to the ground on the city's central Mashtots Avenue. One of the protesters, Ruzanna Yeghukyan, was injured in the head and hospitalized as a result.

Her husband and a senior New Armenia figure, Garo Yeghukyan, was among the protesters detained on the spot. He was quickly released from police custody in order to visit his wife treated at Yerevan's Surp Grigor Lusavorich hospital.

Yeghukyan said there that he believes she was kicked in the head by a policeman. But Valeri Osipyan, a deputy chief of Yerevan's police department, denied that.

"They nailed the chains tied around them to the ground," Osipyan told reporters. "When the police officers moved to unblock the street participants of the protest jostled each other and got injuries."

New Armenia condemned the "illegal" police in a statement released later in the day.

Georgian FM visits Armenia

Armenia's membership in a Russian-led trade bloc and Georgia's Association Agreement with the European Union can be used for deepening relations between the two neighboring states, Georgian Foreign Minister Mikheil Janelidze said during a visit to Yerevan on March 25.

Janelidze and President Serzh Sargsyan were reported to agree that Armenia and Georgia have a "great potential for developing bilateral cooperation also within the framework of those different integration processes."

"The two sides believe that this will elevate Armenian-Georgian relations to a qualitatively new level," Sargsyan's office said in a statement on the talks held by the two men.

Janelidze also discussed the matter at a separate meeting with his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian earlier in the day. "We have talked about how we could use those integration processes to the benefit of our cooperation and joint projects," he told a joint news conference with Nalbandian.

"There are no problems between

Armenia and Georgia," Nalbandian said for his part. "There are issues that are being solved with joint efforts."

The Armenian minister added that they touched, among other things, on possible joint projects on transport infrastructure, trade and energy. But he gave no details.

There was no word on ongoing negotiations between Armenia, Georgia, Russia and Iran on the possibility boosting power supplies among their countries. Top energy officials from the four states are due to hold further talks on the issue in Tbilisi next month.

Armenia and Georgia are due to construct by 2018 a new electricity transmission line that will make their power grids more interconnected. The \$115 million project, is financed by Germany's state-run

development bank KfW and the European Union.

Armenia is also building a similar line that will connect it to Iran.

Membership in the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) requires the Armenian government to adopt significantly higher duties for goods imported from outside the bloc. Many expected that this would lead to the abolition of Georgian-Armenian free trade arrangements, especially given Georgia's entry into a "deep and comprehensive free trade area" with the European Union.

However, Armenian officials said in late 2014 that Armenia has succeeded in convincing the other EEU member states to let it maintain the tariff-free regime with Georgia.

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Armenian-Azeri fighting again intensifies

Three Azerbaijani soldiers have reportedly been killed in action after the Armenian military accused Baku of again intensifying ceasefire violations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone late last week.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said on March 27 that two of those soldiers, one of them a lieutenant, died on Sunday when Armenian troops "attempted to invade" the Gazakh district in western Azerbaijan bordering Armenia's northern Tavush province.

The combat deaths were announced two days after an Armenian soldier serving in the area was wounded and hospitalized as a result. Another Armenian, a 64-year-old civilian resident of Berkaber village close to the Azerbaijani border, was wounded by cross-border gunfire late on Friday. He too required hospitalization.

The third Azerbaijani casualty, an army sergeant, was reportedly shot dead on Friday. The Azerbaijani military did not specify whether he died on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border or "the line of contact" around Karabakh.

According to Karabakh's Armenian-backed Defense Army, fighting along "the line of contact" intensified on Friday night and Saturday morning, with Azerbaijani forces firing more than 100 mortar shells and rockets. The reported rocket fire left a Karabakh Armenian farmer injured in the head.

The Defense Army said its frontline troops responded to the truce violations with "punitive actions." A separate statement by the Defense Ministry in Yerevan released on Saturday said the Armenian military is conducting operations aimed at "restraining the Azerbaijani side" and "stabilizing the situation." It did not elaborate.

The ministry spokesman, Artsrun Hovannisyan, said on March 28 that the situation at the Tavush-Gazakh section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani frontier was tense over the weekend. "The Armenian army's actions were proportionate," he told the



Armenpress news agency. "We responded to all targeted [Azerbaijani] gunshots."

The latest escalation came just days after Andrzej Kasprzyk, the top OSCE official monitoring the ceasefire regime in the conflict zone, called on the warring sides to avoid any truce violations during the Nowruz and Easter holidays celebrated in Azerbaijan and Armenia and Karabakh respectively. Each side now accuses the other of ignoring the appeal.

Announcing its latest casualties on Monday, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry urged the international community to condemn the "Armenian provocations." An Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman, for his part, claimed that the Armenians are heightening tensions in order to cement the Karabakh status quo.

Unlike the Armenian side, Baku has repeatedly rejected specific safeguards against ceasefire violations that are sought by U.S., Russian and French mediators. As recently as on March 19, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev denounced the proposed confidence-building measures, saying that the mediators are "helping to freeze the conflict" and thereby supporting Armenia.

Lasting solution to the Karabakh conflict a priority: James Warlick



"The lasting solution to the Karabakh conflict is a priority for us," US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group James Warlick said

in an interview with the Voice of America.

"The attempts to violate the ceasefire are a cause of great concern for us, the clashes reported in January last year were unprecedented since the conclusion of the ceasefire agreement. The most worrisome are the losses suffered by the peaceful population, we condemn the use of heavy weapons," Warlick said.

Ambassador Warlick spoke about the Royce-Sherman letter circulated in the US Congress. The letter co-signed by a number of Congressmen outlines a program of maintaining peace in Karabakh. Among the proposals is the installation of equipment at the frontline that would control the direction of firing, as well as the deployment of OSCE observers at the line of contact for better oversight of the ceasefire.

Mr. Warlick noted that "although the letter has not been finally confirmed, the Minsk Group Co-Chairs support this process targeted at the maintenance of peace.

"Our purpose is to work with the parties to reach a common ground," Ambassador Warlick noted.

Top Armenian Investigator Meets FBI Chief



The heads of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and Armenia's Investigative Committee reportedly agreed to step up cooperation between their law-enforcement agencies during talks held in Washington on March 21.

Aghvan Hovsepyan, the committee chairman, met with the FBI director, James Comey, and toured some FBI facilities during a visit to the United States. A statement by Hovsepyan's press office released on Tuesday said the two men discussed a "broad range of issues" and stressed the importance of joint efforts to combat "transnational crime."

"The interlocutors expressed hope that their meeting will serve as a warning to criminals to the effect that investigative bodies of the two countries stand ready to closely cooperate and that they

cannot hide in the United States or Armenia in order to avoid prosecution," it said.

"During the meeting the two sides reached a number of understandings on providing mutual legal assistance and deepening cooperation," added the statement.

Hovsepyan was reported to thank Comey for such assistance which the FBI has already provided to Armenian law-enforcement authorities. It has helped them "solve a number of crimes, including a case involving the embezzlement of hundreds of thousands of dollars in public funds" in Armenia. Hovsepyan's press office did not elaborate.

The FBI, for its part, is known to have contacted Armenian law-enforcement bodies during its past inquiries into grave crimes allegedly committed by U.S. citizens of Armenian descent and Armenian nationals living in the United States.

In particular, FBI officers visited Yerevan and met Hovsepyan in 2010 in connection with a large-scale medical insurance scam operated by an Armenian-American syndicate. Hovsepyan was Armenia's prosecutor-general at the time.

While in Washington, Hovsepyan, whose current agency conducts most criminal investigations in Armenia, also met with officials from an FBI anti-corruption division and visited the FBI's forensic Laboratory and training Academy. According to the Investigative Committee statement, it was agreed that the FBI will train Armenian law-enforcement officers and, if necessary, assist in their forensic tests.

Armenian watchdog again highlights procurement fraud



Armenia's leading anti-graft watchdog on March 23 voiced fresh concerns about the integrity of state procurements in the country, saying that they remain rife with serious "corruption risks."

"It's clear that there is a waste [of public funds.] There are no doubts about that," said Varuzhan Hochtanyan, the director of the Anti-Corruption Center (ACC), the Armenian affiliate of the Berlin-based group Transparency International.

Hochtanyan said the ACC has closely examined state procurements administered in 2015 and found that various Armenian government agencies purchased many goods and services at artificially high prices. "The market-based prices are much lower," he told a news conference.

Artak Manukyan, an ACC expert, cited several examples of procurement fraud suspected by the watchdog. In particular, he said, the government purchased alcohol detectors for traffic police for 1 million drams (over \$2,000) apiece. Similar devices sold in Russia cost from \$60 to \$80, he said.

"I don't know the precise technical parameters of these devices. Maybe [the ones purchased by the Armenian police] are golden," Manukyan noted with sarcasm.

"There were also 30 other risky transactions of this kind," added the anti-corruption expert.

The ACC conducted a similar study two years ago. It claimed in June 2014 that procurement fraud in Armenia has increased in the last three years despite the government's stated efforts to tackle the problem.

The government pledged to crack down on the illegal practice in 2012.

President Serzh Sargsyan, then Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and other officials alleged serious abuses in government-funded construction, purchases of government-subsidized medication as well as food supplies to state-run kindergartens and orphanages. Several senior government officials were sacked as a result.

According to the ACC, last year the government awarded 70 percent of its procurement contracts to private firms without any competitive tenders. "This practice makes systemic corruption inevitable," said Hochtanyan.

Yerevan sees 'positive' Russian signals on gas price

Russia has sent "positive" signals in response to an Armenian government request to cut the price of its natural gas delivered to Armenia, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said on March 22.

"I have already said that the president of the republic [Serzh Sargsyan] met with the Russian president [in Moscow on March 10] and they discussed this issue," said Abrahamyan. "It is now discussed by the two governments."

"We hope that [the gas price] will definitely be reconsidered because there is a positive approach by the Russian Federation's authorities," he told journalists. "Our aim is to have the price somewhat lowered so that our population and businesses get cheaper gas."

Armenia receives roughly 80 percent of its gas from Russia, currently paying the Gazprom monopoly \$165 per thousand cubic meters. Due to the sharp drop in international oil prices, the market-based Russian gas tariff for European countries has plummeted from an average of \$350 to around \$200 per thousand cubic meters. This means that the Russian discount for Armenia is now far less significant than it was two years ago. Abrahamyan said in January that Yerevan has requested a price cut and is now negotiating with the Russians on the issue. No



Russian-Armenian agreements have been announced yet. President Serzh Sargsyan was accompanied by Armenian Energy and Natural Resources Minister Levon Yolian during his March 10 trip to Moscow. Yolian said afterwards that the two sides will likely work out soon "final solutions and agreements" on the gas tariff.

Export Promotion Tool: Agency offers insurance opportunity to Armenian exporters

To increase export volumes, which recorded a nearly 4-percent decline last year, the government of Armenia offers new tools, particularly pre-export financing insurance.

According to Vazgen Abgaryan, the executive director of the Export Insurance Agency founded in 2013, a study of the producers' market in Armenia showed that some exporters have good buyers and established export contracts, but do not have sufficient working capital to get raw material, to produce products, and to conduct export transactions.

"Our new tool will give commercial banks and universal credit organizations an opportunity to provide exporters with loans without strict bail conditions as a means of replenishment of the latter's circulating assets. If there is an accident, and an exporter fails to export goods or repay the loan, we will compensate 90 percent of the damage suffered by the bank," he said at a conference dedicated to the Armenian Government's financial support of export opportunities.

Within a year in practice, the 100 percent state-owned agency, signed 30 export insurance agreements, worth \$1.2 million, with businesses. The insurance covers foreign buyers' non-payment risks. They may include commercial risks, which are connected directly with the foreign buyer and take a form of general inability of the foreign buyer to fulfill his payment obligations (insolvency/bankruptcy) or refusal to pay without any legal reason. They may also include political risks causing the default of payment by the foreign buyer as a result of events in the foreign buyer's country such as: administrative decisions or legislative measures, restrictions in conversion of currency, war, revolution, civil disturbances, natural calamities, etc.

"There is a demand in the market, but exporters need time to



understand how this system operates," said Abgaryan.

"For example, in 2014 and in early 2015, there were businessmen who were sure that their foreign partners would not have problems of paying them, but life showed that their partners were unable to pay and Armenian exporters had financial problems," he said, adding that until now only manufacturers of alcoholic beverages and canned food, as well as mining companies have insured their exports.

Deputy Minister of Economy Hovhannes Hovhannisyan said that only Armswissbank had applied to the insurance agency for cooperation so far. He said that the insurance company uses a variety of flexible tools, the results of which will be possible to assess in at least 3-5 years.

"These tools will be more effective in the course of time.

And now, in the beginning, of course, it may not be revolutionary for the economy, but for some businesses it is already revolutionary," said Hovhannisyán.

The authorities of Armenia are not limited to one form of promotion of export. Recently, by the invitation of the government, Aimee Larsen, the head of the U.S. Generalized System of

Preferences (GSP) program, has come to Armenia. She was expected to have discussions with Armenian businessmen about possibilities of exporting Armenian products to the US market on preferential terms.

Experts assess positively this visit and the United States' willingness to import Armenian products at preferential terms,

to which the implementation of the export risk insurance by the government may contribute.

In 2015, Armenia exported almost \$63 million-worth goods to the United States. They included aluminum foil, metal jewelry, juices and mineral waters.

By Sara Khojayan

Armenia advised on greater exports to U.S.

A visiting senior U.S. official met with Armenian government representatives and businesspeople in Yerevan on Wednesday to advise them on ways of capitalizing on Armenia's mostly tariff-free access to the U.S. market.

The U.S. deputy chief of mission in Armenia spoke meanwhile, of a "tremendous amount of potential" for increasing U.S.-Armenian trade. "We see no limits actually," said Clark Price. "We are very enthusiastic about the potential."

"We're not just talking about American exports to Armenia. We're supporting Armenian exports to the U.S. truly in a bilateral way," Price told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

Armenia is among 122 countries included in the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, which fully or partly exempts many goods manufactured by them from U.S import duties.

Despite these trade preferences, Armenian exports to the United States have been quite modest to date. Official Armenian statistics for 2015 put them at just \$55 million. U.S. exports to Armenia were worth twice as much last year.

According to Armenia's Economy Ministry, although most of those exports are covered by GSP, many other Armenian manufacturing firms still do



not take advantage of the preferential trade regime with the U.S. Some of their owners and managers attended on Wednesday a seminar on GSP organized by the ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan.

Aimee Larsen, a senior official from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), was on hand to present business opportunities stemming from GSP and legal procedures for qualifying for the trade scheme. She also answered questions from participants of the seminar.

"I'm here today to help increase the awareness of the GSP program that gives

duty-free access to Armenia over 3,500 products," Larsen told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "I'm hoping that ... Armenian exporters will be able to increase their trade with the United States."

"Armenian exporters don't know everything about GSP that they could, and the reason why Aimee is here is to explain that to them so that they can take advantage of it," Price said for his part.

"It's very important to put this in the context of U.S.-Armenian relations," added the diplomat. "We had a [bilateral] Trade and Investment Council meeting last year for the first time. One of the things that the Armenian government asked us was help with GSP. So we are delivering on our promise."

The council was set up in line with the U.S.-Armenian Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) that was signed in Washington in May 2015. It is tasked with addressing obstacles to bilateral commercial ties.

The signing of the TIFA -- at a ceremony attended by President Serzh Sargsyan-- underlined Armenia's desire to continue deepening its relations with the U.S. and the European Union even after its recent accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).





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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674-**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str./Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor, 116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str.**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar. Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price:

130.000 USD

•2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

•2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.

•2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable

•2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable

•2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable

•2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m., window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD

•2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m., without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable

•1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.

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

•2175.**Tumanyan str.** Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

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

LANDS

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

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

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

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

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

•2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtyan block, 1000 sq.m.,

electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m

•2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.

•2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable

•2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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

•3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

•3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

•3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

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

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

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

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

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

•3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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

•74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.

•107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking -4 million USD preliminary.

•87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.

•93.**Kievyan str.** Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnisred, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area**. Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2358 **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capially renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor,

- 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking. Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.



- itally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1335 **Baghranyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

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

Monthly News From the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia

Youth Orchestra was granted with the «Haykyan» award

On February 24 during the «Haykyan» ceremony organized by the Youth Foundation, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia was awarded a special prize for its contribution in the promotion of classical music among youngsters as well as in honor of the 10th anniversary of the orchestra. The Prize was awarded to the SYOA Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** by the President of Armenia **Serzh Sargsyan**. Note that the ceremony was attended by the prominent composer Tigran Mansuryan who addressed the Youth Orchestra and expressed his happiness for having such young musicians behind him. The evening at the A. Spendiaryan National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet was accompanied by the music of the Youth Orchestra and with a storm of applause.



Sergey Smbatyan granted the "Armenia" award

The annual ceremony of handing "Armenia" National Award was held on the 27th of February in the Kremlin Concert Hall. Sergey Smbatyan was also granted the award for the organization of a large-scale concert program on the 24th of April, 2015 dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with the participation of musicians from 43 countries (24/04 orchestra). The Prize was handed to Sergey Smbatyan by one of the soloists of that very concert program cellist **Narek Hakhnazaryan**.

The ceremony awarded all those people and organizations who have made the most significant contribution in organization of the activities dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide around the world. **Valérie Boyer**, a deputy of the National Assembly of France known by its support to the legal criminalization of the Armenian Genocide denial, **Arthur Janibekyan**, the Founder and Chief Producer of Comedy Club Production, Head of the entertainment channel sub-holding "Gasprom – Media Holding", **Vladimir Zhirinovskiy**, deputy of State Duma of Russian Federation, advocate **Amal Clooney**, **Harut Sasunyan**, Chief Editor of «The California Courier» as well as the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia, a great friend of Armenia **Vladimir Spivakov** and others.

The 10th anniversary awarding of the "Armenia" was held under the slogan "Thank You".

It's the third year that the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia performs as the official orchestra of the "Al Bustan" festival

On 13 March the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia has started its performances in the framework of the "Al Bustan" festival held in Beirut, Lebanon. The SYOA was the official orchestra of this

famous international festival for the third year in a row. On March 13 the Orchestra presented 2 concerts within the program Cartoon Non-Stop under the direction of Sergey Smbatyan. There were well-known and beloved pieces from different cartoons accompanied with their scenes on the screen. During the Festival the Orchestra performed four concerts under the direction of its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan and Italian conductor **Gianluca Marciano** who was the artistic director of the "Al Bustan" Fest as well. Along with the Armenian team cellist **Edgar Moreau**, violinist **Leticia Moreno**, pianist **Gloria Campaner**, soprano **Anna Kasyan** have had performances. Pieces by Bellini, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Elgar, Prokofiev and many other composers were played. The "Al Bustan" Fest was founded in 1994. It is a member of the European Festivals Association. So far, more than 4000 art experts attended and participated in the musical festival. "Al Bustan" is a multi-genre festival and annually presents a rich musical program with concerts for orchestras and choirs, including dance performances. The festival also includes the organization of workshops and seminars.



The Armenian music is warmly welcomed at "Al Bustan" festival

The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia always gives a huge importance to performing of the Armenian composers' pieces during all of its foreign tours. The opening ceremony of "Al Bustan" international festival held on March 15 in Beirut was marked by the lyrical poem of **Dohn Ter-Tadevosyan**. The audience accepted it with great warmth. The evening was accompanied by the talented





cellist Edgar Moreau and the Youth Orchestra performing the Concerto for Cello and Orchestra by Sergey Prokofiev. During the second part of the concert Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures from the Exhibition" (orchestration by Maurice Ravel) was performed conducted by Sergey Smbatyan. The audience wouldn't let the musicians of the Youth Orchestra and its conductor leave the stage demanding "Encore!". The Orchestra played "Sabre Dance", the legendary masterpiece from the "Gayane" ballet by Aram Khachaturian. It is worth mentioning that this is the third time for the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia to take part in the "Al Bustan" festival as its official orchestra. The participation of the youth orchestra is supported by the Ministry of Culture of RA. The General Partner of the Youth Orchestra is VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading telecom operator company.

The State Youth Orchestra performed the pieces of Berlioz, Wieniawski and Elgar at the "Al Bustan"

On 17 March the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia performed at "Al Bustan" international festival held in Emil Bustani Concert Hall in Beirut. The first part of the concert included the overture "King Lear" composed by Hector Berlioz and the Violin Concerto N2 by Henrik Wieniawski. The "Falstaff" symphonic piece by Elgar was perfectly performed by the SYOA under the conducting of Gianluca Marciano.

The SYOA and opera diva Anna Kasyan performed at the gala-concert of the "Al Bustan" Fest

The SYOA performed at "Al Bustan" festival on March 19 and 20. On March 19 the Youth Orchestra presented the concert program titled as "Only Beethoven". Gianluca Marciano, the Artistic Director of



the Festival, was the conductor of the concerts, and accompanying artist of the concert was pianist Gloria Campaner. As the title of the concert stated, Beethoven and his masterpieces played the leading role during the event.

On March 20 the Orchestra took part in the gala-concert of the "Al Bustan" festival.



The soloist of the concert was the winner of numerous musical competitions, soprano and opera diva *Anna Kasyan*. Her residence is in France and she is considered as one of the most promising artists of the time. The soloist has performed in such concert halls as Carnegie Hall, Geneva Opera Theatre, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall, Paris Sale Corto and actively cooperates with famous orchestras and conductors. The playlist of the concert included the pieces composed by Vincenzo Bellini, Charles François Gounod, Giuseppe Verdi, Pyotr Chaikovsky, Erich Wolfgang Korngold.

Alexander Haroutyunian Woodwind-piano quartet had a concert in Beirut

Alexander Haroutyunian Woodwind-piano quartet, an ensemble of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, had a concert on March 12 in the "G. and H. Armenian" Concert Hall of the Armenian Cultural Centre "Levon Shant". The members of the quartet are *Lilit Zakaryan* (piano), *Gevorg Avetisyan* (flute), *Davit Gyulamiryan* (clarinet) and *Nikolay Poghosyan* (bassoon). Among their music fans was the head of the International Festival "Al Bustan" who also attended the concert. The quartet presented the musical pieces of Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Khachaturian, Haroutyunian and

many others. The audience highly appreciated the performances of this unique ensemble and saluted its musicians with standing ovation. As for the history of the ensemble, Alexander Haroutyunian Woodwind-piano quartet was formed in remembrance of the 95th anniversary of the outstanding composer Alexander Haroutyunian. The main purpose of the ensemble is to strengthen the ties between generations as well as to contribute in the preservation and recognition of the Armenian musical heritage. The debut of the quartet was on October 28, 2015.

Easter Message of His Holiness Karekin II

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
KAREKIN II
SUPREME PATRIARCH AND
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE GLO-
RIOUS RESURRECTION
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
*Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, March
27, 2016***

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

O Christ, you rose from the dead,
Destroying the hell today.

And through Your Resurrection
You granted life to Your creatures

(Hymn)

Our Beloved Faithful in Armenia, Artsakh and in the Diaspora,

Today, on this joyous feast of Holy Easter, with the words of the hymnist we praise our Lord and Savior, who is risen from the dead, destroyed hell, and with His resurrection gave life to His creatures.

Christ's resurrection shined onto the darkness of death the light of eternity, bestowing on mankind the blessedness of the heavenly kingdom, and the grace of a resurrected life on this earth and in the life to come. With Christ's resurrection, a new creation, a new mankind, which is emancipated from sin and the curse of death, lives in the grace of God and is made worthy of eternal life. In accordance with the words of the apostle, "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17). For the only begotten Son of God, our Lord and Savior, "who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." (2 Timothy 1:10). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the gospel of resurrection, the gospel of eternity, the gospel of life; through which comes to us the understanding of God's boundless love, the Lord's voice, that gives life to souls; and the truth of the resurrection of Christ.

Today, in front of the mystery of the Lord's miraculous resurrection, the question naturally arises - to what extent are we living the life that Christ has renewed for us, to what extent are we following the Savior's words and commandments? What do we cherish in our lives? The gospel of resurrection, or wandering teachings and deceitful ideologies? Following the will of the Lord, or sinful, life-destroying paths? Accumulating treasures in heaven, or greedily aspiring for worldly gains? Spiritual freedom, or shameless unrestrained living? True righteousness and honesty or the "justice" Pilate sought? Do we choose Jesus, or Barabas, the bandit?

Alongside the unprecedented progress in science and education, we also witness in our days the destruction of traditional values, humanity's moral decay and evidence of bankrupt spirituality. Yet, in the state of life's modern conveniences, fast

pace, and opportunities; people, even family members, are estranged from one another. In the midst of plentiful goodness, neither need, nor hardship is eliminated, but rather society becomes progressively polarized. While life has become easier through the advances of technology it has also facilitated new means of warfare and terrorism, which continuously shake the world, becoming a common threat against humanity.

In light of these realities, and at all times, it is imperative that we all realize and speak out about divine justice and atonement on this earth and in the life to come, which is imminent for every individual and nation. Indeed, Christ-given resurrection is not merely a gift, but also subject to judgment, as is written in the Gospels, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29). The journey of resurrection and life is the rejection of everything that makes us slaves to sin, for: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23). It is with this understanding that the Apostle emphasizes putting on the heavenly, "that mortality might be swallowed up of life" (2 Corinthians 5:4-5).

The life that swallows death, is a life of spiritual fullness, longing, and an effort to live in God; in mind, heart and the entire strength of soul; and, in accordance with the commandments of the Gospel which injects the strength of the resurrected life into the individuals and people who have put their trust in Christ.

The world filled with anxiety and turbulence as well as our own reality, which is likewise filled with worrisome difficulties and problems, can be transformed by a life of spiritual fullness granted by Christ, conquering mankind's pains and tragedies, and establishing the foundation of security and happiness everywhere. Christ's resurrection is an ever-resounding invitation for the world to rise from sin towards grace; so that all that spreads death and distraction may be swallowed by the life, led and lived by God. Christ's resurrection is the foundation and the reinforcement of faith, which enlightens the hearts of humanity, grants consolation and hope to those mired in hardship, imparts strength and power to rise from the sufferings of "golgothas", bestows courage and a brave spirit in just struggles, inspires dedication, and gives joy and elation to live and create.

This spirit and path are natural and characteristic for our people, our life, and history, and illuminate our present and future. Rising, facing difficulties undaunted, building a new life - our people testified to these through the re-establishment of our

independent state, which will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. In our efforts of strengthening our homeland, building and empowering our national life, as well as confronting the challenges before us today, dear beloved, we have the faith and light of Christ's resurrection leading us. Hereupon, let us fill our lives with the love of our Lord, mutual support, and with the good news of God-pleasing labor.

Through the mystery of Easter, our souls shine with the grace of the resurrection that Christ has bestowed upon us, which is sealed on our lives when we live with faith and Christian values, for our dear ones, our people, our homeland, and our Holy Church.

In this Cathedral of the descent of the only-begotten Son, we pray and wish that every child of our nation accept with renewed faith the good news of the resurrection of Christ, and we as a nation with love towards Christ our Lord, may always proceed through our just and worthy deeds in the path of progress, having on our lips the everlasting praise:

O Christ, you rose from the dead,
Destroying the hell today.

And through Your Resurrection
You granted life to Your creatures.

(Hymn)

With the joy of the Holy Resurrection of Christ in Our heart, we greet the incumbents of the hierarchical sees of our Apostolic Holy Church; His Holiness, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia; the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Nurhan Manooagian; Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Archbishop Mesrop Mutafian; and to all the oath-bound clergy of our Church. We convey our greetings in the love of Christ to the heads of our Sister Churches, beseeching the Lord for His abundant grace to be poured from heaven upon their God-protected flocks.

With the good news of the resurrection we greet and bring our best wishes to the President of Armenia, His Excellency Serzh Sargsyan. We extend our greetings to President Bako Sahakyan of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh; Armenia's state officials, and the representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Armenia. We bring our love and blessings to all our people, in Armenia and in the Diaspora.

On this day of Easter, filled with hope and grace, it is our plea that the graces of the risen Christ be widely spread all over the world and in our homeland, that peace reign everywhere, and humanity, raised out of the caverns of tragedies and sorrows and hardships, build its life with hope and faith, full of love, brotherhood and solidarity.

May the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the mercy of God remain with us and all, today and forever. Amen.

**Christ is Risen from the dead.
Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ.**

Robert Fisk: It's time for the US to recognize the Armenian Genocide

By Robert Fisk
The Independent

All week, the G-word has been rattling around the foreign ministries of the world. Ever since John Kerry - he of Israeli-Palestinian peace "in six months" fame - announced that Isis was committing genocide against Yazidis, Christians and Shia Muslims, we've been trying to work out just what he's talking about. Even the poor old Canadians and their super-liberal prime minister Justin Trudeau, have since been refusing to recognise the Isis atrocities as "genocide" - the attempt to exterminate an entire race of people - preferring instead to talk about "crimes perpetrated...against religious and ethnic minorities." Could this be, ask Canadian critics, because Canada last month withdrew the last of its clapped out CF-18 fighter jets from the battle against Isis?

More likely the Canadians have caught on to the whole genocide trap. But first: yes, Isis have indeed committed horrific crimes against minorities under their control. Their massacre of Shia Muslims and the murder and enslavement of Yazidi and Christian women and children are all real - perhaps 10,000, perhaps 100,000, the figures are as numbing as they are vague. The Isis magazine Dabiq admits all this - perhaps the closest anyone has come to self-incrimination since Pol Pot listed his crimes in Cambodia.

But there's a problem. These terrible atrocities are being committed on the very land and deserts upon which a far more terrible genocide was perpetrated just over a hundred years ago by the Turks who head-chopped and knifed and shot to death a million and a half Armenian Christians, raping their women and throwing so many of their dead men into the waters of Anatolia that the very rivers changed course. And Turkey - heaven be praised - is now our good friend, Nato ally and, since this month, our bastion against the Muslim refugee "invasion" of Europe. Back in 1915, the Brits and Americans had no problems in naming the guilty party, along with the Turks' militia ally - again, take in your breath - the Kurds, now our brave allies against the forces of Isis darkness.

All this, you see, is a bit embarrass-

ing. The Yazidis and Christians of Iraq have certainly been massacred - including a few Armenian grandchildren of the 1915 survivors, although that hasn't cut much ice in the US - although the Shia Muslims of Iraq were being slaughtered in Iraq by the thousand during the latter half of America's military occupation. The Shia, I suspect, have been given a bloodbath upgrade to genocide because Shia Iran agreed to a nuclear deal with the rest of the world. But back to Yazidis for a moment.

One of the worst genocides against this forlorn, centuries-old religion occurred in 1892 when the Turkish Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II targeted them for mass extermination. But the Sultan included among his victims tens of thousands of 19th century Armenians - whom Mr Kerry cannot bring himself to declare victims of genocide in the 20th century (although he did so for many years when he was a mere Senator). So earlier references to Yazidi extermination have to be left out of the Kerry narrative of history. The current Kerry mantra for the Armenian genocide is "one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century".

La Clinton is going to be no help in all this. She regularly condemned the Armenian genocide until she became Secretary of State to Barack Obama and discovered that the frightful persecution of the 1915 Christians - a teaching forum for future Nazis who witnessed the genocide as young German army officers and later put their lessons into practice against the Jews - was now "a matter of historical debate". Donald Trump has not yet entered this particular blood-boltered 'debate' although his Trump hotel in Azerbaijan - a country which, like Turkey and (to its shame) Israel, denies the Armenian genocide - suggests that we shall be hearing from him soon.

Much of the rest of the world - governments and parliaments of 29 countries up to last year - have recognised the Armenian genocide. For 20 years, The Independent has regularly referred to the Armenian Holocaust - with a capital 'H', the very same word ('Shoah' in Hebrew) used by many ordinary Israelis to describe the slaughter. But not the Americans.

Last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose Sukhoi jet had of course not yet been shot down by the Turks, attended the official genocide memorial day in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, declaring the genocide a fact of history - to the fury of the Turks - while President Obama skulked in Washington, still too fearful of offending his Nato ally whose airbases - ironically built, in many cases, on lands stolen from murdered Armenians - were so important to the US Air Force which was already supposedly destroying Isis.

All in all, then a pretty mess. Kerry tells us that Isis is "genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology and by actions..." as if the destruction of the Armenian people in 1915 was not - and is perfectly happy to label the dark forces of the 'Islamic Caliphate' as genocidal themselves - which they clearly are. But it raises another frightful question. Since we know that Isis sells Syrian and Iraqi oil to the Turks - Russian bomber pilots have seen miles of Isis oil convoys running to the horizon towards Turkey - and since Turkish journalists have been imprisoned for reporting on secret Turkish arms transfers to Islamists in Syria - the Americans are, in effect, blaming Isis for the genocide of a hundred thousand or more human beings while being too frightened to label the Armenian massacres of a million and a half souls as genocide lest it offend Isis' sinister chums in Turkey.

It's not difficult to accuse the bad guys of genocide - Colin Powell had no problem over Darfur in 2004 - but shouldn't we stand up to the real bullies who prevent us honouring the memory of those million and a half Christians who were treated just as Isis treats the Yazidis and Christians and Shia today: the Turkish government and the Turkish army and the Turkish institutes of state? And all this at a time when an increasing number of brave Turks are themselves acknowledging the Turkish genocide of 1915?

Forget it: 75 million visas to Turkey in response to their \$3-billion European bailout to block those refugees is enough to keep the Armenian mass graves of 1915 well and truly closed. Just ask John Kerry

The terrorism in Europe and the concerns of Armenian communities



The Old Continent faces new security challenges because of the inflow of migrants, which, in turn, is a cause of concern for Armenians living in different European countries.

Representatives of some European Armenian communities say that the danger is always there even if all security measures seem to have been taken to prevent any act of terror.

Co-Chair of the Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France, ARF Bureau member Murad Papazian says "the actions of radical Islamists are targeted against the European nations, not government." "Although the Armenian community is not targeted, accidental casualties are not excluded as it happened in Paris on November 13," he said.

The Armenian community shares the common concerns of

all Europeans, President of the Union of Armenian Academicians of Germany Azat Ordukhanyan told Public Radio of Armenia. He added, however, that there is no fear that the Armenian community could be targeted.

"The Armenian community in Germany does not have the weight to pose a threat to Islamists and radicals. I don't think we have reason to worry in this respect," he said.

Azat Ordukhanyan noted that there is a different problem in Germany connected with the existence of a large Turkish community, which has been trying on many occasions to prevent the activity of Armenian organizations. "This has always been a cause of concern for the Armenian community," he said.

Hilda Tchoboian, Member of the French Rhône-Alpe Regional Parliament, noted that "all challenges threatening European citizens are a threat to the Armenian community, as well, but only because of being European citizens. Turkey's presence is a bigger threat to the Armenian community, especially in case of Belgium," she said.

Murad Papazian pointed out the problems connected with Turkey, especially in France, where the process of criminalization of the Armenian Genocide denial is under way.

"The Armenian community becomes a target on April 24, or when the Parliament is considering some laws," Papazian said.

Representatives of the Armenian community say the current situation cannot be an obstacle to the activity of the community organizations. They will continue implementing their programs, but will be more cautious.

Clinton asks for \$353K to sit with George & Amal Clooney

On April 15, George and Amal Clooney will host a fundraiser for the Hillary Victory Fund, Politico reports.

For two seats at the head table with Clinton, George Clooney and his wife, attorney Amal Clooney, at an April 15 fundraiser, a couple must contribute or raise a whopping \$353,400 - a huge ticket price for a hard-dollar fundraiser.

The Bay Area fundraiser, hosted at the home of venture capitalist Shervin Pishevar, is one of two events starring the Clooneys. On April 16, Clinton and the Clooneys will reunite at the Clooney Los Angeles mansion, where tickets cost \$33,400 per person to

dine at the table with one of Hollywood's most glamorous couples.

Both events raise money for the Hillary Victory Fund. While the maximum donation to a presidential campaign is \$2,700 for the primary elections (plus another \$2,700 for the general), the Hillary Victory Fund can accept much larger contributions because it is a so-called joint fundraising committee that is comprised of multiple committees.

In addition to Hillary for America, which is Clinton's main campaign committee, the Hillary Victory Fund also includes the Democratic National Committee and 32 state party committees.

Pope more popular than world leaders - poll

Pope Francis is more popular than any political world leader, an opinion poll has suggested, the BBC reports.

The poll by WIN/Gallup International indicates that Roman Catholics and Jews have the most favourable opinion of the Pope.

More than half of the world's Protestants and even the majority of atheists and agnostics view him favorably.

About 1,000 people were questioned in 64 countries.

Those taking part in the poll were asked: "Irrespective of your own religion, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of Pope Francis?"

The Pope was most popular

with Roman Catholics, of whom 85% said they had a favorable opinion of him, and among Jews questioned the figure was 65%.

Among the 64 countries polled, the Philippines was the most enthusiastic nation with 93% thinking favorably of the Pope. WIN/Gallup said that the Pope heads the rankings when compared to the global popularity of political world leaders.

It gave him a net score - the difference between favorable and unfavorable opinions - of +41 ahead of US President Barack Obama on +30; German Chancellor Angela Merkel on +13; UK Prime Minister David Cameron on +10 and French President Francois Hollande on +6.

The current policy on forests will lead to their destruction in the nearest future. Hakop Sanasaryan



Armenia keeps losing forest areas. If the current policy continues, the forests will disappear in the near future. Such concern was expressed by the "Greens' Union" president Hakop Sanasaryan at a press conference on the occasion of the International Day of forest protection, on March 21. According to him some areas in Armenia, which have a vital importance for mankind are regularly filled with waste, which leads to the destruction of forests caused by mining.

"Only in the cities of Kajaran and Ararak in Syunik region 30-35 million tons of waste is dumped into the forested areas. Imagine what it means to dump leads containing heavy metals into the woods. ",said H.Sanasaryan adding that as a result are eternally being destroyed both forest and land areas.

He claims that on the one hand currently forested areas are being filled with waste, and on the other 90 percent of forests are leased for 55 years to mining companies, which have a disastrous effect on them.

Sanasaryan insisted that by the first "Forest Code" adopted in 1994, almost all the norms concerning forests were kept, but by new Code adopted in 2002 forests were placed on commercial grounds. "Mainly international organizations act like this, in order to make forests the property of the community but not the country",- said the speaker, stressing that the process started in Tavush region, but it has been temporarily suspended.

He believes that if forest economies pass to the community management, the possibility of its privatization will increase, which will again lead to the destruction of forests.

"Greens' Union" president believes that deforestation in Armenia are regulated, that is, all the cuttings are done with the awareness and tacit consent of the governing bodies.

To the journalist's question what is the position of Ministry of Nature Protection about this issue, Sanasaryan answered: "We must be honest and admit that in Armenia already for many years there is a power of One, there are many professionals in ministries who simply are sitting idle. Only after the order, which will not allow forest cutting, the logging will be prevented. There are "quite stubborn" people whose hands are in fact destroying forests in Armenia. "

*Eliza Zakharyan
Noyan Tapan*

20-year-old prostitute's life has sharply changed in the new film "Mariam's One Sunday"

The film of Armenian production called "Mariam's One Sunday" is the story of 20-year-old prostitute. The premiere of motion picture will take place on March 24 in "Moscow" cinema. As of March 23, the film's screenwriter and director informed during the press conference Arshak Amirbekyan, the film about prostitute, but not prostitution. It tells about prostitute, who's life changes after one morning, when she meets a painter walking with his thoughts.

According to him 45-minute lasting film was shot two years ago. The main characters are: Ruzan Witt (Mesropyan) and Ashot Adamyan, Ara Sargsyan, Christina Adaminyan , Anna Gevorgyan.

"Taking to consideration the preparatory works, I must say that the film was shot two and a half years ago, the idea was born by a small incident. A couple of years ago I was walking down the street, putting my hand on my chest. I saw many prostitutes, they came up to me. One of them looked at me and said, "Well, how can my heart survive in this life?," - mentioned A.Amirbekyan. Film is independent from all the studios and mostly is shot in his own funds. It will be shown during various festivals, then will be rented.

The film's main heroine, the actress Ruzan Witt says that after ten years of silence, with great difficulty she agreed to star in soup opera, as always, in principle had rejected such proposals.

"It turned out that my 33th anniversary and the premiere of

"Priestess " were at the same time, which was a great happiness for me, because five years I was acting in Paris and I had only one premiere in two years. ",- said Witt, adding that after returning home she seems to emerge in the shadows.

The actress said that she accepted the proposal of A.Amirbekyan to star in "Mariam's One Sunday", just because of current situation.

Speaking about the essence and artistic value of the film R.Witt said: ""In art, there is the following phrase:" It doesn't matter what you do, it's important how you do it", hence, modestly, I must say that our film has been received that "how" , because we were able to approach the "how" understanding. "How" is to feel, you cannot say it in words, so we invite you all to see and appreciate the film. "

In her words, despite the fact that she is much older from her embodied character, she managed to make the audience not to feel the difference.

In her opinion, she managed to play the role of prostitute for the simple reason.As a woman she always felt very sorry about that fact.

Witt is sure that it is the responsibility of every artist to respond to the prostitution, thus trying to save the crippled destinies.

*Eliza Zakharyan, Noyan Tapan
Translated by Elina Oganezova*

FAF will Bid Farewell to the Armenian Legendary Goalkeeper from the North Stand of the Armenian Republican Stadium

The members of First Armenian Front (FAF) fan movement will watch the Armenia-Belarus friendly match from the North Stand of the Republican stadium in Armenia: about this announced FAF's founding board members during the press conference held in Noyan Tapan News Agency center.

According to the movement's founding board member Sergey Janjoyan, as in 2013, this year also The Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) in a literate way hindered the access of the fan movement using all its power.

"Since 2007 we were supporting to the Armenian National Team from the East stand but in 2013 we lost that places and moved to the Southern stand and as in the past, now also they try to prevent the "rebellious" movement members to seat in the stadium together and to support to the national team jointly.",- mentioned S. Janjoyan, adding that in all possible ways FFA prevents FAF members to get next to each other seat tickets.

As S. Janjoyan informed, when they want to buy tickets from the booking office either the South stand is locked or the sale-system is damaged or all that tickets they want have already been booked by the unknown organizations. FAF managed to get 80 tickets from the North stand only after going to the stadium with journalists.

"If we do not go to the stadium we will do what FFA desires because it can artificially fill all the places which will remain free after our absence.",- said S. Janjoyan referring to the suggestions of hundreds of Armenian fans who are calling not to go to the stadium and in that way boycott the game. According to him, one of the primary principles of the movement is that the



problem between FAF and FFA should not impact on the support of the National Team games.

As S. Janjoyan mentioned, during all the games of Armenian National Team, FAF members made a lot of actions but few days ago the administration of the Armenian Republican stadium have not allowed them to enter to the stadium and to organize an action referring to the last game of the Armenian legendary goalkeeper Roman Berezovski saying that they have an injunction not to allow movement members to enter to the stadium.

According to the FAF founding board member Edgar Khachatryan, as a result of not allowing fans to enter to the stadium, interfering with the journalist's work, not inviting leading players to the national team football suffers and instead of improving the current situation the opposite occurs: "We call for the fans who will come to the stadium to join us in the North stand.",- concluded he.

According to the FAF member Edgar Petrosyan, "Booked tickets "expression is used in the history of the Armenian foot-

ball for the first time. According to the new format, any citizen or organization can book as many tickets as he/it wants just calling or applying to the Football Federation of Armenia.

"As of March 15, 10 days before the game the booked tickets are 9000, which is the 70-80 % of the seats of the Armenian Republican stadium, and at the same time, as the authorized person of FFA announced, the man, booked that tickets, can refuse from them whenever he wants.",- mentioned E. Khachatryan.

The latter claims, that in all the history of Armenia even during the biggest games there has not been a case when nearly 70-80 per cent of the tickets have been sold 10 days before the game: FAF is sure, all this done on purpose for not giving interconnected seats to the FAF members.

FAF member Arsen Petrosyan is sure that a few days before the match all the tickets will be returned and there will not be 9000 fans during the football game Armenia-Belarus.

FAF members also expressed concern that on March 25 there will be created artificial barriers for them in order not to allow them to shove all their attributes to the stadium.

We would like to inform that ahead of the friendly match Armenia-Belarus FAF members will organize march from the territory adjacent to Aram Khachatryan statue. The participants will march to Armenian Republican Stadium.

*Sarah Melkonyan
Noyan Tapan*



Cambridge Professor embarks on study of the Armenian dialect of Salmast



Asbarez

Cambridge University professor and specialist in Armenian linguistics and dialectology Dr. Bert Vaux presented a lecture on "The Armenian Dialect of Salmast" at the 2nd Hampartzoum and Ovsanna Chitjian Conference organized by Professor S. Peter Cowe of the Narekatsi Chair of Armenian Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, which focused on Armeno-Persian Relations and the Persarmenian Community Throughout the Ages.

Professor Vaux explained that despite the Salmast region's historical importance in Armenian culture, its dialect has yet to receive a proper linguistic treatment, normally being omitted

from the standard manuals of Armenian dialects and at-best mentioned as a subdialect of Khoy / Urmia.

He provided an overview of the Salmast dialect and its place in the world of Armenian varieties (particularly, as compared to Khoy, Urmia, and Maragha), and illustrated phonological, morphological, and lexical features of the dialect using traditional riddles and sayings.

Some of the many distinctive Salmast forms discussed included *vāv* 'who', *khäyir* '100', *talv*'husband's sister', *É³ ä ë ĩ ñ³ Ĩ* *lapestrak* 'hare', *votapöpik* 'barefoot', and the use of *ւն* *er* as a past tense marker, as in *ւն Յն Յն շն շն* 'ÇÝ³ÉÇ enents' *enk'* *er ginäli* = *Յն Յն* «*ë* ·*Ç*ւ³Ç³Ý³» 'thus we knew'.

Professor Vaux mentioned that the greatest Armenian linguist, Hrachea Adjarian, had collected a large corpus of Salmast dialect material during his time teaching in Iran 100 years ago, but was unable to assemble this material into a book-size treatment before his death in 1953.

Professor Vaux hopes to collate the Salmast materials in Adjarian's Armenian Etymological Dictionary(1926-35) and Complete Grammar of the Armenian Language (1952-71); and, combine them with new words, phrases, texts, and video recordings collected from the last remaining Salmastsi speakers to produce a book-length grammar and lexicon of the Salmast dialect (taking account of its descendants in Karabagh and Armenia, particularly in Vayots' Dzor, as well).

Armenian tenor Gegham Grigoryan passed away aged 65



Renowned Armenian tenor Gegham Grigoryan passed away on March 23 aged 65.

World-famous tenor Gegham Grigoryan graduated from Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, the class of People's Artist of Armenia professor Sergei Danielyan. Grigorian made his first appearance on the big stage in 1971 at age 20; in 1972 he went to West Berlin to appear with solo concerts.

In 1975 he made his debut at the National Theater of Opera and Ballet of Armenia in the role of Edgar (opera "Lucia di Lammermoor" by Donizetti). This was followed by Saro (opera "Anush" by Tigranian), Tirith ("Arshak II" by Chukhajyan), Sayat Nova ("Sayat-Nova" by Harutyunyan), Count Almaviva ("The Barber of Seville" by Rossini), and Faust ("Faust by Gounod.)

In 1978 he took part in the competition of the School of Art in Milan at the theater La Scala and was one of the four lucky winners who were invited to qualify for this school. During his traineeship in Italy, he participated in several concerts. In "La Scala" Gegham Grigoryan made his debut in the role of Pinkerton (Madama Butterfly by Puccini). After that performance, he signed a contract with the theater "La Scala" on the leading roles of the operas "Boris Godunov" and Tosca. The performances were conducted by Claudio

Abbado, then he was principal conductor of La Scalla.

Unfortunately, the Soviet authorities, for unknown reasons, forbade him to act outside the territory of the Soviet Union for 10 years. In those years Grigoryan was in the list of so-called restricted artists to travel abroad.

In 1980, Virgilijus Noreika, artistic director of Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre invites Grigorian to work in Vilnius. There Grigorian worked with the famous conductor Jonas Alex. He sang in the operas "Eugene Onegin", "Don Carlos", "Boris Godunov," "La Traviata," "Madame Butterfly," "Rigoletto" and many others.

Since 1989, at the invitation of Valery Gergiev he performed at the Mariinsky Theater as the lead singer.

Gegham Grigoryan was the art director of National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

29 March

19:00. If I Were a PaPa. Premiere Hayk Petrosyan's humorous, musical, at times touching and patriotic new mono performance. // State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. Unseen Performance. Director: N. Malyan. // H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

19:00. Asatur Aslanyan: 10 Years on Stage. // National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

19:00. Don Juans in Amrseille. Cast: Hrant Tokhatyan, Narek Duryan, Lala Mnatsakanyan, Luiza Nersisyan, Rafael Yeranosyan, Tamara Petrosyan. Staging and adaptation: Narek Duryan. // Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

19:00. La Boheme (Concert performance). Soloists: Irina Zakyan: soprano, Hovhannes Ayvazyan: tenor, David Babayants: baritone, Gurgen Baveyan: baritone, Plamen Kumpikov: bass (Bulgaria), Lussine Levoni: soprano, (France), Sargis Bazhbeuk-Melikyan: bass. Hover State Chamber Choir, Artistic Director and Choirmaster: Sona Hovhannisyanyan. // Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

30 March

19:00. Don Juans in Amrseille. Cast: Hrant Tokhatyan, Narek Duryan, Lala Mnatsakanyan, Luiza Nersisyan, Rafael Yeranosyan, Tamara Petrosyan. Staging and adaptation: Narek Duryan. // Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

19:00. Rouben Hakhverdyan. Concert, recital with a new program. // Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

19:00. The Curtain of Time. Hasmik Ter-Karapetyan's mono-performance, Staged by Garnik Seyranyan. // Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

31 March

19:00. La Boheme (Concert performance). Soloists: Irina Zakyan: soprano, Hovhannes Ayvazyan: tenor, David Babayants: baritone, Gurgen Baveyan: baritone, Plamen Kumpikov: bass (Bulgaria), Lussine Levoni: soprano, (France), Sargis Bazhbeuk-Melikyan: bass.

Hover State Chamber Choir, Artistic Director and Choirmaster: Sona Hovhannisyanyan. // Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

19:00. Sheranik. Historical Mimodrama in 1 act, Staging: Zhirayr Dadasyan, Director: Yuri Kostanyan, Music: Vache Sharafyan. // Yerevan State Pantomime Theater.

19:00. Tales. Author: H. Tumanyan, Cast: Ara Sargsyan, Levon Ghazaryan, Samvel Topalyan, Levon Meloyan, Georgi Hovakimyan, Vahagn Gasparyan, Movses Stepanyan, Gurgen Sargsyan, Varduhi Rushanyan, Liza Azizyan, Astghik Abajyan, Kristine Hovakimyan, Karine Voskanyan. // H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors.

19:00. Medea. Euripides, Tragedy in 1 act. Greek tragedy with Armenian ethno music. // Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. Love Confession. Playwright and Director? Ara Yernjakyan, Music Director? Vahe Grigoryan. Cast: Ani Grigoryan, Hasmik Danielyan, Rafael Yeranosyan, Senik Barseghyan, Vahe Ziroyan. // Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Rich Girl Can't Be Ugly. Author: Alexander Ostrovski, Comedy, 2 acts, Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. // State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

1 April

19:00. National Chamber Choir of Armenia. The program: Armenian premieres of famous classical and modern composers' works: Johannes Brahms, Anton Bruckner, Peteris Vasks, Eric Whitacre, Nancy Telfer. // Chamber Music House after Komitas.

19:00. Better Late Than Never. Premiere. Authors: Artemi Ayvazyan, Staged by Yervand Ghazanchyan, Operetta in 2 acts. // State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show, Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan. // Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan, Staged by David Hakobyan, Musical arrangement: Armen Margaryan. // State Musical Chamber Theater.

17:00. The Frog Prince. Stage Director:

Lily Elbakyan. // State Marionette Theater.

2 April

12:00, 14:00. Tom & Jerry. Children's Musical Fun Show, Staging: Artur Saribekyan, Music by: Armen Margaryan. // State Musical Chamber Theater.

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Naked King. Musical Performance, Hans Christian Andersen, Staging: Armen Elbakyan. // State Marionette Theater.

19:00. Cherchez la femme. Lead roles by Varuzhan Manukyan, Tamara Petrosyan, Narek Duryan, Staging, music and adaptation by Narek Duryan. Producer: Kristine Hovhannisyanyan. // State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Love Rectangle. // State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. NCOA & Federico Mondelci: Timeless Melodies. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Vahan Mardirossian, Soloist: Federico Mondelcii, saxophone (Italy). // Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

19:00. N 707. Premiere, Neil Simon. Comedy in 2 acts. // Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. Show No 3. Premiere, Musical show, Author and Director of the play: Lusine Yernjakyan. // Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

3 April

19:00. Love Confession. Playwright and Director: Ara Yernjakyan, Music Director: Vahe Grigoryan. Cast: Ani Grigoryan, Hasmik Danielyan, Rafael Yeranosyan, Senik Barseghyan, Vahe Ziroyan. // Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Wheel of Fortune. Based on Hovhannes Tumanian's tales, Staging: Armen Elbakyan. // State Marionette Theater.

12:00, 14:00. Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale, Children's Musical Fun Show, Director: Armen Margaryan. State Musical Chamber Theater.

19:00. The Last Stop. Tamar Hovhannisyanyan, Serious comedy in 2 acts. // State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

*Columnist Sarah Melkonyan
Responses is welcome to hl@nt.am*

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (March 20-April 19)



The eclipses of this series will draw your attention to partnerships. Patterns from your childhood history need to be excavated, repaired or removed in order to allow your growth into a more mature relationship. Psychotherapy may be truly

helpful.

Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)



This eclipse pressures you to concentrate on improvement of work related relationships and health maintenance. Diet, exercise and improvement of physical regimen will become imperative. Honing your management systems in personal and

work arenas is necessary to create order in your daily work routine.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)



This eclipse pattern emphasizes your progeny or other personally creative births. Romantic ventures will be intensely emotional and self-revealing. You will be learning a few lessons in discernment

concerning friendships and associations that no longer serve you well.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)



Matters concerning your family and property will be accented. Old problems in relationships, even with the deceased, will surface for cleansing and healing. A new family member may enter the scene, or

you may begin to spend more time with family in general.

Leo (July 22-August 21)



The accent of this eclipse cycle will be on travel, education, care of vehicles and relationships to siblings, roommates, neighbors, or others who daily traverse your life. Habit patterns of thought will be

brought to consciousness so negative thinking can be corrected. You will be introduced to new practical life skills.

Virgo (August 22-September 22)



During these eclipses you will be learning to value yourself in new ways. Alongside of that comes education in the management of money and other resources, such as time and energy. There

will be less assistance from others in these arenas, but you are creating these resources for yourself.



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Your sense of personal identity will be the subject under consideration. Who are you becoming and who do you need to be? How do you wish to define yourself before

the world? You will be learning what is required for you to hold onto your identity while simultaneously maintaining a personally rewarding relationship.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

The March eclipses emphasize your need to create order, both internally and externally. The development of your projects will call upon you to develop faith in your deepest self. Bringing order out of

chaos is done on both the inner and outer levels simultaneously, so while you organized files you will be also organizing your mind.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)

The new eclipse season will be opening your mind and heart to include a larger circle of friends. You may become a

leader or a strong supporter of a community network which has shared ideals. Certainly you will continue to have the friendships you have built in the past. Your attention may be focused on goals greater than your own.



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

This series of eclipses will bring a certain amount of intensity in the arenas of career (work in the world) and also home, hearth and family. You will be stretching

your worldly boundaries to serve a new group of people. Family relationships will include one loss and one gain.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

Legal, ethical or educational issues will be emphasized by this series of eclipses. Travel will be punctuated, whether that is of body, mind, or spirit.

Exposure to those of different backgrounds or cultures opens your heart and expands your philosophy. A challenge concerning siblings, roommates, or neighbors may press you to seek a Higher Road.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

This eclipse pattern will emphasize issues of sexuality, intimacy, and material accumulation. Reorganization of debt, investments and your estate may be in progress. You may become more

conscious than usual about existential matters related to life, death, and what is on "the other side" of normal, waking consciousness.

Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy of Kolkata turns 195 this year

In November Kolkata will witness the biggest congregation of Armenians in recent times. They will gather in the city to be a part of celebrations lined up by their alma mater - Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy (ACPA), which will turn 195 this year. The get-together of sorts will also help the community relive its past, connecting with old acquaintances now spread across the globe, the Times of India reports.

Amid all the hype, ACPA has embarked upon the most difficult task of creating a databank of Armenians from Kolkata. "This is the first such databank since 1956," said Rev. Zaven Yazichyan, the India-Armenian Spiritual Postorate, ACPA.

Entrepreneurial and devout Christians, Armenians arrived here in early 1600s, some 60 years prior to East India Company. When Kolkata - then Calcutta -

was the British capital, the Armenians poured money into colonial mansions, virtually transforming the wilting city into what Kolkata eventually became.

Though they called it their home, Armenians started leaving 'Calcutta' even before the British started moving out. For the last six decades, their numbers have dwindling alarmingly. The city of 4.5 million barely has 150 Indian Armenians left now. According to the Armenian General Benevolent Union news magazine, the number of students dropped from 206 in 1961 to just six in 1998. Among the 68 students studying here now, only two are Armenian-Indians. The school relies on students from abroad - mostly immigrants from Iraq, Iran, Russia and Armenia - to fill its dormitories.

Even as numbers have been diminishing every year, two more Armenian Indians will be added next year, informed Sasoon



Zarookien, an alumnus who hails from Tehran. So instead of brooding over the vanishing world of Armenians, the celebrations will re-establish Armenian's bond with Kolkata, felt Yazichyan.

"Kolkata is the last surviving home to Armenians in India, and the 195-year celebrations will tell this to the world and bring to the fore the proud past that we Armenians have," said Rev. Yazichyan.

The school is being renovated in a big way and several projects are being taken up. The Araratyan library has been computerized and its books are being preserved with modern methodology. The school has tied up with different international educational institutions. The swimming pool, which is the second oldest in Kolkata, is getting a new lease of life. The school has also started weekly online chat on Skype so that students can interact with their parents living abroad.





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