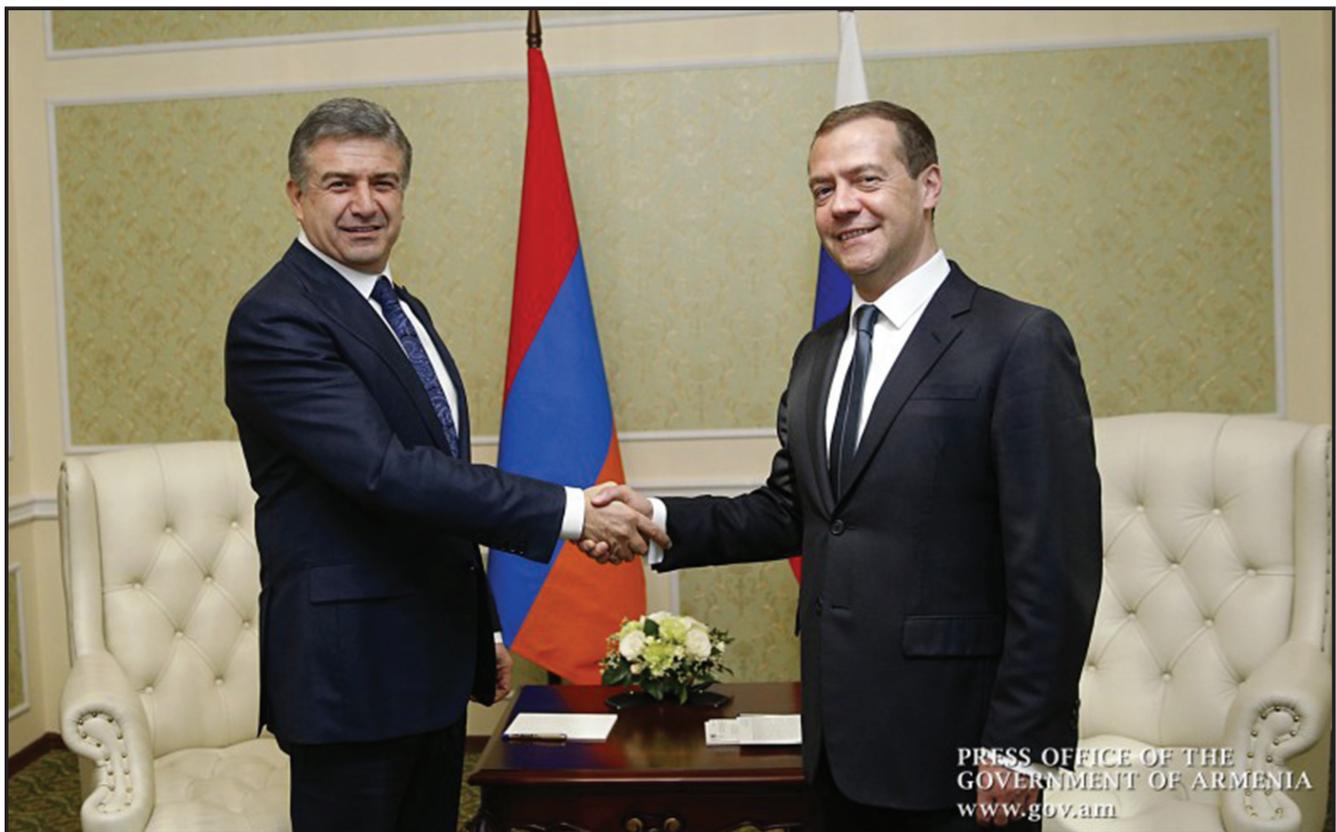


Armenian PM Meets with Russian Counterpart, addresses EEU gathering



Belarus/Armenia/Russia - Karen Karapetyan (L) and Dmitry Medvedev, Armenia's and Russia's Prime Ministers, meet in Minsk, 28 Oct, 2016

see page 3

In This Issue

Karabakh soldier killed in Azeri firing p.2

Armenia Names French Internet Pioneer As 2016 IT Award Winner p.5

Brussels Airlines launches new Yerevan-Brussels service p.7

Doing Business 2017: Armenia 5 points up, ranked 38th p.10

THE DEVELOPING TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE OF TURKMENISTAN IS THE BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE



“The global transport strategy of the XXI century – is a strategy for the integration effort, combining the geographical and infrastructural capacity, technical and technological capacities of the countries and regions. The future lays in the combined transportation system, with the access to the major international and regional sea, river, road, rail and air units, the optimal combination and the advantage of using each of them. “

*President of Turkmenistan
Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov*

see page 8

President Serzh Sargsyan meets with Chair of the Kimberley Process Ahmed Bin Sulayem

On October 26, at the Meridian exhibition center President Serzh Sargsyan held a meeting with the Chair of the Kimberley Process, representative of the United Arab Emirates Ahmed Bin Sulayem who is in our country in framework of the annual conference of the World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) held in Yerevan on October 24-28.

The President of Armenia welcomed the guest to our country and expressed hope that Mr. Ahmed Bin Sulayem's visit to Armenia will signify not only strengthening of cooperation in the framework of the Kimberley Process but also, considering his rich experience in diamond processing and jewellery making in the UAE, will be useful in the shaping and implementation of the mutually beneficial bilateral projects. According to the President, with this regard the convening of the COBJO Conference in Yerevan creates excellent possibilities.

Serzh Sargsyan stressed the importance of the Kimberley Process as a bright example of the consolidation of the efforts throughout the world for the prevention of the circulation of the so called "conflict" or "blood" diamonds and commitment of the parties – members of the process. He underscored that the process acquires a greater importance especially nowadays when conflicts in the world have multiplied and new hot spots have come into existence. The President of Armenia viewed as upsetting the fact that natural resources are being used not for good but for evil purposes.

Serzh Sargsyan noted that Armenia joined the Kimberley Process



in 2003 which allowed our country to become a full member of the world diamond market and now is persistent in carrying out her commitments made in the framework of the Process.

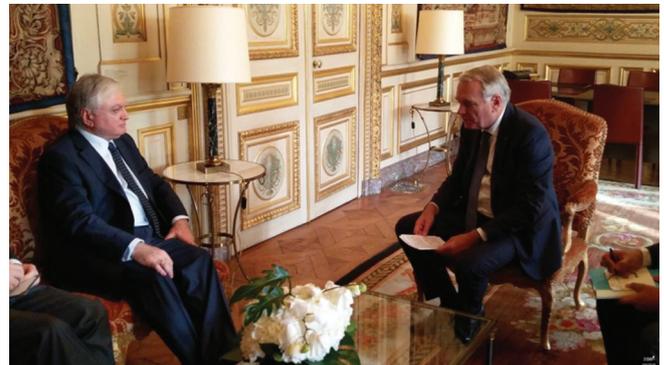
The Kimberley Process Chair noted that he has arrived to Armenia also as a representative of the trade community of Dubai and is eager to discuss with the government of Armenia issues pertinent to the Kimberley Process and strengthening of Armenia-EAE trade and economic relations.

Nalbandian, Ayrault discuss Karabakh peace process, Armenian-French ties

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and France Edward Nalbandian and Jean-Marc Ayrault had a meeting in Paris on October 27

The parties discussed a number of issues on the agenda of privileged Armenian-French relations and the steps towards expansion of cooperation in different fields. Reference was made to the active inter-parliamentary contacts, decentralized cooperation, as well as the process of implementation of the agreements on further expansion of economic relations reached between the leaders of the two countries.

The Karabakh peace process was high on the agenda of the meeting. Edward Nalbandian underlined that "for months Azerbaijan has been refusing to implement the agreements reached at the Vienna and St. Petersburg summits and deliberately aggravating the situation, thus preventing the creation of conditions necessary for furthering the negotiation process."



The parties attached importance to the full implementation of the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg.

Karabakh soldier killed in Azeri firing

The Azerbaijani side kept violating the ceasefire regime at different sections of the line of contact with the Karabakh forces on October 26, the NKR Defense Ministry reports.

Aside from firearms, the rival used automatic grenade launchers and antitank grenade launchers in the northeastern (Talish) direction of the line of contact, the Ministry said.

Private of the NKR Defense Army Gurgen Avetik Ayvazyan was fatally wounded as a result of a ceasefire violation by the Azeri side at about 17:00.

Investigation into the details of the incident is under way.

The NKR Defense Ministry shares the sorrow of the heavy loss and expresses its support to the soldier's family and friends.



Minsk Group Co-Chairs to meet with Armenian, Azerbaijani FM's in December

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have issued the following statement:

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America, and Pierre Andrieu of France), together with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, traveled to the region from 23 to 25 October 2016.

The Co-Chairs met with the Presidents and Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Armenia's newly appointed Defence Minister, and de facto authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh. The purpose of the Co-Chairs' visit was to discuss the situation after the unprecedented

violence last April, and to clarify positions on the negotiation process.

During the meetings, the sides confirmed that the situation on the ground remains relatively calm. The Co-Chairs underscored that respect for the ceasefire provides a critical foundation for ongoing negotiations, and stressed the importance of fully implementing decisions taken in Vienna and St. Petersburg.

The Co-Chairs also discussed current working proposals to advance substantive negotiations towards a lasting peace. The Presidents each expressed their views on how to move the settlement process forward. The Presidents also reaffirmed their agreement to expand the Office of the Personal Representa-

tive of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and operational details are still being discussed.

The Co-Chairs plan to meet with the Ministers including on the margins of the December 2016 OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg to discuss a possible meeting of the Presidents at the earliest opportunity. Such a dialogue at the highest level is necessary to make progress towards a settlement.

While in the region, the Co-Chairs also met with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to discuss the work the organization has undertaken on the exchange of data on missing persons, a humanitarian measure which the Co-Chairs have fully supported in meetings with officials at all levels.

Armenian PM Meets with Russian Counterpart, addresses EEU gathering

Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan met with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Minsk on the sidelines of a Eurasian Intergovernmental Council session held in the Belarus capital on October 27.

According to the press service of the Armenian government, the two premiers held "private talks" during which they stressed the "strategic allied relations" that connect Armenia and Russia.

"Prime ministers Karen Karapetyan and Dmitry Medvedev stressed the need to take steps to further expand bilateral trade and economic relations, considering that the involvement of Armenia and Russia in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) opens up new opportunities and prospects for cooperation," the report said.

Earlier, addressing the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council's enlarged meeting, Karapetyan reportedly stressed that the EEU's international activity and its economic relations with third countries and key integration associations "above all are intended to promote the modernization of the national economies of the Member States and enhance their competitiveness."

"In this context, I would highlight the need for consistent efforts with the specialized agencies of the UN system, as well as toward outlining the scope of interaction with the European Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other organizations," he said, as quoted by the government press service.

"We believe that the ongoing talks with China, Israel and Serbia, in particular, need to be broadened through the launch of substantive consideration of the expediency of negotiations

with other countries."

"Taking into account the work on the conclusion of a possible free trade zone agreement with the Republic of India, it seems reasonable that the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council should also consider the question of starting talks over the EEU-India track in December 2016 without linking it to the issue of cooperation in the multilateral EEU-SCO format," Karapetyan continued.

"I believe it to be in our common interest to conclude a relevant agreement with Iran. We believe that there is an opportunity to simultaneously work on the scheme ensuring the implementation of an interim agreement in parallel with the EEU-Iran negotiations on conclusion of a free (preferential) trade agreement."

According to Karapetyan, Armenia believes that "the expansion of international and multi-format cooperation must be based on real premises and structured so as to take into account the actual willingness of third countries to establish cooperation with both individual EEU-member States and the Eurasian Economic Union, as a whole."

Considering the differences in the regulatory frameworks of the EEU Member States, the head of the Armenian government said that Armenia fully shares the approach that "focuses on ensuring the legitimacy of the turnover of goods across the EEU customs territory through the introduction of a traceability mechanism."

"Given the importance of the issue and its complexity, it is important to build further work proceeding from the belief that it should not

lead to additional tax and customs encumbrances, higher prices for goods and services and, at the same time, would not adversely affect the Member States' investment attractiveness and macroeconomic indicators," Karapetyan said.

"This mechanism needs to be introduced in such a way that its activation would not lead in any way to the opposition of one of the pillars of our Union – the free movement of goods. Therefore, we are ready to actively cooperate with the countries in a bid to work out the problems existing in this regard. I believe that the joint efforts to implement the agreements reached today will allow significant progress on the integration path. The Armenian side is ready for close cooperation with all partners," the Armenian prime minister concluded.

The enlarged meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council discussed and approved a number of documents. In particular, the Council approved the unified budget for 2017 and the 2015 budget performance of EEU bodies.

The meeting reportedly highlighted the need for closer cooperation with third countries, as well as deepening of economic and trade relations between the Member States. In particular, the speakers emphasized that a number of countries have shown interest in cooperation with the EEU in various formats, and appropriate steps are being taken to that effect.

On October 28, Prime Minister Karapetyan participated in the meeting of the heads of the EEU member countries' governments.

Armenia formally joined the EEU in January 2015. The Union's current members are also Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Armenian Government costs to be cut In 2017



The Armenian government plans to spend by over \$2 million less in 2017 for state administration needs, according to a draft budget presented in parliament committees this week.

The bulk of the cuts in the total amount of over 1 billion drams will not affect senior officials as the salaries, bonuses and allowances for trips will remain at almost the same level.

More than half of the costs, 550 million drams (about \$1.2 million), will be cut by the presidential administration. Chief of presidential staff Armen Gevorkyan told lawmakers on November 1 that the money will mainly be saved at the expense of job cuts at the National Security Council.

Lawmakers, however, were more interested in the efficiency of

spending of sizable allocations made from the presidential administration to different nongovernmental and non-profit organizations.

Opposition lawmaker Tigran Urikhanyan, in particular, inquired about the efficiency of one such organization dealing with analysis and public relations.

Gevorkyan replied: "Perhaps for a considerable part of the public at large it is something invisible, but at least I am convinced that very important work is being done, especially in the direction of responding to external information challenges."

Asked by media why no costs are cut for the president proper, considering that Armenia has switched to a parliamentary form of government due to last year's constitutional reform, Gevorkyan said: "Put up with the idea that the institution of the Republic's President will fully function in accordance with the powers vested in it by the current Constitution till April 2018."

The National Assembly, meanwhile, is due to spend about 390 million drams (about \$820,000) less. Hrair Tovmasyan, the chief of National Assembly staff, said that the saving is due to the fact that the number of members of parliament after 2017 elections may be reduced from 131 to 101 under the reformed Constitution.

The executive will cut 176 million drams (about \$370,000). Minister David Harutiunyan, the chief of government staff, said that this saving is due mainly to the transfer of the 3rd government building to the state property registry.

Azerbaijan keeps tensions high: Armenian DM tells OSCE representative



Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan received on November 1 the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej

Kasprzyk.

The Armenian Defense Minister briefed Ambassador Kasprzyk on the situation at the line of contact and underlined that Azerbaijan has been recently keeping tensions high at the line of contact by increasing the number of shots and using weapons of larger caliber.

He said the Armenian forces resort to response actions only in case of extreme necessity and remain committed to the restraining strategy.

Ambassador Kasprzyk noted, in turn, that the Office of the Personal representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office maintains efforts to ease tensions at the line of contact and said he hopes for progress in that direction in the near future.

Russia upgrading Armenian battle tanks

Armenia and Russia have launched a large-scale project of modernization of the T-72 main battle tanks under Armenia's possession, Izvestia reports.

The tanks will be upgraded to T-72B4 sports class, which the teams used during the Tank Biathlon.

The modernization has already started, Spokesman for the Arme-

nian Ministry of Defense Artsrun Hovhannisyan confirmed to Izvestia. He did not specify the number of the military vehicles to be modernized and the terms.

The agency reports, quoting its sources, that dozens of tanks are going to be upgraded, the main modernization works will take place in Armenia, which will help cut the costs.

Armenia Names French Internet Pioneer As 2016 IT Award Winner

A French scientist who was one of the early developers of the World Wide Web will pick this year's presidential "Global IT Award" (GIT) that Armenia has given annually since 2009 to prominent scientists, engineers and executives who have made an outstanding contribution to the global advancement of information technologies.

Louis Pouzin, who invented the datagram and designed an early packet communications network, CYCLADES, is expected to arrive in Armenia at the end of next week for an award ceremony to be hosted by President Serzh Sargsyan on November 8.

In announcing the winner of the award on Friday, Hovik Musayelyan, the general

manager of Armenia's leading IT company, Synopsis, said that during the official part of Pouzin's visit on November 7-9 the 85-year-old scientist will have a number of meetings, including with students and professors at Armenian universities.

Pouzin is the seventh winner of the Presidential GIT Award since its establishment. Among the past laureates of the prize are such well-known IT personalities as Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak (2011) and top Russian information security specialist Eugene Kasparov (2015).

Armen Gevorgyan, the chief of presidential staff, told a press conference in Yerevan today that besides becoming a good tradition the

award given to iconic figures in the IT sector and industry has also made Armenia more recognizable as a nation in the world.

"All our previous award winners were quite well-known individuals in the sphere, and besides their contribution to Armenia's IT sector development with their character, significance, ideas and advice, they have also become good friends of Armenia," the official said. "We already have cases when some of our previous laureates at their own initiative and with their own means assisted educational establishments in Armenia. We have laureates who are seeking to bring their technologies and knowledge to Armenia to establishing corresponding structures, laboratories here."

Pashinian Party "Ready" To Discuss Opposition Consolidation

Yerevan—RFE/RL

Civil Contract, a political party that was formed a few years ago around outspoken government critic Nikol Pashinyan, has signaled its readiness to discuss the possibility of forming one party with other opposition forces sharing the same or close ideology after admitting defeat in Armenia's local elections earlier this month.

The party held its special convention on October 30 necessitated by the poor electoral showing in order to consider changes in its board. As a result, Sasun Mikayelyan, a prominent Karabakh war veteran and former mayor of Hrazdan, was installed as chairman of Civil Contract's board.

Civil Contract, which actively participated in the September 18 and October 2 elections to local government bodies in a number of provinces of Armenia, managed to have its representative elected mayor of a village in central Armenia as well as have several members elected to local councils. However, the party failed to secure representation in the city councils of Gyumri and Vanadzor, the second and third largest cities of Armenia.

Pashinyan and his political team have not concealed their ambitions to have a strong showing in next year's parliamentary elections and for that purpose have famously been pursuing volunteer supporters across

Armenia to monitor ballots and prevent fraud at polling stations as the party's proxies.

After the latest setbacks, however, the party appears to be revising its tactics, announcing its readiness for greater cooperation with other forces as well.

"We have no precondition here... We are ready to discuss with forces that share our ideology or are close to us by their ideology the possibility of becoming one party," Pashinyan said.

Representatives of a number of opposition parties attending the Civil Contract convention also advocated consolidation of opposition forces ahead of the next parliamentary elections due in April.

"If we want real changes, important becomes the issue of drawing a distinction between the real and fake oppositions. Look what the authorities are doing by reanimating so-called "non-governing" forces, bringing in their clients, which will make it more difficult to defeat them," said Aram Sargsyan, the leader of the extra-parliamentary Hanrapetutyun party. "Therefore, I strongly believe that the number one task today is for the real opposition to unite."

Opposition Armenian National Movement party board chairman Alexander Arzumanyan and Democratic Homeland party chairman Petros Makelyan, who also attended the

convention, also spoke in favor of the unification of "real" opposition forces.

Pashinyan and the above-mentioned three politicians once were part of the opposition alliance led by former President Levon Ter-Petrosyan who unsuccessfully challenged then Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan in the 2008 presidential election.

They subsequently left the bloc, called Armenian National Congress (HAK), over policy differences.

The HAK, which reorganized itself into a party a few years ago, issued a statement last week, striking an optimistic note about the prospect of achieving a democratic change as a result of the upcoming parliamentary elections. The party, which also fared poorly in the recent local elections dismissed by it as undemocratic, also declared that it was ready to cooperate with all parties and groups "seeking a regime change and the establishment of a legitimate government and democracy in Armenia through elections."

Asked whether Civil Contract could cooperate also with the HAK, Pashinyan said: "We are ready to participate in discussions with our ideas, to talk about problems, means of solving them and objectives. And we are ready to discuss formats of further cooperation with all forces with which we will have something in common in these issues."

Armenian PM meets with Gazprom CEO Alexey Miller

Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received on October 25 Alexey Miller, Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee.

The perspectives of Armenian-Russian energy cooperation and issues related to Gazprom's activity in Armenia were discussed.

Karen Karapetyan hailed the gas and energy programs being implemented in the country by Gazprom Armenia and stressed that Gazprom has the largest investment package in Armenia.

The Prime Minister underlined that the programs aimed at energy security, reliable and uninterrupted gas supply and the large investment projects have been called to life thanks to the willingness and direct efforts on the part of Gazprom leadership.



Alexey Miller congratulated Karen Karapetyan on appointment and wished him productive activity. Pointing to the positive results of long-term joint work, Alexey Miller emphasized that Armenia has high level of gasification (96 percent), a reliable system of gas supply and reiterated Gazprom's willingness to keep fulfilling its tasks in Armenia.

He also stressed the importance of effectiveness of further exploitation of Hrazdan HPP's 5th energy unit and the underground gas storage in Abovyan.

Miller informed of the plans to establish an educational and training complex in Armenia, which, he said, will be Gazprom's investment in the future of the Armenian youth."

Karen Karapetyan awarded Alexey Miller with RA Prime Minister's Memorial Medal for his contribution to the development and reinforcement of Armenian-Russian economic ties.



President Sargsyan attends opening of Junwex Yerevan Show-2016 jewellery exhibition

On October 27, at the Meridian exhibition center President Serzh Sargsyan was present at the opening of the Junwex Yerevan Show-2016 international jewellery exhibition which will run through October 30.

The exhibition center is located on the territory of the free economic zone which provides tax and customs privileges to the businesses operating here.

The exhibition is being organized by the Armenian Jewellery Association (AJA) for the sixth time.

The exhibition is attended by famous jewellery houses from different countries, individual jewelers, and experts.

The President toured the pavilions, familiarized with the jewellery pieces presented by the local and foreign companies, jewellery tools, familiarized with the activities and upcoming programs of the firms.



President Sargsyan attends opening of the Yerevan fair trade center



President Serzh Sargsyan was present at the opening of the Yerevan fair trade center on October 27. The creation of the center was initiated by the SIL Concern Company. During the tour, the President was briefed by the officials of the Company on the works carried out at the first stage, investments, new jobs, and the upcoming development programs, particularly the works envisaged for the second stage.

It was noted that in January-June 2016, over 250 employees were engaged in the construction on a permanent basis with the average salary of 200.000 AMD. The segment of the fair constructed during

the first stage of the works will allow to hire 550 employees with the average salary of 150.000 AMD.

According to the officials, investments at this stage came close to 2 billion 500 million AMD. After the second phase of construction works is completed, in summer of 2017 Yerevan will have a fair, which will occupy 430002 meters, with 850 pavilions for retail and wholesale trade, with all modern facilities. The fair will create over 1000 new jobs with the average salary of 150.000 AMD.



Brussels Airlines launches new Yerevan-Brussels service



From March 31st 2017 onwards, Brussels Airlines will operate flights from Armenia to Brussels. The capital Yerevan will be connected once a week with Brussels Airport and in July and August this weekly service is complemented by a second flight, according to the official website of the Brussels Airlines.

So far, Armenia was not directly connected by air with the European Capital of Brussels in the heart of Belgium. People of Armenian origin who live in Belgium, the South of the Netherlands and the North of France needed to fly through connections via other airports to Yerevan. With the new direct flights, Brussels Airlines now responds to the important market demand of the Armenian diaspora. Also Belgian tour

operators and travel agents will make use of the new service in order to offer guided

tours and holidays in Armenia.

Flights are operated with modern Airbus A 320 aircraft and leave Brussels Airport on Saturday and Tuesday late afternoon. The return flight from Yerevan arrives in Brussels in the early morning of Wednesday and Sunday. The Saturday service will be operated all year long and starts on March 31. The Tuesday flight will be offered in summer months (July and August) only.



welcome to

ARMENIA 2016

TOURISM FORUM

Մելիք-Աղամյան 2/2
«AGBU» շենք

Հոկտեմբեր 28

Կազմակերպիչ **BPA** BUSINESS PARTNERS OF ARMENIA

Դեմ : 56 41 76, 099 58 09 02

Օգնավոր գործընկերներ



Պլանինգ գործընկերներ



Գործընկեր հյուրանոց



Գործընկեր ստորգեղայ աղե ֆալաֆ



Գործընկեր իրավաբանական ընկերություն



Գործընկեր ռեզորս ենթակառուցում



THE DEVELOPING TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE OF TURKMENISTAN IS THE BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE

from page 1

Large-scale projects for the radical and comprehensive modernization of the transport infrastructure of Turkmenistan are becoming an increasingly important driving force of the economic integration not only at the regional level, but also for the entire Eurasian continent. Throughout the modern history of Turkmenistan large scale projects of constructing rail, road, water and air routes as well as pipelines were implemented with a high speed.

The key focus of the national development strategy of Turkmenistan in the field of transport is the foundation of the new geo-economic space that unites Central Asia, the Caspian, Black Sea and Baltic regions, the Middle and Near East, South and Southeast Asia.

Under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov long-term national programs are successfully implemented in the country, which are aimed at strengthening the material-technical base of the transport sector, expanding the existing and creating new transport and communication networks, that are designed to bring the international economic and trade cooperation to a qualitatively new level. This will lead to the active integration of the transport system of Turkmenistan to the international communications infrastructure, the creation of large logistics centers providing regional coordination of intermodal transportation.

In recent years, Turkmenistan widely puts into operation unique railway and road bridges, engineering structures that are built on the most advanced technologies. They serve as the formation of important regional and inter-regional transport routes through Turkmenistan to the destinations of North to South, East to West. In fact, these are crucial steps towards the revival of an extensive system of roads of the Great Silk Road.

According to the Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, development of transport infrastructure is one of the absolute priorities of Turkmenistan's policy, which is shared with the neighboring states

implementing major regional and continental projects. They open up enormous opportunities for the optimization of traffic flows in Eurasia, providing access to the sea terminals of the Black Sea and Baltic regions, South and South-East Asia, the Middle East, as well as powerful economic centers, such as China, India, Pakistan, the countries of Asian and Pacific region.

One of the important links of the international network of transport communications will be the railway Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran and the Turkmenistan-Afghani-



stan-Tajikistan road and rail bridges across the Amu Darya river, the airports in Ashgabat and regions, the expressways, the international sea port of Turkmenbashi and other objects that are already put into exploitation or are being built all over the country.

Highlighting the importance of intensifying constructive cooperation in the sphere of development of the international transport system with specialized UN agencies, the Turkmen leader suggested a discussion of the possibility of creating Modal Highway in Central Asia with access to Turkey on the basis of the experience of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the UNECE and the ESCAP.

Turkmenistan is also ready to act as an active partner and participant of the program of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACE-CA), since the formation of the western transport corridor from Central Asia is highly important in the context of revival

of the Great Silk Road and linking the two economic poles of Eurasia.

Another expressive example is the draft of a new transport corridor "Central Asia - Middle East" (Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman) initiated by the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, in which some neighboring countries show a high interest, in respect of a possible participation in the project.

On December 19, 2014 at the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly a resolution "The role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development" initiated by the Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was adopted by overall consensus.

This eloquent fact, and also the fact that the co-authors of the above-mentioned document were 66 states, i.e. all Central Asian countries, the majority of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, Latin America and Africa, show a sound increase of the authority of Turkmenistan on the world stage. It should be emphasized that this resolution is the first document of the UN General Assembly to formalize the proposal to establish a global partnership for sustainable transport.

According to the "National Program for Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030" Turkmenistan is defined as the transcontinental economic bridge of interaction of European, Asia-Pacific and South Asian economies. Therefore, the priority of this long-term program is the advanced development of the transport and communication complex capable to fully meet the needs of the economy and population in the transport services. The main objectives of the abovementioned program are progressive integration into the world transport system, further expanding of the national infrastructure.

Taking an active role in the issues of cooperation in this sphere, including in the framework of the UN and other international organizations, Turkmenistan initiates and together with foreign partners rapidly

implements large infrastructural projects, making a significant contribution to the formation of combined transport infrastructure in the regional and transcontinental level.

In case of the practical realization of all the plans of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov the Turkmen state will become the largest international transport and transit center, contributing to the effective development of the inter-state relations on the whole Eurasian continent with the possibility of efficient use of all modes of transport - rail, air, sea and road.

Huge funds are systematically directed to the expansion and modernization of material-technical base of the transport infrastructure of Turkmenistan. So, in recent years the rolling stock of the railway transport of the country was completely renewed, more than thousand new freight cars, including 250 self-unloading wagons, 110 bunker - for transportation of bitumen, 100 tankers for oil transportation, 255 cement, 102 wagons for transportation of grain and 256 - for the carriage of fertilizers were purchased, as well as 425 carriages for passenger trains and 158 locomotives were obtained.

The State enterprise of air transport "Turkmenistan" under the State National Service "Turkmenhowayollary" has got 11 aircraft and 8 helicopters. In 2013 three aircrafts "Boeing-737-800" were purchased and in 2014 - two planes "Boeing 777-200 LR». In April 2016 the President of Turkmenistan signed an Agreement of purchasing three "Boeing 737-800". In addition to this, agreements are being prepared for further purchase of aircrafts from different companies with 50 and 100 passengers for the use on local flights.

Currently, aircrafts of State enterprise "Turkmenhowayollary" make regular flights to many cities all around the world: Moscow and London, Frankfurt and Birmingham, Bangkok and Delhi, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Amritsar, Minsk and Almaty, Istanbul, St. Petersburg, Paris and etc. Geography of the flights is constantly expanding. The possibility of opening direct air flights to Milan and Tbilisi are being studied now.

In September 2016 the inauguration of the new international airport complex in Ashgabat, worth over two billion dollars was held. The new airport will be able to take aircraft of any type and capacity, while ensuring that international standards of ser-

vice. The capacity of the ultra-modern air harbor will be 2000 passengers per hour. The complex of the new International Airport consists of three terminals - passenger, VIP, as well as cargo, a new runway (WFP), the length of 3800 meters, taxiways, apron and parking spaces for aircraft, air traffic control tower, service traffic, and other objects. The total land area, which is located on the airport complex, is 1,200 hectares.

Due to the special attention of the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the commercial and civilian fleet of Turkmenistan is rapidly restocked, the vessels and watercrafts of which are actively contributing to the expansion of the regular passenger and cargo transportation through the Caspian Sea - the sea that washes the shores



The activation of these routes will significantly save the time, carrying goods from European countries to Central Asia, the Middle and Far East, which in its turn will bring to the improvement of the trading relations. It will also help to expand the volume of passenger transportation by sea, and will positively affect the development of the National tourist zone "Avaza" by increasing the number of tourists from neighboring Caspian countries.

In order to strengthen and develop relations in the field of sea transport between the Caspian states on the basis of freedom of movement of vessels and watercrafts on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, an agreement on cooperation in the field of merchant shipping was signed between the Governments of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. Similar projects of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Azerbaijani and Turkmen-Iranian agreements are being worked out on the diplomatic level.

The ongoing construction of a new inter-

national sea port of Turkmenbashi is of particular importance nowadays. As known, Turkmenistan is a part of the international transport corridor TRACECA through turkmen Primorye, and the "sea gate" linking Central Asia and Europe will become the largest logistics and distribution center in the region in the nearest future.

Taking into account the development of the economies of Central Asian countries, the increase of mutual turnover and an increase in the flow of goods in transit to these countries through the port of Turkmenbashi is anticipated. Car passengers will also serve as an incentive to the development of transport links, not only in the Caspian countries, but also in Central Asia as a whole.

In this context, the First Global Conference on the Sustainable Transport, convened by the United Nations Secretary-General and endorsed by the General Assembly should be marked. This high-level forum will be held in accordance with the Resolution of the United Nations to assist the development of sustainable transport and multilateral transit corridors, ensuring full cooperation of all modes of transport, adopted in December 2015 at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

As part of the Global Conference the Document event will be held, i.e. signing of several international conventions and agreements, as well as the final documents is scheduled. The conference agenda will include a wide range of topical issues: sustainable transport and environmental change, energy and transport, urban transport system and road transport links between cities and villages, the investment in the transport sector and its financing, international cooperation in the transport sector and its legal basis, the development of multilateral transport corridors and their infrastructure, traffic safety, etc.

The significance of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Transport was confirmed by the time itself, because, as marked by the esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, pushing relevant global initiatives, transport sphere is one of the key segments of the global economy and an essential factor in global sustainable development, directly affecting the stability and balance of world economic relations.

Embassy of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Armenia

Doing Business 2017: Armenia 5 points up, ranked 38th

Economies of the Europe and Central Asia region place among the top improvers in the World Bank Group's ease of doing business report.

A total of 57 business reforms were carried out by the region's economies in the past year, finds Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All, released on October 25.

This year, Armenia is ranked 38 among 190 economies in Doing Business report 2017 and is 5 points up from last year's Doing Business 2016 rank 43 (recalculated based on methodology changes and addition of one economy, Somalia). In Doing Business 2017, Armenia also shows 1.47 percentage points' improvement in distance to frontier score -73.63 compared to the previous year's 72.16 percentage points.

Armenia made it easier to do business in two areas measured by the report, including Getting Credit and Enforcing Contracts. Specifically, Armenia strengthened access to credit by adopting a new law on secured transactions that establishes a modern and centralized collateral registry, and improved its credit information system by adopting a new law on personal data protection.

Armenia also made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a consolidated chapter regulating voluntary mediation and by establishing financial incentives for the parties to attempt mediation.

Four of the region's economies, Kazakhstan (ranked 35th in DB17), Belarus (ranked 37th), Serbia (ranked 47th) and



Georgia (ranked 16th), place among this year's top 10 improvers, based on reforms undertaken. For a second consecutive year, Kazakhstan, with seven business reforms, led the world in the number of reforms implemented, together with Indonesia. In the region, Georgia and Belarus followed with five and four reforms, respectively. For example, Georgia strengthened minority investor protections by increasing shareholder rights and role in major corporate decisions and by clarifying ownership and control structures.

The top ranked economy in the region is the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with a global ranking of 10. Thanks to past reforms it now takes an entrepreneur in FYR Macedonia only two days to start a business, which is significantly less than the regional average of 10 days.

Argentina's capital hosts "Buenos Aires celebrates Armenia" festival

Agencia Prensa Armenia – Thousands of people attended the festival Buenos Aires Celebrates Armenia organized by the government of the City of Buenos Aires and the Armenian community in Argentina, with

shows that included Armenian dances and music, food stands and artistic and cultural events.

The singer Grigor Mirzoyan was the main attraction of the show, which was then ac-

companied by the Argentine-Armenian band Nor Arax, the violinist Aida Simonian and singers Valeria Cherekian and Arman Gasparyan. The Armenian folk dances groups Nairi, Masis, Kaiane and Narek interpreted the songs with traditional Armenian dances.

The event in an outdoor park was attended by the Secretary for Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism of the Nation Claudio Avruj, President of National Bank Carlos Melconian, Archbishop Kissag Mouradian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church for Argentina and Chile and the Consul of Armenia in Argentina, Ester Mkrtumyan along with officials, leaders of the Armenian community in the country, scout groups and representatives of the community schools.

The "Buenos Aires Celebrates" program was created in 2009 to organize thematic festivals of all communities of Argentina.



WikiLeaks reveals Hillary Clinton's email exchanges on Armenian issues



Harut Sassounian

The whole world is following with great interest the flood of internal emails released by WikiLeaks: over 400,000 emails of the Turkish ruling party (AKP), 2.8 million U.S. diplomatic emails, over 30,000 emails sent or received by Hillary Clinton while she was Secretary of State, and 27,000 emails and attachments hacked from the Democratic National Committee.

I will single out a few out of the hundreds of leaked emails that touch upon Armenia or Turkey:

1. On April 19, 2015, Jake Sullivan, Hillary Clinton's foreign policy adviser, sent an email to a half dozen senior campaign staffers, including Chairman John Podesta, asking if they should issue a statement on the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Sullivan also wanted to know if Clinton would use the term "genocide" as she did as Senator and presidential candidate eight years ago, or will she avoid that term as she did as Secretary of State? Sullivan pointed out that "the White House studiously avoided using 'genocide' so far," and would probably continue to do so. Sullivan wondered whether Clinton's campaign should proactively issue a statement on the Armenian Genocide or wait until asked to do so by "Armenian groups." Sullivan ended his email by acknowledging that the Armenian Genocide issue "matters enormously to Armenian-Americans." Within hours, Podesta suggested that a quotation from Pope Francis acknowl-

edging the Armenian Genocide be included in the genocide statement which ultimately the Clinton Campaign decided not to issue.

2. Ismail Cobanoglu, First Counselor of the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., sent an email on Sept. 9, 2015 to Campaign Chairman John Podesta, asking if Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu could "pay a courtesy call on Mrs. Clinton," in New York, between Sept. 26 and 30. Strangely, Cobanoglu stated that he had first written to the State Department, but was told that Clinton was no longer Secretary of State! Cobanoglu told Podesta that Davutoglu is making this request "in light of his prior friendship with Secretary Clinton dating back to the time when they were colleagues as Secretary of State/Foreign Minister." On the same day, Podesta told Cobanoglu that Mrs. Clinton's "schedule is quite difficult, but this would be a priority meeting if at all possible. Huma Abedin, the campaign's Vice Chair, will follow up." Podesta then asked Ms. Abedin: "How do you want to handle?" She responded the next day to Cobanoglu informing him that Mrs. Clinton "would be happy to meet with the Prime Minister but we aren't certain that she will be in New York any of days you suggest. We will let you know as soon as we are more clear on her schedule. We will be in touch soon." It is not known if the requested meeting ever took place.

3. On December 17, 2010, Huma Abedin, who at the time was Secretary of State Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, forwarded her news about a ruling by the Federal Appeals Court, allowing heirs of Armenian Genocide victims to

seek compensation from three German life insurance companies. Interestingly, and ominously, the subject line of Abedin's email stated that Foreign Minister Davutoglu referred to this court case in his earlier phone call to Clinton. The next day, Harold Koh, Legal adviser of the State Department, sent a copy of the court verdict to Jake Sullivan, Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, and Joe MacManus, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of State, asking them to forward this important document to Secretary Clinton. Koh added that "since FM [Foreign Minister] Davutoglu mentioned it in his phone call to her on Friday, we wanted to get this to her ASAP." Sullivan sent the court verdict to Secretary Clinton with the following note: "Importance: High." In my opinion, this was an unwarranted and blatant interference by the Turkish Foreign Minister in the US judicial system, seeking to enlist the Secretary of State in pressuring the courts to reverse the verdict! It is not known if Mrs. Clinton took any action in this regard. However, the Federal Court of Appeals subsequently struck down the earlier decision.

4. Finally, in a March 17, 2016 email, Campaign Chairman John Podesta listed 39 individuals as potential Vice Presidential candidates for Mrs. Clinton. One of the surprising names on the list was Muhtar Kent, a Turkish-American who is Chairman of The Coca Cola Company. His father, Necdet Kent, was Consul General of Turkey in New York City, where Muhtar was born. He attended high school in Mersin, Turkey. As we know, Mrs. Clinton ended up picking Tim Kaine as her running mate, not Muhtar Kent.

Euro-Asian transport links in focus of meeting supported by the OSCE Office in Yerevan

Enhancing economic connectivity perspectives and the development of Euro-Asian inland transport links were the focus of a two-day expert meeting held by the OSCE Office in Yerevan within the UNECE's Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, which ended on October 28 in Yerevan.

The event brought together representatives from state institutions, private sector, specialized transport organizations and experts from Armenia, Greece, Iran, Poland, Russia, Singapore, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

They discussed recent developments in infrastructure projects and transit initiatives along Euro-Asian routes, in particular the Silk Road Programme, and the North-South Road Corridor Investment Program. Participants discussed the draft of the UNECE EATL Phase 3 Report which shall serve as a basis for policy co-ordination and action to make the overland Euro-Asian trade transport links operational and commercially attractive. The participants agreed that public-private partnerships and political support are required to boost regional economic growth, stability and security through improving existing legal agreements, simplifying procedures and eliminating redundant and restrictive rules.

"The OSCE recognizes the significance of the Euro-Asian Transport Links project for the economic connectivity and social stability of the region," noted David Gullette, Acting Economic and Environmental Officer at the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Miroslav Jovanovic from the UNECE's Sustainable Transport Division said that "The UNECE intends to contribute to the economic



development in Europe and Asia by easing transport and trade links and making them more commercially viable."

Zukhra Bektepeva, Economic Affairs Officer at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) stressed that enhancing harmonization and predictability of transport and customs procedures and regulations requires not only technical know-how but also political will and co-operation.

Artak Zakaryan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly of Armenia emphasized the significance of regional economic integration where "improvement and development of effective Euro-Asian transport and efficient logistics chains are vitally important."

The expert meeting was supported by the OCEEA and the UNECE.

The OSCE has been providing political and practical help to the UNECE's Euro-Asian Transport Links since 2006.

Euro-Asian transport links in focus of meeting supported by the OSCE Office in Yerevan

Enhancing economic connectivity perspectives and the development of Euro-Asian inland transport links were the focus of a two-day expert meeting held by the OSCE Office in Yerevan within the UNECE's Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, which ended on October 28 in Yerevan.

The event brought together representatives from state institutions, private sector, specialized transport organizations and experts from Armenia, Greece, Iran, Poland, Russia, Singapore, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

They discussed recent developments in infrastructure projects and transit initiatives along Euro-Asian routes, in particular the Silk Road Programme, and the North-South Road Corridor Investment Program. Participants discussed the draft of the UNECE EATL Phase 3 Report which shall serve as a

basis for policy co-ordination and action to make the overland Euro-Asian trade transport links operational and commercially attractive. The participants agreed that public-private partnerships and political support are required to boost regional economic growth, stability and security through improving existing legal agreements, simplifying procedures and eliminating redundant and restrictive rules.

"The OSCE recognizes the significance of the Euro-Asian Transport Links project for the economic connectivity and social stability of the region," noted David Gullette, Acting Economic and Environmental Officer at the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Miroslav Jovanovic from the UNECE's Sustainable Transport Division said that "The UNECE intends to contribute to the economic development in Europe and Asia by easing transport and trade links and mak-

ing them more commercially viable."

Zukhra Bektepeva, Economic Affairs Officer at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) stressed that enhancing harmonization and predictability of transport and customs procedures and regulations requires not only technical know-how but also political will and co-operation.

Artak Zakaryan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly of Armenia emphasized the significance of regional economic integration where "improvement and development of effective Euro-Asian transport and efficient logistics chains are vitally important."

The expert meeting was supported by the OCEEA and the UNECE.

The OSCE has been providing political and practical help to the UNECE's Euro-Asian Transport Links since 2006.

Armenian Foreign Minister meets with the Vice-President of Indonesia



On November 1, while paying an official visit to Jakarta, Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia, was received by Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia.

Welcoming the Foreign Minister of Armenia, the Vice President of Indonesia attached importance to the further deepening of bilateral relations, in that regard outlining the significance of the visit of the Foreign Minister of Armenia to Jakarta.

During the meeting the sides emphasized the necessity to intensify political dialogue between Armenia and Indonesia, to expand cooperation between different agencies, to foster trade and economic cooperation, while attaching importance to the

organization of business forums, establishment of interaction between the trade palaces, promotion of people-to-people contacts and tourism to that end.

Jusuf Kalla and Edward Nalbandian exchanged views on a number of international and regional issues and the efforts being undertaken towards their settlement. The interlocutors mutually outlined the necessity to settle issues exclusively through peaceful means by excluding the use of force.

On the same day Edward Nalbandian visited the Parliament of Indonesia, where he had a meeting with Agus Hermanto, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, and the members of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

At the meeting the possibilities to develop cooperation between the Parliaments of the two countries was discussed, importance was attached to the establishment of friendship groups and collaboration within the international parliamentary formats.

The interlocutors touched upon numerous issues of bilateral agenda, as well as expansion of legal framework.

Upon the request of the Indonesian Parliamentarians, Minister Nalbandian presented Armenia's foreign policy priorities, touched upon the efforts exerted by Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to create conducive conditions for the advancement of settlement process of the Azerbaijan-Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) conflict.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia and the Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Indonesia share the view that attempts to give a religious pretext to conflicts is inadmissible and issues need to be solved exclusively through negotiations and peaceful means.

Armenia, Greece keen on expanding economic cooperation



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received on November 1 the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Greece

to Armenia Nafsika Nancy Eva Vraila. The Prime Minister attached importance to the continuous development of the Arme-

nian-Greek relations and pledged the willingness of the government to promote initiatives targeted at furthering the bilateral ties.

Mrs. Vraila noted that the two peoples have historically enjoyed firm good-neighborly relations, and Greece is ready to continue implementing bilateral programs.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the deepening of bilateral trade and economic cooperation and attached importance to taking steps to intensify the business ties.

The Ambassador informed about the plans of Greek businessmen to visit Armenia next year to study the investment opportunities and discuss the perspectives of expansion of economic ties.

During the meeting reference was made to the cooperation in the fields of tourism, education, and science.

Russian Gas Company offers new, lower tariffs for Armenian consumers

Russian gas monopolist Gazprom's subsidiary in Armenia has asked the local regulators to lower tariffs for consumers as well as approve new ones for certain groups of citizens and corporate bodies after an apparent request from the country's authorities.

Last week the possibility of lowering gas prices for Armenian consumers was addressed during a meeting of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and visiting Gazprom chief Alexey Miller.

Gazprom, which provides the bulk of Armenia's natural gas, already lowered its price by 9 percent, to \$150 per thousand cubic meters, as recently as in April, which resulted in a 6-percent reduction of the retail price for households and small businesses in the country from July 1.

Speculation about a possible further cut in the gas price began in September shortly after former Gazprom executive Karen Karapetyan was appointed Armenia's new prime minister.

During the first meeting of his cabinet later that month Karapetyan, in particular, told the Armenian ministries of energy and labor as well as state utility regulators to explore ways of making electricity and gas cheaper for low-income households and some businesses.

"This must be done at the expense of economic entities that provide such services, rather than the state budget," Karapetyan said in a clear reference to energy suppliers.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Gazprom Armenia said that in its application to the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) it seeks the approval of lower prices for both individual consumers using less than 10,000 cubic meters of natural gas a month as well as corporate consumers using higher amounts.

The decrease sought by the company for households is expected to make over 5 percent – from current 146.4 to 139 drams per cubic meter (the current exchange rate of the U.S. dollar in Armenia



on average is 473 drams).

Corporate users, meanwhile, are offered to pay an equivalent of \$242.1 per thousand cubic meters instead of current \$257.

Besides, the company offers some differentiation in its tariffs. Thus, for consumers that are entitled to family or social benefits Gazprom Armenia offers a 100-dram-per-cubic-meter tariff for 600 cubic meters consumed during a year.

For farmers keeping greenhouses from November 1 to March 31 the company offers a tariff of an equivalent of \$212 per thousand cubic meters and for processing companies it offers the same tariff all year round.

Payments, according to Gazprom Armenia, will be accepted in drams in accordance with the average price of the U.S. dollar formed on the Armenian currency market following the publication by the Central Bank of Armenia of the exchange rate for the 25th day of the preceding month.

"To encourage corporate consumers in Armenia's market to increase the volumes of gas consumption and expand their activities, all consumers using 10,000 cubic meters of gas and more per month, except liquefied natural gas filling stations, state budget-funded organizations and electricity generators using natural gas at thermal stations for supplying electric power to

the domestic market, for every 1,000 cubic meters of gas consumed above 10,000 will be asked to pay only an equivalent of \$212," the company announced.

"For newly established gas consuming companies, whose monthly gas consumption will make 10,000 cubic meters or more, gas supply conditions and tariffs will be determined additionally, as a result of discussions between Gazprom Armenia and PSRC."

A PSRC official told RFE/RL's Armenian Service (Azatutyun.am) later today that if approved, the new tariffs are likely to become effective from January 1, 2017.

Vahagn Khachatryan, an economist affiliated with an opposition party, described the possible reduction of gas tariffs in Armenia as "predictable" since, according to him, gas prices offered to the country's consumers by the Russian monopolist are "inflated". He further claimed that Gazprom Armenia receives excessive profits.

Gazprom Armenia has not yet explained at what expensive it is going to reduce the tariffs. But Khachatryan fears that it may again come "at a price" for Armenia. He, in particular, pointed out the 2013 gas deal as a result of which the Armenian government ceded its remaining 20-percent stake in the gas distribution network to Gazprom on account of accumulated debts.

Building owner shrugs off responsibility for controversial demolition

The main owner of a building in central Yerevan who received a permit to construct a hotel in its place says its recent controversial demolition by way of a controlled implosion was carried out by a licensed organization hired by the construction company, implying that he bore no responsibility for its consequences.

The apocalyptic scene of a building collapsing amid a cloud of dust and smoke shocked many residents of nearby houses and passers-by last Thursday as the company was accused of not properly notifying citizens about the planned activity.

The video of the demolition went viral on the internet causing angry reactions from many who watched it.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan addressed the issue as he hosted working consultations with government officials, including Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Yeritsyan, on October 31.

“It’s not a testing area, is it? Nor is it a military ordnance yard. The impression is that anyone can do whatever they want in this city,” Karapetyan reproached the minister and other officials, ordering that the individuals and entities found

responsible for the failure to notify citizens and corresponding authorities about the planned building implosion should be held accountable for that.

Genik Karapetyan (no relation to the prime minister), who is a majority stakeholder at Astoria Invest CJSC, the company that owns the building, acknowledged no responsibility for the matter, saying that his company that got a permit for the work back in July hired a demolition squad for the purpose. According to him, seeing risks of a collapse after a six-week effort the demolishers in their turn hired a licensed organization for the controlled implosion.

The demolished building historically housed the first printing house in Yerevan, which also angered many architects and architectural conservationists in Armenia concerned about the historical and cultural heritage of the city.

Some of them assumed that no proper notification of residents was provided before the demolition because the owner feared protests from activists that would complicate his work.

Talking to RFE/RL’s Armenian Service

(Azatutyun.am), Karapetyan dismissed the criticism, saying that he had checked with the Ministry of Culture in advance that the building was not listed as a historical-cultural monument.

Karapetyan further argued that under his design the two wings of the former printing house that are of some architectural value will be preserved, while a nine-storey building will appear on the site of the demolished part of the building. He stressed that as an owner of the site he realizes his responsibility.

“The owner has no right to do whatever he wants, because what he owns belongs to the whole city, especially if the matter concerns the city center. The owner must do what is in line with the surroundings and does not interfere with the overall original design of the city,” Karapetyan said.

“Memory is people’s greatest wealth, and I put it above all,” he added.

Astoria Invest’s construction design for the site is expected to be discussed and approved by the Union of Architects of Armenia before it can finally get off the drawing board.



Armenians honor Aznavour with Hollywood star



AFP – French singing legend Charles Aznavour, one of the 20th century’s most prolific songwriters who remains active at 92, was honored Thursday with a Hollywood star presented by California’s Armenians.

Aznavour, often dubbed France’s Frank Sinatra, said he was “deeply moved” by the recognition.

The star is not on Hollywood Boulevard’s main Walk of Fame but was dedicated by the Armenian community on a nearby stretch of sidewalk.

“I’ve been coming to Hollywood for years and I’ve worked a lot in the United States,” Aznavour told AFP. “America is the land of show business.”

Aznavour was born in France to Ar-

menian parents. Some 1.5 million Armenians died in 1915-17 in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire in what

Armenia, several foreign parliaments and many historians describe as genocide.

Turkey strongly opposes the characterization of genocide, calling the episode a collective tragedy in which an equal number of Turks and Armenians died.

“What I find very funny is that Turkey lost something. They don’t have a single great singer and I could have been a Turkish singer, while today I’m a French singer,” Aznavour said.

“Which goes to show that there’s no purpose to genocide as there are always survivors,” he said.

Aznavour has written hundreds of songs in a career that spans more than 80 years, with more than 100 million records sold worldwide.



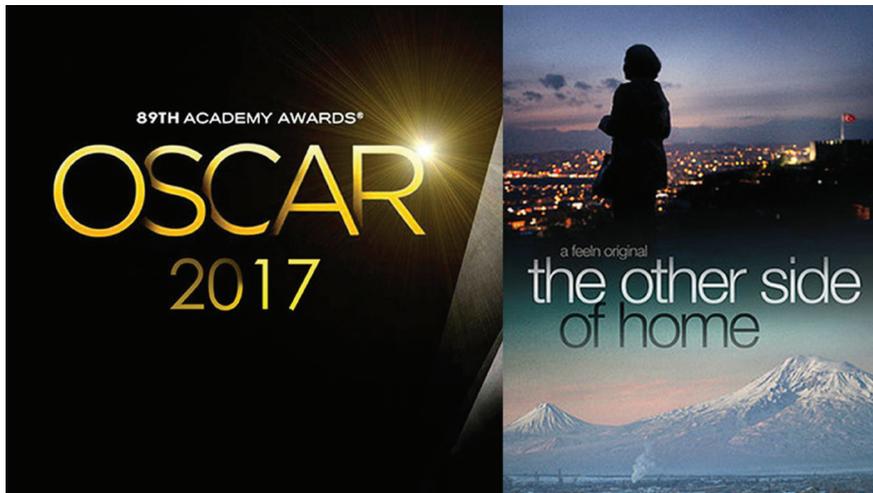
He remains energetic and said he still feels excitement before crowds. Earlier in October he played Madison Square Garden in New York.

“I feel like I’m meeting my family, whether they’re Italian or Spanish or from elsewhere. The audience is part of my family. The stage is where I’m happiest.”

And he said he is not finished. “I always have 40 songs ahead of me. I write every day.”

AFP Photo/Jonathan Alcorn

**The Other Side of Home:
Armenian Genocide documentary shortlisted for Oscar**



Documentary film “The Other Side of Home” made by Armenian filmmaker Nare Mkrtychyan living in Los Angeles has been included in the shortlist of Documentary Short Subject of 89th Academy Awards. Nine other films are included in this nomina-

tion. The official website of Oscar informs. “The Other Side of Home” tells about a Turkish woman named Maya who discovers that her great grandmother was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide and decides to go to Armenia to take part in the 100th

commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Maya comes to embody the conflict, as she is both an Armenian and Turkish. She has two conflicting identities: one that suffers and the other that denies the suffering and its causes. This documentary is a universal story of identity, denial, and how the experience of genocide creates a ripple effect for future generations on both sides.

Nare Mkrtychyan’s grandmother and grandfather were among the survivals of the Armenian Genocide. Ahead of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide he intended to shoot a film that would not be specifically about the genocide, but rather a story about suffering.

The premiere of “The Other Side of Home” was held in the US and its Armenian premiere will kick off within the framework of Golden Apricot film festival.

89th Academy Awards will take place on 26 February 2017.

Collection of notes of Khachaturian’s famous works’ arrangements for piano published

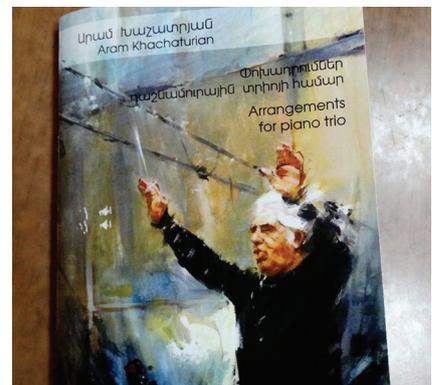
The collection of notes of Khachaturian’s famous works’ arrangements for piano trio will be presented at Aram Khachaturyan House Museum on November 9.

The collection comprises some of Aram Khachaturian’s famous works, arranged for piano trio by Avetik Pivazyan and Ruben Asatryan special for Khachaturian trio. The authors have remained faithful to the original works and retained Khachaturian’s artistic style and colours.

The collection has been published at

“Komitas” publishing house. The book is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia. Besides, a little concert will take place during the presentation. These arrangements will be performed by the musicians of Khachaturian Trio.

On the same day the museum will also host the opening of the exhibition “Dedication to Aram Khachaturian”. The works of the Honored Artist of Armenia Henrik Elibekyan will be presented to the audience.



Monument Unveiled for Perished Freedom Fighters in Sisian

MARTAKERT, Artsakh

The unveiling of a cross stone monument in memory of freedom fighters in Sisian who died during the Four Day War in April took place on October 29 in the Martakert region of Artsakh, reported Artsakh’s presidential press service. Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan visited the Talish village to partake in the solemn opening ceremony.

In his speech, Sahakyan noted that “At

this moment, everybody is full of various emotions; on one hand, we feel sorrow and sadness remembering our friends and relatives, on the other hand, we are proud to have heroes defend the native country and people who show bravery and selflessness, for whom serving to the Motherland is their most important mission.”

Sahakyan underlined that residents of Syunik and Sisian in particular, had always had an active participation in the defense of

the Motherland. “In this respect, the Artsakh Liberation War was not an exception during which they struggled against the enemy bringing their inestimable contribution to our glorious victories.”

Artsakh National Assembly chairman Ashot Ghoullyan, Armenian National Assembly deputy chairman Eduard Sharmazanov, other officials, representatives from Armenia and the Diaspora also partook in the event.

'Women Of 1915' opening sequence nominated for Regional Emmy Award

Asbarez – The Armenoid Team announced on October 21 that the award-winning filmmaker, Bared Maronian's opening sequence of "Women of 1915" documentary has been nominated by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) 40th Annual Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards among its Craft Achievement Nominees for directing. Already a four-time Emmy award winner, this is Maronian's first Emmy nomination as a director.

"I'm honored and grateful to be among the 2016 NATAS nominees—for the first time as a director," said Maronian. "My heartfelt gratitude to my sponsors and the entire Armenoid Team without whose continued support and expertise the production of 'Women of 1915' wouldn't have been possible."

"Women of 1915" premiered in New Jersey in June, under the sponsorship of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) of the Eastern United States—a non-profit women's organization—and also premiered in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). The documentary has already been awarded the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award—and accepted into the following upcoming film festivals:

ARPA Film Festival at the Egyptian Theatre, November 5, 3:30pm in Hollywood, California.

Pomegranate Film Festival, November 20, 1pm in Toronto, Canada.

"Women of 1915" is the first documentary to unveil the role of the Armenian women of the era and the horrors they lived through the first Genocide

of the 20th century. The documentary highlights the integral role the Armenian women played in their respective communities and the heroic, humanitarian women advocates who came to their aid from around the world, and some who even died at war-ravaged Ottoman Empire to empower the Armenian women as pillars of war-torn, post-Genocide societies.

Maronian's "Women of 1915" follows his highly acclaimed documentary "Orphans of the Genocide" on the plight of the Armenian Genocide orphans. "Orphans of the Genocide" was selected by the Hong Kong World International Film Festival, and nationally distributed by the National Educational Telecommunications Association to over 250 TV stations across the U.S. Since

its release, "Orphans of the Genocide" has been awarded a Telly Award, nominated to the 2014 Regional Emmy Award in Historical Documentary category, was part of the NYC Filmmaker's Festival, nominated as Best Documentary at the 2013 ARPA Film Festival, featured at New York's Unspoken Human Rights Film Festival, and received the Audience Choice Award at the 2013 Pomegranate Film Festival in Toronto.

As the founder of the Armenoid Team, Maronian specializes in producing thematically Armenian documentaries, and has produced three Armenian films. Maronian is a graduate of Haigazian University with a major in Political Science, and has attended Palm Beach State College of Florida and the Broadcast Career Institute of Palm Beach.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

This month's Venus/Mars alignment brings you face to face with your identity versus your relationship. You must consciously evaluate how you will manage to meet your personal needs and yet remain connected to the "other" in your life. Someone may be "returning" after a time apart, which offers another opportunity to share.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You are particularly devoted to resolving shared financial issues at this time. This focus includes partner's income, debts you may have accumulated, concerns regarding income tax, social security, estate planning, and finances you may share with others in the stock or bond market. You have a desire to tighten up details concerning these matters.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Life becomes less complicated with details and trivia this week. You are tuned into those around you and willing to assist in whatever way is possible. It is also possible that you prefer to enjoy books and/or TV, meditate and journal. Give yourself time for self-exploration and even just "diddling around" and relaxing. Your dreams are meaningful and your intuition strong.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Your heart and mind may be in conflict over just how to proceed with your next projects. This is a good time to reorganize drawers, closets, or maybe your desk. The act of putting clutter into order will clear your mind and then the solution is likely to surface.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Give attention to that which gives you a sense of long term security. Your property or home may be the focus of attention. If there are missing parts in your plan, they will show themselves now. A lovely gift may come to you through a relative who thinks you are worthy to take care of a treasure.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You and your partner or a close friend have the opportunity to enjoy leisurely time together in an idyllic location. This is a good time for deep conversations, reflection upon your spiritual life and perhaps also the relationship. Allow your intuition to flow and guide you. Give attention to your dreams.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

A new person enters the scene to assist with problems you may be having with a child or a lover. This is someone who can see many points of view and will assist you in equalizing the situation. Criticism is uncalled for in this situation. However, things must be handled with integrity and respect for all concerned.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

During the next week you will be contemplating your existence. You are thinking about how you can position yourself in order to feel more sense of meaning in your work, your family, and your relationships. Some may be pondering on the level of the spiritual. "What is the 'best' that I can become?" You are not very objective now, but you may have some very creative ideas.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

This week you may embark on a project that you share with friends or other associates. The purpose is practical and helpful to many. Your career or life direction is blending harmoniously with what you feel is the "right" thing to do. People with power are giving help and/or education as you need it. Forward motion moves smoothly.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

A friend or helper is a supporting background player in the territory of career or life direction. This person, who is probably a female, will be working on your behalf to help improve your status in the world. She is greasing the skids in your path. You may never learn about what she is doing to help you.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

A new person or an option is present in your career or work in the world. The "new" one offers positive ideas, encouragement, and a fresh means of expanding your territory. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination. Business takes on a more collegial quality.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Communication with those from a distance will be favorable and supportive to your soul self. The time is auspicious for activities related to travel, the internet, publishing, teaching, higher education, and the law. You have a poetic turn of mind at this time. You likely will enjoy reading spiritual or philosophical material.

French and Italian translations of “Narek” presented in Yerevan

The Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts hosts the second international scientific conference “Readings from Narekatsi.” The event dedicated to the memory of famed scholar, Hrachya Tamrazayan has brought together best specialists in the field of Narekatsi studies.

The Italian and French translations of Narek (The Book of Lamentations) were presented within the framework of the conference today. French orientalist, philologist and historian of Caucasus, specialist of Armenian studies Jean-Pierre Mahé has worked on the French translation for six years.

Theo Maarten van Lint, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, has worked on the French translation for six years.

Narek has been translated into Italian by Archpriest Boghos Levon Zekiyani, Pope’s envoy at the Mekhitarist Seminary. It was due to his efforts that Pope Francis declared Gregory of Narek Doctor of the Church.



Peter Balakian receives Pulitzer Prize for Poetry at centennial ceremony

Peter Balakian received the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for poetry at the 100th anniversary Ceremony of the Pulitzer Prizes held at Columbia University on Oct. 13. Balakian was one of the seven recipients in the fields of Letters, Drama, and Music, the Armenian Weekly reports.

Among the other recipients were Viet Thanh Nguyen in fiction for his novel The Sympathizer, Lin-Manuel Miranda in drama for the musical Hamilton, and jazz composer Henry Threadgill for “In For a Penny In for a Pound.” Among the fourteen prizes in journalism were Kathryn Schultz for Feature Writing at the New Yorker, Alyssa J. Rubin for International Reporting at The New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times Staff for Breaking News Reporting.

Professor Daniele Allen, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center For Ethics at Harvard University, was the keynote speaker. The awards were presented by Lee C. Bollinger, President of Columbia University.

The Pulitzer committee cited Ozone Journal for “poems that bear witness to the old losses and tragedies that undergird a global age of danger and uncertainty.” Writing about Ozone Journal in Consequence Magazine, Keith Jones wrote: “Balakian is a master of—the drifting, split-second mirage, the cinematic dissolve and cross-cut as well as the sculptural, statuesque moment chiseled out of consonant blends and an imagistic, jazzman’s ear for vowels. . . beautiful, haunting, plaintive, urgent, in our dying world’s age, these poems legislate a vital compartment to the demands of our shared present, timely and untimely both.” And David Wojahn in Tikkun wrote: “Few American poets of the boomer generation have explored the interstices of public and personal history as deeply and urgently as has Balakian.”



Balakian is the first Armenian American to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize since William Saroyan in 1940.

The Noyan Tapan Noah's Ark
HIGHLIGHTS

The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15.600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format
Տպվածը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպարանակը՝ 1500
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
ՆՏ հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ
Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
03Ա898368, տրված 11.01.2013 թ.

President of the NT Media Holding: **Tigran Harutyunyan**
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding: **Gayaneh Arakelyan**
Director of the Weekly: **Marina Harutyunyan**
Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**
Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrichian**
Layout: **Diana Grigoryan**
Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան
Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993.
ISSN 1829-0604
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia: 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA.
Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-23
(+374 60) 35-11-22

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

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

Հասցի՝ Բաժնիական 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009