

Tamar and Vatche Manoukians' Huge Donation to Health Sciences

Reportedly, recently *Tamar* and *Vatche Manoukian* have made a landmark gift to the Division of Digestive Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA that will provide unrestricted funds to accelerate research, innovative clinical care and educational priorities. This generous effort has inspired additional anonymous pledged support, bringing the total of the gift on behalf of the Manoukians to \$30 million to benefit the division and support crucial initiatives in the Geffen School of Medicine.



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8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists held



The 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists, titled Armenian Statehood: The Axis of Unity, marked the launch on October 20. Nearly 140 journalists from 31 countries participated in this Pan-Armenian forum, which held in Yerevan on 20-22 October and in Stepanakert on 23-24 October. The organizers of the forum were All Armenian Media Association and the Union of Journalists of Armenia, in association with the RA Ministry of Diaspora.

The goal of this forum was to expand the Pan-Armenian field of information and make it better, consolidate the potential of Armenian journalists and use that potential effectively for the development of Armenia, increase the international reputation of the Republic of Armenia and help to solve the issues related to the preservation of the Armenian identity and pan-national issues.

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Armenian FM, EU Special Rep. discuss Karabakh peace process

On October 20, Edward Nalbandian, the Foreign Minister of Armenia, received Herbert Salber, the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

At the meeting, the sides touched upon the agreements reached during the Vienna

and St. Petersburg summits on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia emphasized that the unequivocal implementation of those agreements, which Azerbaijan stubbornly refuses, is imperative for the advancement of the peace process.

The EU Special Representative reaffirmed the EU support to the implementation of the agreements reached at the summits in Vienna and St. Petersburg – to the efforts aimed at ensuring the advancement of settlement process under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship.

Azerbaijan faces fiasco after failing four-day war in April

Azerbaijan is facing a fiasco, since its expectations from the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement negotiations were not justified after the four day war, Deputy Speaker of Parliament Eduard Sharmazanov told reporters in the Parliament.

“Aliyev has nothing else left to do than to compensate for this failure with despicable actions. On the other hand I have to mention that the international community, the

co-chairing countries – specifically the USA and Russia, which were more active in Vienna and St. Petersburg, must take steps to call Azerbaijan to order, and reiterate that the Vienna and St. Petersburg agreements must come to effect”, Sharmazanov said. He added that such behavior of Aliyev shows that the realization of the Vienna and St. Petersburg agreements is a critical and very important issue.

On October 20, at 23:00-23:30, Azerbaijan carried out sabotage infiltration attempts in the eastern and southern directions of the Nagorno Karabakh-Azerbaijan line of contact. The Defense Army units detected the advance of the Azerbaijani special forces in time and pushed them back to their starting positions by inflicting losses. During the confrontation with the sabotage unit the Defense Army did not sustain losses.

Armenian National Assembly votes to approve the Government Program

The Armenian National Assembly voted 85 to 7 today (with 6 abstentions) to approve the Government Program.

Before the voting the factions summed up their approaches. Head of the Orinats Yerkir faction Heggine Bisharyan said she sees both positive and negative aspects in the program. Therefore, Bisharyan said she couldn't vote

for or against the document.

The Prosperous Armenia faction did not participate in the voting. Mikael Melkumyan declared that the Party members “cannot assume responsibility for the activity of this government.”

Secretary of the ARF faction Aghvan Vardanyan urged to support the program and

help call it to life.

Head of the Armenian National Congress faction Levon Zurabyan did not make a distinct statement, but criticized the program. The party voted against the document.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan noted in his closing remarks that the government was open for cooperation with everyone.

Armenia and Georgia exchange best practices in export controls during training organized by U.S. Embassy

On October 18-19, the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan hosted a two-day workshop, bringing together Armenian and Georgian government officials and NGOs to exchange best practices in controlling the flow of weapons of mass destruction, delivery systems, and conventional weaponry.

During the workshop, organized by the Embassy's Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS), policymakers and technical experts from both countries shared the methods they currently employ to inform exporting industries about the latest regulations, procedures, and export requirements related to dual-use technology (which can be used for both weaponry and peaceful purposes). The Armenian and Georgian officials also learned new ways to safeguard dual-use technology from being transferred

to proliferating states and terrorist groups.

Twenty representatives from relevant Armenian and Georgian agencies, U.S. Department of Energy officials, and NGOs from both countries discussed the mutual challenges they face and the approaches they have undertaken to achieve their goals. They also discussed the important role that NGOs can play in educating businesses and governments on export controls. “Having agencies from both countries discuss how they reach out to export industries allows for mutual good practices among these neighboring countries to be shared. Also, the chance to network with each other's counterparts in such a setting strengthens the bilateral relationship between Armenia and Georgia. This workshop provides a basis for future discussions on other relevant export control is-

suces,” said Ashley Fullenwider, the principal Political Science Analyst from the Argonne National Laboratory.

The EXBS program takes a regional and multilateral approach to help harmonize national export control systems with international standards and facilitate information-sharing among nations.

Administered by the Department of State, EXBS operates in more than 65 countries, and is designed to strengthen a country's export control system by providing legal and regulatory advice, training of licensing officials, enforcement and interdiction equipment, and industry-to-government outreach. Better export control systems help fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, conventional weapons, and related materials.

U.S. and Armenia continue cooperation to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Armenia's border guards are better trained to counter the illegal transport and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction thanks to border security and interdiction training provided by the U.S. The 10-day training session is the latest part of a joint U.S.-Armenian project to improve Armenia's abilities in this fight against contraband.

From October 10 to 21, 27 Armenian border guards who serve along the Armenian-Georgian border attended training on viable border interdiction strategies that stressed the necessity for interagency cooperation. The border guards were introduced to new tools that can be used to maintain securi-

ty and aid in border monitoring. The course also included sessions on basic tracking skills, operations management, safety, and evidence control.

The course, which was moderated by border security subject matter experts, consisted of lectures and practical exercises, culminating with several full-scale interdiction exercises. The training was conducted by the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Cooperative Threat Reduction Program's WMD-Proliferation Prevention Program.

Out of the dozens of agents participating in this month's course, 12 will go on to receive additional training to

become instructors. This will enable Armenian authorities to institutionalize the training locally and ensure all Armenian border guards eventually receive the training they need to succeed.

The U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Security Service of Armenia, and the Armenian Border Guards have a long history of cooperative efforts aimed at reducing the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Since 2011, the U.S. Department of Defense, through DTRA's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, has provided \$21.3 million in aid to properly train and equip Armenian border guards.

Armenia's President attends EPP summit in the Netherlands

President Serzh Sargsyan, who is in Maastricht on a working visit, participated in the Summit of the European People's Party (EPP). The Summit was presided over by the Chairman of the EPP Joseph Dole. Present at the Summit were the President of the European Council Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, Heads of state and government from the European Union and Eastern Partnership countries – members of the EPP.

In the framework of the agenda, the participants of the

Summit discussed issues related to the preliminary works of the upcoming session of the European Council, spoke about the recent developments in the refugee crisis, issues related to the EU economy and foreign policy. At the Summit, President Serzh Sargsyan made a statement in which he spoke about regional issues and challenges.

In the government house of Limburg state, which is the venue of the Summit, President Sargsyan also made an inscription in the Golden Book of Honorary Guests.

US makes efforts for Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement: Ambassador

The position of the US on Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement remains unchanged, "NT" reports, citing Azerbaijani APA agency, US ambassador to Azerbaijan Robert Cekuta said.

The Ambassador stated that the United States, working with the Co-chairs, Armenia and Azerbaijan makes efforts for the settlement of the prolonged conflict. "As one of these efforts the Minsk

Group American Co-chair together with the other Co-chairs will arrive in Azerbaijan. The aim of the visit is to foster the conflict settlement", Ambassador Cekuta said.

President Sargsyan receives EU Special Representative Herbert Salber

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan on October 21 received EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and for the crisis in Georgia Herbert Salber, press service of the Presidential administration told "NT".

Emphasizing that the previous meetings of the EU Special Representative were held in open and frank atmosphere, President Sargsyan expressed hope this meeting will be like this kind in its nature as well. Serzh Sargsyan highly appreciated the EU's commitment on forming a climate of trust between the sides aimed for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Serzh Sargsyan and Herbert Salber exchanged views on the recent developments and the cur-

rent situation over the negotiation process of the NK conflict settlement after the meetings in Vienna and St. Petersburg. President Sargsyan presented Armenia's efforts through the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on reaching the conflict settlement through peaceful negotiations and reaffirmed that the Armenian side is ready to continue the constructive steps for the benefit of establishment of peace and security in the region. Herbert Salber said while on a visit in Armenia he is holding meetings with the civil society representatives, as well as the residents of the bordering settlements. The sides also exchanged views on regional developments during the meeting.

Armenia DM briefs EU Special Representative on situation at Karabakh line of contact

Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan received today Herbert Salber, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

During the meeting the Defense Minister presented the situation at the line of contact, the overview of the ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani side and the latest developments in the Karabakh conflict settlement process.

The parties reiterated the lack of alternative to a peaceful settlement and stressed the importance of the international community's support for the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the confidence-building measures.

The Armenian Defense Minister and the EU Special Representative exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues, as well as the perspectives of Armenia-EU cooperation.

Armenia of tomorrow must be better educated: President

President Serzh Sargsyan received today students and schoolchildren – recipients of the RA Presidential Educational Awards for year 2016 in the area of information technologies (IT). At the award ceremony, which took place at the Presidential Palace, Serzh Sargsyan handed the awards received in dif-

ferent nominations. Together with each certificate, the young people received also souvenirs and monetary awards.

This year, the annual Presidential Award was bestowed on 28 students and 15 schoolchildren from 5 higher education institutions and 8 high schools. Until now, the RA Presidential Award

in the IT area in different nominations has been given to 409 students and schoolchildren.

At the award ceremony President Serzh Sargsyan congratulated the students and schoolchildren who excelled in their studies and received Presidential Awards for year 2016 and wished them success.

President Sargsyan awards distinguished IT students

President Serzh Sargsyan awarded distinguished IT students on October 19 in the Presidential Palace. 28 students and 15 school children from five universities and 8 high schools were awarded the annual “Presidential Education Awards in the IT field”. Serzh Sargsyan congratulated them and mentioned that bestowing awards is one of the pleasant responsibilities of the President. “The IT field is very important and perspective for Armenia. Tomorrow’s Armenia must be in the hands of more educated, creative citizens,

who walk in pace with time. Tomorrow’s Armenia must be in the zone of developed information world. We don’t have another path. This path is a tested path. For thousands of years our people have always seen, perceived and accepted progress”, he President said. During a briefing with reporters, Hovik Musayelyan - Executive Director of Synopsys Armenia, stressed the importance of the pilot program in high schools, under which the subjects “Microelectronics”, “IT” and “Basics of Telecommunications” have been

included in 10 high schools in the country. “I think this program will work in all high schools of the country by 2025. As a result of this we will have qualified human resources in the labor market”, he said. According to Synopsys CEO Dr. Chi-Foon Chan, the IT field remains one of the most important fields in Armenia. “I attach importance to our company’s role in Armenia for education in the IT field”, he said. The “Presidential Education Awards in the IT field” are awarded annually since 2005.

NKR FM and EU Special Representative highlight implementation of Vienna and St. Petersburg agreements

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Karen Mirzoyan, who is on a working visit in Yerevan, met with the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia Herbert Salber on October 21.

As “NT” was informed from the press service of MFA NKR, during the meeting the sides discussed a range of issues related to the Artsakh-EU relations. Karen Mirzoyan emphasized the readiness of the NKR authorities to develop cooperation with the EU in all directions, in-

cluding the strengthening of democratic institutions in Artsakh, and reiterated his invitation to Herbert Salber to visit the NKR in the framework of his mandate.

The process of the peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict was also touched upon.

In this context the sides noted the importance of the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs aimed at creating conditions for the resumption of negotiations, and, in particular, stressed the need to implement the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg.

Senior CoE official assesses cooperation with Armenia as excellent

Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian received Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe Philippe Boillat. As “NT” was informed from the press service of MFA Armenia, Armenia’s active engagement in the CoE activities and the reforms carried out at the organization’s proposals were touched upon at the meeting. The senior CoE official assessed the close and productive cooperation with Armenia’s Government and the judicial authorities as excellent. In that context, Minister Nalbandian stated that implementation of democratic reforms is in the interests of the country, and the CoE’s key assistance in this work is highly appreciated. The meeting addressed the implementation process of Armenia-EU Action Plan 2015-2018.

President Serzh Sargsyan's message at the ceremony of handing Presidential Educational Awards in the area of Information Technologies

Dear Students and Schoolchildren, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to once again congratulate you on receiving the RA Presidential Educational Award in the area of information technologies. One of the pleasing duties for President is to hand over awards but for me it's a double pleasure because first of all, the awards are given to young people who will be shaping Armenia's tomorrow, also because this is the area which is extremely important and prospective for Armenia. I am happy not only for you; and I am also happy for your teachers, your professors, your families, for our entire society because this proves in a way that

we are moving along the right way. The Armenia of tomorrow must be better educated, moving in step with the time, in the hands of knowledgeable and creative citizens. The Armenia of tomorrow must be in the realm of the information-wise developed world. We have no other way to go. It's a well-charted road. Throughout the millennia our people recognized, took in and accepted the progressive, made it their and thanks to that very ability have been able to exist, and we have to continue to go down this road.

Dear young people, Your success inspires us with optimism and joy. Be more proactive, very

daring in your initiatives and diligent in your studies. The 21st century is developing rapidly; we are living in a rapidly developing world. When we were your age, we didn't know what would be the professions in the age of developed technologies, in the age of internet. The same will happen 20 or 30 years later. We need to be ready for that, and I am confident that you will be ready.

I once again congratulate you and express gratitude for your service, and service it is. Be assured that good performance in studies is a service to your country. I would like to thank the organizers of this event, thank you. And certainly I thank the award commission.

President Sargsyan visits Armenian Saint Garabed Church in Maastricht

President Serzh Sargsyan visited the Armenian Saint Garabed Church in Maastricht in morning, where he had a short meeting with representatives of the "Ani" Armenian community. During the meeting reference was made to the community issues, programs, opportunities of reinforcement of cooperation with the Motherland.

The "Ani" community is actively participating in Armenia-related events organized by the Dutch authorities.

According to the decision of the Catholic Church of Limburg, the Church of the Ascension of Christ was donated to the Armenian community and was anointed as Saint Garabed in 2013 in memory of the old Armenian Church of Amsterdam.

Armenian Government strives to triple number of tourists

Based on the current developments in tourism, the Armenian Government plans a targeted packaging of touristic results and services. In addition, the Government aims to conduct an active marketing policy in targeted touristic markets for raising awareness of the country as an attractive one for tourism, "NT" reports, citing e-gov.am website, the Cabinet's action plan, submitted to the National Assembly, defines. During the upcoming 6 months the Government plans to define tourism quality benchmarks for improving touristic services and infrastructures. Pilot projects will be conducted in 60 rural communities and after summing the results of one-year studies, a national program

on developing rural tourism will be conducted. In the mentioned period competitions will be held aiming to turn at least 5 caves into touristic sights and a strategy called "Pilgrimage to the first Christian country" will be elaborated. The Government will support private initiatives for the development of new touristic directions with great potentials in 2017 (rock climbing, bicycling, extreme tourism, eco-tourism, health tourism, religious, wine, etc.) and a development plan will be elaborated aiming to triple the number of tourists within 5 years. It is also planned to expand the number of people and states eligible for visa free entries.

PM Karapetyan satisfied with Armenia-UN relations

Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan received on October 18 UN Resident. As "NT" was informed from the press service of the Government of Armenia, the PM assessed Armenia-UN cooperation and the various programs implemented in the sidelines of the UNDP as productive and highlighted the future cooperation. According to the Head of the Executive, the UN promoted democracy, human rights and rule of law in Armenia, and the years of financial and technical assistance of the UNDP is highly appreciated. The UN Resident Coordinator thanked the PM for the appreciation and assured that the UN is ready to continue assisting Armenia's further development.

The interlocutors exchanged ideas over the implementation process of the program "Armenia-United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020", Bagratashen, Bavra and Gogavan checkpoint modernization program, initiatives for recording economic growth, as well as cooperation opportunities in other spheres of mutual interest. Bradley Busetto noted that the UN priorities in Armenia go in conformity with the priorities of the Armenian Government. The PM spotlighted the specification of the directions of future partnership and expressed readiness to maximally support the activities of the UN Office in Armenia.

1.2 million USD invested in Armenian SoloLearn mobile app

The Armenian SoloLearn mobile app announced it's raised a \$1.2M seed round to socialize mobile code learning. Valley VC Learn Capital led the round, joining a number of other unnamed private investors who have already backed SoloLearn, Techcrunch reported. SoloLearn is not aimed at hard-core engineers, but more at "millennials" and students who want a simpler way to learn which includes interactive lessons, coding exercises, peer-to-peer challenges, and community Q & A. These are all aspects of the app. The startup now has over two million profiled coders, and over one million coding activities

daily. Usefully, as you improve your score, your profile gets exposed which means you could well end up landing a job out of it. Yeva Hyusyan, SoloLearn CEO, says: "With coding transformed into a "must-have" skill, the challenge has been to create an enjoyable environment for infinite professional growth. Diversity of experiences and topics paired with peer-to-peer interaction gradually upgrade your coding skills, building your trustworthy coder reputation one step at a time." In an interesting side aspect, SoloLearn also says it's noticed high traffic from refugees using the app to learn to code.

Economic development and security issues dominate in Armenian Cabinet's program

Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan introduced the draft program of the Cabinet after the Council and Executive Body sessions of the Republican Party of Armenia.

After the sessions Vice President of the National Assembly and RPA spokesperson Eduard Sharmazanov told the reporters that the program is based on the February 12 speech of the President, where he stresses the necessity of reforms in all the public spheres.

"Issues of domestic and external security dominate the Cabinet's program. Security issues remain priority for us. Since the president is the guarantor of security in our country, the main security visions coincide

with the visions of the President. The draft program clearly points out the necessity of modernization and reinforcement of the security system", "NT" reports Sharmazanov mentioned.

Referring to Armenia's foreign policies, Sharmazanov stated that Armenia will continue its cooperation with all the partners. "Our stand on Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement remains concrete: we must take steps to reach a peaceful conflict settlement and international recognition of Nagorno Karabakh", the parliament Vice President said.

Much importance is attached to economic reforms. Sharmazanov noted that the Cabinet's program on economy is a 6-month

one, since the Cabinet will act till the parliamentary elections in 2017, but the program also defines future strategies. "The Cabinet and the ruling party will do their best to create a more favorable investment environment. Social issues are of key importance as well. I want to specially highlight educational reforms.

While this Cabinet is in office, much attention will be paid to regional and rural schools", he said. Fight against corruption has found place in the Cabinet's program as well. According to Sharmazanov, the Cabinet, together with the political majority, will propose legislative reforms for an effective fight against corruption, since there are some problems with the legislative regulations.

Dollar depreciates; ruble, pound and euro appreciate

The Central Bank of Armenia informs that on October 18 the USD exchange rate was 475,56 AMD which is a decrease of 0,19 drams compared to the previous day.

"NT" reports that the Euro increased by 1,07 drams forming 523,92 drams.

British pound rose by 5,19 drams forming 584,18 drams, Russian ruble increased by 0.03 drams reaching to 7,57 drams on October 18.

The prices for precious metals are as follows: the price for silver per gram is 266,04 AMD, gold-19,185,4 AMD, and platinum-14.249,91 AMD.

Dmitry Medvedev, Tigran Sargsyan discuss boosting economic growth of EEU countries

Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Medvedev held a meeting with Chairman of Eurasian Economic Commission Tigran Sargsyan. Medvedev underscored the fact of holding regular meetings, and mentioned that the Eurasian intergovernmental Council's session which will be held in Minsk- is currently in stage of preparation. Medvedev inquired about the preparatory process. "The most pressing issue on the agenda today is the promoting integration. We are trying to find additional incentives, which will be able to reveal the entire potential and help our countries to first

and foremost boost the growth of domestic production. This is the most important subject for the governments of our countries. We have prepared a proposal on how to push this forward", the official website of the Russian government quoted Sargsyan as saying. Medvedev proposed to discuss all separate directions. "Our intergovernmental council's sessions always proceed with healthy discussions: sometimes we are also forced to discuss issues with disagreements, find mutual concessions. We hold meetings with you in order to prepare well", Medvedev said.

Each Province of Armenia is unique: Provinces exhibit harvest and products at ArmProdExpo

Provinces of Armenia exhibited their production at the ArmProdExpo exhibition, with Lori Province also presenting innovations. Representative of Lori Margarita Kirakosyan said that this year they have experimentally grown buckwheat and achieved successful results.

“Although we have grown in little quantities, but in terms of quality it’s quite good, we have grown minimally chemically enriched crops, which in my opinion will

have success in the future as well. We presented the old product range, which seems to already have a brand look. We have a range of products typical to the province – cheese, honey, kiwi, broccoli, which we present every year”, she said.

According to Kirakosyan, each province is unique on its own, the same food has its taste and smell in each province. Armarvir’s “Karas” Wine Factory presented its wines in the expo.

Marketing and Sales Manager of Karas Wines Vlad Khachatryan says their wines are one of the most demanded in the market.

“Since 2010 the quality is being confirmed and proved every day. We export the wines to a number of countries – Russia, England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Canada and others. We also plan to export it to Japan and China”, he said.

Ucom and Calix Partner to make Armenia a world leading showcase of cutting edge

Calix, Inc. (NYSE: CALX), the world leader in subscriber driven access, announced on October 19 that it will partner with innovative Armenian communications service provider Ucom to bring the benefits of NGPON2 across the country to deliver an unmatched broadband experience to its wireline and mobile subscribers, Ucom told “NT”.

With initial trials of Calix AXOS NG-PON2 systems scheduled for early 2017, Ucom will leverage the next generation of PON technology to roll out new 10 Gbps (10 gigabits per second) business and mobile backhaul services, as well as to converge their residential and business networks, into one for simplified business operations.

A long term partnership between Ucom, the first service provider to introduce fiber to the home (FTTH) services in Armenia, and Calix has resulted in a transformation of the Armenian telecommunications landscape. Ucom offers advanced voice, video, and data services to residential subscribers, while continuously expanding their commercial and mobile portfolio.

Last year, Ucom acquired Orange Armenia, accelerating the finalization of the fastest 4G+/ LTE Advanced network in the country and the first delivery of quad-play services in the country.

“Calix has been instrumental in the development of our FTTH network, which we believe to be the most extensive and advanced in Armenia,” said Aleksander Yesayan, Business Development Director and Deputy CEO at Ucom.

“As a leader in the fiber access, we are confident that Calix will be a valuable partner in our transition to NG-PON2 and AXOS E-Series technology. Our vision has always been to become Armenia’s most advanced service provider, blazing the trail in both technology and services and NG-PON2 is the perfect vehicle to extend fiber services for businesses and connecting our own mobile cell sites. The Calix partnership enables Ucom to take this vision to the next level, once again transforming the broadband landscape in our country.”

Ucom’s leader will be sharing more information about his company’s plans for NG-PON2 during a panel discussion titled “NG-PON2: The Future is Here Today,” moderated by Julie Kunstler, principal consultant at Ovum, along with representatives from AT&T, Verizon, and Vodafone Group, today at 9 am GMT in the Service Monetization Track Room at the Broadband World

Forum, at the ExCeL Convention Centre in London.

“As the first to deploy NG-PON2 services via Calix AXOS E-Series systems in Armenia, Ucom will continue to differentiate itself in the market and stay ahead of all other service providers in the country,” said Joseph Haddad, area vice president at Calix.

“NG-PON2 will be truly transformative for service providers like Ucom, who are looking to reap the benefits of a converged services network to combine mobile, business, and residential services onto one network, and for countries like Armenia, whose citizens are craving advanced broadband services. We are very proud to have been partnering with Ucom on this network transformation journey for many years and we look forward to the company’s continued success as it leverages NG-PON2 to take its network and services to another level.”



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Tamar and Vatche Manoukian Donate \$30 Million to UCLA Health Sciences

“Visionary philanthropy can alter the course of science”...

from page 1

In recognition of the Manoukians’ leadership philanthropy, the university will name the division in their honor — making this the medical school’s first division to be named following a philanthropic gift. In addition to the *UCLA Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases*, the university has named 100 UCLA Medical Plaza *The Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Medical Building*.

“The science that will emerge from the Manoukians’ extraordinary contribution will lead to the discovery of new drugs and therapies that will improve health and save lives,” said UCLA Chancellor **Gene Block**. And... “Their generosity is an inspiration to our talented physicians and to other members of the philanthropic community.”

The UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases is renowned for its comprehensive research. Ranked No. 5 in the US by the U.S. News & World Report 2016–17 survey, the division has become a model for coordinated care.

“Visionary philanthropy can alter the course of science,” said Dr. **John Mazziotta**, Vice Chancellor for UCLA Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health. “The remarkable generosity of Tamar and Vatche Manoukian will be instrumental in positioning the division for the future.”

Building on an interdisciplinary and collaborative clinical approach and bolstered by pioneering laboratory science, division physicians provide the tools for patients to manage chronic disease, the technologies to save lives and the therapies to ensure cures for some of the most challenging conditions.

“Innovation requires both leadership and investment,” said Dr. **Eric Esrailian**, Co-Chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases and Lincy Foundation

Chair in Clinical Gastroenterology in the Geffen School of Medicine. “Tamar and Vatche’s exceptional philanthropy will help ensure that UCLA can continue unraveling the mysteries of digestive diseases, make transformative scientific discoveries, and develop the physician leaders of the future. Their unrestricted gift gives the division flexibility that is essential as we advance our highest educational, research and patient care priorities,” he added.



Newspress writes on Mr Vatche Manoukian as “a leader in the global Armenian community who has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including property investment, retail, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, entertainment and renewable energy”.

Notably, it was mentioned that “he and his wife, who have four children, have continued his family’s tradition of charitable work throughout the world, with a particular emphasis on education, medicine, culture, the environment and Armenian causes.

The Manoukians’ scholarship funds have enabled several thousand students who lack financial resources to further their education, and postgraduate programs established by the Manoukians at universities in the United States, the United Kingdom and Lebanon have helped provide essential skills for to-

orrow’s community leaders.

The couple support many children’s charities around the world, such as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, on whose board Manoukian serves; and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. They also support the Royal Opera House in London. The Manoukians have been the sole financial supporters of major cultural exhibitions, such as the “Treasures of the Ark” exhibition held at the British Library to commemorate 1,700 years of Armenia Christianity...”

From our side we should add that the Manoukian couple is well known also in the Motherland Armenia, and first of all due to their charitable activities in areas of a wide range.

“Tamar and I believe that philanthropy can shape the future,” Mr Manoukian said. “It is our hope that our gift will not only change medical science, but also be a model for others.

We hope that young people will be inspired to give and will become engaged with causes that matter.”

This significant investment in the division of digestive diseases will provide vital funding for pioneering investigations that will lead to novel therapies, more comprehensive patient care, faculty support to attract top scientists and clinicians, and the education of aspiring doctors and researchers.

“This gift is especially meaningful to us as a public university,” Dr. Esrailian said. “This investment will help fuel additional discoveries of the kind that have already earned UCLA the reputation as a world leader in research, patient care and medical education.”

To note, this gift is a part of the \$4.2 billion UCLA Centennial Campaign that is scheduled to conclude in December 2019, during UCLA’s 100th anniversary year.

German historian reveals documents of 1100 pages in Vatican archives linked with Armenian

German historian and author of a number of works on the Armenian Genocide Michael Hesemann revealed documents of 1100 pages linked with the Armenian Genocide in Vatican's open and secret archives.

"NT" reports the German historian told the reporters that he plans to write a book based on the findings, while the copies of the documents he handed to the director of Armenia's National Academy of Sciences. Hesemann informed the book will be not only in German, but also English and other languages. The scientist is ready to share his experience with other scientists and researchers studying Armenian Genocide. Referring to the content of the document,

Michael Hesemann noted that they are mainly the correspondences of Popes with their representatives in the East, as well as with the representatives of the Capuchin and Franciscan orders. The documents are mainly in Italian and French. "The studies mainly reveal that extermination of the Christian element, and particularly Armenians, took place in the Ottoman Empire. It was a well planned state policy. The Young Turks believed that only homogeneous states are powerful, and for reaching that goal ethnic cleansings were necessary", the scientist said. According to him, the documents show that the Catholic Church had tried to influence the German position on the Armenian Genocide. "Vatican tried to

influence Germany through Austria-Hungary aiming to stop the genocide. But Germany wished to keep Turkey under its influence, even at the expense of the fate of Armenians", Michael Hesemann said. He thinks that the feeling of guilt coming from this act made the German parliament adopt a relevant decision and recognize the Armenian Genocide. The German historian also mentioned that the documents examined by him contain precise evidences about the number of Armenian victims amounting to 1.5 million. "The letter of a Capuchin representative also documents this fact, who mentions that 1.5 million out of 2.3 million Armenians have been killed by November, 1918", the scientist said.

Issue of having common textbooks for Diaspora schools under discussion

80 thousand pieces of literature were provided to Armenian schools in the Diaspora in 2016, Deputy Minister of Diaspora Serzh Srapionyan told NT. According to him, the Ministry is focused on both Sunday and day schools, as well as organizations which carry out cultural song and dance education. "Today we can say that we have met the demand of the majority of schools. 217 schools are still waiting for books. We have delivered literature to those schools, but due to some post problems the delivery was a little late. Educational institutions were provided textbooks, guidebooks and manuals. We have sent Western-Armenian textbooks to educational institutions which teach in Western-Armenian. In addition, we are enriching the libraries of the Diaspora with samples of Armenian classics, and Armenian-translated European litera-

ture", Srapionyan said. In his words, there are some disagreements regarding the contents of the textbooks. According to him, this is understandable, since classical Diaspora schools have used other textbooks without having a coordinated state system of textbooks. "There were differences in teaching approaches from school to school. Currently we intend to launch discussions regarding the issue of having textbooks which will be acceptable by everyone in the Diaspora. We already have numerous opinions, we cooperate with the National Institute of Educations, and the final variants will undergo expertise and in case of adoption, education in the Diaspora will be carried out with common textbooks", he said. Approximately 2 thousand Sunday schools and more than 100 elementary schools operate in the Diaspora.

Center of Armenian studies to be established in Greece

Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtychyan held a meeting on October 18 with Ambassador of Greece to Armenia H.E. Nafsika Nancy Eva Vraila, the ministry told NT. Minister Mkrtychyan congratulated the Ambassador on beginning her diplomatic mission in Armenia and expressed conviction that the Armenian-Greek relations in the educational sector will achieve new developments and highlighted the implementation of practical steps for development and deepening of cooperation. Her Excellency Nafsika Nancy Eva Vraila expressed gratitude for the present cooperation in the field and attached importance to the role of education for the dynamic development of the friendly relations between the two countries. The meeting mainly focused on the 2016-2020 education and research cooperation program between

the governments of Armenia and Greece, which was signed in March of 2016 in Greece. According to the program the further cooperation between research and higher education institutions will be boosted with the goal of realizing joint educational projects and to implement scholarship exchanges. Centers of Greek and Armenian studies are planned to be established in universities of Armenia and Greece respectively, aiming at the development and spreading of language and culture. The sides expressed assurances that the program will boost the development and strengthening of educational cooperation between Armenia and Greece. At the same time the sides expressed willingness to take necessary steps to ensure the ratification of the document by the Parliament as soon as possible.

An outstanding event at the Embassy of Lebanon in Armenia His Holiness Karekin II has addressed the Diplomatic Corps about the mission of the Armenian Apostolic Church

At the invitation of the Ambassador of Lebanon Mr. Jean Makaron, His Holiness Karekin II gave a talk on 18 October 2016 at the Embassy of Lebanon in the presence of 25 Ambassadors and diplomats accredited in Armenia.

All distinguished guests were interested in listening attentively to His Holiness who spoke eloquently about the mission of the Armenian Church in the past and at present. His Holiness Karekin II has highlighted in a significant way the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church and his address was welcomed by all ambassadors. His Holiness said in his address the following:

“Before elaborating on the theme of: “The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the past and now”, we would like to extend to you our blessings and warm wishes and to express our appreciation to His Excellency, Ambassador of Lebanon in Armenia who kindly invited us to this dinner and created the opportunity to meet with you and to share with you some thoughts on the mentioned subject.

Dear Ambassador, surely you are acquainted with the life of our people and their history. Lebanon was among those first countries which opened their doors for the survivors of the Genocide giving a safe

haven to thousands of sons and daughters of our nation and provided with the opportunity to rebuild their national-ecclesiastical life. We reckon, that our people used to call Lebanon ‘Little Armenia’. It is gladdening for us to confirm that as a sign of appreciation towards Lebanon, our people actively participated in the enhancement and development of your country.

Dear ones, the mission of a church in the world extends between two poles, God and man. It is precisely through this contemplation that the Church realizes her



mission and service in the life of humanity. The Armenian Church is no exception in this regard, which was established by the two of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew. In the

dominical year of 301, through the preaching of the Armenian Patriarch, St. Gregory the Enlightener, Christianity was accepted as the state religion. Having been founded in one of the oldest cradles of human civilization, she, for centuries, continues to “join...in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God...who has saved us and called us to a holy life” (II Timothy 1:8-9).

The mission of the Armenian Church is thus to be set where the path of the centuries long history of the Armenian people and the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

is sprung. She joined her people in the sufferings and vicissitudes of the history and has endured martyrdom with her sons and daughters, at the same time being mindful of the luminous message of Jesus Christ’s Resurrection. Thus is the definition of the mission of the Armenian Church, which has derived from the mysteries of the Dominical Resurrection and history and is carried up to our days. She emerges from the Golgotha, follows the traces of Jesus’ blood, it reaches the tomb of the Lord, in order to be

then resurrected and renewed following the example of her Lord and Saviour.

The national-Christian identity in the life of the Armenian people is the core of the mission of the Armenian Church. It is hard to imagine now the contexts and situations in which the life of the Armenian people would develop, if the Armenians have not consciously identified themselves with the witness of Jesus Christ. How could it be possible for the Armenians to overcome the catastrophes of the history and time, one of the most tragic events of human history, the Armenian Genocide and the seventy years of persecutions under the soviet totalitarian regime?

Today the Armenian Church continues with a renewed inspiration and zeal to realize her mission for the enhancement of the social life. You are aware that the socio-economic life of Armenia was greatly damaged by the earthquake, the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and the ongoing blockade.



From the very beginning of the independence of Armenia the Armenian Church was actively involved in the activities and projects for resolving the problems which emerged as a result of above-mentioned political situations. Currently the Armenian Church is actively involved in different spheres of our society: chaplaincy in the Armenian national army, health care, education and science, culture and preservation of Armenian heritage and identity.

Another important aspect of our mission is ecumenism and inter-religious dialogues, aimed at the strengthening of the spirit of love, collaboration and peaceful coexistence among the nations. Our relations with the Catholic, Orthodox and other traditional churches are currently developing in the spirit of fraternal love and fruitful collaboration. In this regard it is gladdening to confirm that vari-

“Your Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians,

We are all deeply touched and honored by your presence and I extend to your Holiness my special thanks and gratitude for accepting my invitation. Your presence has enriched our Embassy, our community and our diplomatic corps with privilege, prestige and pride. God has given you this privilege of serving the distinguished Armenian nation founded on great values.

You dedicated your life to a noble cause which is showing the glory of God in preaching love, justice, peace.

Your strong faith, your visionary leadership and deep commitment to glorify the Lord and serve humanity have made a positive difference in the lives of many people.



ous diplomatic missions, accredited in Armenia and especially you, dear ambassadors, are largely contributing to the development and strengthening of those relationships. We would like to express our thankfulness for your fruitful collaboration with the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and its departments as well as for your care and attention shown to the sanctuaries of our people of cultural and historical importance.

Once more, we would like to express our appreciation to the honorable Ambassador of Lebanon for organizing this event and to wish all of you even more achievements and success in your lofty diplomatic mission, for the sake of the strengthening the relationships between states and nations and making collaboration more fruitful”.

After the talk His Holiness answered many questions raised by the Ambassadors.

Ambassador Makaron said in his welcome words the following:

May the Lord continue to bless your Holiness and keep you healthy and strong to continue to serve humanity.

I am proud to say that there are in Lebanon more than 100.000 Lebanese of Armenian origin who succeeded and excelled in all fields: in economy, art, science, politics and in the army”.

This unique and successful event was held in the framework of the idea of Ambassadors Without Borders and was attended by Ambassadors of Russia, Lithuania, Brazil, Romania, Italy, France, Poland, USA, Argentine, UAE, Germany, Japan, EU, Belarus, Kazakhstan, UK, Georgia, OSCE, Greece, Kuwait, Chargé d’Affaires of Syria, Chargé d’Affaires of Sweden, permanent representative of IMF, Chargé d’Affaires of Iraq.

In the end His Holiness Karekin II and the Ambassador of Lebanon have exchanged symbolic gifts.

8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists held in Yerevan and in Stepanakert

What is symbolic is that this forum is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Independence of the two Armenian republics and is being held in a period when structural and fundamental reforms are being implemented in Armenia.

During the opening ceremony of the Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists the First Deputy Chief of Staff of the President Alexan Harutyunyan introduced the message of Serj Sargsyan which particularly read as follows: “I cordially welcome the participants, organizers and guests of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists. I am glad that Armenian journalists have convened another forum in the homeland”. After this, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan gave her opening remarks in which she expressed gratitude to the 140 journalists who have traveled from 31 countries to participate in the forum. “During the war in April, we witnessed the unified and consolidated efforts of all Armenian media outlets. The goals of this forum are to expand and improve the pan-Armenian field of information, consolidate the potential of Armenian media outlets and use it effectively for Armenia’s advancement, increase of the international reputation of the Republic of Armenia, the preservation of the Armenian identity in the Diaspora and the solution to pan-Armenian issues,” the RA Minister of Diaspora emphasized.

After the solemn opening ceremony launched the first session of the forum, the topic of which was: “Mechanisms for the Establishment of a Unified Pan-Armenian Information Network and the Paths for Cooperation between Media outlets in Crises”. The session was moderated by President of the Union of Journalists of Armenia AstghikGevorgyan, Editor-in-Chief of Horizon Weekly VahagnKarakashian (Canada), Editor-in-Chief of Zartonk Daily SevagHagopian (Lebanon) and editor of Hairenik Weekly Ararat Ghukasyan (Spain). During the first session a number of media representatives made speeches about different topics relat-

ed to the modern media. The reporters were the Director of Noyan Tapan Media Holding Tigran Harutyunyan, Edi-

tor-in-Chief of Lebanon’s Aztag Daily Shahan Kandaharian, correspondent of Orer magazine of the Czech Republic



Anna Karapetyan, Press and information correspondent of the Armenian Youth Association of Lebanon Aharon Shkhrdmian, the Director of “Armenpress” Armenian News Agency Aram Ananyan.

The forum continued with a panel session entitled “Paths for cooperation between diplomatic representations of the Republic of Armenia and Diaspora Armenian structures and organizations”, which was moderated by RA Deputy Minister of Diaspora Serzh Srapionyan, journalist and publicist Baidzig-Galajian and Director of Radio Voice of Van Avedis Kitanian. The speeches were delivered by Editor-in-Chief of “Israyelahayer” newspaper Artyom Chernamoryan, Correspondent for the Armenian Information Center website, President of the International Association of Hamshen-Armenian Women Saida Ohanyan, Lebanese-Armenian journalist and publicist Hagop Balian, President of the “Armenian PR Association” Scientific-Informational NGO Astghik Avetisyan, Representative of Lebanon’s Ararat Daily Ani Toranian.

After the sessions, the participants of the forum met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandyan, during which Edward Nalbandyan attached importance to these kinds of meetings in the sense that they help directly inform Diaspora Armenians about Armenia’s foreign policy.

The Minister resented the priorities in Armenia’s diplomacy, particularly Armenia’s guiding role in condemning the Armenian Genocide and in preventing new crimes against humanity, touched upon the process of settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the developments unfolding in the Near East, the Syrian crisis in detail and, in that context, the assistance that is being provided to Syrian-Armenians.

After this RA Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received the participants of the Forum. During the meeting Karen Karapetyan ensured the journalists that he is willing to participate in the process of nation-building and expecting the return of well-educated people who have shown leadership skills and have a dream and vision of the country so that they can participate in the nation-build-

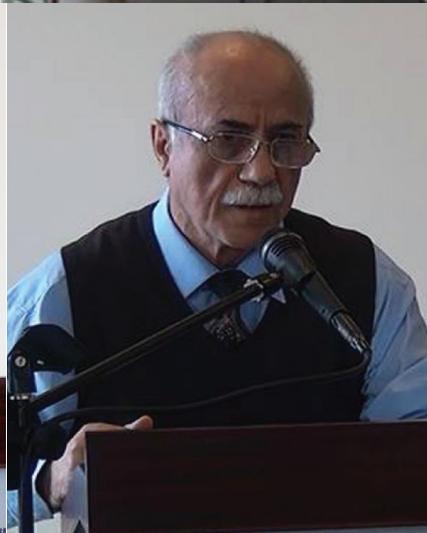


ing and move mountains.

On the second day of the forum, the participants of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists, under the leadership of RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan, visited Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex where they laid flowers near the monument to the victims of the Armenian Genocide and toured the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.

On the afternoon, the forum continued under the headline “Engagement of the Diaspora’s potential in Armenia’s na-

tion-building” and moderated by RA Deputy Minister of Diaspora Serzh Srapionyan, Editor-in-Chief of Aztag Daily Shahan Kandaharian, Director of Noyan Tapan Media Holding Tigran Harutyunyan and media and information correspondent of the Armenian Youth Association of Lebanon Aharon Shkhrdmian. The speeches delivered by Editor-in-chief of Horizon Weekly of Canada Vahakn Karakashian, Editor-in-Chief of Russia’s Zham magazine Anna Givargizyan, Correspondent for Iran’s Hamaynq media network Roobik



Sardarian, Correspondent for the Armenian Information Center website of Russia Sayida Ohanyan, Correspondent for Lebanon's Aztag Daily Doing Donabedian, Correspondent for France's LusavorAvetis website Tigran Pashabedian.

The session continued with an interactive discussion entitled "Issues of information security in states of emergency" and held with the participation of the top experts in the field.

The discussion was moderated by media expert Samvel Martirosyan. Director of the Public Radio of Armenia Arman Saghatelian, "Razminfo" military website's facilitator Karen Vrtanesyan, Media expert Mikael Yalanuzyan, Expert in Azerbaijani media Angela Elibekova delivered speeches related to the media industry and media security.

This was followed by the fourth session entitled "Perspectives of cooperation between television, radio and electronic media outlets" and moderated by Editor-in-Chief of Khosnag magazine Hampig Mardirossian (Lebanon), Editor-in-Chief of Yerkramas newspaper Tigran Tavadyan (Russian Federation), correspondent for Orer magazine Anna Karapetyan (Czech Republic) and Editor-in-Chief of Ardzagank Weekly Artodavtian (Greece). During these session a lot of media representatives delivered speeches, among them: Editor-in-Chief of Nor Ashkharh newspaper Zaven Grigoryan, Foreign affairs correspondent for Armenian Public Television Eric Antaryan, Correspondent for Lebanon's Aztag Daily Silva Garavardanian, Editor-in-Chief of Orient news portal Sago Arian, Editor-in-Chief of Argentina's Nor Darashrjan newspaper Eduardo Nestro Balian, journalist for "HayernAysor" (Armenians Today) electronic newspaper of the RA Ministry of Diaspora Karine Avagyan.

Summing up the part of the forum held in Armenia, the moderator, Hampig Mardirossian expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Diaspora and particularly Minister Hranush Hakobyan for showing attention to Diaspora Armenian media outlets, working closely with them and holding such forums, each of which serves as a new milestone for improving the pan-Armenian





field of information and consolidating the Armenian journalistic community.

It is worth mentioning, that all the forum broadcast live on the Internet by Noyan Tapan Information and Analytical center (Yerevan), Azdak daily (Beirut) and ConnectTo.tv (Los Angeles).

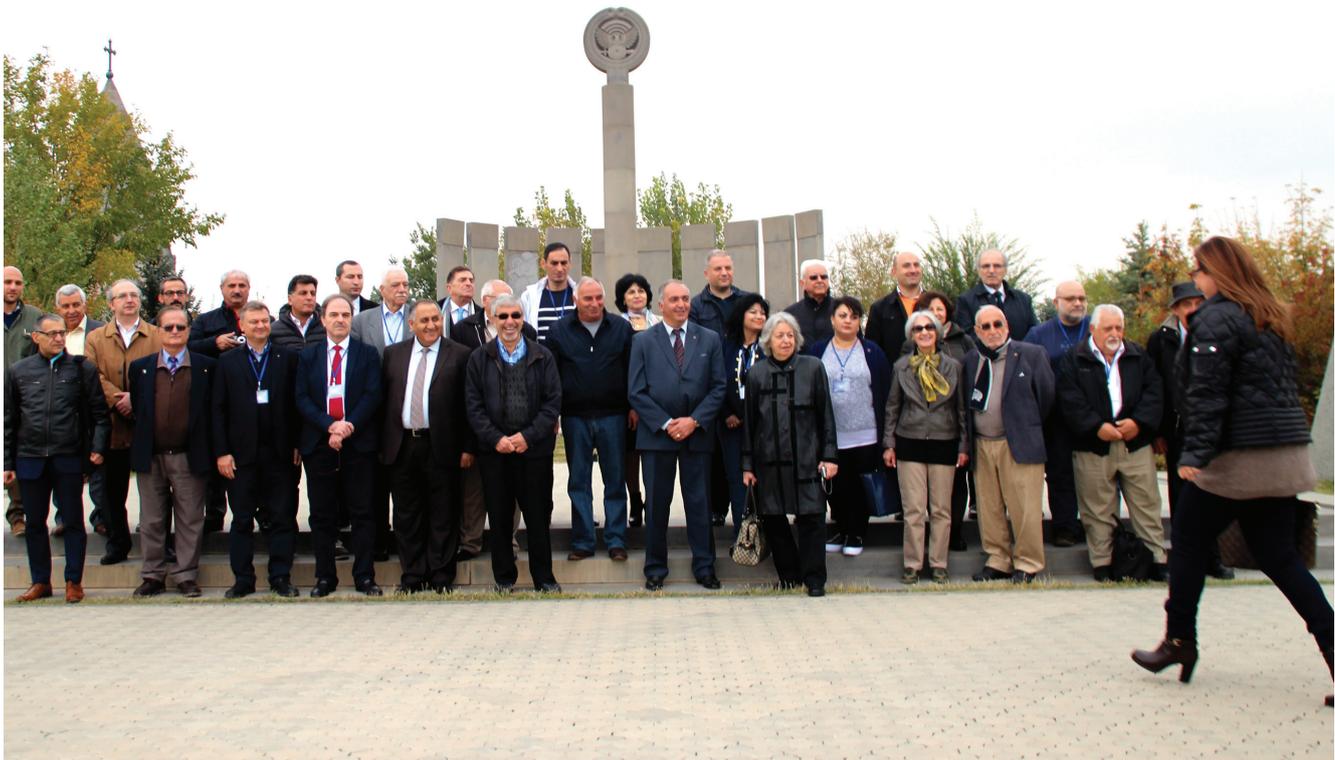
The two-day sessions of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists in Yerevan ended with interesting discussions, after which the participants departed to historic Artsakh to continue the Forum.

On October 22, President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan received the participants of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists. Greeting the guests from abroad, Bako Sahakyan stated that the topics of the forum are very important, interesting and pressing and viewed the field of information the field that is of strategic significance for the Armenian state. "Currently, alongside the conventional issues in the field of information, there are new tasks and actions. All this requires the implementation of an appropriate policy in the field of information and close collaboration between the journalists and media sectors of Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian Diaspora," - mentioned the head of the NKR adding that today Artsakh is in a state of war. War has a military, diplomatic, economic and journalistic nature and journalists are the soldiers who have been "enlisted" to the real and virtual spheres and are fighting in that area and beyond these borders.

At the end of the meeting, President Bako Sahakyan answered various questions from the journalists that were related to the field of information, the settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict, as well as the domestic and foreign policy of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

On October 23, the Charles Aznavour Cultural Center of Stepanakert hosted the fifth and sixth sessions of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists.

The forum, which is entitled "Armenian Statehood: Axis of Unity", continued with panel sessions entitled "Support of the Armenian Diaspora to the international recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" and "Cov-





erage of problems with the defense systems of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic by mass media outlets” in Artsakh.

The speeches were followed by discussions aimed at promoting the solution to the current issues in the Republic of Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora through cooperation between media outlets.

During the sessions, the participants viewed TV journalist Nayiri Hokhikyan’s documentary “You Can’t Cover the Sun with Mud”, which presents the crime that the Ottoman Empire perpetrated in 1915 and the over 4.5 million Armenians who have preserved their national identity in Turkey.

The last day of the Forum President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received the representatives of the Forum. The President of Armenia saluted the Conference, stating that noting that in journalism it is impossible to achieve success by denying small lies with larger ones or establishing legitimacy through illegal means, he underscored that the sharper the pen of the one who speaks the truth, more useful he will be and will do no harm, while the same pen or journalistic abilities, the influence of the media, if used carelessly can cause huge problems. After the welcoming remarks, the President proposed to conduct the meeting in the Q and A format so that he can answer all questions raised by the journalists.

The journalists and heads of journalistic agencies were interested in the approaches and position of the Armenian side regarding the NK peace process, reforms to be conducted in Armenia in accordance with Armenia’s new Constitution, strengthening and existing potential in the Armenia-Spyurk relations, including the opportunities for the full utilization of the capacities of the journalistic community, state policy related to the attraction to Armenia of foreign investments, and other issues.

After the meeting with the president of Armenia, the 4 day lasting 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists came to its logical end. The Journalists came from nearly 31 states departed from Armenia full of new expectations and professional attainments.



The participants of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists had been in the frontline

Artsakh, during the first session of the 8th Pan-Armenian Forum of Journalists, the NKR Deputy Minister of Defense Samvel Karapetyan escorted the participants to the frontline where they had a meeting with Armenian soldiers. The Journalists themselves saw the conditions where the soldiers serve. After that, journalists left

for one of the oldest capitals of Armenia Tigranakert. The NKR Minister of Defense Lyova Mnatsakanyan was waiting for them there, who answered all the questions journalists gave.

The same day at the evening, except the official meeting, in honor of the forum participants the president of NKR Bako Sa-

hakyan arranged a reception during which Journalists had an opportunity to enjoy their time in Artsakh. A number of singers, musicians, dancers performed during the reception, which just amazed the participants of the forum. During the reception, the journalists themselves had an opportunity to show their talents.



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HIGHLIGHTS

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