

# Armenian FM hopes there will be signed agreement on Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridor in near future



Armenia - Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan (R) and his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar speak at a joint news conference, Yerevan, October 13, 2021.

During the meeting with his Armenian counterpart in Yerevan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar proposed to use Iran’s Chabahar port as a hub of the North-South international transportation corridor.

At a press conference in Yerevan, the Indian FM said that the lack of direct communication obstructs the contacts between the peoples and the economic, trade exchange between India and Armenia. He emphasized that both India and Armenia are members of the North-South international transportation corridor, which, he added, has a prospect for communication

development.

“I and Mirzoyan discussed the interest Armenia has for using the Chabahar port in Iran, which has been developed by India. We also proposed that the port is used as a hub of the international transportation corridor”, the Indian FM said.

In turn Armenian FM Ararat Mirzoyan said that they have discussed the issue of infrastructure in the region and the North-South transportation corridor with Mr. Jaishankar. “Both countries are interested in the fulfillment of this initiative. We have discussed the latest positive developments around the port, the issue of establishing a

direct road communication between Armenia and India, as well as the future transit transfers from Armenia to Russia via Georgia and maybe to Europe via the Black Sea. This is the important component of our agenda”, the Armenian FM said.

As for the Persian Gulf-Black Sea initiative, Ararat Mirzoyan said they have recently discussed this issue with the Iranian side. According to him, the events around this program, this agreement are developing quite dynamically. “I hope in the nearest future we will have a signed agreement around this document”, the Armenian FM said.

<b>PM Pashinyan receives Prosecutor General of Iran Mohammad Jafar Montazeri</b> <p>p. 2</p>	<b>Armenia dismisses talk of new corridors in the Caucasus</b> <p>p. 4</p>	<b>Silverworks by Iranian-Armenian artisans on show in Tehran</b> <p>p.7</p>	<b>Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council issues warning to Azerbaijan</b> <p>p. 5</p>
---	---	---	--



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, who is on a working visit to Armenia.

Welcoming Mr. Montazeri in the Republic of Armenia, the PM noted that the Government of Armenia greatly highlights relations and partnership with Iran, including in the sphere of law enforcement. "I am glad to note that quite effective cooperation has been established between the Prosecutor General's Offices of our countries. Of course, Armenia is ready to develop and deepen cooperation in the field of justice as well, and your visit is a good opportunity for that. During the meetings with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we agreed that all our state bodies should establish close cooperation with each other", Prime Minister Pashinyan said.

In his turn, Mohammad Jafar Montazeri noted that his visit to friendly and

## PM Pashinyan receives Prosecutor General of Iran Mohammad Jafar Montazeri

neighboring Armenia is a repay visit of the Armenian Prosecutor General's visit to Iran. "Of course, due to the coronavirus, this visit was postponed a bit, it took place later. Before my visit to Armenia, 2-3 days ago, I met with the President of the IRI Mr. Raisi. He asked me to convey his warm greetings to you, praised you and emphasized that the meeting you had was very positive and productive".

The Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran added that his country attaches special importance to the development and expansion of cooperation with Armenia in all spheres. He stressed that the centuries-old, good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries are a good basis for jointly confronting the regional challenges, finding the necessary solutions also by the realization of the great potential. "We are interested in developing relations with Armenia for the benefit of our countries," Mohammad Jafar Montazeri said.

Mr. Montazeri stressed that Iran is guided by the policy of good neighborliness in its relations with its neighbors, but at the same time they will never allow ter-

rorists or warmongers to be deployed along the country's borders.

Prime Minister Pashinyan added that he has great impressions from the meetings with President Raisi, noting that the latter's emphasis on the fact that the new Governments of Armenia and Iran started working simultaneously is perceived as a message to open a new page in the relations between the two countries.

In terms of meeting the challenges, the Prime Minister of Armenia attached importance to giving a new impetus to the economic cooperation between Armenia and Iran, in particular, the extension of the gas for electricity barter deal, the completion of the construction of the 3rd high-voltage transmission line, the implementation of Meghri HPP project, the full use of the opportunities of Meghri Free Economic Zone.

The interlocutors also referred to the processes taking place in the region.

At the end of the meeting, Nikol Pashinyan asked to convey his warm greetings to the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Sayyid Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi.

## Pashinyan says meeting with Putin productive

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan says the meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin was productive.

"Held a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The meeting was very productive. We discussed both the bilateral agenda and the situation in the region. We will continue our contacts to implement the agreements reached," Pashinyan said in a twitter post after talks at the Kremlin.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a

private conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin on October 12.

The parties discussed issues related to the implementation of the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021, further steps to strengthen stability in the region, restore economic ties and referred to ongoing developments.

Nikol Pashinyan and Vladimir Putin also touched upon the agenda of the Ar-



menian-Russian allied relations, as well as issues related to further cooperation in integration unions.



The Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned the gross violation by Azerbaijani forces of the ceasefire regime established with a trilateral statement of November 9.

The breach of ceasefire saw six servicemen of the Artsakh Defense Army

## Armenian Foreign Ministry strongly condemns gross violation of ceasefire by Azerbaijan

wounded near the village of Norshen in Artsakh.

The Azerbaijani side continued violating the ceasefire on October 15, in the northeastern direction of Artsakh, targeting a Defense Army ambulance.

"This is the second serious incident of violation of the ceasefire by Azerbaijan in a week, which causes suffering to civilians and military personnel," the Ministry

said, reminding that on October 9, civilian Aram Tepnants was killed by a sniper while doing agricultural work near the city of Martakert in Artsakh.

The Foreign Ministry stresses the need to take necessary steps with mediation of the Russian peacekeeping forces to ensure unconditional adherence to the ceasefire regime and prevent similar incidents in the future.

## Armenian PM proposes strengthening trilateral mechanisms to investigate incidents and adherence to ceasefire



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan proposes strengthening trilateral mechanisms to investigate incidents and adherence to ceasefire.

Addressing the sitting of the CIS Council of the Heads of State, the Prime Minister referred to the situation in the region established after the Artsakh War of 2020.

“Our region today is on the verge of very serious transformations. In case there is political will and wisdom, they can change the current picture and lead to real peace and stability. We are ready for such changes. Moreover, they coincide with our

vision of the future,” PM Pashinyan stated.

He noted that in its action plan, the Armenian government has enshrined its goal of achieving “a new era of peaceful development for our country and our region.”

However, he added, there are many factors that call into question the possibility of peace in the region.

“Despite all the political efforts, despite the trilateral statement, people continue to die on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and in Nagorno Karabakh. In this regard, I propose to strengthen the trilateral mechanisms to investigate incidents and commit-

ment to the ceasefire and the cessation of all hostilities. The rhetoric of hatred, constant threats and provocations have become commonplace for us. Many not only do not believe in, but do not want peace and stability in our region. And in these conditions, it is very difficult to advance the agenda of peace. But we are determined to do our best to achieve peace and stability in our region, we have a clear idea of how to achieve this goal,” Pashinyan stated.

“Dialogue and, unfortunately, the gradual overcoming of the atmosphere of hostility in our region, the unblocking of all regional transport and economic communications is the only way, which, in our opinion, can achieve this goal. In this context, it is very important to fulfill the agreements reached in the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021.

He informed that a trilateral working group co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan is working to open all transport communications and hopes to achieve concrete results in the near future.

“This means that Armenia will have a railway and land communication with Russia, a railway connection with Iran through the territory of Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan will receive a railway and road connection with Nakhijevan through the territory of Armenia,” he noted.

## Armenian, Russian, Azerbaijani FM's discuss implementation of trilateral statement

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan held a meeting in Minsk on October 14.

The Foreign Ministers discussed issues related to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, including the implementation of the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020.

Minister Mirzoyan commended the Russian mediation efforts aimed at the ceasefire, and in the context of ensuring the security of the Armenians of Artsakh, emphasized the presence of the Russian



peacekeepers in Nagorno Karabakh.

At the same time, Minister Mirzoyan drew the parties' attention to the fact that some provisions of the November 9 statement are yet to be implemented. In this

context he stressed the need for immediate and unconditional repatriation of all Armenian prisoners of war.

Referring to the meeting held in New York with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Minister Mirzoyan reaffirmed that the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict should be carried out within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the basis of elements and principles known to the parties.

## More questions arise about firms run by Armenian Speaker's brother

(RFE/RL) - Sirush Davtian is 65, lives in a modest village house and doesn't quite look like a neophyte entrepreneur. Yet the ailing single woman is listed on a state business registry as the sole owner of a construction company set up in February with 140 million drams (\$290,000) in capital.

Davtian refused to answer any questions from an RFE/RL correspondent who visited her home in Ushi, a village 30 kilometers northwest of Yerevan. Her brother laughed off her de jure connection to the company, telling the journalist to look for its real owners elsewhere.

The company called Euroasphalt-1 is one of at least two businesses run by Armenian parliament speaker Alen Simonian's brother Karlen. The other one, Euroasphalt, had an authorized capital of just over \$100 when it was founded by two little-known individuals in March 2018. Karlen Simonian became its executive director early this year.

Euroasphalt won recently two government contracts for rural road construction worth a combined \$1.4 million, raising suspicions of a conflict of interest and even corruption. Deputy Prime Minister Suren Papikian assured RFE/RL's Armenian Service late last month that this was the result of transparent and fair tenders, rather than government connections.

Alen Simonian, who is a figure close to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian, condemned media outlets for questioning the

integrity of those deals when he spoke with journalists earlier this week. "I don't answer questions from the yellow press," the speaker said when asked to comment on his brother's entrepreneurial activities.

Euroasphalt won one of the contracts worth about 400 million drams (\$830,000) after bidding just 50,000 drams (\$103) less than another construction company. Speaking with RFE/RL's Armenian Service, senior executives of the defeated firms avoided criticizing the outcome of the contest. They hinted that they do not want to antagonize the government because they hope to win similar tenders in the future.

Vahe Sarukhanian, an investigative journalist who has also written about Karlen Simonian's involvement in business, described the tiny margin of Euroasphalt's victory in the bidding as suspicious.

"In the past, the [former ruling] Republican Party's government was widely criticized for the fact that the organizers of tenders would inform their cronies' firms that a particular company is bidding a particular amount of money and that they must bid slightly less to win and then sort other things out with them," explained Sarukhanian.

"I don't know what happened in this case," he said. "I have no evidence to voice accusations. But logical suspicions definitely arise and corruption risks cannot be excluded."

As an outspoken opposition parliamentarian, Pashinian had for years alleged



corrupt practices in tenders won by individuals linked to Armenia's former governments. He claimed to have eliminated "systemic corruption" in the country after coming to power in 2018.

Neither Karlen Simonian nor other Euroasphalt representatives could be reached for comment.

It emerged on Thursday one of the company's two officially registered addresses is the same as that of a Yerevan apartment where Simonian's mother currently lives. The other address could not be located.

The speaker's brother is also the deputy director of the TS Construction company, a concrete producer and supplier. An Armenian civic group revealed recently that it donated over \$10,000 to Pashinian's Civil Contract party during this year's parliamentary election campaign.

## Armenia dismisses talk of new corridors in the Caucasus



The Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia has categorically rejected plans for the creation of new corridors in the southern parts of Caucasus after the most recent military conflict with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan said in an interview with the Iranian Tasnim agency that

the latest war paved the way for the presence of terrorists in the region.

Voicing concern about the insecurity caused by the presence of terrorists and the armed forces of certain countries in the region, he said, "We have always warned others against these issues. But these warnings given by Armenia did not help in preventing terrorists and armed people from entering the region."

Grigoryan said the issue of unblocking the roads and economic routes of the region has been cited in the November statement and has also been discussed in the trilateral meeting between the leaders of Armenia, Russia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, held in Russia on January 11.

"I'd like to emphasize confidently that neither the two statements nor the meetings have made any reference to any corridor,"

the Armenian official stated.

On the contrary, he added, the Republic of Azerbaijan has announced several times that the creation of the corridor has been mooted.

"I want to make it clear that Armenia has never proposed, and will not propose anything about the corridor, and it has never held and will not hold negotiations about the corridor," Grigoryan underlined.

The Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia noted that he has reiterated Yerevan's stance on the issue in meetings with his counterparts and colleagues.

The official also expressed Armenia's readiness to open its routes for transportation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, but underscored that the routes are wholly placed under sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia.

## Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council issues warning to Azerbaijan



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani reacted to the recent allegations made by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev against Iran, and advised the neighboring country

to be careful not to fall in the "trap laid by the devils, especially the Zionist regime," IRNA reports.

"Ignoring the principles and requirements of the neighborhood and making false and unconstructive statements is not a sign of good faith and prudence," Shamkhani tweeted on October 15.

"He pointed out that accusing a country that is famous as an anti-drug hero has no effect but discrediting the speaker's words," he added.

He called on Azerbaijan's president not to be deceived by traps laid by devils.

In a virtual meeting with the CIS leaders, Aliyev claimed in an unrealistic statement that Armenia, in collusion with Iran, used the territories currently under Azerbaijani control to smuggle drugs into Europe for about 30 years.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan also rejected these allegations and stressed Iran-Armenia cooperation in fighting narcotics.

## Comprehensive settlement of the Karabakh conflict would contribute to lasting peace in the region – FM

The comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict would greatly contribute to the establishment of lasting peace in the region, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at the sitting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the CIS member states convened in Minsk, Belarus.

During the event, which was held in a narrow and then expanded format, the Foreign Ministers of the CIS member states, exchanged views on regional and international issues, discussed in detail issues of political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation within the CIS.

The Foreign Ministers summarized the work carried out over the past thirty years, the programs implemented, the prospects for the development of the CIS, and the priorities of its activities.



Referring to the further development of the structure, Minister Mirzoyan stressed the principle of sovereignty, equality of peoples and the right to self-determination, inviolability of state borders, non-use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

The above was stressed in the context of the military aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh. Considering

the provisions of the November 9 trilateral statement, in particular the immediate release of Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees, the need to preserve the Armenian cultural and cultural heritage in the territories under the control of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, Minister Mirzoyan stressed that a comprehensive settlement of the conflict within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship, would greatly contribute to the establishment of lasting peace in the South Caucasus.

A number of statements were adopted, which will be submitted to the CIS Council of Heads of State for approval. During the sitting, they also agreed on the 2022 multilevel consultations between the foreign ministries within the CIS.

## Russian peacekeepers act as guarantors of ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh – Putin

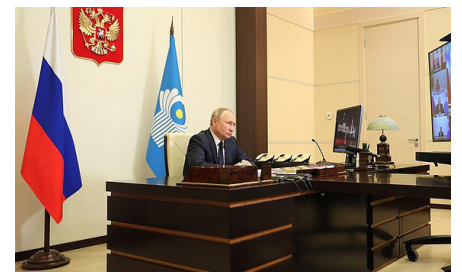
Russian peacekeepers are the guarantor of the ceasefire regime in Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on October 15 at a meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State, TASS reports.

"The Russian peacekeeping contingent acts as the guarantor of the achieved ceasefire regime. With our assistance, the delivery of humanitarian cargo is carried out, the territories are being cleared of mines,

and, I want to draw your attention, on both sides, in both territories – both in Azerbaijan and in Armenia, life support systems are being restored, medical assistance is provided to the population, tens of thousands of displaced persons, over 52 thousand people have returned to their homes," Putin said.

The President of the Russian Federation noted that the CIS area is not void of disagreements and contradictions.

"And it's really bad when these con-



traditions lead to sharp conflicts between individual CIS member states, as it happened, unfortunately, last year in Nagorno-Karabakh," he stated. Putin expressed gratitude to his CIS colleagues for assessing Russia's efforts to end the conflict.



The assigning of a rating by the S&P Global Ratings to Armenia for the first time has a strategic meaning, Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan said on October 14 at the Cabinet meeting.

According to him, this development contributes to the internal formation of both the domestic and the foreign capital market. “This is very important for us”, he said.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that over the past years the government has

## Armenian companies will get cheaper loans as a result of S&P Global rating – Pashinyan

issued Eurobonds twice, and in both cases a historical minimum of rates has been registered. “International investors trusted the capacity of Armenia, and they turned to be right in fact. It’s necessary to work with the private sector very intensively, so that the companies will go to the capital market. This will raise the affordability of loans, because if there is an alternative in the market, the banks will have to run a more flexible interest rate policy, which can inject a new blood in our economy”, the PM said.

Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan added that the rating helps to activate the processes in the domestic market. “Even the Central Bank for some reserve normatives has privileges for those companies

who have a rating”, he said.

In turn the Central Bank President Martin Galstyan said this rating reduces the spending of private companies. “I think in this sense the government has taken the necessary step, maybe we need to urge the private companies to be open, transparent and accountable in order to be able to attract funds and carry out their activities”, he said.

PM Pashinyan added that the government must work with those potential companies which can be rated. “We should put a task before us that in 2022-2023 we will do everything for the appearance of such companies”, the PM added.

## Armenian finance minister introduces government’s five-year action plan to German partners

Finance Minister of Armenia Tigran Khachatryan had a working meeting with the representatives of Berlin Economics independent consulting company and the German Economic Union NGO, the ministry said in a statement.

Minister Khachatryan introduced the guests on the government’s five-year action plan and talked about the manageability of the current foreign debt and the macroeconomic features.



The guests expressed readiness to co-operate around issues of mutual interest and stated that the German partners closely follow the activity of the Armenian government and welcome the ongoing reforms.

The sides agreed to continue the dialogue over the issue on the agenda and expressed their support to the development of the Armenian-German bilateral economic ties.

## Armenian government to allocate funds for creation of national carrier

The government decided today to increase the statutory capital of the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) today. The money to be allocated will be used to establish a national air carrier as a result of a memorandum signed with Air Arabia on July 14.

“This decision fulfills the promise made by the RA Government some time ago to create a national air carrier. We attach importance to the fact that we made the deal as a result of calculation, profes-

sional evaluation and got the most viable model,” ANIF CEO David Papazyan said.

“With this program, we are creating a national competitive air carrier, which has a competitive advantage from the very beginning, i.e. the positive experience of the Air Arabia model of about 20 years. I think this gives us the opportunity for the first time to have a national air carrier based on a long-term competitive strategy,” he added.

He said this his model is more viable as

it brings with it a proven, successful model, professional management and experience in developing a long-term strategy.



## Armenian anti-vaxers may have to pay for COVID-19 treatment



Armenians contracting COVID-19 after refusing to get vaccinated against the disease may soon be required to pay for their treatment in hospitals, a senior government official warned on October 14.

Deputy Health Minister Gevorg Simonyan said the Armenian Ministry of Health is considering taking the harsh measure as part of its efforts to boost the very slow pace of coronavirus vaccinations in the country of about 3 million.

According to the ministry, just over 344,000 people received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine and only 170,212 of them were fully vaccinated as of Octo-

ber 10. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan deplored these “very bad” numbers last week and said relevant authorities must rely on their “administrative levers” more heavily to speed up the vaccination process.

The authorities had already obligated all public and private sector employees to get inoculated or take coronavirus tests twice a month at their own expense, a requirement effective from October 1. Health Minister Anahit Avanesyan revealed on Monday they could also introduce a mandatory coronavirus health pass for entry to cultural and leisure venues.

Thanks to government funding, Armenia’s hospitals have treated all COVID-19 patients free of charge since the start of the pandemic. The government claims to have spent over \$80 million for that purpose.

Simonyan said that forcing infected anti-vaxxers to cover their hospital expenses, worth an estimated 800,000 drams (\$1,660) per person, would enable the government to cut the funding and spend more

on subsidizing treatment of other serious illnesses.

Davit Melik-Nubarian, an independent health expert, spoke out against the possible measure, saying that it would result in fewer hospitalizations and more deaths. He said the government should instead do more to explain the benefits of vaccination to skeptical people.

Melik-Nubarian cited a recent opinion indicating that only 7 percent of Armenians categorically refuse to take vaccines. “Others are ready to change, in one way or another, their attitudes if they get answers to their questions,” he told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service.

Coronavirus infections in Armenia have steadily grown since June not least because of the authorities’ lax enforcement of mandatory mask wearing in indoor public spaces and other sanitary rules.

Officials warned that Armenian hospitals are running out of vacant beds for COVID-19 patients.

## Silverworks by Iranian-Armenian artisans on show in Tehran

An exhibition featuring some 130 silverworks made by Iranian-Armenian silversmiths opened in Tehran on Tuesday, Tehran Times reports.

Organized by the Traditional Arts Research Group of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, in collaboration with Arch Bishop Ardak Manoukian Museum, the exhibit is showcasing artworks by several Armenian masters of silver crafts including Herach Megerdoun, Sarou Megerdoun, Armin Vartin, and Simon Malekian.

Silverware, pictures, and decorative objects engraved using various techniques, a copy of the Bible with silver engraving on the cover, engraved silver cups, and instru-



ments used in religious ceremonies are all among the artworks on display.

The exhibit will run until October 25 at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Iranians have been skillful metalworkers since the Achaemenid period (559–330

BC) when they were already acquainted with various techniques such as chasing, embossing, casting, and setting with precious stones.

The zenith of old Iranian metalwork, however, was reached during the Sasanid period (224–651), when craftsmen achieved great variety in shape, decoration, and technique. Drinking vessels (stem cups and cups with handles), ewers, oval dishes, platters, and bowls are the dominant forms; hunting scenes, drinking scenes, and animals are represented in high relief. The patterns were cut out of solid silver or made separately in sheets and then soldered to the vessel. From this time onward cloisonné enamel was used for jewelry.

## Armenian PM highlights formation of common electricity, gas and oil markets in EAEU

The formation of common markets for electricity, gas, oil and oil products in the Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU) zone one are among the basic issues, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the regular sitting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, held remotely.

The meeting was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Toka, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, Presidents of the EEU Observer States – President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Cuba Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, as well as Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikov.

“The formation of common sectoral markets in the energy sector is not only a matter of implementation of the provisions of the EAEU Treaty, but also a precondition for the full realization of the potential for economic integration. This, in turn, predetermines the complexity of the process of harmonizing the principles and mechanisms of this market, which implies taking into account the different opportunities and interests of countries in the energy sector. However, significant progress can be recorded in concluding the future agreement, as well as a willingness to continue working on the issues under discussion, which we hope will help resolve the issue within a reasonable time. We assume that in the long run, all countries, as well as the economic union, will benefit from the successful implementation of the tasks set in front of us,” the Prime Minister said.

According to Pashinyan, the elimination of barriers to reciprocal trade in the EAEU is one of the Union’s priorities, which aims to ensure the operation of in-



ternal markets without barriers and limits, including those barriers that restrict the freedom of access of entrepreneurs to the markets of the EAEU member states.

“Implementation of existing agreements in this area will strengthen the foundations of the Union’s activities, and the absence of barriers within the Union will increase not only the level of trust between member states, but also our competitiveness in foreign markets. In this context, I consider it necessary to intensify the efforts to identify and eliminate barriers to trade, to create common markets for goods and services, to build efficient supply chains, to increase the Union’s transit potential, taking into account the interests of the business communities and the rights of citizens of the Union’s member states. I am confident that the effective introduction and development of digital technologies will help to minimize or fully eliminate barriers,” the Armenian Prime Minister noted.

“At present, the issue of protection of the Union’s internal market is urgent, especially in the event of a negative impact caused by economic pressure from a third party. In this context, the development of response measures is an important issue on the Eurasian integration agenda, like any other regional integration agenda,” PM Pashinyan said, adding that Armenia is ready for close collaboration to find ways to develop a common approach based on international law, taking into account the

experience of the member states.

“One of the issues facing the world community is climate change, which affects not only the economy but also social processes. In this regard, we need to cooperate to mitigate the effects of climate change, promote ‘green recovery’, and develop measures to develop low-carbon economies,” he added.

In this context, Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the importance of the work of the Commission for the Promotion of Ecologically Clean Transport in the Eurasian Region. Creating conditions for the development of the electric vehicle market in the EEU stems from the interests of environmental safety and public health.

“I am convinced that this will also contribute to the wider introduction of new technologies and the modernization of national economies, as well as the increase of the level of knowledge-based industries. Given the fact that a number of automakers have already announced about the full transition to production of electric cars in the near future, the underdevelopment of the electric car market in our countries will definitely lead to technological backwardness, reduced competitiveness,” the Prime minister continued.

In this regard, he asked the Commission, together with the member states, to strengthen the work in this direction, to involve the business community and scientific circles more actively in that work.

A number of topical issues related to the activities of the Eurasian Economic Union were discussed during the sitting. Among them were the joint fight against the coronavirus, overcoming the impact of the pandemic on the economy, cooperation in the energy sector, the formation of common oil and gas markets, cooperation in the sphere of climate change and environmental cooperation.

## At UN Court, Armenia seeks to prevent violence and hatred against ethnic Armenians

In these proceedings instituted before the Court on Armenia on September 16, 2020, Armenia does not ask the Court to resolve all of the many issues that have long divided the parties to this case, Armenia's Representative before the European Court of Human Rights Yeghishe Kirakosyan said at the hearing on the case of Armenia vs. Azerbaijan at the International Court of Justice.

"Much less has it asked the Court to address the consequences of the most recent armed conflict. Armenia instead seeks to prevent and remedy the cycle of violence and hatred perpetrated against ethnic Armenians. In its request to implement provisional measures Armenia urgently seeks to protect the rights of ethnic Armenians from imminent harm," Kirakosyan stated.

He noted that Both Armenia's application and request for provisional measures are grounded in the international conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Kirakosyan reminded that the Convention reaffirms that "discrimination between human beings on the grounds of race, color or ethnic origin is an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and is capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples and the harmony of persons living side by side even within one and the same State."

"These proceedings have been motivated by these words and they are of utmost importance to my country. It is uncontroversial that Armenians are a distinct ethnic group, and as such are protected by the Convention. Armenians have historically inhabited the region in the Near East



bounded by the Mediterranean and Black Seas in the Caucasus. Armenian history can be traced back thousands of years or precisely the second millennium BC. Almost all Armenians are Christians, and the Armenian Apostolic Church is the oldest Christian Church in the world. The Armenian language is an independent branch of the Indo-European group of languages and uses its own unique alphabet since 405 AD," Yeghishe Kirakosyan said.

"Because of their distinct ethnic identity Armenians have experienced ethnic hatred and countless persecutions. They have also been subjected to genocide and massacres and pogroms. Sadly, the experience continues to this day," he noted.

"The international armed conflict, which President Ilham Aliyev has openly admitted Azerbaijan started in September 2020 is the most recent link to this chain of ethnic violence and hate. We fear that this will last unless the roots of the conflict are addressed. The ethnic hatred that Azerbaijani authorities spill on almost daily basis is so pervasive that nearly all of the Azerbaijani society is affected," he added.

"Generations upon generations are indoctrinated in this culture of fear and hate of anything and everything Armenian. Murder, torture and humiliating treatment of ethnic Armenians who find themselves

under the authority of Azerbaijan is systemic, as is the reward and glorification of the culprits, and prosecution of anyone that dares to contradict the official dogma," Kirakosyan continued.

"Every case of Armenian presence in the region has been destroyed or otherwise erased or falsified. It

is clear that not even the conclusion of the trilateral statement of November 2020 has not prevented Azerbaijan from violating the Convention. Azerbaijan continues to expose and actively promote ethnic hatred against Armenians. The so-called military trophies park erected in April this year has stood as a grotesque monument to this ideology of hate," Armenia's representative stated.

"Azerbaijan has captured, tortured and arbitrarily detained numerous members of Armenia's armed forces and civilians of ethnic Armenian origin. Azerbaijan, moreover, continues to destroy the Armenian cultural heritage and religious sites or negate their Armenian character in the territories it now controls. All those grave violations were perpetrated and continue to be perpetrated as we speak, precisely because their perpetrators have been enabled, encouraged, often times awarded and even glorified by Azerbaijan through systematic discrimination against Armenians," he continued.

Kirakosyan underscored that the case Armenia brought to the Court after nearly a year of failed negotiations falls within the jurisdiction of the ICC and attached importance to the indication of provisional measures to protect the rights of Armenians.

## Armenia's Yeraskh village under Azerbaijani shelling day and night – Ombudsman

Yeraskh village of Ararat province is subjected to regular shelling by the Azerbaijani armed forces, both during the day and at night, Armenia's Human Rights defender Arman Tatoyan alarms.

The village last came under shelling on October 16.

"The unruliness of the Azerbaijani servicemen has reached such a level that they set fire through intentional shootings to 8000 stacks of grass belonging to a resident of Yeraskh community. The entire winter stockpile, which the citizen had collected to feed his livestock, has been destroyed," the Ombudsman said in a Facebook post.

Moreover, he said, the fire spread destroying the roof of the barn belonging to the citizen. The fire was extinguished only thanks to timely intervention of the fire-fighters.

"Taking into consideration that the Azerbaijani positions are located in the im-



mediate vicinity of the village, it is obvious to Azerbaijani servicemen that their actions are harming the residents of the village, destroying their property, violating their rights to life and property, and disturbing their life and peace," Tatoyan said.

He insists that the process of creating a demilitarized security zone around the borders of Armenia with Azerbaijan and the removal of the Azerbaijani armed servicemen from the vicinity of the villages and from the roads between the communities of Armenia should start immediately.

"The proposal of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia has already been included in an international instrument – in Resolution 2391 (2021) of September 27, 2021 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). The Human Rights Defender will send relevant reports about this

situation to international organizations, to the State bodies of Armenia, and to civil society organizations," the Ombudsman said.

It is evident that the basis of these criminal harassments and the gross violations of human rights is the same: – the policy of Armenophobia and enmity, and of ethnic cleansing and genocide. This policy has institutional bases, and the violations will not end, and the security of the people will not be guaranteed unless the perpetrators are punished," Arman Tatoyan concluded.

## War is impossible – Artsakh's Foreign Minister

After the shootings in Artsakh this evening, the situation is calm, it is completely controlled by the Artsakh Defense Army and the Russian peacekeepers, the Artsakh Defense Army has no casualties, and the lives of the wounded soldiers are not in danger, Foreign Minister of Artsakh Davit Babayan told ARMENPRESS, urging the Armenian people not to give in to the misinformation or unchecked information and to follow exclusively official information, particularly, the press releases of the Defense Army, since exaggerated information having nothing in common with the reality is being spread.

"At this moment, thank God, we have no victims, the doctors are doing everything possible to ensure no risk to the lives of the wounded servicemen. The general situation is stable now. The peacekeepers are also dealing with that issue, they came

to the scene immediately, that is, there is no reason for panic," Artsakh's Foreign Minister told Armenpress.

According to Davit Babayan, today's incidents took place near Norshen community of Martuni region of Artsakh. Answering the question of what size and scale the Artsakh-Azerbaijani clashes were, whether there is a danger of escalation of tension, Davit Babayan answered that at the moment the situation is fully under control. Babayan does not think that the incident can escalate into a large-scale war. "Its impossible as long as Russian peacekeepers are standing there. We should understand this very well, and avoid spreading panic.



War is impossible. And we must understand that it is a provocation by the enemy, and they will resort to such provocations again, because this is their style. This is not something new for us", Davit Babayan said, adding that this new provocation of the Azerbaijani side pursued not just a political, but geopolitical goals. He clarified that Azerbaijan's acts are directed against both Russia and Armenians.



Armenian President Armen Sarkissian describes the relations with the Vatican as “very good.”

“I’m not saying excellent, because I hope that we can do even better,” President Sarkissian said in an interview with Vatican News.

President Sarkissian was speaking with Vatican Media in the Armenian Embassy’s new location close to the Vatican, following his visit on Monday with Pope Francis.

Sarkissian’s involvement in Armenian-Vatican relations goes back to the first days of independence after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, when he served as the first Ambassador to numerous western countries, including the Holy See.

“Back then I was a young scientist who had just become a diplomat, I was guided by a very wise, experienced patriarch [Catholicos Vazgen I] on how we could develop relations with the Vatican.”

#### Gratitude for Vatican support

He expressed his appreciation of the tremendous support the Vatican has shown for Armenia, noting, in particular, the visit of Pope St John Paul II to the country in 2001. “And every Armenian worldwide, and every friend of Armenia, will never forget that in 2015, there was a special Mass at the Vatican, devoted to the 100 years commemoration of the Armenian genocide.”

#### Impact of the papal visits

Asked about the impact of the visits of the popes to Armenia, President Sarkissian noted the “extraordinary personality” of John Paul II, “an historic figure” known to all. “Don’t forget, we are the first Christian state in the world; and that first Christianity is in the DNA of every Armenian,” he said. “So I think the visit of the Pope to Armenia was a huge event.”

The same was true for the visit of Pope Francis, he said, “for many reasons,” but especially for “what he stands for.” Pope

## Armenian President lauds friendship, good relations with Vatican

Francis, he said, speaks “very openly” of principles and values. The human values Pope Francis stands for, he said, “are very important values in this very complex quantum world, where a lot of things are unpredictable and there are no stable ideologies or pillars of human behaviour, and there is so much uncertainty, and if you’re weak with your soul the uncertainty takes you into nowhere.” He said, “Having a single leader that has a clear mind, [who] puts clearly human values, values that are common for everyone... gives hope to people.”

He added that for Armenians, during the recent war with Azerbaijan, “hearing the voice of the Holy Father and the Vatican was quite an encouragement.”

The continued support of the Vatican, he said, highlighted the value of the relationship with Armenia. “You know who is your friend in need and in difficulty, and in the support you have,” Sarkissian said. “And this continues... We highly appreciate the support of the Holy Father and the government of the Vatican during the difficult days that we were facing last year.”

Pope Francis and President Sarkissian exchange gifts during their meeting on Monday

#### Building relations

The President emphasized the importance of enlarging and improving relations between Armenia and the Holy See in the areas of education, science, and culture. Pointing to a memorandum of understanding signed earlier that day by the Vatican and Armenia’s ministry of cultural education, he noted that, while the use of natural resources changes, human values of intelligence, knowledge, science, and culture remain.

This, he said, “is where we have to build up our relations between the Vatican and Armenia, between the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Catholic Church, and between Catholics all over the world and Armenians all over the world.”

#### Memories

President Sarkissian also recalled the “warm memories” of his personal relationship with John Paul II, noting the Pol-

ish pontiff’s kindness and attention to his family, even inviting him as ambassador to bring his children on his visits to the Vatican.

That kindness has continued with Pope Francis, the president said. “Today was great, because when we visited the Holy Father [Francis], I took both of my sons.” He explained that, after having met John Paul II many years ago as small children, it was “a wonderful experience them” to meet once again meet a Pope now that they were grown men with families of their own.

#### A man of prayer

“And it’s something very important for me,” the president said, “that despite all of the difficulties that I personally went through — cancer, illness, through other difficulties in my life — that the faith, faith in God, has helped me to be strong, and here I am, after many years, back again, now as the president meeting the Holy Father.”

President Sarkissian spoke about his own faith: “I’m one of those people that came to believe in God through life experience and science,” he said, rather than simply being born into the faith. It was in the former Soviet Union, where his mother practiced the faith in secret, that he came to his own faith in God, “through philosophy, science, astrophysics, physics, and quantum cosmology” — a journey to a “firm faith” that he said took some time.

#### Valuing what is good

“I’m one of those that pray before going to bed,” said President Sarkissian, “and I’m happy to say that my three grandchildren, they also pray. And that’s wonderful because they go to bed and they thank God for wonderful things that happened to them during the day.” That, he said, is “valuing what is good in your life, and praying for those who are important for you.”

And, he revealed, “the same thing happens to me. So, I pray every night, and I pray for Pope Francis too. Every night.”



## For Canadian-Iranian film producers, Armenia is a wonderful place for development of independent cinema

The 18th edition of Golden Apricot International Film Festival has finished with some of the best works of world cinema, hundreds of industry guests, and tens of side events in the heart of Yerevan, Armenia.

The Rain Falls Where It Will, the latest work of the renowned Iranian filmmaker, Majid Barzegar, participated along with 8 more titles in the festival line-up for the panorama competition. The film chronicles the daily life of a quiet nurse who takes away the lives of the patients who have lost their hope in recovery. It is an Iranian Canadian co-production by Rainy Pictures on the Iranian side and The Other End on the Canadian side. The film premiered in the 50th Rotterdam International Film Festival and went on to Durban International Film Festival, the oldest and the largest film festival in Africa before it was presented at Golden Apricot.

“With the exponentially increasing

pressures and limitations imposed upon independent cinema in Iran, it is becoming extremely difficult to pursue the path of arthouse filmmaking in Iran. With the ever-changing landscape of film politics and the exacerbating economic conditions looming over independent film budgets, it has become a very tough mission to keep the flag of arthouse cinema high in the country”, says Majid Barzegar, who is also one of the leading producers of independent cinema. Many of the films produced in his Rainy Pictures office in Tehran have premiered in some of the most distinguished festivals in the world such as Cannes, Berlinale, San Sebastian, Busan and Chicago International Film Festivals.

Several of Majid’s previous films have seen the light of the screen in Golden Apricot in the previous years and the director is a regular participant of the festival. The Rain Falls Where It Will was presented in the festival by its Canadian producer, Amir Endalah, the head of The Other End, one of the leading production houses in Toronto focused on virtual production. The Other End also produces independent films

across the globe, organizes film festivals in north America and Europe and supports the works of Iranian filmmakers through Farsi Cinema Center, the first non-Iranian platform dedicated to the promotion of Iranian independent cinema.

“It is quite delightful to see how much support and care goes into Golden Apricot International Film Festival. In The Other End, we strive for giving voice to independent filmmakers around the world and here in Golden Apricot, you see the same level of dedication and support, a very professional team and a fantastic atmosphere structured around and for independent cinema. This is definitely very heartwarming for us to know that our film is in such good hands”, says Amir Endalah, who has travelled from Toronto to the festival, representing the film in the panorama competition.

The Rain Falls Where It Will is distributed worldwide by Media Luna. Based in Germany, Media Luna has been in close cooperation with Rainy Pictures and The Other End for 2 years now and holds the rights of the film worldwide.

## We welcome our brothers and sisters - Cuban President invites Armenian tourists to his country



The Republic of Cuba facilitates the entry of tourists from the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, including the Republic of Armenia, starting from

November 15, it will not require a PCR test certificate from them, ARMENPRESS reports President of EEU observer state Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel during the remote sitting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council.

According to him, one of the promising areas for cooperation between Cuba and the EEU states is energy, including renewable energy, as well as tourism.

“We are ready to create favorable and attractive conditions for tourists from the member states of the union. For that, it is necessary to promote Cuba as a tourist destination through various channels, interregional platforms and media. Starting from November 15, when more than 90% of the Cuban population will be vaccinated, our borders will gradually open, we will also ease the sanitary measures for arriving visitors”, Miguel Díaz-Canel said.

According to Canel, tourists arriving to Cuba will not be required to have a PCR

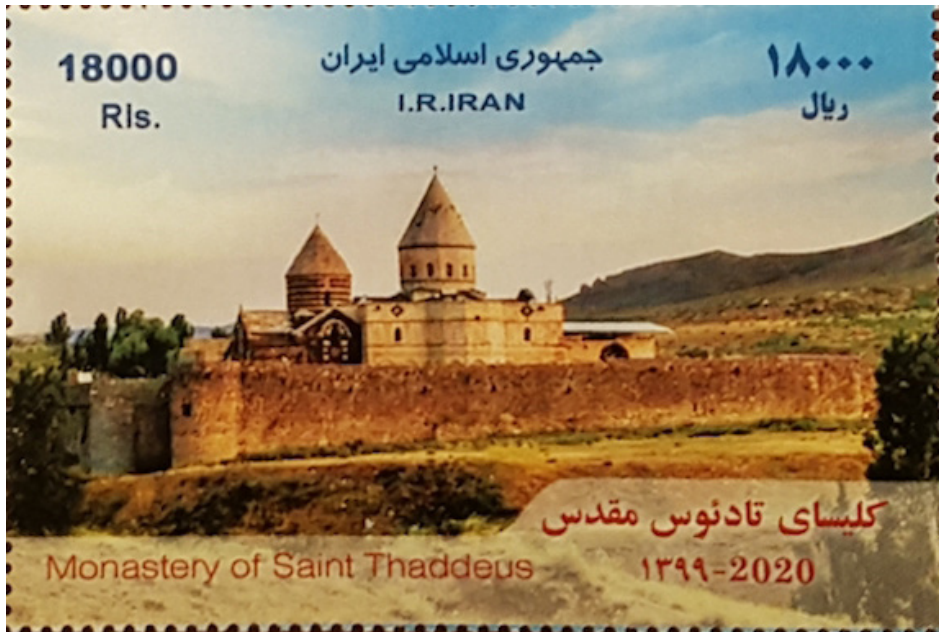
test certificate, and vaccination certificates will be recognized.

“We welcome our guests in advance, our brothers and sisters from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia,” the Cuban President said.

The Republic of Cuba, according to the President, is proud of its friendship with each member state of the Eurasian Economic Union, reaffirming its desire to further develop bilateral relations in the fields of common interest and to continue working together to strengthen the Eurasian integration project.

“It is not an easy task, but we are convinced that if there is political will, we will achieve it”, the President emphasized.

## Stamp dedicated to Armenoan St. Thaddeus Monastery issued



Asbarez – In conjunction with the opening of a joint exhibition of selected Iranian and Armenian stamps organized by the Artak Manukian Museum and the Iranian National Postal Service's Public Relations office, an unveiling ceremony of a stamp dedicated to the Monastery of St. Thaddeus was held earlier this year.

Present at the event were Ara Shahverdian, representative of Armenians in Tehran and Northern Iranian-Armenian community in the Iranian Parliament (Majlis); Armenia's Ambassador to Iran, Artashes Tumanian; head of the Iran's postal service, Deputy Minister Sobhanifar; Ahmad Mohit Tabatabayi, Chairman of the Iran's National Committee of Museums; and members of the Armenian Prelacy Executive Council, Rafik Meliksetian, Ashot Sinan and Harmik Avetian and guests.

In her opening remarks, Alice Shahmuradian, Chairperson of the Museum's Board of Directors, welcomed the guests and invited Ashot Sinan to read the message of the Tehran Prelate, Archbishop Sepuh Sargsian's message.

In his message, after congratulating those present on the occasion of the Easter, the Prelate congratulated the organizers of the event. Referring to them as the "apostles of peace, truth and love," he added

that this project time and again provides the opportunity to expand the relations in cultural and other spheres between the two neighboring countries of Iran and Armenia. He continued by commending the Iranian authorities for their respect toward Christianity and its churches in Iran.

This is perhaps the most beautiful manifestation of respect for Christian monuments in Iran, Armenian monuments, in particular, Monasteries of St. Thaddeus and St. Stepanos and the Chapel of Dzordzor located in the same province. All three monuments have been under the care of the Organization of Cultural Heritage of the Iranian government and have undergone extensive conservation and renovation projects over the years. While the monuments of Armenian cultural heritage and civilization have been and continue to be systematically destroyed and desecrated, turned into mosques and other publicly used venues by Armenia's three neighbors, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Iran is the only country that has paid special attention to their care and conservation.

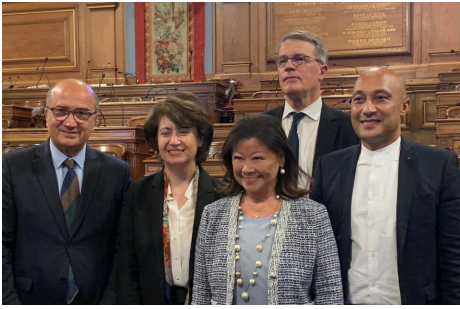
In his remarks, Sobhanifar, Chair of the Iran's postal service, emphasized the importance of such joint projects between Iran and Armenia for the expansion of neighborly relations. He added that the

First Day Ceremony of the stamp dedicated to the Monastery of St. Thaddeus can serve as a symbol and cultural ambassador between the two societies. He also emphasized on deep roots of philately between Armenia and Iran and expressed his government's readiness to the further expansion of postal services between the two countries.

In his turn, Ambassador Tumanian likewise expressed his gratitude for the realization of this project and ceremony. Following his remarks Tabatabayi, Chair of ICOM in Iran touched upon the importance and presence of hundreds of Armenian Christian monuments in Iran. At the conclusion, Ambassador Tumanian, the unveiling ceremony of the First Day Stamp display took place.

The Monastery of St. Thaddeus (known by the locals as Kara Kilise–Black Church, because of color of the oldest part of the structure) is an ancient Armenian monastery located in the mountainous, about 20 km from the town of Chaldran in the West Azerbaijan Province of Iran. Built in 68 AD it is believed to be the oldest Christian church building in the world, erected on the tomb of St. Thaddeus the Apostle who along with St. Bartholomew, two of the twelve apostles who were the first evangelizers of Armenia, and were martyred there, giving the Armenian Church its apostolic identity and earning them the title, "First Enlighteners of Armenia."

The Monastery has played a major role in throughout the tumultuous history of the Armenian people. It is the site of pilgrimage held in July of every year. The Monastery was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List on July 7, 2008, along with two other Armenian Monasteries in the same province, the Monastery of St. Stepanos and the Chapel of Dzordzor. In 2020 it was added by UNESCO to the list of its Intangible Cultural Heritage.



The City Council of Paris voted unanimously in the evening of October 14 to establish an Esplanade of Armenia in the 8th

## Paris votes to establish an Esplanade of Armenia in the 8th arrondissement

arrondissement of the capital.

This space will encompass the part of Court Albert I where the statue of Komitas is located, the Garden of Armenia, and will extend as far as the Pont de l'Alma, – an exceptional location in the heart of the prestigious 8th arrondissement of Paris, right in the center of the capital.

Armenia's Ambassador to France Hasmik Tolmadjian, who was present in the stands of the City Council at the event, immediately reacted to thank the Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, his deputy Arnaud Ngatcha, for this token of friendship and solidarity with Armenia.

## Capital Cities' Sebu Simonian hosts music and art-focused fundraiser for Artsakh

A captivating evening of live music and art drew a crowd of more than 150 community members to Altadena, CA, where singer and songwriter Sebu Simonian hosted a fundraiser for Artsakh, Asbarez reports.

The event served as a collective giving opportunity to raise money for Support Our Heroes – a non-profit organization that provides aid to Armenians displaced from their native lands, as well as veteran servicemen and their families.

As guests gathered at the private residence on Sunday evening, they were invited to participate in a silent auction that featured a selection of pieces created by Diaspora Armenian artists. Event curator Ani Ohanessian emphasized that the artworks on display had been donated by the artists and that the proceeds would support SOH's Tever IT Center and Nakhijevanik Homes projects.

According to Ohanessian, only one artist, Armen Sayar, would receive a portion of the proceeds from the sales of his work. Sayar was born and raised in Stepanakert, Artsakh, where he met Sebu in 2019. As a result of the 2020 Artsakh War, Sayar and his father had to flee their home and reestablish their lives in Armenia. Guests interested in supporting Sayar and his work had the opportunity to place bids with Ohanessian.

The exhibit consisted of three rooms and a corridor. Artists featured included: Anna Kostanian, Armen Anoush Meshefjian, Armen Sayar, Arthur Shareunc, Kevo Manoukian, Minas Hala, Raffi Semerjian, Roger Kupelian, Serj Tankian, Sevag

Mahserejian, Tro Khayalian, Vahe Berberian, and Yeva Babayan. A duduk crafted by legendary musician Jivan Gasparyan Jr., and his grandfather Jivan Gasparyan, was also sold at the auction.

Outside, a noteworthy piece on display was the "Eternal Armenia" installation, by artists Margarita Simonian, Vreje Bakalian, and Yeva Babayan. Programmed with LED lighting, the piece is an 18ft tall Armenian symbol of eternity that was previously installed at Glendale's Central Park.

To the left of Babayan's piece was a stage, projector, and screen that were used to present clips from documentaries highlighting the current situation in Artsakh. Segments from Mariam Avetisyan's "The Desire to Live" and Emile Ghessen's "45-Days," two documentaries that were recently released, were played for attendees. Later, clips from a documentary made by Taline Kevonian, who has been on the ground in both Armenia and Artsakh since the very beginning of the 2020 Artsakh War, were played.

The fundraising event included live performances by several Armenian musicians. Performers included: Capital Cities' Sebu Simonian, System of a Down's Serj Tankian, Misho, R-Mean, Bei-Ru, Jivan Gasparyan Jr., Ara Dabanyan (Element Band), Soseh, Chris Daniel, Sam Babayan, and more. A highlight of the evening included a performance of Sebu, Misho, and Tankian's song "Introvert (Call Me Crazy)," as well as R-Mean and Sebu's performance of their song, "We Are Still Here."

"Music and art are my world, and to be



able to use that to benefit our people in any way is an honor for all of us – all the artists here," said Tankian, who not only performed but also donated artwork.

For Sebu, SOH holds a special place in his heart, as it's an organization co-founded by his father, Hratch Simonian. Simonian and Viken Arabian created SOH in 2016 in response to the Four-Day-War. They have actively supported Armenians from Artsakh through the organization's many projects and have doubled their efforts since the start of the 2020 Artsakh War.

After attending a fundraising event recently hosted by his father, Sebu was inspired to host one of his own. Instead of taking the more old-fashioned approach to fundraising – a sit-down dinner with a lineup of guest speakers – he decided to integrate music and art into a fundraising project. "I wanted it to be, not a celebration, but an experience—a cultural experience," said Sebu.

By recruiting musicians and artists from his circle of friends, Sebu was able to successfully bring together a community to fundraise for Artsakh. He created a space for the new and old generation of Armenian artists to display their works, network, and most importantly raise money for SOH.

# ARMENIA

## Yezeguelian Hotel & Residence



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

**In the Center  
of Yerevan**



All Conveniences  
Air Conditioned  
Apartments

Warm Welcome  
24/7 Security  
Free Cafe & Bar



Kitchen, Refrigerator  
Safe, TV, Internet



Modern  
Rest Rooms

### RESERVATIONS:

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

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

**Paris Office: 34 Avenue des Champs Elysees**  
**Phone: 011 33 1 43 59 66 72**  
**Yerevan Address: 8, Khorenatsi St.**

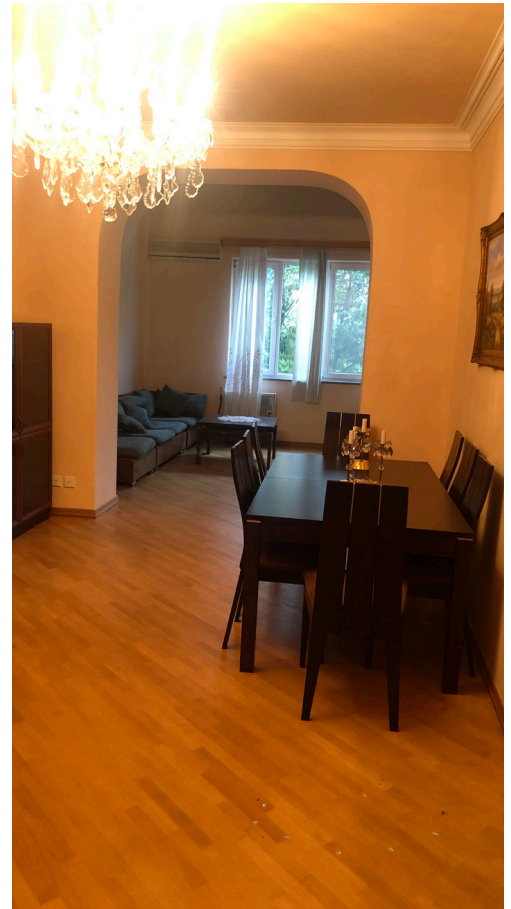
## Spacious fully furnished apartment for rent in quiet neighborhood in the center of Yerevan.

Aghayan street 11/B.



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

Contact: 091 462 421



# AZAD

## AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

### Switzerland

#### AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

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

#### AZAD Pharma AG

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

### Canada

#### AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

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

#### Atlit Inc.

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

### China

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

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

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

### Germany

#### AZAD Pharma GmbH

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

### Armenia

#### AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

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



The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող  
ԼՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

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

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:

**TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN**

Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:

**GAYANEH ARAKELYAN**

Director of the weekly:

**MARINA HARUTYUNYAN**

Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**

Computer Design: **Ashtot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

**ISSN 1829-0604**

Գրանցման վկայականի համար՝  
03ԱՅՑ6368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
Registration certificate and the date:  
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)

URL: [www.nt.am](http://www.nt.am)

#### Address in Armenia:

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

#### Address in France:

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

#### Address in USA:

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

#### Հասցե՝

Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009