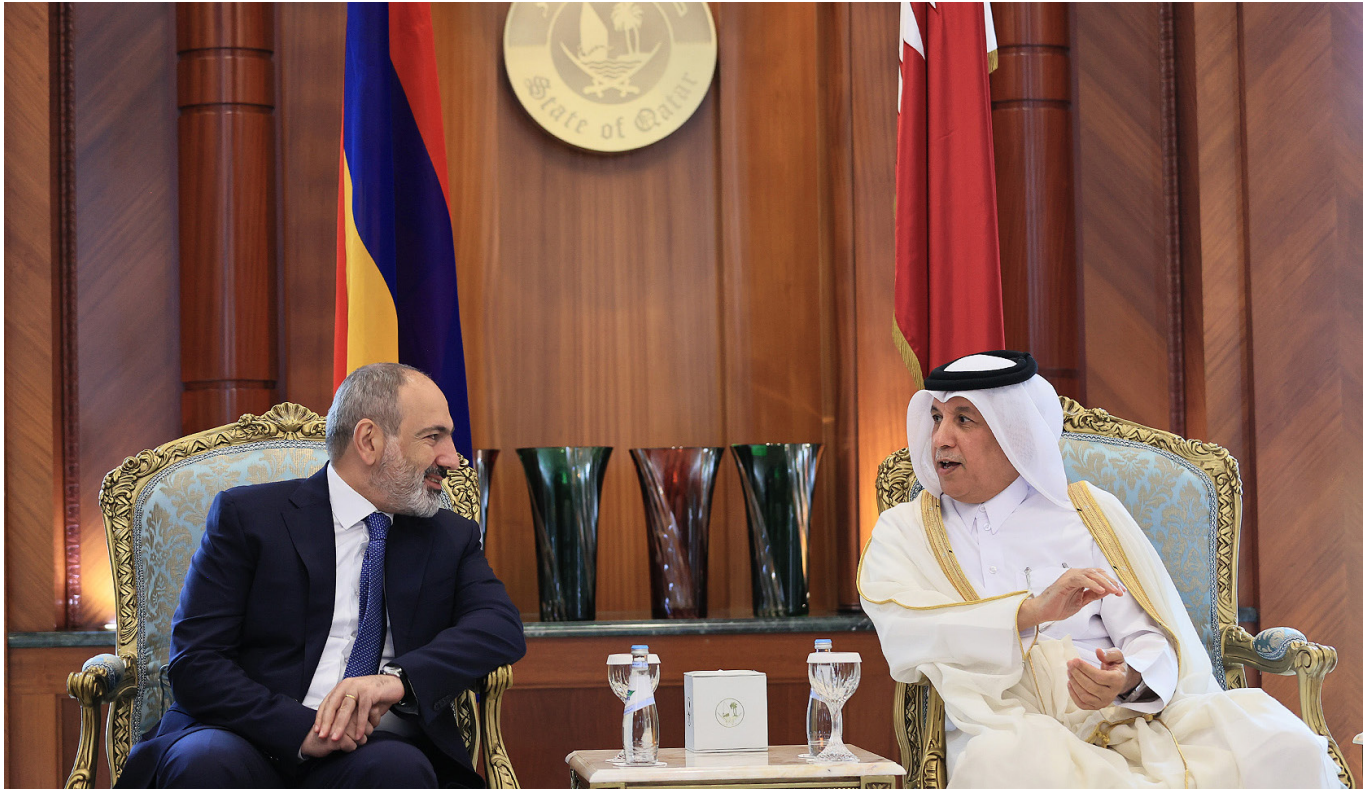


## Armenia, Qatar keen to deepen cooperation in IT, agriculture, air communication, tourism



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, who was in Doha on an official visit, met with the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani.

First, the official welcoming ceremony took place, during which the state anthems of the Republic of Armenia and State of Qatar were performed, and then the Heads of the Governments of the two countries greeted the members of the delegations.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar attached importance to the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, stressed the need for multifaceted cooperation between the two friendly countries. Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani expressed confidence that the cooperation between the Governments of Armenia and Qatar will reach a new level as a result of this visit. Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani expressed confidence that the

cooperation between the Governments of Armenia and Qatar will reach new level based on the results of this visit.

In his turn, Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that the political dialogue between Armenia and Qatar is at a high level, and it is necessary to give a new impetus to the development and expansion of bilateral economic ties. The Prime Minister attached importance to the development and deepening of business ties and invited the representatives of Qatar's business community to Armenia to discuss opportunities and prospects for joint investment projects with Armenian partners.

Nikol Pashinyan and Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani discussed a wide range of issues related to the development of cooperation in the fields of economy, in particular, information technologies, agriculture, transport infrastructure, trade, air communication, tourism. The sides also discussed the opportunities for coopera-

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## Security Council of Secretaries of Armenia, Russia discuss bilateral cooperation, situation in the region



On June 16, Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan met with Secre-

tary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Nikolay Patrushev, who arrived in Yerevan to participate in the regular sitting of the CSTO Security Council Committee.

During the meeting, Grigoryan expressed confidence that all necessary opportunities and preconditions are there for expanding the scope of cooperation between the Security Council offices of the two countries.

Within the framework of bilateral coop-

eration, the interlocutors discussed a wide range of security issues. Nikolay Patrushev stressed that Armenia is a strategic partner of Russia and that Moscow supports Armenia in ensuring regional security.

Armen Grigoryan briefed his Russian counterpart on the regional security situation, the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the work of demarcation and demarcation commissions, as well as the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.

## Chief legislators of Armenia, Iran discuss bilateral relations, regional challenges

On an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, President of the Armenian National Assembly Alen Simonyan had a meeting with President of Iranian Majles (Parliament) Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf.

The chief legislators of the two countries discussed the Armenia-Iran inter-parliamentary relations.

The parties underscored that the partnership between the two countries is based on millennia-long friendship and good-neighborly relations and expressed readiness to deepen the bilateral ties.

Touching upon the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf highlighted the preservation of the territorial integrity of

the two countries and the establishment of lasting peace.

Alen Simonyan touched upon the recent Azerbaijani-Turkish aggression against Nagorno Karabakh and its consequences.

He noted that numerous humanitarian problems remain unsolved after the war, particularly, the return of prisoners of war and the preservation of the Armenian historical-cultural and spiritual heritage on the territories that have passed under the control of Azerbaijan.

“The encroachments of Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia endanger our efforts aimed at the stability and security of the region. In this respect



we highly appreciate the position of Iran on the territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders,” Simonyan added.

During the meeting the parties also referred to the challenges in the field of transport and transit and the ways of their solution.

At the end of the meeting Alen Simonyan invited his colleague to Armenia on an official visit.



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

In his message, Ararat Mirzoyan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia,

## Armenia, Norway keen to strengthen relations

particularly noted that the mutual respect between the two countries, adherence to democratic values, rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as historically rooted warm ties formed a basis for cooperation over the three decades.

Foreign Minister Mirzoyan emphasized that the Armenian people remember with gratitude Fridtjof Nansen, prominent Norwegian humanitarian, faithful and caring friend of Armenians, who epitomizes the collective identity of the Norwegian people for the Armenians. Expressing gratitude for Norway’s unprecedented support in the fight against COVID-19, Ararat Mirzoyan expressed his conviction that Armenia and Norway will jointly contribute to the de-

velopment of cooperation and the expansion of the bilateral agenda.

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



## US attaches importance to the expansion of cooperation with Armenia: PM Pashinyan receives Assistant Secretary Donfried



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried.

The Prime Minister highlighted the continuous development and expansion of the Armenian-American relations, noting that Mrs. Donfried's visit is another op-

portunity to discuss issues on the bilateral agenda. Nikol Pashinyan praised the US assistance in effectively advancing the Armenian government's democratic reforms, adding that the development of democracy is one of the key priorities of the Government.

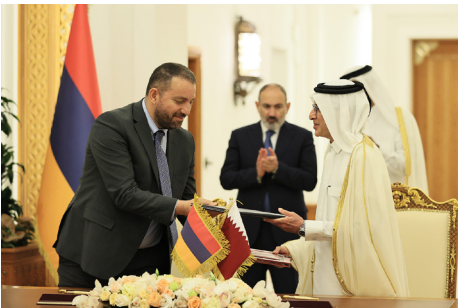
According to Karen Donfried, the US administration also attaches importance to the expansion and strengthening of cooperation with Armenia in various areas, therefore, support for the development of Armenia's democratic institutions will be ongoing.

The interlocutors also referred to the processes taking place in the South Caucasus region, the settlement of the Nagorno-

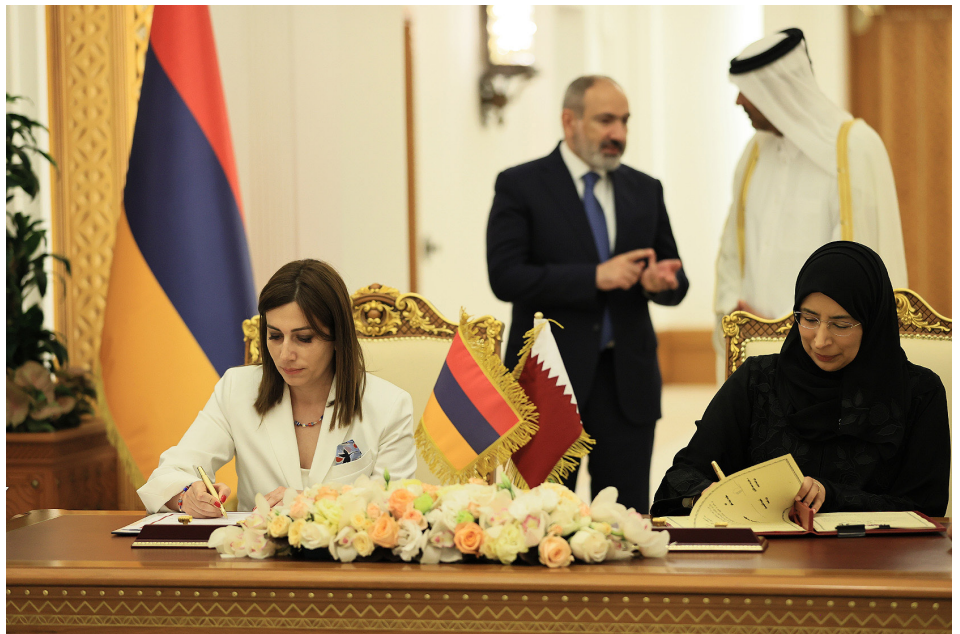
Karabakh conflict, the activities of the Commission on Delimitation and Border Security between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Prime Minister highlighted the strengthening of stability and peace in the region and stressed the need for an adequate response from the international community to provocative statements and actions undermining regional stability, peace and stability. At the same time, Nikol Pashinyan stressed the key role of the United States as a Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, emphasizing the need for the process of the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to take place within the framework of the Minsk Group Co-chairs' format.

tion in the field of education, including student exchange, science, as well as healthcare and culture. The broad potential for developing ties in all of the above areas was highlighted, for the implementation of which the Prime Ministers of the two countries gave specific instructions to the heads of the relevant government departments.



Based on the result of the meeting, a number of documents were signed between the two countries in the presence of the Prime Ministers of Armenia and Qatar. In particular, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Hambarzum Matevosyan and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani signed a Memorandum of Understanding on holding political consultations between the foreign ministries of Armenia and Qatar, as well as Memorandum of Understanding on ex-



change of news between ARMENPRESS news agency and Qatar News Agency.

Yerevan Mayor Hrachya Sargsyan and the Minister of Municipal Affairs of Qatar Abdulla bin Abdulaziz Al Subaie signed an agreement on the declaration of Yerevan and Doha as sister cities.

Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia Vahram Dumanyan and Minister of Education and Higher Education of Qatar Buthaina bint Ali Al-Nuaimi signed an agreement on cooperation between Armenia and Qatar in the field of education, higher education and scientific

research.

The Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia Anahit Avanesyan and the Minister of Public Health of Qatar Mrs. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare between the Republic of Armenia and the State of Qatar.

YSU Rector Hovhannes Hovhannisyanyan and President of the University of Qatar Hassan Bin Rashid Al-Derham signed a cooperation agreement between the two universities.

## Armenia committed to continuing the democratic path: PM Pashinyan receives CoE Secretary General

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić and the delegation led by her.

Welcoming the visit of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Prime Minister noted that as a member state of the Council of Europe, Armenia is committed to continuing the democratic path, and attaches importance to the strengthening of cooperation in the protection of human rights, development of democracy and establishment of an independent judiciary.

Nikol Pashinyan assessed the work with the PACE and the ECHR as effective, referred to the issue of the return of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other civilians detained in Azerbaijan until now, in the direction of which the Armenian Government is working closely with the ECHR. The Prime Minister attached importance to the support of the international community, including the Council of Europe, thanking the CoE Secretary General for repeatedly addressing the issue.



Marija Pejčinović Burić noted that the Council of Europe values cooperation with Armenia, and the purpose of her visit is to further strengthen it. She welcomed the democratic reforms of the Republic of Armenia, in the direction of which Armenia is registering visible progress, and highly assessed the early parliamentary elections of 2021, which were in accordance with international standards, free and competitive.

The interlocutors touched upon the issues on the agenda of bilateral relations. The process and challenges of reforms in the sphere of justice were discussed. The Prime Minister noted the importance of

increasing public confidence in the judiciary, and the Secretary General reaffirmed her readiness to support the process with the Council of Europe's advisory support, experience and knowledge. The issue of promoting women's involvement in various spheres of public life was also touched upon. The implementation of Republic of Armenia-Council of Europe Action Plan for 2019-2022 was discussed.

The sides exchanged views on the domestic and external political situation in Armenia, as well as regional and international security challenges. The importance of dialogue on the path to peace and prosperity was emphasized.

The Prime Minister presented the positions of the Republic of Armenia on the delimitation and demarcation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the activities of the Border Security Commission, the peace agenda, attaching importance to the targeted response of international partners to provocative statements and actions that undermine regional stability.

## Armenian Opposition to Seek No-Confidence Vote in Pashinyan



**(RFE/RL)** - A leader of the Armenian opposition said on June 16 that it will push for a parliamentary vote of confidence in Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in addition to holding more street protests against him.

The country's two main opposition forces tried unsuccessfully to topple Pashinyan during more than six weeks of virtually daily demonstrations launched on May 1. They dismantled their tent camp in the center of Yerevan on Wednesday after announcing that they will now rally supporters on a weekly basis.

"Nikol Pashinyan's removal continues to top our agenda," said Ishkhan Saghatelian, the main speaker at the anti-government protests. "Starting from August, we will have a new tool in our arsenal: the process of deposing [the prime minister.]"

"To that end, we need to work in two directions," he told reporters. "First, creating political and legal grounds for the impeachment ... and demonstrating popular, public demand for this. And second, nominating the people's candidate for prime minister."

Under the Armenian constitution, the parliament cannot oust the prime minister through a vote of no confidence during their first year in office. Pashinyan was formally reelected by the current National Assembly on August 2, 2021.

Pashinyan's Civil Contract party enjoys a comfortable majority in the parliament. The opposition Hayastan and Pativ Unem blocs hold just under one-third of the parliament seats needed for filing a no-confidence motion against the government.

Saghatelian did not clarify whether they are confident about provoking defections from the parliament's pro-government majority.

"We will start the impeachment process only when there are sufficient conditions for its success," he said vaguely.

Pashinyan and his political allies have dismissed opposition demands for his resignation. They say that the opposition has failed to attract popular support for regime change.

Saghatelian again put a brave face on Hayastan's and Pativ Unem's failure so far to unseat the prime minister. He reiterated that they have at least succeeded in disrupting Pashinyan's "timetable for new concessions" to Azerbaijan.

The opposition blocs launched their campaign on May 1 two weeks after Pashinyan signaled his readiness to recognize Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and "lower the bar" on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh acceptable to the Armenian side.



## We are interested in situation in Armenia to be stable and guarantee development' - Putin

President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of his working visit in St. Petersburg, the Presidential Office said.

"I am very glad for the meeting and for getting acquainted with you.

I hope you have not regretted for coming to participate in the St. Petersburg Economic Forum.

We are holding this event for already 25 years, in any case it has become a guideline for our country, Russia. I hope for our partners as well.

Armenia is not only our partner, it is also our strategic ally, we appreciate it. We understand what is happening in and around Armenia today. We are determined to develop our partnering relations. We are interested in the situation of the country to be stable and guarantee development.

I hope our meeting today will also contribute to it.

Therefore, I am very happy to see you. Welcome", the Russian President said in

his remarks.

In his turn, the Armenian President stated: "I have been in St. Petersburg long ago. I was visiting here in Soviet years; it was from the 1980s to 1992. This is an occasion to see how the city has changed and as a former Mayor of Yerevan I can state that the city really looks very good, is so clean and beautiful.

As for the St. Petersburg Forum, I am participating for the first time, but as an economist I have always followed and highly valued it because many interesting and important discussions are being held in terms of economics. Thank you for the invitation.

The Armenian people appreciate your efforts aimed at the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. I can state that your efforts made for stopping the war are appreciated not only by myself personally, but also, I know that they are appreciated by the people of Armenia. The end of war was very important. The observation of agreements reached is also very important



for us.

I consider it unnecessary to mention our historical friendship because when the relations are brotherly there is no need to say that you are a good brother or a bad brother. The brotherly relations are such, the essence and philosophy are such, it is everything, it is trust, honesty, joint programs and actions which should continue being implemented. This is my position as a citizen, as an individual and as a President, this approach, of course, helps me.

I am sure that our relations will continue in the future as well and we should support it".

The meeting also touched upon a broad range of issues on the Armenian-Russian agenda.

## FM Mirzoyan briefs U.S. Assistant Secretary of State on developments in Armenia-Turkey normalization process

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan received today U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried, the foreign ministry reports.

The sides touched upon the Armenian-American bilateral relations that are based on common values of human rights, democracy and rule of law, as well as the prospects of expanding the cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Highlighting the positive dynamics in the mutual visits and contacts at an official level, the Armenian FM praised the visit of the delegation of Armenia to the United States this May and the meetings held there, as well as the launch of the activities within the Armenia-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

Issues relating to regional security and stability were also discussed.

Minister Mirzoyan presented the current developments in the activity of the delimitation and border security commission between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the unblocking of economic ties and transportation communications in the region.

Touching upon the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, FM Mirzoyan highlighted the need for fully resuming the peaceful negotiations for the comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict within the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, in this context emphasizing the efforts of the U.S. as a Co-Chair country.

FM Mirzoyan also presented the current humanitarian problems caused by the 2020 Azerbaijani aggression against Art-

sakh, particularly the issues on immediate release of Armenian prisoners of war and civilians held in Azerbaijan, and the preservation of Armenian cultural and religious heritage in the territories under the Azerbaijani control.

FM Mirzoyan briefed the guest also on the developments in the Armenia-Turkey normalization process. The necessity of taking concrete steps for the normalization was emphasized.





The delegation led by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia Alen Simonyan was hosted by President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ebrahim Raisi. The meeting focused on Armenia-Iran multilateral cooperation, which is based on the centuries-old friendship between the two peoples, close historical and cultural ties. Outlining the ways to promote cooperation, the parties expressed readiness to continue the dialogue through joint efforts and to further enrich the agenda of bilateral cooperation.

President Raisi highlighted the cooperation of the legislatures in strengthening the existing warm relations between Armenia and Iran. The interlocutors touched upon bilateral economic relations and implementation of joint infrastructure projects, the development of which has many preconditions.

## Armenia, Iran interested in expanding cooperation in energy and transport

Alen Simonyan said the Armenian side attaches great importance to the signing of mutual agreements in the fields of energy and transport.

“In the context of development of regional transport communications, the establishment of railway connection between Armenia and Iran is among the most important issues on our agenda,” said Alen Simonyan.

The Speaker briefed the Iranian President on the situation after the war unleashed by the Azerbaijani-Turkish tandem against Artsakh, the humanitarian issues and the issue of preservation of the Armenian historical and cultural heritage of Nagorno Karabakh, which are currently under the control of Azerbaijan. Alen Simonyan said that Azerbaijan is destroying its valuable heritage at the state level, and Iran can serve as an example for Azerbaijan in this regard.

The meeting highlighted Iran’s consistent efforts to establish peace and stability in the region.

Expressing gratitude for the reception,

the Armenian Parliament Speaker expressed conviction that the Armenian-Iranian cooperation has a great potential for development and expansion and pledged his willingness to support the development of mutually beneficial cooperation for the benefit of two friendly peoples.

“We are friends of difficult days for all our friends; this is what we are guided by. On happy days, everyone can be by anyone’s side, but real friendship is shown in times of difficulty,” said Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi. Alen Simonyan conveyed the warm wishes of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and an invitation to pay an official visit to Armenia. The Speaker also informed the Iranian President that a working group has already been set up in the National Assembly to simplify the legislation on the implementation of the joint work of the Armenia-Iran agenda. The President noted that he had given relevant instructions to his staff to present initial proposals for establishing closer ties with Armenia.

## Qatar Investment Authority willing to establish effective cooperation with Armenia

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who was in Doha on an official visit, received Mansoor Al-Mahmoud, CEO of the Qatar Investment Authority in his residence.

Issues related to the cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Armenia the Investment Authority were discussed during the meeting. In particular, the sides touched upon the opportunities of

implementing joint programs in the fields of water resources management, agriculture, energy and high technologies. Prime Minister Pashinyan spoke about the priorities of the Armenian Government in these directions and the promising projects, for the implementation of which it is possible to establish close cooperation.

Mansoor Al-Mahmoud thanked for the



reception and noted that the agency headed by him is ready to establish effective cooperation with the Armenian side.



New Chairman of the Civil Aviation Committee of Armenia Mihran Khachaturyan

## Armenian Civil Aviation Committee’s new chair vows to restore “former glory” of the sector

tryan believes that no one can solve all the problems facing the country’s aviation sector alone and independently.

“I am absolutely convinced that they can be solved, and all signs and grounds exist for that. Thank you very much for the

warm words and wishes. Each of them is valuable and obliging. Believe me, with joint efforts and hard work, we will return and restore the former glory and high reputation of the Armenian aviation”, he said.





## Ralph Yirikian leaving MTS Armenia, new CEO appointed

Armenia under the Viva-MTS brand, as the CEO of Viva-MTS. Previously, Mr. Avetisian was Vice President for the Internet of Things and Industrial Automation at MTS.

Mr. Avetisian started his career in the telecom and IT industry in 2004 and has led the commercial and technical departments at several large telecoms and IT companies. He was Head of MTS's branch in Krasnoyarsk from 2013 to 2016, and was MTS's Director for Regional Development from 2016 to 2021. He built the new Internet of Things business stream at MTS

in the position of Vice President for the Internet of Things and Industrial Automation, which he held from March 2021 until his appointment as CEO. He graduated from the Banking Department at the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics.

Ralph Yirikian, the previous CEO of MTS Armenia, is leaving the company to focus on other business projects. He led MTS Armenia from its incorporation in 2004 to its position as the undisputed leader in the telecommunication sector in Armenia.

Mobile TeleSystems Public Joint Stock Company, Russia's largest mobile operator and a leading provider of media and digital services, announces that Armen Avetisian has been appointed by the Board of Directors of MTS Armenia, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company operating in

## Global tech trends to be discussed during Orion Summit 2022 in Yerevan



ran. The event will bring together world-class founders, investors, advisors, and professionals in technology, finance, business, and other fields.

Showcasing achievements of upcoming Armenian Unicorns; launching the M&A movement in the Armenian Startup Ecosystem; standing up Digital Julfa network and building the Bullish Armenian Market are the topics that will be discussed during Orion Summit 2022.

Lusine Yeghiazaryan, Chief Financial Officer at SADA, Google Cloud Partner, and a leading global provider of business and technology services has also joined the speakers. Lusine Yeghiazaryan will speak

during the M&A panel that will focus on the growth and acceleration of the Armenian Startup Ecosystem. Headquartered in Los Angeles, CA with global offices across Canada, India, and Armenia, SADA has been named Google Cloud Partner of the Year for 5-years running, as well as ranking on the Inc. 5000 America's Fastest-Growing Private Companies for 15 straight years, and the 2022 Inc. list of America's Top 50 Workplaces.

The other panel will focus on the upcoming Armenian Unicorns' progress during the last year. BAJ Accelerator program, which aims to support the development of 10 Armenian unicorns in the next 5-6 years, is at the core.

The outstanding international and Armenian speakers of the Orion Summit 2022 will discuss the most urgent topics of the startup ecosystem.

Orion Summit 2022 will take place on June 22, 2022, in Yerevan, Matenada-

## Ease of visa attracting Gulf travelers to Georgia, Armenia

The ease of getting visas for travelers from Qatar and the Gulf region continues to boost the tourism sector of eastern European countries such as Georgia and Armenia, an industry expert has said, *MENAFN* reports.

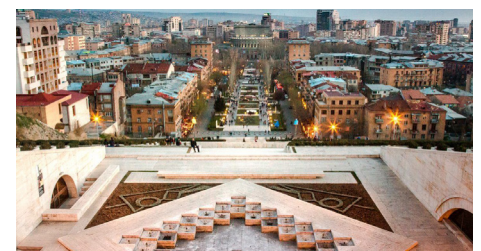
"Georgia and Armenia are really booming when it comes to visa facility for all Qataris and residents," Tawfeeq Travel Group CEO Rehan Ali Syed told Gulf Times, stressing that there is a huge interest from Doha to visit eastern and other European countries, especially during the

current period.

According to Syed, travelers from the region get visa-on-arrival to these increasingly popular destinations – "a very good feature for anybody who wants to plan and does not want to spend time in queues, particularly at a very busy season for getting visas."

Visa-on-arrival also serves as a quick fix for travelers who plan to either go solo or pick a group, and join fixed departures, he added.

"These are all beautiful countries and



apart from that they have fantastic weather and nature," he said, noting that travelers can experience these places at a lesser cost compared to other big places.



The Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, who is in the State of Qatar, gave an interview to Al Jazeera on June 13, during which he touched upon the processes taking place in the South Caucasus, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenian-Turkish relations and other topics.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Let me start with the agreement you signed with Azerbaijan, because of which you were subjected to strong pressures, so that the demonstrators even arrived at your house. How do you evaluate this agreement now?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – I think you mean the trilateral statement signed by me, the President of Russia and the President of Azerbaijan. With that statement, the ceasefire came into force, all military actions ended, I think at that time it was a step aimed at ending the violence

## “Corridor” narrative a red line for Armenia, PM Pashinyan tells Al Jazeera

in Nagorno Karabakh. I should mention that this statement does not address the Nagorno Karabakh issue, but it is necessary to address the Nagorno Karabakh issue, we hope that in the near future we will be able to address the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Interrupting the talk about Nagorno-Karabakh, I want to note that this particular issue assumes that there is a border demarcation commission between the two countries that will look into this matter. What is hindering its work so far?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – In fact, we have communication with Azerbaijan in several dimensions, You are right, we have recently formed a delimitation commission between Armenia and Azerbaijan, it is very important to continue that work. Only one meeting has taken place, but we already have an agreement that the second meeting will take place in the Russian capital Moscow, and the third meeting in Brussels. We hope that with the support of our international partners, and of course, due to direct work, we will be able to carry

out the delimitation of our borders.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – What if this committee came to a decision that the entire territory of Nagorno-Karabakh will belong to Azerbaijan, what would be your position then?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – In fact, the Delimitation Commission has nothing to do with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, because, as I said, we have different dimensions of communication with Azerbaijan, one of which is demarcation. It's also very important to mention the issue of border security, which is also under the mandate of this commission, because we must maintain stability and security along the entire border.

The second dimension is the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. There is another dimension, which is about the opening of regional, transport and economic communications. But, of course, the most urgent issue between Armenia and Azerbaijan and for the regional peace is the issue of Nagorno Karabakh. ➔ page 9



Embassy of India  
Yerevan

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**Last Date for acceptance of application: July 01, 2022**



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**Question, Al Jazeera**

– Interrupting the talks about peace with Azerbaijan, and this is exactly what angers the opposition. Russia, which is the sponsor of this agreement or the statement as it was called, is considered to be involved in a conspiracy against Armenia, and rather stands by Azerbaijan.

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan**

– You know that Russia is Armenia's strategic partner and ally, but Russia is also a very close country for Azerbaijan. And in this context, we see the role of Russia as the guarantor of a trilateral statement, which, as I mentioned, was signed between the three parties.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Since you referred to this close relationship with Russia and the alliances that bind you with it, what is your position on the war on Ukraine launched by Russia?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – Of course, we are very concerned about the situation around Ukraine, but I think all the countries of the world are concerned, because what do we see now? We see the collapse of the international order, and no one knows what the next international order will be like, and of course, we support the solution of all problems through dialogue and peaceful means.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Yes, you say all countries are interested and are following with interest, but you are a bit different, your economy is closely linked to Russia's economy, how will this be reflected, especially as it is subject to strong Western sanctions?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – Of course, the situation is not pleasant for us in terms of economy. But to be honest, in the first quarter we registered 8.6% economic growth, we hope we will be able to maintain this dynamic. After the events in Ukraine, many people and businesses have moved from Russia to Armenia because we have a neutral economic zone, and both Armenia and Russia are members of the Eurasian Economic Union. In this situation we hope, I think, we will be able to manage this economic situation. But, of course, not only the economic situation in Russia has directly affected the economy of Armenia, but also the global economic tension related to, for example, food supply, inflation and many other factors. But at the moment the economic indicators of

Armenia are quite positive.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Referring to the figures on the Armenian economy, are you in a better position than others? Are you subjected to any pressure, whether from Moscow or from the West, towards alliances or special relations that bind you to Moscow?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan**

– I will not deny that the situation of our country and government is quite sensitive, but we try to be a direct, honest and reliable partner for Russia, our European and Western partners, our neighbors. It is not so easy, but I think the leaders are designed for the situations we have now, it is our duty to manage this situation and maintain proper relations with our partners, not to betray anyone.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Interrupting the conversation, if relations are appropriate with your partners, what about relations with Turkey? Armenia and Turkey announced the opening of a new page of relations. Where is the path of normalization between Ankara and Yerevan?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan**

– We have started a dialogue through the special representatives of Armenia and Turkey. The dialogue itself is already very positive, but we hope to record tangible results.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Interrupting the conversation, are you talking with Turkey about mutual visits?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – I cannot say that we have not registered any results yet, because after the start of the dialogue, we started direct flights between Armenia and Turkey, but this is something that we had before. I hope that we will be able to establish diplomatic relations, open the border between Armenia and Turkey, which has been closed for 30 years.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – What is Armenia's approach and stance towards the corridor that is supposed to link Azerbaijan and Ankara through your lands?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – You know, the wording, the narrative about the so-called corridor is unacceptable for us, it is a red line for us, because in our region, according to the trilateral statement I mentioned at the beginning of our conversation, we have one corridor, it is the Lachin corridor that connects Nagorno Karabakh to Armenia. But we have an-

other provision in our trilateral statement, which is about opening communications. I mean railways, roads, and we are ready, in fact we are already discussing the issue of opening regional communications based on the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty and the inviolability of borders.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – You speak in a very positive language, while Armenia's relationship with neighboring countries is generally bad with the exception of Iran, and some are actually surprised that Iran, the Islamic Republic, stood by you in the face of Azerbaijan, the Muslim country? How do you explain this situation?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan**

– We have four neighbors, we have very good relations with two of them, I mean Georgia and Iran. Iran is a friendly country for us, which also has good relations with Azerbaijan, we do not intend not to have good relations with countries that have good relations with Azerbaijan. But now we have very close ties with Iran, by the way, we hope that by cooperating with Iran we will be able to expand our bilateral relations with Qatar as well. We are now working to develop communications between Iran and Armenia, and we are currently in the process of constructing a very strategic highway called North-South, which connects our border with Georgia to the border with Iran. We hope that as a result of this program, our economic relations with Iran will develop. By the way, the Eurasian Economic Union, I have already said that Armenia is a member of it, has a free trade agreement with Iran, which is very important in the context of our bilateral relations.

**Question, Al Jazeera** – Let me to conclude this meeting with a question about your tour in the Arab region, what is your expectation from the Arabs?

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – I should mention that there is a very warm attitude towards the Arab world in Armenia, because we have traditional relations. Now I hope for the growth of bilateral trade between Armenia and Qatar, because there is a very positive political environment in our bilateral relations with this wonderful country.

**Al Jazeera** – Thank you for the interview.

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** – Thank you.

## Armenian President participates in plenary session of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum



President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan attended the plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Eco-



conomic Forum, the Presidential Office said.

The Forum gathers world's leading politicians, business community representatives, aimed at raising and discussing key matters and finding possible solutions.

The main speakers of the session were Russian President Vladimir Putin, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and President of China Xi Jinping.

During the Forum the Armenian President toured the pavilions, got acquainted with the exhibits. Visiting the Armenian pavilion, the President said he attaches great importance to the presence of Armenia in such forums and highlighted the necessity of preserving it for future years.



## Future Armenian diplomats travel to United Nations in Geneva to learn about good practices on human rights

Between May 23 and 24, 2022, the Diplomatic School of Armenia in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Armenia and the Delegation of the University for Peace (UPEACE) organized for the first ever a “Training on Human Rights in a multilateral world” at the United Nations in Geneva.

This was part of a long and enriching educational travel which was initiated at the European institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg. Held in different workshops and breakout sessions, high personalities and experts of the UN system shared with the future diplomats some good practices developed by the UN human rights machinery in the past years.

The President of the Human Rights Council, the Director of the UN Library and relevant chiefs of Branch at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced to the students of the Armenian Diplomatic School on the different standard setting legal instruments.

They received a deep knowledge and practical experience about the system of treaty bodies, the Universal Periodical Review, Special Procedures and the Development & Economic, Social Issues, which will be very useful in their successful and brilliant diplomatic careers.

This initiative led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia in cooperation with UPEACE in Geneva is a good practice in the field of education and diplomacy, which goes in line of the UPEACE's mandate in its “... determination to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence...” (Charter of UPEACE, Resolution 35/55 of the United Nations General Assembly, 5 December 1980).

It should be underlined the UPEACE's compromise in the use of multilateral decision-making and diplomacy in achieving peaceful resolutions to conflicts among

nations. In line of the “Yerevan Declaration on Living together in solidarity with shared humanistic values and respect for diversity” of 2018, UPEACE highlights that preserving the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the UN Charter and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is fundamental to promote and support the three pillars of the UN - peace and security, development and human rights.

**Dr. David Fernandez Puyana**  
Ambassador and Permanent Observer  
of the University for Peace to the United Nations and UNESCO







## Armenian diplomat honored with Most Ardent Community Advocate Award in Romania

Liana Minasyan, Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Romania won the Most Ardent Community Advocate award at the 2021 edition of Business Arena's The Most Admired Business Women Awards Gala in recog-

nitition of her vision and leadership in promoting critical aspects for the development of fairness, opportunity, social justice and humanitarian principles, the Armenian Embassy in Romania informs.

## Armenia steps up mental health community services for populations affected by the armed conflict with WHO and EU support

The World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with the European Commission and Ministry of Health of Armenia (MoH) launched the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) in Armenia for populations affected by armed conflict, the WHO Armenia Office reports.

With the slogan – Mental Health for All! – the mhGAP programme in Armenia aims at strengthening community-based mental health care to reduce mental health and psychosocial suffering and promote the wellbeing of population affected by armed conflict, thus improving their access to mental health and psychosocial support. The mhGAP programme will be implemented in Yerevan and four Marzes- Kotayk, Ararat, Gegharkunik, and Syunik, ensuring that 20% of the primary health care facilities in these regions are enabled to provide quality and evidence-based community mental health and psychosocial support.

On 16 June, the main aims and objectives of the mhGAP programme were presented during the meeting with head of the EU delegation to Armenia Andrea Wiktorin, representatives of European

Commission's Directorate-General for EU Neighborhood and Enlargement, local government, and civil society.

Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin em-



phasized the importance of the mental health and the role of the joint mhGAP programme in addressing this issue. "Putting mental health as one of the priorities in healthcare agenda will improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities," said the Ambassador.

"Ministry of Health highly appreciates this important partnership with WHO and EU. The mhGAP program has a great potential to improve access to quality mental health services in the communities and to address the mental health conditions and psychosocial suffering of the population affected by the armed conflict" said Kristine Galstyan, mhGAP programme focal point at the MoH.

The launch was followed by a stakeholder meeting in Kapan city, Syunik, with the presence of MoH and WHO representatives, and Syunik Regional Administration and Managers of the health care facilities. The participants discussed mental health

service gaps in the Marze and opportunities of providing quality and timely Mental Health interventions for people in need at the primary health care and community levels.

WHO representative to Armenia, Dr. Jihane Tawilah, said, "To bring about real change, we need to work towards building more resilient systems in Armenia. We hope that the mhGAP programme will facilitate continuous capacity building of primary health-

care workers and create both momentum and experience for a national policy that scale up the integration of mental health care within primary health services in Armenia"

*The Mental Health Gap Action Program, launched globally by WHO in 2008, is to enable scale-up of services for mental, neurological and substance use conditions in non-specialized health care settings.*

*Implementation of the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) in Armenia is a joint effort of the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department, World Health Organization and Ministry of Health of Armenia. The program will provide evidence-based guidance and tools to integrate mental health into general health care provision in Yerevan and 4 Marzes of Armenia, supporting health workers in their daily practice and ensuring access to quality care for the population affected by the armed conflict.*

## PM Pashinyan hosts Nobel Laureate Ardem Patapoutian, awards him with the Order of St. Mesrop Mashtots



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted in the Government the prominent Armenian scientist, Nobel Prize winner Ardem Patapoutian, who arrived in Armenia within the framework of the “Science and Business Days-2022” event organized by the Ministry of Economy of Armenia.

Welcoming the famous scientist, the Prime Minister said, “Dear Mr. Patapoutian, I am glad to see and get to know you. I welcome your visit to the Republic of Armenia.

Yesterday I listened attentively to your speech at the graduation ceremony of Yerevan State University, I am very impressed. Naturally, I think the Republic of Armenia and the whole Armenian people consider the successes you have as their own. Of course, it is a great reason for us to be proud that we finally have our compatriot among the Nobel Prize winners.

I would also like to thank you for your willingness to support the devel-

opment of science and education in Armenia. Making tangible reforms in this area is one of our strategic directions; we believe that the reforms in science and education are of strategic importance and should predetermine the future of our country. Of course, involving the potential of our compatriots in this work is important for us, if there is such willingness.

I welcome you again, I would like to hear about the course of your visit, how it goes, how is your mood, how do you spend your time in Armenia?”

In his turn, Ardem Patapoutian said, “It’s a huge honor for me to meet you and be here. I have had a fantastic visit; I am so honored by the reception that you and the rest of the Government but most importantly, the nation gave me.

The joy in the eyes of the students that I see is really amazing, and I think even the United States doesn’t value its scientists like this. I will be very happy to help in any way I can. I have already met various ministers, representatives of education and science, also some people who have established high-tech companies.

I agree with you that science and technology are so important for the next

stage of Armenian life, not just for economy, military, but everything.

I visited Synopsys, Tumo, which are wonderful examples of Armenian ingenuity. They are helping not only the industry, but are giving back to education, improving education that will then feed and help the economy. I hope I can be helpful in the healthcare industry, and in informatics, which has mathematical background. I think it will have a big part in the future of biology.

I hope and I think that Armenia with its limited budget can be much more strategic in the areas where it can become a leader very quickly. So there are some things we can compete, but there are some areas that I think it’s not a good idea to try to become the best. Again, I am happy to help in any way I can. I am very encouraged to see the overall anti-corruption movement that you started, which is starting to translate into the academic circle”.

Afterwards, the interlocutors discussed issues related to the problems of science and education in the Republic of Armenia and the reforms initiated by the Government. The Prime Minister noted that the Government is going to continuously increase funding for science until 2026, adding that it has already increased by 80%.

### Replica of Ardem Patapoutian’s Nobel medal to be on display at History Museum of Armenia

A replica of the Nobel Prize medal Armenian-American molecular biologist Ardem Patapoutian was awarded in 2021 will be displayed at the History Museum of Armenia in Yerevan.

“The 2nd (out of 3) replica medals have found a home at the History Museum of Armenia in Yerevan!” the scientist said in a Twitter post.



Nikol Pashinyan especially emphasized the increase of the efficiency of scientific products and the expansion of research work in the field of higher education.

The Prime Minister attached importance to Ardem Patapoutian’s observations, suggestions and advice to advance the reforms in the above-mentioned areas. At the same time, the Prime Minister stressed that Mr. Patapoutian’s example is encouraging for young people, expressing confidence that his visit will inspire them.

Ardem Patapoutian noted that he is ready to contribute to the development of science and education in Armenia with his knowledge, experience and potential.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan awarded Nobel Laureate Ardem Patapoutian with the Order of St. Mesrop Mashtots for outstanding achievements in the field of biology and significant contribution to the development of medicine.



## UEFA will continue to support the development of football in Armenia – Čeferin



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin, who has arrived in Armenia to take part in the events dedicated to the 30th

anniversary of the Football Federation of Armenia.

The Prime Minister attached importance to the programs aimed at the development of football in Armenia with the support of UEFA, noting that the Armenian government attaches close cooperation between the latter and the Football Federation of Armenia.

Nikol Pashinyan stressed the importance of projects aimed at improving football infrastructure in Yerevan and the regions, which contribute to the popular-

ization of football and sports. The Prime Minister stressed the role of football, which has not only social but also important educational and psychological aspects.

Aleksander Čeferin once again congratulated the FFA on its 30th anniversary, adding that UEFA will continue to actively support the development of football in Armenia. The projects will be aimed at establishing new stadiums and infrastructure, and the volume of support will be continuously expanded.

## FIFA's Infantino pledges support to the construction of new national stadium in Armenia



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who has arrived in Armenia to participate in the events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Football Federation of Armenia.

The Prime Minister welcomed Mr. Infantino's visit to our country, his participation in the events of the 30th anniversary of the FFA, which testifies to the effective cooperation between FIFA and the FFA. Nikol Pashinyan hailed the fact that in recent years about 90 small stadiums have been built in Armenia with the support of FIFA and the Government.

"The development of football infrastructure has great potential not only for

sports, but also for education, social and cultural purposes. The government has initiated radical reforms in the field of healthy lifestyle and attached importance to the cooperation with FIFA and other international partners," he said.

Expressing gratitude for the assessment, the FIFA President noted that he was visiting Armenia for the first time and was impressed by our country, its rich history and culture. Gianni Infantino stressed the importance of connection between education and sport, noting that FIFA will continue to support Armenia in the development of football infrastructure.

The interlocutors exchanged views

on the agenda of cooperation. The issue of construction of a national stadium was touched upon. The Prime Minister noted that the construction of a national stadium meeting international standards is one of the priorities of the Government, and some work certain work being done in that direction. The FIFA President stressed the importance of such an infrastructure in terms of the country's sports reputation, noting that FIFA will support the process as much as possible. In this context, FFA President Armen Melikbekyan presented the work done so far.

The sides reaffirmed their readiness to strengthen the partnership, emphasizing the important contribution of FIFA Executive Director, famous Armenian football player Youri Djorkaeff.

On behalf of FIFA, Gianni Infantino presented the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia with a T-shirt and a ball of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.



## Michael Goorjian's "Amerikatsi" to open Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival



The 19th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival will kick off with "Amerikatsi" (American) directed by Michael Goorjian. The official opening ceremony of the festival will take place on July 10 at Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The International Film Festival will present films from different countries of the world, as well as films from the most prestigious film festivals.

"Amerikatsi" is a joint Armenia-US co-production. Producers: Arman Nshanian, Patrick Malkassian, Sol Tryon. Script: Michael Goorjian. Director of Photography: Ghasm Ebrahimiyan. Music by: Andranik Berberyan. Edit: Mike Solemn, Michael Goorjian. Cast: Michael Goorjian, Hovik Keuchkerian, Nelli Uvarova, Mikhail Trukhin.

As a young boy, Charlie escaped the Armenian genocide by stowing away in a trunk bound for the United States. His

family was not so lucky. Despite his tragic start, as an adult, Charlie has managed to maintain his child-like wonder for the world. However, like so many refugees and orphans, there's a hole in Charlie's big heart. Our story begins in 1947, as Charlie repatriates back to Armenia only to be greeted by the harsh reality of Soviet Communism.

The soul of Armenia has been suffocated beneath the iron curtain. Almost immediately Charlie is arrested and sentenced to prison for the absurd crime of wearing a tie. To further ensure that he doesn't influence other prisoners with his "cosmopolitan" ways, Charlie is placed in solitary confinement. Just as he appears to be succumbing to the terror of his situation, Charlie discovers that the prison wall outside his cell window had been damaged during a recent earthquake.

Michael Goorjian is an Emmy Award

winning actor, writer, and filmmaker of Armenian descent, born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Michael won the Emmy for Best Supporting Actor in David's Mother alongside Kirstie Alley. He is also well known for playing Neve Campbell's love interest, Justin, on the Golden Globe winning series Party of Five, as well as Heroin Bob in the cult classic SLC Punk. Recently he starred alongside Robert De Niro in HBO's The Wizard of Lies. Other film & television credits include: Newsies, Chaplin with Robert Downey Jr., Forever Young with Mel Gibson, Leaving Las Vegas, Hard Rain with Morgan Freeman, Broken with Heather Graham, The Invisibles, Lucifer, Covert Affairs, Lie to Me, House, Alias, Monk, CSI, Without a Trace to name a few.

On stage, Michael has won numerous awards, including; an L.A. Weekly Theater Award for Best Lead Actor in Modigliani, and a LA Critics Choice Award for choreographing the world premiere of Reefer Madness the Musical. Most recently Michael appeared at Berkeley Repertory Theater World premiere of Imaginary Comforts by Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket). As director, Michael achieved international acclaim for his award-winning feature film debut, Illusion, in which he starred alongside Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas (and some other guy named Bryan Cranston).

The 19th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival will take place on July 10-17, 2022.

## EU delegation visits construction site of future TUMO Centre in Kapan

On 14 June, Ambassador Wiktorin and representatives of the European Commission's Directorate-General for EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement visited the construction site of the future TUMO Centre in Kapan.

Gor Tadevosyan, Deputy Mayor of Kapan, and representatives of the Simonian Education Foundations did a tour of the construction site, presenting the design of the TUMO Centre in Kapan and the ex-

pected impact of the project on talent retention and local economic development.

The Centre will be constructed with the financial support of the European Union and the Simonian Educational Foundation in the framework of the EUR 2 mln "Establishment of a Technology and Creative Industries Hub in Kapan" project as one of the pilot initiatives under the Mayors for Economic Growth regional facility.

M4EG is an EU facility providing com-



prehensive support to local authorities of the EaP countries to become active facilitators of economic growth and job creation at a local level.



# ARMENIA

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## Armenian Identity Card

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

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

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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