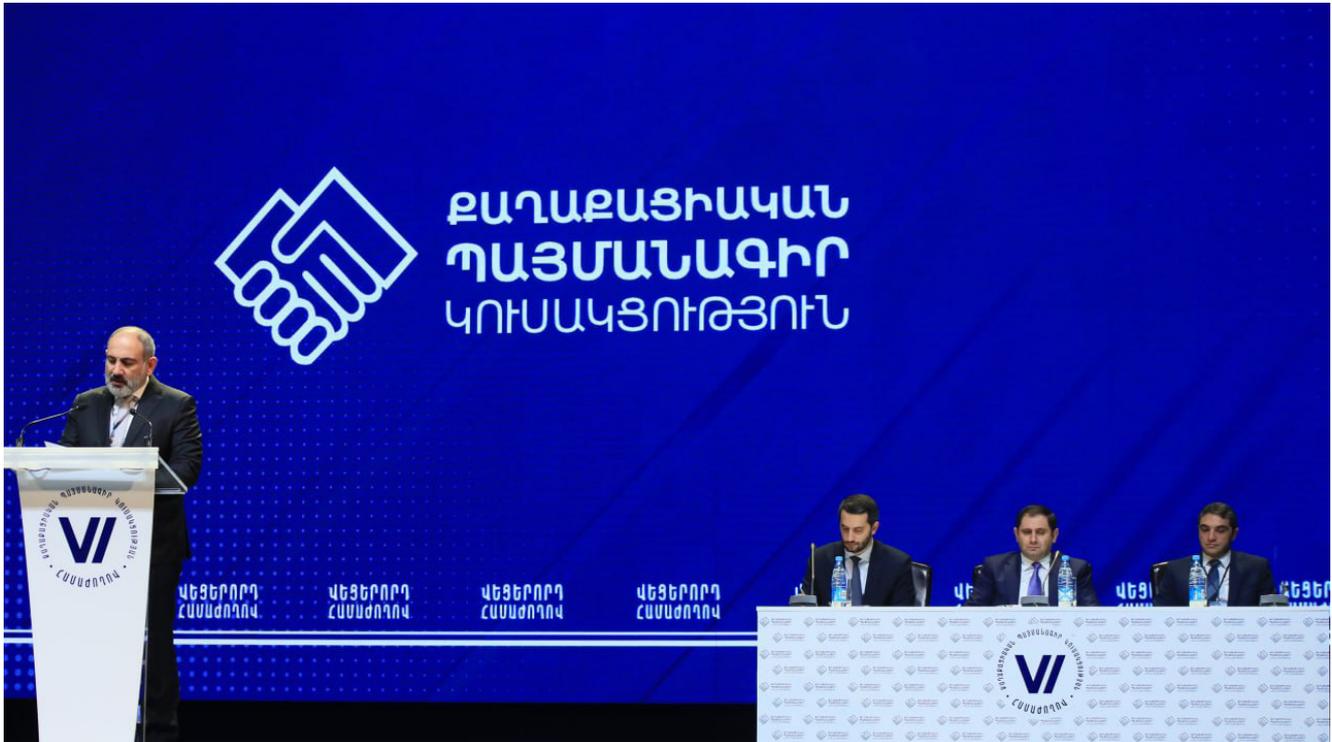


Armenia will not provide any corridor to anyone – PM



To establish peace, it's necessary to implement all the provisions of the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021, and bring the Nagorno Karabakh issue to a certain haven, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the 6th convention of the Civil Contract Party.

“Everyone is saying that the unequivocal implementation of the November 9 statement is a necessary condition. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia and the international community are saying the same,” he said, adding that it’s important to rule out misinterpretations of the text of the statement.

“We have said we rule out any corridor in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and will not provide any corridor to anyone. This is a principled and irrevocable position, based on the November 9 statement,” he said.

“Point 9 of the trilateral statement is about unblocking, it’s about the opening of all regional communi-

cations, and there is a provision that the Republic of Armenia should ensure a link between the western regions of Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan. Secondly, it says when/if the parties agree, new roads can be constructed to ensure that communication,” the Prime Minister noted.

He said a draft decision on providing a link between the western regions of Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan has been circulated and can be adopted within hours, but Azerbaijan is refusing from the option, insisting on new infrastructure, which will be separated and won’t be controlled by the Republic of Armenia.

“We do not agree to that and it cannot be real. We are ready for construction of new roads. It is part of our Armenian Crossroads program. But it should take place within the framework of our legislation,” PM Pashinyan said.

France ready to continue the support to Armenia to overcome challenges

p. 2

Direct dialogue between Armenia, Azerbaijan key to reaching lasting peace – State Dept

p. 4

YSU biologists have obtained organic fertilizer from coffee waste

p.7

French Parliament to adopt resolution imposing sanctions on Azerbaijan

p. 5

France ready to continue the support to Armenia to overcome challenges



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation of the France-Armenia Friendship Group of the French parliament led by Anne-Laurence Petel, the PM's Office said.

Pashinyan praised the fact that in recent years the relations between Armenia and

France have received a new dynamics, the result of which is the frequent mutual visits at various levels. "At this period we have been repeatedly convinced that France is a friendly country for us and always stands by Armenia in difficult situations", the PM said, adding that the government of Armenia is interested in consistently developing the bilateral mutual partnership in all areas.

Anne-Laurence Petel thanked for the warm welcome and as representative of the ruling party said that France is ready to continue its support to Armenia to overcome the challenges.

During the meeting the sides discussed

the processes happening in the South Caucasus region, the steps to eliminate the consequences of the aggression of Azerbaijan and the ongoing activity of the EU Mission in Armenia. The PM highlighted the key role of France as an OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair country.

Views were exchanged on further steps to increase the volumes of economic ties and trade turnover between the two countries. A number of issues relating to the expansion of cooperation in infrastructures, telecommunication, energy, air transportation, investments, agriculture, healthcare, science and education were discussed.



The Armenian Ministry of Foreign

Armenian Foreign Ministry extends condolences to Iran on Shiraz terror attack

Affairs extended condolences to the government and people of Iran on the Shah Cheragh mosque attack in the city of Shiraz which left 20 dead and dozens others injured.

"We express our sincere condolences and sympathy to the people of Iran and the

government of Iran upon the terror attack in Shah Cheragh Mosque in city of Shiraz, resulting in devastating loss of innocent lives. We wish speedy recovery to those injured," foreign ministry spokesperson Vahan Hunanyan tweeted.

Pashinyan congratulates new UK PM on assuming office

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan sent a congratulatory letter to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak on assuming office, Pashinyan's Office said.

The letter reads:

"Your Excellency,

I address to you my warmest greetings and best wishes on the occasion of assuming the positions of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the leader of the Conservative Party.

You are assuming the position of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in conditions of complex geopolitical processes and socio-economic and political problems facing your country, when political leaders are required to use maximum

prudence to overcome the current challenges. I am confident that you will lead the United Kingdom on the path of development and prosperity.

This year the Republic of Armenia and the United Kingdom are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations which is a good occasion to reveal the unutilized potential and outline new directions of cooperation between our countries.

Armenia attaches great importance to the further development and deepening of the partnership with the United Kingdom based on common value system and practical interests.

Despite the serious security challenges Armenia continues unsteadily fulfilling the democratic reforms, and in this context we

highly value the support of the UK government. I hope under your government the Armenian-British relations will get a new impetus and quality for the benefit of the prosperity of our countries and welfare of our friendly peoples.

Wishing new achievements and success to your responsible mission, please, Your Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest respect".



We hope Russia will support its proposals - Pashinyan

At the beginning of September, Armenia agreed to work on the basis of the basic principles and parameters for the establishment of interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan presented by the Russian Federation, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a Twitter post.

He noted that Armenia is ready to confirm this in Sochi. “We hope Russia will support its own proposals,” Pashinyan said.

The statement comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin said at Valdai Club that Russia had long been offering Armenia to settle the Karabakh issue.

He said Moscow suggested that Ye-



revan retain control over two of the seven regions for communication with Nagorno-Karabakh, and give up the remaining five. “They are not needed, [it] is pointless, they are just empty, people

left there, they were actually expelled from these territories. Why keep them? There is no point,” the president explained.

“We believe that it would be fair to return refugees and so on. This would be a good step towards normalizing the situation in the region as a whole,” Putin continued. “But the Armenian leadership went its own way. As you know, this led to the situation that has developed today,” he stated.

Vladimir Putin has invited the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan for a summit in Sochi on October 31.

French Military Officials Visit Armenia

A delegation of France’s Armed Forces Ministry has visited Armenia to explore the possibility of deepening military ties between the two states.

French Armed Forces Minister Sebastien Lecornu announced the trip late last month after meeting with Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan in Paris in the wake of the September 13-14 fighting on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. He said that the delegation will “assess the situation” on the ground.

The two ministers met the day after France’s President Emmanuel Macron received Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Paris. Macron blamed Azerbaijan for the hostilities and said Azerbaijani forces must “return to their initial positions.”



The French defense officials held on October 27 separate talks with Papikyan and Major-General Eduard Asrian, the chief of the Armenian army’s General Staff. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Armenia Anne Louyot also participated in the meeting.

The Armenian Defense Ministry said

that they discussed the implementation of “understandings” reached during Papikyan’s trip to France. It did not give any details.

The delegation headed by Guillaume Ollagnier, a senior official at the French ministry’s Directorate General of International Relations and Strategy, met with Armenia’s High-Technology Minister Robert Khachatryan on Wednesday.

Khachatryan’s press office said they discussed “possible cooperation in the research-and-scientific and a number of other spheres.” It did not elaborate.

“The delegation exchanged views with its interlocutors on the modalities of reinforcing military cooperation between France and Armenia,” the French Embassy in Yerevan said for its part.

Garo Paylan briefs PM Pashinyan on the current state of Armenian community in Turkey

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Turkish MP Garo Paylan, who has arrived in Yerevan to participate in the first Global Armenian Summit.

The Prime Minister welcomed the MP of Armenian descent, highlighted his participation in the summit devoted to the discussion of the problems of the Pan-Ar-

menian agenda and his willingness to contribute to the solution of those problems.

Garo Paylan presented the current state of the Armenian community in Turkey, issues related to community life.

The interlocutors exchanged thoughts on the Armenia-Turkey normalization process.



Azerbaijan torpedoed efforts to establish lasting peace – Armenian Parliament Speaker



The efforts of Armenia and the international community to establish long-lasting peace in the South Caucasus region are being torpedoed by belligerent rhetoric and military actions on the part of Azerbaijan, Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Alen Simonyan said at the plenary session of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

He reminded that on September 13, 2022, the armed forces of Azerbaijan, in gross violation of the ceasefire, launched a large-scale armed aggression against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

“Hundreds were killed, went missing or were taken captive as a result of the offensive, several thousand people were displaced. There are casualties among the civilian population, and significant damage has been done to civilian infrastructure. Some sections of the sovereign territory of

Armenia are occupied by the armed forces of Azerbaijan. These attacks were preceded by acts of aggression in May, June and November 2021,” the Speaker said.

He noted that horrifying cases of execution of unarmed Armenian prisoners of war on the sovereign territory of Armenia, violence, mutilation of captured Armenian military personnel have been recorded.

“Photos and videos of torture and abuse of the bodies of Armenian female soldiers are circulating on Azerbaijani social networks. Unfortunately, these crimes, condemned by the international community, have received wide approval in the Azerbaijani society. In this context, a proper international investigation must be carried out and the perpetrators of these atrocities must be held accountable. Unfortunately, the lack of an unequivocal and targeted response from international and regional structures in response to non-compliance with its obligations allowed Azerbaijan to continue its aggressive policy,” Simonyan added.

He reiterated that Armenia is committed to establishing a long-lasting and just peace in the South Caucasus region and throughout the CIS, and added that “the policy of threats and coercion is unaccept-

able for us.”

“Concrete actions are required for an effective negotiation process, namely the withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, the unconditional observance of the ceasefire regime and the immediate release of all Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees. In connection with the current situation, we turned to the CSTO with a request to provide Armenia with the necessary, including military, assistance, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Collective Security Treaty. In response to our appeal, an extraordinary session of the Collective Security Council was convened, following which a mission was sent to Armenia to monitor and study the situation on the ground. The mission has already completed its work and presented conclusions and proposals,” the National Assembly President said.

“We attach particular importance to the introduction of international mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the border situation in order to prevent new aggressions. As a result of the agreements reached in Prague on October 6 this year, a technical group of the EU civil monitoring mission arrived in Armenia,” he informed.

Direct dialogue between Armenia, Azerbaijan key to reaching lasting peace – State Dept



There is no greater supporter than the U.S. for the sovereignty and independence of the three countries in the South Cauca-

sus, US State Department’s Principal Deputy Spokesman Vedant Patel said at a daily briefing.

“The Secretary has emphasized that the U.S. is committed to Armenia-Azerbaijan peace negotiations, and we have encouraged both leaders to meet in whatever format is most useful to them. Our viewpoint is that direct dialogue is key to resolving these issues and reaching a lasting peace,”

the Spokesman said.

“Here is no greater supporter than the U.S. for the sovereignty and independence of the three countries in the South Caucasus, and the restoration of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia’s independence in 1991 when the Soviet Union was a seminal event that guaranteed each of these countries the right to pursue their own foreign policy interests and sovereignty,” he added.

EU monitors in Armenia set off on their first patrol

The European Union’s monitors went to the Armenian-Azerbaijani border to conduct patrol, the European External Action Service’s specialized account EU Security and Defense said on Twitter.

“EU monitors in Armenia set off on their first patrol. For the next two months, the EU Monitoring Capacity will monitor the situation on the Armenian side of the Armenia/Azerbaijan border to build confidence and to contribute to the border com-

missions”, the statement says.

Within the framework of the first meeting of the European Political Community in Prague, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev met on October 6, 2022 at the initiative of the President of the French Republic and the President of the European Council. Armenia expressed its agreement to facilitate the EU civilian mission along

the border with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan agreed to cooperate with the mentioned mission to the extent it will be concerned.



French Parliament to adopt resolution imposing sanctions on Azerbaijan



At the initiative of the Renaissance parliamentary group, the French National Assembly is planning to adopt a resolution that will impose certain sanctions on Azerbaijan, condemn the Azerbaijani aggression, demand the return of the occupied territories and return to the negotiating

table, French MPs said at a meeting with their counterparts at the National Assembly.

Armenian parliamentarians attached importance to the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution. Vladimir Vardanyan, head of the Armenian National Assembly's Armenia-France friendship group, valued the development of dynamic relations with France, particularly between the legislative bodies. On behalf of the friendly group, the deputy congratulated the newly elected members of the French National Assembly. It was noted

that the friendly group with Armenia will be formed in the French parliament in the near future.

Issues related to the development of Armenian-French cooperation in the economic sphere, implementation of joint projects and long-term stable investments were discussed. It was noted that Armenia is improving the economic and competitive environment to attract new investments. From the point of view of economic development, regional stability and the inviolability of borders were highlighted.

Chamber of Advocates of Montpellier briefed on aftermath of Azeri attack on Armenia

The Human Rights Defender Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan held a meeting with the representatives of the Chamber of Advocates/ Lawyers Order (Ordre Des Avocats) of the city of Montpellier.

The Human Rights Defender Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan held a meeting with the Bâtonnier of the Lawyers Order (Ordre Des Avocats)/Chamber of Advocates of Montpellier Mr. Nicola Bedel de Buzareingues, and representatives Mr. Luke Kyghkyashaghyan, Mr. Amin Faraj, and Ms. Naira Zoroyan.

The Defender welcomed and thanked the representatives of the Chamber for their work to protect the rights of Armenian Prisoners of War, and presented the Defender's functions, role and mandate.

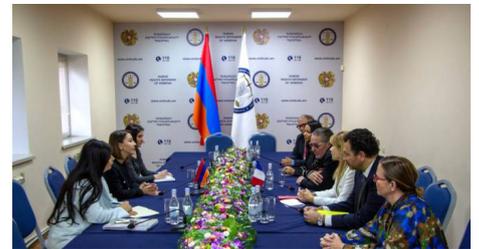
The Defender referred to the visits and monitoring conducted in closed institu-

tions, and informed that the activities conducted during the year are summarized in the reports of the Human Rights Defender.

The Defender referred to the applications received by the citizens, and underlined that in recent years, the number of applications that received positive solutions through the intervention of the Defender has been increasing: "Our goal is not to say that a violation of a right has occurred (by a state body), but to work to restore the violated right" noted Ms. Grigoryan.

The Defender mentioned about the situation of human rights and democracy in Armenia, emphasizing security issues.

The Defender mentioned the consequences of the September 13-14 Azerbaijani military attack on the sovereign territory of Armenia, presented the contin-

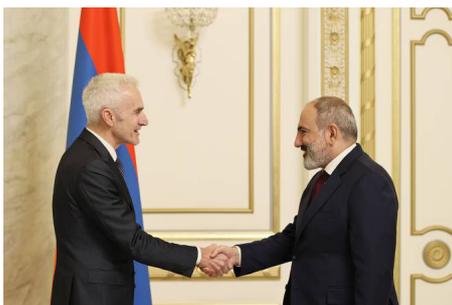


uous violations of rights and war crimes, which were registered in the ad hoc reports of the Defender.

Ms. Grigoryan spoke about the trials of Armenian Prisoners of War in Baku, stressing that they are artificial and aimed at terrorizing their family members and the Armenian society.

The Bâtonnier of the Lawyers Order (Ordre Des Avocats)/Chamber of Advocates of Montpellier Mr. Nicola Bedel de Buzareingues thanked the Defender for the reception, noting that it was very important to be informed about the situation in Armenia, and to present it to the international community.

Armenian Prime Minister holds meeting with Interpol Secretary General



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held

a meeting with Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

The Police Chief of Armenia Vahe Ghazaryan also participated in the meeting, the Prime Minister's Office said in a press release.

PM Pashinyan welcomed Secretary General Jürgen Stock's visit to Armenia and attached importance to the continuous development and expansion of cooperation between the Armenian police and Interpol.

PM Pashinyan expressed conviction that the discussions during the visit will convey new momentum to the partnership of over three decades and will further increase the effectiveness of joint work in fighting crime.

Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock highly appreciated the level of cooperation with the Armenian police and spoke about upcoming joint programs and the partnership agenda.

Armenia's economic activity in 9 months of 2022 is up 14.1%

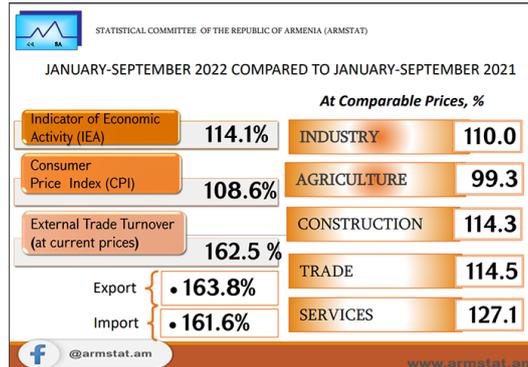
Armenia's economic activity in the first 9 months of 2022 grew by 14.1% compared to the same period of 2021, according to the numbers, released on October 25 by the National Statistical Committee (NSC).

In September 2022 the growth, when compared to September 2021, was 14.6%, and 8.9% when compared to August 2022.

The industrial output grew by 10% to 1 trillion 882 billion drams. The growth in September 2022, compared to the same month of 2021 was 14.8%, but compared to August 2022 it was down 1.7%.

The construction sector grew by 14.3% to 300.2 billion drams. Compared to September 2021, the growth in September 2022 amounted to 14.6% and compared to August 2022 – to 8.8%.

According to the statistical data, the domestic trade turnover amounted to over 3 trillion drams having upped 14.5% from



the first 9 months of 2021. The index was up 20.7% in September 2022 when compared to September last year, and 2.1% compared to August 2022.

The services sector (excluding trade) amounted to about 1.6 trillion drams, which is 27.1% higher than in the first nine months of 2021. In September 2022, compared to September 2021, the indicator increased by 26.3%, and compared to August 2022, it decreased by 4.7%.

The gross agricultural output decreased by 0.7% year-on-year to about 672.9 billion drams. No figures are available for September this year.

The World Bank said in its 2022 October Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Economic Update that it expects Armenia's economy to grow by 7% in 2022, 4.3% in 2023 and 5.2% in 2024.

Armenian government's initial growth projection for 2022 is 7%, and the inflation is set at 4% ($\pm 1.5\%$).

According to the latest IMF World Economic Outlook report, Armenia's economy is expected to grow by 7% in 2022 and slow down to 3.5% in 2023. The updated forecast is up from a 5% growth projected by the previous report, released in June.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its September update of the Asian Development Outlook report that it expects Armenia's economy to grow by 7% in 2022 and to slower to 4.5% in 2023



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said during Cabinet meeting on October 27 that a new absolute record of income-salary jobs has been registered in the history of Armenia in September 2022.

In September 2022, there were 691,087 jobs in Armenia which is more by 10,000

Armenia sets new record of registered jobs

than the previous record.

"I also must state that this number is more by 39,946 or 6.1% compared to September 2021, and is more by 108,312 or 18.6% compared to September 2018. We can record that since 2018, 108,000 new jobs have been created and went out of the shadow in Armenia", he said.

He stated that all the salaries paid to all employed persons in September 2022 are more by 33 billion 430 million drams or 23.5% compared to September 2021.

"I think this is a very important indicator for one year. Compared to September

2018, this figure is more by 74 billion 161 million drams or 73.2%, in other words, now the total salary fund of the Republic is 73% more than in September 2018. The total sum of the income tax is very important. This is perhaps the figure that can make us feel proud. The income tax in September 2022, compared to September 2021, has been collected more by 5 billion 351 million drams or 17.6%, and compared to September 2018, by 10 billion 556 million drams or 41.8%", the PM stated, expressing hope that this rate will continue.

Collected revenue taxes are 42,5 billion drams more compared to last year

378,9 billion drams in revenue taxes were collected in the first nine months of 2022 – an increase of 42,5 billion drams (12,6%) against last year, the State Revenue Committee Chairman Rustam Badasyan said at the Cabinet meeting.

He added that the revenue tax return volume is increasing every year.

The revenue tax return indicator grew 67,7% in the first nine months, comprising 30,4 billion drams.



IBRD to provide additional loan to Armenia to improve education sector

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will provide an addition loan worth 22.6 million Euros to Armenia for improving the education sector.

During Parliament session on October 25 Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia Artur Martirosyan presented the draft on ratifying “Additional Financing of the Education Improvement Project” loan agreement between Armenia and IBRD.

The deputy minister said the agreement envisages expanding the directions that existed within the Education Improvement loan project – 5 package actions that are fully in accordance with the Armenian government’s 2021-2026 action plan.

“According to the first action, 4 high

schools will be renovated and reconstructed and will be equipped. The talk concerns Yerevan’s N139 high school, and the high schools of Ashtarak, Artashat and Vanadzor towns.

According to the second action, a new laboratory will be built in 200 general educational facilities based on needs assessment. According to the government’s action plan, modern biological and engineering laboratories must be created in all 1400 schools of the republic by 2026. 107 such laboratories have been built in 107 schools according to the previous action plan.

According to the third action, 80 preschools must be created. It is also envisaged to renovate the areas of preschools, purchase necessary equipment and train

a preschool teacher. The preschools will meet the inclusive education standards.

According to the fourth action, the data visualization tools and peculiarities will be identified and tested. The talk is about raising the efficiency of education management information system.

The fifth action is directed to the higher education system. It is planned to implement five STEP (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) projects which will contribute to increasing the quality and efficiency of educational activities of universities, developing the management system, modernizing professional educational programs and teaching methods, conducting research works in the study process, as well as developing ties with the labor market”, Martirosyan stated.

YSU biologists have obtained organic fertilizer from coffee waste

A group of 5 biologists from Yerevan State University have founded MiCoFe Startup and started recycling various types of organic waste. Using coffee waste, young biologists have created organic fertilizer stimulating crop growth.

One of the tasks of MiCoFe startup is to obtain valuable materials from waste recycling. With this in mind, the startup took part in the AgriTech agricultural startups competition and took the first position. They established new connections: the startup became a beneficiary of “Innovative Agriculture Support” program of ACBA Federation and took part in the one-year business incubation program carried out jointly with Impact Hub Yerevan.

“ACBA Federation gave us an opportunity of a one-year membership at “Impact

Hub Yerevan” and take advantage of all the lectures and chances that “Impact Hub Yerevan” gives. They also organize personal lectures for Acba beneficiaries. We participate in various workshops and courses about marketing, finance, business promotion, idea stabilization etc., that allow to form and complete our idea. Our goal is to create ecologically clean, biodegradable organic fertilizer, which, compared to the chemical fertilizers, will not harm land or water environments. We want to have our positive investment in the development of agriculture”, notes Liana Vanyan, one of the group members.

“This year we have done experiments in the agriculture, in the fields, greenhouses, on crops, and the difference between fertilizer and fertilizer-free exper-

iments was obvious. Our innovation is, that in our experiments we have used bacteria from the territory of Armenia and Artsakh. These are endemic bacteria, strains that are new to the world”, states Satenik Mirzoyan, member of the science group.

Acba Federation is the only significant participant of Acba Bank with 83.8 percent stake in the bank’s shares. Thanks to its participation in Acba Bank, Acba Federation contributes to the development of agriculture, small and medium businesses in rural areas, development of communities, revitalization and development of the business environment in rural areas and communities, and the growth of the well-being of every person carrying out business activities in these areas.

Armenian government considers opening academy for military officers

In context of higher education reforms the Armenian government is considering to launch an education institution for military officers, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Cabinet meeting.

Pashinyan said that in any country the class of officers is one of the most important pillars of the state, and due to objective circumstances there are many officers in Armenia now who have an entirely different, non-military profession – an educator, a scientist or engineer. The PM said that

this trend could lead to strategic problems in the long-term.

“This has been an understandable and acceptable process since the first years of independence, but I think that after 30 years the continuation of such policy is problematic because the officers’ class is an entirely different phenomenon. It is understandable that due to needs we find solutions in many cases, thinking to solve the problem of the given time, but we are missing the strategic problem. In context

of changes in the university system we are discussing the issue of creating an officers’ institution, which will differ from ordinary universities. It won’t simply be a bachelor’s degree, but rather an educational institution preparing officers.

This is a very serious and deep problem, a conceptual issue, an issue of the establishment of the state and formation of a state-oriented class of institutions. We must seriously think here. We had a consultation about this yesterday, and I have issued a directive in this regard. This is a highly important and sensitive topic, we must have very serious discussions in order to be able to make accurate decisions,” the PM said.

First Global Armenian Summit opens in Yerevan



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan took part in the opening ceremony of the first Global Armenian Summit at the National Gallery of Armenia together with his wife Anna Hakobyan.

President of Artsakh Arayik Harutyunyan, President of the National Assembly Alen Simonyan, Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister Arayik Harutyunyan, Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan, High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan, many Diaspora-Armenian figures representing various fields and other officials were also present at the event.

Prime Minister Pashinyan made a speech, in which he particularly stated:

“Honorable President of Artsakh,
Dear President of the National Assembly,
High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs,
Statesmen,
Dear guests,
Dear compatriots,

I salute the holding of the first Global Armenian Summit and welcome all its participants. In the context of the Armenia-Diaspora dialogue, this gathering is rightly expected and relevant, especially these days, when it is obvious to everyone that Armenia-Diaspora relations are undergoing profound substantive, socio-psychological, and organizational changes, regardless of our will.

These changes are taking place not because someone wants it, but because global processes are forcing such changes. These changes have nothing to do with the revolution that took place in Armenia in 2018, nor the tragedy of the 44-day war in 2020. Both the revolution and the war were an opportunity for us to record the obvious, and the obvious thing is that time has an inevitable effect on the essence and content

of the Armenian Diaspora.

What does Diaspora Armenian mean in an era when a person can spend the 7 days of the week in 6 different parts of the world? What does it mean to be a Diaspora Armenian in a situation where you can send and receive letters, photos and videos from anywhere in the world within seconds, establish video contact with anyone 24 hours a day? What does community life mean in a situation where Armenian literature, the Armenian press, books are available through the Internet at any time and in any place, and any Armenian can talk to any other Armenian at any time, generate, share, spread any idea, given that Armenia is on the list of the world's leading countries in terms of internet access and freedom.



The answers to these questions are extremely important for all of us. And we believe that the answers to these questions will change a lot in the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora. We believe in this with the conviction that Armenians around the world have great potential. And a country with such worldwide resources, such as Armenia, should not have the problems it has now. And if it has, it means that we have done and are doing a lot wrong not only in Armenia, but also in Armenia-Diaspora relations.

The biggest mistake, in my opinion, is that the Armenia-Diaspora conversation usually begins, proceeds and ends with the truths known to us, or as it is customary to say, universally approved truths. This is certainly not bad. This is even good, but it is not perfect in the sense that it does not expand our understanding of ourselves and the world. This, in turn, does not allow us to perceive and record the changes taking place in the world at a sufficient speed, that is, to grasp the opportunities and manage

the challenges.

The first Global Armenian Summit is taking place in a situation where many ideas and dreams about the world, the region, even ourselves have been shaken, sometimes even collapsed. Our proposal and idea is not to remain under those ruins, but to try to find new opportunities, to try to make the Republic of Armenia a platform for the formation and development of new ideas, new dreams, new approaches, with an independent, sovereign, safe, free, developed and democratic Armenia as the core, because any Armenian anywhere in the globalized world can have anything: welfare, job, money, family. And there is only one exception, and that one thing is the Republic of Armenia, the pride and happiness of being a citizen of which is enjoyed by the majority of people present in this hall.

The first Global Armenian Summit aims to become a platform and a meeting place for people who want and are ready to make the state interest of the Republic of Armenia a pan-Armenian agenda, have their contribution to the advancement of that interest, to support the institutional accomplishment and strategic development of the statehood as a modern state able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Thank you all for your participation and willingness.”



The summit will have a total of 8 panel discussions and 17 simultaneous sessions, discussing issues starting from Armenia's security to the protection of Armenian interests in the world, from repatriation to education, healthcare and agriculture, from communities in crisis situations to Diaspora youth. The summit has 600 participants from 50 countries. More than 100 speakers from 15 countries will deliver speeches.

Proposals that deny the right of Artsakh people to self-determination should be rejected – President

The proposals and principles that deny the right of people of Artsakh to self-determination, deprive of the prospects of fair settlement of the conflict and bring into a question the existence of Artsakh should be rejected once and forever, Artsakh's President Arayik Harutyunyan said in a Facebook post.

As the attention of all Armenians is focused on negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and a number of proposals have been submitted on key issues, the President says “the proposed principles and approaches, in case of their acceptance and realization, will have a crucial importance for both the Republic of Artsakh and its people, and for Armenia and other countries of the region.”

“That’s why we have no right to make mistakes as any of them may become fatal. We are confident that those proposals and principles that deny the right of people of Artsakh to self-determination, deprive of the prospects of fair settlement of the conflict and bring into a question the existence of Artsakh should be rejected once and forever. This stems not only from the interests of the Republic of Artsakh, but also from those of the entire Armenian people, as the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh together form a single homeland and inseparable set of values and interests,” the President said.

He welcomed the statement of the



Prime Minister of Armenia stating that Armenia agreed to work towards the establishment of interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in early September of the current year, based on the principles and parameters presented by Russia, and is ready to reaffirm this at the high-level meeting to be held in Sochi on October 31.

“Of course, as a result of the negotiation process, we would like to achieve a fair and final settlement of the Karabakh conflict and international recognition of the independent status of the Republic of Artsakh. However, taking into account the existing challenges and limited possibilities, in our opinion, the Russian proposals mostly meet the minimum standards that allow to ensure the security of Artsakh and do not throw into question its future,” he added.

“We voice hope that as a result of the tripartite summit to be held on October 31, it will be possible to ensure the elements related to the fate of Artsakh. First of all,

we are talking about the untimely extension of the mission of the Russian peacekeeping troops deployed in Artsakh. Their presence in Artsakh is of vital importance, because since November 2020, Russian peacekeepers bear the main responsibility for the security of the Republic of Artsakh and its people. The second key parameter is the maintenance of at least the current status of Artsakh,” President Harutyunyan added.

He noted that the statement of the President of the Russian Federation during the meeting of the “Valdai” International Club inspires certain hopes that these goals are completely achievable.

“We anticipate that the vital interests of the Artsakh Republic and, first of all, the inalienable right of the Artsakh people to self-determination will be fully protected during the upcoming negotiations. International recognition of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination and the results of the realization of that right has no alternative,” he said.

“We are confident that with joint efforts we will succeed in preventing the legitimization of the consequences of the illegal use of force by Azerbaijan and its allies against the Republic of Artsakh, thus ensuring conditions for a safe and prosperous future of our homeland and people,” the President concluded.

Clear roadmap needed for restoring territorial integrity of Armenia, PM Pashinyan tells CSTO leaders

Chaired by Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, an extraordinary session of the CSTO Collective Security Council took place in the format of a video conference. President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko,

the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas also participated in the meeting.

The report of the CSTO Secretary General based on the result of the work of the mission sent to Armenia by the decision adopted at the September 13 session of the Collective Security Council was discussed

at the session.

During the session, the Prime Minister of Armenia noted that the Secretary General's report shows the existing realities quite accurately, in particular the fact of the invasion of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia by Azerbaijani units and the danger of its recurrence, as well as the need for the Azerbaijani forces to return to their initial positions.

Prime Minister Pashinyan referred to Armenia's expectations regarding CSTO's response. In particular, Nikol Pashinyan once again emphasized the need for a clear political assessment by the CSTO of the Azerbaijani aggression unleashed on the sovereign territory of Armenia on May 12, 2021 and after that, including on Septem-

ber 13-14, 2022, and the need to create a clear roadmap for restoring the territorial integrity of Armenia. Based on the results of the session, the Foreign Ministers of the CSTO countries were instructed to agree on a draft decision.



US State Department's Mark Cameron visits Armenian Genocide Memorial

Mark Cameron, director of the Office of the Caucasus and Regional Conflicts of the US Department of State, visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial on October 27.

Edita Gzoyan, deputy director for scientific works of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, welcomed the guests and presented the history of creation of the memorial complex. She referred to the stories of the three khachkars placed in the Tsitsernakaberd area in memory of the Armenians who died in the massacres organized by the Azerbaijani government in the cities of Sumgait, Kirovabad (Gandzak), Baku in the last century, and the stories of the five freedom fighters buried in front of Hushapat during the Artsakh war, stressing that what happened was a continuation of the Armenian Genocide.



Edita Gzoyan also referred to the historical and legal aspects of the Artsakh issue, presented Azerbaijan's anti-Armenian actions and propaganda.

They placed flowers at the eternal fire

and observed a minute of silence in memory of 1.5 million innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The guests also toured the Armenian Genocide Museum, got acquainted with the permanent and temporary exhibitions, after which Mr. Mark Cameron made a note in the memorial book of Honorary Guests.

Expressing gratitude for the visit, Edita Gzoyan presented the guest with books about the Armenian Genocide and the Artsakh issue.

In turn, Mr. Mark Cameron presented the illustrated book "The 100 Photographs that Changed the World" to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.

Armenian Americans call on Senate candidate Mehmet Oz to stop denial of Armenian Genocide

Armenian Americans again called on Pennsylvania Senate candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz to end his complicity in Turkey's Armenian Genocide denial, at a protest organized by the ANC of Pennsylvania (ANC-PA), timed with the televised debate between Dr. Oz and his opponent, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, ANCA reported.

Protesters shared their concerns with local, national, and international media in the run-up to the debate, noting Dr. Oz's refusal to properly characterize the Armenian Genocide, his close ties of Turkey's dictator Recep Erdogan, and concerns that a Dr. Oz victory would open the door to foreign influence in the U.S. Senate.

Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, who issued a series of statements outlining his support for Armenian Genocide affirmation and education



as well as a broad range of Armenian and Greek American concerns. Lt. Governor Fetterman stated:

"As a Pennsylvanian, I welcomed long overdue U.S. government recognition of the Armenian Genocide – by the U.S. House and Senate in 2019 and by President Biden in 2021 – and will, as a U.S. Senator, support promoting public education

about this atrocity."

"I support policy provisions – adopted recently by the U.S. House as part of the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – that require close U.S. scrutiny of U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan (Speier Amendment), call for State Department and Pentagon reports on Azerbaijani war crimes (Cardenas Amendment), and demand Azer-

baijan's release of Armenian prisoners of war (Schiff Amendment). "

"I join with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez in calling for an immediate suspension of U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan and a robust U.S. humanitarian aid program for the victims of Azerbaijani aggression in both Artsakh and Armenia."

Global Armenian Summit' Divides Armenians, While Pretending to Unify Them

By Harut Sassounian

In a few days, we will witness once again an unfortunate manifestation of Armenia's leadership dividing the Armenian nation, while claiming to unify it.

The High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Zareh Sinanyan, has organized what he arrogantly calls a 'Global Armenian Summit,' to take place in Yerevan, Oct. 28-31.

This is yet another example of the Armenian government's inability to properly promote Armenia's national interests. On the contrary, the Armenian government is undermining Armenian interests through divisive and ill-conceived schemes.

Ever since Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan came to power, he has spoken more harshly against his domestic opponents than against Armenia's enemies—Azerbaijan and Turkey. He has frequently talked about blacks vs. whites—the good guys (his supporters) vs. the bad guys (his political opponents). Shockingly, Pashinyan waved a hammer in the air during his campaign speeches, threatening to bash the heads of his opponents, squash them on the asphalt and slam them to the wall. He has pitted Armenia's population against Artsakh and alienated Diasporans from Armenia. Yet, those of us who criticize his divisive actions are lectured by his supporters not to divide the nation.

Prime Minister Pashinyan abolished the Ministry of Diaspora and replaced it in 2019 with Sinanyan, the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs. Judging by Pashinyan's many other appointments, the sole reason he appointed Sinanyan was that he backed the 'velvet revolution.' Competence does not seem to be an important criteria for Pashinyan—blind support is.

In the last three years, Sinanyan toured the world, at Armenia's taxpayers' expense, accomplishing very little, but causing more internal dissension in the Diaspora. Rather than trying to unify Armenians, he has played partisan politics siding with Pashinyan's political party. Sinanyan does not seem to understand that he is getting a salary, not to be the Chief Propagandist for Pashinyan's political party, but to pursue the best interests of all Diaspora Armenians

regardless of their differing persuasions.

I have described in previous columns my criticisms of Sinanyan's misguided and false statements. He has announced many plans that have remained unfulfilled, such as his questionable idea to appoint partisan representatives in various Diaspora communities. Another one of Sinanyan's half-baked ideas is encouraging Arabs to immigrate to Armenia. He is not aware that his duties are to deal exclusively with Diaspora Armenians, not foreign immigrants.

Sinanyan should not be blamed as much as Pashinyan who appointed him. In any normal country, apparatchiks like Sinanyan would have been fired long ago, but not in Pashinyan's administration, where incompetence and blind loyalty are prerequisites for appointments.

Therefore, it is not surprising that Sinanyan, with the blessing of his boss, announced a "Global Armenian Summit," to be attended by supporters of the regime. Not surprisingly, Sinanyan has not invited some of the major Armenian Diaspora organizations, just because they oppose the regime.

In an astounding blow, both leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, announced that they will boycott Sinanyan's poorly organized partisan "Summit." A spokesman for Karekin II said that the 'Summit' "could cause new sensitivities and tensions in our national life and will not be effective." Given the strained relations between the Church and Armenia's government, the Primate of the Diocese of Shirak, Archbishop Mikael Ajapahyan, bluntly asked: "why should we [the Church] participate in their [the government's] PR action?"

To make matters worse, Hetq, the website of investigative journalists in Armenia, reported that the Armenian government is paying \$768,000 to an outfit named Factory Production LLC, to organize the 'Summit.' I read the contract which indicates that it was signed on Oct. 21, 2022, just one week before the 'Summit.'

The lack of seriousness of the organizers of the 'Summit' is indicated by the fact that in four days of meetings only one hour is devoted to Artsakh, with the par-

ticipation of representatives of the Artsakh government along with Armenia's Foreign Ministry and Security Council. This does not do justice to a critical issue which is of utmost importance for all Armenians, but sadly, not the government of Armenia.

Two 'panel discussions' are planned for the 'Summit': "How Diaspora communities organize for local and national-level representation within their countries" and "Diaspora representation within the Republic of Armenia's governing structures: Models to consider." Both of these topics require serious discussions with the participation of major Armenian organizations and knowledgeable individuals who were not invited. I presented to Prime Minister Pashinyan, during my visit to Armenia in 2019, a concrete plan for the formation of a Diaspora Armenian Parliament which Pashinyan enthusiastically welcomed. Regrettably, along with many others, I have not received an invitation to present this important plan to the 'Summit.'

There are also three simultaneous 'Breakout Sessions': 1) "Appointing Republic of Armenia state representatives in Diaspora communities," 2) "Models for Diaspora representation in Parliament," and 3) "Models for Diaspora participation in governance and within the executive."

Hopefully, a future Armenian government, which is less inclined to divide the nation, will reconvene a proper "Diaspora-Armenia-Artsakh Conference" with the participation of all Armenian organizations and influential individuals, regardless of their affiliation, to deal with the existential challenges facing Armenia and Artsakh.

At a time when Armenia and Artsakh stand at the edge of the precipice, there is no need to play self-defeating partisan politics and divide the nation further. Recently, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mavlut Cavusoglu complained once again about the Diaspora's anti-Azerbaijan and anti-Turkey activism. The last thing Armenians need is having the Armenian government help Azerbaijan and Turkey to weaken and neutralize the Diaspora. No wonder I did not see on the agenda of the 'Summit' the topic: how to counter Azerbaijan's and Turkey's anti-Armenian activities.

FM Ararat Mirzoyan Briefs Pope Francis on Situation in the Region

On October 26, His Holiness Pope Francis received Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan on the margins of his official visit to the Vatican.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity to meet, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan conveyed the warm greetings of the Armenian people and Government to His Holiness. The Minister noted that his visit to the Vatican takes place in the year marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between



Armenia and the Holy See, and it is a good opportunity to discuss bilateral relations based on centuries-old historical ties and

similar spiritual values.

Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed his gratitude for numerous messages and calls for peace delivered by the Pope during the 44-day war and the subsequent period.

Minister Mirzoyan briefed His Holiness on the situation unfolded in the region, highlighting the importance of addressing humanitarian issues, and in this regard conveyed the message of the Prime Minister of Armenia to the Pope.

Russian State Duma Lawmaker Denied Entry to Armenia



First Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee on Issues of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Contacts with Fellow Countryman, Konstantin Zatulin, has been banned to enter Armenia.

Head of the Foreign Relations Department at the National Assembly Staff Tigran Seiranyan has sent a letter on behalf of the National Assembly leadership to Mr. Zatulin, which says that his latest public statements addressed to Armenia damage the development of friendly and allied relations between the two countries.

“Such letter has been sent to Konstantin Zatulin from the National Assembly”, Head of the National Assembly’s Public Relations and Communication Department Laura Antonyan told Armenpress.

Zatulin recently called for the Armenian prime minister Nikol Pashinyan’s resignation.

The National Security Service refused to answer the question on what grounds

Zatulin has been banned to visit Armenia, stating that they cannot provide that information as it violates the privacy of that person’s personal life. “We can provide that information only to the person you mentioned or to the person authorized by the latter”, the NSS said.

Zatulin responded to the letter sent by the Armenian Parliament on his Telegram account, calling it an “insulting move”.

“It was unexpected for us; we received a letter from the head of the Department of Foreign Relations of the Armenian National Assembly. We were told that my visit is undesirable, and that my statements damage the Republic of Armenia”, Zatulin said.

Armenia joins European Migration Network with observer status

On October 27, within the framework of the 34th meeting of the management staff of the European Migration Network (EMN), the head of the Migration Service of Armenia, Armen Ghazaryan, signed a document on joining the European Migration Network as an observer.

As ARMENPRESS was informed from the Migration Service of Armenia, aimed at supporting the development of policies related to the field of migration and asylum in the European Union, the organization cooperates with the EU member states and relevant bodies that are engaged in the field. According to the 2008 decision of the Council of the Network, the Organization has set a goal to meet the information needs of institutions in the field of migration and asylum and the authorities of member countries and to provide impartial, reliable, fresh and comparable information. It is also intended to be a source of

reliable information for the general public.

Monique Pariat, Director General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission, noted that the list of observer countries of the European Migration Network is expanding, which is gratifying, because in the light of the new migration situation, it becomes possible to adopt approaches aimed at effective migration management.

“The EMN mandate covers all aspects of migration management, including EU priorities, and successful cooperation in this area will increase the efficiency of managing migration flows in the future,” she noted.

Head of Migration Service of Armenia Armen Ghazaryan noted that the EU-Armenia cooperation in the field of migration is active and multilayered, and close cooperation with the EU on migration issues is a priority for the Government of Armenia.

“Based on the mentioned experience and its positive impact, Armenia is trying to find additional ways to improve relations and cooperation with the EU. In this context, cooperation with the European Migration Network is important,” he stressed, adding that joining the EMN provides an opportunity to receive up-to-date, reliable, objective and comparable information, which will be valuable for all interested parties in Armenia, making all EU’s expert experience on migration and asylum available.

“Not only Armenia will benefit from our membership, but also the EU. additional data provided by a non-EU member state can contribute to a better understanding of the challenges of migration and asylum, especially regarding the region of the Eastern neighborhood of the EU,” Armen Ghazaryan noted.

Minister Mkrtchyan highlights women's active engagement in all spheres of life



Conference was held in Yerevan on October 25 on the sidelines of the project “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus”.

During the conference maternity protection, social protection, economic opportunities and gaps of unpaid care, as well as other issues were discussed.

In his remarks Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Narek Mkrtchyan stated that women’s active engagement in dif-

ferent spheres of public and political life, ensuring their equal participation to decision-making process and promoting gender equality is one of the key issues in the policy of the Ministry.

“Women’s economic empowerment, revealing their potential and developing professional capacities are also among the priorities of the Ministry. In this context we highly appreciate the cooperation with the United Nations in labor and social protection sector, particularly the role of Women Accelerator program in terms of promoting entrepreneurship and supporting small and medium businesses. It is being implemented in several provinces of the Republic aimed at promoting women entrepreneurship and employment in areas of high economic productivity thanks to in-

novative support mechanisms at ecosystem level. This allows to map the capacities and strategic goals of different role players of the ecosystem, as well as develop and introduce effective models for the promotion of entrepreneurship and employment, assessment systems, and provide research data to develop a data-based policy”, the minister stated.

He added that the function to provide support to women and children who were subject to trafficking, exploitation and domestic violence, is also under the focus of the Ministry.

With the co-financing of the government, centers providing support to the victims of domestic violence and shelters continue operating in all provinces of the Republic.

Armenia’s Satellite Control Center to Open by Yearend

YEREVAN — The control center for the Armenian ArmSat-1 satellite will be opened by yearend, the Deputy Minister for High Tech Industry Avet Poghosyan said.

“Our satellite is operating in space as expected and is passing planned tests. At this moment I can say that these tests are being completed ahead of schedule and the tests have more positive developments than expected. As to the satellite control center and other infrastructures, I am sure that we will have it ahead of schedule as well. That is, by yearend,” Poghosyan said in parliament.

The Deputy Ministry was in the Parliament to present the draft law on ratification

of the Convention of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Cooperation in the field of Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Poghosyan said under the Convention it will be possible to cooperate in the fields of satellite navigation system, technologies and related services.

The Minister said it will also give an opportunity to use the results of space activities in various spheres of social-economic development, to protect the space environment.

The Convention defines the following frameworks of cooperation: basic and applied space research, including astrophysical research, the study of planets and asteroid comet threat, remote sensing of the

earth from space, provision of coordinate time and navigation, solution of the problem of space debris utilization and control, prevention of asteroid comet threat, etc. The goal is to develop the cooperation in the field of further exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, as well as the use of space technologies for the benefit of the peoples of the states that are parties to the convention.

The Convention was signed by Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on September 28, 2018.

The satellite was launched into orbit as a result of cooperation between the Armenian state Geocosmos company and the Spanish Satlantis in May 2022.

Armenia extends participation in Creative Europe family

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth has signed the Agreement for the participation of Armenia in the Creative Europe programme. This follows the signature of Vahram Dumanyan, the Armenian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport earlier in Yerevan.

The signature is a major step forward in fostering the EU-Eastern Partnership. Armenia is the third country, after Georgia and Ukraine, to join the Creative Europe programme. The Creative Europe programme will have 10 so-called “associated third countries” after the Armenian parliament ratifies the agreement.

Armenia is thus joining the Culture

sub-programme and partly the Cross-sectoral strand of Creative Europe (2021-2027).

This means that Armenian artists, cultural professionals and organizations will be able to participate in the 2022 calls for proposals after the Armenian Parliament ratifies the agreement.

Aurora's Sunrise: Armenia's Oscars submission wins Audience Award at Animation Is Film Festival



Aurora's Sunrise, Armenia's submission to the 2023 Academy Awards, won the Audience Award at the Animation Is Film

Festival, the *Armenian Film Society* reports.

Aurora's Sunrise is directed by Inna Sahakyan, and tells the remarkable story of Aurora Mardigian, who survived the Armenian Genocide as a teenager, and came to the United States, where she starred in a 1919 silent Hollywood film based on her survival of the massacre. *LITTLE NICOLAS* won the Grand Prize, while *MY FATHER'S DRAGON* won the Special Jury Prize.

The Los Angeles Times, ahead of the festival, had named the film as one of five must-see films to watch, which was held at the Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. Armenian Film Society spoke with director Inna Sahakyan about her work on the film.

Oscar shortlists in various categories will be announced on December 21. Oscar nominations will be announced on January 24.

The Academy Awards will be held on Sunday, March 12 at the Dolby Theatre.

Palm tree alley in Cannes named after Charles Aznavour

On October 26th, in Cannes, the alley of palm trees leading to the stele dedicated to the Armenian Genocide and to the French resistance fighters of Armenian origin has been officially named "Promenade Charles Aznavour."

The ceremony took place in the presence of David Lisnard, mayor of Cannes, H.E. Mrs. Hasmik Tolmajian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to France, Nicolas Aznavour and the Union of Arme-



nians of Cannes.

Charles Aznavour was a frequent attendant of the Cannes Film Festival, both as

an actor and member of jury, he had strong ties with the city of Cannes and was its honorary citizen.

"This event also comes at a time when Armenia is once again being attacked and threatened in its survival. We must not stay indifferent. The current geopolitical situation should not mask this reality. I wish to mark our bond, our respect and our support for Armenia. We must support those who are oppressed and defend their integrity", said David Lisnard, Mayor of Cannes.

Filming for Serge Avédikian's *The Last Round* in Istanbul to begin in spring 2023

The filming of *The Last Round* in Istanbul, an upcoming drama by French-Armenian filmmaker Serge Avédikian will start in spring 2023.

The film is set in 1946 and tells the story of an Irish boxer's love story with an Armenian woman as they travel to Djibouti and then to Istanbul.

"With this film I want to say why we became emigrants, why we were forced to build our future on loss. I want to tell to the new generation that we are forced to do so and we continue suffering new losses. I really want us all to be mentally more stable and stronger because it is no longer possible to build on loss. It is a matter of mentality, we must try to develop culture and our language," the filmmaker told ARMENPRESS.

Avédikian says people should re-read

the *Diary of a Con Artist* (Խաչագողի հիշատակարանը) by Raffi and other works of the novelist and "remember where we come from". He said that the *Diary of a Con Artist* has been translated into French and that it is popular in France.

"I won't match Raffi, but I will make my voice heard through my films," says Avédikian.

Avédikian is also the scriptwriter of the upcoming film, and he will also make a cameo.

In 2021, Avédikian visited Armenia for the premiere of his *Back to Soloz* documentary, which tells the story of Avédikian visiting his grandfather's village in Turkey.

It was screened in other countries as well.

Historians and journalists were among the audiences during screenings in Paris.



Through the film the director shows how time has a role in destroying culture and faith.

"This isn't simply a movie. It is a film through which one can speak about various subjects. Questions were being asked. People who didn't know history were shocked how that history left such traces, how it gave birth to dictators who are erasing and destroying," he said, emphasizing that culture doesn't have borders.

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