

## Pashinyan, Ishiba discuss development of Armenian-Japanese ties



*Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has met with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Tokyo.*

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, during their meeting in Tokyo, discussed the development of Armenian-Japanese relations.

PM Ishiba welcomed PM Pashinyan's visit, describing it as a good opportunity for the development of Armenian-Japanese relations and mutually beneficial cooperation, Pashinyan's office said in readout. PM Ishiba said that Japan attaches great importance to strengthening the friendly ties with Armenia and implementing joint initiatives in various areas. The Japanese PM welcomed the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan; expressing hope that lasting and sustainable peace will prevail in the region.

Prime Minister Pashinyan expressed gratitude for the warm reception,

emphasizing that Armenia is ready to boost cooperation with Japan.

Pashinyan said that Armenia attaches great importance to the expansion of cooperation with Japan, including in the economy. He underscored that a bilateral business forum is expected soon, which will truly contribute to enhancing the trade-economic relations. PM Pashinyan expressed hope that as a result the investments by Japanese businesses in Armenia will significantly grow. Pashinyan highlighted the existing cooperation between Armenia and Japan in disaster prevention, human resource development, infrastructure and SMEs development and other areas. He lauded Japan's engagement in Armenia over the years, including through development and technical support projects.

Prime Minister Pashinyan congratulated his Japanese counterpart for successfully hosting the Expo 2025. He expressed gratitude for the Japanese support for Armenia's participation in the world expo. The parties highlighted the platform as a unique opportunity to advance the Armenia-Japan partnership.

The Prime Ministers discussed the main directions of Armenia-Japan cooperation – enhancement of economic ties and investment cooperation, as well as deepening the relations in education, science, culture and tourism.

They exchanged views on the next steps for ensuring regional peace and stability.

PM Ishiba hosted an official dinner in honor of PM Pashinyan.

Prime Minister Pashinyan meets Chinese Vice President Han Zheng in Beijing

p. 2

Armenian interior minister, U.S. ambassador discuss partnership

p. 4

Rubinyan reaffirms Armenia's commitment to opening the border and establishing diplomatic relations with Turkey

p.3

OSCE closes Minsk Process following Armenia-Azerbaijan peace agreements

p. 5

## Armenian, Swedish chief prosecutors hold meeting

Prosecutor-General of Armenia, Anna Vardapetyan, on the sidelines of the 30th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) in Singapore, met with Prosecutor-General of Sweden, Katarina Johansson Welin.

Vardapetyan thanked her counterpart for accepting the invitation to hold a meeting, outline the priorities of cooperation and the commitment to collaboratively addressing the challenges to criminal justice, Vardapetyan's office said in a press release.

The meeting also addressed, among

others, the opportunities to develop international-legal cooperation between Armenia and Sweden and prospects of deepening partnership within the framework of Eurojust.

Vardapetyan is visiting Singapore to participate in the 30th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP).

Vardapetyan was nominated as member of the IAP Executive Committee during the body's April 8 meeting in Buenos Aires. The election of a member to the Executive Committee is expected during the current



conference. Armenia has been a member of the IAP since 1999 but this marks the first time an Armenian Prosecutor-General is nominated for membership to the Executive Committee.

## Outgoing Iranian Ambassador awarded Armenian Defense Ministry medal

On September 2nd, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia Suren Papikyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Mehdi Sobhani, on the occasion of the completion of his diplomatic mission in the Republic of Armenia.

The Minister highly appreciated



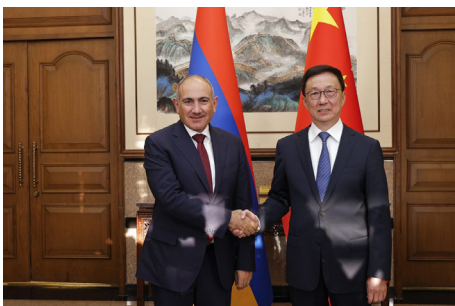
Ambassador's contribution to the strengthening of Armenia-Iran relations and expressed gratitude for joint effective

cooperation and significant achievements as a result.

During the meeting, issues related to the bilateral agenda, as well as the latest developments in regional and international security were discussed.

The Armenian Defense Minister awarded the Ambassador with a departmental medal for effective cooperation.

## Prime Minister Pashinyan meets Chinese Vice President Han Zheng in Beijing



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met with Han Zheng, Vice President of the People's Republic of China.

Vice President Han Zheng welcomed Pashinyan's visit to China and his participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit and the military parade held in Beijing. He underlined that

the establishment of a strategic partnership between Armenia and China, reached as a result of Pashinyan's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, will significantly contribute to expanding cooperation across all sectors.

Han Zheng emphasized that China attaches great importance to this new level of partnership with Armenia, noting that the Prime Minister's visit carries key significance for strengthening bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Pashinyan, in turn, expressed gratitude for the invitation and warm reception. He stressed that his working visit to China holds particular importance for Armenia, as it has elevated bilateral relations to the level of a

strategic partnership, opening up new opportunities for deepening and broadening cooperation.

The Armenian leader highlighted that in recent years cooperation has been developing in political, economic, and cultural fields, with people-to-people ties becoming increasingly stronger. According to Pashinyan, the mutual sympathy between the Armenian and Chinese peoples serves as a solid foundation for advancing comprehensive cooperation.

The two sides also exchanged views on issues of international significance and reaffirmed their confidence that Armenia-China cooperation will continue to expand both bilaterally and within multilateral frameworks.



## Rubinyan reaffirms Armenia's commitment to opening the border and establishing diplomatic relations with Turkey

Armenian Vice-Speaker of Parliament Ruben Rubinyan, who also serves as Armenia's special envoy for the normalization of relations with Turkey, reaffirmed on September 8 that Yerevan is prepared to open the border and establish diplomatic relations with Ankara "as soon as tomorrow," if political will exists on the Turkish side.

Rubinyan is scheduled to meet his Turkish counterpart, Serdar Kılıç, in Armenia in the coming days. While he did not disclose the exact date or location of the talks, he stressed that the agenda will cover the entire spectrum of normalization issues.

"The process is about opening the Armenia-Turkey border and establishing diplomatic relations. That is the core of our discussions," Rubinyan told journalists. He added that the talks will review both the steps already taken and those still underway, such as technical discussions on restoring the Kars-Gyumri railway line

and proposals to restore the historic Ani bridge.

Asked whether the Washington agreements and the Washington Declaration signed recently between Armenia and Azerbaijan could serve as an impetus for progress with Turkey, Rubinyan said: "These are very important developments. They will have a positive impact not only on regional processes but also beyond the region. In this sense, we are optimistic that concrete steps will follow."

Rubinyan confirmed that the earlier agreement to allow third-country nationals and holders of diplomatic passports to cross the Armenia-Turkey border has not yet been implemented. "Whether it was due to us or not, it still hasn't been carried out. But we hope it will be realized," he said.

Responding to repeated questions about Turkey's hesitation, Rubinyan emphasized that Yerevan has not created any

obstacles. "We see no reason for Turkey to delay. From the Armenian side, there is no hesitation. We are ready to have open borders and diplomatic relations immediately," he said.

Rubinyan dismissed suggestions that Turkey had raised new preconditions in recent rounds of talks. "We have stated many times that the process continues without preconditions. We also have no preconditions. It is possible to achieve great results quickly, and to have an open border and diplomatic relations established very soon," he underlined.

He also pointed to Armenia's recent establishment of diplomatic ties with Pakistan as a sign of new openings in Yerevan's foreign relations, expressing hope for a similar step with Turkey.

Rubinyan concluded that with political will, normalization could be achieved rapidly. "From our side, the political will is definitely there," he said.

## Armenian Security Council Secretary meets French counterpart in Paris



During a working visit to Paris,

Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan met with Nicolas Roche, Secretary General for Defense and National Security under the Prime Minister of France.

The sides discussed the bilateral agenda of Armenia-France relations, with a particular focus on security cooperation. They also addressed collaboration in the fields of cybersecurity and tackling challenges related to disinformation in the

information environment.

Grigoryan briefed his counterpart on the agreements reached on August 8 concerning the unblocking of regional communications, stressing that the initiative will create broad economic opportunities both for the region and for countries beyond it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the parties agreed to further institutionalize the existing ties between the two offices.

## Prime Minister Pashinyan's plane uses Azerbaijani airspace for foreign trip

The Armenian Prime Minister's aircraft used Azerbaijani airspace on August 30 for departure to a foreign visit and for the return flight to Yerevan on September 6, the press secretary of the Armenian Prime Minister, Nazeli Baghdasaryan, has announced on Facebook. "After the establishment of peace in

Washington on August 8, the relevant bodies of Armenia requested air passage from Azerbaijan for the plane of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and received a positive response. We consider this fact as a practical step towards unblocking communications in the region, pro

moting the peace agenda, and creating an atmosphere of mutual trust."

"Azerbaijani aircraft have been using Armenian airspace to maintain communication between the main part of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic for a long time," Baghdasaryan reminded.

## Armenian interior minister, U.S. ambassador discuss partnership



Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan has met with U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien.

Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the U.S. for the continuous support for police reforms, emphasizing the visible results, the ministry said in a readout.

The Ambassador said that the U.S. highly values the strategic relations with Armenia. She highlighted the productive cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the U.S. Embassy.

The parties attached importance to the August 8 Washington meetings, which have become the foundation for strategic cooperation in new directions between

the Armenia and the U.S.

The minister and the ambassador discussed joint projects and new directions of partnership, including the steps towards the development of the patrol service, the criminal police, the police national guard and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Academy.

The steps towards launching the cyber-laboratory and training of police guard officers were addressed.

Other matters of bilateral interest were also discussed.

## Armenia looking forward to advancing cooperation with China under new Strategic Partnership – FM

Armenia is looking forward to advancing its cooperation with China following the establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the two countries, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said in a post on X.

“Glad to accompany PM Nikol Pashinyan to China, where we marked an important milestone with the establishment of Strategic Partnership between Armenia and China,” Mirzoyan wrote.



He stressed that Yerevan is committed

to deepening ties with Beijing, noting that the new partnership opens “a new chapter of connectivity and wider opportunities” for both nations.

The announcement comes during Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s visit to China, where high-level meetings are taking place to strengthen bilateral relations and explore new areas of cooperation.

## Armenia’s Human Rights Defender, head of ICRC Delegation discuss rights of prisoners



Daphne Maraine, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Delegation in Armenia.

During the meeting, Manasyan highly valued the cooperation established between the Human Rights Defender’s Office and the ICRC, stressing the importance of the organization’s work in Armenia and the need for its continuity.

The discussion focused on a number of issues of mutual concern, including the rights of prisoners, missing persons, and their families. The sides also addressed joint programs carried out in the field of international humanitarian law.

For her part, Daphne Maraine expressed gratitude for the reception and reaffirmed the ICRC’s commitment to continuing cooperation with the Human Rights Defender’s Office.

Human Rights Defender of Armenia Anahit Manasyan received



## OSCE closes Minsk Process following Armenia–Azerbaijan peace agreements

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister of Finland Elina Valtonen, and OSCE Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu have welcomed the adoption of a Ministerial Council decision closing the Minsk process and related structures following a Joint Appeal from Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“I would like to once again extend my warmest congratulations to Armenia and Azerbaijan on their historic agreements towards peace and normalization of relations and their resolute decision to start their prompt implementation. I have responded without delay to their Joint Appeal and would like to express my sincere appreciation to the parties for their excellent co-operation in the process. I also would like to commend participating States for their collaborative spirit in achieving this consensus,” said Minister



Valtonen.

This Ministerial Council decision follows the 8 August Joint Declaration signed in Washington D.C by Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and witnessed by U.S. President Donald J. Trump. The Ministerial Council decision was adopted by consensus of all 57 OSCE participating States.

“This is a historic development that

underlines what diplomacy can achieve, even after decades of conflict and mistrust. It demonstrates that agreement remains possible when there is a shared determination between parties to find common ground,” said Secretary General Sinirlioğlu.

The OSCE Chairperson-in Office and OSCE Secretary General reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to supporting efforts that bring lasting peace and stability to Armenia, Azerbaijan and the wider region.

Following the adoption of this decision, the OSCE will take steps to implement the closure of the Minsk Process and its related structures. Only administrative functions, such as the handover of assets and equipment, will continue until the process is completed no later than 1 December 2025.

## Yerevan expects EU Visa Liberalization Action Plan in September



Armenia expects to receive the final text of the Armenia-EU Visa Liberalization Action Plan from the European side by the end of September, Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan told reporters.

She noted that Armenia and the EU had been working together for a long time and had already announced the launch of dialogue. “Moreover, this was exceptional in the European region, because especially in recent years the EU has hardly started a dialogue,” Sargsyan said, stressing that Armenia has been considered an exception in this regard.

According to her, several EU missions have already visited Armenia. “We are waiting for the transfer of the final text of the action plan to the Armenian side in the fall. According to preliminary logic, we

will receive the action plan by the end of September,” the minister stated.

As Armenia’s chief negotiator in the visa liberalization process, Sargsyan said she is working with EU partners to ensure that Armenia receives the text as soon as possible, which means the next steps should be taken by Armenia.

The minister also announced that a new biometric system is expected to become operational in the second half of 2026. “Work is currently underway to finalize the design of both passports and ID cards,” she added.

## Armenia-Azerbaijan peace will open border, Erdoğan says

A peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan will help open border crossings and activate new roads and railways, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told reporters, Daily Sabah reported.

He expressed optimism about peace in the region following the signing of a

U.S.-brokered peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan are “on the same page” regarding peace, Erdoğan said.

“Peace will help open border crossings and activate new roads and railways”, he

added.



## Armenia, Firebird discuss \$500 million AI data center project



On September 1, Armenia's Minister of High-Tech Industry, Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, held a meeting with Firebird co-founder Alexander Yesayan to discuss the development of a major artificial intelligence

data center in Armenia.

Yesayan presented the progress already made on the project and outlined the strategic and technical challenges currently facing its implementation.

Discussions focused in particular on the optimal selection of the site for the facility, the necessary infrastructure, and ensuring stable electricity supply.

Minister Hayrapetyan emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts for the project's success, highlighting the crucial role that a large-scale data center would play in strengthening Armenia's technological ecosystem.

The project envisions an investment of around \$500 million, the deployment of thousands of NVIDIA Blackwell GPUs, and the creation of infrastructure with more than 100 megawatts of capacity.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the parties agreed on concrete solutions and next steps to ensure the smooth realization of the initiative.

The discussion was also attended by First Deputy Minister Gevorg Mantashyan and Enterprise Armenia representative Vahagn Mughnetsyan.

## Prime Minister Pashinyan meets AIIB President in Beijing

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Jin Liqun in Beijing during his working visit, the Prime Minister's Office has said in a readout.

Pashinyan noted that Armenia's membership in the AIIB opens new opportunities for the implementation of investment programs. Both sides stressed that cooperation would contribute to infrastructure development projects.

Discussions focused on potential areas of joint work, including transport, ener-



gy, and communication infrastructure.

Pashinyan also presented the Academic City project, highlighting possible AIIB involvement as an investor.

Jin Liqun reaffirmed the bank's readiness to support Armenia's economic, scientific, and educational development by financing projects aimed at long-term growth and strengthening regional ties.

The parties agreed to continue work toward developing and implementing concrete investment projects.

## Parliamentary committee OKs €45.3 million ADB results-based loan for healthcare reforms

A parliamentary committee on September 1 approved the bill on ratifying the Armenia-ADB €45.31 million [loan agreement](#).

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) had earlier approved a €45.31 million (\$50 million equivalent) results-based loan to help improve the quality of health care services in Armenia.

*The Health Care Quality Improvement Program will support the government's health sector reform priorities by enhancing inclusive, as well as climate and gender-responsive health facilities in the country. The program will also strengthen capacity for improved delivery of high quality care and institutionalize quality monitoring and accountability, according to the ADB.*

Lena Nanushyan, the deputy minister

of healthcare, told lawmakers at the meeting of the fiscal and budgetary affairs committee that developing the healthcare sector is the government's priority.

The disbursements of the loan are based on results – a verification process will take place after reaching every defined criterion, and only then disbursements will be made.



## DigiTec 2025 to welcome over 40,000 visitors and dozens of global tech leaders



Armenia's flagship technology event, DigiTec 2025, will take place in Yerevan on October 10–12 and is set to become the largest in its history. Organizers expect more than 40,000 visitors and participants from 20 countries, including over **100 global tech leaders** and **250 companies** represented in the exhibition area.

Marking its 20th edition, DigiTec will once again combine three formats — an exhibition, a conference, and a festival — making it the largest technology platform not only in Armenia but across

the region.

Among the first confirmed speakers are:

**Rev Lebedian**, Vice President at NVIDIA (USA)

**Jack McCauley**, Co-founder of Oculus and Professor at UC Berkeley (USA)

**Noubar Afeyan**, Co-founder and Chairman of Moderna, Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering (US)

And this is just the beginning of the lineup.

“For us, 2025 is a milestone year — DigiTec is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Over the past two decades, the project has become a true symbol of Armenia's tech ecosystem. Today, it is more than just an exhibition — it is the New Year of the tech sphere, an event that both sums up achievements and sets the direction for the future,” says DigiTec Director Khachatur Hakobyan.

Sargis Karapetyan, CEO of the Union of

Advanced Technology Enterprises (UATE), adds: “DigiTec is one of UATE's flagship projects. We are proud to welcome many of the most influential figures in the global tech world to Armenia. DigiTec 2025 will be more than an event — it will be a place where the map of the future is drawn. We believe this platform will continue to strengthen Armenia's position as a regional technology hub.”

This year's key themes — both in the exhibition and conference programs — will focus on artificial intelligence, venture capital, and the rapid growth of tech companies. The 20th anniversary promises an unprecedented density of events and activities.

The first DigiTec was held in 2005. It was founded and brought to life by the late Karen Vardanyan, a legendary leader of Armenia's tech community and long-time head of UATE.

## Armenia, Kazakhstan confirm 90-day visa free travel, ratify migration cooperation agreements

The Parliament of Kazakhstan on September 3 ratified two agreements signed with Armenia on cooperation in migration and the procedure for the stay of citizens in the territories of the two countries, the Kazakh Parliament said on Telegram.

Under the agreements, the period of stay for citizens of Kazakhstan and Armenia remains unchanged at 90 days within a six-month period from the moment of crossing the border. After this period, Armenian citizens will be able to remain in Kazakhstan on the basis of a temporary residence permit for work, study, business, family reunification and other purposes. Currently, a visa is required for these purposes.

The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Migration, signed on April 15, 2024 in Yerevan, was also ratified. It provides for the exchange of information between Armenian and Kazakh migration authorities regarding citizens, violations of migration legislation and other related matters. In addition, issues pertaining to the legal status of citizens residing in the respective country will be jointly discussed, and assistance will be provided in resolving arising matters.

The agreement allows refusal to fulfill requests if they pose a threat to sovereignty and security or contradict national legislation.

During parliamentary discussions,



Kazakhstan's Interior Minister Yerzhan Sadenov reported that around 12,000 Armenian citizens have entered the country since the beginning of the year. Currently, 2,134 Armenians are working in Kazakhstan, compared to 2,623 last year.

## Nearly 3,600 foreign nationals obtain temporary or permanent residency status in Armenia in past six months

1,815 foreign nationals were granted temporary residency status in Armenia in January-June 2025, while another 1,775 obtained permanent residency status, according to the Statistical Committee.

Temporary residency status (638 persons on the basis of family reunification, 769 on the basis of obtaining education,

398 on the basis of entrepreneurship, and 10 on the basis of Armenian ethnicity). Most recipients were Russians – 474 persons. 466 were Indians and 293 were Iranian citizens.

Permanent residency status (1,315 persons on the basis of Armenian ethnicity, 251 on the basis of entrepreneurship,

209 on the basis of having resided in the country for at least three years). Most permanent residency status recipients were Russians – 970 persons, as well as 143 Georgian nationals, 117 Syrian nationals, 113 Ukrainian nationals and 48 Lebanese nationals.

## Three MoUs signed between Armenia-US published



The three memorandums of understanding signed on August 8 between the Republic of Armenia and the United States of America have been published.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding the Crossroads of Peace Capacity Building Partnership**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"), Emphasizing unequivocal support for Armenia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of its internationally recognized borders; Expressing mutual interest in investment in Armenia's Crossroads of Peace project and enhancing Armenia's infrastructure and border security; Affirming the common desire to improve Armenia's infrastructure and border security capacities, and ability to act as an efficient transit hub for regional and global trade; and Recognizing the complementarity of the work of the Participants and the benefits of closer strategic cooperation between them;

Have reached the following understanding:

#### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU") is to collaborate towards the improvement of Armenia's infrastructure and border security, including through investment, resources, training, and partnership between the Participants.

The Participants intend to respond to Armenia's infrastructure and border security priorities, including:

- Encouraging private sector investment;
- Increasing efficiency of customs control and border security cooperation and capacity building, including to combat

illicit trafficking and smuggling;

- Facilitating the exchanges of best practices between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Armenian Border Guard Troops of the National Security Service and State Revenue Committee.
- Strengthening cyber security best practices and capacities.

### **II. Areas of Cooperation**

The Participants intend to collaborate in a number of areas, including but not limited to the following:

- Enhancing Armenia's border security through training, U.S. government resources, and best practices from U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection;
- Increasing investment on cyber defense operations; and
- Promoting investment to modernize Armenia's infrastructure as well as the border security sector.

### **III. General Provisions**

1. Duration: This MOU becomes operative on the date of its signing and is intended to remain operative for a period of one (1) year. Cooperation under this MOU is expected to continue for additional 3 periods unless one of the Participants notifies the other in writing of its intention to discontinue cooperation under this MOU at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of discontinuance. Any differences regarding the interpretation or application of this MOU may be resolved amicably through consultations between the competent bodies of the Participants.

2. Modifications: The Participants may modify this MOU by mutual written decision.

3. Points of Contact: The Participants intend to designate points of contact within their respective institutions to coordinate the implementation of this MOU.

4. Reporting and Dialogue: The Participants intend to hold regular consultations, including at the expert and senior levels to review progress and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

5. Effect of MOU: Nothing in this MOU gives rise to rights or obligations under international or domestic law. The Participants specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation of funds. The Participants intend to maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates and their own accountabilities.

The cooperation between the Participants as outlined in this MOU is not intended to be construed as a partnership or other type of legal entity or personality. Each Participant is expected to bear its own costs for all expenses incurred by itself related to this MOU. The Participants intend to implement this MOU in a manner that does not interfere with any other arrangements between the Participants, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU is intended to be construed as an exclusive working relationship.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding an AI and Semiconductor Innovation Partnership**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"),

Acknowledging their shared interest in fostering innovation, economic development, and technological advancement,

Expressing mutual interest in investment in Armenia's semiconductor ecosystem, which will contribute to technology commercialization and economic benefit for both Participants;

Affirming the common desire to increase support for resilient semiconductor supply chains; and

Recognizing the complementarity of the work of the Participants and the benefits of closer strategic cooperation between them;

Have reached the following understanding:

#### **I. Purpose**

The United States of America and the Republic of Armenia develop this Memorandum of Understanding in line with the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Partnership Charter, intended to deepen collaboration on development of secure semiconductor supply chains, including with respect to: the semiconductor ecosystem, and the Integrated Circuit (IC) and electronics industries, to create linkages between their respective industries and commercialization of artificial intelligence applications, and to work towards achieving the necessary conditions required to elevate Armenia's assessed status within the U.S. export control framework.



page 8 ➡ The Participants intend to respond to their semiconductor supply chain and artificial intelligence development priorities, including:

- Exploring opportunities to further develop Armenia's semiconductor ecosystem.

- Encouraging private sector investment; also through exploring joint projects and public-private partnerships to accelerate practical implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU").

- Increasing mutual exchanges of information on best practices for development of secure semiconductor supply chains and artificial intelligence applications;

- Enhancing bilateral and international discussions on best practices for export controls;

- Facilitating joint academic and research partnerships (also through the potential establishment of an Armenia-USA binational science foundation) on semiconductors, and supply chain resiliency to support innovation, workforce development, knowledge and technology transfer.

## II. Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to collaborate in a number of areas, including the following:

- Raising awareness among US private sector, associations and other relevant stakeholders about semiconductor ecosystem and trusted export control mechanisms existing in Armenia.

- Enhancing export controls for secure semiconductor supply chains;
- Strengthening effective export controls for artificial intelligence application and model development;

- Strengthening cooperation between the Participants to define, identify and prevent diversion of artificial intelligence resources;

- Preparing the workforce to effectively use and integrate artificial intelligence applications, including issues of freedom, accuracy, integrity, and purpose.

- Opportunities for promoting investment and infrastructure development in Armenia's high-tech sector.

## III. General Provisions

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notifies the other in writing of its intention to discontinue cooperation under this MOU at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of discontinuance. Any differences regarding the interpretation or application of this MOU may be resolved amicably through consultations between the competent bodies of the Participants. 2. Modifications: The Participants may modify this MOU by mutual written decision.

3. Points of Contact: The Participants intend to designate points of contact within their respective institutions to coordinate the implementation of this MOU.

4. Reporting and Dialogue: The Participants intend to hold regular consultations, including at the expert and senior levels to review progress and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding an Energy Security Partnership

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"), Expressing mutual interest in investment in Armenia's energy sector, aimed at contributing to Armenia's energy diversification, security, resilience, and modernization of Armenia's energy sector; Affirming the common desire to enhance civilian nuclear cooperation; and Recognizing the complementarity of the work of the Participants and the benefits of

closer strategic cooperation between them; Have reached the following understanding:

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU") is to collaborate towards the improvement of the resilience of Armenia's energy system, including through the alignment of Armenia's energy sector regulations and market standards with international best practices, and facilitation of Armenia's transition to a low-carbon, competitive, and internationally integrated energy economy.

The Participants intend to respond to Armenia's energy sector priorities, including:

- Encouraging private sector investment;
- increasing civil nuclear energy cooperation;
- advancing protection for critical energy assets; and
- strengthening energy resilience and independence of critical and social infrastructure,
- fostering regional energy cooperation and cross-border energy trade opportunities,
- supporting skills development and capacity building in Armenia's energy sector workforce.

### II. Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to collaborate in a number of areas, including but not limited to the following:

1. Civil nuclear energy cooperation, including small modular reactor technologies;

2. Promoting investment to bolster Armenia's critical energy infrastructure, including in the development of battery energy storage stations for renewable energy resources; and

3. Promoting investment to modernize Armenia's electricity transmission and distribution grids

4. Enhancing cybersecurity of Armenia's energy infrastructure, including through technical assistance.

### III. General Provisions

1. Duration: This MOU becomes operative on the date of its signing and is intended to remain operative for a period of one (1) year. Cooperation under this MOU is expected to continue for additional 3 periods unless one of the Participants ➡ page 10

page 9 ➔ notifies the other in writing of its intention to discontinue cooperation under this MOU at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of discontinuance. Any differences regarding the interpretation or application of this MOU may be resolved amicably through consultations between the competent bodies of the Participants.

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4. Reporting and Dialogue: The Participants intend to hold regular consultations, including at the expert and senior levels to review progress and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

5. Effect of MOU: Nothing in this MOU gives rise to rights or obligations under international or domestic law. The Participants specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation of funds. The Participants intend to maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates and their own accountabilities.

The cooperation between the Participants as outlined in this MOU is not intended to be construed as a partnership or other type of legal entity or personality. Each Participant is expected to bear its own costs for all expenses incurred by itself related to this MOU. The Participants intend to implement this MOU in a manner that does not interfere with any other arrangements between the Participants, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU is intended to be construed as an exclusive working relationship.

## imID Launches “MobileID eSIM” Solution in Armenia



imID, Armenia's leading provider of digital identity and trust services, has announced the launch of its “MobileID eSIM” solution in collaboration with the country's three major telecommunications operators. This innovation takes secure and convenient digital identity solutions to the next level, making them even more accessible and flexible for users.

From now on, subscribers of Team Telecom Armenia, Ucom, and Viva can activate and use imID's MobileID eSIM service on any eSIM-compatible device—without the need for a physical SIM card. With MobileID eSIM, users can securely and seamlessly register, log in, carry out transactions, and sign documents across banking, government, and private sector websites and applications.

Karen Mkoyan, CEO of imID, highlighted the importance of the initiative:

“Launching Mobile ID for eSIM users is a natural extension of our vision to build an inclusive and modern digital ecosystem. This update marks another step toward innovation, accessibility, and the development of Armenia's future-ready digital infrastructure.”

The new service offers the same high level of security and legal validity as SIM card-based versions. All identification and e-signature processes are protected with cryptographic technologies that comply with international standards.

### About imID

imID is Armenia's trusted provider of digital identity and trust services, delivering Identification-as-a-Service (IDaaS), Authentication-as-a-Service (AuthaaS), and Signature-as-a-Service (SignaaS) solutions. The company is setting a new standard for digital trust, enabling individuals, businesses, and government institutions to fully engage and participate in the digital world—both in Armenia and beyond.

## LINKS Europe Launches ‘Landmine Free South Caucasus 2025’ Campaign

LINKS Europe is pleased to announce the launch of the campaign Landmine Free South Caucasus 2025.

This will be the fourth Landmine Free South Caucasus campaign that LINKS Europe is co-ordinating since 2019, and like previous editions the campaign will be regional, involving Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and will be conducted in five official languages: Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Russian and English. LINKS Europe will work with stakeholders in the three countries in the delivery of the campaign.

The campaign will run from 1 September to 15 December. The first part, from 1 September to 15 November, will be largely informative, using media and social media,

while also engaging with decision-makers and civil society in the three countries.

In the second part of the campaign, from 15 November to 15 December, the focus will be on the human and economic costs of landmine contamination. The Campaign will again mark 30 November as the Day of Solidarity with the victims of landmines and other remnants of war in the South Caucasus.

A spokesperson for LINKS Europe said this year the campaign takes special significance following the progress in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Process and the historic meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders, together with the US president in the White House on 8 August. For six years, between 2018-2024 LINKS

Europe worked on landmine issues in a very difficult political context, but always insisted that a regional approach was necessary for successful mine action in the South Caucasus. It also constantly believed that mine action was potentially a confidence building measure in the region. Landmine Free South Caucasus 2025 will again push these ideas, but the context has changed, and the chance of success is now higher.

For more information about LANDMINE FREE SOUTH CAUCASUS 2025 please contact LINKS Europe South Caucasus co-ordinator, George Simonishvili, in Tbilisi on +995 599 969875; george@links-europe-eu or gsimonishvili@yahoo.co.uk



## PM Pashinyan attends Armenia's National Day event at Expo 2025 in Osaka



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan attended events dedicated to Armenia's National Day at the Expo 2025 World Exhibition in Osaka, highlighting the country's innovative projects, cultural heritage, and vision for the future.

Accompanied by the exhibition's organizers, Pashinyan toured various pavilions before signing the guest book. He also joined a traditional Japanese tea ceremony together with members of the Armenian delegation and Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hisashi Matsumoto.

The Prime Minister then visited Armenia's national pavilion, titled *"Pillars of Today and Tomorrow."* The exhibition showcases Armenia's leading innovations, cultural legacy, investment opportunities, and advanced educational initiatives. Organizers reported that since the opening

of Expo 2025, the Armenian pavilion has already attracted more than one million visitors.

The official opening ceremony of Armenia's National Day featured the national anthems of Armenia and Japan, followed by remarks from Prime Minister Pashinyan and Shigetoshi Ikeyama, Deputy Commissioner General of Expo 2025.

In his speech, Pashinyan underlined



Armenia's pride in participating in the global exhibition for the fifth time: "World Expos have long been a platform for presenting humanity's latest achievements and innovations. For Armenia, it is a great honor to be part of this event in Osaka and to share our history, culture, and our vision of a peaceful and prosperous future built on technological advancement and innovative education."

The Prime Minister highlighted the

eight symbolic "pillars" of Armenia's pavilion. Four represent the present – history, culture, innovation, and regional opportunities – while the remaining four represent the future, including technological progress, forward-looking educational initiatives such as TUMO, COAF, and Armath, as well as national projects like the "Academic City" and the "Engineering City."

Pashinyan also drew attention to Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" vision, which seeks to promote regional connectivity, open borders, and conflict resolution through diplomacy and dialogue.

"This exhibition is a unique opportunity to present Armenia's economic, cultural, technological, educational, and tourism potential to Japan and the world, paving the way for new partnerships and cooperation," Pashinyan concluded, inviting guests to visit Armenia's pavilion.



## Armenian cultural heritage exhibition opens in Crete

An exhibition dedicated to Armenia's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as recognized by UNESCO, has opened in the courtyard of the St. John the Baptist Armenian Church on the island of Crete. The event was organized at the initiative of the Embassy of Armenia in Greece.

The opening ceremony was attended by Armenia's Ambassador to Greece Tigran Mkrtchyan, Archbishop Eznik Petrosyan, Overseer of St. John the Baptist Church, Bishop Tatev Hakobyan, Primate of the Romanian and Bulgarian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Hellenic Parliament, local authorities, media, and the Armenian community.



In his remarks, Ambassador Mkrtchyan presented the background of the exhibition, which features photographs originally taken by former Armenian Ambassador to the United Kingdom Vahe Gabrielyan. The full project, published in Yerevan in two multilingual volumes with over 500 photographs and detailed descriptions, was first introduced to Greek audiences

in Athens in 2023 through a selection of 50 photographs.

The Ambassador noted that the Armenian church in Crete will host several important events in the coming days, including the enshrinement of the holy relics of St. John the Baptist, expected to draw thousands of visitors. He emphasized that this will provide a unique opportunity for attendees to discover Armenia's rich and distinctive cultural heritage, further enhancing international interest in the country.

Following the official presentation, the program continued with the opening of an exhibition of dolls dressed in traditional Armenian costumes, accompanied by an introduction from Archbishop Eznik Petrosyan.

## Persepolis hosts Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra in cultural concert

On Saturday, Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Iran's Fars province, hosted an international and intercultural event, welcoming audiences to a live performance by the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Tehran Times reports.

The orchestra performed in honor of its centenary, delivering a memorable concert that included the iconic Iranian piece "O Iran" ("Ey Iran") by the esteemed Ruhollah Khaleghi along with several other compositions by prominent Armenian composers.

The artistic initiative was organized through a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's Artistic Affairs Department, Fars Province Governor's Office, the General Directorate of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Fars, and the Provincial Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The concert aimed to strengthen cultural ties between nations, emphasizing music as a universal language capable of fostering dialogue among diverse peoples and creating a platform for artistic enhancement and mutual understanding.

Prominent figures attending included Minister of Science, Research, and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, Fars Governor Hossein Ali Amiri, the Deputy for Artistic Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Nadereh Rezai, as well as Armenian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan and Grigor Hakobyan, the Armenian ambassador to Iran, along with the distinguished international guests. The event commenced with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra performing the national anthems of Iran and Armenia.

Fars Governor, in his opening remarks, welcomed the international guests and diplomatic delegations, stating that tonight, beneath the grandeur of Persepolis, they gathered to listen to the mellifluous sounds of music and to hear the shared language of cultures.

He emphasized that the Armenian Philharmonic's performance embodies a message of peace and solidarity, highlighting



music's role in uniting hearts. Amiri underscored Iran and Armenia's longstanding companionship across centuries and praised the concert as a symbol of friendship and cultural cooperation.

He further noted that the event stands as a testament to the path of friendship and cultural synergy, calling for global voices that promote peace and friendship. "Our diplomacy is rooted in human values that bind nations together, and Iranians have always believed that preserving cultural ties strengthens civilizations. This concert is a celebration of peace and friendship," he stated. He concluded by affirming that the presence of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra at Persepolis is a proud example of international cultural collaboration.

For his part, Grigor Hakobyan also expressed his pleasure at holding the concert at the UNESCO World Heritage site. "It is a great honor to perform here, alongside this symbol of human civilization, and to celebrate the anniversary of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra's founding," he said.

Hakobyan emphasized that the concert signifies the deepening bond between Iran and Armenia and the enduring vitality of music as a universal language, promising continued cultural cooperation.

In another segment, Armenian Minister Andreasyan reflected on the cultural ties between Iran and Armenia, describing the event as a symbol of mutual respect and friendship.

She noted that the recent presidential visit to Armenia marked a milestone

for bilateral cooperation and that this concert transcends politics, serving as a declaration of peace and cultural coexistence.

Andreasyan praised Persepolis as a luminous monument of ancient civilizations, emphasizing that the event reinforces the enduring cultural connections between the two nations. She expressed pride in hearing the immortal Armenian musical voice resonating within this majestic historical site and acknowledged the

previous concert conducted under the baton of Iranian-Armenian musician and conductor Loris Tjeknavorian at Vahdat Hall, viewing today's performance as a continuation of that artistic journey. She expressed gratitude to regional authorities and hopes for ongoing cultural exchanges.

In his concluding remarks, Simaei-Sarraf emphasized Iran's long history of embracing diversity and fostering unity through cultural richness.

He stressed that Iran's civilization, celebrated worldwide for its art and culture, has been enriched further through the advent of Islam. Simaei-Sarraf noted that being Iranian entails love for knowledge, spirituality, and moderation—values that must persist.

He pointed to Persepolis as a symbol of this enduring spirit, asserting that history and culture, rather than military might, define a nation's legacy. He reaffirmed that the deep-rooted historical ties between Iran and Armenia reflect mutual respect, and that Persepolis exemplifies how civilizations are preserved through culture and history. He called for increased awareness of these principles in contemporary times.

Following his remarks, the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra performed compositions by prominent Armenian composers, with the concluding piece being the patriotic anthem "Ey Iran" by Ruhollah Khaleghi. The performance, especially its rendition of "Ey Iran" within the historic setting of Persepolis, created a striking and memorable atmosphere, symbolizing the enduring power of music and cultural dialogue.



## Armenia, China sign cultural cooperation program



Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan, who is on a working visit to China as part of the delegation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, met with China's Minister of Culture and Tourism Sun Yeli, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture

and Sports of Armenia has said.

The meeting focused on the current high level of Armenian-Chinese cooperation in the field of culture and its development prospects. The sides emphasized the importance of expanding and deepening bilateral cultural ties as a key factor in

strengthening friendship between peoples with millennia-old histories and rich cultures.

Minister Zhanna Andreasyan expressed satisfaction with the recent active cooperation and organization of joint exhibitions between leading museums in Armenia and China.

Minister Sun Yeli noted that the direct flights between the two countries have created new opportunities for Armenian and Chinese tourists, making cultural tourism more dynamic and accessible.

The parties discussed issues aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of culture.

At the end of the meeting, the Armenian and Chinese ministers signed a 2026–2029 cultural cooperation program between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China.

## Armenian team wins silver and two bronze medals at European Junior Olympiad in Informatics



The Armenian team earned one silver and two bronze medals at the 9th European Junior Olympiad in Informatics (EJOI), held from August 29 to September 4 in Shumen, Bulgaria.

The competition followed the same format as the International Olympiad in

Informatics (IOI), with participants solving three tasks on each of the two contest days. Each country was allowed to enter up to four contestants.

Armenia was represented by four students: Mamikon Hambaryan (8th grade, Gyumri School No. 41), Hayk Manukyan

(9th grade, Quantum College), Aren Grigoryan (9th grade, Quantum College), and Vache Kocharyan (7th grade, Quantum College).

The team's medal winners were:

**Silver medal:** Hayk Manukyan

**Bronze medals:** Mamikon Hambaryan and Aren Grigoryan

The team was led by Armen Andreasyan, associate professor at Yerevan State University and chair of the Armenian Informatics Committee, and Hamlet Mikaelyan, a PhD student at YSU.

This year's event brought together 96 students from 24 countries.

At last year's 8th European Junior Olympiad in Informatics, held in Chisinau, Moldova, the Armenian team won two bronze medals.



## Master Plan of future Academic City discussed

A consultation chaired by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was held to review the master plan of the future Academic City.

Representatives of Gmp International GmbH Architects and Engineers, the company designing the project, presented the updated plan, noting that adjustments had been made following earlier discussions and feedback. The changes mainly concern the positioning of clusters, green zones, and infrastructure solutions.

The conversation also touched upon the overall master plan, with an emphasis on maximizing the potential of the area while ensuring opportunities for the city's future expansion.

The meeting addressed issues related



to the transport hub envisaged by the plan, with officials stressing that all transport communications will be interconnected within the Academic City.

Participants also exchanged views on infrastructure development, particularly

upcoming works in electricity, water, and gas supply. It was highlighted that construction will proceed in stages, with the first phase focusing on the development of the technological cluster.

Prime Minister Pashinyan instructed that the master plan be finalized and submitted for approval. He also underlined the importance of developing a landscaping project to be implemented step by step. Stressing that the

Academic City is a strategic priority for the Armenian Government, the Prime Minister issued specific assignments to the responsible officials, instructing them to carry out the works in accordance with a clear timeline.

## Kim Kardashian highlights Armenian heritage at San Lazzaro Island in Venice



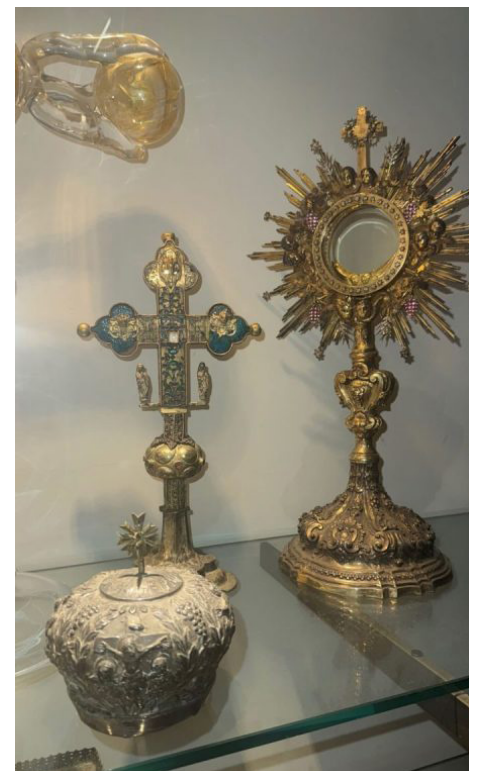
Armenian-American entrepreneur and reality TV personality Kim Kardashian paid a visit to the Armenian island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni in Venice, sharing the experience with her 355 million Instagram followers. Through a series of stories, she highlighted the island's rich cultural and historical heritage.

Kardashian presented rare Armenian manuscripts, including vividly illustrated gospels, admired for their intricate details and centuries-long preservation. She also showcased jeweled crowns, ornate chalices, and finely crafted crosses, drawing attention to the depth of Armenian religious

and cultural traditions. In one of her captions, she noted the island's significance as home to the "third largest collection of Armenian manuscripts and documents," underscoring its importance as a global

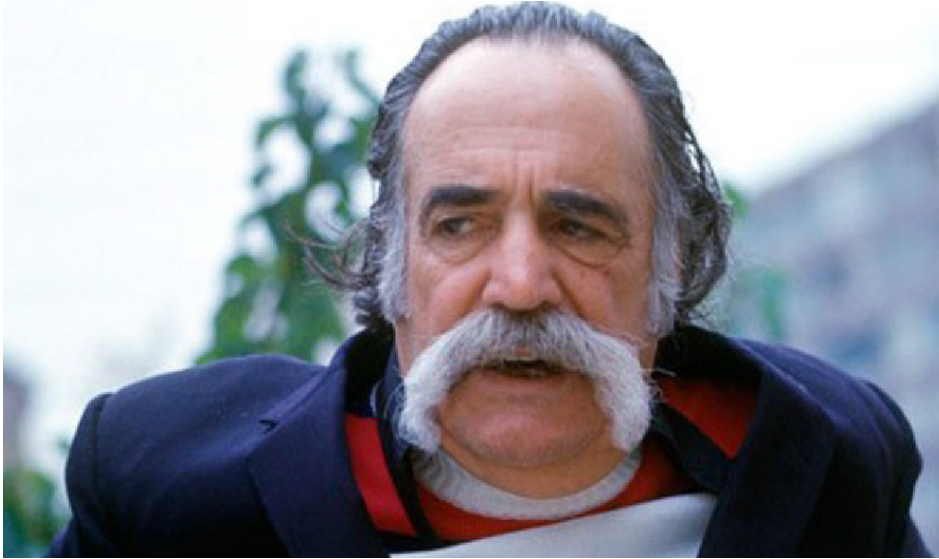
center of Armenian scholarship.

Kim Kardashian attended the Diane von Furstenberg Award during the 82nd Venice International Film Festival.





## William Saroyan Foundation announces “Saroyan Days” in Armenia



This September, the William Saroyan Foundation will present Saroyan Days (September 5–11), a weeklong celebration showcasing rare works and fresh perspectives on the life and influence of acclaimed Armenian-American author William Saroyan.

Presented in partnership with the U.S. Embassy Yerevan and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, the program will unveil 22 previously unpublished stories and 100 never-before-seen paintings from Saroyan’s archives—marking the largest release of new Saroyan material in more than two decades. Events will include art exhibitions, theatrical performances, film screenings, literary discussions, and a showcase of emerging Armenian creatives.

In a video on posted on the Embassy’s social media, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien said, “Today, on the great Armenian-American writer William Saroyan’s birthday, I’m excited to officially kick off Saroyan Days — a week of cultural events celebrating his life and legacy. Let’s celebrate the spirit of William Saroyan together. We look forward to seeing you at Saroyan Days!”

“We are delighted to bring this

remarkable new material to Armenia,” said Scott Setrakian, President of the William Saroyan Foundation. “Alongside these rare works, we’re creating programs that invite a new generation to engage with Saroyan’s defiant optimism and timeless vision.”

### Event Schedule

#### September 5

- *Art Exhibition Opening – “Saroyan: The Colors Behind the Words,”* featuring 100 never-before-seen paintings (from 11:00 AM, Museum of Literature and Art – Public, tickets at the door)

- *Theater and Film Night* (5:00 PM, Yerevan Institute of Theater and Cinematography – Public, free)

#### September 6

- *Book Launch – 22 Unpublished Stories by William Saroyan*, compiled by Scott Setrakian and published in Armenian by Antares Press. Co-hosted by the Yerevan International Book Festival, Stanford University, the Ministry of Culture and the Saroyan Foundation (5:00 PM, National Gallery of Armenia – Public, free)

#### September 7

- *William Saroyan Prize for Short Fiction* will be awarded during the Yerevan Book Festival closing ceremony. Hosted by the Yerevan International Book Festival and the Ministry of Culture (7:00 PM, Hakob Paronyan State Theater of Musical Comedy – Public, free)

#### September 8

- *William Saroyan at the National Library* exploring Saroyan’s cultural impact and Armenian-language publications (2:00 PM, National Library of Armenia – Public, free)

- *Stage Performance – Train Stories*, a dramatic adaptation by the Malyan Theatre, co-hosted by U.S. Embassy Yerevan and Saroyan Foundation (7:00 PM – tickets at the door)

#### September 9

- *William Saroyan: An Evening of Readings* – Readings and discussion of newly discovered works. Hosted by the American University of Armenia (5:00 PM, AUA, Akian Gallery – Public, free)

#### September 10

- *Young Artists’ Showcase* – Celebrating Saroyan’s influence on a new generation of Armenian artists in literature, theater, film, and visual art hosted by Creative Armenia and AGBU (6:30 PM, AGBU Headquarters – Public, free)

#### September–November

- *Saroyan Art Contest for Kids* – Organized by COAF in partnership with the Charents Museum and managed from the COAF SMART Center in Lori. Open to youth aged 11–15 across Armenia, with winners announced in November.

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

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

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:  
**TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN**  
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Director of the weekly:  
**MARINA HARUTYUNYAN**  
Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**  
Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

**ISSN 1829-0604**

Գրանցման վկայականի համար՝  
03U898368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
Registration certificate and the date:  
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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