

## Armenia, Gazprom willing to expand cooperation



*Armenia - Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan (L) and Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller visit the site of a children's educational and sporting complex constructed by Gazprom in Yerevan, 16Jun2017*

*see page 6*

### In This Issue

- Armenian Minister blasts EU Envoy over Election comments** p.4
- Armenia, Gazprom willing to expand cooperation** p.6
- 4 Armenians Elected to French Parliament** p.8
- The Garni Temple: The Only Pagan Temple in Caucasus** p.12

### Noyan Tapan Press-Center

Noyan Tapan Press-Center holds different discussions, press conferences, round tables, teleconferences, seminars each week which are broadcast live on the internet. We invite you to take advantage of the Center, as well as the place your banner in our Press Room.

Tel.: 060 35 11 22.

Address: Isahakyan 28, 3rd floor, Yerevan, 0009

### Noyan Tapan Printing House

is offering coloured and black and white offset and digital printing of: books, brochures, booklets, journals, etc with high quality and low prices.

Tel.: 060 35 11 22.

Address: Isahakyan 28, 1st floor, Yerevan, 0009

## President of Tajikistan arrives in Armenia for official visit



At the invitation of President Serzh Sargsyan, President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan arrived in Armenia on official visit on June 14.

The President of Tajikistan visited Tsitsernakaberd and laid a wreath at the Armenian Genocide Memorial to pay tribute to the innocent victims of the Genocide. President Rahmon called at the Memory Park and watered the fir he had planted during his previous stay in our country.

An official welcoming ceremony for the President of Tajikistan was held at the Presidential Palace, followed by the two presidents' private talks.

Greeting the guest, President Sargsyan noted that the visit is symbolic as this year Armenia and Tajikistan are celebrating the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. As the Armenian President said, this visit is a good opportunity to analyze, summarize the path covered by the two countries over the past 25 years and, on the other hand, look at the prospects for the development of bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues.

President Sargsyan stressed the importance of the documents to be signed during the visit of the President of Tajikistan, which as he said will complement the agenda of bilateral relations by virtue of necessity, since the current level of cooperation falls short of both the potential inherent in the two nations' friendship and intergovernmental relations.

Stressing that Armenia stands ready for active cooperation in any area of mutual interest, Serzh Sargsyan said to be pleased with the fact that a business forum and a meeting of the intergovernmental commission are being held on the margins of President Rahmon's visit.

The President of Tajikistan thanked the President of Armenia for the invitation and the warm welcome shown to his delegation on the magnificent ancient land of Armenia.

President Rahmon agreed with his Armenian counterpart in that the documents due for signing today may create the necessary legal framework for developing close relationship in all spheres of mutual interest. Emomali Rahmon cited trade, production and processing of agricultural products, food processing, light industry, mining, energy, telecommunications, science and education and public health as promising areas of cooperation. The President of Tajikistan stressed that for this very purpose his delegation is comprised of representatives of business circles to attend the business forum in Yerevan.

Commending the Armenian business community, President Rahmon said Armenia has made great progress in the farm products processing industry, and Tajikistan would like to master the same skills, taking into account the latest technologies and innovations.

Within the framework of the official visit of President of Tajikistan, talks in expanded format are underway at the Presidential Palace with the participation of the two countries' delegations.



## Absence of adequate response encourages Azerbaijan for new adventures – Armenia MFA

"The absence of an adequate response can be perceived by Azerbaijan as an encouragement for new adventures," the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The Ministry express deepest condolences to the relatives and fellow servicemen of soldiers who fell on June 16 and 17 as a result of flagrant violation of ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the Line of Contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan.

"In their last statement the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs condemned the ceasefire violations identifying Azerbaijan as the first to open fire. It is with such provocations that Baku reacts to this targeted statement thus



demonstrating all its disrespect," the Foreign Ministry said.

"On the eve of the Co-Chairs visit the high leadership of Azerbaijan challenges the international community, first and foremost the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group by holding large scale military drills without relevant notification required by the international commitments, continuously violating the

1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, as well as taking new steps aimed at the escalation of situation. The absence of an adequate response can be perceived by Azerbaijan as an encouragement for new adventurism," the statement reads.

"It is obvious that Baku failed to move the peaceful settlement process through its desired path and now it tries to create an illusion of gaining an advantage on the frontline, which is also doomed to failure and fraught with unpredictable consequences, primarily to the side initiating escalation of situation," the Ministry stated.

Four Armenian soldiers have been killed in Azerbaijani firing over the past two days.



## Ruling Party Sets High Growth Targets For Armenian Government

(Yerevan – RFL/RE)- Acting on a recent speech by President Serzh Sargsyan, the leadership of his Republican Party (HHK) has told Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan's government to ensure that Armenia's economy grows by 5 percent annually.

The HHK's governing board headed by Sargsyan met late on June 15 to discuss the government's new policy program that will be debated by the Armenian parliament soon. The document has not been made public yet.

According to the HHK spokesman, Eduard Sharmazanov, the board "proposed" that the government commit itself to achieving faster growth and meeting other ambitious socioeconomic targets set by Sargsyan in his May 18 address to the newly elected National Assembly.

"In the course of 2016-2040 we must ensure an average annual GDP growth of around 5 percent," the president declared in that extensive speech. He said this should result in a more than fivefold increase in Armenia's GDP that was worth less than \$11 billion last year. This requires, among other things, a further improvement of the country's business environment, he said.

Karapetyan's cabinet expects economic growth to accelerate to at least 3.2 percent this year. It has forecast slightly higher growth rates for 2018 and 2019.

"The indicators [demanded by the HHK] are quite ambitious but we are not afraid of setting higher targets," Finance Minister Vartan Aramyan said on June 16. "In his speech, the president set the bar high for the government and we must attain it."

"We need faster economic growth in order to solve socioeconomic problems more easily," he told a news conference. "Ambition means efforts. Time will tell whether we will succeed."

In Aramyan's words, the government thinks that economic growth will be stimulated by its structural reforms, greater



foreign and domestic investments, and a continued rise in exports. Growth reached 6.5 percent in the first quarter of this year, the minister said.

Sharmazanov would not say whether the government will have to resign if growth falls short of the 5 percent target. "I don't answer questions with 'ifs,'" he told reporters. "I'm just telling you that we are optimistic. We think that with joint efforts we need to ensure that the current government and the political majority ... achieve within five years the positive targets that were set."

"Under the current constitution, this government will have to resign one year later. What kind of a [new] government will be formed? We'll talk about that in 2018," he said.

Sharmazanov referred to the April 2018 end of Sarkisian's final presidential term, which will be followed by Armenia's transition to a parliamentary system of government. Serzh Sargsyan has yet to clarify whether he plans to become prime minister, replace Karapetyan by someone else or keep him in office. The premier has repeatedly indicated his desire to retain his post.

## Tsarukyan Bloc to seek changes in Electoral system

A senior representative of Gagik Tsarukyan's political alliance said on June 15 that it will push for major amendments to the Electoral Code that would change the existing system of electing Armenia's parliament.

The complicated system of proportional representation was used in the recent parliamentary elections won by the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK). Armenians voted not only for parties or blocs but also individual candidates fielded by them in constituencies across the country.

Critics believe that the HHK is the main beneficiary of this mechanism, having nominated many wealthy and government-linked candidates who did well. Those individual candidates are widely regarded as the driving force behind widespread vote buying that marred the April 2 elections.

"This electoral system has demonstrated its absolutely apolitical character," said Naira Zohrabyan of the Tsarukyan Bloc, which finished second in the polls. She called it a breeding ground for vote bribes.

"We will propose a revision of the [individual] rating sys-

tem in the Electoral Code," Zohrabyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutjun.am).

In Zohrabyan's words, the Tsarukyan Bloc will likely draft corresponding amendments to the code at the autumn session of the National Assembly. The lawmaker claimed that leaders of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the HHK's coalition partner, also have "very serious concerns regarding the rating system."

The system was publicly called into question by Piotr Switalski, head of the European Union Delegation in Yerevan, earlier in the day. Switalski also said that Armenia's government-controlled Central Election Commission (CEC) should be expanded to include civil society representatives. The CEC lacks "credibility" at present, he said.

Switalski's remarks provoked stern rebukes from Justice Minister Davit Harutiunyan and the HHK leadership. They accused him of meddling in Armenia's internal affairs.

*continued on page 4*

## Armenian Minister blasts EU Envoy over Election comments

(Yerevan – RFL/RE) Justice Minister Davit Harutiunyan on June 15 strongly criticized the head of the European Union mission in Armenia for questioning the credibility of the country's Central Election Commission (CEC) dominated by government loyalists.

The EU envoy, Piotr Switalski, called for changes in the CEC's composition when he spoke earlier in the day at a seminar in Yerevan that focused on the conduct of the recent Armenian parliamentary elections. He also decried vote buying and other irregularities reported during the parliamentary race.

"The Central Election Commission is especially important to Armenians," Switalski said. "I appreciate the work of the CEC but it needs to enjoy a great deal of public trust."

"I think that the CEC should be expanded to comprise civil society representatives. My advice to Armenians is: think about how to make the CEC credible," he added.

Reacting to those remarks, Harutiunyan accused Switalski of meddling in Armenia's internal affairs. "If Mr. Switalski made such a statement... I think it is an attempt to interfere in our internal political affairs," he told journalists. "I consider it inadmissible regardless of whether it was done for good or other purposes."

The CEC organizes and conducts all Armenian elections. According to its official vote results, the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) scored a landslide victory in the April 2 elections. Most Armenian opposition parties believe that the election outcome was primarily decided by vote buying. Some opposition parties have also alleged more serious violations.

On April 4, a spokesperson for Federica Mogherini, the EU's foreign policy chief, echoed European observers' preliminary conclusion that the elections were marred by "credible information about vote-buying" and voter intimidation, even though "fundamental freedoms were generally respected."

"The election result nevertheless reflects the overall will of the Armenian people," she added in a statement. The statement also said that electronic equipment installed in polling stations across Armenia prevented more serious fraud such as multiple voting.

Early this year, the EU provided the Armenian authorities with more than \$7 million for the purchase of voter authentication devices and web cameras that recorded and broadcast through the Internet voting and ballot counting from the vast majority of polling stations. The anti-fraud measures stemmed from a set of amendments to the



Electoral Code that were enacted last all in line with a compromise agreement reached by the Armenian government and the parliamentary opposition.

Switalski noted that the elections were generally fair "inside the polling stations." But he said they also demonstrated that the code needs to undergo further "improvement." He specifically questioned the country's complicated system of proportional representation.

Under that system, Armenians voted not only for political parties or blocs but also individual candidates nominated by those election contenders. Many such candidates fielded by the ruling HHK are wealthy individuals accused by the opposition, media and civic groups of handing out vote bribes.

Switalski's comments on the Electoral Code were also rejected by Harutiunyan. "As regards the electoral system, I think that this too is a political issue opinions on which should be expressed not by [foreign] ambassadors but first and foremost experts of the relevant field," the minister said.

Harutiunyan pointed to the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, arguing that it gave a largely positive assessment of Armenian electoral legislation ahead of the legislative polls. "That our [electoral] system meets international standards is a fact," he said.

The EU official on Thursday also did not mince words about vote buying and election-related pressure that was exerted on public and private sector workers. "We are aware of cases of vote buying, threats and voting guidance," he said. "There was even a photograph of doctors at a medical institution voting in place of patients. They may be minor phenomena but they have an impact."

## Tsarukyan Bloc to seek changes in Electoral system

from page 3

"We accept that our EU partners can make proposals and give assessments," said Eduard Sharmazanov, the ruling party's spokesman. "But they had better make those proposals with more correct and diplomatic language. Sometimes people forget that Armenia is a sovereign country."

By contrast, Zohrabyan defended the EU envoy. "I find very important Ambassador Piotr Switalski's work on preventing corruption and establishing a democratic elec-



toral system in our country," she said. "I see a position of a concerned ambassador."



## Aliyev hails muslim support on Karabakh



Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has thanked Islamic states for supporting Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and accused the Armenians of committing ‘crimes against the entire Muslim world.’

“The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has adopted many documents and resolutions on the conflict,” Aliyev was reported on Tuesday to tell the Baku-based ambassadors of Muslim nations. “Those documents support the just position of Azerbaijan.”

“The support and solidarity shown by Muslim countries is very important to us. I thank members of the organization for that support,” he said.

Aliyev singled out a joint declaration adopted by the heads of OIC member states at a summit held in Istanbul in April last year. It branded Armenia an “aggressor” and called for more “coercive” measures that would help Azerbaijan restore control over Karabakh. The statement also blamed Yerevan for four-day hostilities in Karabakh that broke out earlier in April 2016.

The Armenian government responded by accusing the Islamic bloc of “completely distorting the essence of the Nagorno-Karabakh con-

flict.” Armenia maintains cordial relations with some OIC member states, notably Iran.

Meeting with the foreign envoys, Aliyev also alleged that the Armenians have destroyed Azerbaijani mosques in the Karabakh town of Shushi (Shusha), Aghdam and other “occupied towns.” “This is a crime against the entire Muslim world,” he charged, according to the APA news agency. “We want all Muslims of the world to know this.”

While the Shia mosques in Shushi and Aghdam are in need of repairs, they were not destroyed after those towns were captured by Karabakh Armenian forces during the 1991-1994 war with Azerbaijan. The Karabakh leadership claimed in 2010 to have spent over \$80,000 on refurbishing them as well as a former Islamic school building in Shushi. It said the cosmetic repairs there were also sponsored by the Karabakh diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The authorities in Stepanakert announced in December last year that they have contracted an unnamed Iranian company to complete the reconstruction of Shushi’s 19th century Yukhari Govhar Agha Mosque.



## Azerbaijan is actually discrediting the format of the OSCE Minsk Group

Head of the Caucasus Department of the Institute of CIS Countries, Director of the Center for Public Policy Research and military expert Vladimir Yevseyev told to Armenian News – NEWS.am.

Referring to Friday’s violation of ceasefire by the Azerbaijani armed forces at the contact line in the Karabakh conflict zone, he noted: “The current actions of the Azerbaijani side are conditioned by the following circumstance: they think that the politics of biting territories, which they conducted last April, is a success. Regardless of how many people die, the most important thing to them is to return at least a small part of the territories. Very strong PR is carried out within the country in order to strengthen the personal power of Ilham Aliyev and his wife Mehriban.”

According to Yevseyev, the statements of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs are not of a great significance for Azerbaijan. “If they had significance, Azerbaijan would have implemented the decisions adopted within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group, in particular, regarding the expansion of the observation mission in the conflict zone and development of an international incident investigation mechanism. Thus, I can suppose that this is most likely in no way related with the recent targeted statements of the co-chairs, being more conditioned by the inter-Azerbaijani reasons,” he added.

Asked whether practical steps will be taken by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing states, the military expert stressed: “I think the stance of the co-chairing states— first of all, Russia and US—on



Azerbaijan will become harsh, since the latter fails to implement the decisions adopted at the level of the OSCE Minsk Group. This will force Moscow and Washington to strengthen the pressure on Baku in order to make it implement the previously adopted decisions.”

As reported earlier, three Armenian soldiers were killed as a result of the firing by the Azerbaijani armed forces on Friday. Defense Army servicemen Arayik Matinyan (born in 1997), Vigen Petrosyan (born in 1997) and Vardan Sargsyan (born in 1997) were fatally wounded.

On Saturday morning Karabakh army said Azerbaijan resorted to a new provocation as a result of which a 20-year-old soldier was killed in the morning. Two soldiers were wounded.

## Armenia, Gazprom willing to expand cooperation



President Serzh Sargsyan and Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan praised Gazprom's strong presence in Armenia's energy sector when they met with the chief executive of the Russian gas monopoly in Yerevan on June 16.

Alexei Miller, Gazprom's Kremlin-linked boss, held separate meetings with the two leaders during his latest visit to Armenia, the second in eight months. Official Armenian sources said they discussed the Russian giant's continued operations in the

country but gave few details.

Serzh Sargsyan was quoted by his press office as commending Gazprom's contribution to the "dynamic development and strengthening" of Russian-Armenian relations. He also praised its track record in Armenia, which buys more than 80 percent of its natural gas from the Russian giant.

Karapetyan described Gazprom as a "reliable partner" that has contributed to his country's "energy security." According to an Armenian government statement, he dis-

cussed with Miller the company's ongoing "investment projects" in Armenia.

In particular, the statement said, Gazprom plans to upgrade an underground gas storage facility located just north of Yerevan and build new gas distribution pipelines in the country by 2019. The state-run Russian company is the sole owner of the Armenian gas distribution network.

Karapetyan was that network's chief executive from 2001-2010. He lived and worked in Russia from 2011-2016, holding senior executive positions in local Gazprom subsidiaries.

Shortly after being appointed as Armenian prime minister last September, Karapetyan used his Gazprom connections to secure a sizable reduction in domestic gas prices. Miller previously visited Yerevan in October.

In a recent radio interview, Karapetyan insisted that his Gazprom background does not mean he is dependent on or linked to Russia's government. "On the contrary, it can help us find solutions in certain difficult situations," he said.

Armenian opposition figures and pundits have long expressed concern at the country's heavy dependence on Russia for energy resources.

## Armenia PM: The state will subsidize loan interests of priority areas



Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan on June 13 chaired a consultation in the Armenian Government, which was attended by the representatives of the banking system.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of holding regular meetings with the sphere representatives, stressing that the new Government program will precisely include the priority areas and directions, which are considered to be efficient and promising for

the development of business and economy.

"We will clearly state that the state will have its share and will subsidized the loan interests of the priority areas. This refers to the agriculture, light industry, leather processing, shoe production, carpet weaving, as well as export," Karapetyan noted.

According to Karapetyan, the "diagnostics" in the agricultural sector showed that it is necessary to principally raise the efficiency, introducing drip systems, intensive orchards, greenhouse facilities and new agricultural equipment. "The Agriculture Ministry has developed formulas in these directions. We will stand with the farmers in the first two years of extinguishing the loan, subsidizing the overwhelming part of the loan interest—70-80 percent. We have also got such formulas for light industry," the PM noted.

At the meeting, issues related to the funding of the export spheres, sale of assets in banks, loaning of different branches of economy, introduction of the business Ombudsman's office, etc. were discussed.

The banking system representatives welcomed the initiatives of the Government, particularly the active work of the Armenian export insurance agency aimed at solving the issues of exporters. It was also noted that this institution greatly contributes to the reduction of loan risks.



## Russian Government, UNDP support rural development in Armenia



A secondary school in Nerkin Tsaghkavan will have a renovated canteen to provide schoolchildren with access to daily hot meals in more sanitary conditions. Households in the village of Koghb have started producing vegetables using a range of new greenhouses as an alternative source of income. At the same time, the community is also launching a 2 km-long energy efficient LED street lighting system. While the Voskepar village in the community of Noyemberyan is laying the foundations for a forest and agricultural produce collection center.

These initiatives are part of the five-year “Integrated Support to Rural Development: Building Resilient Communities” project, financed by the Government of the Russian Federation and implemented by UNDP in Armenia, in close partnership with the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development. The project budget is over USD 5 million and is aimed at increasing income-generation opportunities and supporting rural infrastructure in borderline communities of Tavush region.

Vache Terteryan, First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Development, Andrey Ivanov, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Armenia, Dmitry Mariyasin, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Armenia, Hovik Abovyan, Governor of Tavush region, visited the villages of Voskepar, Koghb, and Nerkin Tsaghkavan in Tavush region to see some of the results of implemented projects on-site.

“We in UNDP Armenia believe that lasting development results are achieved through cooperation with local communities. We are happy to see that our beneficiaries play an active role in the project, both through cost sharing and – most importantly – through bringing their vision and ideas to improve community life. This reassures us that our beneficiaries will sustain these achievements, creating a prosperous future across their communities,” said Dmitry Mariyasin, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Armenia.

For the past two years, residents of 26 borderline communities of Tavush region were engaged in a participatory exercise of assessing the needs of their communities and developing community plans together with the UNDP in Armenia. Based on the results of this planning, UNDP will implement a host of sub-projects addressing areas critical for community growth, such as employment, rural development, agro-processing, infrastructure revival, education, healthcare, as well as environmental protection and resilience to natural disasters.

The three 135 m<sup>2</sup> energy-efficient greenhouses in Koghb are only the first of a total of 36 greenhouses that have been constructed by UNDP in the borderline communities of the region. These greenhouses will provide an opportunity for households to earn additional income through advanced agricultural practices. All greenhouses are equipped with drip irrigation systems to ensure water savings, thus also reducing the stress on scarce water resources. Another 20 greenhouses will be constructed by the end of the year to provide households with access to sustainable means of income generation.

The energy-efficient street light system in Koghb community is an exemplary demonstration of how modernized community infrastructure can save community resources and improve the safety and quality of life in the community. The LED luminaries installed in the four central streets of the village provide a better illumination, and result in a safer environment and a reduction in costs in energy of up to 70 percent.

The construction of the collection center in Voskepar village of Noyemberyan community will provide new opportunities for agricultural production and foraging by extending the seasonality of sales and minimizing the waste from agricultural produce. Six full-time and up to 40 seasonal jobs will be created thanks to the center, and it is expected that about 12 tonnes of produce will be processed through it annually.

## Minister: Competition for Yerevan-Zvartnots airport bus route to be announced in fall

The competition for the regular bus route from Yerevan to Zvartnots airport will most likely be announced in fall.

Minister of Transport, Communication and Informational Technologies of Armenia, Vahan Martirosyan, told the aforementioned to Armenian News – NEWS.am.

The trial regime of the route between the airport and the central Republic Square has been launched since June 14. The bus works every hour 24/7.

The ministry launched the route after the criticism by Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, who slammed the taxis working nearby the airport during one of the recent Cabinet sessions.

The tourists should not start getting to know Armenia with unshaved taxi drivers wearing slippers, who demand a fare, which is thrice expensive, the PM noted then.

According to the minister, one of the private transportation companies, Elite Bus, has already showed interest in the route. “We expect feedback from other transporters as well. Let’s see how the new buses will justify themselves this summer, and in fall we will announce a competition,” the minister said.

In his words, more and more Yerevan residents and guests use these buses. On the first day the number of passengers was 86, on the second—130 and on the third—nearly 200.

Asked whether the taxi drivers, who are losing clients due to the buses, have turned to them, the minister said: “Certainly, there are such talks. But in any civilized city there must be an opportunity to reach from the airport to the city not only by taxi but also by public transport.”

## U.S. Helsinki Commission: Political will essential for achieving definitive resolution to Karabakh conflict



The fragile no-peace, no-war situation in the Karabakh conflict poses a serious threat to stability in the South Caucasus region and beyond, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, writes in a new report on Nagorno Karabakh.

“Although the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute is often branded as a “frozen conflict,” it remains prone to rapid escalation, as demonstrated by the tragic “Four Day War” of April 2016. The flare-up in violence along one of the most militarized areas in the post-Soviet space took the international community by surprise and underscored the reality that the tense status quo is not sustainable,” the report reads.

“The renewed hostilities initially appeared to reinvigorate the peace process. Baku and

Yerevan agreed to a Minsk Group proposal to establish an OSCE investigative mechanism for incidents along the line of contact, more than double the small number (currently six) of OSCE field observers, and exchange information about missing persons. However, reports suggest the terms of these agreements remain largely unimplemented, apparently due to differing perspectives by the sides on sequencing of the de-escalator steps relative to a larger diplomatic process, and whether implementation of the steps suggests a hardening of the status quo,” the Helsinki Commission says.

The CSCE says “OSCE should continue to pursue confidence-building and risk reduction measures and early warning mechanisms to encourage transparency and predictability, while stemming further outbreaks

of violence and aiming to reduce their severity if and when they do break out.”

“Analysts differ in proposing inside-out versus outside-in approaches to resolving the conflict, with the former placing the onus on the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders to drive toward a settlement and the latter on international actors. Few assess that Armenia and Azerbaijan’s political leaders can break out of the cycle of harsh recriminations in the near term, however. The leaders’ domestic political vulnerabilities make such change even more difficult as the conflict has become a rhetorical tool capable of inflaming popular sentiments as a distraction from other challenges facing their societies,” the report continues.

“Clearly, among external actors, Moscow plays a singular role in any long-term and definitive resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While U.S. officials publicly report that Moscow generally works cooperatively with its co-chair partners in the Minsk Group, it remains unclear the extent to which Moscow views the uneasy status quo as serving its own geopolitical interests. Turkey’s role will also be extremely important in any settlement, given its close relations with Azerbaijan and potential economic significance to Armenia,” the Helsinki Commission notes.

“Ultimately, the essential element to achieving a definitive resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be finding the political will—both at the level of the parties to the conflict, as well as those external actors with significant influence and interests in the region—to take steps in that direction, while minimizing the risk of further violence in the interim,” the report concludes.

## 4 Armenians Elected to French Parliament

Danielle Cazarian, Nadia Essayan, Guillaume Kasbarian, and Jacques Marilossian, all representing French President Emmanuel Macron’s La République en Marche (LREM) party were elected to France’s National Assembly on June 17.

Macron’s party won 308 seats with 43 percent of the vote.

The Coordination Council of Armenian Organization in France (CCAF) officially endorsed Macron on April 27, ahead of his run-off election against Marine Le Pen of the French National Front (FN) party. On April 24, Macron visited Paris’ Armenian Genocide memorial to 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and told reporters that the memory of the victims “must be fully recognized.”

Pascal Chamassian, a fifth French-Armenian candidate (LREM) was defeated by the pro-Armenian Valérie Boyer who has been an outspoken supporter of Armenian issues in



the French legislature, more recently as the author of a bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide.



## Turkey Hires More US Lobbying Firms As its Reputation is Further Tarnished



*Harut  
Sassounian*

As Turkey becomes the target of world-wide condemnation for its human rights violations, the Turkish government decides to spend a fortune on lobbying and public relations firms to try to cleanse its tarnished reputation. On the heels of the April 16 flawed referendum which Erdogan barely won to give himself a wide-ranging dictatorial powers, and his bodyguards' brutal attack in front of the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C., on innocent protesters has been universally criticized by the executive and legislative branches of the US government, including a resolution adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives 397-0!

Unfortunately, for Turkey and its autocratic president, the country's reputation is so tainted that public relations firms, regardless of how powerful and competent they are, cannot whitewash its image. Turkish leaders are simply wasting millions of dollars of their taxpayers' money attempting to accomplish an impossible task.

The Turkish government has already been paying five million dollars a year to 10 lobbying firms: The Gephardt Group \$1,700,000; APCO \$741,000; Amsterdam Partners \$600,000; Greenberg Traurig \$480,000; Capitol Counsel \$384,000; Mercury \$240,000; Madison Group \$240,000; Mcbee Signal \$240,000; Jim Arnold \$240,000; and MediaFix \$108,000! In addition, a business associate of Pres. Erdogan paid Pres. Trump's disgraced former National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn \$540,000 in September 2016 to lobby on behalf of the Turkish government!

In recent months, trying to get out of its P.R. quagmire, the Turkish government

and groups affiliated with it have hired three new firms. This week we will present one of these lobbying firms, leaving the other two to a future column.

Monte Advisory Group was hired in August 2016 for a fee of \$400,000. According to the Daily Beast, the firm is run by Douglas Baker, the son of Republican James Baker [Chief of Staff and Secretary of State for Pres. George H.W. Bush; and Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Treasury for Pres. Ronald Reagan]. The firm is supposed to improve public perceptions of Turkey! Douglas Baker is the "sole and managing member" of the Monte Advisory Group. The contract is signed by an Istanbul-based mysterious non-governmental organization known as Knowledge Economy Association (KEA). The Daily Beast reported that KEA's "activities aligned sometimes with the interests of the Turkish government." More ominously, the Daily Beast reported that "at least one member of the KEA leadership was a representative of the Turkish government." Furthermore, the founder and former president of KEA, Davut Kavranoglu, is now a scientific advisor to Pres. Erdogan, according to the Daily Beast. Kavranoglu had tweeted a photograph of himself with James Baker!

The Daily Beast reported that, according to its filing with the Department of Justice, Monte Advisory Group was "engaged in outreach to the Trump Presidential Campaign and Presidential Transition Team" on behalf of KEA "to improve the overall relationship and public perceptions between Turkey and the United States." Monte also made contacts with "outgoing Obama administration officials, holding meetings with staff from the Department of Defense and emailing Colin Kahl, the National Security Advisor to then Vice-President Biden."

Israfil Kahraman, an Istanbul lawyer, was listed in the Department of Justice

filing as the legal representative of KEA, according to the Daily Beast. Israfil stated that the purpose of the contract was "to develop friendship and cooperation between Turkey and the United States in the fields of scientific and economic development." Kahraman is quoted by the Daily Beast as stating that the KEA was founded "by a group of distinguished scientists with the aim of conducting civil society activities in order to raise awareness in Turkey about developing an economy with high added value." This makes no sense. Why would a group whose aim is to raise awareness about the economy in Turkey hire a lobbying firm in Washington? This sounds more like a front for the Turkish government than an independent group of scientists. It would be interesting to find out who is funding the KEA!

Interestingly, when contacted by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ), Douglas Baker stated that there had been some concerns the US-Turkey relationship "has soured a little" in the latter years of the Obama administration. "There could be opportunities to either strengthen that relationship or see it undergo further harm. And that's the reason that [KEA] retained Monte — to help during that transitional phase."

Douglas Baker added that his company's work for KEA "was never designed to be broad brush public relations campaign. It was a bit more of an opportunity to present their point of view... they felt we were positioned to help them with the necessary introductions."

Not surprisingly, after Pres. Trump's inauguration, and after "the necessary introductions" were made between the KEA and Trump administration officials, KEA did not renew the contract with Monte when its initial six-month term expired in February 2017. "Only \$105,000 of the contracted \$400,000 was paid by this point," according to the BIJ.

## Recent News from Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator

### Volunteering as a system of values

The willingness to be useful to the country and the society has for many years united the employees of VivaCell-MTS around the idea of volunteering. The denial of indifference and the guidance by responsibility are close to the hearts of employees of a company, which has been operating in Armenia for more than ten years. They strive to be where there is a real opportunity to extend a helping hand and to support in a coordinated manner. The material means for the regularly provided support is initiated by the employees representing various departments of the organization.



Following the April events of 2016, employees of the Finance and Accounting Department came up with yet another initiative to be useful. After a visit to the Central Military Hospital the employees of the department undertook providing monthly AMD 100-150 thousand to each of the families of three homeland defenders who developed serious health issues after the fights. Since May 2016 the families have so far received more than AMD 3.5 million. One-time financial support has been provided to two families; bathrooms and toilet rooms have been renovated for the families of another two soldiers. The volunteers have additionally donated AMD 1.7 million more of personal means.

*"I am proud of our employees' initiative. It's a pleasure to see them unite around a shared system of values. This is not the first year this particular department implements a voluntary project and becomes useful to our compatriots. The manifested philanthropy and investments are not to be overestimated,"*

said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

With a purpose of being useful to the soldiers with disabilities VivaCell-MTS team cooperates with the "Support to injured soldiers and people with combat disabilities" NGO and has provided a medical go-cart to the "Qaylmed" rehabilitation center. The group of volunteers managed to get the cart required for the therapy at significantly lower price thus helping the specialists in avoiding the need to hire the equipment. After purchasing all the required details of the go-cart it has assembled in Armenia. Its mechanism makes it easily adjustable for individual needs of the patients.

electric supply sources, located along the Yerevan-Gyumri section of interstate highway. The "Photon" college in Gyumri is one of the high schools, which are included in the PTC experimental study program and runs the "Basics of Telecommunications" subject with the support of VivaCell-MTS.

Company's specialists regularly organize professional trainings for teachers of the subject and students. To solidify the theoretical knowledge and to share practical skills, the specialists organize tours after classroom sessions, also to locations of base station.

The base stations operating along the Mastara-Maralik motorway are special: their supply of electricity comes from solar bat-



The Finance and Accounting Department of VivaCell-MTS plans to provide three more carts to the rehabilitation center till end of the year. The support volunteered by the department totals to around AMD 6 million.

### Students of Gyumri "Photon" college visit VivaCell-MTS solar base station

VivaCell-MTS specialists have held master classes on the territories of two base stations of the Company operating by solar

teries. This is a perfect solution especially for locations with rarely populated areas, where electricity supply is a problem. Using solar supply sources of electricity for VivaCell-MTS base stations reduces the consumption of electric power and the infrastructure maintenance expenses.

*"In the age of technological development an hour equals a second. Every day brings about new demands. We need to be always ready for new solutions, which are based on innovation, demand, responsibility, but never consumerism. These stations powered by solar energy are a result of such an attitude. Whatever you get with the course is based on more than ten year experience of a leading telecommunications company. Appreciate it, never stop enhancing your mind and be responsible,"* said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

To remind, according to the quadrilateral memorandum (signed by RA Ministry of Education and Science, "Synopsis Arme-



nia", VivaCell-MTS, and "Unicom") the "Basics of Communication" has been included in the curricula of Gyumri "Photon", Yerevan "Quantum" colleges, physics and mathematics school after Artashes Shahinyan, and mathematics and natural sciences school in Vanadzor, as well as the high schools under NPUA in Yerevan. Five more high schools will be involved in the program starting from 2018.



## Already traditional meeting with new expectations

VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian has met with the musicians of the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra to sum up the achievements of the Philharmonic on international stages and festivals throughout 2016-2017 concert season. The already traditional informal meeting of the Orchestra with its general partner covered a number of topics: both work-related, professional issues, and upcoming projects.

Within last years, under the leadership of its artistic director and principal conductor Eduard Topchyan, the Philharmonic has

participated in prominent festivals in Finland, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Germany, the US, Mexico, Lebanon, Russia and other countries. The 2016-2017 concert season has been marked with a number of memorable events: symphonic and chamber concerts, participation in international festivals, and more. One that stands out is the concert dedicated to the 25-th anniversary of the Independence of Artsakh in September. The

concert season was marked also with a special innovation: for the first time in Armenia, and probably in the world, "The Nutcracker" was presented in a new 3D format.

*"The result of your hard work is obvious: you possess well-honed performance skills, your art goes beyond its aesthetic value: it shapes*

*tastes and educates generations. I am glad for our long-term partnership and for the opportunity to support the development and preservation of classical music in Armenia. Keep up the exceptional work and dedication to your mission,"* said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian during the meeting with the members of the Orchestra.

For already eight years, VivaCell-MTS has undertaken the general partnership of the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. Owing to this cooperation, the Orchestra has reached a high level of performance, having outstanding concert tours not only in Armenia, but also abroad.



## SCDM Financial Team's Talk at the AWS Summit Berlin 2017: Blueberry Muffin or Chihuahua?



Recently AWS (Amazon Web Services) Summit Berlin 2017 was held.

Financial analysts regularly process a significant amount of financial reporting manually.

And at the Summit SCDM Financial represented by **Vahe Andonians**, founder and software engineer, **Max Richter**, software engineer and Prof. Dr. **Martin Hellmich**, general manager, demonstrated an AI-based (Artificial Intelligence) solution to automate the processing. The deep learning technique has enabled machines to outperform humans in complex tasks such as flying a plane or playing Go. At the same time, machines still fail at simple tasks such as differentiating between a blueberry muffin and a Chihuahua. A task that can be done by any child at the age of six.



In its next issue, The Highlights will give details on this interesting event.



## The Garni Temple: The Only Pagan Temple in Caucasus



By  
**Gourgen  
Khazhakian**

Chief  
Correspondent

No tourist visiting Armenia can miss Garni, this unique 76 AD temple and Roman style baths, with its cyclopic stone walls that surround the royal summer residence and temple are were in fact first laid in the 3rd millennium BC by ancient Armenians.

The temple itself was built on top of an Urartian temple, and has the same floor di-

temple site, creating an impenetrable natural fortress above, and a remarkably diverse eco system below. While dry summer winds whip the mountain plain above the canyon rim, below the river forest is always moist and cool: towering trees form a canopy above the foot paths along the river, and wild boar, deer, leopards and bears call the nature preserve home.

Famous **Symphony Canyon** was named for its rock formations, a series of perfectly cut diamond shaped granite, basalt, slag and andesite. Inside the canyon are the remains of a 16th century bridge, its finely engineered arches at one time leading to a narrow road

cially on a clear day. Garni reminds to many a somewhat plain Parthenon. It was built in the first century A.D. by the Armenian King **Tiridates** (Trdat) with the money he received after visiting Emperor Nero in Rome. The temple was destroyed in 1679 in an earthquake, but was partially reconstructed in 1970s. (You can recognize the new stones by their lack of carving, which allows you to appreciate the originals.) It is an excellent reconstruction and a very worthwhile place to visit. You can even see carved graffiti in Arabic... There are also ruins of mosaic ancient baths and residences in Garni. If you came in a car (not bus) or can hike, take the time to go



mensions as the temple of **Sushi** in **Erebuni** (5.05 X 7.98 meters). A common feature of sacred structures from oldest times through the Christian era is to orient the structures to the East, that is, to the rising sun.

The temple of Garni was dedicated to the sun goddess Mythra. Armenians shared Zoroastrian entities with Persia (and by the time of Garni Temple, with the Eastern Roman empire, which had adopted Mythra as a patron goddess), and worshipped fire as an ultimate gift from the gods, an entity in itself. However, after adopting Christianity in 301 this beautiful pagan temple lost its significance and the fortress of Garni became the summer residence of the kings.

Garni perfectly follows the Pythagorean and Platonic theories of sacred geometry in its design, a design for civilization carved from the wilderness.

And then there is the Other Side of Garni, the wilderness itself.

On a mountain trail between **Lake Sevan** and the fertile Ararat Valley, 7000 years of history wound its way through the **Goghi** and **Azat River** canyons below Garni and left indelible prints on the stone walls. Prints that can only be seen - just as Garni is best seen - from inside the canyon walls.

The Goghi and Azat Rivers meet at Garni dropping more than 300 feet below the

that surmounted the Geghama Ridge and ended at Lake Sevan.

A few yards beyond, past a series of caverns yawning in the side of the canyon walls, the Goghi River joins with the Azat, and to the right is one of the most beautiful sights in Armenia: About 600 meters away and 300 feet above is the temple of Garni.

Inside the canyon, the upper rim and sky are soon blocked from view: tangled vines wrap themselves around centuries old trees that shade the hot sun from the fetid ground. In Spring, swarms of blue, yellow, gold and violet butterflies nest along the sun-dappled river bed, as many as a thousand might be resting on the banks or the side of a tree.

From here the canyon looks more beautiful, with occasional meadows and fields of sweet hay and goldenrod covering the patches of open land. In May the river swells and covers some of the natural path, but the terrain is easily navigated. Just after a narrowing in the canyon, the land widens into a dense forest, and it seems to be the most remote place on earth.

Garni is on the road to the **Geghard** Monastery complex of 13th century and both can be comfortably seen on the same day. Half-way to Garni however, take a few minutes to look at the **Charents Arch**, thru which you can enjoy the fantastic view of Ararat, espe-

down to the very worthy Garni Gorge, and maybe hike up to the extensive and virtually unvisited ruins of **Havuts Tar** Monastery.

The fortress of Garni is situated in the Garni village in the Abovian District. That was a mighty fortress well known from chronicles (Cornelius Tacitus, Movses Khorenatsi, etc.). The structures of Garni combine elements of Hellenistic and national culture, which is an evidence of antique influences and the distinctive building traditions of the Armenian people. The artistic merit and uniqueness of its monuments place Garni among outstanding creations of architecture of world importance.

*Just at the entrance to the Temple a visitor could find long rows of welcoming locals offering lavash – the Armenian bread baked in their own homes, tasty Armenian sweets – dried fruits holding the taste of the Sun, fantastic homemade vodka - mulberry, grape, apricot, apple etc.*

*There are regular 5-6 hour tours to Garni and the Geghard Monastery organized in Yerevan.*

*The trip starts at 10.00 from a meeting point at the Nalbandyan Street in Yerevan.*

**Acknowledgement:**  
**Richard Ney**



## Armenia committed to contribute to joint efforts in Eastern Partnership framework – FM



Armenia remains committed to contribute to the joint efforts in the Eastern Partnership framework, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said at the Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting in Luxembourg. Minister Nalbandian's full speech is provided below:

Dear Federica, dear Johannes,

Dear colleagues,

Needless to say that approaching the upcoming summit with tangible results will contribute to the future productive cooperation in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

These past two years we have been actively working on the implementation of the provisions of the Riga Declaration and have been able to deliver in almost all mutual commitments relating to Armenia, namely joining COSME and HORIZON 2020 programs, launching negotiations on the Common Aviation Area Agreement, as well as the "Creative Europe", that we intend to finalize soon.

There are also some pending issues that we are looking forward to deal with, including the launching of the Visa Liberalization Dialogue. We count on the clear support of the EU member states in this regard.

Within a relatively short time-frame we managed to negotiate

the new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. The completion of the negotiations was announced by Presidents Sargsyan and Tusk in February in Brussels. The text has been initiated and we look forward to sign it at the upcoming summit.

Almost in parallel we discussed and agreed on the Partnership Priorities for 2017-2020. These two important documents will guide Armenia-EU partnership in coming years and help us to strengthen our mutually beneficial cooperation.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to once again highly appreciate the EU's continued assistance, including through the Eastern Partnership initiative, provided to our country over the years for the effective implementation of the reform process and institutional capacity building in Armenia. We look forward to the continuation of fruitful cooperation in this regard.

The parliamentary elections held in Armenia in April were marked by unprecedented high number of international observers, who stated that the elections were well administered, fundamental freedoms were respected, and the results reflected the will of the population. These parliamentary elections had a particular importance for Armenia's transition from semi-presidential to parliamentary system of governance.

I would like to thank the European Commission and European External Action Service for providing us with "20 deliverables for 2020" document that not only offers a good action plan for the coming years but also a new revised architecture of the Eastern Partnership, which is directly linked to the performance of the partner countries within this multilateral framework and more importantly to the political will to deliver on the shared commitments.

We also believe that the principle of differentiation offers a unique opportunity to develop a multi-track or multi-layer cooperation, thus allowing us to maintain the integrity of the partnership.

Dear colleagues,

Looking forward to the upcoming Summit and our cooperation beyond it Armenia remains committed to contribute to the joint efforts in the Eastern Partnership framework.

Thank you!

## OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs urge leadership of Azerbaijan to avoid further escalation

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of Russia, Stephane Visconti of France, and Richard Hoagland of the United States of America), together with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, traveled to the region in June. The main purpose of the Co-Chairs' visit was to discuss the position of the Sides towards the next steps in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process after the trilateral ministerial meeting in Moscow (28 April) as well as the overall situation in the conflict zone.

The Co-Chairs met with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan in Yerevan (10 June) and with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku (19 June). In both capitals, they also held consultations with the Foreign and Defence Ministers. The Co-Chairs traveled to Nagorno-Karabakh (12 June) to meet with de facto authorities, and visited a number



of territories around Nagorno-Karabakh, including the Zangelan, Kubatly, Lachin, and Kelbajar districts. In Baku, they also met with the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In their talks in Baku, the Co-Chairs expressed deep concern over the recent violations of the ceasefire, resulting in casualties on the Line of Contact, on the eve of their visit to Azerbaijan. They appealed to the leadership of Azerbaijan to avoid further escalation. The Co-Chairs are sending the same message to the leadership of Armenia and de facto authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh.

They encouraged the Sides to consider measures that would reduce tensions on the Line of Contact and the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In both capitals, the Co-Chairs called upon the parties to re-engage in negotiations on substance, in good faith and with political will. They underscored that this is the only way to bring a lasting peace to the people of the region, who expect and deserve progress in the settlement of the conflict. The Presidents expressed their intention to resume political dialogue in an attempt to find a compromise solution for the most controversial issues of the settlement.

The Co-Chairs will travel to Vienna to brief the members of the Minsk Group on 3 July. They also plan to meet again soon with the Azerbaijani and Armenian Foreign Ministers to discuss modalities of the forthcoming work.

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



### Aries (March 20–April 19)

You will be concentrating on bringing a lot of details into a cohesive whole. Perhaps you are building something with multiple parts. The focus may be on vehicles or

personal property. Or maybe you have a jumble of ideas that need to be sorted into a coherent plan. Be quiet and steady your mind. Make lists to ground yourself.



### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

A “teacher” comes into your life to help you learn more about yourself and your relationship(s). Follow your instincts about where you need to be, particularly if that includes a new social situation. There may be someone who gives you needed in-

formation or guidance.



### Gemini (May 20–June 20)

It is a wise Gemini who thinks carefully before he/she speaks at this time. You are tempted to respond without thinking of the consequences. Watch your tendency to be critical without knowing the circum-

stances of the “other”.



### Cancer (June 21–July 21)

You may be especially chatty this week. Words have higher importance than usual. You could be writing a speech, teaching or mentoring. It would serve you well to attend social gatherings and generally put

yourself “out there.” One or more people are likely to enter your life who help you make the connections that need to come next.



### Leo (July 22–August 21)

You are in a position to help others negotiate a reasonable peace. Activities involving high tech appliances are favored. Your knowledge will help others adjust to new electronics or a change in directions. A lover or significant other may ask for your

intentions. Be realistic. Don't promise more than is likely.



### Virgo (August 22–September 22)

A project that you began in late fall of 2016 is now coming to its first fulfillment. The outcome is apparent for you and all to see. The probability is that this creation is more success than failure. Don't listen to that inner

Critic who can find fault with every little thing. It lies.



### Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

A debt may be repaid for work you have done in the past. It is possible that you will be called upon to give your time or energy beyond what you intended. Note how you

are feeling as you do this. If you begin to feel resentment, set some boundaries around how far you will go.



### Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

This is a good time to look over your financial resources. You may want to move things around a bit. Travel may be on your mind. Alternatively, you may have a desire to

contact people at a distance. Aspects favor your use of the internet, research, or study. Writing projects are given an energy boost.



### Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

You may feel isolated or as though no one around you can possibly understand who or what you are. In some way life circumstances may be

preventing you from communicating. The inner critic could overrun your mind if you allow it. Remember that feelings come and go like waves. They never remain the same.



### Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

The Goats live always with a strong internal Critic. Sometimes it is louder than others and it rarely tells the whole truth. During this period you may be hearing a dark “tape”

about your inability to organize your life according to someone else's standard. Take good care of your physical health now.



### Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

You have a choice of mood this week. On one hand you may be “hearing” a load of internal criticism, which is probably not substantiated.

On the other, there are some options to get outside of yourself and play freely or take a short, refreshing trip. It's obvious which is the better for your mental health.



### Pisces (February 18–March 19)

One of your planetary rulers, Neptune, turns retrograde this week. This suggests that one or more anxieties will go underground for a few months and you will actually feel better than before. You know that

sometimes your imagination is just too potent and you react to it as though it were the real thing.



# ARMENIA

## Yezeguelian Hotel & Residence



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

**In the Center  
of Yerevan**



Warm Welcome  
24/7 Security  
Free Cafe & Bar

All Conveniences  
Air Conditioned  
Apartments



Kitchen, Refrigerator  
Safe, TV, Internet



Modern  
Rest Rooms

### RESERVATIONS:

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

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

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



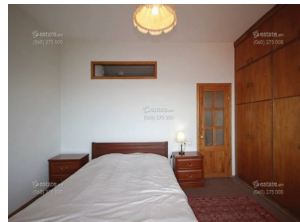
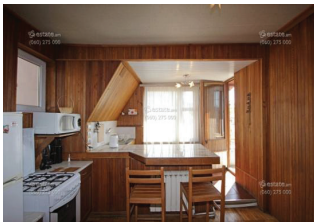
## APARTMENTS FOR RENT



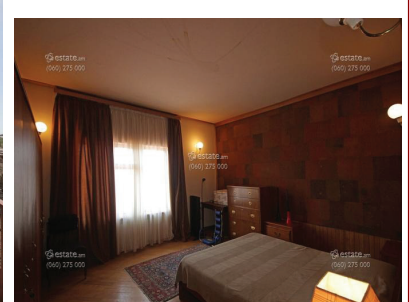
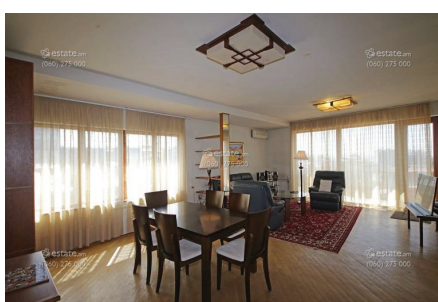
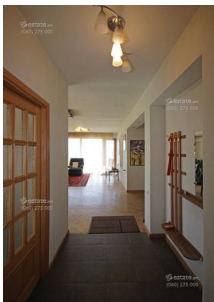
Comfortable two bedrooms apartments in the center of Yerevan, close to the hotel BASS. Each apartment is 110 sq.m., has two balconies, nice view to mount Ararat and separate entrance from the street. Both have central heating system, Wi-Fi, air conditionings, washing machines, TV sets, etc.  
**Address: Aygedzor Street 3, Yerevan.**  
**Tel. (374) 095-27-87-09; 093-22-95-70 ( landlord )**



The apartment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Price for a long-time: \$ 850 per month; for a short time period: \$ 40-50 daily.



The apartment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Price: \$ 1300 per month.



### Noyan Tapan Press-Center

Noyan Tapan Press-Center holds different discussions, press conferences, round tables, teleconferences, seminars each week which are broadcast live on the internet. We invite you to take advantage of the Center, as well as the place your banner in our Press Room.

**Tel.: 060 35 11 22.**

**Address: Isahakyan 28, 3rd floor,  
Yerevan, 0009**

### Noyan Tapan Printing House

is offering coloured and black and white offset and digital printing of:

- books,
- brochures,
- booklets,
- journals, etc with high quality and low prices

**Tel.: 060 35 11 22.**

**Address: Isahakyan 28, 1st floor,  
Yerevan, 0009**

**The Noyan Tapan**  
 HIGHLIGHTS  
 The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
 Circulation: 1500 print copies and  
 15.600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format  
 Տպվելը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպարանակը՝ 1500  
 Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝  
 ՆՏ Խղիկինգ ՍՊԸ  
 Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝  
 03Ա898368, տրված 11.01.2013 թ.

President of the NT Media Holding:  
**Tigran Harutyunyan**  
 Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:  
**Gayaneh Arakelyan**  
 Director of the Weekly:  
**Marina Harutyunyan**  
 Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**  
 Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrtchian**  
 Layout: **Diana Grigoryan**  
 Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան  
 Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993.  
**ISSN 1829-0604**  
 Registration certificate and the date:  
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)  
 URL: [www.nt.am](http://www.nt.am)  
 Address in Armenia: 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA.  
 Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-23  
 (+374 60) 35-11-22  
 Address in France: Masion De L' Armenie, Paris 17e - 95  
 Bld. Gouvion, France.  
 Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72  
 Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112, Glendale,  
 CA, USA, 91206.  
 Tel.: (+1 818) 646 10 72  
 Հասցի՝ Բասիկյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009