

## We are close to reporting first practical results in unblocking of regional communications, Armenian PM says



**Armenia - A regular cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Yerevan, February 3, 2021.**

We are very close to reporting the first practical results of the trilateral working group on the unblocking of regional communications, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated at a government meeting on February 3.

“As you know, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexei Overchuk and General Director of Russian Railways Oleg Belozеров arrived in Yerevan yesterday on a working visit. They met with Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan. I want to emphasize that we are very close [to] reporting the first practical result of a trilateral working group on unblocking communications. Yesterday’s meeting was dedicated to the start of the construction of the Yeraskh – Julfa – Ordubad – Meghri – Horadiz railway,” he said.

According to Pashinyan, “there is an agreement that the rail-

way will operate under the jurisdiction of the country through which it will pass.” “We are already discussing technical and design issues, as well as construction and financing issues.

He said if the dynamics is maintained “in the near future we can realize this opportunity.”

The decision to build the Yeraskh-Julfa-Ordubad-Meghri-Horadiz railway connecting Armenia and Azerbaijan was confirmed by the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan Nikol Pashinyan and Ilham Aliyev after a meeting in Brussels on December 15, 2021.

The South Caucasian Railway Company (SCR, a subsidiary of Russian Railways) will operate the Yeraskh – Julfa – Ordubad – Meghri – Horadiz railway, Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan noted.

Armenia, Germany celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations

p. 2

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister’s statements at least paradoxical – MFA

p. 4

EBRD reports record investment in Armenia in 2021

p.7

Vahagn Khachatryan officially nominated for President of Armenia

p. 5

## Armenia, Germany celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations



30 years ago, on January 31 Armenia and Germany established diplomatic relations, continuously evolving and expanding close cooperation in the spheres of mutual interest.

“We are keen to further promote our friendly relations based on common values and historic ties,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a Twitter post.

Germany and Armenia have enjoyed good bilateral relations since 1992. As a member of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Minsk Group, Germany supports the Co-Chairs’ efforts to negotiate in the Nagorno-Kara-

bakh conflict, and in view of the most recent war that lasted from September to November 2020, Germany points out that a political solution to the conflict must be found.

Germany has contributed a total of 2 million euro to the humanitarian aid efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Germany supports ongoing efforts at civil-society level by funding cross-border reconciliation projects.

Germany is Armenia’s principal trading partner in the EU. Its main exports to Armenia are motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals and electrical engineering products. Its main imports from Armenia are iron, steel, copper, molybdenum and other metals, as well as textiles. Germany is one of the most important foreign direct investors in the country.

In terms of development cooperation, Germany is the major bilateral donor to Armenia alongside the United States. Cooperation focuses on sustainable development, environmental and climate protection, de-

mocracy, municipal development and rule of law promotion.

The main goal of Germany’s cultural relations and education policy in Armenia is to promote German as a foreign language at both school and university level. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Office of Administration – Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA) have their own German staff in Armenia. A Goethe-Zentrum opened in Yerevan in 2017, with the Language Training Centre based in the same building. There are a good many cooperation arrangements between German and Armenian higher education institutions.

The political foundations Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V., Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and Heinrich Böll Foundation, as well as the German Adult Education Association (DVV) and the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ), have offices in Yerevan staffed by local employees.

### Prime Minister Pashinyan receives Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation led by Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, who is in Yerevan on a working visit.

The Prime Minister welcomed Mr. Schallenberg’s visit to our country and expressed hope that it will give a new impetus to the further development and strengthening of the Armenian-Austrian relations. Noting that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Austria, the Prime Minister stressed that there is a great potential for cooperation between the two countries. In the context of its realization, the Prime Minister stressed the need for active cooperation between the governments of Armenia and Austria in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres. At the same time, Nikol Pashinyan welcomed the holding of the Armenian-Austrian business

forum in Yerevan, which will contribute to the expansion of ties between the private sectors, the development and implementation of new joint investment programs, and the increase of bilateral trade.

Alexander Schallenberg noted that he had fruitful talks with his Armenian counterpart, noting that Austria is interested in deepening cooperation with Armenia in all directions. The Austrian Foreign Minister also highlighted the expansion of economic cooperation, adding that the Austrian businessmen are very interested in opportunities to operate in Armenia. Alexander Schallenberg welcomed the reforms being implemented by the Armenian Government aimed at developing and strengthening of democracy, emphasizing that his country is ready to assist Armenia in ensuring the further effective continuation of those reforms.



Nikol Pashinyan and Alexander Schallenberg also touched upon the developments in the South Caucasus region, the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, emphasizing the need to resume the negotiation process and reach a comprehensive settlement within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs’ format. In this regard, the planned visit of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to the region was highlighted.

Issues related to the opportunities for carrying out delimitation and demarcation between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the provision of necessary conditions for that were also discussed.

## European Leaders organize fresh talks between Aliyev, Pashinyan



French President Emmanuel Macron and European Council President Charles Michel held a virtual meeting with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan on February 4.

The video conference came about two months after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's two face-to-face meetings with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev which were separately hosted by Macron and Michel in Brussels.

“They took stock of progress achieved since the [December] meetings held in the sidelines of the Eastern Partnership Summit, in particular recent releases of detainees, ongoing joint efforts to search for missing persons, as well as the upcoming restoration of railways tracks,” Macron and Michel said in a joint statement on the video conference.

“The heads of State and Government agreed that this meeting offered a valuable opportunity to discuss a wide range of is-

sues,” added the statement.

Pashinyan's office reported that the four leaders discussed efforts to reduce tensions along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and open transport links between the two South Caucasus states as well as international organizations' access to Karabakh.

“Prime Minister Pashinyan stressed the need for a long-term settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the signing of a peace treaty under the aegis of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group,” it said.

Neither statement mentioned any concrete agreements reached by Aliyev and Pashinyan.

## Yerevan hosts Armenian-Austrian business forum, MoU on cooperation signed

The foreign Ministers of Armenia and Austria Ararat Mirzoyan and Alexander Schallenberg participated in the opening of the Armenian-Austrian business forum on February 3.

Minister Mirzoyan said in his opening remarks that “the conference is a really wonderful opportunity to fix the current level of the Armenian-Austrian economic relations, to deepen it, to establish mutually beneficial new business relations, and to bring the economic relations between the two countries in general to a new quality.”

“We in Armenia are taking all steps to ensure the necessary favorable environment where economic relations and busi-

ness, in general, can feel comfortable. In this regard, I would like to mention the development of democratic institutions in Armenia, the fight against corruption, the establishment of free, truly competitive market relations. These are the minimum necessary conditions where the business can and should feel comfortable,” the Minister said.

He emphasized that Armenia has certain economic advantages and has had achievements in recent years, especially in the field of innovative technologies. He mentioned “Armat” laboratories, TUMO creative centers, noting that the successful experience of TUMO is now applied

in Paris, Berlin, Moscow, Beirut, Kyiv and Tirana.

“I think the possibility of opening TUMOs in Vienna and elsewhere can be considered,” he added.

The Minister reminded that Armenia is also a member of the Eurasian Economic Union and added that businessmen can use the advantage of its 180-million market.

During the business forum, the protocol of the 8th sitting of the Armenian-Austrian intergovernmental commission on scientific-economic and scientific-technical cooperation was signed.

## We want to make the so-called system of “Super Prime Minister” more balanced - Justice Minister

The Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Chairman of the Council of Constitutional Reforms Karen Andreasyan wants balance of powers of the government branches, balancing the so-called system of “super-prime minister” within the framework of the reforms, Andreasyan told the reporters after the first sitting of the Council.

“Our current Constitution has not given any significant levers and capabilities to the President of the Republic. We see that we are often blamed that the Prime Minister has too much influence, the current constitution has given leverage to the Prime Minister. It is true that it will take some power away from us, but we are

ready to discuss and balance the powers of the branches. And what happened in 2015 in connection with the creation of a real parliamentary state, unfortunately, the balance turned out to be violated. And that is what I think should be discussed and corrected first of all”, Andreasyan said.

According to the Minister, at the same time the powers of the government, the prime minister should not be just taken away and given to the president or the parliament.

He noted that there is a discussion to return to the presidential, semi-presidential system. He is personally against the change of the governing system, but he cannot say for sure what the government's approach

will be, as neither the government nor the party have a final decision. “And it is normal that there is no final decision, because we have not come to dictate to the people gathered here, we do not place orders on what to do. We came to listen to them, then to the professional commission,” he said, not ruling out that he might change his opinion.

Referring to Armen Sarkissian's resignation from the post of the President, Minister Andreasyan noted that if the reason for the President's resignation was the lack of certain powers, then he hurried. “Why do I say he hurried, because this Council and this process will solve those problems,” Andreasyan said.

## Azerbaijani Foreign Minister's statements at least paradoxical – MFA

The statements of the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan are at least paradoxical, Spokesperson for the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vahan Hunanyan has said.

The comments come after Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan once again stated that the Armenian side puts forward pre-conditions for starting the delimitation and demarcation process, noting that “Armenia has no legal, political or moral right to impose any conditions on the issue of delimitation of the borders.”

Hunanyan reminded that on November 26, 2021, the Prime Minister of Armenia, the President of Russia and the President of Azerbaijan signed a statement in Sochi, which is public and available on the internet. It is clearly underlined in the statement that the leaders of the three countries agreed to undertake steps towards increasing the level of security and stability in the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, and to lead the process to the formation of a bilateral commission on delimitation and demarcation.

“It derives from the statement signed by the leaders of the three countries that the activities of the commission on delimitation and demarcation should be preceded by the agreements on steps towards increasing the level of security on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the implementation of those agreements. It is also

logical amid the fact that it is difficult to imagine the implementation of delimitation in the borders where ceasefire violations are observed every day,” the Spokesperson said in comments to *Armenpress*.

He noted that really interested in the full implementation of the agreements, the Republic of Armenia has formulated its notions for their implementation.

“The Azerbaijani side did not give any substantive response and rejected them, without offering any options for implementing the agreements reached by the leaders of the three countries,” he said.

“Naming Armenia’s proposals “condition”, “precondition” and then making moral, political and legal assessments on them has no logical link to the above-mentioned process,” Vahan Hunanyan noted.

Commenting on Azerbaijani Foreign Minister’s claims that Armenia has undermined the activities of the trilateral working group, the Spokesperson said: “If it is referred to the trilateral working group on unblocking regional communications, ironically, the same morning Prime Minister Pashinyan announced at the Cabinet meeting that Armenia is in the stage of undertaking practical steps towards restoring the Yeraskh-Julfa-Ordubad-Meghri-Horadiz railway, and that the Armenian Co-Chair of the working group, Deputy Prime



Minister Mher Grigoryan had a substantive discussion on this topic with his Russian counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, and Director General of “Russian Railways” Oleg Belozorov on February 2 in Yerevan.”

“Assessing the situation, Prime Minister Pashinyan stated that the first results of the work of the Trilateral Working Group seem very close. In this context, the statements of the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan are at least paradoxical, and we hope that they do not mean Azerbaijan’s renunciation of the agreements on the reopening of the railway reached in Brussels. I would like to note that the Republic of Armenia reaffirms its commitment to the agreements, which the Prime Minister publicly stated several times,” Hunanyan stated.

He noted that the Armenia has also made proposals to the Azerbaijani side on the opening of the roads, but is yet to receive a response from Azerbaijan.

“Armenia is ready to start implementing these proposals as soon as possible,” he emphasized.

## Yerevan citizen found guilty in first ever “grave insult” verdict



A citizen of Armenia was found guilty of making “grave insults” by a Yerevan court, the first verdict under the new paragraph 137,1 of the Criminal Code since it took effect.

The Armenian parliament criminalized “Grave Insults” in 2021.

The person who was found guilty was

charged on November 5, 2021, after calling the Yerevan Police Department and verbally abusing and voicing grave insults towards Prime Minister Pashinyan and the Minister of High-Tech Industry and their families over “improper organizing the public transport’s operations of Yerevan”.

The caller confessed in making the insults during questioning.

Under the verdict the defendant is fined 500,000 drams.

The prosecution further said that a total of 263 criminal cases were opened by 2022 under the same article, with 25 being dropped, 5 being suspended and 11 others merging into other criminal cases.

214 other criminal cases are being probed and 31 persons face criminal charges.



Special envoys of Armenia and Turkey to meet in Vienna on February 24

The next meeting of the special representatives of Armenia and Turkey in the Armenia-Turkey normalization process will take place on February 24 in Vienna., Spokesperson for the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vahan Hunanyan informs.

The first meeting of the special representatives was held in Moscow on January 14.

## Issue of NK status is not solved, that process must be carried out under mandate of OSCE MG Co-Chairmanship – Ambassador



Deputy Prime Minister Hambarzum Matevosyan received on January 31 US Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy and her delegation, the deputy PM's Office told Noyan Tapan.

Deputy PM Matevosyan congratulated the Armenian and American peoples on

the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and stated that the United States is Armenia's stable partner since independence of 1991.

The deputy PM highly valued the support provided to Armenia over the past 30 years aimed at strengthening a more democratic society, fighting corruption and implementing judicial and police reforms.

Coming to the final and comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, deputy PM highlighted the role and

mission of the United States as a Co-Chair country of the OSCE Minsk Group. The US Ambassador agreed with the Armenian deputy PM that the issue of the status of Nagorno Karabakh is not solved, and this process must be carried out under the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship.

At the end of the meeting the sides reaffirmed their readiness to contribute to the intensification and development of Armenia-US bilateral relations.



Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan has reiterated Armenia's interest in starting the delimitation and demarcation process.

Speaking to reporters after the government sitting on February 3, the Foreign Minister said Armenia is fully committed to the agreement reached between the lead-

## Armenia discussing creation of security mechanisms with Russia and Azerbaijan – FM

ers of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan in Sochi on October 26, 2021.

Minister Mirzoyan reminded that after talks in Sochi, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev agreed "to take steps to increase the level of stability and security on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border, to push the process of establishment of a bilateral commission with the advisory participation of the Russian Federation based on the application of the sides, on delimitation, and

subsequent demarcation."

"We are discussing with the Russian and Azerbaijani sides the security measures that will eventually lead to security and stability mechanisms on the line of contact. We have submitted different proposals. This is an ordinary negotiation process," he said, adding that the response from Baku to these proposals has been negative.

"This is a continuous process," he said, noting that there have been proposals unacceptable to the Armenian side, as well.

## Vahagn Khachaturyan officially nominated for President of Armenia

Vahagn Khachaturyan has been officially nominated for President of Armenia; Press Service of the National Assembly informs.

"Guided by Part 3 of Article 125 of the Constitution and Parts 2 and 4-5 of Article 139 of the Constitutional Law on Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, at least a quarter of the total number of deputies nominated Vahagn Garnik Khachaturyan as a presidential candidate," the

Parliament said.

Born in 1959 in the city of Sisian, Vahagn Khachaturyan graduated from the Yerevan Institute of National Economy.

He served as Mayor of Yerevan between 1992 and 1996. From 1996 to 1998 he was an Adviser to the President of the Republic of Armenia.

He has worked as Minister of High-Tech Industry since August 4, 2021.



## Armenia, UAE sign MoU

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Investment Support Center of Armenia and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce on January 30 within the framework of the Armenian National Day at Expo 2020 Dubai. The document was signed by Aram Vardanyan, Director of Investments at the Investment Support Center, on behalf of Armenia, and Muhammad al-Muhairi, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on behalf of

the UAE.

Armenian Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan was also present at the signing ceremony. The memorandum will become a cornerstone in the trade relations between Armenia and Abu Dhabi, will contribute to the strengthening of existing ties and create new opportunities for cooperation for both sides. It will bring the economies of the two countries closer and will be-



come the basis for new joint projects. A roadmap for expanding cooperation will be created in the near future.

## Armenia, the Netherlands keen to strengthen economic ties

Vahan Kerobyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Armenia Nicholas Schermers. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ministers Arshak Aslanyan and Arman Khojoyan.

Issues related to the strengthening of economic ties between Armenia and the Netherlands were discussed.

The parties agreed that economic cooperation between Armenia and the Netherlands has a serious potential for

development, and expressed readiness to work actively to deepen and expand the Armenian-Dutch economic ties.

The possibilities of implementing joint programs in cooperation with state and private structures of the two countries were discussed.

Industry, chemical industry, textile industry, agriculture, high-tech sector, pharmaceuticals, mechanical engineering, tourism were singled out as areas of cooperation.

The issue of modernization and development of small and medium enterprises



was also discussed. Reference was made to the reforms implemented by the Armenian government.



Armenia's Ambassador to Greece Tigran Mkrtychyan met on January 31 with Minister of Rural Development and Food Spilios Livanos, the Embassy reports.

Congratulating the Armenian Ambassador on appointment, the Greek Minister

Ambassador Mkrtychyan presented the current situation of agricultural sector in Armenia, stating that there is a progress in the field and that the export and sales of Armenian agricultural goods abroad, as well as the investment opportunities in this

## Cooperation prospects with Armenia in agriculture sector discussed in Greece

expressed hope that during his tenure the Armenian-Greek bilateral relations in the field of agriculture will become more active and productive.

area are quite big.

The Minister praised the fact that on January 19 the Greek Parliament ratified the cooperation agreement between the Armenian and Greek ministries of agriculture signed in Yerevan on September 30, 2014, and expressed hope that this agreement will be an important launch for the partnership between the two countries.

The trade turnover between Armenia and Greece was also discussed.

The Ambassador assured that during his tenure in Greece he will do the utmost to further intensify and strengthen the ties between the two countries.

## EBRD reports record investment in Armenia in 2021

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) supported Armenia's economy in 2021 with record investment of approximately €175 million for projects in banking, energy and municipal transport.

Investment in Armenia was increased further, with a focus on green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The private sector accounted for approximately 90 per cent of the EBRD's total investment in Armenia in 2021, and €106 million of this total investment was under the EBRD's Green Economy Transition (GET) approach.

Dimitri Gvindadze, EBRD Head of Armenia, said: "After a record investment of approximately €160 million in Armenia in 2020, we scaled things up in 2021, delivering more than €170 million. We work closely with the European Union (EU) in Armenia and we thank our EU partners for this strategically important partnership."

The EBRD maintained its support for small and medium-sized enterprises



(SMEs), providing credit lines to partner banks in Armenia who then on-lend to businesses to improve competitiveness, energy efficiency, economic resilience and inclusion. The credit lines are accompanied by grants from our donor partners, the European Union, SIDA and the Green Climate Fund. Keeping vital trade flows going, the EBRD supported close to €50 million in trade finance transactions in Armenia, involving eight local partner banks, under its Trade Facilitation Programme.

Continuing to work with its long-standing client Electric Networks of Armenia, the Bank helped the company to modernize Armenia's power supply sys-

tem, with projects such as strengthening the electricity distribution infrastructure in Gyumri and Yerevan.

The Bank also supported the city of Yerevan's plan to acquire modern compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. The project received significant grant funding from the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P).

As well as financing, the EBRD provided business advice to local SMEs by implementing 80 advisory and consultancy projects, 3 international advisory activities and 10 market-development activities and training sessions.

The Business Support Office (BSO), which is funded by the UK government and supported by the EBRD, continued its work with the Ministry of Economy on a number of business climate improvement measures.

Overall, across the EBRD's regions, green financing last year hit a record €5.4 billion, or 51 per cent, of a total business volume of €10.4 billion.

## Armenian National Day celebrated at Expo 2020 Dubai

The Armenian National Day is celebrated at Expo 2020 Dubai on January 30.

The National Day of Armenia started in the morning with the ceremony of raising the Armenian tricolor under the state anthem of the Republic of Armenia.

Addressing the official ceremony, Armenia's Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan highlighted the invaluable contribution of Armenian scientists and innovators in the development of science, culture and technology in the world, presenting innovations that have been



crucial for the progress of humanity. He emphasized the privileges of Armenia's business and investment environment, especially the sectors of the economy that can be more attractive for foreign investors.

According to Minister Kerobyan, Ar-

menia's participation in such large-scale exhibitions is important from the point of view of raising the country's awareness, establishing new cooperation and strengthening diplomatic relations.

The official ceremony was followed by a cultural program, which opened with a performance of the State Symphony orchestra of Armenia.

A lively colorful performance of Armenian contemporary dance, music and beautiful singing is expected throughout the day.

## HayPost: Armenia's post operator received ISO international certificate

On its way to modernization and launching services with digital solutions, Armenia's post operator HayPost has applied for and received ISO 27001 international certificate.

The information security of HayPost

is thus internationally recognized with ISO 27001 certification. It has been developed and implemented to provide a model for the creation, implementation, operation, monitoring, review, maintenance and improvement of an infor-

mation security management system. The purpose of the ISO 27001 information security management system is to make information assets more secure, and to provide a set of standards for managing an organization's information and data.

## United Kingdom doesn't view Nagorno Karabakh conflict as resolved – Ambassador Gallagher's interview to ARMENPRESS

The United Kingdom doesn't view the Nagorno Karabakh conflict as resolved and wants to see a comprehensive peace settlement reached as soon as possible, on the basis of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs' Basic Principles, the **UK Ambassador to Armenia H.E. John Gallagher said in an interview with ARMENPRESS** conducted on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the United Kingdom.

Speaking about the history of the Armenian-British relations, the work that was done in the past three decades and the current dynamics, Ambassador Gallagher noted the growing connections in bilateral trade and the business sector, in cultural and people-to-people links, and in supporting green development and ambitious approaches to reduce climate change. He also mentioned that the UK government is currently engaging with the Armenian government to finalize a UK-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

**Aram Sargsyan:** Ambassador Gallagher, Armenia and the United Kingdom have 30 years of diplomatic ties. But does this short period entirely reflect the depth and whole picture of the history of the relations between our nations? How would you characterize the present-day level of relations?

**Ambassador Gallagher:** Thank you for the question. I agree that UK-Armenia relations go back much further than the establishment of diplomatic relations 30 years ago. I'm proud that during that period the UK was one of the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence (at the end of 1991), and was also one of the most prominent supporters of the Armenian SSR's response to the devastating 1988 earthquake – particularly when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited in 1990 and officially opened the Lord Byron school in Gyumri. We've had many ministerial visits since then, most recently when the former Minister for Europe & Americas Wendy Morton MP visited Yerevan and Vanadzor in February last year. I hope there will be similar senior visits in the future.

But, of course, connections and shared histories between our countries go far be-



yond government-to-government channels. I continue to be amazed at the number of prominent Armenians I meet who studied at UK universities. There are growing connections in bilateral trade and the business sector, in cultural and people-to-people links, and in supporting green development and ambitious approaches to reduce climate change. So I think there will be many more opportunities for the UK and Armenia to work together over the coming years to forge even closer links between our peoples and cultures – for the next 30 years and beyond.

**Aram Sargsyan -** Mr. Ambassador, could you please present the United Kingdom's interests in the relations with Armenia and in this region generally, and what are the priorities of the Armenian-British ties?

**Ambassador Gallagher -** The UK-Armenia relationship encompasses engagement across a wide range of areas, including support to governance and economic reforms, bilateral trade, in building stronger connections between people through cultural and educational links, and in supporting green development and ambitious commitments to reduce climate change.

I'm pleased that we've been able to support the Government of Armenia's reform efforts through sharing UK experience and expertise. I believe this has made a positive contribution to the impressive progress Armenia has made on governance and democratization in recent years.

I'm also fully aware that the last 18 months has been an incredibly difficult time for Armenia due to Covid and the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. The UK continues to support the work of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards a sustainable peaceful settlement. We have

also provided funding for UNDP/UNICEF programmes to strengthen stability and resilience in border communities through vocational training and psychosocial support.

Overall, I would assess that the UK is making a positive contribution to Armenia's economic and democratic development. We will continue to work closely alongside government, parliament and the business sector to identify areas in which the UK's experience can make a positive difference.

**Aram Sargsyan -** How would you comment on opinions voiced by some experts who argue that Armenia and the UK could do much better to realize the big potential, first of all to have a broader legal base by signing more agreements and other documents (instead of the current 9 or 10 documents we have now) in strategic spheres and also be more active in developing bilateral relations? Or perhaps such works are already underway?

**Ambassador Gallagher -** This is something we are currently working on, and which I see as an important priority for me and my embassy in Armenia. The UK government is currently engaging with the Armenian government to finalize a UK-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, encompassing the full breadth of bilateral issues. We hope to be able to make further announcements on this soon.

**Aram Sargsyan -** According to the Department for International Trade of the British Government, the trade in goods and services (exports and imports) between the UK and Armenia was £64 million (\$87 million) in Q2 2020 to Q2 2021. How can Armenia and the UK expand their bilateral trade? Are there any expert studies or projections on how the two countries could boost trade?

**Ambassador Gallagher -** There is certainly scope to further expand bilateral trade between the UK and Armenia. This is something we are actively working towards. Armenia is well known for its burgeoning IT sector, and we have seen positive signals in recent months of interest by companies in expanding their operations in both directions.

Another important growth area is renewable energy. The

➔ page 10

## Ombudsman publishes new ad hoc report on Azerbaijan's policy of hatred towards Armenians



Armenia's Human Rights Defender Arman Tatoyan has published a new ad hoc report on Azerbaijani policy of hatred and animosity against Armenians after the 44-day war.

This report is based on objective evidence, concrete facts that have collected through the daily work of the Ombudsman's Office.

Below are the main points of the report as outlined by the Human Rights Defender:

1). After the war, the Azerbaijani authorities continued the state policy of propaganda of hatred and enmity.

- 2). It has 2 pillars: ethnic and religious.
- 3). It is not only about rhetoric, but a real policy implemented for years (education, culture, sports, etc.). Therefore, it is not right to speak only of rhetoric.
- 4). This policy is the real source of human rights violations by the Azerbaijani armed forces in Armenia before, during and after the war, including war crimes and various atrocities.
- 5). Hatred and propaganda of hostility are a source of political life for the Azerbaijani authorities, a way to divert their own people from internal problems: it has not decreased and will not decrease.
- 6). Religious hatred acquires new and extremely dangerous developments, accusing the Armenian people of Islamophobia without any ground. This

brings with it new manifestations of the destruction of churches, the abolition of their Armenian identity, and the torture of Armenian captives. The report presents historical facts to show the real respect of the Armenian Church and our people for Islam.

7). Azerbaijan's policy of hatred incites hostility between the two peoples worldwide, which is also dangerous for other countries where Armenians and Azeris live.

8). Azerbaijani calls for peace have no honest motives, they are false, they are a veil for the outside world. Peace is the highest value for us, hostility is not acceptable, but there is no real peace at the expense of the rights of one party, peace does not mean hatred. Therefore, we must not forget about all this. We need real guarantees to protect our rights.

## Armenia and Canada united by strong ties and common values – MFA

Despite the geographical distance, Armenia and Canada are united by strong ties and common approaches based on the common values of democracy, protection of human rights and the rule of law, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“On January 31, Armenia and Canada celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. These three decades have been marked by the establishment of a strong political dialogue between the two countries with mutually beneficial and effective cooperation, warm and friendly relations. The unique role of the Armenian community is significant in the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries and peoples,” the Min-

istry said.

“Despite the geographical distance, Armenia and Canada are united by strong ties and common approaches based on the common values of democracy, protection of human rights and the rule of law. The official recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Canada in 2004 was a clear demonstration of the primacy of those principles and the restoration of justice,” it added.

“The official visit of the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau to Armenia in 2018 was prominent, which gave a new quality to the Armenian-Canadian bilateral cooperation. The special mission established by the Government of Canada to support the democratic development of Armenia is intended to be a key tool in achieving above mentioned goals,” the



statement reads.

Noting that inter-parliamentary dialogue and Parliamentary diplomacy have a notable place in Armenian-Canadian bilateral relations, the Foreign Ministry appreciated Canada's support for the capacity building of the Armenian Parliament.

“Armenia is ready to further strengthen the Armenian-Canadian bilateral relations, raising it to a qualitatively new level,” the Ministry concluded.

UK is committed to supporting clean energy, and is currently supporting a collaboration with EBRD and the Business Support Office to identify opportunities to integrate green growth principles into business activities in Armenia. This will work towards multiple objectives, including preserving the environment, unlocking prospects for greener growth and making Armenian businesses more competitive internationally. UK companies have also engaged with Armenian authorities on grid modernization and clean energy initiatives with Yerevan municipality.

So I think there are lots of opportunities for expanding bilateral trade – on these specific sectors, and more widely.

**Aram Sargsyan** - Are there any events planned on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations? Are high-level visits expected in the near future?

**Ambassador Gallagher** - We plan on a range of activities throughout 2022 to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Obviously, the pandemic situation makes the organization of any large-scale events difficult at the current moment. However, we hope to be in a position to go ahead with the traditional Queen's Birthday Party event in the summer, which will be an important opportunity to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. I am also looking forward very much to the visit of the Scotland football team in June, which should be a really fun occasion. As

for high level visits, I certainly hope there will be opportunities for senior visitors to come this year.

**Aram Sargsyan** - Regarding the regional developments around Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh in the post-war period: how do you see the comprehensive and long-term settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict? In other words, what is the UK's official stance on this? In this context, how would you comment on the statements of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev who claims that there "is no Nagorno Karabakh conflict anymore because they have resolved the conflict". Do you agree with the mentioned point that there is no Nagorno Karabakh conflict anymore after the 44-day war in 2020?

**Ambassador Gallagher** - The UK position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has not changed. We do not view the conflict as resolved. The UK wants to see a comprehensive peace settlement on Nagorno-Karabakh reached as soon as possible, on the basis of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs' Basic Principles. We fully support the efforts of the American, French and Russian Co-Chairs and encourage the sides to engage constructively in the negotiation process.

We strongly encourage further progress on humanitarian issues such as the return of all prisoners of war and detainees, demining, and investigations into all allegations of human rights violations. It is vital for the region's future stability and prosperity that ongoing issues are resolved through a

negotiated, peaceful process.

**Aram Sargsyan** - How do you assess the negotiation process by the Russian mediation towards unblocking the transport and economic connections, delimitation and demarcation of state borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

**Ambassador Gallagher** - We do not have any direct oversight of the trilateral working group processes, but we would view progress on delimitation, demarcation and restoring transport and economic connections as a positive step. The UK fully supports the development of peaceful relations in the region.

**Aram Sargsyan** - What is your comment on the new round of Armenian-Turkish dialogue towards normalization, the first meeting of which was held in Moscow on 14 January 2022. What kind of role could the UK play in this process as an important actor in international relations?

**Ambassador Gallagher** - Similar to the previous question, the UK is not part of the negotiations process, but we would view positively any progress towards Armenia-Turkey normalization. From what has been reported, both sides already appear to be taking positive steps towards re-engagement. I believe that actions that enable more contact and cooperation between the people of both countries are a good thing and that open borders offer greater opportunities for both countries to realize their potential.

**Interview by Aram Sargsyan**

## A network of TUMO centers and boxes to open in Germany



TUMO and the KfW Development Bank signed an agreement to establish a network of TUMO centers and boxes in Germany.

During the signing event, Chief Digital Officer of KfW, Michael Strauss, stated that "Opening TUMO Berlin was a significant first step and provides an excellent resource for teens in Berlin. Signing to-

day's agreement is a major evolution because it provides a framework to scale the success in Berlin across Germany. We look forward to seeing more TUMO centers in Germany."

The event was attended by German Deputy Ambassador in Armenia Klaus Wendelberger, the leadership of the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, and representatives from the KfW Development Bank. In his address, TUMO's head of development Pegor Papazian emphasized, "Our German partners are pioneering with us the concept of TUMO as a national initiative, with all the benefits of increased efficiency, reduced cost, and, most importantly, a more widely distributed positive impact on the next generation of innovators nationwide."

The story behind the launch of the TUMO center in Berlin dates back to 2018, when the former German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited the Yerevan headquarters. TUMO Berlin was launched in January 2020, initiating TUMO's partnership with KfW. The center will soon mark its second anniversary.

The upcoming German centers will adopt the TUMO Berlin experience with ten learning areas: programming, music, robotics, animation, 3D modeling, filmmaking, game development, graphic design, drawing, and photography.

With an international network of centers in countries such as France, Russia, Albania, Ukraine, and Lebanon, TUMO's next locations include cities in the U.S. and Portugal.

## Azerbaijani Laundromat: UK court orders Azerbaijani politician to forfeit £5.6m



A multimillionaire Azerbaijani politician and his family have been ordered to hand over £5.6m of suspect funds brought into the UK via a complex money-laundering scheme nicknamed the “Azerbaijani laundromat.”

Through the laundromat, money would be moved via a complex network of shell companies that operated bank accounts in Estonia and Latvia, a process known as layering. Some of these transfers were accompanied by documents, including invoices and contracts, purporting to support legitimate and very substantial business transactions.

A judge on Monday ordered that Javan-shir Feyziyev and his family forfeit £5.63m held in various bank accounts after ruling the funds “arise from criminal conduct” and “money laundering.”

The National Crime Agency (NCA)

said Feyziyev, a serving member of the Azerbaijan parliament, brought millions of pounds of illicit wealth into the UK via the laundromat.

The money laundering scheme was revealed in 2017 when confidential banking records were leaked to the Danish newspaper Berlingske.

The data showed that the Azerbaijani leadership, accused of serial human rights abuses, systemic corruption and rigging elections, made more than 16,000 covert payments between 2012 and 2014 – worth on average about \$3m a day.

The National Crime Agency (NCA), which is investigating the international money laundering ring, had applied to the court to seize £15.3m of suspect funds from the family.

Westminster magistrates court district judge John Zani ruled on Monday that Feyziyev, his wife Parvana Feyziyeva, their son Orkhan, and a nephew, Elman Javanshir, must hand over a total of £5.6m after finding “key elements of money laundering”.

The NCA said the judge agreed there was “overwhelming evidence” that documents the family supplied to support their claims that the funds were generated lawfully were “entirely fictitious and were

produced in order to mask the underlying money-laundering activities of those orchestrating the accounts”.

Feyziyev, who lives in a multimillion-pound Grade I-listed John Nash-designed mansion overlooking Regent’s Park in London, is chair of the UK-Azerbaijan all-parliamentary cooperation committee and co-chair of the EU parliament’s equivalent body.

Andy Lewis, head of civil recovery at the NCA, said: “This is a substantial forfeiture of money laundered through the Azerbaijan laundromat, and our success highlights the risk to anyone who uses these schemes.

“We were able to recover these millions without needing to prove the exact nature of the original criminal activity. We will continue to use civil powers to target money entering the UK via illegitimate means.”

Ben Russell, Deputy Director of the National Economic Crime Centre, said: “This case demonstrates the NCA’s commitment to investigating and seizing the proceeds of international corruption and associated money laundering. The UK is hostile to illicit finance, and will use every available tool to tackle it.”

## Russia, China oppose further enlargement of NATO, urge all countries to build dialogue

Russia and China call on all states to strengthen dialogue and mutual trust, according to a joint statement adopted by the two countries on Friday.

Mr. Putin and China’s Xi Jinping held talks ahead of the Winter games opening ceremony.

“The sides call on all States to pursue well-being for all and, towards this end, build dialogue and mutual trust, strengthen mutual understanding, champion such universal human values as peace, development, equality, justice, democracy, and freedom, respect the rights of peoples to independently determine the development paths of their countries,” the statement reads.

Moscow and Beijing also stress the need “to protect the United Nations-driven international architecture and

the international law-based world order, seek genuine multipolarity with the United Nations and its Security Council playing a central and coordinating role, promote more democratic international relations, and ensure peace, stability, and sustainable development across the world.

In a lengthy statement the sides accuse NATO of “espousing a Cold War ideology.” “Certain States, military and political alliances and coalitions seek to obtain, directly or indirectly, unilateral military advantages to the detriment of the security of others, including by employing unfair competition practices, intensify geopolitical rivalry, fuel antagonism and confrontation, and seriously undermine the international security order and global strategic stability,” they noted.

The sides said they oppose fur-



ther enlargement of NATO and called on the North Atlantic Alliance “to abandon its ideologized cold war approaches, to respect the sovereignty, security and interests of other countries, the diversity of their civilizational, cultural and historical backgrounds, and to exercise a fair and objective attitude towards the peaceful development of other States.”

## Yerevan State Medical University and Weber State University of Utah agree to develop partnership



Based on agreement reached with the leadership of Weber State University during the visit to the State of Utah of Consul General of Armenia Ambassador Armen Baibourtian in July of the last year, the Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles organized the visit of Professor Yervand Sahakyan, Vice-Rector for External Affairs and International Partnerships of the Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi (YSMU) to the Weber State University in Ogden on January 26, 2022.

The purpose of the visit was to hold discussions with the leadership of Weber State University to forge a partnership with Dumke College of Health Professions. Weber State University was founded in 1889 and presently has a student population of 29,000.

Vice-Rector Prof. Yervand Sahakyan was introduced to the structure of Weber State University and got acquainted with its academic curricula, the methodology of students' training and acquisition of practical working skills, applied educational principles, as well as the directions of research work. Furthermore, meetings were held with the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Ravi Krovi, Dean and Presidential Distinguished Professor Yasmien Simonian, Associate Dean and Professor Ken Johnson, Dean/Senior Inter-

national Officer Dr. Yimin Wang, with the heads and leaders of various departments of Weber State University. Prof. Yasmien Simonian was instrumental in organizing those meetings.

As a result, an agreement was reached to establish working relations and prospective partnership, and in the near future to start an exchange process of educational and methodological experience, conduct joint researches, and launch student exchange programs.

During the visit, Vice-Rector Prof. Yervand Sahakyan was accompanied by Ohannes Hovig Megerdichian, the Parish Council Chair of the Armenian Community of Utah numbering 2,000, and by YSMU graduate Dr. Artur Arakelyan.

## Yerevan State University to cooperate with California's higher education institutions

Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles Ambassador Armen Baibourtian met with the Rector of Yerevan State University (YSU) Dr. Hovhannes Hovhannisyian, Head of YSU International Cooperation Office Dr. Alexander Markarov, and Director of YSU Center for American Studies Dr. Vahagn Aglyan at the Consulate General. The YSU delegation arrived in Los Angeles from Arizona, where YSU enjoys partnership relationship with Arizona State University.

Rector Hovhannisyian and members of the delegation discussed with Ambassador Baibourtian their intent to establish cooperation with public and private universities and colleges in California. One of the prime objectives of the cooperation agenda was the establishment of close ties with the institutes and centers of Armenian Studies at various American educational institutions in the West Coast. Ambassador Baibourtian expressed his full support to the YSU's initiative in establishing close ties with the U.S. higher education institutions in California.

Organized by the Consulate General of Armenia, a meeting was held at the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) with its President Dr. Erika D. Beck, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Mary B. Walker, and



with the Director of the University's Armenian Studies Program Dr. Vahram Shemmassian. Consequently, in a friendly and warm atmosphere, the participants of the meeting mutually introduced each other to Yerevan State University and California State University in Northridge, and outlined the areas for prospective cooperation. In fact, several thousand Armenian students study at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), which serves as an additional boosting factor for establishing and developing close mutual cooperation and partnership. President Erika D. Beck gladly accepted Rector Hovhannisyian's invitation to visit Armenia in the Fall of the current year to get acquainted with YSU on the spot and to launch one or two cooperation projects in the scope of discussed cooperation.

Accompanied by Ambassador Bai-

bourtian, the YSU delegation also visited the construction site of the Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California located in the city of Glendale. Executive Chairman of the Museum Berdj Karapetian and architect of the Museum building Aram Alajajian presented to Rector Hovhannisyian the details of the Armenian American Museum's project, designed to become a world class cultural and educational center. During the meeting, which continued at the Consulate General, an agreement was reached that YSU will support with the realization of the content of the Armenian American Museum. In addition, it was agreed upon that the YSU students can have their internship at the Museum after opening of its doors.

On February 1, upon the initiative of Dr. Baibourtian, the YSU delegation visited Glendale Community College (GCC), where a meeting was held with the President of the Board of Trustees Dr. Armine Hacopian, Board member Sevan Benlian, GCC Superintendent/President Dr. David Viar and Vice President of Instructional Services Dr. Michael Ritterbrown. The GCC leaders presented the College's structure, governing and academic system, its educational opportunities, and the many services provided to its multiethnic student pop-

➔ page 13



A young ex-servicemember and IT engineer created a modern air defense system designed for new generation warfare.

Albert Hovakimyan, the winner of the 100 Ideas for Armenia project, is calling his innovation the Dragon Reaper (Vis-hapakagh).

It is an automated optical detection active anti-air defense system, he explains.

According to Hovakimyan, the Dragon Reaper is needed today because there are virtually no alternatives which would reliably and effectively protect from loitering munitions, particularly the Israeli-made Harops which are in the Azeri military's arsenal Hovakimyan says the development of these loitering munitions, aka kamikaze

## “Dragon Reaper” – Young engineer, winner of 100 Ideas for Armenia, works on drone-killing air defense system

drones, is leading to a situation where the size of the drones are getting smaller, while the number of the strike groups is increasing, and the software is shifting to artificial intelligence.

“This project is a solution requiring minimal industrial resources using modern, accessible digital technologies and tools, it has a modular structure in principle, which are connected to each other with a local network and can be used with different modular combinations and options. It is the connecting, combining and deployment of already existing measures, some of them in production in Armenia, with the use of modern solutions and software, which will together be the active air defense system, while minimal energy and human resources will be needed for its operation. It is unique in the sense that the principles of existing radio-detecting guiding and radio-electronic suppression methods will be

used with optical solutions,” Hovakimyan said, adding that the system won't require a direct permanent maintenance, and it will work under the “deploy and forget” principle.

Hovakimyan says his system can potentially replace the manned air monitoring positions and thus save lives during possible threats.

“The project is still in phase 1 research. Having skills and knowledge in air defense and programming, I can certainly say that a little team work from the rather developed IT sector specialists of Armenia can lead to very big results,” he added.

The 100 Ideas for Armenia competition is a youth project organized by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport for encouraging young people to be interested in science and propose innovations. The competition has more than 20 categories and includes various sectors.

## Press collection of the Mekhitarist Library now online

The Mekhitarist Congregation's journal collection and its portal website are now live, featuring digitized Armenian press published between 1794 and 1920, in a free and accessible format, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation informs.

To date, the [online library](#) of the Mekhitarist press and its corresponding databases have been endowed with more than 400,000 pages of digitized Armenian newspapers and periodicals from the rich collection of the Mekhitarist Monastery of Vienna. The digitization of these materials and making them available to the public is made possible through the collaboration

between the Mekhitarist Congregation, the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Fundamental Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

The portal website gives the reader and researcher access to the Mekhitarist Congregation digital library content via one address: an address that directs the visitor to all the digitized and indexed materials stored in the databases of the RA Fundamental Scientific Library. Digitization is continuous, and new materials will be added periodically as additional journals



are digitized.

Addressing the great and immediate need for accessibility, the goal of the collaboration is to make this great pan-Armenian wealth of knowledge and collective heritage available to all free of charge, ensuring its wide and easy accessibility.

page 12 ➔

ulation. It was highlighted that 4,600 Armenian students study at GCC, which constitutes another incentive for creating bridges of partnership between YSU and GCC. The YSU leaders presented YSU as the mother university of Armenia, with its various educational programs and educational opportunities catered towards foreign students. Among the cooperation priorities, the need was outlined to enable GCC students to study for a semester at YSU in Ye-

revan this summer in the framework of the Study Abroad program. In order to solidify the partnership objective, the interlocutors agreed to draft and subsequently to sign a memorandum of cooperation, specifying the areas of mutual interest.

Accompanied by Consul General Baidourian, the YSU delegation visited the Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, discussing the matters related

to supporting the educational programs of the YSU.

The YSU delegation also had a virtual meeting with Dr. Ann Karagozian, Inaugural Director of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, devising plans of mutually beneficial plans of cooperation. A meeting with Prof. Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Chair of Armenian Studies and Director of the Center for World Languages at UCLA also took place, where matters of cooperation were touched upon.

## Winter Olympic Games open in Beijing: Armenia represented by five athletes

The 2022 Winter Olympics officially opened in Beijing on February 4 with a solemn ceremony at the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest.

Around 2,900 athletes will compete in the events. There will be 15 sports held at the Winter Olympics in Beijing this year.

The 15 Winter Olympic sports in 2022 are bobsled, luge, skeleton, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, short track speed skating, curling, alpine skiing, free-

style skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ski jumping and Nordic combined.

Beijing 2022 organizers have vowed to deliver a “simple, safe and splendid” Games for the world.

Armenia is represented by five athletes – skiers Mikayel Mikayelyan, Katya Galstyan and Angelina Muradyna, figure skaters Tina Garabedian and Simon Senecal. Alpine skier Harutyun Harutyunyan



tested positive for Covid-19 and is likely to miss the event.

Tina Garabedian and Mikayel Mikayelyan were the flag bearers of Armenia.



## Unique Armenian steel tombstone found in Tbilisi

The tombstone of Egor (Gevorg) of the famous Loris-Melikov family with Armenian inscriptions was found during the renovation of one

of the private houses in Tbilisi. Thanks to the efforts of Tbilisi-based Armenian public figure Levon Chidilyan, it was moved to the yard of St. Etchmiadzin Church in Havlabar.

“The tombstone is unique in several respects; it belongs to the Loris-Melikov family. We know who this man is, we know his roots. Secondly, it is made of

steel, which is already rare. It's only in the yard of the Armenian church in Telavi that I have seen steel tombstones in Georgia,” Chidilyan said in an interview with *Public Radio of Armenia correspondent Gita Elibekyan*.

Lieutenant Colonel Gevorg Loris-Melikov was the Special Envoy of the Caucasus Viceroyalty in Tiflis (modern-day Tbilisi). His sons were high-ranking military men – Major General Hovhannes (Ivan) Loris-Melikov and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Loris-Melikov.

The newly-found tombstone is a steel mold about 1.65 meters high, 80 meters wide, which was used as a building material. Gevorg Loris-Melikov died in 1860. The district (Eliava), where the tombstone was located did not exist at that time.

Chidilyan believes someone could have

moved it to that neighborhood during the Reed Terror to use as building material.

Under the Communists, in the early 1930s, the churches were already closed, and their destruction had begun. Tens of thousands of tombstones from churchyards were used as building materials for the construction of the main buildings envisaged by the master plan of Tiflis.

During the renovations carried out in different parts of Tbilisi, more than 10 Armenian tombstones have been discovered in recent years. Representatives of the Armenian community save them from becoming construction waste by moving them to the Pantheon of Armenian Writers and Public Figures in Khojivank. Gevorg Loris-Melikov's steel tombstone with Armenian letters is in the yard of St. Etchmiadzin Church and is kept as a relic.



The Armenian Wirestock company has raised \$2.3 million to help visual content creators earn passive income, *Tech Times* reports.

The company just raised a round of investments with participation from Vulcan Capital, 2048 Ventures, Graph Ventures, A. Partners, I2BF, S7V and others. A no-brainer service for visual creators, Wirestock will be adding more monetization channels, API integrations with creative

## Wirestock: Armenian company raises \$2.3M to help visual content creators earn passive income

platforms and ability to sell NFTs in the near future.

Wirestock is a new platform that helps visual content creators monetize their photos, graphics and videos in seconds. The platform automates content tagging and gives creators one-door access to the largest content marketplaces including Shutterstock, Adobe, Pond5, Alamy, Freepik and many others.

Creators simply post their content with a few clicks and start getting sales from multiple marketplaces through their Wirestock account. The company has helped creators generate over \$1 million in sales in 2021 alone and is projected to grow ten-

fold in 2022.

Talented creators from all over the world are joining the platform with more than 5 million files already uploaded. Thousands of them are also making money by generating sales on 10+ marketplaces; something they would have never even considered doing prior.

“Millions of people produce commercial content without even being aware of it. Wirestock has become really good at finding such creators and helping them sell their visual work online. That is why for many of them, it's their first experience earning money with their content,” says Mikayel Khachatryan, CEO of Wirestock.

# 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



Kitchen, Refrigerator  
Safe, TV, Internet

All Conveniences  
Air Conditioned  
Apartments



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.



## Armenian Identity Card

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

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

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

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

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.
- Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

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

### Armenia Office of the Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) Organization

Address: 1 Amiryar str., Yerevan, RA, 0001 (In Armenia Marriott Hotel)

Phone: +374 55 509050,  
+374 91777739:

E-mail: [armenia@hyeid.org](mailto:armenia@hyeid.org),  
Website: [armenia.hyeid.org](http://armenia.hyeid.org)



# AZAD

## AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

### Switzerland

#### AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

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

#### AZAD Pharma AG

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

### Canada

#### AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

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

#### Atlit Inc.

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

### China

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

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

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

### Germany

#### AZAD Pharma GmbH

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

### Armenia

#### AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

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



The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող  
ՆՏ Հորինիգ ԱՊԸ

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

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

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

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604

Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝  
03ԱՑ98368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
Registration certificate and the date:  
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)  
URL: [www.nt.am](http://www.nt.am)

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

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

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

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009