

Presidents of Armenia, Finland meet in Tbilisi

The Presidents of Armenia and Finland Armen Sarkissian and Sauli Niinistö had a meeting in Tbilisi.

President Sarkissian hailed the stable development of Armenian-Finnish ties over the 25 five years of diplomatic relations. He attached importance to continued high-level political dialogue and invited his Finnish counterpart to visit Armenia.



According to President Sarkissian, as small countries, Armenia and Finland share a number of similarities that serve a good basis for expanding the framework of cooperation.

Finland's President, in turn, said they closely followed the recent changes in Armenia and were glad to see a civilized and peaceful solution.

The parties referred to the perspectives of Armenia-EU relations after the signing of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and exchanged views on regional and global issues.

Armenian, Georgian Presidents discuss perspectives of inter-state relations

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian met with his Georgian counterpart Giorgi Margvelashvili in Tbilisi.

The Armenian President thanked Margvelashvili for the invitation to participate in the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of restoration of Georgia's statehood and for the warm welcome.

He noted that Armenia will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the First Republic in a few days and said that the idea of independence lies in the basis of this historic jubilee for the two peoples.

President Sarkissian hailed the



good-neighborly relations with Georgia, which continue to develop in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

"The active inter-state dialogue based on traditional friendship and understanding between our peoples creates serious prerequisites for outlining new directions of cooperation," he said.

The Presidents of the two countries referred to the recent changes in Armenia and the perspectives of development of Armenian-Georgian relations.

The Armenian President invited his Georgian counterpart to Armenia.



Armenia Marks 100th Anniversary of the First Republic

from page 1

The parade also featured tributes to hundreds of thousands of Armenians who fought, mostly as Soviet Red Army soldiers, against Nazi



Germany in the Second World War. Troops from the Russian military base in Armenia also participated in it.

Addressing the event, PM Nikol Pashinyan said that what happened on May 28, 1918 was unprecedented in the history of the Armenian people, as for the first time a state was established, where the power belonged to people and citizens.

"The Armenian people created one of the most glorious victories in history in Bash-Aparan and Sardarapat, crushing Turkish troops, and the proclamation of the First Republic became the crown of that victory," the Prime Minister said.

According to him, the Armenian people won,



because for the first time in 400 years the Armenian people relied on themselves, not others. "The Armenian people won because they understood that the nation state is the only guarantor of identity and dignity, that only the state belonging to us – citizens – can ensure the protection of our rights, our security and future," the Prime Minister said.



Artak Davtyan appointed new Armenian army chief

Armenia's President Armen Sarkissian signed a decree on May 24 to appoint Major General Artak Davtyan as the Chief of General Staff of the Armenian Armed Forces.

Earlier, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan introduced Davtyan in a post on his Facebook page.

Artak Davtyan served as the Chief of



Operative Department of the army's General Staff from 2009 to 2017. He took the position of the Commander of the 5th Army Corps of the Armenian Armed Forces in 2017.

Former Army Chief Movses Hakobyan, who was relieved of his duties earlier on Thursday, has been appointed Chief Military Inspector.

Armenia's Foreign Minister receives Francophonie delegation

On May 24, Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan received Jean-Louis Atangana Amougou, Director of the office of the Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie and Hervé Ladsous, Special Advisor to the Secretary General.

Welcoming the guests, Minister Mnatsakanyan underlined that the authorities of our country attach great importance to the organization of the Summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie, and the upcoming presidency in the



highest body of the organization is among the main priorities of Armenia's foreign policy.

Expressing gratitude for warm reception, Jean-Louis Atangana Amougou conveyed the con-

gratulations and good wishes of the Secretary General addressed to Zohrab Mnatsakanyan on the occasion of appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The interlocutors discussed in

a detailed manner the process of preparations for the organization of the Summit of La Francophonie to be held in Yerevan in 2018. In this context Minister Mnatsakanyan briefed on the results of the consultations with the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in an enlarged format, stressing that Armenia has mobilized all the forces to ensure the high level conduct of the summit.

The participants of the meeting also discussed a number of substantial and organizational issues related to the summit.

Georgian, Armenian Leaders Meet In Tbilisi

Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili and his new Armenian counterpart Nikol Pashinyan pledged to give new impetus to relations between their nations after meeting for the first time in Tbilisi on May 30.

Pashinyan travelled to Georgia on a two-day official visit that comes three weeks after he was elected Armenia's prime minister following weeks of mass protests led by him.

Kvirikashvili mentioned the dramatic events in Yerevan when he addressed reporters after the talks. "The Armenian people demonstrated unity and commitment to the principles of democracy which led to a peaceful change of government," he said. "I will take this opportunity to wish you success."

"I believe that together we can give new impetus to bilateral relations with the country and the people with which we are connected by centuries-old friendship," add-

ed Kvirikashvili.

"Our delegation arrived in Tbilisi to affirm our readiness to discuss all issues in an atmosphere of brotherhood and friendship," Pashinyan said for his part. "We are convinced that this atmosphere and mood could lead to very serious developments in our relations, and I am very happy to conclude that Georgia's government and prime minister personally are also intent on further developing our relations."

He spoke of new opportunities to "impart great momentum and great energy" to bilateral ties and "deepen them in all directions."

Pashinyan said he also discussed with Kvirikashvili regional security. "We need to make joint efforts in this area as well because stability in the region is important to all of us and is also an important prerequisite for further developments," he told the joint news conference.



In a statement on the talks, the Armenian government said the two premiers discussed in detail "a broad range" of economic issues which dominated Kvirikashvili's most recent trip to Yerevan in early March. "The interlocutors noted with satisfaction the level of Georgian-Armenian cooperation on energy and attached importance to prospects for a further development in the area of transport and communication," it said.

Late last week Pashinyan's gov-

ernment praised Georgia and Russia for moving closer to opening new Russian-Georgian transport corridors that would facilitate cargo shipments to and from Armenia. Russian and Georgian negotiators reported further progress towards the implementation of a 2011 agreement to that effect after a fresh round of talks held in Prague on May 24.

Pashinyan is scheduled to visit Georgia's Javakheti region mostly populated by ethnic Armenians.

The process of building a free and happy Armenia irreversible – PM

The process of building a free and happy Armenia is irreversible, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said, addressing the annual meeting of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Board of Trustees.

According to him, the political developments that took place in Armenia in April-May gave fresh impetus to the national consolidation.

“We have already announced the Government’s priorities, the most important of which is the preservation of the flair for victory in the citizens of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people in order to give it a permanent character,” PM Pashinyan said.

He noted that another top priority for the government is the fight against corruption, ranging from electoral fraud to corruption in the system of public administration and the judiciary.

“I wish to state that the Government has already taken successful steps to that effect. The process shall continue until we all realize that corruption has been eradicated as a systemic phenomenon in the Republic of Armenia,” he added.

Finally, he said, the most important conceptual and ideological problem is to give an applicable definition to the Republic of Armenia as a State. “When the Republic of Armenia was being founded in 1991, it seemed that

everything was fine, but I feel that we have committed a conceptual failure. We did not clearly state why the Armenian people founded the Republic of Armenia as a State.”

“We are convinced that the Republic of Armenia was established by the Armenian people for the following purposes: concentrating the human, financial, intellectual, scientific, economic, spiritual potential of the Armenian people or its significant part on its own territory and ensuring security and natural development for that potential,” Pashinyan stated.

“On this very conceptual basis, we see the further development of the Republic of Armenia, and this conceptual basis is just what we should be guided by on the way to a free and happy Armenia,” he added.

“We believe that, as a mid-term outcome of this process, the millennia-long wheel of Armenian people’s emigration must eventually stop and turn back, and the Armenians should eventually start a strategic process of concentration in the Republic of Armenia, strong with Armenian citizenship as an institution, and provide for the security and normal development of the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh. That is, the Republic of Armenia should ensure the safety and normal development of the Armenian people. The Armenian people must ensure the



security and normal development of the Republic of Armenia,” the Prime Minister noted.

“Thus, we are moving along this path towards a free and happy Armenia, and we are convinced that we have already laid an important milestone on the way to building

the country of our dreams. We are convinced that this process is irreversible, and the Armenian people, the citizens of the Republic of Armenia have triumphed already. That victory is irreversible and is to be continued,” Nikol Pashinyan concluded.



"Many people" questioned in Armenian corruption probe

The new head of Armenia's National Security Service (NSS), Artur Vanetsyan, said on May 24 that it has already questioned many people as part of an unprecedented crackdown on corruption promised by him.

Vanetsyan said over the week-end that unnamed individuals who have long "enriched themselves through large-scale corruption schemes" will be exposed and held accountable soon. The NSS will strive to ensure that they compensate the state for public funds embezzled by them, he said.

Vanetsyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) on May 24 that these anti-graft measures have already begun and that "there will be revelations in the coming days."

"I can tell you that numerous individuals have been summoned [for questioning,] there



are detained individuals, efforts are underway, and the public will be informed about that in the coming days," he said. "This is a complex, difficult and large-scale effort which is in full swing. We need to make sure that nobody has any questions in connection with it."

"That is why we must do everything in a very professional way and for that we need a little

time," he added.

Vanetsyan also said that the interrogated persons gave "explanations" that confirmed "our preliminary operational information." He refused to clarify whether there are any current or former high-ranking officials among them.

The NSS chief was also asked to comment on rumors that his powerful security agency is

poised to implicate Yerevan's embattled Mayor Taron Markaryan in corrupt practices. "We don't deliberately prepare [incriminating] materials against any officials," he said. "We do our job. If we find out facts testifying to illegal activities of one or another person we perform our duties defined by the law."

Markaryan, who is affiliated with the former ruling Republican Party, is facing growing pressure to resign from Armenia's new government headed by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Vanetsyan, 38, is a career NSS officer who was named to run the security service two days after the Armenian parliament voted to choose Pashinyan as prime minister on May 8. Pashinyan has pledged, among other things, to "root out" endemic corruption in the country.

Head of NATO Liaison Office in the South Caucasus visits Armenia



The National Defense Research University, MOD, Armenia hosted the Head of the NATO Liaison Office in the South Caucasus, Dr. Rosaria Puglisi. Dr. Benyamin Poghosyan, the NDRU Deputy Head for Research – INSS head, received the guest.

University research fellows also took part in the meeting. Dr. Poghosyan briefed the guest about University's activities and struc-

ture. The recent domestic developments as well as Armenia's foreign policy priorities were discussed during the meeting.

Dr. Puglisi highly appreciated the role of the NDRU as a US National Defense University model based academic format defense security dialogue platform for organizing expert level discussions with Washington, Moscow and Brussels.

French city of Bouc-Bel-Air hosts Days of Artsakh

Events within the frameworks of the 'Days of Artsakh in France' Festival started in the French town of Bouc-Bel-Air on May 23 and will last till May 30.



Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh to France Hovhannes Gevorgyan, Mayor of Bouc-Bel-Air, former MP, founding member of the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle Richard Malie, Mayor of Les Pennes-Mirabeau town Monique Slissa, Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Marseilles Ruben Kharazyan, Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Armenian Unions of Southern France Oror Bruna,

continued on page 8

Yerevan hails progress towards new Russian-Georgian trade routes

The Armenian government praised Georgia and Russia on May 25 for moving closer to opening new Russian-Georgian transport corridors that would facilitate cargo shipments to and from Armenia.

Russian and Georgian negotiators reported further progress towards the implementation of a 2011 agreement to that effect after a fresh round of talks held in Prague on Thursday.

The agreement calls for re-opening two roads connecting Georgia to Russia via the break-away Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The two sides have contracted a Swiss company, SGS, to set up special customs checkpoints on the administrative boundaries of the two territories.

The chief Russian negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Grig-

ory Karasin, said they agreed to set up a joint task force that will try to work out practical modalities of operating the new trade routes. Those include issues such as “where and how the customs checkpoints will be functioning,” Karasin told RFE/RL in Prague.

“This is serious work which will probably take several months” he said.

“We are now entering the phase of the agreement’s implementation,” Karasin’s Georgian opposite number, Zurab Abashidze, said for his part. He said the Georgian government supports the launch of the new corridors.

Landlocked Armenia’s trade with Russia, its leading commercial partner, is mainly carried out through the sole Russian-Georgian border crossing at Upper Lars. Traffic along that mountainous road is periodically



blocked by bad weather, especially in winter months. Hence, Yerevan’s strong interest in having alternative trade routes.

Armenia’s Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan welcomed the “positive movement” in the long-running Russian-Georgian talks. “We highly appreciate the parties’ readiness and efforts to implement that agreement

extremely important to us,” he wrote on Facebook.

Avinyan also said that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan discussed the matter with Russian President Vladimir Putin at their May 14 meeting in Sochi.

Incidentally, Pashinyan is scheduled to visit Tbilisi and meet with Georgia’s leaders next week.

French FM visits Armenia, Urges closer ties

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called for the expansion of France’s cordial relationship with Armenia on May 28 during a visit to Yerevan timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Armenian republic.

Le Drian emphasized the fact that he is the first high-level foreign official to visit the South Caucasus state since the recent dramatic change of its government.

“Armenia is at a turning point in its history,” he said after talks with his new Armenian counterpart, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. “We welcome the responsibility shown by political forces and the Armenia people [during the political crisis,] which allowed the election of a new prime minister [on May 8.]”

“I am very proud of being the first high-ranking foreign official to visit new Armenia and meet its new leaders,” he told a



joint news briefing with Mnatsakanyan. “France will continue to stand with Armenia and help it to build democracy.”

Le Drian, who met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan later in the day, also reaffirmed France’s strong support for Armenia’s efforts to forge closer links with the European Union. He stressed the significance of a wide-ranging agreement which the previous Armenian government signed with the EU last November.

Mnatsakanyan also empha-

sized the “privileged” character of French-Armenian relations. He said he and Le Drian held a “productive discussion” on bilateral ties and regional security.

Those ties stem in large measure from the existence of an influential Armenian community in France. Yerevan will underline them when it hosts in October a summit of Francophonie, a grouping of over 70 mainly French-speaking nations.

Preparations for the summit

were also high on the agenda of Le Drian’s talks in Yerevan. The minister reaffirmed that French President Emmanuel Macron’s plans to travel to Armenia in October on a state visit that will be followed by his participation in the Franco-phonie summit.

With France co-heading the OSCE Minsk Group together with Russia and the United States, the two ministers also discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Le Drian called for renewed efforts at a negotiated solution to the conflict, saying that “both the status quo and the use of force are not acceptable.”

“We reaffirm Armenia’s commitment to a solely peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem,” Mnatsakanyan said for his part. “My colleague and I agreed that an atmosphere conducive to peace is important for the success of the process.”

Hovannes Movsisian

U.S. Offers To Help New Armenian Government



The United States stands ready to help Armenia's new government combat corruption and attract more U.S. investments in the Armenian economy, a senior U.S. State Department official said during a visit to Yerevan on May 28.

Bridget Brink, the deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs, met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for the first time since he swept to power in a democratic revolution earlier this month. She also held separate talks with President Armen Sarkissian and Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan.

"She welcomed the Prime Minister's stated commitment to fight corruption and offered continued U.S. support for anti-corruption efforts," the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan said in a statement.

According to the statement, Brink told Mnatsakanyan that Washing-

ton is committed to "working with the new government to strengthen bilateral ties and attract additional U.S. investment." "She pointed to the U.S.-Armenia Task Force (USATF) as an opportunity to make real progress in advancing mutual goals," added the statement.

Pashinyan was reported to tell the visiting U.S. official that his government would like to deepen Armenia's ties with the U.S. "in all areas, including the political and economic ones, democracy building and human rights protection." He reiterated that the fight against corruption is one of its top priorities.

The unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was also on the agenda of Brink's talks in Yerevan. The U.S. Embassy cited her as saying that Washington will "remain actively engaged with the sides in seeking a peaceful solution" to the dispute.

Pashinyan's press office said the Armenian premier stressed in that regard the importance of "creating and strengthening an atmosphere aimed at peace." It gave no details.

The U.S. diplomat also met with a group of local youth activists. "I am heartened by the spirit of the Armenian people, and especially encouraged by you – the young leaders of Armenia – who have shown such passion and dedication to building a bright future for your country," she said, apparently alluding to their active participation in recent mass protests in the country.

Washington closely monitored the dramatic events that led to the resignation of Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan. The State Department repeatedly urged Armenia political factions to embark on dialogue. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wess Mitchell had phone conversations with Pashinyan and then Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on April 30.

Armenia's new government determined to continue close partnership with EU

Armenia's new government, formed on the wave of the nationwide love and solidarity movement, is determined to continue close partnership with the European Union, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said in an address on the occasion of Europe Day.

"Europe Day symbolizes peace and unity, which the modern Europe embodies the best. Indeed, lessons learned by Europe, which experienced two devastating world wars, can be a guiding way forward for the entire humanity. A stable, peaceful and developing society and a true citizen can be shaped only through respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, tolerance,

democracy and other common values," the Foreign Minister said.

He noted that since ancient times, Armenia has been a part of European civilization and tried to make its modest, but visible contribution to the latter's development. "Today, Armenia continues expanding its ties with the European Union and EU member states, strengthening its position in European structures, in particular in the Council of Europe, and contributing to the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe."

"Significant developments have been taking place in our relations with the EU since last year's celebration of the Europe Day. Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in November, 2017 and was ratified by Armenia in April of this year. It is not just a new legal instrument regulating relations between Armenia and EU, but an expression of partnership based on the common system of values. In February, we signed "the Armenia-EU Partnership Priorities" document, which along with the CEPA is the main guideline for further development of bilateral cooperation," Minister Mnatsakanyan said.

He added that the new agreement is a unique development plan with its clear goals and timetable, and its successful implementation will have a profound impact on almost all areas of public life.

"Armenia's new government, formed on the wave of the nationwide love and solidarity movement, is determined to continue close partnership with the European Union, remains committed to the established agenda, our commitment and vision to regional stability, peace and sustainable development," Armenia's top diplomat stated.



Armenian President, Elton John attend charity event in Yerevan

President Armen Sarkissian hosted world known British singer Elton John at his residence in Yerevan on May 27.

Armen Sarkissian and Elton John, along with Director of the Starkey Hearing Technologies William Austin attended an event dedicated to children with health problems at the “Yerevan, my love” foundation.

During the event 100 hearing aids were provided to children with hearing problems from different regions of Armenia and Artsakh.

During a three-day charity program the Starkey Hearing Technologies fund will donate 2,500 hearing aids to children and adults.



French city of Bouc-Bel-Air hosts Days of Artsakh

from page 5

members of the Town Council of Bouc-Bel-Air, representatives of public organizations, and journalists participated in the opening ceremony.



Within the frameworks of the week-long program of events, an exhibition of photos and graphic works dedicated to Artsakh, screening of documentary films on the cultural and agricultural cooperation between the friendly towns of Bouc-Bel-Air of France and Askeran of Artsakh, as well as the current situation in Artsakh are scheduled.

Members of Knesset defiant in face of Turkish threats over Armenian Genocide recognition



Lawmakers across the political spectrum called on the government not to heed Ankara's threats over the possibility that the Knesset will recognize the Armenian Genocide, the Jerusalem Post reports.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said on May 25, according to AFP, that "the fact that Israel is putting the events of 1915 at the same level as the Holocaust in World War II will lead it to hurt itself."

The comment came two days after the Knesset voted to add a motion to its agenda to discuss recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

The Knesset is expected to vote on recognition on Tuesday. In addition, Zionist Union MK Itzik Shmuli and Likud MK Amir Ohana submitted a bill to a similar effect.

Contrary to Aksoy's statement, the major proponents of recognition in the Knesset did not use the term "holocaust" in their related speeches and legislation; they called it a "genocide," instead.

Ohana accused Turkey's Foreign Ministry of "cynically and transparently using the word Holocaust to try to cheapen the severity and uniqueness of the Holocaust of the Jewish people. "I and

my friend MK Shmuli intentionally avoided using that term."

Ohana added that "the Armenian Genocide, the term we chose to use, is a catastrophe in and of itself. It's clear that recognizing history is uncomfortable for Turkey, but just because it doesn't like the past doesn't mean it can be erased or twisted."

Responding to Aksoy, Shmuli said: "1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered by the Turkish in death marches, with gas and in concentration camps, and if we deny history, it can repeat itself over and over again. The Jewish people especially cannot do this."

Shmuli added that he "hopes Netanyahu and his government have no intention to fold before [Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan, who bombs innocent civilians and dares to preach morals."

Meretz chairwoman Tamar Zandberg called on MKs from the coalition and opposition to "do the right thing."

"Recognizing the genocide is the moral and basic thing and cannot be dependent on politics. There are things that

are above politics, and this is one of them," she said.

Ohana told Ankara to "stop the hysterics," pointing out that 29 countries have already recognized the Armenian Genocide, and saying Turkey should take responsibility for what it did.

The move to recognize the Armenian Genocide comes at a time of heightened tensions between Israel and Turkey, after Ankara withdrew its ambassador from Israel to protest the IDF's response to riots on the Gaza border, and Jerusalem then recalled its ambassador to Turkey.

Zandberg and Edelstein both said on Wednesday that they do not think recognition should depend on Turkey-Israel relations. Zandberg proposed her motion before the latest diplomatic row, and Meretz has proposed a similar motion annually since 1989.

Edelstein said earlier last week: "Just think how we would feel if the reactions to the Holocaust would also be measured on a diplomatic scale: Is it worth recognizing or not? We would shout that this is immoral."

Armenian stresses the need for soonest ratification of EU deal

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received on May 29 Toivo Klaar, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

The Prime Minister attached importance to the continuous development of relations with the European Union and the constructive dialogue in all domains.

Nikol Pashinyan stressed the importance of ratification of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by all member states as soon as possible and voiced confidence that it would give new impetus to cooperation and contribute to the implementation of reforms in different spheres.

Toivo Klaar said he hopes the cooperation will keep expanding even after the agreement comes into force temporarily.

During the meeting the interlocutors discussed issues related to the Karabakh conflict settlement.

PM Pashinyan noted that Armenia remains committed to a peaceful settlement within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship format and attached importance to the



involvement of civil society in confidence-building measures, which, he said, will contribute to the formation of a constructive environment and advancement in talks.

The parties exchanged views on issues of reciprocal interest.

EMS Conference

Emil Artin International Conference

Dedicated to the 120th Anniversary of Emil Artin (03.07.1898-20.12.1962)

Yerevan, the Republic of Armenia, May 27-June 2, 2018.

The conference is organized by:

- Armenian Mathematical Union
- Yerevan State University
- American University of Armenia
- Committee of Emil Artin Junior Prize in Mathematics
- Institute of Mathematics of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
- University of Bergen

Academically supported by the Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum where specialists will meet to share ideas of latest research in Algebraic Structures, Mathematical Logic, Number Theory, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science.

The conference will be held at the Yerevan State University and American University of Armenia.

Conference Topics:

- Classical and non-classical Algebraic Structures,
- Algebra and Logics, Number Theory,
- Geometry and Topology, Analysis and Equations,
- Boolean and De Morgan functions, Cryptography and Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics,
- Universal Algebra, Computer Science and IT,
- Artin L-functions, Dynamical Systems,
- Quantum information theory, Quantum Logic and Quantum Computation, Quantum Groups and Quantum Quasigroups.

Invited speakers that confirmed their participation:

- Sergey Adian (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Ara Basmajian (City University of New York, Hunter College, USA)
- Lilya Budaghyan (Bergen University, Norway)
- Tullio Ceccherini-Silberstein (Universita' del Sannio, Italy)
- Rostislav Grigorchuk (Texas A&M University, USA)
- Alexander Guterman (Moscow State University, Russia)
- Vadim Kaimanovich (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Jörg Koppitz (Potsdam University, Germany)
- Aleksandar Krapež (Mathematical Institute SASA, Belgrade, Serbia)
- Hayk Melikyan (North Carolina Central University, USA)
- Daniele Mundici (University of Florence, Italy)
- Alexander Olshanskii (Vanderbilt University,



USA)

- Alexey Parshin (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Evgeny Plotkin (Bar Ilan University, Israel)
- Victor Pambuccian (Arizona State University, USA)
- Nikolay Romanovskiy (Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, Russia)
- Anna Romanowska (Warsaw University of Technology, Poland)
- Hanamantagouda Sankappanavar (State University of New York at New Paltz, USA)
- Armen Sergeev (Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Victor Shcherbacov (Institute of Informatics and Mathematics Moldova Academy of Sciences)
- Ivan Shestakov (São Paulo University, Brazil)
- Jonathan Smith (Iowa State University, USA)
- Katrin Tent (University of Münster, Germany)
- Anatoly Vershik (St.Petersburg Dept. of Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Mikhail Volkov (Ural Federal University, Russia)
- Efim Zelmanov (University of California, USA)
- Anatolii Zhuchok (Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine)

Program Committee:

- Sergey Adian (Russia)
- Erhard Aichinger (Austria)
- Ara Alexanian (Armenia)
- Michael Artin (USA)
- Aram Arutunov (Russia)
- Ara Basmajian (USA)
- Levon Beklaryan (Russia)

- George Bergman (USA)
- Melvin Fitting (USA)
- Pavel Gevorkyan (Russia)
- Michael Glukhov (Russia)
- Alexander Guterman (Russia)
- Arshak Hajian (USA)
- Guren Khachatryan (Armenia)
- Aleksandar Krapež (Serbia)
- Yuri Movsisyan (Chair, Armenia)
- Daniele Mundici (Italy)
- Victor Pambuccian (USA)
- Boris Plotkin (Israel)
- Anna Romanowska (Poland)
- Hanamantagouda Sankappanavar (USA)
- Armen Sergeev (Russia)
- Ivan Shestakov (Brazil)
- Jonathan Smith (USA)
- Megerdich Toomanian (Iran)
- Chung-Chun Yang (China)
- Igor Zaslavsky (Armenia)
- Efim Zelmanov (USA)

Organizing Committee:

- Victor Arzumanyan
- Varujan Atabekyan
- Rafayel Barkhudaryan
- Grigor Barsegian
- Lilya Budaghyan
- Sergey Davidov
- Ashot Gevorkyan
- Artur Sahakyan
- Vladimir Sahakyan

Registration fee for the conference is \$200 for participants and covers the conference materials and coffee breaks. **Banquet:** \$50. All fees are due upon arrival, at the registration desk.

Important dates:

The deadline for conformation of participation and submission of abstracts is April 1, 2018 by E-mail address: amu@ysu.am. Please submit one-page abstract in LaTeX and PDF formats (in English) to amu@ysu.am.

Working days: May 28, 2018 (Registration, 9:30; Opening ceremony, 10.00) – June 1, 2018.

Arrival: May 27, 2018; departure: June 2, 2018.

Additional information can be requested by e-mail: amu@ysu.am

The conference website: <http://math.sci.am/conference/artin120>

We are looking forward to welcome you in Yerevan, Armenia for the Emil Artin International Conference.

Sincerely,

Prof. Yu. Movsisyan

President of the Armenian Mathematical Union

UK's Theresa May congratulates Armenian PM on appointment

UK Prime Minister Theresa May has congratulated Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on his appointment. The message reads:

"I welcome your desire to reinforce Armenia's position as a democratic country, where the principles of human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law are strictly protected. You may count on UK's practical support for your efforts in that direction. We are ready to share our experience with your govern-



ment, state institutions and civil society on the path of building the bright future of Armenia and the Armenian people.

The relations between the United Kingdom and Armenia are strong, but I would like to see them even stronger, including in the fields of trade, investments and inter-parliamentary cooperation. I hope we can work jointly on the international arena to resist global challenges, promote universal values and strengthen law-based international system."

Memorandum of the Artsakh Republic Foreign Ministry circulated in the UN



On May 8, 2018, a memorandum prepared by the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Artsakh was circulated in the United Nations (UN). The document reflects the position of the Republic of Artsakh on a wide range of issues related to the settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Artsakh. On May 18, the document was published on the UN official web-site.

The document provides arguments and facts demonstrating the inadequacy of both historical and legal arguments of the Azerbaijani side, which in

their totality are a kind of manifesto about Azerbaijan's intention to further impede the realization by the people of Artsakh of their inalienable individual and collective human rights.

The memorandum emphasizes that, by a twisted interpretation of the norms of the international law, Azerbaijan is making hopeless attempts to justify its destructive policy of isolating Artsakh and impeding the peaceful settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Artsakh: "Undermining any peacebuilding initiatives,

aggressively imposing the logic of confrontation, trying to unleash a new war, the Azerbaijani authorities hope to change the course of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement, in which the tendency to an ever-greater recognition of the decisive role of the people of Artsakh in determining its future is clearly traced".

"The Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, which began with the mass violations of the rights of the Armenian population of Artsakh, continues to this day precisely because of the unwillingness of the Azerbaijani side to abandon its policy of denying the individual and collective rights of citizens of the Republic of Artsakh. This policy, expressed, inter alia, in an effort to isolate Artsakh, together with the ongoing military provocations by the Azerbaijani side, is not only a violation of Azerbaijan's international obligations, but also a serious threat to peace and security in the South Caucasus", the memorandum concludes.

Ambassador Samantha Power to give an open lecture in Yerevan on June 8

Ambassador Samantha Power and human rights activist John Prendergast will deliver an open lecture at the American University of Armenia on June 8 as part of the events organized by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

Ambassador Samantha Power is the Anna Lindh Professor of the Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School. From 2013 to 2017 Power served as the 28th U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, as well as a member of President Obama's cabinet.

From 2009 to 2013, Power served on the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, where she focused on issues including atrocity prevention. Ambassador Power has been named one of TIME's "100 Most Influential People" and one of Foreign Policy's "Top 100 Global Thinkers."

John Prendergast is a human rights activist and New York Times best-selling author who has focused on peace in Africa for over thirty years. He is the Founding Director of the Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity. He is also the Co-Founder with George Clooney of The Sentry, a new investigative initiative chasing the assets of war criminals and their international facilitators.

continued on page 12

2017 Aurora Prize laureate Tom Catena to visit Yerevan

Doctor Tom Catena, 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate, will visit Armenia ahead of the 2018 Aurora Prize Award Ceremony and a series of special events. This year, the special weekend of events will take place on June 8-10, culminating with the announcement of the 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate. A highlight of the weekend of events is the annual Aurora Dialogues, an international forum where leaders from the humanitarian and business communities will convene to discuss ways the global community can take meaningful action to solve some of the world's most pressing problems.

Tom Catena will arrive in Yerevan on May 31 and will start his tour of Armenia and Artsakh. On June 4 he will pay tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide at the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial where he will also plant a tree in the Memory Alley of Tsitsernakab-



erd complex. On the same day Catena will attend the presentation and First Day of Issue Ceremony of a special postage stamp featuring him as the 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate.

Doctor Tom Catena arrived in Sudan as a Catholic missionary from Amsterdam, New York. He has since saved thousands of lives as the sole surgeon permanently based in Sudan's

war-ravaged Nuba Mountains where humanitarian aid is restricted. It is for this service that he received the Aurora Prize, granted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, created on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors.

On June 5 Tom Catena, who is the only surgeon treating people in the Nuba Mountains, will

arrive in the town of Sisian, in Armenia's southern Zangezur region, where he will stop over in the Garrison hospital to meet fellow doctors. The meeting will be followed by a conversation with the local healthcare workers and other professionals at the Sisian House of Culture. The film *Armenian Doctors in Nuba* will also be screened there. The film depicts the activities of three Armenian doctors who went to Nuba to substitute for doctor Catena in May 2017, to allow him to visit Armenia and attend the Aurora Prize Weekend.

He will have an opportunity to enjoy the gems of Southern Armenia visiting Goris, Halidzor, Tatev Monastery complex and the "Tatever" ropeway. After the meeting with local community he will head to Artsakh, where he will meet with youth, students, representatives of local NGOs and the medical community as well as state officials.

Ambassador Samantha Power to give an open lecture in Yerevan on June 8

from page 11

John has worked for the Clinton White House, the State Department, two members of Congress, the National Intelligence Council, UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, the International Crisis Group, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. Prendergast also serves as Executive Director of Not On Our Watch, founded by Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Brad Pitt, and George Clooney.

Armenia to Host Aurora Humanitarian Initiative's Annual Weekend of Humanitarian-Related Events June 8-10, 2018.

Pre-eminent humanitarians, academics, philanthropists, human rights defenders, government officials, journalists and business leaders from around the world will gather for the purpose of galvanizing action to address today's most pressing humanitarian challenges and to celebrate the best of humanity. The weekend will culminate with the presentation of the third annual \$1.1 million Aurora Prize, a global humanitarian award given to an individual for the exceptional impact their actions have had on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes. The laureate is

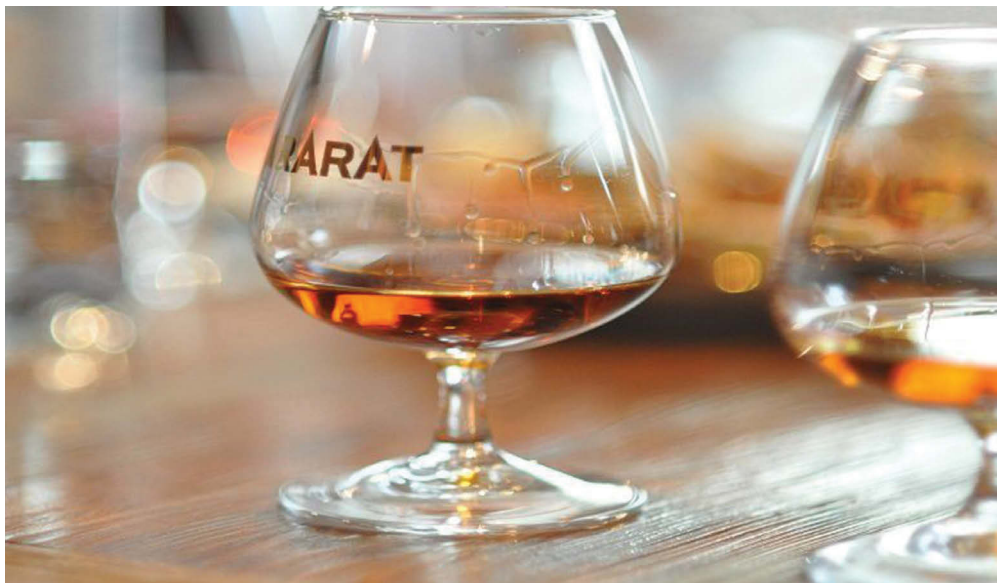


invited to share \$1million with organizations which inspire their work. 2018 Aurora Humanitarians will be announced on April 24.

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative was founded in memory of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in honor of their saviors by descendants of the survivors who wish to demonstrate their gratitude by action.

The 2018 Aurora weekend of events will feature the Aurora Dialogues, an international platform for academics and practitioners who explore and debate humanitarian challenges. The conference will seek to better understand the issues, analyze lessons learned from the past, and encourage innovative action in the present to foster a better future.

Forbes: Armenian brandy as an ideal Father's Day's gift



With Father's Day only a few weeks away, Forbes presents ideas for a perfect gift.

"Spirits are always a good gift for the old man... They'll impress the recipient with your ingenuity and savoir faire. All prices are approximate and will vary by state," Joseph V. Micallef writes.

Among others Forbes offers Armenian brandy as a gift.

"Armenia is one of the world's oldest brandy producers, although its products are little known in the US. Nairi is a 20 YO Armenian brandy produced in the Ararat Valley with indigenous grape varieties. The brandy is a deep, dark amber color and offers a smooth, silky character on the palate with aromas and flavors of dried fruit, spice notes of cinnamon and cloves and a balsamic character," Forbes says.

In search of dragon stones in Armenia



Armenian decorated in relief, are placed between 2,000 and 3,000 metres and are thought to be offers to these legendary creatures.

They are basalt monoliths which can reach 5 metres in height and can be of two types: on the first one is the fur of a sacrificed goat, which suggests a commemoration of a religious practice. The second type is worked into the shape of a fish, with gills and fins, and is certainly related to the cult of a sacred animal in the mountain springs. In some examples, the iconographies are changing and the goat's skin is represented on the belly of the fish, demonstrating that it is the very same artistic and cultural phenomenon.

The project coordinators are Alessandra Gilibert from the Ca' Foscari University, Arsen Bobokhyan from the Armenian National Academy of Sciences and Pavol Hnila from the Freie Universität Berlin.

The Dragon Stones Archaeological Project is investigating at Karmir Sar (Red Mountain) site in Armenia at 2,850 m in altitude and 20 km from the last village situated at the bottom of Mount Aragats, with two springs in which eleven vishaps were identified, as well as burial mounds and rock engravings from the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C., Research Italy reports.

The project aims at tracing the original chronological horizon of the artifacts, the oldest in the whole Caucasus area, to identify the archaeological and landscape context in which they were made as well as to understand the symbolic meaning of these artifacts for the community that generated them.

Legends tell us of how the peaks of the American mountains were populated by giant dragons, semi-god beings who had the task of guarding the sacred springs. These megalithic steles, called "vishap," meaning «dragon» in



Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

The planet Chiron entered your sign last month and will be traveling with you for five years. Chiron was the first centaur and became a known healer. As Chiron traverses your sign, you will experience healing on both physical and emotional levels. Those born early in the sign will feel its effects soon.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Necessary expenses (those not of the “fun” type) may develop this week. If not that, you could be just having a little blue mood. It is one of those times when we become aware that our loved ones can never know or understand fully what is inside of us. This is an existential dilemma that everyone encounters now and then. It will pass quickly.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

This is a time that favors travel, legal interests, publishing, and dealings with the internet. You will be running many errands and taking pleasure in the freedom to get out and flap your wings. This energy continues with you throughout next week as well.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

You may be taking a sober look at one or more relationships. Even the very closest friends cannot know each other from the inside. Sometimes we forget this fact and need to become aware that we are actually separate beings, sharing when we can. Sometimes our energy is too low to be there for one another.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

The time is right to make improvements in all your relationships. Circumstances will make it easy to work out whatever difficulties you might have had with friends or partners. You are feeling well and can defeat any competitor. You can easily stay on target with your goals now.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

This week and next week will probably be the busiest of the whole year. You'll be traveling hither and yon, maybe in multiple directions. Concentrate on keeping track of small items, such as keys and credit cards. Details will nag you like pecking ducks, but overall you will have a good time.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

You may experience some physical discomfort due to environmental stressors at home or work. Those who suffer allergies need to use special caution in avoidance this week. Your physical cycle is on a mild dip. Rest plenty and take your vitamins. You may need to take a temporary break in your workout regimen.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

This is a fine week to run a race or climb a mountain. But save some time to attend to your Significant Other. Your communications are open and honest, just the right combination to work things out. If either of you has carried a grudge, put it out there on the table and be willing to play fair while you find a solution.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

This is a positive week in which your faith in yourself and all humankind is supported and nurtured by the people and circumstances in your path. Hopefully you are aware of a type of joy that is beyond mundane experiences of life. One caution: keep one foot on the ground. The earth has its rules also. It is easy to believe what you wish now.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Don't allow fear and pessimism to interfere with your pleasure in life. The blues may be your companion for a couple of days over the weekend, but the cloudy time is short. There is a female mother-like person who would like to support you. Don't ignore it or turn her away.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

The week begins with high energy and a desire to achieve goals. Your relationship to children or lovers is supportive and loving. You may experience some physical discomfort due to environmental stressors at home or work. Those who suffer allergies need to use special caution in avoidance this week.

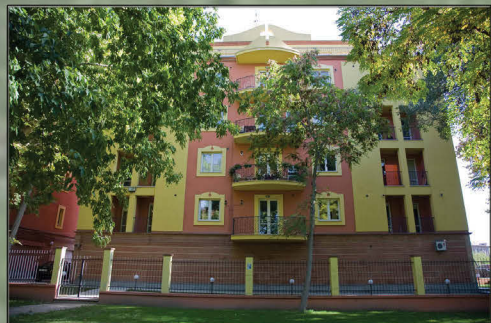


Pisces (February 18–March 19)

This is a time in which you are unusually aware of your spiritual self. You will be recognizing things of life for which you are grateful. You prefer to seek the high road and maintain a positive attitude in spite of any difficult circumstances. You can see a bigger picture now. Hold onto it.

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

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

cooltech®

The latest in non-invasive full body contouring.



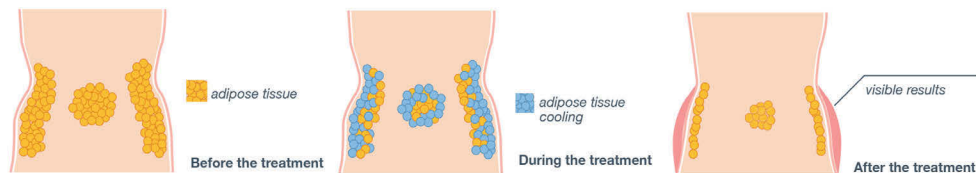
Full body contouring



Vacuum criolipolysis is the new technology for the non-surgical fat reduction:

Very effective!
Pain free!
Safe and easy!

Each procedure 70 min,
30-40 % reduction in treated area
in 2 month



The address: Baghramyan 1st DL, 2-nd building, 2-nd floor.
Call +374 60 536 536. www.cityspa.am

COCOON
MEDICAL

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 Marz
Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62
Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15,600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format
Մալվար՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպարանակը՝ 1500
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
ԼՏ հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ
Գրանցման վկայականի համար՝
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
URL: 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
Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009