

Pashinyan, Putin meet in St. Petersburg



PRESS OFFICE OF THE
 GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA
 www.gov.am

Russia – Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in St. Petersburg, June 6, 2019.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan expressed hope that Russia will help to maintain robust economic growth in Armenia when he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saint Petersburg on June 6.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of an international economic forum held in Russia’s second largest city. According to the Kremlin, the two leaders discussed Russian-Armenian relations and “regional cooperation.”

Putin praised bilateral ties in his opening remarks at the talks also attended by other senior Russian and Armenian officials.

“I want to remind that Russia is Armenia’s leading trading partner: 26 percent [of Armenia’s foreign trade,] almost \$2 billion in direct investments and many other things which show the special, allied character of our relations,” he said.

Pashinyan described those relations as “strategic” before touting a 7.1 percent economic growth rate recorded in Armenia in the first quarter of this year.

“I’m talking about this because obviously these are good indicators not only for Armenia but also the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), because our economic indicators are connected in large measure to our relations in the EEU and Armenian businesses’ access to the Russian market,” he told Putin. “This is very important.”

“I hope that we will manage to find solutions on some issues which will not break this good pace

[page 8](#)

Speaker Mirzoyan participates in 4th Summit of Parliament Speakers of Central and Eastern Europe
 p. 2

Parliament Panel to investigate 2016 War in Karabakh
 p. 4

Armenia joins Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
 p.7

Armenia’s Justice Minister Resigns
 p. 5

Nikol Pashinyan, Perch Sedrakian discuss process of AGBU's programs and planned initiatives

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received AGBU President Perch Sedrakian, head of the AGBU Armenia office Vasken Yacoubian and AGBU Armenia Executive Director Talar Kazanjian.

As Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan highly appreciated the activities of the AGBU for fostering the spiritual, educational and cultural development of the Armenian people and expressed readiness to assist the initiatives and projects aimed at the preservation of the Armenian identity in Armenia and the Diaspora.

Perch Sedrakian noted that Armenians of the Diaspora are very enthusiastic over the positive developments in Armenia, including the development tendencies in economy and tourism. The AGBU President underlined that the projects implemented by the support of the Union are aimed at strengthening Diaspora-Motherland links and solutions of the problems facing the Diaspora. According to him, their goal is synchronization of the AGBU projects with the Government programs, which will fos-



ter the effectiveness of the projects.

During the meeting the interlocutors discussed the process of projects implemented by the AGBU in various spheres, particularly education, science, and tourism, as well as the initiatives planned for the near

future.

Nikol Pashinyan and Perch Sedrakian also exchanged views on consolidating the Diaspora-Armenians on national goals, preservation of the Armenian identity and other issues.

Speaker Mirzoyan participates in 4th Summit of Parliament Speakers of Central and Eastern Europe



The 4th Summit of Parliament Speakers of Central and Eastern Europe has kicked off on June 5 in the Polish capital of Warsaw, the Armenian Parliament told Noyan Tapan.

This format is a unique platform to react to

the challenges facing Europe, as well as discuss issues of mutual interest.

Speakers of Parliaments of the region, lawmakers and leading scientists are invited to the summit to discuss the common history issues and contemporary challenges.

Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan is also taking part in the summit. While delivering remarks about the common history cases of Eastern and Central Europe, the common threats and in particular Armenia's democratization example, he urged his colleagues to look and see the real picture, stop ineffective activity. "Dear colleagues, it's a high time to unite and direct our efforts to resist our common challenges, by strengthening democracy and ensuring peace, promoting education and improving the people's living conditions, rather than to create new conflicts, new barriers and dividing lines".

The speakers of the summit also touched upon globalization, national identity issues, as well as the geopolitical situation over the future of Central and Eastern Europe.

Pashinyan orders crackdown on ‘violent’ groups



(Yerevan – RFE/RL) - Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on June 6 ordered law-enforcement authorities to clamp down on groups which he said are advocating political violence in Armenia as part of a “hybrid war” waged against his government.

Opening a weekly cabinet meeting in Yerevan, Pashinyan said that “forces directly or indirectly connected to the former corrupt system” are among those who are trying to destabilize the political situation in the country.

“We have operational information that a section of those circles has decided to form groups of people dressed in black that will walk around the city, try to create a certain mood, distinguish themselves with some impudent actions and so on,” he told government ministers.

Armenia’s police and National Security Service (NSS) must take “very tough” action against such groups as well as any calls for violence, said Pashinyan. “As regards those groups dressed in black, you have to locate them, sort out their black clothes, attach colorful bow ties to them, and escort them to a normal, civilized and lawful life,” he adds, appealing to the heads of both law-enforcement bodies present at the cabinet meeting.

The national police chief, Valeri Osipyanyan, and the NSS director, Artur Vanetsyan, assured Pashinyan that they will execute the order. Osipyanyan told reporters afterwards

that he has already issued relevant instructions to his subordinates. But he refused to give any details.



Pashinyan also accused the same allegedly subversive forces of spreading “disinformation” that the government has scrapped tuition fee discounts for university students who participated in the April 2016 war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

“It’s the same people and the same circles,” he said. “And this is really a national security issue, Mr. Vanetsyan. Those people are waging a hybrid war against the Republic of Armenia.”

“Should these scoundrels feel good in this country?” the prime minister went on.

page 1

of economic growth,” added the Armenian leader.

It was not clear whether Pashinyan referred to the price of Russian gas for Armenia or other economic factors shaped by Moscow. Putin’s and Pashinyan’s press offices did not disclose details of their discussions on economic issues.

In December, Russia’s Gazprom raised the wholesale price of its gas delivered to Armenia by 10 percent. The retail price for Armenian consumers has remained unchanged so far.

“They must walk under sidewalks, wearing camouflage. Who do they think they are?”

Although Pashinyan said that “their names and surnames are known,” he did not name anyone.

His comments prompted sarcastic responses from several prominent members of the former ruling Republican Party

(HHK) and other bitter critics of the current government. They posted on Facebook pictures of themselves wearing only black clothes. “Before arrest,” HHK spokesman Eduard Sharmazanov wrote under his photo.

On Wednesday, Pashinyan lambasted the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) for justifying a violent attack on a young activist of a rival party. “All those individuals who propagate violence must be held accountable,” he said.

Dashnaktsutyun members justify attack on rival activist



Dozens of members of the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) have demonstratively claimed responsibility for a reported attack on an activist of a

rival political party.

They accused the activist, Vartan Harutiunyan, of insulting Nagorno-Karabakh's leaders and assaulting a veteran Dashnaktsutyun figure.

Harutiunyan, who is affiliated with former President Levon Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (HAK), on June 4 claimed to have been beaten in Yerevan by supporters of Dashnaktsutyun and another ex-president, Robert Kocharyan. He asked the Armenian police for protection.

The police were quick to detain a man on suspicion of involvement in the attack. Dashnaktsutyun representatives confirmed that the suspect is affiliated with their party.

Later on, Tuesday, several dozen Dashnaktsutyun members visited a police station in Yerevan to claim that they too were involved in the violence. Among them was Gegham Manukyan, a prominent party figure who runs a Dashnaktsutyun-linked TV station.

Manukyan said that Harutiunyan deserves an "educational slap" because he wrote offensive comments about Karabakh leaders on Facebook and was among several dozen men that accosted

Dashnaktsutyun's former top leader, Hrant Markaryan, in Yerevan's Liberty Square last month.

The latter incident occurred during a protest against Kocharyan's release from prison ordered by a Yerevan court. Markaryan was confronted by protesters as he strolled in the square with his grandchildren.

Artsvik Minasyan, a member of Dashnaktsutyun's governing body in Armenia, on Wednesday defended fellow party members' "spontaneous" visits to the police station. "This is first and foremost a call for the authorities to put an end to this situation, to condemn and crack down on all manifestations of intolerant and hostile behavior which reigns in and is propagated in our country right now," said Minasyan.

However, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan seemed to put the blame on Dashnaktsutyun. He said law-enforcement authorities should ascertain whether the attack on the HAK activist was the work of "one or two individuals" or a larger group.

"All those individuals who propagate violence must be held accountable one by one," Pashinyan told reporters.

Dashnaktsutyun received two ministerial posts Pashinyan's first cabinet formed in May 2018 following the "velvet revolution" that brought down the country's previous government. The prime minister sacked his Dashnaktsutyun-affiliated ministers in October, accusing their party of secretly collaborating with the former regime.

Dashnaktsutyun has since been increasingly critical of Pashinyan's government. It accused the government of not delivering on its promises and seeking to establish "one-man rule" at a rally held in Yerevan on May 23.

Parliament Panel to investigate 2016 War in Karabakh

(Yerevan – RFE/RL) - The pro-government majority in Armenia's National Assembly has set up an ad hoc parliamentary commission tasked with investigating the April 2016 war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called for the creation of such a commission on May 20 as he lambasted the Armenian judiciary and accused it of having ties with the country's former leadership.

Pashinyan claimed that "specific forces representing the former corrupt system" are also "using their corrupt connections to carry out false propaganda" against him in Karabakh. He suggested that they are intent on provoking a war with Azerbaijan, losing "some territories" to the enemy and blaming that defeat on his government.

Pashinyan did not name anyone involved in the alleged conspiracy. He announced instead that "the time has come to form an investigative parliamentary commission to examine circumstances of the April 2016 war and find answers to a number of questions preoccupying us."

Some opposition politicians and other critics of the Armenian government denounced Pashinyan's statement, saying that the prime minister is playing the Karabakh card for domestic political purposes.

The commission was formally set up late last week after 47 deputies representing Pashinyan's My Step alliance signed a petition in support of its creation. It will be headed by Andranik Kocharyan, the pro-government chairman of a standing parliament committee on defense and security, and also comprise 10 other lawmakers.

The commission, which will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, is

specifically tasked with scrutinizing the Armenian military's response to an Azerbaijani offensive in Karabakh that led to the four-day hostilities, which left around 80 Armenian



soldiers and volunteers dead. It will not only be able to question senior government and military officials but also have access to classified documents.

Four of the commission members are supposed to be named by the opposition Prosperous Armenia (BHK) and Bright Armenia (LHK) parties.

Naira Zohrabyan, a senior BHK parliamentarian, hit out at the parliament majority on Monday, saying that it did not consult with her party before setting up the special panel.

"Nobody from My Step approached us," Zohrabyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "Moreover, we learned from the media that the investigative commission has been created by the signatures of 47 My Step deputies. I regard this as [a manifestation of] a non-businesslike atmosphere in the parliament."

My Step's parliamentary leader, Lilit Makunts, dismissed the criticism. She said that the parliament majority has followed legal procedures and requirements regulating the formation of such commissions.

Armenia's Justice Minister Resigns



Amid calls from Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to reform Armenia's judicial system, the country's justice minister, Artak Zeynalyan announced his resignation on June 7 in a message posted on his personal Facebook page.

"I have resigned from the position of minister of justice. Assuming the office of a minister in this historic period for our people was a very responsible step, but also a step aimed at having a chance to gradually solve the judicial issues that emerged while conducting human rights activities," Zey-

nalyan said in his post.

"I am satisfied with this step and would like to thank Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for proposing my candidacy for the justice minister," added Zeynalyan who also thanked the ministry staff "for collective productive and responsible work. I also want to thank the international partners and civil society representatives for the joint work."

After Pashinyan addressed the nation on May 20, calling for the vetting of all judges, Zeynalyan was quick to claim that the process was internationally accepted and announced that all judges in Armenia would be subject to the vetting process.

Zeynalyan said on May 21 that the vetting will be implemented without discrimination, and individuals will not be targeted.

Another resignation in the judicial system was announced on Friday, with the Interim

Chairman of Armenia's Supreme Judicial Council Gevorg Danielyan tendering his resignation, which, according to a message on his Facebook page will go in effect on June 10.

Addressing the top judicial body's members, he called for an "thoughtful approach" to his decision, citing the absence of pressing issues in the sector.

"In addition, this shouldn't have come as a surprise to you," he said. "At least as far as I am concerned, I find it necessary to enable the news Supreme Judicial Council to embark on the implementation of judicial and legal reforms."

Danielyan said for around a year he and Gagik Harutyunyan, the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council who resigned last month, managed to work hard under conditions of heavy workload and frequent "obvious fake news" on the media.

Zareh Sinanyan Vacates City Council Seat to Accept Position in Armenian Government



Glendale City Councilmember Zareh Sinanyan on June 7 submitted a letter resigning his position on Glendale City Council effective immediately. He confirmed that he will be accepting a high-ranking position in the government of the Republic of Armenia.

While an official announcement has not been made by the government of Armenia, sources suggest that Sinanyan will be appointed to the newly-created position of the High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs, overseeing homeland-Diaspora relations.

"We will weigh all the options and make the best decision when it comes to filling the open seat on the dais." He added, "I would like to thank Zareh for his service to the City of Glendale while on the City Council," said Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian.

"The ANCA-Glendale Chapter has enjoyed a constructive and close relationship with City Councilmember Zareh Sinanyan since his first election to office and was proud to mobilize its grassroots structure to ensure his success beginning from his first campaign in 2013," stated Ronnie Gharibian, Armenian National Committee of America-Glendale Co-Chair.

"Since his election to public office, Sinanyan has ably served all citizens of Glendale and has always maintained open lines of communication with our organization and our community, working together on issues of mutual interest and concern. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him success in his new position in Armenia. We are confident that our relations will continue to grow as he embarks

on this new chapter of serving our homeland. We also look forward to continuing our productive relationship with the entire Glendale City Council as well as with Councilmember Sinanyan's replacement," added Gharibian.

Per the City's Charter, the four remaining City Councilmembers have two options to fill the vacant seat: they can either directly appoint someone to the seat or hold a special election to fill the vacancy. Should the City Council make an appointment, it must happen within thirty (30) days of the vacancy. If an appointment is not made within thirty days, then Council must immediately call for a special election to be held within one hundred twenty (120) days from the call of the election.

Sinanyan was first elected to the Glendale City Council in 2013 and reelected to a second term in 2017. During his time on the City Council he has served as the City's Mayor twice (2014-2015 and 2018-2019). He is currently serving as the President of the Hollywood Burbank Airport Authority.

Armenia hosts CAAP leaderships summit

Yerevan is hosting a summit of the heads of airports, which are part of Corporation America. The event has brought together more than 120 heads and employees of airports from Armenia, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Italy, Peru and Uruguay.

The summit is presided over by Martin Eurnekian Corporation América CEO Martin Eurnekian.

Addressing the participants of the summit, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hailed the activity of the Eurnekian family in Armenia.

“The activities of the Eurnekian family is highly appreciated in Armenia, and we can definitely say that in at least two sectors the activities of Eurnekian family and Corporacion America had and has turning point significance in Armenia,” the PM said, noting the first sector to be the management of the Zvartnots Airport. He praised the company for the high-level administration of the airport, noting that “we are now proud for our airport”.

“The second sector, where the activities of the Eurnekian family had turning point signifi-



cance, is winemaking. Today winemaking is rapidly developing in Armenia, and the Eurnekian family’s contribution in the winemaking’s revival is invaluable, and the founding of Karas company and their Karas wines greatly boosted the sector, and basically it was the reason and occasion for the revival of winemaking in Armenia, and we are grateful to the Eurnekian family for these activities, and it isn’t a coincidence at all that Eduardo Eurnekian is a National Hero of Armenia, and this high title expresses the contribution that he had in the development of Armenia, and we are hopeful and convinced that

he will still continue having.

The Armenian PM also praised the relations between the government and Corporation America, and also the role of Martin Eurnekian, “who from the very first moments did everything for mutual trust and a common vision to be development between the government and the company”.

He underlined that air transportation is of strategic importance to Armenia, as the country has been under partial blockade from the first day of independence.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of operating the Gyumri airport at full

capacity as soon as possible, which, he said, will help reduce ticket prices, thus promoting the development of tourism.

The Prime Minister spoke about investment made and to be made in Armenia. “Now we are speaking about the expansion of Zvartnots Airport. This is good news, since the airport has actually reached the maximum of its capacity,” he said.

Pashinyan stressed the importance of financial investments for Armenia’s economy and hailed the new business culture Corporation Armenia has brought to Armenia.

Meetings in this format have been held since 2014 and are aimed at improving the efficiency of the airports’ activity. The meeting was last held in Brazil in 2016.

The Corporacion América Airports (CAAP) is the largest private sector airport concession operator in the world based on the number of airports under management and the tenth largest private sector airport operator in the world based on passenger traffic.

EU to provide 25 mln Euro additional support to Armenia



The European Union has increased the amount of assistance provided to Armenia compared to the previous years. The EU will

provide 25 million Euro additional support to Armenia in 2019, Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said during the joint session of the parliamentary standing committees.

“One of the expressions of the positive dynamics of relations with the EU was that new technical support programs for Armenia currently are at a proposal summary stage based on the EU’s annual action plan. The EU will provide 40 million Euro assistance for 2019, and additional 25 million Euro funds will be added to these sums. Thus, we will receive a total of 65 million Euro support from the EU, which has drastically increased compared to 2018 and 2017”, the Armenian FM said.

He said the bilateral visits in 2018 were held in a dynamic manner. Armenia’s inter-agency commission also plans to pay separate visits to several EU member states to promote the launch of visa liberalization dialogue. The first such visit took place in January to Germany. The minister assured that the process continues.

Armenia joins Intel International Science and Engineering Fair



Armenia has joined the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), enabling high school students to benefit from the \$5 million fund by presenting innovative ideas.

Each year, more than 7 million high school students around the globe develop original research projects and present their work at local science competitions with the hope of making it to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's largest pre-college science competition, a program of the Society for Science & the Public.

Approximately 1,700 winners of local, regional, state, and national competitions are invited to participate in this week-long celebration of science, technology, engineering, and math. At the event, these young innovators share ideas, showcase cutting-edge research, and compete for up to \$5 million in awards and scholarships.

The winner gets Gordon Moore Award, which comes with \$75,000 in reward.

Armenia's Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Arayik Harutyunyan says that such programs help raise interest in science among children from an early age.

"For years science has been separated from the public, that's why scientific research has often not been applied in real life," he said.

The goal is to return science to educational institutions, allowing the youth to learn to carry out research from an early age, the Minister said, describing Armenia's membership to Intel ISEF as a "step forward."

Opening dialogue path for visa liberalization with EU among Armenia's priority tasks

Opening a path to dialogue for the visa liberalization with the EU states is a key task for Armenia. In this sense the communication between the representatives of Armenia's migration service and other agencies and the respective specialists of the EU member states is very important, Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan said at the joint session of the parliamentary standing committees.

Bright Armenia faction MP Taron Simonyan said it is repeatedly stated that the talks on visa liberalization should start at a convenient moment, but no concrete date is mentioned. The lawmaker asked to tell when is that convenient moment according to the Armenian side.

"Of course, it is a result of a negotiation. In our case convenient means today, but in their case that moment will be when we will be able to convince the member states and the Commission that this process should launch. We have a sufficient support in this sense, but also have a sufficient opposition for launching this process.

Our main task for today is to open the di-

ologue path showing all the processes that have been carried out in Armenia and that Armenia is ready to launch the dialogue. Therefore, that convenient moment for us is today", the Armenian FM said, adding that they still convince the EU partners that that moment is really today.

Commenting on the question of My Step faction MP Hayk Konjoryan, the foreign minister said the most important is for our specialists from the migration service, the

police, all other agencies that deal with the issue, to be in constant communication with their European partners.

"The Armenian specialists should be in touch with them, should strengthen the communication with the respective specialists of the EU member states and show the effective migration policy taking place in the country", the minister said



Armenia, Cyprus, Greece Agree On ‘Trilateral Partnership’



Cyprus -- Foreign Ministers Nikos Christodoulides (C) of Cyprus, George Katrougalos of Greece (R) and Zohrab Mnatsakanyan of Armenia shake hands after talks held in Nicosia, June 4, 2019.



NICOSIA (Cyprus Mail)—The foreign ministers of Cyprus, Greece and Armenia agreed on June 4 that their respective heads of state would meet at a trilateral summit in Armenia in January, adding that the purpose for the cooperation is to promote peace, stability and prosperity through enhanced political dialogue.

They also agreed to cooperate in various areas, such as the economy, trade and investments, agriculture, education and science, IT and innovation, healthcare, crisis management, culture and tourism.

“Today’s meeting reflects clearly our joint determination to further expand and deepen our cooperation and to develop synergies that will benefit our countries and peoples,” Foreign Minister Nicos Christodoulides said.

To this effect, they agreed to share information, exchange best practices and expertise, and submit, in the coming months, concrete proposals for possible cooperation in the aforesaid areas, to be discussed in their next trilateral meeting.

Christodoulides also said that he had the opportunity to brief his counterparts on the latest developments regarding the Cyprus problem as well as on Turkey’s escalated activities in the island’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in violation of the Republic’s sovereign rights and international law.

The three ministers, according to Christodoulides, also exchanged views on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and on the implementation of the Prespa Agreement, in addition to discussing relations between the EU and Armenia.

“We have assured Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan of our unwavering support for the strengthening of EU-Armenia relations, both within the framework of the Eastern Partnership and the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agree-

ment of November 2017 and beyond,” he said.

In relation to the Partnership Agreement, he said that it was expected to be ratified by the House of Representatives in the coming weeks. “Its entry into force will set EU-Armenia relations on a new footing,” he said.

For his part Mnatsakanyan said that the launch of the platform was very important and very promising in amplifying the traditional friendship that exists between the three nations. He added that they were translating that historical friendship into cooperation to the benefit of the three nations and people.

He also emphasised that the objectives of the cooperation were peace, cooperation and stability for the three countries and the region.

Referring to the expansion of the trilateral cooperation, he said that Armenia was looking forward to welcome the trilateral summit in the near future.

Greek minister Giorgos Katrougalos said the three were very like-minded, peace loving countries, which believe that international law and respect of multilateralism form the basis of international relations and they also share a long history.

“We envisaged the improvement of both economic and political relations, the next step is going to be the trilateral summit among the leaders of our countries”, he said.

He added that Greece intended to help Armenia in its European perspectives.

They also discussed international issues and topics of common interest and concern.



Azerbaijan May be Expelled from Council of Europe for Violating Court Ruling



By Harut Sassounian

All members of the European Council had agreed to comply with judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. However, Azerbaijan has violated that commitment ever since 2014, according to the unanimous ruling of ECHR's Grand Chamber of 17 judges, including the judge representing Azerbaijan, on May 29.

The case involves Azerbaijan's imprisonment of political activist Ilgar Mammadov, who was charged with criminal offenses and placed "in pre-trial detention in 2013 without there being any reasonable suspicion that he had committed an offense. [The European] Court considered the circumstances indicated the actual purpose of those measures was to silence or punish Mammadov for criticizing the Government [of Azerbaijan]," according to a press release by ECHR.

ECHR "found in particular that the Government [of Azerbaijan] had taken only limited steps to implement the judgment, which had not amounted to Azerbaijan acting in 'good faith' or in a manner which was in accordance with the 'conclusions and spirit' of its ruling in Mammadov's case. It concluded that Azerbaijan had failed to fulfill its obligation under the Convention to abide by the judgment," according to ECHR's press release.

On December 5, 2017, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which is responsible for supervising the enforcement of the ECHR's judgments, referred Azerbaijan's violation back to European Court to determine whether that country

had failed to abide by its 2014 judgment by not releasing Mammadov unconditionally.

After ECHR's Grand Chamber ruled, on May 29, that Azerbaijan had indeed violated its 2014 judgment, ECHR referred the case back to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for consideration of further measures to be taken.

The Committee of Ministers stressed that there were fundamental flaws in the criminal proceedings against Mammadov and "called many times for Azerbaijan to release Mammadov as an essential step towards redressing the violations the [European] Court had found. However, he remained in detention for almost four years after the ECHR's judgment had become final on 13 October 2014, until his conditional release on 13 August 2018, following the initiation of the infringement proceedings. In March 2019 [Azerbaijan's] Supreme Court, after reducing his sentence, found he had served his time in full and set aside the probation order and other conditions on his release," according to ECHR's Grand Chamber.

Here is the background of Mammadov's case as described by ECHR's press release: He was born in 1970 and lives in Baku. He is a political blogger and activist who had also announced his intention to run as president of Azerbaijan in 2013. He was placed in pre-trial detention in February 2013 after writing on his blog about disturbances in Ismayilli. Mammadov said, among other things, that people there had been reacting to the "corruption and insolence" of public officials. He was subsequently charged with organizing or actively participating in actions causing a breach of public order, and later he was accused of stirring mass disorder and resistance to or violence against public officials, posing a threat to their life or health.

Mammadov applied to ECHR on February 25, 2013, alleging that he had been arrested and detained without a "reasonable suspicion" of a criminal offence; that his right to be presumed innocent had been

breached; and that he had been prosecuted for his political views and the threat he had presented to the regime as a potential presidential candidate. In March 2014, Azerbaijan's court convicted and sentenced him to seven years in prison.

In the Grand Chamber's judgment of May 22, 2014—the first Mammadov judgment—ECHR found violations of his right to liberty and security, right to judicial review of detention, presumption of innocence, and limitation on use of restrictions on rights. The ECHR also ordered the government of Azerbaijan to pay him 20,000 euros in compensation.

The Committee of Ministers first examined the case in December 2014. It took numerous decisions and interim resolutions, highlighting the State's obligation under the Convention to adopt individual measures to put an end to any violations that had been established and to erase their consequences so as to put Mammadov in the position he would have been in if his rights had not been violated.

In October 2017, the Committee put Azerbaijan on formal notice that, in its view, it had failed to fulfill its obligation under the Convention, the first step in an infringement procedure. The Committee of Ministers in December 2017 also referred a question to ECHR on Azerbaijan's fulfillment of its obligation.

Mammadov was freed on probation in August 2018. In March 2019, Azerbaijan's Supreme Court reduced his sentence, found he had served his time in full and set aside the conditions on his release. In November 2017, ECHR found that Mammadov's trial on the same criminal charges as those criticized in its 2014 judgment had also violated his rights (the second Mammadov judgment).

If Azerbaijan continues not to comply with ECHR's judgments, it may eventually be expelled from the Council of Europe.

Decentralized co-operation between municipalities of Artsakh and France in no way contradicts international obligations of France – Artsakh MFA



The decision of the administrative court of Cergy-Pontoise of the French Val-d'Oise department to declare invalid a declaration of friendship between the French municipality of Arnville and Artsakh's community of Shekher is deeply regrettable.

This decision may become a wrong political signal to Azerbaijan, which has already interpreted the judgement of the French court as support for its policy of isolation of Artsakh.

Such a development, in turn, may cause concern to the Armenian public and cast a shadow on the position of France as a neutral mediator in resolving the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict, reads the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of Artsakh.

In this regard, we would like to empha-

size that France, as one of the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries, bears a certain responsibility for ensuring that the people of Artsakh, due to the unresolved conflict, are not restricted in exercising their fundamental rights, including the right to development.

The decentralized co-operation between the municipalities of Artsakh and France in no way contradicts either the international obligations of France or its efforts as an international mediator in the peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict. In particular, the temporary non-recognition of the Republic of Artsakh does not mean that its citizens should be limited in participation in international co-operation. The legitimacy of the participation of unrecognized states in such co-operation has been confirmed by international arbitration practice and has been recognized by international courts.

Being convinced that decentralized co-operation between municipalities and creating conditions for communication between people are an important contribution to strengthening peace and stability, the au-

thorities of the Artsakh Republic will continue to make every effort so that citizens of the Republic can fully take advantage of international co-operation to realize their potential.

We express our deep appreciation to the mayor and residents of Arnville, as well as other cities of France, the United States, Brazil, Lebanon and other countries that have established friendly relations with the municipalities and communities of Artsakh.

We also welcome the determination of Mr. Pascal Doll, Mayor of Arnville, to appeal the decision of the administrative court of Cergy-Pontoise.

Despite the obstacles imposed by Azerbaijan, Artsakh's international ties will continue to expand and deepen. In this regard, Artsakh makes consistent efforts to expand the geography of decentralized co-operation. In particular, proposals for signing new declarations on friendship and co-operation between the communities of Artsakh and administrative units in various countries are under discussion.

Armenia To Compensate Victims Of 2008 Violence

The Armenian parliament unanimously passed on June 4 a bill requiring the government to compensate the families of ten people killed in the 2008 post-election violence in Yerevan.

The bill drafted by two senior pro-government lawmakers also calls for compensations to be paid to dozens of other protesters and security personnel who were seriously injured at the time.

It makes clear, however, that police officers who are under investigation or have already been convicted of using excessive force against anti-government protesters will not be eligible for any aid. The amount and form of the compensation will be determined by the Armenian government.

According to official data provided by law-enforcement authorities, 63 protesters and police officers sustained "injuries of medium and severe gravity" during the forcible dispersal of opposition demonstrations held in the wake of the February 2008 presidential election.

Levon Ter-Petrosian, the main opposition presidential candidate, rejected as fraudulent official election results which give victory to Serzh Sarkisian, outgoing President Robert Kocharyan's preferred successor. Ter-Petrosian and his allies rallied supporters on a daily basis to demand a rerun of the vote.

Security forces broke up those protests on March 1-2, 2008. Eight protesters and two

police servicemen died as a result.

The former Armenian authorities accused the Ter-Petrosian-led opposition of organizing the "mass disturbances" in a bid to seize power. They jailed dozens of opposition figures, including Nikol Pashinyan, on corresponding charges denied by the latter.

Investigators radically changed the official version of events shortly after last year's "velvet revolution" which brought Pashinyan to power. They charged Kocharyan and three retired army generals with illegally using the Armenian armed forces against the protesters and thus overthrowing the constitutional order in February-March 2008. All four men, who went on trial last month, deny the accusations.

Over 100 prominent political and military figures, scientists, businessmen – “Armenian summit of minds” kicks off



The 21st century is the century of Armenia, the century of the citizen of Armenia, the century of the Armenian nation, because it ushers in the glorious revival of the Armenian nation, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said, addressing the participants of the Summit of Minds in Dilijan.

“An ancient Indian parable asks what is more than the stars? The answer is ideas. Only one person’s ideas are taken into consideration in the answer. In general, the idea is the most important and turning point that shapes and creates our reality. The whole civilization, in fact, is based on a single factor, the human mind,” the Prime Minister said.

“Generally speaking, there were only two key factors affecting the planet: the cosmic factors and human mind. As we talk about the main topic of today’s debate on economic, investment and geopolitical trends worldwide and in the region, we can see that the greatest investment in the modern world is being done by human mind,” he added.

Pashinyan said that today, idea is the main driving power behind the economy. “And the point is that human mind is no longer limited to itself, and a global process of artificial thinking, artificial intelligence is thriving all over the world. This is the main trend in the 21st century, in the modern world. When we look at the structure of the global economy established over the past 20-30 years, we will see that the most dramatic change is just what said. The forces that stem from human thought, talent and intellect, have become economic locomotives in the modern world,” he added.

“Now we live in an amazing era, when human mind has started to influence not only the planet Earth, but also has started to make changes on other planets and there is no doubt that this tendency will continue and will grow stronger with the development of artificial intelligence,” Nikol Pashinyan noted.

“When we think about the difference between successful and unsuccessful businesses, we have a striking idea that successful businesses are the ones in which

human mind has a greater share. As economists say, all other things being equal, successful are those businesses in which ideas have the greatest share of investment,” the Prime Minister stated.

“And I think that this phenomenon, this tendency is the characteristic of today’s Armenia, because the 21st century is a century of thought; it ushers in the triumph of thought, and this is why we believe that the 21st century is the century of Armenia, the century of the citizen of Armenia, the century of the Armenian nation, because it ushers in the glorious revival of the Armenian nation,” he added.

“We had no sea in the era of seas; we had no oil in the era of oil; we had no luck in the era of general success, we had no strength in the era of power. Now as the age of thought has come, there is no doubt that we have ideas, and our chief task is to develop our thinking; we must provide prerequisites for this, create opportunities for self-affirmation and self-reproduction of thought,” Nikol Pashinyan stated.

“And this is why we say that our task is to make the Republic of Armenia a paradise for talented people, and we believe that in general, everyone is unique, everyone is talented and our task is to create an environment where talents can grow and develop, create artificial intelligence in support of human intelligence, spiritual and moral values, universal stability, peace and prosperity. Therefore, this Summit of Mind comes to the point in the Republic of Armenia,” the Prime Minister concluded.

Held annually in Shamonix, France, for the first time this year, the Summit of Minds is hosted by Armenia. Armenia is the first country to host this event outside Shamonix.

The following prominent individuals are among the participants: former French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin (2005-2007), Presidential Adviser on Security Issues at Barack Obama’s administration James Jones, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvidkoy, Director of Investment and Entrepreneurship Department of the UN Conference on Trade and Development James Jean, Former Minister, Director of the Global Health Innovations Institute at the Imperial College of London, Lord Ara Darzi, Italian National Research Council Chairman Massimo Inguscio, Siemens CEO Jean-Marc Lischka, French THALES Company’s Vice President and Regional Director Paul Remy, Skolkovo Management School Board Chairman, former head

of the presidential administration Alexander Voloshin, Crans Montana Forum President Pierre-Emmanuel Quirin, President and Director of the US National Defense University Foundation William Parker, and others.

More than 100 prominent Armenian and foreign political and military figures, scholars, analysts, businessmen and entrepreneurs are taking part in the event. The summit features a series of thematic discussions on geopolitical developments in Eurasia and the Middle East, high technologies and management, artificial intelligence, digital economy, etc.



All provinces of Armenia to have domestic violence victims’ support centers

President Emmanuel Macron has vowed to rebuild Notre-Dame “even more beautifully” within five years, as all of France’s cathedrals prepared to ring their bells on Wednesday to mark 48 hours since the colossal fire began, France 24 reports.

In a televised address on Tuesday evening, President Macron suggested he wants it rebuilt by the time Paris hosts the Summer Olympics in 2024.

“We’ll rebuild Notre-Dame even more beautifully and I want it to be completed in five years, we can do it,” said Mr Macron, who had already pledged to launch an international fundraising scheme for the reconstruction.

“It’s up to us to convert this disaster into an opportunity to come together... It’s up to us to find the thread of our national project.”

A massive fire on April 15 ravaged the 850-year-old Gothic building, destroying much of its roof and causing its steeple to collapse.

The cathedral was minutes away from total destruction, officials say.

A combined €800m has already been pledged by a number of companies and business tycoons to help rebuild the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Rock Legends in Yerevan for 30th Anniversary of Rock Aid Armenia



Deep Purple's lead vocalist, Ian Gillan, and Black Sabbath's guitarist, Tony Iommi, are in Yerevan to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Rock Aid Armenia. Previously known as Live Aid Armenia, Rock Aid Armenia is a humanitarian effort facilitated by the British music industry to raise money for individuals affected by the 1988 Armenian earthquake—Spitak.

International charity campaigner Jon Dee, who initiated Rock Aid Armenia, is also visiting Yerevan for the anniversary event.

Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan, Ian Gillan expressed the importance of Rock Aid Armenia, explaining how special the event is to him.

"Here we are again. This project is a very personal experience for me because, I believe it was in June 1990 when I was performing at the sports arena when I became aware of the tragic events of the previous year, and I took a trip to Spitak and I saw the devastation.

There are many vivid images, the main one I remember is of an old lady holding a picture of her 28 family members, and she

was the only one left alive.

I spoke with the Mayor of Spitak and he told me that all music had stopped in the city: on the radio, in the church, even the birds had stopped singing.

So, we thought that time itself might be a healer and music would, symbolically, be one way for restarting. We got involved with the music school in Gyumri, which I think is absolutely perfect for symbolizing new life," Gillan said.

Rock Aid Armenia founder Jon Dee thanked Ian Gillan and Tony Iommi and noted that the two legends have continually supported the program throughout the last 30 years, and have also personally visited Armenia to see how they can help further.

"On the occasion of Rock Aid Armenia's 30th anniversary, an event will take place in the evening to which all tickets are sold out. This shows how important this project is. Next month we will launch a new website that will feature recordings and music videos that haven't been published until now. Smoke on the Water will be re-released across the world and all proceeds

will be directed to Gyumri to supplement the school with musical instruments. We will also release a new album, which won't contain rock music, but Armenian music," Dee said.

He discussed the release of an album featuring 5th century Armenian spiritual music, created by Vahan Artsruni and Hasmik Baghdasaryan. The album will be titled Mashtots, with proceeds going directly to the music school in Gyumri.

Dee said they heard the music for the first time in 2013 during a visit to Yerevan's Matenadaran. He called on all Armenians worldwide to acquire the CD, because all proceeds will go to the school's funds.

"I am impatiently waiting to see this school with my own eyes. We will continue this project for as long as we are able to," added Black Sabbath's Tony Iommi, who joined the project 10 years ago.

"Smoke on the Water," a famous Deep Purple song from the 70s, was already once re-recorded for Rock Aid Armenia.

City Spa, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

Depilation: Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

And that’s not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.

You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor’s consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

Localized fat removal: In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical lyosaction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellshape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



Anti aging Facial treatments and Care: City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



The address:
Baghramyan
1st DL, 2-nd building,
2-nd floor.

Phone: +374 60 536 536

E-mail:
spa.city@yahoo.com

Website:
www.cityspa.am

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

You have arrived at a turning point with respect to one or more significant relationships. Think about what you started two years ago. It may have been a new relationship or a fresh creative venture. Now is a time of full maturity of that relationship or new beginning. This is the time to pour more effort and some financial resources if you wish to claim it as yours.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

There is the possibility that you will attract someone who is needy, causing you to feel that you should help. Before you go very far, talk to your friends and ask who this person is. He or she might be a “vampire,” one who takes far more than he can give. On a totally different plane, you may have a significant encounter with one that wakens your spirituality..



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Give special attention to the lead paragraph because it pertains to you. An opportunity may come your way that seems out of the blue. It requires that you use your skills in a totally different manner than you have tried before. Go with it because it expands your territory and will be a fun kick to try. It will grow your territory.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

Please read the lead paragraph because it pertains to you. Unexpected changes come from the territory of partner’s resources, insurance payoffs, tax surprises, investment changes, inheritance and/or legacies.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Listen to Shakespeare’s wisdom: “Neither a borrower nor a lender be.../for loan oft loses both itself and a friend.” Opportunities come your way for one or more creative ventures from a distance, via the law, education, travel, or the internet



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Stay aware of your body and be sure to listen to it when it says “Stop!” Your physical cycle is at a temporary low, leaving you open to potential accidents or injuries. If you feel tired, give yourself a break and rest. It is a novel thing for you to do, but you need to reduce your stress at this time.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Venus enters your sign this week and will be traveling “with you” through all of June. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. Often when Venus is prominent we become more interested in art forms and want to make things in the environment more attractive. We are also more interested in beautifying ourselves.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

You may feel a sense of abandonment from partner(s), clientele, or those with whom you consult (lawyers, doctors). It hurts for a short time, but soon you will find ways to fill in the gap. You need more information to assist you in understanding this loss. Don’t allow others to lay blame upon you for things you haven’t done



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

Read the lead paragraph carefully. Uranus is a planet of surprise and it rarely brings what you expect to happen. In the solar system it deviates from the “rules” by rolling on its belly around the sun. The surprise of Uranus may come from outside yourself or it may be a sudden and unexpected change in attitude on your part.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

A partnership or a significant relationship that began in late spring of 2002 is arriving at a point of full ripeness. If it has been good, you can review it now with a sense of satisfaction. This is the time in which you cultivate the soil for future growth, or let it begin to die naturally.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

This is a time that will test the strength of your relationships. Dormant or hidden tensions that are gnawing at the edges of any relationship are likely to become apparent now. Make an effort to recognize the difference between ego conflicts and genuine difference of opinion.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Something has developed that undermines your sense of security. It may relate to family and property matters. There is a sense of loss involved. Remember that nothing remains the same. Change is in the nature of things and our relationships. ».

ARMENIA

Yezequelian 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

Yezequelian@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.



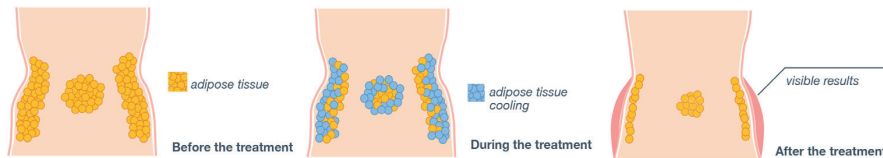
Full body contouring



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



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
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

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**
Proofreader: **SUSANNA MKRTCHIAN**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604

Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
03Ա898368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
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) 35-11-22 (+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