

Charles Aznavour dies aged 94



“Live now. Tomorrow, who knows?”

Charles Aznavour

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Armenian, Azeri FM's hold "useful" talks



The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in New York on September 26 for fresh talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which official Yerevan described as "useful."

The three-hour talks between Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Elmar Mammadyarov began in the presence of the U.S., Russian and French mediators co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group. The two ministers then had a one-on-one discussion.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry called the talks a "useful exchange of thoughts on how to resolve the Karabakh conflict. 'The interlocutors agreed to continue the dialogue, including within the framework of the co-chairs' upcoming visit to the region,' it said in a statement. Mammadyarov made similar comments

on what was his second meeting with Mnatsakanyan in over two months. "It was an interesting and important exchange of views on continuing developments in the conflict's resolution as well as about what needs to be done for establishing a lasting peace in the region," the Azerbaijani news agency Trend quoted him as saying.

"We agreed to continue negotiations next month, including through the co-chairs' visit to the region," added the Azerbaijani minister.

Speaking earlier on Wednesday, the Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Tigran Balayan, reiterated the official Armenian line that major progress towards a Karabakh settlement requires an "atmosphere conducive to peace." In that regard, Balayan pointed to Baku's reluc-

tance to implement confidence-building agreements that were reached by the leaders of the two warring nations in 2016.

Those agreements envisage specific safeguards against deadly ceasefire violations along the "line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Tension on those frontlines seems to have somewhat increased in recent weeks. Karabakh's Armenian-backed army reported that one of its soldiers, Aghasi Mkrtchyan, was shot dead by Azerbaijani forces on Wednesday evening.

Mammadyarov and Mnatsakanian met in New York the day after Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hit out at Azerbaijan in a speech delivered at a session of the UN General Assembly.

Pashinyan portrayed Baku's refusal to directly negotiate with Karabakh's ethnic Armenian leader as further proof of its desire to "cleanse Armenians from Karabakh."

"How Azerbaijan can lay claim to Nagorno-Karabakh without even speaking to Nagorno-Karabakh?" he said. "Is this possible? This is possible only if the Azerbaijani government wants the territory but not its people."

The Armenian leader also stated that the Karabakh dispute must be resolved through "mutual concessions by all sides." He did not elaborate.

Baku was quick to condemn Pashinyan's remarks. A top foreign policy aide to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said they could torpedo the peace process.

Leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan agree to reinforce ceasefire

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev met in Dushanbe and agreed to de-escalate the situation on the border line and prevent incidents, PM Pashinyan announced in a live broadcast on Facebook.

"This time we had more practical conversation based on which we recorded a number of important points. We agreed that we will task our defense ministers to take measures to de-escalate the situation and to prevent border incidents. I think this is an important agreement", Pashinyan said.

According to him, President of Artsakh Bako Sahakyan has also been informed about this agreement. "I have given relevant instructions to our Armed Forces and I can say that the previous night was the most peaceful since I was elected Prime Minister", the PM said.

Nikol Pashinyan also emphasized that during the conversation the commitment to the negotiation process was recorded. "We agreed to establish operative communication channels but we have not agreed about its technical imple-

mentation", Pashinyan said, adding that there were no other discussions.

"I am happy and hope that those agreements will be respected, since they are extremely important", PM Pashinyan said.



President Sarkissian praises conduct of political parties during Yerevan election

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian has weighed in on the recent Yerevan City Hall election, praising the conduct of all political parties that accepted the outcome and congratulated the winner.

“Dear countrymen,

The Central Electoral Commission has [issued] the final results of the Yerevan City Council early election. I congratulate on holding the election in line with Constitutional norms and principles,” the president said in an address published by his office.

This is the first step of New Armenia in the direction of fundamental improvement of the electoral process, which can serve as basis for holding next elections in a greater atmosphere of solidarity of public confidence. In this context I highly appreciate the conduct of competing blocs and parties, as well as political forces that did not participate in the election, which accepted the election results and congratulated the winning force.

The high indicators of My Step bloc put a great responsibility on its leaders, namely



on the future [Yerevan] mayor. Serious and [busy] work in the [Yerevan] city hall is expected for Prosperous Armenia Party and Luys bloc also, for ensuring the diversity and balance of opinions.

I wish productive work to the new government of Yerevan, for the prosperity of the capital [city] and increase of welfare of its citizens,” the statement said.

The Central Electoral Commission of Armenia convened a sitting on Sunday to sign a final protocol on the Yerevan City Council election.

The commission said that based on the results of re-count it approved the protocol.

The commission also noted that no violations which could’ve impacted the outcome of the election had taken place.

The Yerevan City Council is elected, with the following distribution of mandates:

My Step bloc – 57 seats

Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) – 5 seats

Luys (Light) bloc – 3 seats

The My Step bloc has won a landslide victory in the September 23 Yerevan City Council elections. My Step’s candidate for Yerevan Mayor is Hayk Marutyan.

Preliminary counts of all precincts showed a massive 81,06% victory for My Step. 294,109 people voted for the alliance.

The Prosperous Armenia Party is the runner-up with only 6,95%, or 25,219 votes.

Luys (Light) bloc won 4,99%, or 18,112 votes.

The ARF garnered only 5882 votes (1,61%).

848,343 people were eligible to vote in the election, but the turnout was a bit over 360,000.

Charles Aznavour dies aged 94

Charles Aznavour, the world-famous French singer of Armenian descent, died on October 1 at the age of 94.

Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was quick to pay tribute to “one of the greatest sons of the Armenian people.”

Aznavour, who reportedly passed away at one of his homes in the southeast of France, was born Shahnour Vaghinag Aznavourian in Paris to Armenian parents. His father was a singer who also worked as a cook and restaurant manager, and his mother was an actress.

Described by some as a French Frank Sinatra, Aznavour sold more than 100 million records in 80 countries, among them “She” and “Formidable.” He sang not only in French but also in Spanish, English, Italian and German.

Aznavour was also one of the most renowned members of France’s influential Armenian community. He was at the forefront of the community’s efforts to help victims of a catastrophic earthquake that devastated much of northern Armenia in 1988.

The crooner regularly visited the country in the following decades. A square in downtown Yerevan was named after him in 2001.

In 2004, Aznavour received Armenia’s highest state award, the title of National Hero, in recognition of his support for his ancestral homeland.

In 2009 Aznavour was appointed Armenia’s Ambassador to Switzerland.

“First I hesitated, as it is not an easy task. Then I thought that what is important for Armenia is important for us. I have accepted the proposal with love, happiness and feeling of deep dignity,” Aznavour said.

On 24 August 2017, Aznavour was awarded the 2,618th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Nikol Pashinyan aired a live video address to the nation shortly after news of Aznavour’s death was reported by international media. “This is a really sad day in the history of our people and our country,” he declared.

“On behalf of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people, I want to express my condolences to all of us, to the people of France, and to Charles Aznavour’s fans around the world,” said Pashinyan.

“This is a great loss for Armenia and the Armenian people. This is a great loss for France and the French people. And this is a great loss for humanity,” he added.

“Deeply French, viscerally attached to his Armenian roots, recognized throughout the world, Charles Aznavour will have accompanied the joys and sorrows of three generations,” French President Emmanuel Macron said for his part. “His masterpieces, his stamp, his unique radiance will survive him for a long time.”

“We will share with the Armenian people the mourning of the French people,” Macron wrote on his Twitter page.

Macron also revealed that he asked Aznavour to accompany on him on his upcoming trip to Armenia which will host next week a summit of French-speaking nations. He said the singer was due to perform at the summit.

A big fan of Aznavour, Macron is said to have sung many of his songs during karaoke nights with friends when he was a student.



Ex-President's relatives "stripped of Armenian diplomatic passports"

Dozens of relatives of former Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Robert Kocharyan are reportedly among more than 350 individuals whose diplomatic passports have been revoked since the recent change of Armenia's government.

An Armenian law on diplomatic service allows not only Foreign Ministry officials but also the president of the republic, government members, lawmakers, Constitutional Court judges and their family members to hold diplomatic passports during their tenure. It obligates those officials and their relatives to hand back the passports after leaving office.

This requirement seems to have been routinely violated. According to the Foreign Ministry, 254 Armenian diplomatic passports have been invalidated for this reason in the last few months. More than a hundred other persons have surrendered such passports entitling their holders to visa-free travel to European Union member states and other countries.

Armenian media reports have said that individuals stripped of their diplomatic passports include Kocharyan's and Sargsyan's children, grandchildren, sons-in-law or daughters-in-law as well as their other relatives and even press secretaries. The latter could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan did not deny the veracity of the reported list which also includes the names of other retired senior officials, notably former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanyan and former Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan. "I won't comment



on the list," Balayan told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

A spokesman for Levon Ter-Petrosian, another former president who ruled Armenia from 1991-1998, insisted that both he and his family have had no diplomatic passports for the past two decades.

"President Ter-Petrosian and [his wife] Lyudmila Ter-Petrosian received diplomatic passports during his presidency," said Arman Musinian. "Two months after his resignation

in 1998 then Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanyan demanded their surrender in a letter, which is what President Ter-Petrosian and Mrs. Ter-Petrosian did."

The "Hraparak" daily reported earlier this week that also losing his diplomatic passport was Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Armenia's leading footballer currently playing for the English club Arsenal. Mkhitaryan's mother, Marina Tashchian, told other media outlets afterwards that he handed back his passport this summer.

From gunmen to politicians: Sasna Tsrer holds inaugural party congress



YEREVAN, ARMENPRESS. The Sasna Tsrer (Daredevils of Sassoun) political party is adopting a legal-political concept based on

succession of the First Republic and aimed at national mission. The party held its inaugural congress today, on September 29.

Sasna Tsrer was the armed group that stormed into a police station in Yerevan and took hostages, demanding the resignation of the then-government in 2016. The attack left three police officers dead.

"Sasna Tsrer will be one of the pillars of the state that we imagine," said Zhirayr Sefilian, coordinator of the Board of the Founding Parliament movement.

Varuzhan Avetisyan, spokesperson of Sasna Tsrer, said that "it's time to reassume the universal mission of Armenians which stems from credo in the Sasna Tsrer epic.

"Everything, including a nation, loses everything and eventually gets lost itself if it doesn't follow its mission. We too have deviated from our mission, and this is the reason of what is happening to us until this day, the other things are circles of chains," he said. Avetisyan was one of the gunmen during the 2016 attack.

Members of Sasna Tsrer were recently released from pre-trial detention by courts but the proceedings are still ongoing.

Armenia, USA express readiness to boost political dialogue

Armenia's foreign minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Wess Mitchell held a meeting on September 28 within the framework of the UN General Assembly in New York City.

During the meeting the Armenian FM presented the domestic democratic developments in Armenia, the government's priorities, namely in the human rights protection and anti-corruption fields. The sides expressed readiness to boost political dialogue. Ideas were exchanged over deepening cooperation in trade-economic, Armenia's development agenda and the innovative and scientific-educational field. In this context the Armenia-USA inter-governmental commission's activities were highlighted.



The diplomats also addressed a number of issues of the regional and international agenda, namely the protection of ethnic and religious minorities in the Middle East and the international community's fight against terror.

Mnatsakanyan and Mitchell also addressed the efforts within the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship for the peaceful resolution of the NK conflict.

Armenian FM, UN Assistant Secretary-General/Counter-Terrorism chief meet in NYC



Within the framework of the UN General Assembly, Armenian foreign minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan has met with Michèle Coninsx, the UN Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in New York City.

During the meeting the sides discussed the efforts of the international community in combating terrorism and the need to enhance the actions, and in this context addressed Armenia's contribution. Ideas were exchanged over ongoing cooperation within the framework of the UN Security Council's

Resolution 1540 and other international documents.

The Armenian minister reiterated commitment to coherently cooperate with international partners in fighting terrorism, radicalism, xenophobia, at the same time encouraging the ideas of tolerance and peaceful cohabitation.

Mnatsakanyan and Jagland praise Armenia-Council of Europe productive cooperation

Armenian foreign minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan has met with Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland on September 27 in New York City. The Armenian FM is in NYC for the 73rd UN General Assembly.

During the meeting Mnatsakanyan and Jagland spoke highly about the effective cooperation between Armenia and the Council of Europe and discussed several issues concerning Armenia's involvement in the organization, the foreign ministry said.

The sides addressed the possibilities of finding solutions to a number of issues facing the organization.

The Armenian FM spoke about the latest domestic developments, priorities of the new government, including its efforts aimed at the protection of human rights, strengthening of democracy and combating corruption.

Mnatsakanyan presented to Jagland the stance and priorities of the Armenian side in the NK conflict settlement process, attaching importance to the creation of an atmosphere contributing to peace for advancing the talks process, the full adherence to the ceasefire and refusal from aggressive rhetoric.



The interpretation of how politics traditionally works should be updated, Armenia's President says



President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian believes “our interpretation of how politics traditionally works should be updated to reflect the way that physics has been reimaged.”

The classical world of post-Newtonian physics was linear, predictable, even deterministic. By contrast, the quantum world is highly uncertain and interconnected and can change depending on the position of the observer.

“A lot of things in our lives have quantum behaviour. We are living through a dynamic process of change,” Mr. Sarkissian said in an interview with the Financial Times.

According to the source, Mr Sarkissian has been studying this phenomenon in practice and in theory. Since being elected president in March, he has tried to calm political turmoil in Armenia. He is also one of the very few heads of state to be a theoretical physicist.

“I think we have to look at our world in a completely different way,” he added.

“Armenia is a small state and a global nation,” Mr Sarkissian said. “Those living in California can see what is happening in their beloved country and react. This is another example of a new quantum quality.”

Although he has been testing his theory to explain these political dynamics, Mr Sarkissian is still searching for a solution as to how best to manage them. However, as a scientist, he still strongly supports the force of reason, evidence and established truth.

“You have to lead by your example and vision and ideas,” he says.

USAID reaffirms continued support for Artsakh de-mining

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Brock Bierman has pledged before a Congressional panel, to continue funding for the HALO Trust's de-mining of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) reports.

“We want to thank Congressman Sher-

man for his strong legislative leadership on aid to Artsakh and also Assistant Administrator Bierman – a longtime friend of the Armenian American community – for sharing the Trump Administration's continued commitment to de-mining Artsakh,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “We are seeing such strong bipartisan support for the U.S. aid

to Artsakh because it represents an American success story – an effective investment in peace that saves lives and promotes stability.”

During his testimony, Bierman reported, “we are at about 97.6% completed the mission of de-mining in that particular area, and more than 125,000 people have benefited from the demining. This has saved lives and prevents injuries and generates local jobs. We will continue to look at humanitarian assistance in that particular region as it arises.”

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe Chairman Dana Rohrabacher noted that de-mining is among the best projects that the U.S. can fund. “To me [demining] is the most justified of all expenditures of foreign aid.”

In his remarks, Bierman pointed out, “I have met with the Armenian Diaspora and we have made a point of reaching out to them and talking about partnerships benefitting not only Armenia but the region.”

During Thursday's hearing, Rep. Brad Sherman noted that he will be submitting a “question for the record” asking the USAID to contact the Department of Treasury in support of a new U.S.-Armenia tax treaty “which will actually make money for the IRS instead of cost money, like everything else does.”



Yerevan to have Francophonie Village during upcoming summit

A Francophonie Village will be organized in Yerevan during the La Francophonie summit which will take place early October this year in the Armenian capital. The Francophonie Village will be located in the city's Freedom Square.

Yerevan City Hall said that Francophone countries will participate in the event in individual pavilions.



Members of the La Francophonie will present the cultural diversity, crafts and arts of their peoples. Dance and music performances will also take place.

All provinces of Armenia will be presented at the event individually, including Yerevan.

The Village will operate from October 7th through October 12.

French multinational retailer Carrefour to open second hypermarket in Yerevan



French multinational retailer Carrefour will open its second hypermarket in Yerevan within the framework of the upcoming La Francophonie summit in the Armenian capital, Ambassador of France Jonathan Lacote said at a news conference on September 28.

The ambassador expressed hope for increased French investments in Armenia. "Not only do French investors bring investments with them, but also skills, ethics, social responsibility. We hope that as result of the 2018 political and diplomatic realities in Armenia the investments will increase," he said.

The La Francophonie summit will also feature a business forum, with a number of French organizations expected to arrive.

The second Carrefour hypermarket in Yerevan will be located on Tigran Mets Avenue near the Zoravar Andranik subway station.

The first hypermarket of the French retailer was opened in Yerevan in 2015.

Speaker of Parliament holds meeting with Veolia executive

Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Ara Babloyan has held a meeting with Malika Ghendouri, Vice President of Central and Eastern Europe for Veolia, which is in charge of water management in Armenia as Veolia Jur (Veolia Water).

MP Armen Rustamyan, the chair of the Armenia-France parliamentary friendship group, MP Khosrov Harutyunyan, chair of the economic affairs committee of parliament, and MP Gevorg Gorgisyan, member of the foreign affairs committee took part in the meeting.

Speaking about the ongoing activities of Veolia in Armenia, the sides noted that the existing problems must be solved within the contract, while issues requiring clarifications will be regulated through negotiations and discussions.

The MPs noted that the presence of Veolia in Armenia, the successful public-private sector cooperation, should serve as a good example of attracting foreign investments and having a reliable investment environment.



CIS potential not tapped in full, Armenian PM says

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on September 28 participated in a regular session of the CIS Council of Heads of State in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. The event was attended by the Presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan.

The session started with a narrow format sitting, after which the discussions continued in an expanded format. The Summit first summarized this year's cooperation results, and discussed the main vectors of future cooperation.

Particular attention was paid to the ongoing preparations for the Great Patriotic War Victory 75th Anniversary celebrations in 2020. A decision was made to issue a 75-anniversary jubilee medal.

A number of documents on multilateral cooperation were signed during the meeting. A decision was also made to transfer the CIS presidency to Turkmenistan in 2019.

The Council issued a statement on the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The meeting decided that Tajikistan should be the host country for the CIS Cultural Capital in 2021. 2021 was proclaimed to be the Year of Architecture and Urban Development in the CIS.

The 2019-2023 Intergovernmental Program for Combating Crime was approved, and a treaty between the CIS-member States on fight against crime in the sphere of information technologies was signed at the Summit.

Changes have been made to the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Defense Ministers of CIS-member States along with amendments to the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center regulations. The next CIS Summit will be held in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat on October 11, 2019. The protocols on the decisions passed at the Summit were signed during the meeting.

During the narrow-format panel sitting, Prime Minister Pashinyan attached importance



to the enhancement of cooperation within the CIS and the strengthening of ties in different directions. The head of the Armenian government pointed out that the CIS potential has not yet been tapped in full in terms of regional cooperation, and appropriate steps need to be taken to that effect.

"It will promote the competitiveness of national economies, raise the citizens' welfare, develop humanitarian ties and strengthen human contacts," Nikol Pashinyan emphasized.

Touching upon the Great Patriotic War Victory 75th Anniversary celebrations in 2020, the Premier said that May 9 will forever remain as the symbol of unshakable courage and unity of our peoples who fought side by side on the bat-

tlefield, waging a selfless struggle to save the world from the threat of Nazism.

"The Armenian nation has a special attitude for this Victory. Half the Armenian conscripts never returned to their homes from the appalling war. More than 70 thousand Armenian servicemen were awarded military diplomas and medals; over one hundred Armenian military were conferred upon the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The festive day of May 9, as well as the memory of the fallen calls on all of us to mark the 75th Anniversary with due ceremony, as well as to counter the attempts of rewriting history, making heroes of Nazi militants and propagating neo-Nazism," the Prime Minister said.

Nikol Pashinyan underscored the importance of the statement adopted on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

"The CIS is promoting cooperation in the economy and innovation, cultural and humanitarian spheres. In this respect, I would like to inform you that Yerevan will host the World IT Forum in 2019, which is to become an important platform for developing in practice scientific ties between representatives of different countries. We expect the representatives of our CIS partner countries to take an active part in this important event," the Premier said, adding that Armenia is keen to build and develop humanitarian ties.



French President Emmanuel Macron to visit Armenia October 11-12

President of France Emmanuel Macron, one of the main guests of the Yerevan La Francophonie summit, will be in Armenia for the event October 11-12, French Ambassador Jonathan Lacote told ARMENPRESS.

The ambassador said that Macron will be accompanied by his foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, among others.

The International Organisation of La Francophonie represents one of the biggest linguistic zones in the world. Its members share more than just a common language. They also share the humanist values promoted by the French language. The French language and its humanist values represent the two cornerstones on which the International Organisation of La Francophonie is based.

The International Organisation of La Francophonie was created in 1970. Its mission is to embody the active solidarity between its 84 member states and governments (58 members and 26 observers), which together represent over one-third of the United Nations' member states and account for a population of over 900 million people, including 274 million French speakers.

IOF organises political activities and actions of multi-lateral cooperation that benefit



French-speaking populations. Its actions respect cultural and linguistic diversity and serve to promote the French language, peace and sustainable development.

IOF has concluded 33 cooperation agreements with international and regional organizations and has established permanent dialogue between the major international linguistic zones (the English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Arab-speaking zones).

The IOF has its head office in Paris as well as four permanent representations in Addis Ababa (at the African Union and at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), in Brussels (at the European Union), in New York and in

Geneva (at the UN). It has three regional offices (West Africa ; Central Africa and Indian Ocean ; Asia-Pacific) located respectively in Lomé (Togo), Libreville (Gabon) and Hanoi (Vietnam) and two regional antennas in Bucharest (Romania) and in Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

Alongside the IOF, the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie and the four direct operators are responsible for implementing the programs decided at the Summits. The four direct operators are: the Academic Agency of La Francophonie, TV5Monde, the International Association of Francophone Mayors and The Senghor University of Alexandria.

Members:

Albania, Principality of Andorra, Armenia, Kingdom of Belgium, French Community of Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Canada-New-Brunswick, Canada-Quebec, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, , Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Moldova, Monaco, Niger, New-Caledonia, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

Observers:

Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada-Ontario, South Korea, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay.

Biggest Armenian gata wins a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records

A 60 meter-long Armenian gata (sweet pastry) weighing 368 kg 800 g has won a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The Yeremyan Projects Company organized tasting of the pastry next to the Swan Lake in downtown Yerevan.

After an 11 month-long preparatory work the gata was prepared by five cooks within two days.

It has been cooked in compliance with the traditional recipe, but nuts and dried fruit have been used to give the pastry a special flavor.



Yerevan Home Care is the first and the only one company launched in 2011 in Yerevan. The company is providing a 24/7 qualified care service to older adults, disabled people, people suffering from chronic diseases or those who need postoperative care, as well as to people with dementia.

Creating the company we concenter to support many families that live abroad and have their elderly family members staying in Armenia. We succeed in supporting these families to have not only a solution of the raised problem but to have a deep feeling of satisfaction that their relatives are in good hands.

The organization's greatest wealth is educated, professional, skilled, experienced staff and people with high values and psychological knowledge.

We treat each patient with a strong sense of responsibility and show an individual approach to the families, at the same time maintaining the accepted norms and using contemporary approaches.

Taking your relative's care on our shoulders, we bring harmony between the different generations.

Apart from the professional knowledge the company pays a great attention to the humanitarian qualities of the serving staff, to their kindness, patience,



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Yerevan Home Care
Տնային առողջապահական խնամք

care aides, home care aides, and home health aides. Home health aides might also provide limited assistance with things such as taking blood pressure or offering medication reminders.

Nursing care is more related for patients after surgery, traumas, different chronic diseases

Rehabilitation service is for people who need professional rehabilitation in their recovery periods after some types of diseases and surgery. Dementia / Alzheimer /special care is for people with dementia in all stages when you worried about their safety or a health problem.

Yerevan Home Care provides all type of medical equipment that will increase the quality of life of your loved ones. (rent of the equipment is acceptable)

Transportation is a key issue for older adults and for people with temporary or permanent disabilities especially in Armenia where the streets and buildings are not adjusted for disabled people. Yerevan Home Care is providing a transportation service for people that are in wheelchairs.



Yerevan Home Care
Տնային առողջապահական խնամք

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attention and courteous manner.

We assure that we will be your irreplaceable assistant in helping and surrounding your relative with care and support.

We provide service to all type of patients who needs care assistance.

Personal care is for elderly people who are alone and need support in daily living, such as dressing, bathing, feeding, or meal preparation. This type of care includes personal



Անկողնային հիվանդների լուգանքի կազմակերպում իրենց իսկ անկողնում

House Intelligence Chairman Nunes exploring options to reduce U.S. reliance on Turkey's Incirlik Airbase



Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, discussed reducing U.S. reliance upon Turkey's Incirlik airbase during a meeting in the U.S. Capitol with Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Executive Director Aram Hamparian.

"I had a wide-ranging and productive discussion with Aram on important issues ranging from the need for full recognition of the Armenian Genocide to whether some functions of our Incirlik military base in Turkey should be transferred elsewhere," said Chairman Nunes, following the meeting.

"We welcome this opportunity to explore a broad array of regional priorities with our friend, Chairman Nunes, including near-term options to reduce America's reliance on Turkey's Incirlik airbase," said ANCA's Aram Hamparian. "As Armenians know all too well, Turkey has long leveraged this base to hold America hostage. Diversifying our forward positioning will lessen the leverage of Turkey's increasingly hostile Erdogan government, broadening America's range of action across a broad array of regional, security, and humanitarian priorities

— among them, of course, full and formal U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide," concluded Hamparian.

Congressman Nunes has a long record in support of issues of special concern to Armenian Americans in California's Central Valley and across America, and has received an "A" rating from the ANCA over the past 4 terms in office. He has been an ardent advocate of U.S. reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide, having cosponsored related legislation in every term since his election to office in 2002. He has consistently called on both Democrat and Republican U.S. presidents to properly commemorate the crime in their April 24th annual remembrance statements and visited the Dzidzernagapert Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan, Armenia in 2012.

On Artsakh safety and security he has been equally outspoken, consistently supporting the implementation of the Royce – Engel peace proposals. At the start of the 4-day Azerbaijani attack on Artsakh in April, 2016, Nunes cautioned, "The clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh risk escalating into a dangerous, wider war. The ceasefire must be scrupulously observed, while Azerbaijan needs to implement widely-supported

peacekeeping measures along the line of contact, including a withdrawal of snipers and an expanded role for the OSCE." In 2018, he was one of only two Republicans calling for expanded aid to Armenia and Artsakh for Fiscal Year 2019.

Congressman Nunes condemned the Erdogan-ordered attacks on peaceful protesters in Washington, DC in May, 2017, stating "Erdogan is busy turning his own country into an authoritarian state, but he needs to know that his thugs are not welcome here and that there will be consequences for this attack."

In 2003, Rep. Nunes joined with the ANCA Central California to honor then State Senator Chuck Poochigian as ANC Man of the Year. "It's really about honesty—integrity and a man who is a tireless worker on behalf of all the people," said Congressman Nunes.

Born in Tulare, California to parents of Portuguese ancestry who emigrated from the Azores, Nunes worked on a family farm growing up then bought his own farmland with his brother. He graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a master's degree in agriculture.

Nunes was first elected to public office as one of California's youngest community college trustees in state history at the age of 23. In 2001, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as California State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development section. He left this post to successfully run for California's 21st congressional district and now serves in the 22nd district as a result of redistricting in 2010.

Nunes was appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the 112th Congress and became its chairman in the 114th Congress.

UN Secretary-General encourages Armenia, Azerbaijan to take confidence-building steps towards peaceful settlement NK conflict

UN Secretary-General António Guterres encourages Armenia and Azerbaijan to take confidence-building steps towards a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, the UN said in a statement.

The following statement was issued on September 30 by the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General António Guterres:

"The Secretary-General welcomes the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, held on 26 September in the margins of the General Assembly, under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

The Secretary-General shares the Co-Chairs' concern about recent statements and incidents along the Line of Contact and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. He reiterates the full support of the United Nations for the important mediation efforts of the Co-Chairs and encourages the parties to take steps enhancing confidence and foster the necessary political will to reach a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

A meeting between Armenian foreign minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Azerbaijan's foreign minister Elmar Mammadyarov took place September 26 in New York City at the mediation



of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America. The Co-Chairs, as well as the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, participated in the meeting, the foreign ministry said.

The meeting initially began in an expanded format, followed by a one-on-one meeting of the FMs.

Minister Mnatsakanyan reiterated Armenia's stance and approach on the exclusively peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) conflict.

A 'useful' exchange of ideas over the conflict's settlement aimed at establishing sustainable peace in the region took place, the

ministry said. The parties agreed to continue dialogue, including within the framework of an upcoming visit of the Co-Chairs to the region.

The OSCE Minsk Group issued the following statement the next day:

"The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America) met separately and jointly with the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, and the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, between 25 and 27 September on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The Co-Chairs were joined in their meetings by the Personal Representative of the OSCE

Chairperson-in-Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk. They also met with the OSCE Secretary General, UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, and a representative of the Italian OSCE Chairmanship.

The Ministers continued negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Co-Chairs and the Ministers discussed the situation in the region and sought clarification with respect to several recent statements and incidents of concern. The Co-Chairs expressed deep regret over the continuing and unnecessary loss of life. They cautioned the Ministers about the dangers of escalation, called on the parties to engage constructively in a positive atmosphere, and to avoid inflammatory rhetoric. The Co-Chairs underscored that a comprehensive settlement will require compromises on all sides.

In this context, the Ministers confirmed the importance of taking measures to intensify the negotiation process and to take additional steps to reduce tensions. The Ministers agreed to meet again before the end of the year.

The Co-Chairs plan to visit the region in the near future and will then brief the OSCE Minsk Group and the Permanent Council on the status of negotiations."

1st century B.C. artifact goes missing in Artsakh's Tigranakert museum

A Parthian silver coin dating back to the 1st century B.C. which was on display at the Tigranakert museum in Artsakh has disappeared. The museum is located in the premises of the Tigranakert State Historic-Cultural Reserve.

Tigranakert of Artsakh is a ruined Armenian city dating back to the Hellenistic period. Archaeological excavations have been underway at the site for many years.

Hamlet Petrosyan, expedition leader of the Tigranakert excavations, told ARMENPRESS that this is the first time in the history of the museum when an artifact goes miss-



ing. "No [able-minded] person would do something like this. This is certainly a very unpleasant incident, but we hope that it will be revealed," he said. Petrosyan said law enforcement agencies are already looking into the case.

He said that the missing coin was discovered during 2010 excavations of Tigranakert's ancient tomb field.

"The coin was kept under a very heavy glass cover and someone succeeded in lifting it and taking it," he said.

An investigation is underway.

The 7th Regional HR Conference Dedicated to the Human Resource Management (HRM) has Launched

The 7th Regional HR Conference organized with the joint efforts of **Cascade People & Business** and the **Armenian HR Association** and entitled “**Gamification in Business or Fast Floating Race**” has launched. As always, this year as well, the conference convened on a variety of topics reflecting the most critical and essential issues of the industry.

Around **200** participants from more than **15** countries had applied for the most anticipated annual event in the sector. The stakeholders included HR managers, executive directors, trainers, consultants, and other beneficiaries from around **60** local and international organizations.

exciting program,” said **Arpi Karapetyan**, founder and CEO of Cascade People & Business, President of the HR Association of Armenia.

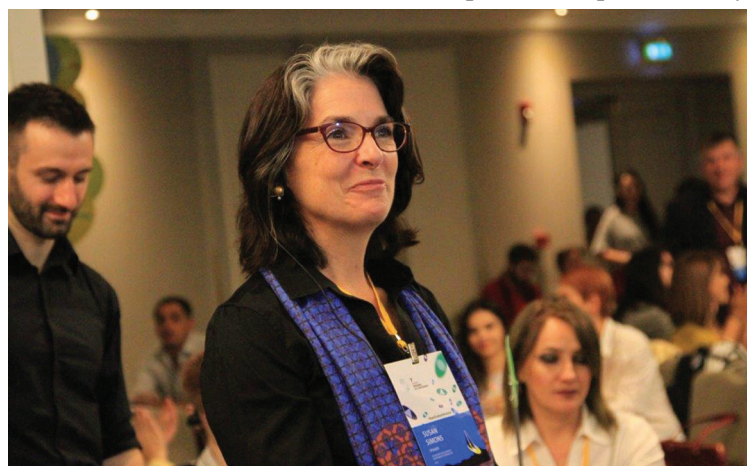
“Human resources play cru-

gagement in the work to help promote competitive advantages of a company and become a leader in setting system of values,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph C. Yirikian** said.



conference – Gamification in Business – is very important and relevant for us. Acting on behalf of the German government, one of our goals is to support introduction of innovative digital solutions particularly in the private sector to ensure sustainability and competitiveness of the sector in Armenia. We believe this conference bringing together the local and regional expertise will mark a new milestone in this direction,” said **Wilhelm Hugo**, GIZ PSD TVET Team Leader Armenia.

During the conference the “**Teamification**” application was introduced. The app is based on new technologies and has been developed and implemented by



This year the conference hosted **25** internationally acclaimed speakers from Armenia, Russia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, United States, Austria, Germany, Philippines, and Poland. During the two-day conference, they delivered speeches and master classes.

“The regional conference gives an excellent platform to participants for sharing their experience. The title of each year’s conference is selected based on previous year’s surveys. This year’s conference is fully dedicated to games and game solutions in the business. We speak about game solutions in our profession - in recruitment, group work, workplace, learning process, motivation system, etc. We have gorgeous speakers and a very



cial role. They bridge companies with employees and with society, where traffic has more than one direction. The human resources have to have flexible approaches and shall provide development of both a company’s staff and encourage each and every one’s en-

“It’s already the second time that Private Sector Development and TVET South Caucasus Programme implemented by GIZ has been contributing to Regional HR Conference, as part of its human capacity development measures. The topic of this year’s

the joint efforts of the **M. In. D.** startup and **Cascade People & Business**.

The general partners of the conference are **VivaCell-MTS**, Representative Office of **Microsoft** in Armenia, and **Reebok Sports Club**. The conference was supported also by **HSBC Bank Armenia**, **Private Sector Development and Technical Vocational Education and Training South Caucasus (PSD TVET) Programme**, implemented by **GIZ** on behalf of the German government, **PicsArt**, **Hatqiq Printing Company**, **Skill.am**, and **Armenia Wine Factory**.

The opening ceremony and interviews can be found by the following link: <https://youtu.be/J0T2IGuu8MI>.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

This is a seriously hard-working period. You may be packing and moving your personal goods. Whatever the project, it involves considerable lifting, pushing, pulling, and grunt work. Be very conscious of good body posture. The emotional pressure may set you up for an accident. Take your time and ask for help rather than forcing your limits.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You are in a period of juggling your time and energy. You want to follow your own plan and you wish others would go into suspension until you have time to complete the project. Communicate your needs clearly and often for best results.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Relationships are a little rocky now. There are elements of obsessive thinking and criticism involved. Be intentional about keeping an open mind and don't insist on a black and white answer. It is possible someone is doing this to you, but you can resist falling into that trap.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

An issue concerning your estate matters or other shared resources may open up for one more discussions. This is something that seems to go away, only to surface later in another form. The issue is over values. You and the other have differing attitudes. Consider discussing how you and the Other assign worth. Maybe that will change the conversation enough to arrive at the conflict differently.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Your significant other may be acting like a horse's patootie right now, but you don't have to follow suit and play in the same court. Neither of you is being served by sharp words and irritable behavior. "Prove it if you love me" is a game left over from the cave people. Leave it alone.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

This is a week in which you will tend to be thinking obsessively. It is an opportunity to learn how to better control your mind. Shift your attention to something less dramatic, such as whatever is happening this moment, rather than worrying over what might happen in the future.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

It is time to dig deeply into yourself so you can be as fully honest as possible within important relationships. Speak from your heart and do not allow your ego, which wants only to look good, to take your words hostage. Think carefully about what is truly important to you now, at this time in your life. Don't allow old habits or rules from the past to make your decision for you.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Give attention to the lead paragraph. If you are angry with someone in the present, it is more related to your childhood and adolescent history than it is in the now. Notch your passionate response down a couple of pegs and you might be more in the ball park of reality.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Don't allow yourself to be tempted into grandiosity. You'll be inclined to spend more than you have, take ill-conceived risks, lecture others about your belief systems, and present your viewpoint as the final word. It is an attitude that keeps you overly excited and causes difficulty sleeping.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Prepare for a period of scarcity between now and the end of October. This could be due to limited income and energy. Make every effort to not add to your debt load. You will need your savings for back up. Otherwise you must work extra hours to manage your resources. Many of you have seen this time coming and have already prepared.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

Please read the lead paragraph. Mars is traversing your sign and making the message more imperative for the Waterbearers. You could become involved in a drama with a significant other. Your ego may be a bit bruised, but the real wound happened many years ago.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

There is an old saying: "Don't believe everything you think." Take this one to heart this week. Your feelings and thoughts may be only projections of what you want to think. You might identify a piece of information as a truth, when indeed, it is merely your opinion.

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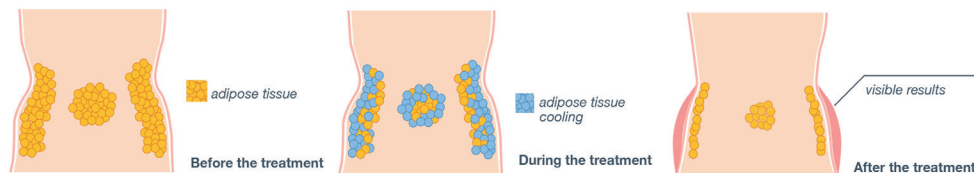
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