

Armenia strongly condemns Azerbaijan's provocative actions on shared border



Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of dishonoring its commitments to strengthen ceasefire after border incidents over the weekend in which at least one Armenian soldier was killed and two others were wounded.

Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Anna Naghdalyan said on July 29 that the recent violations show that authorities in Baku have shown disregard for the obligations undertaken during the two countries' leaders in Vienna, Austria, earlier this year.

“The intentional and provocative violations of the ceasefire by Azerbaijan contradict the commitments to maintain and strengthen the ceasefire that were made at the level of the leaders of the two states at the Vienna Summit on March 29. They disregard the statement adopted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-chairs following their June 20 meeting in Washington with the [Armenian and Azerbaijani] foreign ministers, in which the parties were urged to strictly adhere to their commitment to respect the ceasefire and refrain from provocative actions by using snipers along the line of contact and the state border,” Naghdalyan said.

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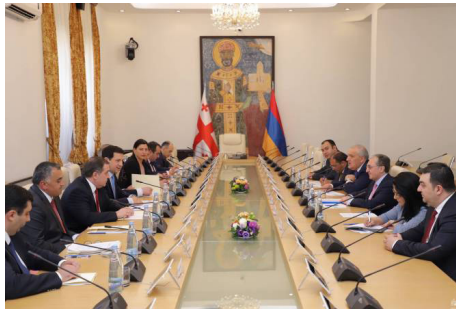
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Armenian FM, Georgian parliament Speaker discuss issues of regional security

Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and his delegation met with Speaker of the Georgian Parliament Archil Talakavadze on July 25. Vice President of the Georgian Parliament, head of Georgia-Armenia friendship group George Volsky and other members of the group, as well as chairperson of the foreign relations committee of the parliament of Georgia Sofio Katsarava participated in the meeting.

As Noyan Tapan was informed from the press service of the parliament of Armenia, thanking for the warm reception, Minister Mnatsakanyan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to further strengthen the centuries-old friendly relations between Armenia and Georgia. In this context Zohrab



Mnatsakanyan and Archil Talakavadze emphasized with satisfaction the active role of parliamentary diplomacy as a productive platform between the legislatures of Armenia and Georgia.

The Armenia FM and the head of the Georgian parliament also highlighted the regular meetings between the parliamen-

tary committees of the two parliaments.

The interlocutors underlined the important role of Georgian-Armenians in the social-political life of Georgia, as well as in terms of bringing closer the two neighboring friendly peoples and countries.

Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Archil Talakavadze exchanged views on issues of regional stability and security. The Armenian Foreign Minister presented the position and approaches of Armenia in the process of peaceful settlement of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, underlining the importance of relevant atmosphere for achieving progress in the peace process.

At the end of the meeting FM Mnatsakanyan made a note in the book of honorable guests of the Georgian parliament.

Armenia offers closer ties to new UK Leader



Nikol Pashinyan congratulates Boris Johnson on assuming the office of UK Prime Minister

I warmly congratulate you on assuming the office of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. I wish you every success in the exercise of this important mission.

Armenia is eager to develop and expand the Armenian-British cooperation. The ongoing constructive dialogue between our two countries provides a solid foundation for achieving important results in all areas and tapping the emerging opportunities to

the benefit of our friendly nations.

I am hopeful that we will have the opportunity to meet in the near future and give new impetus to Armenian-British relations through joint efforts.

Ali Kemal, the great grandfather of Boris Johnson was a Turkish journalist who was accused of protecting Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, expert in Turkish studies Ruben Melkonyan presented details from the life of Johnson's great grandfather in an interview with ARMENPRESS.

According to him, the grandfather of

Boris Johnson's mother, Ali Kemal was a famous journalist and political figure during the Ottoman Empire who at the end of Young Turks' governance criticized the policy of the Young Turks. Ruben Melkonyan also told that Ali Kemal became more active and touched upon the Armenian issue after 1918, when the Young Turks were already out of power.

After Young Turks left power Kemal was included in the new government which at that time was fully subordinated to the UK.

"At that time Ali Kemal was the Minister of Interior for a short period. Later, when Kemalist movement started backed by the Young Turks, the Republic of Turkey was established and the Kemalists set the Independence Tribunal, which were to sue people with a position against the Young Turks. Ali Kemal was arrested and on the way to Ankara where he had to stand trial one of the governors was giving a speech presenting Kemal as a famous fan of Armenians. The governor handed Ali Kemal to the crowd gathered in front of the governorate, who killed him and hung his body", Melkonyan said.

Armenian President calls for ‘unity’



Armenia -- President Armen Sarkissian (C) visits the village of Odzun in Lori province, July 20, 2019.

(Yerevan – RFE/RL) - President Armen Sarkissian on July 26 urged Armenia’s leading political actors to exercise restraint in their heated debates on judicial reforms planned by the government and other major issues.

“I am hopeful that the ongoing and future developments will not only promote the efficiency of the judicial reforms but also the improvement of all areas of the state and public administration, mutual understanding and broader cooperation between the public and the authorities,” he said in a written address to the nation.

“We need to realize that not only the goal is important but also the means to achieve it,” read the carefully worded statement. “Let’s make disagreements and problems the topic of our discussions but never the individuals.”

“In order to move forward, often it is expedient to take a little break, to muse once again over the task ahead,” added Sarkissian, who has largely ceremonial powers. “Let’s realize that today we need unity, stability, ability to see the future, a vision as well as concrete programs.”

The head of state appeared to allude to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s deepening dispute with Armenia’s Constitutional Court and its chairman, Hrayr Tovmasyan, in particular.

Pashinyan launched a scathing attack on Tovmasyan in an interview with RFE/RL’s Armenian service last week. He accused Tovmasyan of cutting political deals with

former President Serzh Sargsyan to “privatize” the country’s highest court through constitutional amendments that took effect in April 2018.

“The Constitutional Court must get out of this status of a privatized booth,” the premier said, implicitly demanding changes in the court’s composition. In that regard, he did not exclude that his administration will initiate constitutional changes in order to “resolve the situation around the Constitutional Court.”

Tovmasyan, who previously served as a senior lawmaker representing Sargsyan’s Republican Party (HHK), rejected the harsh criticism as offensive and baseless. He warned the Armenian government against trying to force him and other members of the court to resign.

Pashinyan also signaled support for Vahe Grigoryan, the Constitutional Court’s newest judge elected by the Armenian parliament in June. Citing the amended constitution, Grigoryan has challenged the legitimacy of Tovmasyan and six other members of the court appointed before the “Velvet Revolution” of April-May 2018.

Grigoryan’s stance has been backed by some of Pashinyan’s political allies but strongly condemned by opposition politicians, notably senior HHK figures. The latter have also accused President Sarkissian of turning a blind eye to what they see as illegal government pressure on courts.

In his statement, Armen Sarkissian said he is “following closely numerous pronounced

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The Foreign Ministry representative stressed that Yerevan condemns “the provocations that lead to human casualties and are accompanied by Azerbaijan’s refusal to implement security and confidence-building measures aimed at maintaining and strengthening the ceasefire.”

In a statement released by the Foreign Ministry Naghdalyan stressed that Azerbaijan’s actions “create a risk of increased tensions, for which the entire responsibility lies with the Azerbaijani side.”

After the Saturday incident at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in which an Armenian contract soldier was wounded Armenia’s Defense Ministry also accused Azerbaijan of seeking to escalate the border situation.

“Another provocative action by the Azerbaijani side once again proves that the enemy continues to brazenly violate the ceasefire regime and consistently escalate the situation on the border. It is Azerbaijan that bears full responsibility for the escalation of the situation,” it said.

The following day military authorities in Yerevan reported that an Armenian contract serviceman was shot dead at the northeastern section of the border with Azerbaijan.

Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovannisyanyan on July 29 reported about another Armenian soldier wounded at the border with Azerbaijan in the northeastern Tavush province.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are locked in a dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated region that has been de facto independent from Baku after a three-year war in the early 1990s, in which an estimated 30,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands were displaced.

Despite a 1994 ceasefire, loss of life has continued in the conflict zone in recurrent border skirmishes and sporadic fighting.

An internationally mediated peace process spearheaded by the OSCE Minsk Group has so far failed to produce a lasting settlement of the conflict.

statements, opinions, viewpoints, appeals to act, and appeals regarding these appeals.” But he argued that the constitution bars him from “becoming part of the ongoing dispute.”

Armenia ensured unprecedented level of democracy development, says EU Ambassador



The outgoing head of the European Union Delegation in Yerevan, Piotr Switalski, described the EU's relationship with Armenia as "excellent" on July 22.

"Cooperation between the European Union and Armenia is on the right track," he told a farewell news conference.

Switalski pointed to their "very intensive and friendly political dialogue" involving mutual visits by Armenian and EU leaders and the EU's "technical missions" to Yerevan focusing on wide-ranging reforms planned by the Armenian government.

European Council President Donald Tusk praised the govern-

ment's reform agenda during a visit to Armenia earlier this month. He specifically hailed "the focus on creating an independent, efficient and accountable judicial system" after holding talks with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Switalski reaffirmed the EU's readiness to support judicial reforms planned by Pashinyan's government with "political, technical and financial" assistance. The financial aid should be made available already this autumn, he said.

Switalski also stressed the importance of 25 million euros (\$28 million) in additional EU aid to Armenia that will be provided this year. He portrayed the sum as a reward for reforms already implemented in the country. The diplomat singled out the holding in December 2018 of parliamentary elections widely recognized as democratic.

The EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, also acknowledged the "democratic reforms" last month when she announced the extra aid after chairing, together with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, a session of the EU-Armenia Partnership Council.

The CEPA offers the South Caucasus state the prospect of a closer relationship with the EU in return for major political and economic reforms. The 350-page agreement is already being partly implemented despite not having been ratified yet by all EU member states.

Armenia's crime rate keeps rising

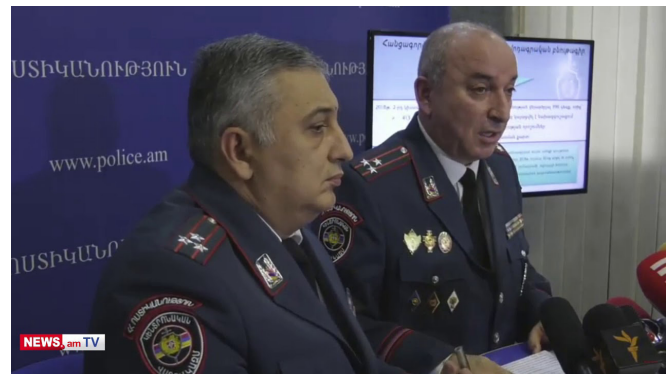
The number of various crimes committed and officially registered in Armenia continued to grow in the first half of this year, a senior police official said on July 24.

The chief of the Armenian police staff, Colonel Armen Ghukasyan, said law-enforcement authorities recorded 12,225 crimes in this period, up by 9 percent from January-June 2018. Burglaries and thefts accounted for the bulk of this increase, he told reporters.

The police reported an 11 percent rise in crimes last year. The chief of the national police service, Valeri Osipyan said in November that many crimes were underreported under his predecessors. Besides, he said, victims of petty crimes are now less reluctant to report them because of greater public trust in the police.

Ghukasyan echoed that statement when he commented on the reasons for the increased crime rate at a joint news conference with Osipyan. He argued that the number of crime reports submitted by Armenians to police stations across the country rose by more than 16 percent in the first half of 2019.

In Ghukasyan's words, a general amnesty declared by the Armenian authorities in October also had "some impact" on crime statistics. The amnesty led to the early release from prison of some 650 convicts. In Ghukasyan's words, 88 of them have been ar-



rested again for committing more offenses.

"We can presume that the individuals freed under the amnesty may have also committed other crimes that have not yet been solved," added the police official.

Osipyan noted, for his part, that since January 2018 more than a thousand other convicts have been freed because of completing their prison sentences or being granted parole.

Critics of the current government say that the police have been softer on crime after the 2018 "Velvet Revolution." Osipyan has repeatedly dismissed such claims. He again stated on Wednesday that he has practically eliminated corruption in the police ranks since taking office in May 2018.

Former French PM Dominique de Villepin joins Armenian National Interests Fund



The Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) announced that former French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has been appointed Member of the Board of Directors of ANIF, the Fund told Armenpress.

“We are pleased to announce that Dominique de Villepin has been appointed Member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF), effective today.

Chief Executive Officer of ANIF David

Papazian said: “As ANIF, Chaired by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan, begins to assemble what will be a world class Board of Directors, the appointment of Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin sets the bar very high. Forever enshrined in political studies books for his momentous speech at the United Nations in 2003, in which he pleaded with world leaders to show restraint and diplomacy in the face of an impending geopolitical upheaval, Mr. De Villepin has held France’s Prime Ministerial office, internal and foreign ministerial portfolios, amongst his past and ongoing accomplishments”.

“We are honored to count Mr. De Villepin amongst our colleagues at ANIF and as an ally of the Republic of Armenia. ANIF is especially thankful to His Excellency President Armen Sarkissian for introducing us to Mr. De Villepin”, added Mr. Papazian.

Mr. De Villepin said: “Joining ANIF’s

Board of Directors begins an exciting new journey. Like France, Armenia has recently lived through a significant rejuvenation of its political landscape and the fact that ANIF’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Papazian, is 37 years old and its Chairman, Deputy Prime Minister Avinyan, is 30 years old are indicative of this rejuvenation”.

“Armenia has registered the fastest GDP growth rate, 7.1%, in Europe for the first quarter of 2019 and ANIF has both a bright future ahead of it and a responsibility in accelerating this growth even further. I’m grateful for the opportunity to participate in making ANIF’s success felt across the Republic of Armenia”, concluded Mr. De Villepin. The current Armenian authorities have promised a tough fight against corruption. Individuals targeted by their ongoing criminal investigations also include Sarkissian’s two brothers, two nephews and former chief bodyguard.

Russian-Armenians are active in different spheres – Sinanyan meets with Russian Deputy FM



Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia Zareh Sinanyan met on July 22 with State Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin during his working visit to Russia. Ambassador of Armenia to Russia Vardan Toghanyan was present at



the meeting.

As ARMENPRESS was informed from the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia, at the beginning of the meeting Grigory Karasin noted that Russia is a multi-national coun-

try, various nations live there and co-exist with solidarity, which is very important for Russia. Karasin said that Armenians are part of the multi-national Russia and are very active in political, cultural and social spheres.

Zareh Sinanyan emphasized in his speech that the Russian-Armenian community has great potential and the Armenian side will be glad if Armenians, who are already fully integrated in the Russian public, are able to participate in the development of Russia and at the same time preserve their national identity.

The Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia presented to the Russian Deputy FM the main goals and functions of his office and the main directions of collaboration with the Diaspora, including the Russian-Armenian Diaspora. Sinanyan noted that he had numerous meetings in Russian and will visit Russia often, conditioned by the size of the Armenian community in that country.v

Armenian minister, Iranian counterpart discuss cooperation prospects

Armenian minister of high technological industry Hakob Arshakyan met with Iran's minister of information and communications technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi on the sidelines of his working visit in Tehran, the ministry told Noyan Tapan.

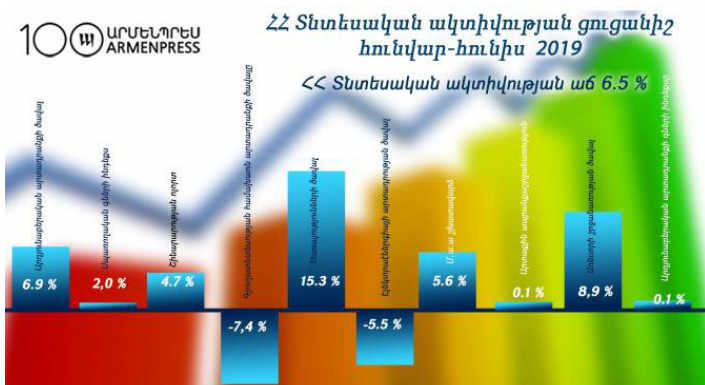
During the meeting broad range of issues relating to the Armenian-Iranian economic cooperation, as well as the upcoming projects and cooperation opportunities in the field of high technologies were discussed.

Minister Arshakyan introduced the recent political events in Armenia, the government's priorities for economic development, the vision of the new ministry aimed at developing high technological industry in Armenia.

At the end of the meeting the minister invited his Iranian counterpart to Armenia to attend the World Congress on Information Technology which will take place in Yerevan on October 6-9, 2019.



Armenia's economic activity index grows by 6.5%



Armenia's economic activity index increased by 6.5% in January-June 2019 compared to January-June 2018, according to the data released by the Statistical Committee.

In January-June 2019, industrial production volume increased by

6.9%, that of the construction – 4.7%, trade turnover – 8.9%, and the volume of services by 15.3%.

The volume of gross agricultural output decreased by 7.4% in January-June 2019 compared to January-June 2018.

Consumer price index grew by 2.0%, and the index of industrial production prices by 0.1%.

Electricity production decreased by 5.5% compared to the same period of 2018.

The average monthly nominal salary increased by 5.6%, comprising 176.783 drams.

External trade turnover almost maintained the volumes of the past year in the first half of 2018, comprising 3 billion 495 million USD (the growth is 0.1%). Moreover, in the first half of 2019 the export decreased by 0.5%, comprising 1 billion 173 million USD, but the import increased by 0.5%, comprising 2 billion 321 million USD.

Armenia ranked 64th in Global Innovation Index 2019



Armenia is ranked 64th among 129 countries in the Global Innovation Index 2019.

Armenia is no longer part of the top 30 lower middle-income economies this year, as it has been reclassified as an upper middle-income economy. It ranks 15th among the 34 upper middle-income economies covered in the GII 2019.

Other countries in the region are placed as follows: Russia – 46th, Georgia – 48th, Turkey – 49th, Azerbaijan – 84th, Iran – 61st.

The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 ranks and breaks down the innovation performance of 129 countries and economies around the world.

The GII 2019 special theme analyzes the medical innovation landscape of the next decade, looking at how technological and non-technological medical innovation will transform the delivery of healthcare worldwide.

The report finds that global economic growth appears to be losing momentum relative to last year. Productivity growth is at a record low. Trade battles are brewing. Economic uncertainty is high.

Despite this gloomy perspective, innovation is blossoming around the world. In developed and developing economies alike, formal innovation—as measured by research and development (R&D) and patents—and less formal modes of innovation are thriving.

State Revenue Committee gives Spayka LLC a chance to continue operation – SRC Chairman



The State Revenue Committee of Armenia has separated the case related to the Spayka LLC and gives a chance to the company not to stop its operation, SRC

Chairman Davit Ananyan told reporters after Cabinet meeting on July 25.

He said the SRC constantly receives information from foreign partners and makes

additional calculations.

“Taking into account the company’s close connection with agriculture, we have separated our investigation over the criminal case relating to the previous activity of the company, continue and give a chance to the company not to obstruct its activity”, he said.

Asked whether the SRC plans to make concessions to the company, the SRC Chairman stated: “To concede means to act against the law which we are not going to do. Today we have a work to do, investigative operations are underway. We work on getting additional facts. At this moment the company and its executives are free to some extent in order to deal with the operation of the company, but this doesn’t mean that we stopped the process, quite the contrary, the 7-8 billion drams announced before gradually increased”, he said.

Press conference of the SC Secretary

Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan held a press conference in the “Press Conference Hall” of the Security Council’s office on July 26.

During the press conference, Secretary of the Security Council made a speech and then answered the questions of journalists.

Next, find the speech.

“Dear journalists, first of all I would like to thank you for accepting the invitation and participating in the press conference. As you know by the decree of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan the interdepartmental commission coordinating the process of developing the National Security Strategy was established, the personal composition of the commission and the order of activities were approved. According to the decree, the Secretary of the Security Council was tasked to submit the National Security Strategy draft

to the discussion of the Security Council of the Republic of Armenia within one year and then to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Armenia will coordinate and control the work.

We are ready to take the leadership of that process with all responsibility and high level creating a relaxed atmosphere of the multifunctional discussions of professional, expert, civil, political and academic community and an open platform for the cooperation in the entire process of drafting the document. In our times, generally speaking, there is much talk about the importance of strategies, especially when it comes to national security. We have done a huge amount of preparatory work to begin this process attaching importance to the need to develop such document.

The question often arises: what is the Na-

tional Security Strategy? Its simple and accessible answer is that it is a document in which the main challenges and threats to the national security and how the state is going to face these challenges and neutralize the threats are mentioned. The New National Security Strategy will become a fundamental document for the development and implementation of the national security policy.

First of all, I will speak about one of the most important questions. Why did we decide to develop a new strategy? There are many reasons. First, the ongoing strategy was adopted 12 years ago, after which fundamental changes took place in Armenia, in the region and in the world.

Since 2007, new trends of the development have been recorded in the Russia-West relations, the Russian-Georgian

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war broke out straining the relations between those countries, because of the strained relations between Iran and the United States new challenges for overcoming sanctions have been proposed for Iran. The issues related to the Middle East region have undergone considerable changes.

It is a serious problem for us to exclude the recurring events of April 2016 that have not yet been properly assessed.

The fundamental changes have been registered in Armenia, in 2018, I mean the velvet, non-violent revolution.

The economic integration policy of Armenia has undergone major changes. Armenia became a member of the Eurasian Economic Union and signed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with EU.

Along with these developments there are realities that remain unchanged. In particular, the main challenge of Armenia continues to remain the processes around the Artsakh issue because of the rejection policy of Azerbaijan on resolving the issue through the compromises. The Armenian-Turkish border remains closed.

Taking into account the above mentioned and other facts out of the list, we will develop a new national security strategy, the implementation pillar of which will be the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. The multilateral and multilayered discussions are underway to improve and increase combat readiness. We see the need to expand the concept of security, which should also include the effectiveness of the management system and the development of the strategic infrastructures.

We are convinced that our power comes not only from the security structures and from economic capacities, but also from the ideas we have, our country leaders and the reputation of the country. In this regard, the revolution of 2018 brought a great qualitative progress to Armenia and there is a need to develop it and to make more efforts in this direction. Soft strength is our security

component.

The new strategy of the National Security, in its nature, must also reflect the historical and cultural thinking that lies in the past of the given state and people. In this regard, we look back at our past to understand the roots of our strategic thinking and what can be useful.

Yes, we live in the conditions of the 21st century's geopolitical new realities, but there is a great heritage of strategic thinking, military art, statehood consciousness and moral values in the Armenian thought, which were manifested in the crucial episodes of our history in the form of collective will and leadership.

The strategic vision of Artaxias I to build a powerful and vibrant statehood is memorable, that is the idea of a single state, as well as the implementation of military, economic and administrative and political reforms.

The legacy of our strategic mind is a life experience gained during the millenniums. This helped to have glorious victories in Sardarabad, Bash Abaran and Karakilisa. These victories are one of the brilliant manifestations of our strategic and military thought that lay in the basis of the formation of 20th century Armenian statehood.

The same can be said in case of the victory in the Artsakh war. The strategic thought, glorious battle path and libertarian breath that won in the Artsakh war provided a new level of self-assessment and thinking.

It is undeniable that the security issues of Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora are interconnected and that logic will be reflected in the New National Security Strategy. The Diaspora is viewed not only as a scattered segment of the Armenian people, but also a real and reliable partner. At the same time, the preservation of the Armenian identity abroad and the security of the Armenian people continue to remain one of the agenda issues of the policy of Armenia. Our efforts will be directed to the disclosure of the pan-Armenian potential, consolidation and effective realization for the sake of the

stable and secure progress of the Armenian people.

Under the conditions of the continuity of the security environment and treats diversity, the development of the idea of resistance is crucial in the strategic thinking, which implies high capacity to be prepared for the military and non-military security challenges, to resist and, if necessary, to recover rapidly. It requires both civilian, institutional preparedness and military capability. The strengthening of the resistance provides an opportunity to control the dynamics of changing the security environment, to effectively prevent many challenges, and if necessary, to use rapid response measures.

Taking into account the above-mentioned facts, the New National Security Strategy should reflect the security environment of our country, predict the political developments in that environment and formulate the objectives of the Republic of Armenia and the main directions of their achievement. We need to formulate a document that will be flexible, will record and respond to the changes and developments in our country, in the region and in the world. The strategy is a roadmap for state building in a classical sense to reach the country's political goals and dreams.

The best strategies can neutralize the enemy's strategy. For that it is necessary to study deeply the enemy's thinking and activities and we are doing a great job in that direction. In this context, we consider it important to break the blockade due to our thought, will and policy

According to the Chinese strategist, Sun Tzu "If you do not have any interest, do not go ahead, if you cannot get it, then do not take the army into action, if there is no danger, do not war". These are the tried-and-tested approaches of the centuries, which are still relevant today.

Recently, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan citing the Chinese military strategy has recorded in the Ministry of Defense "Talented generals win without war." This is our strategic vision."

EU and U.S. Punish Turkey for Two Separate Violations

By Harut Sassounian

After months of uncertainty and controversy, both the European Union and the United States decided to punish Turkey in the same week for two different violations.

The Associated Press reported on July 16 that the EU foreign ministers “approved sanctions against Turkey over its drilling for gas in waters where EU member Cyprus has exclusive economic rights. They said they were suspending talks on an air transport agreement, as well as high-level Turkey-EU dialogues, and would call on the European Investment Bank to review its lending” to Turkey.

The EU Foreign Ministers deplored that “despite the European Union’s repeated calls to cease its illegal activities in the eastern Mediterranean, Turkey continued its drilling operations west of Cyprus and launched a second drilling operation north-east of Cyprus within Cypriot territorial waters.”

In typical Turkish arrogance, the Ankara government called the EU decision “worthless.” Furthermore, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu announced: “We have three ships in the eastern Mediterranean, we will send a fourth.”

The EU Foreign Ministers warned that additional sanctions will be applied against Turkey if it does not back down from its illegal drilling operations around Cyprus.

Meanwhile, after months of indecisiveness, President Trump finally decided to prohibit Turkey from purchasing U.S. advanced stealth F-35 fighter jets, even though Turkey had already paid a billion dollars for the 116 jets it planned to buy and had participated in the program to manufacture parts of the aircraft, which after cancellation would result in the loss of around \$10 billion for Turkey’s defense industry.

On several occasions, Trump made excuses for Turkey’s purchase of S-400 Russian missiles by wrongly blaming the Obama administration for refusing to sell U.S. Patriot missiles to Turkey. In reality,

Turkey was the one that did not accept the terms of the U.S. proposed sale.

On the other hand, Trump was full of effusive praise for Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at a time when NATO leaders and the U.S. Congress and security officials were warning Trump that selling the F-35’s to Turkey would compromise the jets’ secrets and violate the interoperability of the Russian missiles with NATO’s military systems.

Given the obvious dangers to U.S. national security posed by Turkey’s purchase of the Russian missiles, Trump had no choice but to cancel the agreement to sell the F-35 jets to Turkey. Otherwise, Trump would have been caught in the ridiculous situation of putting “Turkey First” rather than his favorite slogan, “America First.”

The White House announced on July 17: “The F-35 cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities.” It said that Turkey’s decision to purchase the Russian S-400 air defense system renders its continued involvement in the F-35 joint strike fighter program impossible.

Ellen Lord, U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, stated: “The U.S. and other F-35 partners are aligned in this decision to suspend Turkey from the program and initiate the process to formally remove Turkey from the program.”

In his usual arrogant fashion, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu warned the U.S. that if it places sanctions on Turkey, his country would retaliate with its own set of sanctions against the U.S. Besides making big-mouth statements, let us see if Turkey will actually carry out its threats. Clearly, U.S. economic sanctions would cause the complete collapse of Turkey’s fragile economy.

Trump, who often ignores U.S. national interests at the expense of profitable business arrangements, claimed that Turkey was willing to purchase billions of dollars’ worth of F-35 fighter jets. As usual, Trump exaggerated the figures. The reality is that

Turkey was planning on spending one billion dollars on the purchase of F-35 jets, not billions. Furthermore, several countries, including the Netherlands, Israel, and an unnamed Gulf country have already indicated that they will make up for the jets not purchased by Turkey—by buying additional jets.

However, banning the Turkish purchase of F-35 jets is not the only punishment that could be applied against Turkey. Trump signed in 2017 the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. He is obligated by this law to implement sanctions on Turkey for purchasing missiles from Russia. Such a decision is not up to Trump. However, Wall Street Journal reported on July 21 that Trump is opposed to placing sanctions on Turkey. The President is scheduled to meet with a group of Senators this week to discuss possible sanctions against Turkey as pressure mounts from lawmakers to punish Ankara. Trump has three options: 1) avoid placing any sanctions; 2) delay the sanctions; and 3) place a milder version of sanctions. Most probably, the U.S. Congress will impose sanctions against Turkey if the President fails to do so!

Even without sanctions, Turkey has already suffered millions of dollars’ worth of negative publicity. Several major U.S. publications wrote editorials last week questioning Turkey’s membership in NATO.

The Wall Street Journal’s Editorial Board wrote: “The U.S. and NATO don’t have much choice now other than to rethink whether Turkey still belongs in the alliance.”

Bloomberg published an editorial, headlined: “Turkey Has Abandoned the West. Good Riddance.”

Jed Babbin wrote an opinion column in the Washington Times, titled: “Throw Turkey out of NATO.”

With each passing day, Turkey is distancing itself more and more from NATO, in favor of Russia. The combination of EU and U.S. sanctions would be the death knell for Turkey’s economy and its membership in NATO!

EU initiates series of consultations on future of Eastern Partnership

The European Union institutions opens a board and inclusive structured consultation on the future strategic direction of the Eastern Partnership, the press service of the EU Delegation to Armenia informs.

Over the past decade, the strengthened cooperation between the EU, its Member States, and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in the framework of the Eastern Partnership has proven to be mutually beneficial and has been delivering concrete results for citizens.

The joint reform agenda of “20 Deliverables for 2020”, has successfully achieved key progress in working towards building stronger economies, stronger governance, stronger connectivity and stronger societies across the region. To mark the 10th anniversary of the initiative, a High-Level Con-



ference took place on 14 May, during which President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker launched discussions on the future of the Eastern Partnership.

In this context, the European Council has tasked the Commission and EEAS to present proposals for the future of the Eastern Partnership. In order to ensure the Partnership remains relevant and inclusive, the European Commission and European External Action Service invite key stakehold-

ers to share their views on a future policy framework.

Member States and Eastern Partner Countries (governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities); international organizations; international financial institutions; civil society; business and the private sector; academia; think-tanks; youth; media and other stakeholders are invited to share their views on a new post-2020 policy framework.

All stakeholders are invited to submit their contributions on the following website by 31 October 2019. Dedicated consultation events will be also held in partner countries and in the EU during this period.

Based on these inputs, a document will be prepared to outline the proposed new framework for the post 2020 Eastern Partnership.

European Court obliges Armenia to pay over €1.6 million to a citizen

The European Court of Human Rights has obliged Armenia to pay 1.6 million euros in damage and 6,000 euros in non-pecuniary damage to citizen Yuri Vardanyan.

Yuri Vardanyan is an Armenian national, who was born in 1936 and lives in Yerevan. The case concerned the question of just satisfaction with regard to the deprivation of his house and plot of land and the related civil proceedings.

In its principal judgment of 27 October

2016, the European Court of Human Rights held that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing) of the European Convention on Human Rights and a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) to the Convention.

Today's judgment concerned the question of just satisfaction. Just satisfaction includes 1,602,000 euros (EUR) (pecuniary damage), and EUR 6,000 (non-pecuniary damage).



Armenia to participate in Dubai Expo 2020



Armenia's economy minister, chief commissioner for Armenia's participation to the Dubai Expo 2020 Tigran Khachatryan and ex-

ecutive director of the Expo Najeeb Al-Ali on July 25 signed a contract on Armenia's participation to the Expo in the ministry, the ministry told Noyan Tapan.

Thereafter, the Armenian minister and the executive director of the Dubai Expo discussed a number of organizational issues relating to Armenia's participation.

They also discussed the issue of organizing Armenia's national day during the Expo.

The Dubai Expo 2020 will be held under the title of “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”. It will launch on October 20 and will last nearly six months.

192 countries will participate in the Expo during which they will present their cultural heritage, economy, in particular the investment and tourism potential.

Armenia’s Leading Telecom Operator Recent News: Business Assignment as a Means to Facilitate Innovative Set of Mind

The 5th annual Business Challenge organized by Junior Achievement of Armenia in partnership with VivaCell-MTS took place in Tsaghkatzor on July 20th, 2019. The aim of the event is to create a dialogue between business and education to encourage the development of business skills among high school students.

One hundred ten students from all regions of Armenia embraced in the Junior Achievement’s 26th annual camp took part in the Business Challenge competition. The event gives students opportunity to turn their theatrical knowledge into practical learning and to offer novel solutions and approaches.

The VivaCell-MTS team, before their arrival to camp, presented the students with a business challenge: study the



aspects of things as well as a little bit of courage. I am sure you possess all of that, for youth is the time when there is plenty of imagination and valor. This educational model is important in developing skills and putting all the gained knowledge into practice. Try to

what is business ethics and corporate entrepreneurship Education, a program which is executed according to a memorandum entered between the Ministry of Education and Junior Achievement of Armenia. It is being implemented in 330 schools with the financial support of JHM and HSBC bank. The aim of the program is to teach 7000 students entrepreneurial skills, more notably, how to conduct marketing research, how to write a business plan,



get the valuable from this competition and move to the next level of flexibil-

social responsibility. The program allows students to apply in practice what they learn in the textbook. The participants learn to be active citizens, work in teams and are encouraged to take part in improving the community welfare.

plan of “X” and “Y” tariff plan on VivaCell-MTS website and offer new ideas to make the plan more attractive, which can be used as a business plan for future.

The students working in teams presented their solutions to a team of judges including JAA Executive Director **Armine K. Hovannisian** and VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Mr Ralph C. Yirikian**.

“I welcome young people doing business assignments. To solve the tasks you need flexibility of mind, analytical aptitudes, and willingness to see all the



ity,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

VivaCell-MTS awarded smartphones to twelve members of the winning team.

The event is organized as part of En-



Editor’s note:

It’s already many years in row Armenia’s leading telecom operator company, VivaCell-MTS has been supporting Junior Achievement of Armenia

Over 400 schoolchildren participate in “Armath” technocamp held with support of Ucom



On July 1-19, the college named after Monte Melkonian in Dilijan hosted the two flows of the participants of “Armath” summer technocamp for children aged 10-13 and 14-17 respectively. In total, over 400 schoolchildren from all provinces of Armenia, including Artsakh and Javakhk, were hosted at the camp. Among technocamp participants there were also children who had arrived in Armenia in the framework of “Ari Tun” program, Ucom told Armenpress.

On July 10-19, the second phase of the camp intended for children aged between 14 and 17 took place. Over 200 schoolchildren and 13 team leaders from all provinces of Armenia participated in the second phase of the camp.

At this phase of “Armath” technocamp the participants learned to create a smart management system of LED lights with the help of RaspberryPi platform and using Python programming language as well as receive various data through sensors. They also learned to assemble and program robots. The ultimate goal set for the teams was to design a robot corresponding to the standards of Robotex Armenia competition and able to find solutions to problems.

In addition to robotics, the second phase of the camp also offered cultural, sports and entertainment components to participants. “Shtigen Kids” project manager Ani Agha-

janyan visited the children at the camp and in the framework of the project had a presentation on renewable energy.

At the end of the second phase of “Armath” technocamp, a final competition with participation of campers took place during which the teams were to solve the following problems: the robot created by the teams was to follow road markings, take and place a conditional trash bin using its hand, make conditional parking at dedicated areas and cross the crossroad equipped with traffic lights when the light was green. The problem was to be solved only through automatic management. Once the robot was ready, the teams could not interfere with its actions. Arduino and SeRob platforms as well as C++ and Snap programming languages were used.

“Here we have children who have attended “Armath” engineering laboratory for only a month and are already able to solve complex problems usually assigned to university students. At their age we could only dream of creating and programming robots with our own hands, and now with the support of Ucom both girls and boys have the chance to acquire engineering knowledge and creative skills, which cannot but make us happy”, said Tigran Safaryan, Marketing and Communications Director at Ucom.

Of 13 teams that took part in the competition, the winner was the 6th team among the members of which there were students of “Armath” engineering laboratories operating in Ashnak, Arteni, Ranchpar and Aragats. The robot designed by this team was able to meet almost all the goals set for it and scored the highest number of points. All the members of the team received smart watches from Ucom. Hayk Sargsyan, the best member of the team, received an electric scooter, and the team leader Slavik Israyelyan - a tablet.

The 13th team took the second place with very small difference in scores. The team was composed of Armath students from Noratus and Gavar. The best member of the team Vahe Davtyan received a smart watch from Ucom, and other members of the team - 16 GB memory sticks from the UATE. The second team solved the problem through Arduino (C++) platform and was the best at crossing the crossroads.

Schoolchildren from Yerevan, Armavir, Ranchpar, Norakert, Damala, Karvachar, Arteni, Agarak (Syunik), Agarak (Aragatsotn), Mastara, Ashnak, Agarakavan, Kaqavadzor, Dilijan, Sotk, Tchambarak, Gavar, Noratus, Akunk, Gyumri, Saratak, Haykavan(Shirak), Vahramberd, Hadrut, Kajaran, Kovsakan, Askeran, Martakert, Sos, Lorut, Arevatsag, Mets Ayrum, Vanadzor, Aygepar, Choratan, Ijevan, Artashat, Hartavan, Lusagyugh, Berdzor, Martuni (Artsakh), Ishkhanadzor, Vardenis, Drakhtik, Vahan, Katnaghbyur, Aparan, Berdavan, Nerkin Tsaghkavan, Lusagyugh, Hartavan, Heshtia (Javakhk) and Tumanyan participated in the camp.

This year, “Armath” technocamp was supported by the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), Support to Javakhk Foundation (STJ), Instigate Mobile, Cronimet Mining, Ucom, “Sahman (Border)” NGO, Artsakhbank, World Vision Armenia, Armenian Educational Foundation, “Vardanants Knights” organization and Nazaryan Educational Foundation.

Grammy Museum to help catalogue Armenian-American music

About 1,500 recordings of Armenian music will be catalogued under a grant provided by the Grammy Museum.

The Museum is giving \$200,000 to 15 different organizations to do scientific music-related research and preserve important musical archives.

The money is coming from the Grammy Museum Grant Program, which has been established to support various music-related scientific research projects in addition to a number of archiving and preservation programs.

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno will get \$5,000 to catalogue 1,500 recordings on 78-rpm discs from the Armenian-American diaspora.

The collection represents the voices of



musicians whose social, economic, and political status forced them out of their homeland. It was thus only in the emerging cosmopolitan American music scene that most of these artists were first able to be heard.

The Grammy Museum was established in 2008 to “cultivating a greater understanding of the history and significance of music.” Maintaining a physical location in Los Angeles and Cleveland, Mississippi,

the museum also hosts traveling exhibits and develops music-based educational programs and exhibits in addition to supporting historical music projects.

“The GRAMMY Museum Grant Program to date has awarded more than \$7.5 million to more than 400 grantees,” said Michael Sticka, executive director of the Grammy Museum, in a press release.

“The work we help fund includes an impressive array of projects that are at the forefront of exploring music’s beneficial intersection with science, and that maintain our musical legacy for future generations. The initiatives announced today exemplify the Museum’s mission to uphold music’s value in our lives and shared culture.”

AI, blockchain, “green” technologies: WCIT 2019 in Armenia will explore most up-to-date topics

The 23rd World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT 2019) in Yerevan will host three sets of “Lightning Rounds,” open to all, showcasing flash-forward technologies from start-ups, big companies, universities, and more.

The Lightning Rounds will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs, innovators and scientists to present their ideas to international venture funds and world-famous businessmen, in order to attract investments for their implementation. Fifteen ideas and startups will be selected by a jury of international specialists from submissions received from around the world.

“We invite Armenian and foreign startups to register now on WCIT’s official website and submit their ideas,” UATE President Alexander Yesayan and Syuzanna Azoyan, program director of WCIT 2019, said at the meeting with Armenian and European journalists.



More than 2,500 participants from 70 countries are expected to attend WCIT 2019. The agenda will include discussion of the hottest topics in the industry. ICT industry leaders and innovators, government and global policy leaders, startups, and investors will exchange ideas in sessions such as “Black Swan,” “Innovation Meets Capital,” “Artificial Intelligence in Genomics,” “How ‘Green’ is Silicon,” “Rise of the Machines,” and many others.

WCIT 2019’s program will also feature a panel of ICT ministers from nations across the globe, who will discuss the challenges in moving toward greater delivery of and

distribution of enhanced public services and their nations’ best practices in dealing with those challenges.

Another panel will feature the mayors of “smart” cities from around the world, who will discuss the use of ICT in the municipal context and explore both its positive and negative impact on people’s daily lives.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has declared ICT a strategic goal for economic development. Armenia actively promotes the development of high-tech innovations, ecosystems, and startups, and facilitates foreign direct investment in the ICT sector.

There are more than 900 ICT companies in Armenia, including Picsart, Renderforest, Betconstruct, Joomag, and others. Forty-five percent of Armenia’s ICT-related exports go to the USA and Canada, 25% to Europe, and 11% to Asia.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

This week will likely feel like a “hurry up and wait” time. You may not be feeling well. Make an effort to keep a perspective on what is important and what is not. The maya of the world around you is demanding, but you do not have to keep up the pace that others want.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Take extra good care of yourself this week. You may be subject to accidents and falls. Stay aware of your body and stop when it says “enough”! Venus enters your sign this week and will travel “with you” through the first half of August. The subject of relationship will be very important as you travel through this time.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

You may very well be involved in an ambitious project. You must take care with those who could be thought of as ‘authorities’. If you press as hard as you want to, you likely will encounter resistance from these folks. If your plan is good for a number of people, and not at the expense of others, you could score a win.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

The sudden changes described in the lead paragraph may have much to do with your home, hearth, and family matters. Someone may shift attitudes or plans that shake up your expectations and beliefs about your security. Wait for the dust to settle before you make decisions based upon what is happening this week. Mercury is retrograde.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Irritability and a tendency to short temper may be your companions this week. Beware the temptation to obsess over minor issues. Take especially good care of your body at this time. You are in a physical low cycle and subject to accident or minor injuries with tools, or vehicles.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Read the lead paragraph carefully, as the general message pertains to you. Don't attempt to pressure or bend others to your will at this time. They will retaliate in some form. Keep your focus on a large picture of what is the best for all. If your plans are self-aggrandizing, they will fail.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

You are somewhat edgy and irritable this week. Parts of your mind are scattered into so many corners that it is hard to pull everything together. But you know clearly where boundaries need to be drawn and you are not hesitant to do so. The best of verbal warriors is concise and says what is needed, but no more.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. You might become the target for those who would take advantage of you. If one or more people approach who are unknown to you, change directions or back off. Librans have a generally open and friendly appearance that sometimes attracts users.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

Your frame of mind is more than a little bit maverick at this time. You may be compelled to declare your freedom in every direction. It won't make a lot of friends on the playground, but this feels truly mandatory now. If your energy is directed toward social justice, there will be many on your side.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

You are drawn to all things beautiful and truly tempted to buy the wonderful items you see, especially those for your home. If you need to watch your dollars, leave your credit cards at home and wait a couple of days before making a big purchase. Now is a good time to take a creative look at your life and bring harmony into the picture.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

If you have been channeling your energy into a project that has positive value for many you may be receiving recognition and applause now. If, instead, you are working on something that is purely to make your ego shinier, you will find others are fighting you every step of the way. Think about your motives.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Give particular attention to what you consume this week. Your body is reacting to drugs or alcohol in unusual ways. If you feel less alert than normal, focus your attention on the task at hand. Dizziness or blurred vision require medical evaluation.

Armenian Flag Raised on Mt. Kilimanjaro

BY ALEEN ARLSANIAN

Anthony Ghanime, a 27-year-old Glendale resident, recently climbed the tallest peak in Africa—Mt. Kilimanjaro. A Chamlian and Rose & Alex Pilibos School alumnus, Anthony traveled to Africa on Tuesday, July 9. The trek to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro took a total 8 days, from July 11 to 18. When he reached the summit, Anthony raised an Armenian flag that kept in his Pilibos fanny pack throughout his climb. He returned to Los Angeles on Saturday, July 20.

Anthony is currently enrolled in an MBA program at the University of California, Irvine. With his program starting in September, he had enough time to plan and prepare for his trek up the mountain. Prior to applying to graduate schools, Anthony spent time working abroad at Intel, as well as at an engineering company called Q-MEP.

Below is an interview with Anthony about his trek:

Aleen Arslanian: When did you first start professionally climbing and why?

Anthony Ghanime: Unfortunately, since I'm not paid to climb, I'm not considered a professional climber. Most individuals that pick-up climbing/trekking or a mix of the two do so recreationally. However, my interest in trekking started roughly three years after graduating high school in 2013.

The reason I started was simply a way to continue and maintain a healthy lifestyle picking up hobbies and habits that weren't too common. This soon manifested into wanting to experience and conquer larger than life obstacles, which led me to climbing Kilimanjaro.

A.A.: What inspired you to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro?

A.G.: I was trekking through Petra in Jordan, and as I looked over the landscape, I couldn't help but feel a sense of wanting to conquer something grand. I actively challenge myself as a way of personal development and after doing some research I set my eyes on climbing Kilimanjaro. Climbing to the highest point in all of Africa seemed off-putting at first, but I quickly felt more comfortable with the idea that if I were to accomplish this it in turn may inspire Armenian youth to push past their own boundaries and accomplish feats, or overcome obstacles in their own life.

A.A.: How much research and planning did this trek require?

A.G.: There's was more than six full months of research and planning that went into the preparation for this trek. This



ranges from actually finding an appropriate guide company to lead you up the mountain, since by Tanzanian law foreigners are not allowed to climb without local supervision, to ensuring proper physical preparation and necessary vaccinations to avoid altitude caused sickness and dangerous diseases that are active within that region.

A.A.: Were there any particular challenges during the climb?

A.G.: It seems that every day that I reflect back to the climb the list of challenges continues to grow. However, the most difficult was the reduced amount of oxygen being taken in. A breath at 13,000 feet brings in 40% less oxygen than normal—less oxygen makes tasks requiring precision, like climbing the Barranco Wall, pretty difficult. Also, spending three days at 13,000 feet and higher with a lack of oxygen made getting more than three hours of sleep difficult.

The route during summit was sub-zero, since we leave camp at 11 p.m. and summit sometime around 8 a.m. A challenge I faced that day was water freezing in my camel-back while drinking it.

Mentally, the most challenging aspect was seeing individuals getting carried to camps or getting medevaced off the mountain. In the back of your mind, you can't help but think the worst.

A.A.: Why did you feel it was important to raise the Armenian flag at the peak?

A.G.: Growing up in a tight-knit Armenian community in Los Angeles, as well as attending Armenian Schools (Chamlian/Pilibos) from preschool until high school, instilled a sense of Armenian pride in me from a young age. The privilege of being able to call myself an Armenian is something I've held dear to my heart my whole life and one I'll continue to hold the rest of my life. It only seemed fitting for me to raise the Armenian flag on the summit, because of the meaning the flag holds in my heart. Being able to raise that flag was my way of paying homage to my community, family, teachers, schools, and mentors for their effort in not only my development as a proud Armenian but the development of

Armenian youth in general. I also hoped that it would be a type of catalyst for Armenian youth to pursue and challenge themselves in accomplishing feats that not only our community can be proud of, but that ones from other communities can also admire.

A.A.: Is Mt. Kilimanjaro the highest peak you've reached? What other mountains have you climbed?

A.G.: At 19,341 feet, Mt. Kilimanjaro is by far the highest peak I've summited. No other mountain comes close to Mt. Kilimanjaro—other mountains I've hiked like Mt. Baldy and Cucamonga are nowhere near the same in terms of duration or difficulty. Therefore, I'm not really considering them as anything other than simple practice mountains.

A.A.: Do you have any plans for future treks?

A.G.: Right now I'm just looking to relax a bit and continue graduate school. But I definitely do plan on future climbs, one of which is above 20,000 feet—but this won't be in the near future. The most important of these climbs is Ararat. I was born and raised in the Los Angeles Armenian community my whole life. I learned about Armenia's history over the years, at Armenian school, and nothing would satisfy me more than being able to proudly raise the Armenian flag on the summit of Mt. Ararat.

The mountains I plan to climb include: Ararat (a priority for me), Denali (above 20,000 feet, which calls for a lot of preparation—probably not for another couple years), Rainer (technical climb), Longs Peak (preparation climb)

A.A.: Do you have any advice for individuals interested in climbing the mountain?

A.G.: There's so many things that go into climbing Kilimanjaro, however, don't let that deter you. Go about things systematically and make a list—there's lots of resources that can be accessed online that'll give you a clear point of where you need to start in your preparations. Physically ensure that your body can handle the stress of the climb it's not easy whatsoever and shouldn't be taken lightly. Mentally—have a reason to go. Personally, when things were getting tough and fatigue was starting to hit, I just kept thinking of being able to raise the Armenian Flag on top of the highest point in all of Africa. That thought filled me with a sense of pride and purpose and pushed me through the challenges I faced. Ensure that you have something similar to work toward and you'll get there.

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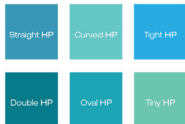
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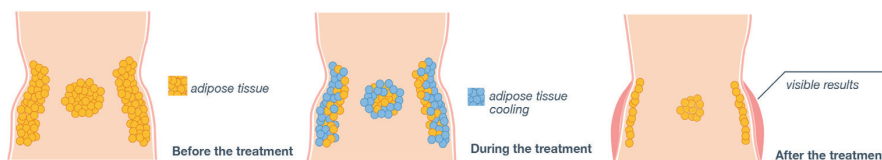
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