

Armenia views Germany as an important economic and political partner: President

President Serzh Sargsyan received on June 30 the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The President of Armenia welcomed Mr. Steinmeier to our country and noted that his visit provides a good opportunity to discuss cooperation in the framework of the OSCE as well as issues pertinent to the Armenian-German bilateral agenda.

Serzh Sargsyan once again thanked the highest leadership of Germany for receiving on a high level the Presidential delegation during his April visit to Germany and for the engaging and substantial discussions.

The President expressed confidence that reciprocal visits and bilateral contacts testify to a high level of friendly relations between Armenia and Germany.

Serzh Sargsyan underscored that Armenia views Germany as an important economic and political partner and a friendly state. The President of Armenia highly valued continuous financial and technical assistance provided by the Government of Germany for Armenia's social and economic development and in that context expressed gratitude for 500,000 Euro financial assistance provided by the German Government for the reformation of Armenia's Electoral Code.

The President spoke with satisfaction about the signing of a new document - the intergovernmental agreement to avoid double taxation of income and property, which took place in the framework of the visit.

At the meeting, Serzh Sargsyan once again expressed gratitude on the adoption by the German Bundestag of the resolution



on the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide.

The parties discussed the current stage of the NK peace process mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair states and possibilities and prospects of moving the process forward. With this regard, they stressed the importance of a consistent implementation of agreements reached in Vienna and Saint Petersburg during the recent meetings aimed at the establishment of a durable peace and stability.

President Sargsyan and Frank-Walter Steinmeier discussed also issues related to Armenia-EU cooperation. The President of Armenia expressed hope that negotiations over the Armenia-EU new framework agreement, which have already successfully passed four stages, will be concluded in the nearest future and the parties will have a new document aimed at the development of the relations.

Armenia says will not allow politicization of BSEC

On July 1, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian participated in the 34th session of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in Sochi, during which the results of the Russia's six-month Chairmanship in BSEC were summarized.

In his remarks Edward Nalbandian attached importance to the development of intra-regional transits and transport

systems, to the extension of the Black Sea Ring Highway main route to the borders with Iran, the sectoral dialogue partner of the Organization, to the initiative aimed at the development of multimodal freight and passenger ferry lines in the BSEC region.

Edward Nalbandian mentioned that the Armenian experts had their input in the issues of elaborating routes for the access of BSEC small and medium entre-

preneurship to the international markets, simplification of trade and trade operations through internet, harmonization of customs procedure, improvement of joint checkpoints, as well as in addressing other issues.

"We welcome the signature of the "Memorandum of Understanding on Information Exchange and Cooperation in the Sphere of Quality Assurance of Medicines" between the BSEC member-states, signed by the Healthcare Ministers. At the same time, unfortunately I have to emphasize, that the BSEC member-states failed to reach a consensus on the Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Sanitary Protection of the Territories of the BSEC member-states.

The Armenian side has a constructive involvement in the initiatives towards the cooperation between the national services in preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural disasters, early warning in case of emergency situations and

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establishing a network of crisis centers.

Armenia also supports the strengthening of the legal framework of cooperation in the energy field", the Foreign Minister of Armenia stressed.

Armenia stands for the enhancement of the BSEC role in international arena, the expansion of cooperation with other international, regional organizations, as well as for strengthening of interaction with observers and sectoral dialogue partners.

Indeed, that cooperation should develop in accordance with the BSEC Charter and other fundamental documents.

"We should not allow the politicization of the BSEC, its transformation into a platform for political confrontation.

Unfortunately, today we witnessed the attempts of the Azerbaijani delegation to politicize the Plenary Session for their narrow-minded propagandistic goals", Edward Nalbandian emphasized.

Minister Nalbandian highlighted, "In regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, I would like to remind, that the Vienna and St. Petersburg Summits first and foremost were aimed to stabilize the situation in the conflict zone in the aftermaths of large-scale military actions unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh in April. First of all, it is a necessity to implement what was particularly emphasized and agreed upon in the frameworks of the Summits in order to create conditions for the continuation of the negotia-

tion process; i.e. the exclusively peaceful settlement of the conflict, the unconditional adherence to the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, which have no time limitations, the creation of mechanism for the investigation of ceasefire violations, the expansion of the team of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office."

A number of resolutions, decisions related to the activity of the Organization were adopted at the session of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs aimed at the deepening of regional cooperation.

At the end of the session Russia handed over the BSEC Chairmanship to Serbia.

Kerry holds phone talks with Armenian, Azeri leaders



Yerevan - (RFE/RL) U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry telephoned the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan on Thursday to discuss further steps in international efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"He noted positively that the ceasefire along the Nagorno-Karabakh Line of Contact and Armenia-Azerbaijan border has largely held in recent weeks, and urged the Presidents to avoid tensions to advance the peace process" the U.S. State Department said in a readout of the phone conversations.

"Secretary Kerry asked the Presidents to fulfill the commitments, including implementation of the two confidence building measures, they made at the May 16 meeting in Vienna, Austria, and the June 20 meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia " it said.

"The Secretary also reiterated the United States' support for substantive talks that can lead to a comprehensive settlement, and urged the Presidents to continue

their dialogue under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs" added the statement.

President Serzh Sargsyan's office confirmed that he spoke with Kerry about the implementation of the measures designed to strengthen the ceasefire. It gave no details.

Reporting on Kerry's separate phone call with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijani news agencies said the two men agreed that the recent Armenian-Azerbaijani summits gave Karabakh peace process "new impetus."

Kerry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French Secretary of State for European Affairs Harlem Desir chaired the Aliyev-Sargsyan encounter in Vienna. In a joint statement issued in the Austrian capital, they said the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents pledged to strengthen the shaky ceasefire regime around Karabakh, including through independent investigations of armed incidents there.

Aliyev contradicted that statement on June 25, however, saying that such investigations would only "freeze" the Karabakh conflict.

Aliyev's and Sargsyan's meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia was hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin. In a joint statement with Putin, they said they reached an "understanding" on unspecified issues hampering a Karabakh settlement.

The Azerbaijani APA news agency quoted James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, as saying on Thursday that the U.S., Russian and French mediators plan to organize another Armenian-Azerbaijani summit soon.

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Former U.S. envoy visits Karabakh

John Evans, a former U.S. ambassador to Armenia who was controversially recalled by Washington, has visited Nagorno-Karabakh in his capacity as an advisor to an Armenian-American charity helping poor children.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry condemned the visit as a "provocation" late on Wednesday, placing Evans on a long list of foreign dignitaries banned from entering Azerbaijan. The ministry claimed that he acted "at the behest of the Armenian lobby" in the United States.

Baku regards visits to Karabakh not authorized by it as a violation of its sovereignty over the Armenian-populated disputed territory.

Evans travelled to Karabakh together with Garo Armen, an Armenian-American businessman and the founder of Children of Armenia Fund (COAF). The two men met on Wednesday with Bako Sahakyan, the Karabakh president, and General Levon Mnatsakanyan, the top commander of Karabakh's Armenian-backed army.

A statement by the army said Mnatsakanyan discussed with Armen and Evans the possibility of COAF assistance to Karabakh children living close to "the line of contact" with Azerbaijan as well as families of Karabakh Armenian soldiers killed or wounded in action.

COAF was set up by Armen in 2000 with the primary aim of helping Armenian children in impoverished rural regions through improved education, healthcare and local infrastructure. The charity based in New York has since raised \$17 million for that purpose.

With the help of the U.S. State Department, COAF deployed in 2003 bomb-sniffing dogs that were used for demining some Armenian and Karabakh villages located in the conflict zone.

Evans, who is currently an advisor to COAF's board of directors, was appointed as U.S. ambassador to Armenia in 2004. The administration of the then U.S. President George W. Bush decided to cut short his tour of duty after he publicly described the



1915 Armenian massacres in Ottoman Turkey as "the first genocide of the 20th century" at a 2005 meeting with Armenian-American activists in California.

The remarks contradicted a long-running U.S. government policy of avoiding the use of the word "genocide" with regard to the World War I-era deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians. Not surprisingly, the Bush administration disavowed the genocide recognition, saying that it reflected only Evans's personal views. The administration never gave an official reason for Evans's dismissal completed in 2006.

Later in 2005, the U.S. Foreign Service Association decided to give Evans its annual prestigious award designed for American diplomats displaying "constructive dissent" in their work. However, the association subsequently withdrew the award.

Reports in the U.S. press suggested at the time that the U-turn was the result of pressure exerted by the State Department ahead of the then Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's June 2005 trip to Washington.

Evans reaffirmed his views on the events of 1915 in a book published earlier this year. The book titled "Truth Held Hostage" also makes a case for an official U.S. recognition of the genocide.

Yerevan urges Baku to stop distorting the essence of Karabakh talks



"It is high time the Azerbaijani leadership understands that the Nagorno-Karabakh issue will be resolved within the framework of realization of the right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination and Azerbaijan's responsibility for the aggression against the self-determined Nagorno-Karabakh Republic," Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said in comments to Armenpress.

He said "Baku's constant statements that the Karabakh conflict should be solved within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan "distort the essence of the negotiation process."

Asked about the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister's statement about a possible summit on Nagorno Karabakh in Paris in August this year, the Deputy Foreign Minister said: "We highly value the efforts of all the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries aimed at organizing a meetings on the highest level. However, it is at least inexpedient for one of the invitees, not the inviting side, to speak about a meeting, which is still under consideration."

Armenian election deal approved by Parliament



The National Assembly approved on Wednesday major amendments to Armenia's new Electoral Code that stem from a compromise agreement reached by the government and the parliamentary opposition earlier this month.

Government officials again made clear, however, that the amendments regulating the conduct of next year's parliamentary elections will be annulled unless foreign donors pay for the purchase of special equipment needed for their implementation.

The most important of those amendments call for the introduction of a biometric registry of voters which is supposed to prevent multiple voting by government loyalists. This would be done through electronic machines that check voters' identity through new, plastic ID cards containing their fingerprints.

The government agreed to also give opposition parties, non-

partisan observers and media greater access to the lists of voters who will have cast ballots in the elections. The lists would be released by the same machines.

In addition, the authorities would install video cameras in all of Armenia's 2,000 or so polling stations and ensure live broadcasts of voting and ballot counting there through the Internet.

The total cost of the special equipment required by the amended Electoral Code is estimated by officials at \$16 million. The government has agreed to foot only a small part of the bill.

"We are not going to provide the rest of the sum from the state budget," Davit Harutiunyan, the main government negotiator with the opposition, told lawmakers during parliamentary debates on Tuesday.

"We expect all political forces that value this agreement to work with us in raising the money," he said, referring to the three opposition parties that signed the compromise deal on June 15.

Vahram Baghdasaryan, the parliamentary leader of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), claimed that the donors can easily provide the necessary sum. "It may be a lot of money for us, but for them it's like filling a glass with water from the Pacific Ocean," he said.

But Levon Zurabyan, a senior lawmaker from the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), insisted that the onus is on the Armenian authorities to implement the amendments. Failure to ensure that would mean that the authorities have reneged on the deal with the opposition, he warned.

French Parliament Criminalizes Armenian Genocide Denial

France's lower house of parliament on Friday unanimously passed a new bill criminalizing the denial of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey and other crimes against humanity recognized by the French state.

The bill approved by the National Assembly in the first reading stipulates that any public denial of those atrocities will be punishable by up to one year's imprisonment and a 45,000-euro (\$50,000) fine. It must be approved by the French Senate in order to become a law.

Currently, French law only makes it a crime to deny the Holocaust.

The two houses of France's parliament already passed a law against Armenian genocide denial in December 2011 and January 2012. The French constitutional court subsequently struck down that law, however, saying that it runs counter to freedom of speech.

French President Francois Hollande pledged to ban genocide denial when he ran for president later in 2012. He told

leaders of France's influential Armenian community at the time that a new bill should be drafted with "utmost legal security" so that it satisfies the constitutional court.

Hollande, 61, is expected to run for a second term in presidential elections slated for April-May 2017.

"This text will punish the challenge or the trivialization of all crimes against humanity and war crimes," the AFP news agency quoted Ericka Bareigts, the junior French minister in charge of equality, as saying on Friday. She said that includes the World War I-era slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians.



Armenia, Germany sign agreement on avoidance of double taxation

On June 29, Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia, met in Yerevan with Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Foreign Minister of Germany and the OSCE Chairperson-in-office.

The meeting started in a *tete-a-tete* format, and proceeded in the extended format with the participation of delegations.

Welcoming the guests, Edward Nalbandian stressed, that regular high-level visits create a solid basis to discuss perspectives of the development of multilayer Armenian-German relations.

The Ministers commended the dynamic development of bilateral cooperation. The interlocutors shared the view, that it derives from the mutual aspiration to further develop and deepen relations between the two friendly countries.

Edward Nalbandian and Frank-Walter Steinmeier reflected on the process of implementation of agreements reached between the President of Armenia and Chancellor of Germany in April in Berlin.

The sides also praised the high level of the Armenian-German inter-parliamentary ties and attached importance to the cooperation established within the international parliamentary assemblies.

Edward Nalbandian mentioned that Armenia highly values the adoption of Resolution on the Armenian Genocide by German Bundestag on June 2, which complimented the Statement made by the Federal President Joachim Gauck on April 23, 2015. "By this step, Germany not only makes a remarkable contribution to the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, as well as to the efforts of the international community for prevention of genocides and crimes against humanity, but also recognizes its part of responsibility for the Armenian Genocide", said Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

The Ministers attached importance to the regular consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and further strengthening the cooperation within international organizations.

Ministers discussed numerous issues of bilateral agenda, including the expansion of legal framework, steps towards the development of cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, education, culture, healthcare. The sides emphasized the role of the Office of German Business Association, opened in Yerevan in April, in the advancement of bilateral trade and economic relations.

Edward Nalbandian and Frank-Walter Steinmeier discussed steps aimed at further strengthening of relations between Armenia and the European Union, and in particular, the process of negotiations over the new comprehensive agreement with the EU.

Ministers addressed issues related to the OSCE agenda. Edward Nalbandian reaffirmed Armenia's support to the priorities of the OSCE German Chairmanship. It was mentioned that Armenia appreciates the support of the German Chairmanship to the efforts of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at exclusively peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Edward Nalbandian also valued the activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and emphasized that the Office is the only OSCE full fledged mission in the region, which yet again demonstrates Armenia's commitment to cooperation within the OSCE.

At the end of the meeting, Edward Nalbandian and Frank-Walter Steinmeier signed an Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Federal Republic of Germany on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital.

New tax code good for Armenia, insists IMF

The International Monetary Fund reaffirmed on Wednesday its support for a new and comprehensive tax law that has been enacted by Armenia's government over strong objections voiced by the opposition and some business leaders.

Teresa Daban Sanchez, the head of the IMF office in Yerevan, insisted that the Tax Code envisaging higher rates of some taxes will allow the Armenian government to ensure a badly needed increase in public spending. It will also improve tax administration in the country, she said.

"This country needs better schools, better roads, better governance, and everybody has to contribute to that," Daban Sanchez told RFE/RL's Armenian service in an interview.

"There is a lack of capital investment and [adequate] infrastructure. You can't develop the country without improving it," she said, calling the new code a "very important opportunity" to do that.

The code will replace all other Armenian tax laws that have been enforced until now. It calls for higher taxes on fuel, alcohol and tobacco and a lower income threshold for small businesses paying a single "turnover tax."

More importantly, the code also increases income taxes levied from workers earning between 120,000 and 2 million drams (\$250-\$4,150) per month. Their payroll tax rate, currently set at 26 percent, will rise by between 2 and 7 percentage points.

The government faced fierce resistance from not only opposi-

tion but also some pro-government lawmakers when it pushed the 700-page legislation through the parliament in the first reading on June 15.

The parliamentary critics claimed that the higher taxes would seriously hurt many businesses and encourage tax evasion among them. Several Armenian business associations publicly added their voice to the criticism.

Responding to these concerns, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan has promised that the government will consider "reasonable" proposals on amending the Tax Code before it is passed in the final reading in September.

Daban Sanchez insisted that the higher taxes will not lead to more tax fraud and will improve the investment climate. The new code should also make tax collection less arbitrary by "reducing the discretion of tax inspectors" and "creating a more transparent environment," she said.

The Armenian government's tax revenue has increased considerably in the past several years. But it is still equivalent to only one-fifth of Gross Domestic Product, a low figure even by ex-Soviet standards. The modest ratio results, in large measure, from widespread tax evasion, corruption and privileged treatment of entrepreneurs linked to the government.

The IMF and the World Bank have long pressed the authorities in Yerevan to boost their modest tax revenue.



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- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capially renovated, parking, Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str./Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor, 116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capially renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price:

130.000 USD

- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.

•2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable

•2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable

•2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable

•2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD

•2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m., without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable

•1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.

•2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

•2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

•2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m. facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtyan block, 1000 sq.m.,

electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m

•2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.

•2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable

•2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

•3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m, capially repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD

•3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD

•3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, hjeating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

•3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

•3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

•3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

•3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD

•3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD

•3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.

•3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

•3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

•142. **Verin Antarayin str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capially renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

•74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.

•107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking -4 million USD preliminary.

•87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.

•93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.

•94.**Masiv**. 3floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.

•130.**Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available sevice-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable

•131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available sevice-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghranyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnisred, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area**. Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD



- itally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghranyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.

- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghranyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m., Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Armenian Ambassador to UN deplures Azeri barbarities

Armenia has reiterated it rejects the Declaration of the Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum in Baku. "Azerbaijan, the host country of the 7th Forum, grossly violated the very aims, principles and values of the Alliance of Civilizations," Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, said addressing the UN Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends Meeting. Ambassador Mnatsakanyan's full speech is provided below:

At the outset, I want to thank you for convening the meeting of the Group of Friends of the Alliance.

Guided by the principles of the Alliance of Civilizations, the members of the Group of Friends (GoF) should work towards a more peaceful and socially inclusive societies, by building mutual respect among peoples of different ethnic, cultural and religious identities, embracing diversity and tolerance, rejecting polarization, radicalization and violent extremism, eliminating stereotyping and intolerance, xenophobia and racism. The Group of Friends meets at its Forums of the AOC to reiterate commitment to these goals and coordinate efforts in promoting diversity and dialogue. The adoption by consensus of Declarations represents and empowers the outcome of the Forums.

Having said this, I reiterate that we reject the most recent Declaration of the AOC Global Forum, which blatantly disregarded consensus. Let me be clear, the Declaration has no consensus. There is no Declaration. One may argue that the GoF of the Alliance is an informal setting and rules of procedure of the UNGA maybe can or maybe cannot be applied to its proceedings. One may also try to define the notion of consensus or draw a distinction between consensus and unanimity. It is not a question of application and/or definition. It is first of all about the integrity, credibility and reputation of the Alliance and its Forums. We will resist the goals and principles of the Alliance to be trivialized by procedural befuddlement, let alone discredited by way of aggression and barbaric acts, driven by hatred and intolerance. By the way, to remind, the 7th forum host country did not provide additional security guarantees for the potential participation of Armenia's Delegation in the forum despite all our inquiries and requests through the AOC Secretariat.

Azerbaijan, the host country of the 7th Forum, grossly violated the very aims, principles and values of the Alliance of Civilizations. The abhorrent barbarity committed against Nagorno Karabakh by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, including intentional and indiscriminate targeting of the peaceful population, especially children, women, and the elderly, as well as civilian facilities, including schools and kindergartens, killings, beheadings, torture and mutilation of bodies is incompatible with the elementary

norms of a civilized world. It is a product of a long standing policy of racism, intolerance and incitement to hatred against Armenians, condoned and directly executed by the authorities of Azerbaijan. The grave and systematic violations of international humanitarian law committed by Azerbaijan and the glorification at the highest political level of persons directly involved in the atrocities constitute a crime against humanity and a war crime.

At the time of the gathering of the UNAOC 7th Forum Azerbaijan's military continued to break the cease-fire, resulting in new human losses and serious violations of the International Humanitarian Law. At the opening of the Forum, the President of Azerbaijan, the official host, who portrays his country as a cradle of multiculturalism and claims "life in peace and dignity", dedicated a significant part of his remarks to spew lies and disseminate misinformation, intolerance and hatred against Armenia and the Armenian people.

This has been an affront to the humanity, the very principles and purposes of the UN and the Alliance. Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh have been alarming the international community, including the AOC Group of Friends about the spread of the racism in Azerbaijan where the official machinery of the state and the head of state are the actual instigator of hate speech and vilification of the other. Persistent violations of human rights inside Azerbaijan, consistent attacks and imprisonment of its civil society representatives, the media and human rights defenders, and peace advocates, coupled with the regular dissemination of intolerance and hatred against the Armenian people provided breeding ground for the recklessness of the Azerbaijani regime.

Armenia remains committed to the principles and values of the Alliance. Armenia will aim at restoring the credibility and reputation of the Alliance. The selection of host countries for the AOC forums should be based on the host Government's commitment to the principles of the Alliance, promotion of tolerance and reconciliation and its adherence to universal values and human rights. The GoF and the Alliance may consider developing certain criteria to apply while choosing and endorsing the host Government.

Armenia embraces the principles of the Alliance and remains its Friend. We have joined the Group of Friends with a determination to work hand in hand with its Members towards advancing the positive message of diversity and harmony of civilizations. We need to counter narratives of hatred and mistrust and turn words into actions. Armenia sincerely hopes that the AOC and its GoF will be able to better reflect on the abovementioned issues and maintain an inclusive and effective approach to the Alliance's important work.

Thank you.



Pope Listens to His Heart, not Handlers, On Genocide during Armenia Pilgrimage



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

While Armenians throughout the world were overjoyed with the landmark "pilgrimage" of His Holiness Pope Francis to the first Christian state, most people were unaware of the behind the scenes deliberations on the Armenian Genocide issue in the Vatican prior to his visit.

The Pope's dual roles as Pontiff of the Catholic Church and head of the Vatican State occasionally create problems within and outside the walls of the Holy See, which is what happened during the Pope's visit to Armenia last week.

After lengthy preparations and internal discussions, the Pope arrived in Armenia on June 24 ready to deliver a series of sermons and remarks over the course of his three-day visit. Surprisingly, none of his prepared speeches contained the words Armenian Genocide, but there were plenty of references to "tragedy, slaughter, terrible trial, and immense suffering." His homilies repeatedly used the Armenian term "Meds Yeghern" (Great Crime) which was wrongly translated by the Vatican as "Great Evil." The first indication of a change in terminology came prior to the Pope's pastoral visit in a video address to the Armenian people, which did not mention the Armenian Genocide. Later on, during his visit to the Armenian Genocide Monument, the Pontiff did not write the words Armenian Genocide in the guest book, copying the text from a pre-prepared note card!

There may have been two reasons why the words Armenian Genocide had been avoided:

1) Since Pope Francis had already gone on record using the term "Armenian Genocide" during last April's Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican officials had decided to deliver a new message of "peace and reconciliation."

2) The Pontiff's foreign policy advisors may have been reluctant to raise the Armenian Genocide issue once again after the Turkish government's harsh reaction last year and withdrawal of its ambassador from the Vatican for 10 months.

Pope Francis, however, surprised everyone, when he departed from the text of his prepared remarks that had been already distributed to the media, by adding the word genocide to his address at the Presidential Palace in Yerevan on June 24. Here is what Pope Francis actually said while recalling his earlier sermon of April 12, 2015: "The occasion was the commemoration of the centenary of the Metz Yeghern, the 'Great Evil' that struck your people and caused the death of a vast multitude of persons. Sadly, that tragedy, that genocide, was the first of the deplorable series of catastrophes of the past century, made possible by twisted racial, ideological or religious aims that darkened the minds of the tormentors even to the point of planning the annihilation of entire peoples."

Later that day, Father Federico Lombardi, Director of the Holy See's Press Office, explained why Pope Francis deviated from his prepared text: "The Pope says what he finds appropriate, and no one decides what the Pontiff should say. The Pope had no reason to avoid the word 'genocide' during his trip to Armenia. The reality is clear and we never denied what the reality is."

The Pontiff's use of that single

word in one speech did not escape the attention of Turkish authorities. Deputy Prime Minister Nurettin Canikli responded by accusing the Pope of having a "Crusader mentality." Canikli went on to repeat the usual Turkish lies about the Armenian Genocide. Lombardi, the Pontiff's spokesman, dismissed the Deputy Prime Minister's criticism, stating that "the Pope is not doing Crusades. He has said no words against the Turkish people."

Refusing to buckle under Turkish pressure, Pope Francis went on to sign a "Joint Declaration" with Catholicos Karekin II on June 26, 2016, which referenced the Vatican's earlier acknowledgments of the Armenian Genocide: Pope Francis's April 12, 2015 sermon and the "Joint Declaration" signed on Sept. 27, 2001 by Pope John Paul II and Catholicos Karekin II. Another "Joint Communique" acknowledging the Armenian Genocide was signed on Nov. 29, 2000, by John Paul II and Karekin II.

During his return flight to Rome on June 26, an AFP journalist asked Pope Francis why he added the word genocide to his speech in Yerevan. The Pope explained in detail that genocide is the only word he has grown up with to describe the mass killings of Armenians. The Pope also mentioned his upcoming trip to Azerbaijan and Georgia from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

Pope Francis approached his "pilgrimage" to Armenia with utmost honesty and spoke from his heart about the Armenian Genocide, ignoring the political calculations of his advisers and speechwriters. He preferred to conduct himself as a true man of God rather than a crafty politician!

Vahe Andonians, SCDM Founder: "We've Started in Armenia and Today We Have a Wonderful Team Here"

An originally Armenian company grown into a market leader in offering risk management services for credit investors



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

On 28 June SCDM ("Structured Credit Data Management"), the second largest company resided at the Viasphere Technopark in Yerevan was celebrating its expansion in new premises.

On this occasion The Highlights correspondent visited the Company and asked its Founder, Mr Vahe Andonians who has led SCDM from an Armenian to a global business with entities in Germany and the US for an interview that you might find below.

-Mr Andonians, please tell our readers how have you started your business in Armenia?

- In 2003 *Uniq*, the largest Austrian insurance company asked me for a solution of a matching problem, and I did it. And then they suggested me to become their staff member. But that time I preferred to establish my own company, and *Uniq* agreed to become a client for us. But the payment they were ready to give us was actually insufficient for having my own team, and my cousin, a prominent consultant **Andre Andonian** advised me to organize outsourcing in a number of countries among which my historical Motherland Armenia seemed quite interesting...

-...Sorry for interruption: what about your education?

- My first education is high frequency technology, or, simply speaking, building antennas.

Also I've got my MBA degree from the Liverpool University, UK.

Some biodata of Mr Andonians:

Born in 1976 in Tehran, and very soon after his birthday the Andonians family moved to the US, and in 1979 they settled in Austria.

*Father, **Georg Andonians** (who was Chairman of the Armenian community of Austria), studied economics and program-*

ming, and in a venerable age (of about sixty) received MBA degree.

Vahe Andonians married with two children.

...So I came to Armenia in 2003, and set a team of the two (one of them, **Tigran Matevosyan**, is still with us). We've rented a room in the Yerevan Medical University area. However, already in 2006 we were a 50 member strong team, and though in the times of the world financial crisis, in 2009, our team growth became slower, since 2013 till now number of employees has been growing steadily, and today we have some 150 employees here in Armenia.



Vahe Andonians

Today SCDM has two shareholders: one of them is myself, and another one, since 2013, is the **Frankfurt School of Finance and Management** that is a university having very high ranking in Germany.

Notably, this is a research-based university, and, as it is not possible to make a good research at tuition only, they prefer to invest in other organizations, helping them with their ties, research, and then with cash flow gained they make their own research.

SCDM Armenia is a LLC, with 100% shares owned by SCDM Germany.

...If to speak globally, SCDM provides risk management services which has become important for banks/other financial institutions especially after 2009 world financial crisis; so those services start from the data management to the specialized - sophisticated softwares that provide in fact

all the types of risk management, and also bespoke software for this or that client.

And when that bespoke product is developed, we are starting to look for other potential clients with similar needs, so our bespoke product turns to a scalable one very fast.

Our clients are central and investment/commercial banks and insurance companies mostly, mainly in Germany, but we have also clientele in the US, UK and Switzerland.

...Indeed, generally workforce in Armenia is cheaper than in Germany due to quite understandable reasons. But pls look how the above mentioned giants - multinationals doing outsourcing: you

can not find an employee in Bangladesh, Vietnam, or India - countries when that very outsourcing is done whose salary is higher than the salary of the most low-paid employee in the US, and, more importantly, core competences are not done in those countries, so all this leads to frictions: those who implement outsourcing consider themselves "second class" employees.

Our policy in Armenia is *absolutely different*: we brought here our most important jobs such as key account management, so we have here full value chain - from a cleaner to key account manager, research specialists.

Imagine: our Armenian key account manager carries out conference call with Deutsche Bundesbank every single day that is a very responsible job.

And this is a very unusual thing for the "giants".

And, believe me, the gap between payments of the same position employees in Germany and Armenia is much less than in case of the multinationals.

...Well, salary is important, no doubt.

But we in SCDM strongly believe also in other kind of employees' stimulation such as giving them interesting jobs, - R&D, participation in various conferences, trainings abroad etc.

FYI, we have people in our Armenia

office who spent up to six months abroad last year.

...- Do you love Armenia, and if yes, why?

-Yes, sure...Indeed, there are problems here, but at the same time there is a huge pool of very interesting people here, lot of high level creativity, arts - the things that are not on such a high level in Germany...

...Our teaming principle: we don't hire by skills, but by character, as we can teach an employee, no matter what background he/she has....

And we should be very flexible - to make our employees to do absolutely different job, - let's say, in ten years....

-Mr Andonians, are you satisfied with your Armenia team?

- Absolutely!

* * *

In his speech at the festive opening ceremony of the new premises Mr Andonians said "they were proud because they marked another

Prof. Dr. **Martin Hellmich** of the School congratulated SCDM staff and its Founder on this occasion and emphasized fruitful cooperation between the Frankfurt School and Vahe Andonians/his team.

In his brief interview to a lady correspondent of the Armenpress News Agency and The Highlights correspondent Prof. Dr. Udo Steffens said the following:

- Our expectations and investment have been rewarded 'cause today, compared with 2014, SCDM has tripled its turnover,

and this is also due to good performance of SCDM Armenia. While SCDM Armenia is fully owned by SCDM Germany, but the main work is done here in Armenia. You have here nice well educated young people who work loyally. Besides quite good wages they get in SCDM, this is also a good opportunity for them to get into the digital world as our company is a very "digitalized" one. We are proud to have 90 percent of our employees here in Armenia, while in Germany we have only 10. Vahe Andonians is a very creative and innovative specialist who brings employees in the center of development.

We are very grateful to SCDM Armenia for the development of our different projects because software engineering, data management are finally developed here in Armenia. And the intellectual power we find here in Yerevan is quite impressive, that is why we are expanding SCDM and getting new ever offices.



*German specialists.
Prof. Steffens on the right hand side*

Varoujan Masarajian, General Director of Viasphere Technopark said to your author they were happy for SCDM expansion and wished to a Technopark largest resident company all the further success. (Mr Masarajian presented to Prof. Steffens a traditional Armenian souvenir - 20 year old "Nayiri" cognac).

Notably, new office inauguration ceremony was streamed live at the Facebook as, in Mr Andonians' words, they attach the importance to any new technology including social media.

Photos by

*Felix Arustamyan (Armenpress),
author and courtesy SCDM
(by MODD Events)*



What a festive event without music?

milestone in their rich history, - not because they finished a building but 'cause - how - they did it".

Another extract: "It is truly a difficult process because you experience at first a huge resistance from almost everybody. But at the end it is rewarding. Rewarding because you get to be a part of the people who shaped reality for the rest. Today is such a day..."

Vahe Andonians thanked SCDM Yerevan team and its Head Deputy Managing Director **Aram Kadimyan** for their devotion and relentless effort.

In their remarks President of the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management Prof. Dr. **Udo Steffens** and



...And a cake cutting - by Aram Kadimyan assisted by his spouse Nelli Stepanyan, SCDM team leader. Mr and Mrs (Bella) Andonians on the right hand side from them.

VivaCell-MTS: Housing in Kaqavadzor Village Strong roof after 20 years of living in a metal container...

The heads and employees of VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing participated in the construction of the half-built house of **Khachatryan** family in Kaqavadzor Village of Aragatsotn Marz. The volunteers helped

tunity to finish the construction of their half-built houses and/or repair the roof, which is most important in preserving the housing stock, but presents a huge burden for the families due to its high cost.

"Each time I meet a family benefitting

from the housing program and see their emotions and feelings, I realize that strong emotions are characteristic of strong people. They have gone through hardships silently and with dignity, hoping and searching for solutions. Today their efforts have been crowned with success. I must confess that the hope of these people makes our conviction in the necessity of this program even stronger. Every single problem solved in our country is our common victory," said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph C. Yirikian**.

"Since 2007, it is already the 14th housing project implemented with the support of VivaCell-MTS in Aragatsotn region. The beneficiaries of the program have different problems, but the heaviest burden for all of them is the housing problem. These families need just a pillar for improving their lifestyle, and that pillar is the newly-built home, which will



the family to fill insulating gravel in the roof and did concreting works.

The eldest of the Khachatryans' sons has just returned from military service passing the turn to his younger brother. Nine years ago, after having lived in a metal container for 20 years, the family started the construction of their own house, with the conviction that they would be able to realize the dream.

"When I got married, we lived in my parental house, together with my brother's family. The house was small, so we moved to the metal container and lived there for all these years. My youngest son was born there. As my sons grew up, so did the expenses of the family, and I could not afford finishing the construction of our half-built house. I am grateful for helping us to realize the long-awaited dream," said **Melkon Khachatryan**, the father of the family.

Owing to the housing project of VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, more than a hundred families have already experienced the joy of having a comfortable home. Through this project, families are given an oppor-



house many generations," said Fuller Center for Housing President **Ashot Yeghiazaryan**.

In 2016, VivaCell-MTS allocated about AMD 105 million for the housing project (in 2015, AMD 100 million was invested). By the end of the year, the number of the families assisted in the frames of the housing project since 2007 will reach to 134.



Armenian Church Touts "Brotherly" Ties with Vatican

The Armenian Apostolic Church has described as "warm and brotherly" its relationship with the Vatican following Pope Francis's landmark visit to Armenia.

The state-backed church's Supreme Spiritual Council headed by Catholicos Garegin II met at his headquarters in Echmiadzin on Tuesday, two days after Francis wrapped up the three-day trip.

The council comprising high-ranking Armenian clergymen from Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora discussed the papal visit and its results during the meeting that lasted for three days.

"Members of the Council noted with joy that Pope Francis's three-day visit to Armenia was the best indication of warm and brotherly relations and partnership existing between the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches," Garegin's office said in a statement released on Thursday evening.

Francis celebrated a Catholic mass in



Gyumri, addressed an Armenian Apostolic liturgy in Echmiadzin and held a joint ecumenical service with Garegin in Yerevan's largest square during the visit. The pontiff also reaffirmed his public recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

The rapprochement between the two churches gained momentum in 1996 when they essentially ended their long-standing theological differences. In 2001, John Paull II became the first Pope to have ever visited Armenia.

Successive Armenian governments

have also sought closer ties with the Vatican. President Serzh Sargsyan, whose influential son-in-law is Armenia's ambassador to the Holy See, attended most of Francis's engagements in Armenia.

Francis and Garegin praised the "growing closeness" between the two Christian denominations in a joint declaration issued at the end of the pontiff's visit on June 26. "Today we are convinced of the crucial importance of furthering this relationship, engaging in deeper and more decisive collaboration not only in the area of theology, but also in prayer and active cooperation on the level of the local communities," they said.

Francis made a case for an eventual union between the two churches when he spoke at the Echmiadzin mass earlier on Sunday. He said it "must not be the submission of one to the other or assimilation."

U.S. Senate supports refugee assistance to Armenia, continued aid to Artsakh

The full U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, today - following the lead of Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) - voiced their continued support for direct U.S. aid to Nagorno Karabakh, a program that has, with bipartisan backing, provided humanitarian aid to the citizens of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) since 1998, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). The Senate spending panel also recommended funding to support assistance for refugees in Armenia, a major ANCA legislative priority.

With respect to refugee assistance to Armenia, the Senate's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 State and Foreign Operations Spending bill includes the following report language: "The Committee supports assistance for refugees in Armenia, particularly minority groups from the Middle East who have fled persecution and conflict in Syria and Iraq."

With regard to Nagorno Karabakh, the report language reads: "The Committee recommends assistance for victims of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in amounts consistent with prior fiscal years, and for ongoing needs related to the conflict. The Committee urges a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Committee recognizes that Nagorno Karabakh has a per capita landmine accident rate among the highest in the world, and that mine clearance programs have been effective where implemented. The Committee is concerned with territorial restrictions on demining activities in the region and recommends continued funds for, and the geographic expansion of, such programs."

Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Democrat Patrick Leahy (D-VT) has been an ongoing supporter of demining efforts in Nagorno Karabakh and around the world.

"We very much appreciate the work of U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) in supporting continued U.S. assistance to Nagorno Karabakh and backing refugee assistance for Armenia," remarked ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "We value the U.S. Senate's strong support for demining efforts in Nagorno Karabakh and look forward to working with House and Senate leaders to increase funding levels for Nagorno Karabakh and also to ensure that rehabilitation programs there are fully supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development."

"The ANCA also welcomes the Senate's acknowledgement that refugee assistance is urgently needed to help Armenia to effectively transition refugees fleeing Syria and Iraq," added Hamparian.

The Senate Appropriations Committee made a specific recommendation of \$24.1 million in aid to Armenia and \$10.9 million for Azerbaijan. With respect to the International Military Education and Training program, the Senate spending panel provided \$600,000 for Armenia and \$1 million in Foreign Military Financing for Armenia. Overall assistance to Armenia is \$3 million more than President Obama's budget request.

Earlier this year, the ANCA Legislative Affairs Director Raffi Karakashian submitted testimony to Congress, outlining the Armenian American community's foreign aid priorities. The Obama-Biden Administration released its FY2017 budget earlier this year which called for \$22 million in U.S. economic assistance to Armenia while maintaining parity in appropriated military aid to both Armenia and Azerbaijan. The White House's budget proposal did not cite a specific aid level for Nagorno Karabakh and no targeted funding for refugee assistance in Armenia.

ANCA-WR applauds California leadership for Armenian American Museum Fund

The Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region (ANCA-WR) applauds and extends its gratitude to California Governor Jerry Brown, Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin De Leon and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon who included in the 2016-2017 State Budget the funding for the Armenian American Museum request submitted by Assembly member Adrin Nazarian and Senator Carol Liu.

"The ANCA-WR welcomes the funding allocated for the Armenian American Museum as the museum will truly be a multi-faceted, state of the art campus that will not only educate residents and visitors alike about the Armenian history, heritage and experience, but also serve as a place of enrichment for the youth. We are truly grateful to Assembly member Nazarian for taking the lead on obtaining funding by submitting the initial request and of course Senator Liu who echoed Nazarian's request on the Senate side - making it possible for the Assembly and Senate leadership to stand in strong support and receive final approval by the Governor," stated ANCA-WR Chair Nora Hovsepian, Esq. "It is our hope that this positive action by the State will pave the way for funding from the private sector, foundations, and other government entities," remarked Hovsepian.

The ANCA-WR Chairwoman added that the organization was pleased to have lent its support toward securing the \$1 million funding from the State. She also expressed a willingness to work with the Armenian American Museum to secure additional State funding in the coming years.

The mission of the Armenian American Museum is to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Armenian American experience. The vision for the Armenian American Museum is a cultural campus that enriches the community, educates the public on the Armenian American story, and empowers individuals to embrace cultural diversity and speak out against prejudice.

Noubar Afeyan among 42 immigrants honored by Carnegie Corporation



Asbarez - On June 30, 100 LIVES and Aurora Prize Co-Founder Dr. Noubar Afeyan was named one of Carnegie Corporation of New York's "Great Immigrants: Pride of America" honorees. Afeyan's distinction identifies him as one of the most prominent and influential naturalized citizens in the United States. As Americans prepare to celebrate the most patriotic of their holidays on July 4, Carnegie Corporation of New York pays tribute to the role immigrants play in strengthening the country and its democratic society.

The Carnegie Corporation recognizes significant naturalized citizens every year to salute the legacy of Andrew Carnegie and other immigrants. Previous honorees include Aurora Prize Selection Committee Co-Chair Elie Wiesel, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, TV producer Lorne Michaels, and CEO and co-founder of Argo Tea Arsen Avakian, among others.

Afeyan has contributed a great deal to the American community, while honoring his Armenian descent. As founder, senior managing partner, and CEO of Flagship Ventures, Afeyan has helped build and foster more than 35 successful life science and technology startups. He has also contributed to the successful launch of 100 LIVES and the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, a new \$1 million humanitarian award to be presented on April 24 of each year in Yerevan, Armenia. Afeyan also served as chairman for the National Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial events that took place in May 2015 and brought over 2,000 Armenians to Washington, D.C.

Afeyan serves on a number of public and private company and organization boards, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, MIT Board of Trustees, UWC Dilijan College in Armenia, and an organization promoting economic development in Armenia.

Each year since 2006, the philanthropic foundation has recognized the contributions of naturalized citizens with its "Great Immigrants: The Pride of America" initiative. For 2016, the corporation named 42 honorees who represent some 30 different countries of origin, a wide range of personal immigration stories, and inspiring professional accomplishments.

"These accomplished Americans are immigrants like our forefathers, who founded this nation of nations," said Vartan Gregorian, the president of Carnegie Corporation of New York. "They are representative of the millions of immigrants who have come to the United States for economic opportunity, education, political or religious asylum, security, or reunification with families and relatives. They, like all Americans, share a common faith in this country."

Nearly 9 million legal permanent residents (LPRs) are currently eligible to naturalize and become U.S. citizens. In keeping with the mission of its founder, Andrew Carnegie, the corporation is committed to the integration of immigrants with the goal of helping them become citizens who can participate fully in our democracy. Together with grantees and partner organizations, the "Great Immigrants" initiative works to raise awareness about the naturalization process and provide helpful resources that will assist LPRs, including the free online application system Citizenshipworks. Carnegie Corporation also supports the New Americans Campaign, the nation's largest network of non-profits focused on naturalization.

Carnegie Corporation of New York was established by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding. In keeping with this mandate, the corporation's agenda focuses on the issues that Andrew Carnegie considered of paramount importance: international peace, the advancement of education and knowledge, and the strength of our democracy.

Tumo Center's TmbaTa band to participate in 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival



TmbaTa, a youth folk rock band born from the music program of the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan will leave for Washington to participate in the Smithsonian

Folklife Festival with support from My Armenia project, a collaborative cultural sustainability and tourism program between USAID, Smithsonian Institution, and the people of Armenia.

The band will perform together with the Armenian Public Radio, a Los Angeles-based acoustic trio.

Led by Arik Grigoryan of The Bambir, TmbaTa performs original compositions based on traditional Armenian folk songs combined with rock and experimental music. The group is comprised of thirty teens who learn all stages of music creation including composition, performance, recording, mixing, and mastering.

"We present the Armenian avant-garde folk music and create our own songs, as well. TmbaTa stands out for its energy," Christine Yeghiazaryan said in an interview with Public Radio of Armenia.

"The band will leave for the US on July 4 and will have four performances on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of July. There can be no doubt that the band will best present the Armenian culture," said Zara Budaghyan, Head of Communications at Tumo Center for Creative Technologies.



Armenian foundation working on plans for Saroyan's Fresno house-museum

Fresno Bee - An Armenian-based organization bought William Saroyan's house in central Fresno last year with plans to turn it into a museum. Few details were released about the project.

Now, the Intellectual Renaissance Foundation, based in Yerevan, is collecting memorabilia for William Saroyan's House-Museum at 2729 W. Griffith Way.

The group is working on innovative plans for the 1,228-square-foot house, a spokeswoman said by email. That includes recreating the inside of the

house, she said.

Saroyan lived in the simple, stucco tract home, just west of Cooper Middle



School, for the last 17 years of his life. The house, which is on the local register of historic resources, had three owners since Saroyan's death in 1981, was a rental home for years and attracted squatters.

The house is slated to become a cultural center for Armenians and others worldwide to learn about the Oscar- and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer. It will house Saroyan's literary works and will host events and performances.

The foundation hopes to open the museum in 2017.

President Sargsyan congratulates Obama on Independence Day, visits US Embassy

Today, on the occasion of Independence Day of the United States of America, President Serzh Sargsyan visited the residence of the US Ambassador to Armenia.

On the occasion of the holiday, President Serzh Sargsyan congratulated Ambassador Richard Mills and in his person the staff of the Embassy and the people of the United States, and wished success in the continuous development and strengthening of the Armenian-American relations. The President of Armenia highly valued the input of the United States to our country's economic development since independence, strengthening of democracy, maturing of the civil society and underscored that he was hopeful that after the presidential elections in the US, the bilateral relations will continue to develop dynamically.

Ambassador Richard Mills thanked the President of Armenia for the visit and congratulations. He noted that for the last twenty-five years he has been following closely developments in Armenia and agreed with President Sargsyan on the issue of the achievements registered in the country in the mentioned period of time. The US Ambassador underlined that the citizens of Armenia can rightfully take pride in progress achieved by Armenia in the last quarter of the century in the economic, social as well as political areas. He said that he was glad that the people and Government of the United States have played their part in that advancement.



The President of Armenia also sent a congratulatory message to the President of the United States Barack Obama:

"Honorable President Obama,

Allow me to wholeheartedly congratulate you and the people of the United States on the occasion of Independence Day of the United States of America.

Early next year, we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our nations. Looking back on our journey, I note with great satisfaction that the Armenia-US relations have always been marked by cordiality, mutual trust and respect.

We highly value the great support extended by the United States towards the development of Armenia's economy, the implementation of various reforms and the strengthening of our democratic instituti-

ons. Building on a strong tradition of fruitful cooperation and on the existing significant potential, Armenia stands ready to further deepen and develop the Armenian-American friendship and the close partnership.

We greatly appreciate the US engagement, as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, in the Nagorno-Karabakh peaceful settlement process. The diplomatic efforts that followed the full-fledged military operation of Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh in the early April, 2016, have once again underscored the key role played by the United States in the peace process. Similar to the co-chair countries of the Minsk Group, we are also strongly convinced that the maintenance of the unlimited-in-time trilateral ceasefire agreements of 1994-1995 and the implementation of steps leading to the establishment of an environment conducive to negotiations, would serve as a strong foundation for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through exclusively peaceful means. We expect that the United States, jointly with the other co-chair countries - Russia and France, will continue its active mediation mission towards the establishment of a stable and durable peace in our region.

Please allow me to once again congratulate you on Independence Day and to wish you and people of the United States continued progress and prosperity. Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration," reads the congratulatory message of the President of Armenia.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20-April 19)

Mars, your ruling planet, is finally changing direction to forward motion. This means your probability of moving forward is improving. You probably want to bolt through the starting gate, but full speed develops slowly. Mars must retrace its steps to an open field early in August.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

If there are "power" issues between you and another, this is the week that they will be in full bloom. Discomfort means that change is needed in one or both of your attitudes. Intensity is the theme. Concentrate on remaining conscious so that you won't fall into manipulative games, especially the one called "prove it if you love me."



Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Your ruling planet, Mercury, moves into the sign of Cancer for the next two to three weeks. Your attention will be drawn to organizing your financial picture. This is not your favorite activity, but it must be done from time to time.



Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Intensity in relationships is the theme of the week. If you are not conscious, you could be pulled into schemes of manipulation or compulsive behaviors. Existing relationships could re-experience the pain of old wounds. You have a choice of whether to work it through or act it out in the same ways as the first time. If things feel "icky", someone is manipulating.



Leo (July 22-August 21)

The Lions experience a twist of annual fate. For one month, beginning at the summer solstice, it is a time of retreat. This time is meant to help you recharge, refuel, and become more clearly in touch with your inner self. Allow extra time to meditate, reflect, journal, and read spiritually uplifting material.



Virgo (August 22-September 22)

You are finishing a work project and shifting gears into new territory this week. You will be focusing on communications with friends, acquaintances, and building your network. You are a leader during this period, because you have the vision to see the big picture. It's possible that you have been surprising yourself with this shift in your usual, quiet character.



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Changes may be occurring in your primary relationship. One or the other of you is probably trying to hang onto what is familiar. Changes and growth must be allowed to happen or the relationship will become stale. Let things flow naturally. Don't jump to conclusions or make problems bigger than they are.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your sign, above all others, will be relieved by the Mars change to direct motion. After cleaning up the debris of the past three months, you will be ready to move forward and take initiative. If you have been ill, you will soon be better. Certainly you will be freer to move around in your world.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)

The tide has turned. You are just beginning to gain traction toward your goal. There is an improvement in your resources and your good ideas fit into the flow of things. That makes it easier to get them accomplished. "The Force Is With You."



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

Issues that have been brewing for a while in relationship(s) are coming to a turning point. You and another may be vying for emotional control. This can be very subtle and create long term issues that occasionally explode to the surface. You know control is not satisfying. Look for ways to share equally.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

You continue to be detoured from your normal routine of life through this week. Then you will start to see cracks of daylight in your path. Just hang on for this week and try to remain patient. If you need information, this is the time to research and prepare for the future.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

Romance and creativity are in the air. Enjoy whatever the arts and music provide for your pleasure. Partnership(s) and relationship(s) to your children fare well at this time. Your ideas are likely to be particularly creative now.

Henrikh Mkhitaryan: Man Utd bid accepted by Borussia Dortmund



Manchester United have had an offer for Borussia Dortmund attacking midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan accepted, the BBC reports.

The Armenia captain, who cost the German club £23.5m in 2013, is out of contract next summer.

"Had we refused it, the player would be available for free in 2017," Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke told the club's official website.

Mkhitaryan, 27, is yet to have a medical at Old Trafford and personal terms are still to be agreed.

If a deal for the player - who will require a work permit - is completed, he will become United's third major signing of the summer after Ivory Coast defender Eric Bailly and former Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

He was named Bundesliga Players' Player of the Season in 2015-16 after scor-

ing 18 goals in all competitions, including one against the Reds in the Europa League defeat at Anfield.

Mkhitaryan is the son of one of Armenia's most famous footballers, Hamlet Mkhitaryan, and won the first of his 59 caps for his country a week before his 18th birthday.

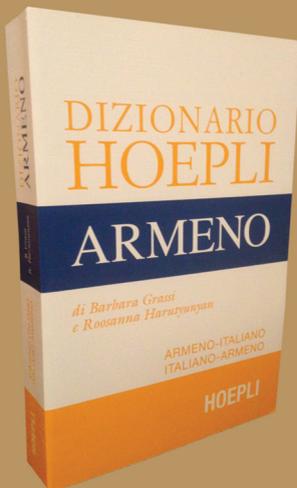
"Borussia Dortmund and midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan (27) go their separate ways this summer," the club said in a statement on July 2

Following an intensive round of discussions, Borussia Dortmund accepted the Armenian international's wish to join Manchester United next season.

"Based on a completely new situation, this transfer was a difficult trade-off for us. Manchester made us a very attractive offer. Had we refused it, the player would have left us on a free transfer in 2017 and we would only have delayed the matter of a replacement for a year," explained Borussia Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke.

"Borussia Dortmund would like to wish Henrikh Mkhitaryan all the best for the upcoming season in the Premier League and the UEFA Europa League."

New Armenian-Italian/Italian-Armenian dictionary released in Italy



A new Armenian-Italian, Italian-Armenian dictionary has been published in Italy.

The authors of the dictionary, Rosanna Harutyunyan and Barbara Grassi, told Noyan Tapan that the official representative of the dictionary is the famous Italian HOEPLI Publishing House, which has been officially recognized by the Italian government. For the first time, HOEPLI Publishing House printed a dictionary for eastern Armenian, while already there was an Italian-western Armenian one.

This new dictionary contains 22,000 words with phonetic transcription and examples of simple sentences.

A lot of lemmas are divided in use areas including metaphorical meanings.

The dictionary includes also an Armenian grammar in Italian and an Italian grammar in Armenian plus a lot of repertoires

for geographical names, everyday use, proverbs and so on.

For purchase follow the link:

<http://www.hoepli.it/libro/dizionario-armeno/9788820367381.html>



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