

## Pope Francis draws big crowd in Yerevan



Armenia - Armenians greet Pope Francis and Catholicos Garegin II in Yerevan's Republic Square, 25Jun2016.

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Asian indoor and martial arts games in the capital of Turkmenistan city of Ashgabat in year 2017".

On November 5, 2010 the foundation for the Olympic Village was laid in the turkmen capital - the arenas where the V Asian Games in year 2017 will be held. The largest

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## President Sargsyan receives Chairman of the National Bank of Argentina

President Serzh Sargsyan received on June 22 the President of the National Bank of Argentina Carlos Melconian.

The President welcomed the guest to our country and using the opportunity once again congratulated him on his appointment as President of the National Bank of Argentina. President Sargsyan wished Carlos Melconian all the best on that responsible position. The President of Armenia noted that in Armenia we always respond with joy and pride to the achievements of our compatriots residing abroad because their accomplishments bring honor and good reputation to the entire nation, promoting and deepening also our bilateral relations. According to the President, in the strengthening of the Armenian-Argentine high level relations the role of prominent representatives of the Armenian community is significant and among them the input of the famous businessman Eduardo Ernekian. Serzh Sargsyan expressed hope that the visit of the President of the National Bank of Argentina will contribute to the establishment of a close cooperation between the banking systems of Armenia and Argentina.

The interlocutors stressed the importance of such visits which, according to the parties, give a new impetus to the bilateral relations and provide a good opportunity to discuss various issues pertinent to the interstate cooperation.

Carlos Melconian conveyed to the President of Armenia warm greetings from the President of Argentina Mauricio Macri and his great desire and readiness to deepen and strengthen the Armenian-Argentine relations.

At the meeting, the President hailed the significant contribution of the people and authorities of Argentina to the international



recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide.

In the context of the bilateral cooperation, the President of Armenia and President of National Bank of Argentina stressed the importance of expanding and enhancing the bilateral trade and economic ties. They concurred that towards that end the National Bank of Argentina can play a considerable role.

Carlos Melconian noted that the visit to Armenia was important for him not only from the professional and ceremonial points of view, but also emotionally since he was visiting the land of his ancestors who at the beginning of the previous century as a result of the Armenian Genocide had been forced to find refuge in the distant Argentina. The President of the National Bank of Argentina spoke with pride about the Armenians residing in Argentina who, according to Carlos Melconian, enjoy great respect and influence in the Argentine society.

## Armenian FM dismisses Azeri reports on agreements reached in St. Petersburg

The package solution to the Karabakh conflict should be based on Azerbaijan's recognition of the right of the people of Nagorno Karabakh to self-determination, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has said.

The comments come after Novruz Mammadov, deputy head of Azerbaijani presidential administration, chief of the administration's foreign relations department, said in an interview with local TV

channels that an agreement on the stage-by-stage settlement of the Karabakh conflict had been reached in St. Petersburg.

"Novruz Mammadov has never participated in any negotiations, and the summit in Saint Petersburg was no exception. He was present only at the working dinner, during which reference was made only to the creation of an investigation mechanism and enlargement of the team of the Personal Representative of the OSCE

Chairman-in-Office," Minister Nalbandian said in comments to Armenpress.

"As for the package settlement of the Karabakh conflict, it should be first of all based on the recognition of Nagorno Karabakh people's right to self-determination by Azerbaijan," Edward Nalbandian said. He added that no agreement on the final resolution of the conflict had been reached in Saint Petersburg.

"At this stage Azerbaijan should unequivocally implement the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg, which include: settlement of the Karabakh conflict exceptionally in a peaceful way, respect for the ceasefire agreements of 1994 and 1995, and expansion of the team of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. All this will allow to create favorable conditions for the resumption of talks on the settlement of the conflict," Minister Nalbandian concluded.

### FOR SALE

**Sunny, cozy 3 room apartment for sale in Downtown Yerevan (89.3m2), on the 7th floor of an 8 storied monolit building on 28, Moskovyan street (in front of V.Bryusov institute). Renovated, with large open balcony, oak parquet, metal entrance door, euro windows and doors, fully fitted, tiled kitchen, toilet/bathroom tiled, individual heating system (Eurotherm), Elevator in the building, equipped with intercom, Ucom. Sales including furniture is also possible. Negotiable price.**  
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## Pope Francis draws big crowd in Yerevan

Tens of thousands of people gathered in Yerevan's central square on June 25 to welcome the visiting Pope Francis during a joint prayer service which he held there with Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Many of them waved Armenian and Vatican flags as the two spiritual leaders walked through the crowd to step onto an imposing altar where they prayed for peace and delivered speeches afterwards.

Francis praised growing ties between the Roman Catholic and Armenian Apostolic Churches, expressing hope that they as well as other Christian denominations will eventually become united.

"Let us race towards our full communion," he told the audience from the podium erected at Republic Square in the exact place where a statue of Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet Union, once stood.

The pontiff again stated that the "immense and senseless slaughter" of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, which has repeatedly termed genocide in his previous statements, must not be forgotten. But he urged the people of Armenia to also look to the future and seek "reconciliation" with Turkey.

"Even the greatest pain, transformed by the saving power of the cross, of which Armenians are heralds and witnesses, can become a seed of peace for the future," he said. "Memory, infused with love, becomes capable of setting out on new and unexpected paths, where designs of hatred become projects of reconciliation, where hope arises for a better future for everyone."

"We would all benefit from efforts to lay the foundations of a future that will resist being caught up in the illusory power of vengeance, a future of constant efforts to create the conditions for peace: dignified employment for all, care for those in greatest need, and the unending battle to eliminate corruption," he added, drawing loud applause from the crowd.

The papal address contained many quotes from the works of



two medieval Armenian theologians. Francis bestowed the title of "Doctor of the Universal Church" on one of them, Gregory of Narek (Grigor Narekatsi), during a 2015 Vatican mass dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian genocide.

Garegin, meanwhile, lambasted both Turkey and Azerbaijan in remarks reflecting the Armenian government's views. In particular, he denounced Ankara's continuing denial of the Armenian genocide and its "illegal blockade" of Armenia.

Garegin also blamed Azerbaijan for last April's escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that threatened to degenerate into an all-out Armenian-Azerbaijani war.

Francis and Garegin ended the service by watering a vine planted in a wooden model of Noah's Ark which had landed, according to the Bible, on Mount Ararat located in modern-day Turkey, just a few kilometers from the Armenian border. The snow-capped mountain overlooks Yerevan and some other parts of Armenia. It is viewed by many Armenians as a key national symbol.

Francis received the ark's model as a gift from a group of Armenian teenagers clad in national costume.

## President Sargsyan welcomes Pope Francis at Presidential Palace

The reception ceremony for His Holiness Pope Francis has started at the Presidential Palace where he met with the Armenian authorities, representatives of the Armenian public, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Yerevan. Prior to that, President Serzh Sargsyan and His Holiness Pope Francis had a private meeting at the Golden Hall of the Presidential Palace.

The President expressed gratitude to His Holiness for accepting the invitation to visit Armenia - the First Christian Nation, for bringing blessings and grace to our ancient land and long-suffering people.

At the meeting, in accordance with the protocol there took place the ceremony of gift exchange. President Serzh Sargsyan presented to His Holiness Pope Francis a bronze statuette of the genius of the medieval Armenian thought, a Doctor of the Universal Church Saint Gregory of Narek. During the Pope's visit, at the Presidential Palace there took place the cer-

emony of cancelling of a stamp and four postage stamps designed into a mini sheet in a form of a cross, dedicated to the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Armenia. The President of Armenia presented them to His Holiness Pope Francis. The souvenir sheet with one stamp depicts Pope Francis against the backgrounds of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, as well as the logo dedicated to the visit of Pope Francis to Armenia and the coat of arms of Pope Francis. The format of four stamps designed into a form of a cross has a symbolic meaning for the visit of Pope Francis to the first Christian Nation. The four stamps depict Pope Francis against the backgrounds of the statue of Saint Gregory the Illuminator donated to the Vatican by Armenia, a monument dedicated to the theme "Armenia - the first Christian nation" in Yerevan, inner parts of the Main Cathedral of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and Saint Peter's Basilica in

the Vatican. The souvenir sheet bears the inscription "Pope Francis. Armenia. 24-26 June, 2016", as well as "Visit to the first Christian Nation" which is the official motto of this visit.

On the occasion of the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis's visit to the Republic of Armenia, the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia has issued a commemorative medal. Pope Francis has also received it as a gift from the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. On one side of the medal there is Khor Virap monastery against the background of Mount Ararat and the dates of the Pope's visit, and the reverse side of the medal depicts the statue of Saint Gregory the Illuminator at the outer niche of Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and the coat of arms of the Catholic Church.

His Holiness Pope Francis presented to the President of Armenia the original of the commemorative medal which was made on a special occasion of his visit to the Republic of Armenia.

## Sargsyan visits Karabakh after Russia summit

President Serzh Sargsyan travelled to Nagorno-Karabakh on June 22 just two days after meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in Russia for talks positively assessed by both conflicting parties.

Sargsyan visited Armenian frontline positions together with Bako Sahakyan, the Karabakh president, and General Levon Mnatsakanyan, the commander of Karabakh's Defense Army. He met with the army's top brass later in the day.

The Armenian presidential press office said the meeting focused on "a broad range of issues related to army-building." It gave no details.

The newly appointed secretary of Sargsyan's National Security Council, Armen Gevorgyan, was in Stepanakert on Tuesday, meeting with Sahakyan. Sahakyan's office said they discussed Armenia's and Karabakh's "cooperation on issues pertaining to security." No details



were reported.

Sargsyan and Aliyev held trilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saint Petersburg just over a month after their previous encounter in Vienna that focused on the fallout from the April 2-5 heavy fighting around Karabakh.

In a joint statement with Putin, the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents said they reached an "understanding" on issues hampering a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. They did not elaborate, indicating instead that they will meet again in the months ahead.

## Opposition leader denies coup plot

Zhirayr Sefilian, an arrested opposition figure facing coup charges, strongly denied through a lawyer on June 21 that he plotted an armed revolt against the Armenian government.

Sefilian was taken into custody on Monday for allegedly acquiring large quantities of weapons and cobbling together an attack squad with the aim of seizing government buildings and other important facilities in Yerevan.

According to his lawyer, Ara Zakaryan, the case against the outspoken oppositionist is based on testimony given by one of six other men which law-enforcement authori-

ties say have also been arrested as part of the coup inquiry. Zakaryan said his client was brought face to face with that suspect and questioned hours after his arrest.

"Sefilian declared that [the incriminating testimony] is completely untrue and ludicrous and is part of yet another government plan to prosecute him for his political views," Zakaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

"We believe that that person is executing an order issued by the Investigative Committee," said the lawyer.

The law-enforcement agency has not yet identified any of the suspects other than

Sefilian, raising more questions about the credibility of its allegations.

Varuzhan Avetisyan, a close Sefilian associate, said none of the six reportedly arrested men is thought to be affiliated with the New Armenia Public Salvation Front, a radical opposition alliance of which Sefilian is a leader. Avetisyan insisted that the high-profile case is politically motivated.

The opposition Zharangutyun (Heritage) party aligned in New Armenia similarly condemned Sefilian's arrest as "political persecution." "We consider unacceptable the current authorities' unchanged practice of isolating, bullying or morally degrading politicians, freedom fighters and individuals respected and trusted by the public with fabricated accusations," it said in a statement.

Like Avetisyan, Zharangutyun claimed that Sefilian is prosecuted because of his plans to campaign against any Armenian territorial concessions to Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Zharangutyun leader Raffi Hovannisian and Sefilian were main speakers at a series of demonstrations which New Armenia held in Yerevan last December in an attempt to topple President Serzh Sargsyan. The protests never attracted large crowds.





## Serzh Sargsyan: We'll find the best solution to the Karabakh conflict



We are proud and grateful for the Pope's visit to Armenia and his attitude, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said in an interview with Vatican Radio ahead of the Pontiff's visit.

"For years he has expressed his warm attitude and respect for the nation, which was the first to adopt Christianity as state religion, and as we, Armenians, understand, this comes from his beliefs, from his heart," the President said.

Speaking about the expectations from the visit, President Sargsyan said: "Fifteen years ago Pope John Paul's visit to Armenia was dedicated to the 1700th anniversary of adoption of Christianity. Pope Francis' visit is dedicated to another important jubilee - the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence."

"The relations between Armenia and Vatican have always been remarkable for the high-level political dialogue, because

the relations are based on similar Christian values, common historical heritage and principles and similar approaches towards issue of the contemporary world, which are hard to solve," President Sargsyan said.

He added that the relations further deepened after the opening of the Armenian Embassy at the Vatican and the Holy Mass the Pontiff celebrated on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The President also attached importance to the proclamation of Gregory of Narek as 'doctor of church.'

Speaking about the Karabakh issue, President Sargsyan said "our position is clear." "The Karabakh conflict should be solved exceptionally in a peaceful way. Before the April events we were speaking about mutual concessions, today it's hard for people to understand that speaking about concessions is possible with a country, which violates its international commitments. I'm confident, however, that we'll find the best solution to the Karabakh issue, the best for the people of Nagorno Karabakh, not for Azerbaijan or Armenia," President Sargsyan said.

## France plans new law against Armenian Genocide denial

France plans to enact a new law that will make it a crime to publicly deny the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey, the French ambassador to Armenia, Jean-Francois Charpentier, said on June 21.

"The text is practically ready," Charpentier told a news conference in Yerevan. "So I think that we will hear about it soon."

Charpentier said that President Francois Hollande is behind the bill drafted by French government officials and legal experts. He stressed that the bill would criminalize the denial of not only the Armenian genocide but also other genocides officially recognized by France.

The two houses of France's parliament already passed a law against Armenian genocide denial in December 2011 and January 2012. The move, hailed by Armenia but condemned by Turkey, was orchestrated by Hollande's predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy.

France's constitutional court subsequently struck down the law, however, saying that it runs counter to freedom of speech.

Hollande pledged to ban genocide denial when he ran for president in 2012. He told leaders of France's influential

Armenian community at the time that a new corresponding bill should be drafted with "utmost legal security" so that it satisfies the French Constitutional Council.

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



## Armenian energy prices 'reduced'

One year after sanctioning an increase in electricity prices and thereby triggering dramatic street protests in Yerevan, Armenian utility regulators decided on Friday lower the tariffs by at least 5 percent.

It is not yet clear, however, whether most households in Armenia will pay less for electricity. They will actually pay more if the Armenian government and the new owner of the national electric utility stop subsidizing the prices this summer.

The subsidy introduced last summer largely nullified a nearly 17 percent surge in the prices that was approved by the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) in June 2015. The highly unpopular measure sparked weeklong nonstop protests in Yerevan.

The protesters dismissed government arguments that the Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) utility needs to be compensated for its mounting losses. They said that the losses primarily resulted from corruption and mismanagement.

The daytime electricity price for Armenian households was supposed to rise from 42 to almost 49 drams (10 U.S. cents) per kilowatt/hour. The subsidy, valid until August 2016, has kept it unchanged for the vast majority of households so far.

The energy tariff is being subsidized by the government and Samvel Karapetyan, a Russian-Armenian tycoon who bought ENA in September. They have yet to announce whether the subsidy will be extended.



The PSRC said, meanwhile, that the nominal tariff fell by almost 2.6 drams, to 46.2 drams per kilowatt/hour starting from August. It attributed the decision to a recent decrease in the price of Russian natural gas. The regulatory body also argued that the new ENA owner has already managed to cut the company's losses.

Garegin Baghramyan, a senior PSRC commission official, said the commission could not have approved a steeper price cut because the Metsamor nuclear power plant generating more than one-third of Armenia's electricity will be twice stopped for capital repairs this fall and in the spring of 2017. ENA will have to buy more expensive electricity from thermal power plants during Metsamor's stoppage, he said.

## Stamps dedicated to Pope's visit to Armenia put into circulation

On 24 June 2016 "Haypost" closed joint stock company puts into circulation a souvenir sheet with one stamp and four postage stamps designed into a mini sheet in a form of a cross, dedicated to the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Armenia.

The official cancellation ceremony of

the souvenir sheet and mini-sheet took place at the Presidential Palace of the RA in the presence of high-ranking delegations from Armenia and Vatican.

The souvenir sheet with one stamp depicts Pope Francis against the backgrounds of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and Saint Peter's Basilica

in the Vatican, as well as the logo dedicated to the visit of Pope Francis to Armenia and the coat of arms of Pope Francis.

The format of four stamps designed into a form of a cross has been selected by "Haypost Trust Management b.v.", a company that belongs to Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian, an Argentinian Armenian businessman, and has a symbolic meaning for the visit of Pope Francis to the first Christian Nation. The four stamps depict Pope Francis against the backgrounds of a statue to Saint Gregory the Illuminator donated to the Vatican by Armenia, a monument dedicated to the theme "Armenia - the first Christian Nation" in Yerevan, inner parts of the Main Cathedral of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

The souvenir sheet has an inscription "Pope Francis. Armenia. 24-26 June, 2016", as well as "Visit to the first Christian Nation" which is the official motto of this visit.





## U.S. reaffirms green light for closer Armenia-Iran ties



The United States does not object to Armenia's plans to step up economic cooperation with neighboring Iran following the lifting of international sanctions against Tehran, a senior U.S. diplomat confirmed on June 23.

Leslie Tsou, a senior advisor on Iran at the U.S. State Department, described Armenia as a "very close friend and ally of the United States" that contributed to Iran's recent nuclear deal with the West by complying with those sanctions.

"I want to thank Armenia and the Armenian people for the sacrifices that Armenia made to help enforce our sanctions regime," she told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) during a visit to Yerevan.

Tsou stressed that although the U.S. maintains other, bilateral sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic, Armenia is free to "flourish with a new relationship with Iran." "I don't know of any reasons why your two countries can't do direct business together," she said.

"Where it becomes complicated is when a business in particular might touch on the United States," Tsou went on. "I don't think the Iranian businesses have an issue with that because they've been separated from us for some time.

"But there are many businesses that are multinational and that's where I would urge any business that has ties to the United States one way or another to reach out to our Treasury Department and its Office of Foreign Assets Control to check whether whatever it is that they are thinking about doing is legal."

Armenia was quick to welcome the July 2015 agreement on Iran's controversial nuclear program and the resulting sanctions relief. Senior Armenian officials have repeatedly said the landmark deal will speed up the implementation of Armenian-Iranian energy projects regarded as strategically important by Yerevan. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is expected to visit Armenia by the end of this year.

"It is natural for Armenia to start thinking about the impact that the lifting of sanctions might have on its political and economic ties with Iran," Richard Mills, the U.S. ambassador in Yerevan, said in February. Armenia might even become a "platform" for U.S.-Iranian commercial relations in the future, he said.

Tsou noted that while a full normalization of U.S.-Iranian relations is still not on the horizon, tensions between Washington and Tehran have eased in recent years.

"We're worried about their continuing support for terrorism and their human rights record," she said. "But there are increasingly areas of cooperation in the Middle East where our interests overlap. We would like to explore those."

## Key House panel set to consider FY 2017 foreign aid priorities on Thursday

Armenian American foreign aid priorities will be among the broad range of issues considered this Thursday by members of the influential U.S. House subcommittee tasked with drafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 foreign assistance bill, setting the stage for full House and Senate consideration in upcoming months, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

While funding trends and broad data are shared soon after the Subcommittee's consideration, the complete text of the measure is traditionally not released until the full House Appropriations Committee review or "mark-up," which typically follows the subcommittee action by a week or more.

No date has yet been set for Senate consideration of its version



of the FY 2017 foreign aid bill, though with both houses of Congress going out of session in mid-July, initial consideration is likely to take place during the coming weeks.

Among the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) foreign aid priorities being advanced by the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) is an appropriation of at least \$5 million in aid to Nagorno Karabakh for humanitarian and developmental programs, including the urgently needed expansion and modernization of the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center, a regional clinic serving children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. In addition to supporting the vital, life-saving work of this Center, the ANCA is encouraging House and Senate appropriators to support a broad range of other foreign aid priorities of special concern to Armenian Americans and other friends of Armenia, including:

- Zeroing-out U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan until its leaders agree with the Royce-Engel peace proposals to withdraw snipers and heavy arms, add OSCE observers, and deploy gunfire locator systems.

- Allocating at least \$40 million in U.S. economic assistance to Armenia, targeted to growing the U.S.-Armenia trade and investment relationship.

- Appropriating at least \$10 million in emergency aid to help Armenia settle the nearly 20,000 thousand people who have fled to Armenia from Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East.



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### 1 ROOM

- 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, heating 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 Antarayan str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capially renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

•74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayan. 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 Antarayan. 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.**Antarayan 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. **Baghramyan 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 **Baghramyan 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.

### 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2358 **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capially renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str. 8/5**, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str**. Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str**. duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor,

- 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 Baghramyan 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

## Celebrations dedicated to the launching ceremony of the 500 days before the start of the Asian Games - Ashgabat 2017

*From page 1*

in the region Olympic Village will be located on an area of 157 hectares. This complex includes over 30 different facilities, including social-living, transportation and other infrastructures. In January 2013, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed a decree on the establishment of the Organizing Committee of the 2017 V Asian indoor and martial arts games.

In November 27-28, 2014 in Ashgabat, during the signing ceremony of the document on the participation for the first time of Oceania countries in the history of V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2017, in addition to the previously agreed 19 sports, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov proposed to include in the program of the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2017 the Turkmen national wrestling named goresh and horseback riding (konkur). The Turkmen leader's proposal was accepted by the Olympic Council of Asia and jointly approved.

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On May 05, 2016 President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov launched a 500-day horse run relay race, the route of which will run through all regions of the country and finish it at the opening day of the Asian Games 2017.

The event, organized on the initiative of the leader of the nation on behalf of 500 days before the start of the Asian Games, that took place in the historical and cultural reserve "Nisa" at the walls of the ancient fortress, launched an unprecedented horse running in the country.

There was a special atmosphere of the large Turkmen festivity at the entrance to the ancient town. The road to the legendary fortress was decorated with small flags with symbol of the Asian Games, on both sides of the road yurts were installed and next to it on the tapchans (trestle stage) masters of decorative and applied arts with samples of their products, and musicians were located.

The fortress at Nisa had been declared

a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2007, for decades it was done research work by well-known scientists from different countries to shed light on many mysteries of ancient history. Thanks to the excavations, it became clear that the art and architecture of Nisa represents expressive sample of style of Arsaces Palace, in which the eastern and western traditions have formed an amazing composition.

So on May 05 members of the leader-



ship of the country, sports communities came together. Many guests including representatives of the Olympic Council of Asia, OCA member countries, as well as foreign mass media had arrived to participate in this festivity. Art masters of the country, famous poets, scientists, journalists, students and youth were among the participants of the celebration.

At the venue of the festival there was an exhibition displaying the achievements and successes of Turkmenistan in various spheres of public life and society, including sports. Special attention attracted products with the symbol of the Asian Games 2017. There were different kinds of souvenirs, textiles, accessories made of Keteni (hand-made silk material) with national embroideries, gift sets. There were displays of collections of clothing and uniforms for the staff and volunteers who would serve in the Games, samples of tickets for competitions, printing materials, etc. presented by domestic designers.

The leader of the nation was met by Vice Premiers, the Chairman of the Mejlis, heads of military and law enforcement

agencies, governors (Khyakims) of the regions and the city of Ashgabat on the festive area.

The Turkmen leader warmly welcomed the audience. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov exchanged friendly embraces with President of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

During the conversation, the leader of OCA shared his impressions of what he saw, by admiring the current swings of festival which was arranged in this historical place, the millennial glory of which gave the celebrations particular significance and high patriotic meaning.

In full readiness near the stylishly decorated stage there formed a group of horse riders from 17 horsemen, who would open the equestrian parade in all regions of the country. Behind them on the fortress wall at regular intervals bowls with burning fire were set. Drummers and guards with

spears - the custodians of a fire were standing along the walls next to each of the bowl. Stage version carried us into the imagination of the distant past, presenting such a spectacular event. The celebration began.

Welcoming the President of Turkmenistan, the guests of honor, and all participants of the ceremony, the master of ceremony said that all this was the glorious event in the life of the nation honoring the happy and esteemed heritage in the history of independent neutral Turkmenistan. A big celebration was going on at the monuments of ancient Nisa.

"Today we are witnessing a large-scale and extremely important event in the history of our sovereign Motherland and the lives of courageous nation which take part in the ceremony of start of horse run, organized on the occasion of 500-days before the beginning of the V Asian Indoor Games and Martial Arts", said the head of the state.

The President expressed his deep appreciation to foreign diplomats, the representatives of international organizations



and the media for having accepted the invitation and being the witnesses of the historical event.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed confidence that the horse run will be a great reflection of Turkmen rich cultural, historical and cultural heritage, traditions and customs, of the current high achievements and successes.

The leader of the nation also expressed heartfelt gratitude to President of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah for his enormous personal contribution to the further development of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the Olympic Council of Asia and the continued support of activities in the area.

Then the floor was given to the President of the Olympic Council of Asia and the Association of National Olympic Committees, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who also noted a truly historic significance of the event - the start of horse run-relay race throughout the country in honor of the beginning of 500-days before the V Asian Indoor Games and Martial Arts.



Berdimuhamedov with the request to hand in the State Flag of Turkmenistan to the participants of the horse run, organized on the occasion of 500 days before the start of the Asian Games 2017.

A single rider separated from the column of riders and approached to the head of the state. The leader of the nation handed in the green flag of the country under the applause of the audience.

Then the master of the ceremony asked the President of the Olympic Council of Asia and the Association of National Olympic Committees, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, to hand in the OCA flag.

Sheikh also handed in the symbol of his organization to the rider.

The riders one by one made a lap of honor with the flags in their hands and lined up in front of the stage.

Next, the master of the ceremony addressed to the Head of State, President of the National Olympic Committee of Turkmenistan with the request to hand in the torch flame of the Asian Games to the participants of the equestrian run.



The Olympic village, which had no analogue in Central Asia was a source of pride not only for Turkmenistan but also for the entire region, noted Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, and added that visiting Ashgabat in 2017, the representatives of the Asian and Oceania countries would be the witnesses of large-scale transformations implemented in modern Turkmenistan.

The head of OCA expressed confidence that the V Asian Games would be held at the highest organizational level, would have a great importance in strengthening friendship and brotherhood ties between the nations of the region.

The drummers stepped down from the fortress wall, followed by young girls holding rhytons dressed in ritual robes resembling female outfits of Turkmen Queen Tomyris times. There were high hats on their heads. Creating a sort of art-historical retrospective they were approaching to horse riders.

Meantime the flags of Turkmenistan and the Olympic Council of Asia and the torch, where the flame of the Asian Games would be lighted were carried out.

The poetry was read after which the master of the ceremony referred to the leader of the nation, President of the National Olympic Committee of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly

The leader of the nation handed in the Torch of the Asian Games to the rider who joined the first two riders.

The equestrian procession led by three riders with the flags of Turkmenistan and the OCA, and the Torch of the Asian Games which was holding a rider in the middle, hit the road.

The festive program continued the evening gala concert by the performance of Masters of Arts of the country. President of Turkmenistan and President of the OCA become the audience of the concert.



## Erdogan may have to resign If his college diploma is fake



*By Harut  
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The  
California Courier*

As if Turkish President Rejep Erdogan did not have enough headaches, he now faces a new accusation that he may have forged his college diploma. If true, he would be forced to resign from his presidential seat and possibly go to jail or into exile.

Rumors have been circulating for some time that Erdogan may not have a college degree which would disqualify him from his presidential position according to Article 101 of the Turkish constitution which requires that presidential candidates "have completed higher education."

Journalist Cengiz Candar, in an *Al-Monitor.com* June 15 article titled: "Is Erdogan's university diploma forged?" exposes the serious suspicions regarding the validity of the Turkish President's college diploma.

As Candar explains, "Erdogan went to an imam-hatip school, a high school-level institution that educates religious preachers. During the 1970's and 1980's, graduates of those schools could pursue their higher education only in theology." Nonetheless, when Erdogan ran for President in August 2014, he presented to the Higher Electoral Board a photocopy of his diploma claiming to have received a college degree in 1981 from the Dept. of Economic and Administrative Sciences of Marmara University.

The problem here is that Marmara University was founded only in 1982, making it impossible for Erdogan to have graduated a year before the University came into exist-

ence. Since the Dept. of Economics was established only in 1983, Erdogan could not have graduated from that department in 1981, as he claimed. Unfortunately, none of these suspected allegations can be thoroughly investigated in Turkey by the media or civil society in view of the dictatorial nature of the Erdogan regime which routinely shuts down newspapers and prosecutes all opponents.

The President's aides are adamant that the accusations against Erdogan are not valid, as they emanate from members of opposition parties. The first complaint came from former judge Omer Faruk Eminagaoglu who presented to the Higher Electoral Board his suspicion that Erdogan did have a college degree because of the existing discrepancies in the photocopy of his diploma. The Electoral Board promptly rejected the judge's appeal.

A second challenge was mounted by extreme Turkish nationalist Gokce Firat who presented detailed arguments to support the claim that Erdogan's diploma is a forgery. Firat demanded to see Erdogan's original diploma rather than the photocopy he had submitted to the Higher Electoral Board. The Turkish nationalist accused the President and Dean of Marmara University of aiding and abetting in the crime of forging Erdogan's diploma. He claimed that the signatures of the President and Dean of Marmara University seen on the copy of Erdogan's diploma do not match the ones on Firat's own diploma from the same university. He also questioned the validity of the sequence of the number found on Erdogan's diploma. Finally, Firat claimed that even the design of the Turkish President's diploma is differ-

ent from the ones held by other graduates.

Earlier this month, the pro-Kurdish HDP Party submitted an official parliamentary inquiry, asking Education Minister Ismet Yilmaz "to clarify the mystery surrounding the validity" of Erdogan's university diploma. In response to a similar request to the Higher Electoral Board, the HDP received a notarized copy of the Turkish President's diploma. However, the HDP announced that it will continue to challenge the validity of the diploma.

In his article, Cengiz Candar raised serious concerns about Erdogan's legitimacy as President of Turkey should it be proven that his diploma is forged: "If taken seriously, the follow-up to the controversy could create monumental legal questions in Turkey. If it turns out Erdogan was never qualified to be elected president, whatever he has signed or implemented would have to be considered null and void from a purely legal point of view. Politically, it would provide an armory of ammunition to his critics whose numbers abroad are rapidly increasing. And if Erdogan's university diploma proves to be a forgery, that would naturally provide ammunition to his international opponents to bring up the argument of whether his title is legitimate."

While President Erdogan is demanding a DNA test to verify the ethnic origins of the 11 Turkish members of the German Parliament who voted to recognize the Armenian Genocide, it may be more appropriate to carry out a chemical analysis of his diploma. Erdogan should also undergo a psychological examination to evaluate his persistently irrational psychotic behavior!



## **Pope Francis, Catholicos of All Armenians sign joint declaration**



Pope Francis and Catholicos Karekin II, leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church on Sunday signed a common declaration giving thanks for the progress towards Christian unity and appealing for peace in the Middle East and other regions torn apart by conflict, terrorism and religious persecution.

Joint Declaration of His Holiness Francis and His Holiness Karekin II at Holy Etchmiadzin, Republic Of Armenia

Today in Holy Etchmiadzin, spiritual center of All Armenians, we, Pope Francis and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II raise our minds and hearts in thanksgiving to the Almighty for the continuing and growing closeness in faith and love between the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Catholic Church in their common witness to the Gospel message of salvation in a world torn by strife and yearning for comfort and hope. We praise the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for enabling us to come together in the biblical land of Ararat, which stands as a reminder that God will ever be our protection and salvation. We are spiritually gratified to remember that in 2001, on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the religion of Armenia, Saint John Paul II visited Armenia and was a witness to a new page in warm and fraternal relations between the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Catholic

Church. We are grateful that we had the grace of being together, at a solemn liturgy in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome on 12 April 2015, where we pledged our will to oppose every form of discrimination and violence, and commemorated the victims of what the Common Declaration of His Holiness John-Paul II and His Holiness Karekin II spoke of as "the extermination of a million and a half Armenian Christians, in what is generally referred to as the first genocide of the twentieth century" (27 September 2001).

We praise the Lord that today, the Christian faith is again a vibrant reality in Armenia, and that the Armenian Church carries on her mission with a spirit of fraternal collaboration between the Churches, sustaining the faithful in building a world of solidarity, justice and peace.

Sadly, though, we are witnessing an immense tragedy unfolding before our eyes, of countless innocent people being killed, displaced or forced into a painful and uncertain exile by continuing conflicts on ethnic, economic, political and religious grounds in the Middle East and other parts of the world. As a result, religious and ethnic minorities have become the target of persecution and cruel treatment, to the point that suffering for one's religious belief has become a daily reality. The martyrs belong to all the Churches and their suffering is an "ecumenism of

blood" which transcends the historical divisions between Christians, calling us all to promote the visible unity of Christ's disciples. Together we pray, through the intercession of the holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, for a change of heart in all those who commit such crimes and those who are in a position to stop the violence. We implore the leaders of nations to listen to the plea of millions of human beings who long for peace and justice in the world, who demand respect for their God-given rights, who have urgent need of bread, not guns. Sadly, we are witnessing a presentation of religion and religious values in a fundamentalist way, which is used to justify the spread of hatred, discrimination and violence. The justification of such crimes on the basis of religious ideas is unacceptable, for "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace" (I Corinthians 14:33). Moreover, respect for religious difference is the necessary condition for the peaceful cohabitation of different ethnic and religious communities. Precisely because we are Christians, we are called to seek and implement paths towards reconciliation and peace. In this regard we also express our hope for a peaceful resolution of the issues surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mindful of what Jesus taught his disciples when he said: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25: 35-36), we ask the faithful of our Churches to open their hearts and hands to the victims of war and terrorism, to refugees and their families. At issue is the very sense of our humanity, our solidarity, compassion and generosity, which can only be properly expressed in an immediate practical commitment of resources. We acknowledge all that is already being done, but we insist that much more is needed on the part of political leaders and the international community in order to ensure the right of all to live in peace and security, to uphold the rule of law, to protect religious and ethnic

*continued on page 14*

## Pope Francis, Catholicos of All Armenians sign joint declaration

*from page 13*

minorities, to combat human trafficking and smuggling.

The secularization of large sectors of society, its alienation from the spiritual and divine leads inevitably to a desacralized and materialistic vision of man and the human family. In this respect we are concerned about the crisis of the family in many countries. The Armenian Apostolic Church and the Catholic Church share the same vision of the family, based on marriage, an act of freely given and faithful love between man and woman.

We gladly confirm that despite continuing divisions among Christians, we have come to realize more clearly that what unites us is much more than what divides us. This is the solid basis upon which the unity of Christ's Church will be

made manifest, in accordance with the Lord's words, "that they all may be one" (John 17.21). Over the past decades the relationship between the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Catholic Church has successfully entered a new phase, strengthened by our mutual prayers and joint efforts in overcoming contemporary challenges. 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, with a view to sharing full communion and concrete expressions of unity. We urge our faithful to work in harmony for the promotion in society of the Christian values which effectively contribute to building a civilization of justice, peace and human solidarity. The path of reconciliation and

brotherhood lies open before us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth (cf. John 16:13), sustain every genuine effort to build bridges of love and communion between us.

From Holy Etchmiadzin we call on all our faithful to join us in prayer, in the words of Saint Nerses the Gracious: "Glorified Lord, accept the supplications of Your servants, and graciously fulfil our petitions, through the intercession of the Holy Mother of God, John the Baptist, the first martyr Saint Stephen, Saint Gregory our Illuminator, the Holy Apostles, Prophets, Divines, Martyrs, Patriarchs, Hermits, Virgins and all Your saints in Heaven and on Earth. And unto You, O indivisible Holy Trinity, be glory and worship forever and ever. Amen".

**Holy Etchmiadzin, 26 June 2016**  
**His Holiness Karekin II**  
**His Holiness Francis**

## Serzh Sargsyan: Christianity deeply-rooted into Armenian soil and Armenian souls

**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
 OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
 SERZH SARGSYAN  
 AT THE MEETING OF HIS HOLINESS  
 POPE FRANCIS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES  
 OF THE ARMENIAN AUTHORITIES, PUBLIC AND  
 DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED IN YEREVAN**

*Yerevan, 24 June 2016*

Your Holiness,  
 Eminences,  
 Dear Guests,  
 What a special day the Lord has made for us.

It is an immense honor for our people and me personally to welcome the leader of the Catholic World, His Holiness Pope Francis on the Armenian soil, which was the first to adopt Christianity as a state religion and withstood sufferings through millennia for the Christian identity and values.

Your Holiness,

Your visit was long-awaited in our country. With Your dedication to humanitarian ideas and the universal values of love, peace, and kindness, and with your constant care for matters of concern to the Armenians, You enjoy the great respect and admiration of the Armenian people.

Thank you for gracing us all with this warm historic moment. Thank you for bringing blessing, happiness, and peace

to our nation with your presence, for filling our homes and hearts with warmth. Approving the official motto of your visit as a "Visit to the First Christian Nation" and characterizing the trip as a "pilgrimage" by Your Holiness, bears testament to the care Your Holiness has towards our country and our people. It equally attests to the unique bond between the Roman Catholic Church and Armenian Apostolic Church. For this, we are thankful and grateful to you.

Distinguished Guests,

15 years ago, in 2001, the visit to Armenia of His Holiness Pope John Paul II was on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of declaring Christianity as the state religion in our country. Today, this historic visit of Pope Francis signifies another key anniversary—the 25th anniversary of restoring independent Armenian statehood—a cherished celebration for every Armenian.

Throughout the voyage of our millennia-long history, the Armenian people have faced many hardships - from Genocide and foreign oppression to indifference of friends and denial. It faced but never lost the ability to believe in the ideals of humanity, tolerance, and solidarity. It never lost owing to the faith, the values, the peace-loving nature, and for the great humanists who extended a helping hand.

One cannot but believe in the Triumph of Justice when in 100 years, a timeframe that divides 1915 from 2015, the message of justice is being conveyed to the mankind from the heart of the Catholic World heralding that the first of the mass atroc-



ities having affected the humanity, the Armenian Genocide, is a historical fact and an undeniable reality; when notwithstanding all circumstances falsification and denial start to shake in the face of historic justice. This was testified by the new wave of recognition of the Armenian genocide that followed the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

We don't look for culprits. We don't spread accusations. We simply want things to be called by their names, as it will allow two neighboring peoples to move towards genuine reconciliation and a shared prosperous future by recognizing the past and embracing forgiveness and a clean conscience.

Your Holiness,  
Dear Guests,

The Armenian people's decision to declare Christianity as a state religion in 301 was indeed a key event in world history. However, it went beyond defining the destiny of the Armenian people: the Christian Faith became the hallmark of the Armenian identity, predetermining our historical course and the values and culture that steered us to the 21st century, to the present, to this very day.

Christianity is deeply-rooted into the Armenian soil and Armenian souls. To remain faithful to Christianity this is a key characteristic of the Armenian people. There is a reason why Armenian churches and cross-stones can be found virtually any country of the world. There is a reason why Saint Gregory of Narek, a great child of the Armenian people, was declared Doctor of the Universal Church, the highest title of the Catholic Church,



joining the 36 greatest thinkers in Christianity. It is an honor, a milestone in the appreciation of the nation, which reaffirmed the same-source Christian value system underlying the bonds between Armenia and the Holy See.

Christianity is more than a religion for us. It is a lifestyle, one that instilled in the Armenian people the desire to live in peace and the philosophy of overcoming difficulties restraint and dignity. The more Christian we became, the more we respected and appreciated the faith of others, the more tolerant and peace-loving we became, capable of coexisting peacefully with other peoples and taking even better care of the spiritual-cultural legacy of others on our land.

Examples of inter-religious friendship are numerous. Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran is a case in point. Or, in the Middle East, until the unfavorable

developments of the recent past, the presence of peaceful and prosperous Armenian communities and their harmonious coexistence with the host nations and national and religious minorities. We are watching with great sorrow the practices of vandalism and xenophobia in the Middle East, the only aim of which is the deletion of historical memory from those areas through a cultural massacre.

Your Holiness,

As you rightly noted in your address on 12 April, the peoples of this complicated region of ours need peace, referring to the peoples that, in the past, despite their differences and pressure, enjoyed extensive periods of peaceful life and even helped one another in difficulties.

Today, Armenia still aspires for peace. In any event, we prefer peaceful negotiation to shooting. We are ready for peaceful regional coexistence, as hard as the road to peace may be. It is perhaps because durable peace is based upon the idea of people's freedom and free expression of will.

Your Holiness,

"Peace is both God's gift and a human achievement." I agree completely. I believe in human achievements, in the ones who maintain peace at the price of their lives every second, in the ones that compel peace.

I am an optimist: I believe that humanity's dreams of freedom and peace, cherished for centuries, will become reality one day.

Welcome to the  
First Christian Nation.



## NATO views countries of the South Caucasus as potential partners: Paul Stronski

"NATO views the countries of the South Caucasus as potential partners with Georgia being an aspirant for membership. I do not see NATO membership as realistic for Georgia any time soon, however. There is no consensus in the Alliance on Georgia's membership," Paul Stronski, Senior Associate at Carnegie Foundation, said in an internet press conference for Armenian media.

"On Armenia, as an ally of Russia, it is firmly in Russia's security orbit. But, NATO will still continue to engage with Armenia and appreciates the partnership it has had with NATO throughout the past twenty years. I'd also note that Armenian military reform is generally modeled after NATO and the United States, so there are clear incentives on the Armenian side to keep good ties with NATO despite Yerevan's security alliance with Moscow. However, I do not see the relationship between NATO and Armenia getting any closer in the immediate future," he said.

"I do not see any prospects for NATO membership for Armenia or Azerbaijan. Neither country seems interested in membership. NATO says the door is always open, but many NATO members are not keen to enlarge the alliance any further east," he added.

Is there a possibility for exclusion of Turkey from the Alliance, considering that Turkey is playing back-door games with ISIS and in light of deterioration of relations between



Ankara and Brussels?

"I am neither an expert on Turkey nor ISIS, so I cannot really answer this question. I think many governments in the West are frustrated with Turkey right now given Erdogan's increasing authoritarianism, and unpredictable foreign and domestic politics. But, Turkey is a long-standing and important member of the NATO alliance. The goal of the alliance is to increase the security of its members, and I still think that most NATO members believe that Turkish membership in NATO enhances their security. I do not see their exclusion from the alliance anytime soon," the expert said.

## Steinmeier meets Minsk Group Co-Chairs, reveals plans to visit the region

OSCE Chairperson-in Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier met with Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassadors Igor Popov (Russian Federation) and Pierre Andrieu (France), and with Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the

OSCE Minsk Conference in Berlin on June 24.

The Co-Chairs informed the Chairperson-in-Office about the results of the summit of the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation held in St. Petersburg on 20 June 2016 and the agreement reached there about increasing the number of staff

of the Office of the Personal Representative in order to bring additional international observers into the conflict zone. The aim of the agreed increase is to stabilize the situation in the conflict zone and to create an atmosphere conducive to fostering the peace process.

Steinmeier welcomed the recent improvements in the upholding of the ceasefire. There was agreement among the participants of the Berlin meeting that a sustainable ceasefire and a return to political negotiations remain indispensable.

Today's talks also served the goal of co-ordinating possible further steps towards achieving a settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, also with a view to Steinmeier's upcoming visit to the region.

In the framework of the German OSCE Chairmanship Germany is supporting the negotiation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs and will continue to work actively towards a settlement of the conflict.





## Master classes and premieres during Yerevan International Guitar Festival



Guitarists from seven countries will perform and hold master classes during the second Yerevan International Guitar Festival, President of Yerevan Guitarists Association, Deputy President of Wuppertal Guitarists Association and the artistic director of the festival, guitarist Zhora Sargsyan said during a press conference.

The second Yerevan International Guitar Festival will kick off on June 28 to July 1, featuring famous guitarists from all

over the world. The festival is organized by the Guitarists Associations of Yerevan and of Wuppertal. The partners of the festival are the Ministry of Culture of Armenia, "Pyunik" Pan-Armenian Human Resources Development Foundation, Armenian General Benevolent Union and YerazArt Foundation.

According to Zhora Sargsyan, the festival will feature works of five different epochs, Renaissance, Baroque, Classicism, Romanticism and Modernism. He also said that works of different musicians from Armenia and abroad will premiere during the festival.

The three concerts of the festival will be held at Komitas Chamber Music House. Famous German guitar player, Hubert Käppel will perform during the opening ceremony of the festival on June 28. Hubert Käppel is not only a rare exception among the leading guitarists of today, but his interpretations, and virtuoso technique has set the standard for a whole guitar generation. Käppel has given concerts and master classes in many international music and guitar festivals and has often sat as a jury member in the major guitar competitions. Zhora Sargsyan will also perform during the opening ceremony.

On June 29, Dmitry Murin from Russia will perform during the second concert of the festival. And David Dyakov from Bulgaria will perform on July 1, during the final concert.

Zhora Sargsyan also informed that concerts and master classes are planned also in Stepanakert, Dilijan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

## Governor Brown signs budget with \$1 Million Earmark for Armenian American Museum

### GLENDALE

The Armenian American Museum Governing Board said that it commends California Governor Jerry Brown for including a \$1 million earmark for the Museum in the 2016-2017 California State budget.

"The funding from the State of California at this early stage of the Museum project will give an important boost to securing the approvals and funding needed for the construction of the Armenian American Museum in Glendale," explained Governing Board Co-Chair Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.

"We are grateful to Senate President Pro-Tempore Kevin De Leon and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon for including funding for the Armenian American Museum in the compromised Budget negotiated with the Governor," stated Co-Chair Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian.

Archbishop Mardirossian and other representatives of the Museum met with Speaker Rendon (D-Paramount) and worked with Senate President Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) to include the funding request submitted by Senator Carol Liu (D-Glendale) and Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian (D-Sherman Oaks).

Although the funding included in the compromised budget between the Legislature and the Governor is lower than the amount approved by the State Assembly, the Armenian American Museum's Executive Committee Chair Berdj Karapetian



described it as "a sizeable commitment by the State to make the Armenian American Museum a reality." Karapetian additionally noted, "This is an important first step and we hope that more funding will be available as we move forward with this project."

The Armenian American Museum is working closely with the City of Glendale to complete the due diligence requirements and feasibility studies for building the Museum in the Arts and Entertainment District of the City.

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.

## Russia denies Azeri Karabakh claim



Russia's Foreign Ministry on June 24 rejected as "unscrupulous" a senior Azerbaijani official's claim that this week's Armenian-Azerbaijani summit in Saint Petersburg resulted in an agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh favorable to Baku.

Novruz Mammadov, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's chief foreign policy aide, said on Wednesday that Aliyev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan agreed "in principle" on a phased solution to the Karabakh conflict.

Mammadov told Azerbaijani televi-

sion that the peaceful settlement will involve a gradual liberation of seven districts around Karabakh that were fully or partly occupied by Karabakh Armenian forces in 1992-1994. "Karabakh's status will be determined after that," he added vaguely.

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian was quick to brush aside Mammadov's remarks. He said that "no agreement on the conflict's resolution was reached at the Saint Petersburg summit" hosted by Russian President

Vladimir Putin on Monday.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, denied the Azerbaijani claims in equally categorical terms. "This is an attempt by the Azerbaijani side to interpret the understandings reached [in Saint Petersburg] in a peculiar fashion," she told reporters in Moscow.

Zakharova pointed to a trilateral statement that was issued by Putin, Aliyev and Sargsyan after their talks. It said the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders reached an "understanding" on unspecified issues hampering a Karabakh settlement. They also reaffirmed their declared support for confidence-building measures meant to strengthen the ceasefire regime in the conflict zone, according to the statement.

"I would ask you -- and I think this is a collective request -- to be guided by that statement, rather than those very unscrupulous claims involving attempts to interpret the results of the meeting," Zakharova told reporters in Moscow.

"There is a concrete statement that was made [in Saint Petersburg] and it is an official document," she said. "One should proceed from it, rather than frivolous or perverse interpretations made by anybody."

## Political solution to Karabakh conflict impossible without dialogue: French Amb.



"The only fact that meetings are taking place and dialogue aimed at implementation of confidence-building measures is

under way is a positive sign by itself," French Ambassador to Armenia Jean-Francois Charpentier told reporters in Yerevan.

"Without dialogue there can be no political solution," the Ambassador said, adding that dialogue is a chance to get acquainted with each other's positions.

Ambassador Charpentier hailed the commitment of the parties to continue the periodic meetings and pledged France's willingness to support the process.

Speaking about the Armenian-French relations, the Ambassador said those have always been on a high level. He said the activity of the French Embassy in Armenia is based on three pillars, the most important of which is the development of economic relations.

"It's important to intensify the economic ties. The €50 mln commodity turnover is too little for the two countries, and does not correspond to the level of the French-Armenian political and cultural relations," the Ambassador added.

According to Mr. Charpentier, another important direction is the promotion of social dialogue and any cooperation targeted the protection of human rights.



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



### **Aries (March 20-April 19)**

You have a troubling relationship that needs some kind of a finale. You may have a skirmish now that causes you to decide you are done. However, it is just a bit soon to make an ultimate decision and something inside you is aware of that. Give it about one more month. Things will improve in mid-July and your decision will be more clear.



### **Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)**

The temperature of your relationship to partner is a little coolish. You may want nothing to do with him/her right now. Don't nurse the anger. Your mind wants to wander in the world of fantasy, daydreams, good books, and music. It is not a great week for getting things done, but you will enjoy the journey.



### **Gemini (May 20-June 20)**

Think before you speak now. Words may drop out of your mouth that you could regret later. Listen carefully to the feelings behind the words that others are telling you. Perhaps your better self will speak wisdom you didn't know you had.



### **Cancer (June 21-July 21)**

You continue to struggle with a conflict between what you feel and what you think. When we have this issue, we usually are unable to move forward in any significant way. Our minds see what is logical, rational, and orderly. But our hearts are in the space of feelings, which have no rules. It is generally best to withhold judgment until a solution develops.



### **Leo (July 22-August 21)**

It's important that you be aware that your thinking is not as objective as you believe. Listen when others tell you their attitudes and opinions. You do not have to adopt them, but don't reject what they say out of hand. Try to think carefully before assuming you are the only one who knows the right answers.



### **Virgo (August 22-September 22)**

You are experiencing an unusually creative period. Relationship(s) to lovers and children are upbeat and give you pleasure. You may be surprised when you hear yourself chatter like a magpie! Beware of an unusually strong impulse to spend now. If money is an issue, leave the credit cards at home.



### **Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)**

Events of this week trigger your sense of compassion and draw you into the need to assist in the healing of another. As you live into this experience, you will discover that having compassion also heals you. Your spirit is lifted. Don't ignore the call.



### **Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

There is some kind of relationship difficulty on your plate. You want to turn tail and run, but financial circumstances prevent your departure. Your ruling planet, Mars, will be clear of its retrograde motion in late June. Look for a way to turn a lemon to lemonade and rise above this situation for now. That makes it bearable for the present.



### **Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)**

You have been pummeled with challenging aspects for several weeks. An opportunity is coming any day now to increase your income via a work opportunity. It is possible that if you agree to do some small thing in good spirits, the work will become a project that grows to your benefit. If you are already employed, you likely will get approval for a job that has been pending.



### **Capricorn (December 21-January 19)**

In the larger scheme of things you have arrived at a point of accomplishment. You have communicated your philosophy in a way that the outlooks of others are changed. This is an important moment in time for you. It shows how useful your efforts have been. Give yourself a pat on the back and maybe a day off as a reward.



### **Aquarius (January 20-February 17)**

Matters of health continue to vie for your attention. After July 3rd your concerns will begin to ease, and you will recognize signs of improvement. Maintain an attitude of hope and expect a beneficial outcome. You certainly deserve it after all you have been through.



### **Pisces (February 18-March 19)**

You are seen by others as a power for good. This week one or more will help you recognize that fact. The next couple of weeks are especially good for discussing important subjects with partners. You each are in a cooperative frame of mind and communications flow well. You can give and receive mutual help at this time and improve the overall energy in the relationship.

## Golden Apricot Film Festival: Hard Selection for International Feature Competition

13th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival press conference took place on 22 June. According to the press release issued by the festival website, international competition programs and the international jury boards of 2016 were announced. Out of 900 submissions, 43 films will be competing in the three main competition sections: International Feature Competition (12 films), International Documentary Competition (15 films) and Armenian Panorama National Competition (16 films). The geography of the competing films includes 37 countries, the source details.

Golden Apricot IFF Program Director Mikayel Stamboltsyan stressed that the selection of the films for the International Feature Competition was quite difficult due to the high number of quality films.

"We often had fiery debates in our committee which consisted of people of different generations. That was natural we had a clash of tastes," Stamboltsyan noted.

To his words, interesting films by women directors are also submitted to the festival "A new trend is observed in the global cinematography; women directors have started producing interesting works," Stamboltsyan said, adding that regional films were as well encouraged to be included in the program of the festival.

Ara Khanjyan, Deputy Director at Golden Apricot IFF Program mentioned that films submitted for International

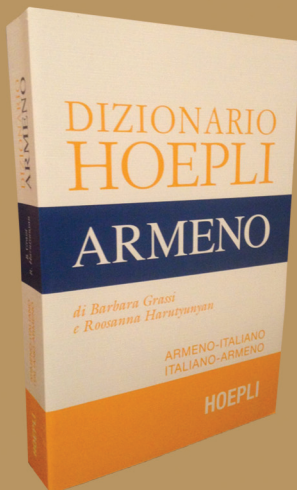
Documentary Competition left a saddening impression upon him. To him, documentaries are approaching the features in their content.

"We selected the best what we saw out of the screened films. Some of the films have good record of accomplishments, others are to be screened for the first time," he said, adding the fans of documentaries should be impressed by the program.

To note, 13th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival will be held on July 10-17. The festival is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence.



## 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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