

Politics

Political center Girchi presents three new projects before the elections

One of the party's leaders told a news conference that the party was launching a new newspaper, a new online portal had been set up and a raffle was being held to 'encourage voters.'



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Economics

The government lifts up more restrictions; Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to operate direct flights regularly from Kutaisi International Airport to the Middle East.

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Ambassador Kelly C. Degnan visits Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti for the first time



Kelly C. Degnan in Mestia. Photo by the state dept.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

US Ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Kelly C. Degnan and the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Natia Turnava visited the Region of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti. As the Ministry informs, American diplomats as well as female representatives of the business sector also participated

in the tour, which aimed to support domestic tourism in Georgia.

Degnan met with the beneficiaries of the USAID project- Zrda that supports economic growth, which is accomplished by assisting small and medium businesses in the region to turn them into profitable enterprises that will enable job provision for the dwellers. Degnan also paid a visit to the Enguri hydro-power plant and other sightseeings of the region. In Svaneti, she saw Mestia, Ipari and Ushguli and visited local churches as well as the museum of history and Ethnography of Svaneti, which according to the statement made by the US embassy in Georgia turned out to be the highlight of her journey. Degnan was introduced to an exceptional collection of ethnographic objects, medieval manuscripts and icons preservation and protection of which was funded by the US government back in 2009.

While traveling with Women for Tomorrow, the ambassador learned about the important work of this organisation, which is implemented by the funding of the United States through the Democracy Commission grant program. As the embassy notes, in the frame of this project, more than 100 women countrywide received education in Management, Marketing and Public Relations via workshops. The participants were also able to access foreign marketing and fundraising.

During her trip, Degnan met Nino Vibliani, the only female deputy governor in Georgia and other local government representatives, including the governor of Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti Region, Alexander Motserelia.



US Ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Kelly C. Degnan and the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Natia Turnava at Enguri Hydro-Power Plant. Photo by state dept.

Political center Girchi presents three new projects before the elections



Although the raffle may seem bizarre and out of place, the party thinks of it as an encouragement for the citizens to vote.

By ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

The first project of the party is the newspaper. According to Zurab Japaridze, one of the leaders, the name of the newspaper will be named 'More Freedom.' The project manager is Iago Khvichia and it will be published regularly. The first paper has already been published.

The second project of the party

is the website www.girchi.com where citizens will get acquainted with the party members and their views on the economy, education, justice and other issues.

Girchi's third pre-election project is a TESLA car raffle.

The party is going to play a Tesla car for the citizens who come to the elections. The party spreads the information about it, saying that any citizen can participate in the raffle, but this requires several conditions to be met, including registration on the party's website and taking a photo at the polling station on the election day to confirm that they have arrived to vote.

"It is important for Girchi for as many people as possible to take part in the elections held this year. Girchi is not going to take money from taxpayers. We thought a lot about what to do with this money and decided to use it to increase the motivation of citizens to come to the polls. With the budget money for the party, we will buy a Tesla

car. The more votes Girchi gets, the more budget funding there will be, and the more Tesla cars will be given out," stated the party.

According to the Georgian legislation, in case of receiving the first 50 thousand votes, the party receives ₾15 from the budget for each vote, and ₾5 for each subsequent vote.

The leader of the majority in the parliament, Mamuka Mdivaradze responded to Girchi's initiative, saying "they smoke too much in the party."

Elene Nizharadze, Executive Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), sees signs of voter bribery in Girchi's lottery.

Although the lottery is not only aimed at Girchi's voters, Nizharadze explains that we are dealing with the financial interest of the voters.

According to the head of ISFED, such calls for the creation of a political culture are not good and are low standards, as

it will not contribute to the development of democratic processes in the country.

Party leader Zurab Japaridze believes that the initiative has nothing to do with voter bribery,

but the civil society thinks otherwise. As Japaridze said at the presentation of the project, it does not matter which political party the voter will vote for. According to him, the purpose of the raffle is to encourage voters to go to the polls. As he explained, they are going to buy a Tesla car with the money that the party will receive from the state if it enters parliament.



The alleged signs of bribery show up with the raffle, according to the director of ISFED.

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Tbilisi City Court has sentenced Davit Kobaladze, the son of Koba Kobaladze, the first deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security, and five other citizens to imprisonment as a measure of restraint.

Judge Zviad Sharadze did not consider the request of the defense to leave the accused without a measure of restraint or as an alternative to a bail of ₾2000, ₾5000, ₾10000.

According to the prosecution, David Kobaladze, along with five others attacked a 23-year-old boy with a purpose of revenge. According to the investigation agency, the deputy's son and three detainees physically assaulted him, and 2 of the detainees injured him with a cold weapon. In addition, the investigation accuses 1 person of covering up a serious crime.

Investigators began arresting those involved in the case after the information was voiced by one of the TV stations - TV

Son of MP and five others charged for violent assault



Tbilisi City Court Judge Zviad Sharadze made the decision.

Pirveli. It stated that a 23-year-old employee of the bank was severely beaten and stabbed in front of numerous surveillance cameras... "A frightened family cannot make a complaint because the trace brings to the son of an influential Georgian Dream MP," the announcer said, adding that no one has been arrested, no one has been punished and 'the whole state machine is working to cover this crime.'

This information was confirmed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. "Because of the live broadcast of the crime and the

threat of hiding from the persons involved in the case, a decision was made to detain the persons," the press service said.

A total of six people have been arrested, and a search has been announced for one of them. Law enforcers are accusing the MP's son and another detainee of gang violence (Article 126 of the Criminal Code, First Prima Paragraph, Subparagraph B), for which a fine or imprisonment of up to 2 years is envisaged. One person is accused of the same article and carrying a cold weapon (Part 2 of Article 238 of the

Criminal Code of the USSR), for which imprisonment for up to 3 years is envisaged. The prosecutor's office charged 2 detainees with intentional grievous bodily harm (Article 117, Part 5, Subparagraph "e" of the Criminal Procedure Code). They face 7 to 10 years in prison. One detainee faces 1 to 3 years in prison on charges of aggravated assault (second part of Article 375 of the Criminal Code).

One of the attackers, charged with group violence, evades the investigation and will be put on

a wanted list, according to the Prosecutor's Office.

A 23-year-old boy was wounded in the center of Tbilisi on 24th of June. 6 people were detained by the investigation agency on 11th of July, 17 days after the incident, only after pro-opposition TV Pirveli channel announced that the son of the ruling party's lawmaker also participated in the incident.

Commenting on his son's involvement in the violence, Georgian Dream MP Koba Kobaladze, who served as the commander of the National Guards in the early 2000s, said his son appeared before police on his own initiative, adding that the justice must be taken care of.



According to Koba Kobaladze, Georgian Dream MP, everyone is equal before the law.

Weather

Tuesday, July 14

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 31°C

Night Clear

Low: 20°C

Wednesday, July 15

Day Clear

High: 33°C

Night Clear

Low: 20°C

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The government lifts up more restrictions; Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to operate direct flights regularly from Kutaisi International Airport to the Middle East.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

According to the decision of the inter-agency coordination council chaired by the Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia, from July 13th onwards, it is permitted to hold cultural events outdoors, complying with the recommendations of the Ministry of healthcare. The number of

attendants should be no more than 200 people. In addition, the government has also lifted the restriction on indoor rehearsals as long as the protocol of the Ministry of Healthcare is followed.

As the press service of the PM notes, the labour inspection of the Ministry of Healthcare proceeds to check the pools, gyms and hotels. Periodical inspections



The Parliament of Georgia under the guidance of chairman Archil Talakvadze and the President's administration actively participate in the working activity of Interagency coordination council.



Regular direct flights from Kutaisi to Abu Dhabi will be operated by Airbus A321neo.

of the restaurants are actively carried out as well. As of now, 1000 hotels and a couple dozens of pools and gyms have been allowed to restart operating.

According to the coordination council's decision, during the month of July, flights will be operated by Wizz Air and Myway airlines to assure organised transportation of Georgian citizens back to the motherland. On July 13th Warsaw-Tbilisi flight was operated and the following flights are scheduled on: July 15- Barcelona; July 17- Rome; July 22- Paris, July 28- Athens. Ticket price on these flights will not be any higher than €200 for the citizens of Georgia. Returned citizens will still have to undergo a 14-day quarantine procedure.

As United Airports of Georgia informs, from October 1st, for the first time in the history of Kutaisi International Airport,

regular direct flights will be operated to the Middle East. Passengers will be able to fly from the David the Builder Kutaisi Airport to the capital of the United Arab Emirates twice a week (Thursday, Sunday). The flights will be operated by Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, a company recently established by a low-cost airline company, Wizz Air.

As the director of United Airports of Georgia, Tamar Archvadze stated, regular direct flights between Georgia and United Arab Emirates means that the country, particularly the region of Imereti, will have access to a bunch of new tourist markets. Archvadze also noted that appointing completely new, non-European destinations from the Kutaisi International Airport suggests that Wizz Air has long-term plans for the Georgian Market.

CLASSIFIED

Newly renovated building for sale or rent in the heart of Tbilisi

It is a fully equipped boutique hotel, which also can be transferred into a representation office

- Location – in the heart of Tbilisi, Next to the Ministry of Defense
- Newly reconstructed and newly renovated with high standards
- Exclusive design of both interior and exterior
- 26 rooms, fully equipped with high standard furniture and equipment
- Common spaces (two terraces, one large area for lunches, one conference room)
- Fully equipped restaurant with the EU standard equipment
- The EU quality of ventilation and air conditioning (each room has a source of fresh air)
- High standard of electricity and fire safety in all rooms
- Autonomous supply of water (reservoir) and electricity (generator)

Total area: 1500 m²

Suggested rent: 9000 USD (excl VAT) - Substantially lower to market price, due to the pandemic

Suggested selling price: USD 2.5 million, including all equipment and furniture

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