

FM Zalkaliani at NATO Ministerial in Riga



► The Riga Ministerial Meeting adopted a special report on aspirant countries, which reflects the progress made by the aspirant countries on the path to NATO integration, as well as specific mechanisms and new directions for assisting the aspirants on the path to membership.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

At the meeting of the NATO Council of Foreign Ministers in Riga, the Secretary-General and Ministers of the Alliance reiterated their support for NATO aspirant country, Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. It was noted at the meeting that Georgia is a close partner of NATO and underlined its contribution to global security, including NATO operations and missions.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, NATO is committed to the decision of the Bucharest Summit and is ready to continue its political and practical support to Georgia. According to the decision made at the NATO Bucharest Summit in 2008, Georgia and Ukraine will become members of NATO.

"Georgia and Ukraine are among NATO's closest partners, and we remain ready for their political and practical support," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said at the opening of a meeting.

"We especially welcome Minister Zalkaliani and Minister Kuleba at this meeting of the North Atlantic Council, with the participation of Georgia and Ukraine. NATO supports the decision made at the Bucharest Summit and we remain ready to provide political and practical support to Georgia and Ukraine," he announced.

The Secretary-General also stressed the importance of Georgia and Ukraine moving ahead with reforms to strengthen



► "Georgia and Ukraine are close partners of NATO, they contribute to our missions, we are ready to strengthen the support of both countries."

the rule of law and democracy, fight corruption, and continue to transform the security and defense sectors.

Among the issues on the agenda of the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers was the security of the Black Sea, in this context the cooperation of the Alliance

with partner countries, the strengthening of their integration mechanisms, and further support.

Speaking of "Russia's continued aggressive and destabilizing actions against its neighbors and its military build-up in and around Ukraine," the NATO

Secretary-General said "we need to remain vigilant and avoid escalation. Ministers made clear any future Russian aggression would come at a high price and have serious political and economic consequences for Russia."

Stoltenberg continued, adding that Russians try to re-establish some kind of acceptance that Russia has the right to control what neighbors do, or not do and that's the kind of world we don't want to return to, where big powers had a say, or a kind of right, to put limitations of what sovereign, independent nations can do.

The special report on aspirant countries was adopted at the Riga Ministerial, which reflects the progress achieved by aspirants in the process of NATO integration and specific mechanisms and new directions of assistance to aspirants on the way to membership.

Riga Ministerial had a special workload before the 2022 NATO Summit, at which the new strategic concept of NATO must be approved. During the preparatory period of the Ministerial, the Georgian side developed and presented its visions to the Alliance on the path of strengthening both practical and political support for NATO integration, including reforms, strengthening the country's defense capabilities, and strengthening resilience. The November 30-December 1 ministerial comes ahead of and in preparation for the 2022 NATO Summit in Madrid, where the Alliance is set to adopt its next Strategic Concept.

EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 3.1179 | EURO - 3.5451 | GBP - 4.1636 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.1660 | SWISS FRANC - 3.3990 |

Germany Allocates €3mln Grant to Support Families Affected by Pandemic, Covid-19 Green Passes Come into Force in Georgia



► The support aims at alleviating the economic consequences for those families in Georgia who have lost their income due to the pandemic.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Germany has allocated a €3mln grant to Georgia for the support of vulnerable families in the country affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. An agreement was signed on November 30 between the Minister of Finance of Georgia Lasha Khutsishvili and the German Development Bank's (KfW) South Caucasus Office Director Birgit Holderied-Kress.

According to the German Embassy, the grant comes as part

of the financial support from Germany against Covid-19 allocated in 2020, which included a €5.8 million grant and a €15 million low-interest loan. The support aims at alleviating the economic consequences for those families in Georgia who have lost their income due to the pandemic.

The increased grant amount will be used to finance more than 135,000 social security payments to vulnerable families. "This support will contribute not only to the social protection of many families but

also to the strengthening of the social protection system," reads the statement of the embassy.

Yesterday Georgia's system of COVID-19 green passes, required for entering public spaces, went into force. The restriction on restaurant opening hours has been also lifted, allowing them to operate past 23:00.

The green status is granted

to an individual if they are fully vaccinated, have recovered from COVID, or have taken a PCR test within the last 72 hours, or an antigen test within 24 hours. Green passes can be obtained by registering on one of Georgia's two mobile applications – Georgia e-Health and CovidPass Georgia. Georgia e-Health will be mostly used during travels in foreign countries to ensure en-

try in the 51 countries which are part of the EU digital Covid-19 certification system.

Green Passport admission is required for restaurants, cafes, and bars (both outdoor and indoor), cinemas, theatres, opera houses, museums, concert halls, entertainment centres, casinos and gambling sites, spa centres, fitness clubs, hotels, and ski lifts at winter resorts.



► The green passport requirement will apply only to citizens over the age of 18.

Saralidze Says His Family's Receiving threats for Critical Posts about Gharibashvili

BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Zaza Saralidze, the father of Davit Saralidze, who was killed on Khorava Street, says that "some people were sent to him" and threatened him for writing critical posts about Irakli Gharibashvili.

Saralidze spoke on TV Pirveli that criticized Gharibashvili for mismanaging the coronavirus pandemic.

"I buried another uncle today, which is why Gharibashvili deserved my insult and he will always deserve how many



people die every day. This is Gharibashvili's direct responsibility. Gharibashvili is the head of one big family. When a person dies due to the negligence of the head of the family, whose responsibility is it? This is, of course, on the neck of the head of the family.

I lost a lot of relatives, this made me angry with Gharibashvili and instead of asking me what happened, some people sent me and threatened to rape my wife and children and do something. These people are abnormal," Saralidze said.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 2
 Day ☀️ Sunshine High: 9°C
 Night 🌙 Clear Low: 1°C

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3
 Day ☀️ Sunshine High: 9°C
 Night 🌙 Clear Low: 0°C

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