

# The Messenger

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GEL 3.00

#033 (5093)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

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## Kobakhidze on Ukraine: We Will observe the Events, and Have a Political Reaction Accordingly



By THE MESSENGER STAFF

Irakli Kobakhidze says about Ukraine that the ruling team will monitor the developments and will have a political reaction accordingly.

Journalists asked the chairman of the Georgian Dream to evaluate the statement of Volodymyr Zelensky - the President of Ukraine said that he was grateful to the countries that support him, but did not list them, so as not to embarrass others. Kobakhidze was asked if Zelenski meant Georgia in his statement.

"Georgia is one of the rare exceptions that has expressed its support and solidarity with our friendly Ukrainian people at the level of the parliamentary resolution. Our position in this regard is, of course, clear. Solidarity with the Ukrainian people is very clear and our desire is in Ukraine again and again. War is not allowed.

However, the trend is very bad, very unfortunate and we can get irreversible negative processes. "Of course, we will monitor the development of events and we will have our political reaction accordingly, in case of various developments," said Irakli Kobakhidze.

The Georgian Dream has adopted a resolution in support of Ukraine, however, its text does not mention Russia.

According to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Canada has provided Ukraine with additional military equipment and weapons.

An official statement from the ministry said that on February 19, the Canadian Air Defense Flight C-17 flew to Lviv International Airport and delivered military assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, including snipers, automatic and mechanical weapons, night-vision and surveillance equipment and military equipment.

## EU: We want to praise Ukraine's restrained position in response to Russian provocations

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

The European Union supports Ukraine and calls on Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine and de-escalate the situation. The declaration of the EU High Representative was released yesterday.

In the statement, the European Union (EU) condemned Russia for violating the ceasefire agreement in eastern Ukraine and praised Ukraine's retaliatory response.

He called on the parties to participate in the OSCE trilateral meetings and to resolve tensions through diplomacy.

According to the statement, the EU is concerned about the staged scenes, which Russia may use as a precondition for a military escalation. The statement says that there are many cases of misinformation in the Russian media, which also serves Russia's goals.

The EU has reiterated that in the event of military aggression, Russia will face dire consequences and that the EU, together with its partners, will take restrictive measures against the aggressor country.

"The EU reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders."



## CBS: According to US intelligence, Russian Generals Have Received Orders to Invade Ukraine

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

According to CBS, according to US intelligence, Russian generals have received orders to launch an invasion of Ukraine.

The station's national security correspondent, David Martin, told CBS News that the generals were now working on a plan of attack.

According to him, the intelligence indicates that "[the Russians] are doing everything that the American generals would have done in the event of an order to attack."

In this statement, David Martin spoke about why President Joe Biden is convinced that Russia has decided to invade Ukraine.

Yesterday, on February 20, the Minister of Defense of Belarus said that military exercises with Russia near Ukraine will continue for longer than planned. In this regard, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken told CNN that the Russian scenario for the conquest of Ukraine is moving forward and one of the signs of this is the continuation of military exercises.

The situation on the Russian-Ukrainian border is tense. For several months,



Russia has deployed more than 100,000 troops here.

US President Joe Biden said on February 18 that he was convinced that Vladimir Putin had made the decision to invade Ukraine. He said Russia would do so next week, targeting the capital, Kiev.

On February 17, Russian occupation forces bombed the settlement of Stanitsa Lugansk in the Luhansk region with artillery, shells also hitting a kindergarten. As a result of the attack, three employees of the kindergarten were injured.

The US and NATO have tried to engage in dialogue with Russia. Russia's representatives reiterate the country's demands and say that if the West does not take this into account, the agreement will not be reached. The West does not agree with Russia's demands and does not intend to take them into account.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.9778; Euro - 3.3843; GBP - 4.0546; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.9314; Swiss Franc - 3.2332

Ananuri Castle Dusheti is a town in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region of Georgia, 54 km northeast of Tbilisi. Located on both banks of the small mountain river of Dushetis-Khevi in the foothills of the Greater Caucasus, at an elevation of 900m above sea level, it functions as the centre of the Dusheti Municipality which, beyond the town itself, includes several villages of the historical community of Pkhovi (Pshavi and Khevsureti). The 2002 census stated that the town had a population of about 4,600.

Dusheti first appears in Georgian written records in 1215. In the 17th century it served as a residence of the local mountainous lords – the dukes of Aragvi – whose defiance of the Georgian crown more than once led to invasion and devastation of the town by royal troops. After the abolition of the Duchy of Aragvi in the 1740s Dusheti passed to the crown but significantly declined. In 1801 the Russians took over and granted Dusheti town status. The next year it became the centre of the Dushet Uyezd. The town and its environs were a scene of disturbances during the Russian Revolution of 1905 and the peasants' revolt in 1918 and an armed clash during the 1924 August Uprising against Soviet rule. Dusheti was home to nutrition producers and light industry during the Soviet era, but suffered an economic decline and

population outflow in the years of post-Soviet crisis. Now most people work in service industries (in banks and schools, as mechanics, and storeowners) and by subsistence farming. The town is also known for its production of khinkali, a meat-filled dumpling very popular in Georgia.

There are several historical and recreational sites in and around Dusheti, such as Ananuri Castle and Bazaleti Lake, which is situated some 60 km northwest of Tbilisi and has a surface area of 1.22 km<sup>2</sup> and a maximum depth of 7 m. Georgia is famous for its rivers and lakes, and the Bazaleti Lake is the most mysterious of these due to a historical legend.

The area around the lake once housed a flourishing medieval town where the Battle of Bazaleti took place in 1626 between two rival Georgian parties centered respectively on Teimuraz I of Kakheti and his defiant noble Giorgi Saakadze. The battle was the culmination of the power struggle which had emerged after the Georgian nobles rallied behind Teimuraz and Saakadze and recovered much of the eastern Georgian kingdoms of Kartli and Kakheti from the Iranian occupation. Shah Abbas I of Iran used the rivalry between Teimuraz and Saakadze to di-

## History and legends of Bazaleti



vide the Georgians into two opposing parties and punish Saakadze, who had formerly fought in the Iranian ranks. In a pitched battle, Saakadze's lieutenant Davit Gogrishvili was killed and his demoralised forces were routed by the royal army. Saakadze fled to the Ottoman Empire, where he was assassi-

nated in 1629 after a brief but successful military career under Sultan Ibrahim I.

Currently the area is a popular recreation spot served by a modern tourist complex. It is known that Bazaleti Lake has an outflow somewhere but it has not been discovered. Locals claim that the water recirculates. They

tell a story about a bull which was drowned in the lake and later was found in a well in a nearby village. According to local legend, a golden-haired child lies in a golden crib at the bottom of the lake, which was formed from his mother's tears. This story is retold in a Georgian poem.

## Dmanisi – home of the first Europeans

Dmanisi Sioni The Museum-Reserve of Dmanisi, 85 km from Tbilisi in the South Caucasus, is a wonderful place for local and international visitors as it opens the doors to new discoveries. The Museum-Reserve, founded in 1983, aims to preserve the historical-architectural monuments situated in the Dmanisi region.

One of the most important monuments at the reserve is the remains of a medieval town near the village of Patara (Small) Dmanisi. Since 1991 five skulls of prehistoric hominids have been found at this site. It's notable that there is no other archaeological site at which so many hominid remains have been found. Their discovery caused a great flurry of interest

in the international scientific community.

The medieval town of Dmanisi, with a geological layer dating back to 1.8 million years, is rich in hominid and animal remains. An international team with members from over ten countries digs here every year. The Dmanisi Museum-Reserve exhibits objects discovered during these excavations, including ceramics, glasswork, metalwork and coins. They also include pieces of Christian architecture. The medieval site includes an inner castle, secular buildings, shrines and a secret tunnel. Among the shrines, the VI century Dmanisi Sioni is of the utmost interest, with its unique XIII century gate containing ornaments and manuscripts.

The excavation of the hominid skulls completely changed the previously accepted ideas about the migration of hominids from Africa. The latest discovery – the 1.8-million-year-old

teenager – has been reconstructed by French sculptor Elisabeth Daynes on the basis of its bones, found at Dmanisi in 2001. The girl is considered to be the "daughter" of the famous Mzia and Zevva (known as "the First Europeans").

Sharing the details of the four month reconstruction process, Elisabeth said she had worked in a similar way to crime scene analysts. "The girl was very well preserved, and this was fantastic for me, because when the skull is intact it is easier for me to work on it. I feel that the Georgian archaeological sites haven't yet revealed all their secrets and this site is so exceptional that every new find is in

an extraordinary state of preservation," she told *The Messenger*.

This site is so exceptional that every new find is in an extraordinary state of preservation. GPI Holding has ensured the safety of the first European young adult - the latest achievement of modern science, which has made Georgia the centre of world attention.

The latest findings, which also raise questions about the evolution of Homo sapiens, were detailed in a major article in *Nature* magazine in September 2007, written by Davit Lortkipanidze, General Director of the Georgian National Museum (GNM), and his team of

European and American researchers. "Dmanisi is not only the oldest site outside Africa, but also the most prolific – a treasure trove of prehistoric archaeology," says Lortkipanidze.

Only 5 per cent of the 13,000-square-metre site at Dmanisi has been excavated but, for much of the time since the archaeological work began in earnest in 1991, it was protected only by a plastic tarpaulin roof. Now, partly with the funding from his Rolex Award, Lortkipanidze and his colleagues have had a dome built over the site to protect it from the weather and from looting. This site of early hominids is on a wooded promontory surrounded by steep cliffs and water on three sides, that might have provided an ideal contained area to drive game into to make them easier to hunt.

Davit Lortkipanidze, General Director of the Georgian National Museum (GNM), welcomes local and international visitors to the amazing world of ancient Georgian civilization. The site is not purely for scientists, and the GNM tries to make it interesting for all visitors, especially children.



### Weather

Monday, February 21

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 4°C

Tuesday, February 22

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 4°C

published by

**The Messenger**

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