

Three main demands were voiced at the rally. Citizens gathered on Rustaveli avenue demanded the resignation of Irakli Gharibashvili, taking effective steps to help Ukraine and also application of Georgia for EU membership.



“No One Expects Us To Take Measures That Will Endanger The Country, But Everyone Expects Solidarity From Us,” Georgian President Said.



“I wish them [Ukrainian people] resilience because today Ukraine is fighting for everyone. It fights for Georgia, it fights for the whole of Europe and it fights for freedom,” the president tweeted.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili released a video address on Monday, wishing Ukrainian people resilience, and saying that Ukraine is fighting for everyone, including Georgia, all of Europe, and freedom. According to the President, she is visiting Paris and Brussels to once again express support and

solidarity with Ukraine. “No one expects us to take measures that will endanger the country, but everyone expects solidarity from us,” she said.

According to her, today a window of opportunity is being opened where Europeans are ready to look at the future of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova differently. She noted that the whole of Europe is united today and Georgia must



The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili and the President of the European Council Charles Michel.

become part of this unity.

“Historically, Georgia’s dignity has always been, including today, that we have been faithful to our principles and we have stood where Georgia should have been,” she noted, adding that Georgia, like Ukraine, is one of the countries that will be part of Europe soon.

During a conversation with Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sanchez, Zourabichvili mentioned that the Russian aggression is a concern for everybody, stressing the importance of Europe extending the support to Georgia and

Moldova as well.

After a meeting with the President of the European Council Charles Michel in Brussels, Zourabichvili stressed that even though everyone is focused on very difficult events in Ukraine, the situation in Georgia is also not forgotten at this time.

“For the future of us and other associated countries, today there are probably new developments and a new environment that will give a new perspective, we must all be ready for that,” said the President.

President Zelensky Recalls Ukraine Ambassador from Georgia

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

Ukraine has recalled its Ambassador from Georgia. The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky announced it yesterday at a press conference. As he noted, the decision of recalling the Ukrainian ambassador has been made due to the fact that the Georgian side prevented the departure of Georgian volunteers, and had an 'immoral position' on the issue of imposing sanctions. In addition to Georgia, Ukraine recalled its Ambassador from Kyrgyzstan for consultations. The Georgian government calls the recall of the ambassador from Tbilisi by the Ukrainian authorities 'incomprehensible.' "It is unclear the decision of the President of Ukraine to recall the ambassador from Georgia; despite this decision, Georgia continues and will continue to provide political support and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine within its capabilities," said the head of the Georgian government Iliia Darchiashvili. According to Darchiashvili, the position of the Georgian government remains unchanged - to support the Ukrainian people and maintain peace and stability in the country. He accuses the opposition of trying to involve Georgia in the war and provocations.

Droa's Khoshtaria: Ukraine Ambassador and Citizens Deserve Support from Georgia

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

Elene Khoshtaria, the leader of the Droa party, said at a briefing at the Ukrainian embassy that there are only two countries in the world on the side of evil, namely Russia and Belarus. She stated that "today, Georgia has been added to the list of these countries." "We are near the Embassy, whose Ambassador and citizens deserve only one thing from Georgia - support and standing by their side. The support for the heroic fight not only for Ukraine, but also for our Georgian land, the freedom of the state. Ukraine has changed the world. The whole world today stands on the side of truth. There are only two countries in the world that are on the side of evil, namely Russia and Belarus, today Georgia has been added to the list of these countries. By insulting our society, the absolutely illegitimate government has declared that we will not even send doctors to the front line. Children, women die in Ukraine. It is critically important to get medical help, to get volunteers there. This is a common fight for world peace. At this time, our government, bypassing us, declares that we are on the side of evil. Friends, there are moments in history when we, every citizen, make a choice!" Khoshtaria stated.

Georgian GDP Increases 18% in January

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Georgia's real GDP increased by 18% year-over-year in January 2022, according to The National Statistics Office (Geostat) released the estimated data for economic growth in January. According to the estimates released by the end of February, real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Georgia increased by 18% in January 2022 year-on-year.

The breakdown of the highest real GDP growth by sectors include manufacturing; transportation and storage; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; trade; hotels and restaurants; real estate activities; arts, entertainment and recreation; mining and quarrying.

Meanwhile a decline was registered in construction, as well as information and communication.

According to rapid estimates released earlier, Georgia's GDP had contracted by 11.5% in January 2021. This would mean real GDP growth in January 2022 was 4.43% compared to the same month in 2020.

In other data, a total of 3,235 new businesses were registered in January, a 14.1% increase compared to the same month last year. In the same month, Value

Added Tax (VAT) payers' turnover amounted to ₾ 8.3 billion, a 39.8% increase compared to the same data from previous year. Exports of goods in Janu-

ary totalled \$331.3 million, increasing by 47.6%.

Recall that the World Bank's report on Global Economic Prospects 2022 reads that Georgian

economy is projected to grow 5.5% in 2022 and 5% in 2023, whilst the Asian Development Bank's 2021 Outlook predicts a 6.5% growth for the country's economy this year.

RAPID ESTIMATES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, YOY (%)

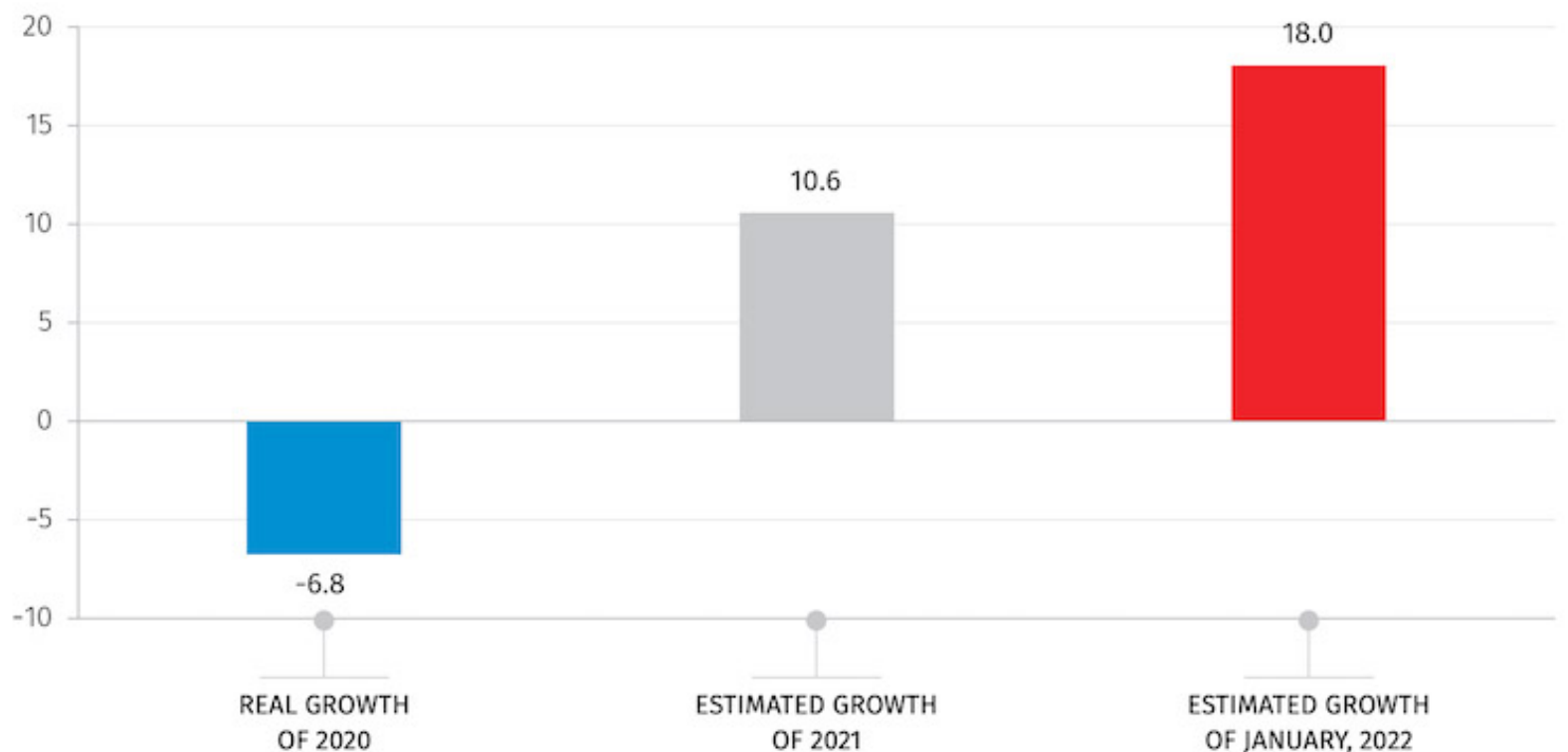


Photo: Geostat

Weather

Wednesday, March 2

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 14°C
Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

Thursday, March 3

Day Rain
High: 15°C
Night Rain
Low: 4°C

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