

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili meets Nikol Pashinyan in Armenia

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, during a visit to Armenia, met with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan. As mentioned in the press service of the Government of Georgia, the leaders discussed the main areas of cooperation between the two countries and issues of regional importance.

As Irakli Gharibashvili noted, there is quite a positive dynamic between the governments. According to him, last year, the trade turnover increased by 70% and exceeded one billion dollars, therefore, Armenia became the 6th trade partner for Georgia.

"Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister, I greet your government, the members of the commission. It is a great honor for me to be in Yerevan and chair the 12th session of the Economic Commission together with my colleague and friend. First of all, I would like to say that the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation is an important platform for strengthening economic, trade, transport and cultural ties between our countries. As you know, we have a centuries-old good neighborliness and brotherhood, and I am sure that our meeting today will be another step forward in terms of economic progress, introduction of innovations and advancement of our countries. All this can be achieved only in condi-

tions of peace and regional stability.

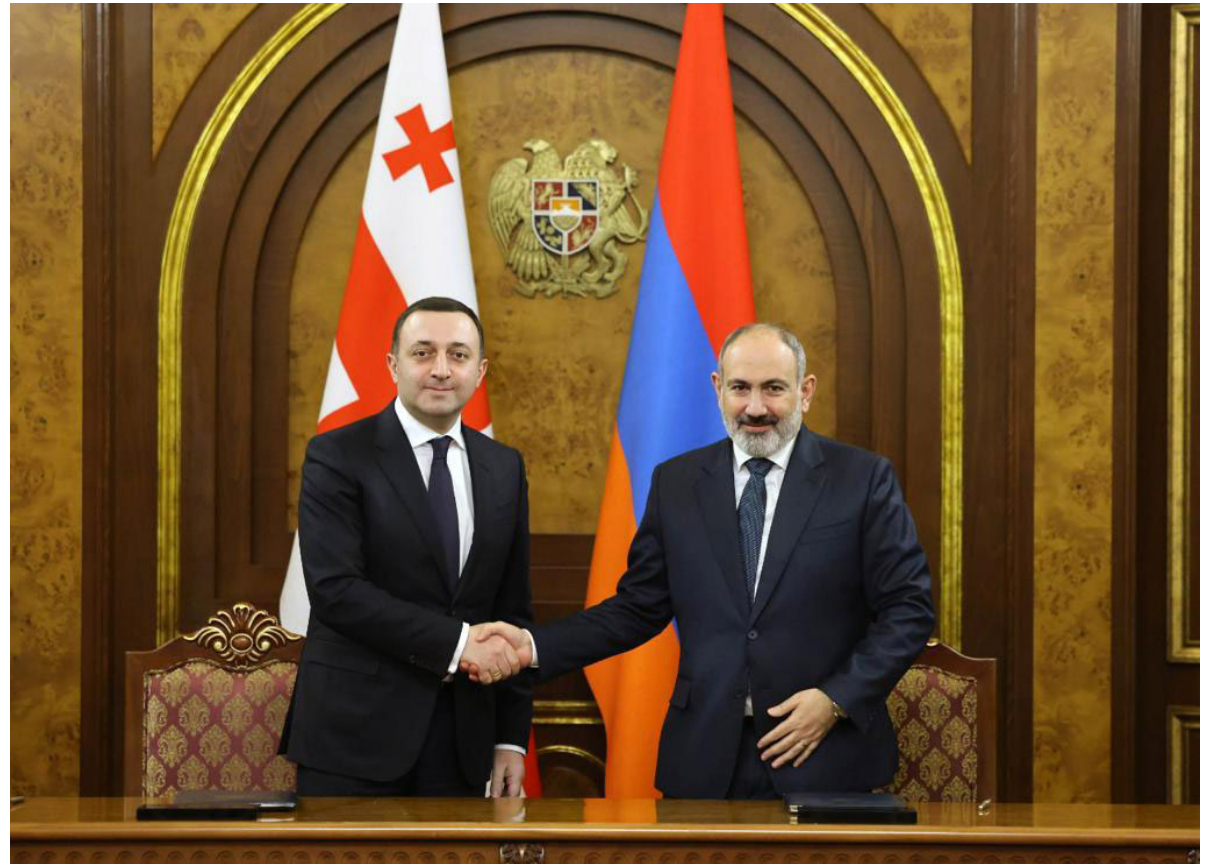
We have quite a positive dynamic between the governments. I would like to note with pleasure that in the period of January-November, last year, the trade turnover increased by 70% and exceeded one billion dollars, which is a really welcome result, and Armenia became the 6th trade partner for Georgia, the 6th trade position in the top ten. It was taken by Armenia, which makes us very happy.

In addition, I would like to say that we have positive dynamics in all directions, be it tourism, shipping, freight turnover, the mentioned data has increased in all directions," the Prime Minister noted.

According to Irakli Gharibashvili, the government and people of Georgia are interested in long-term peace in the region.

The Prime Minister Gharibashvili also spoke about the initiative of the peaceful neighborhood platform.

"I also want to point out, Mr. Prime Minister and dear members of the commission, that our government and our country, our people, are interested in long-term peace in the region. To this



end, I would like to point out once again that we have an initiative to establish a peaceful neighborhood platform and, of course, I would like to point out here that this format will not replace other formats and other initiatives. On the contrary, it

will further strengthen the possibilities to establish long-term peace and stability in the region, because I want to emphasize once again that without peace and stability, it is impossible to achieve strong, long-term economic growth and prosperity for

our peoples," he said.

The Prime Minister also thanked the commission members of Armenia and Georgia for the work that has been done by the governments of both countries.

Mikheil Saakashvili's lawyer meets with Ambassador of Ukraine to Georgia, discusses Magnitsky List

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Shalva Khachapuridze, the lawyer of the imprisoned third president of Georgia, met with the acting ambassador of Ukraine to Georgia, Andrey Kasyanov. Khachapuridze said that at the meeting they discussed Mikheil Saakashvili's case, who is a citizen of Ukraine.

According to him, the Ukrainian side was interested in the strategy of the defense, what we are going to do, what resources Saakashvili has. They were also interested in the 'Magnitsky' list and procedures.

"They told me that Saakashvili is a citizen of their country and they will do everything through diplomatic channels, legally, to save his life... They were interested in what my personal opinion was, which states the Georgian government will take into account in order for negotiations to be held to transfer Saakashvili. In addition, they were interested in whether Salome Zourabichvili [President

of Georgia] has the right to pardon," said Khachapuridze.

Khachapuridze said that he named France, Germany, England, Turkey, etc. and added that the Ukrainian side promised that they will do everything in their power diplomatically and within the law."

Mikheil Saakashvili's lawyer, Shalva Khachapuridze, said that he will make Magnitsky's list public soon, and it will include about 20 people, including Minister of Justice Rati Bregadze.

"There was talk about Magnitsky's list, we finally formed it, and the day after tomorrow I will make public this list, which is already in my pocket. Yes, it will be Rati Bregadze. Not only Rati Bregadze, there are other people as well, there are about 20 people on this list. Employees of the penitentiary service, judges, as well as some doctors and nurses. No one from 'Vivamed': a doctor or a nurse. We are talking about the Gori hospital, prosecutors will be included, the ones who took part in the trial here on October 4," Saakashvili's lawyer said.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Nika Gvaramia addresses Supreme Court in statement released from prison

director. Nika Gvaramia thanked the international human rights organization Human Rights Watch for the “clear and unambiguous conclusion made with great precision”.

Gvaramia also thanked Georgian non-governmental organizations, the public defender, his

Obviously, I do not expect to be acquitted and I will not be able to. The only thing I ask is that they issue a verdict known to everyone in advance so that I can apply to the Strasbourg Court. And I will fight there to prove my truth,” the statement reads.

the two countries, as a result of which citizens of the Republic of Armenia and citizens of Georgia will be able to cross the border of the two countries with ID cards.

game between the two countries. After signing this document, citizens of the Republic of Armenia and citizens of Georgia will be able to cross the border of the two countries with simplified ID



Nika Gvaramia

Nika Gvaramia, the founder of the Mtavari Arkhi Channel, who is currently in prison, issued a statement in which he called on the Supreme Court to issue a “verdict known in advance to everyone” in a timely manner.

His statement was published on his social page on behalf of the imprisoned “Mtavari Arkhi”

lawyers and family members and noted that he does not hope to win the case in the Supreme Court.

“I am patiently and steadfastly waiting for the consideration of my case at the European Court of Human Rights. I call on the Supreme Court of Georgia to finish the consideration of my case in a timely manner.

Citizens of Georgia and Armenia to cross the border with ID cards

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iliia Darchiashvili, the Prime Ministers of Georgia and Armenia signed a document to further simplify the already existing visa-free travel regime between



“Within the framework of the visit, the Prime Minister of Georgia and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia signed a document to further simplify the existing visa-free travel re-

cards. What will further contribute to the rapprochement of the population of the two countries and the deepening of people-to-people relations,” said Darchiashvili.

EU and UNDP provide training and networking to over 1,500 small businesses in Ukraine

In 2022, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, with financial support from the European Union, helped to organise 136 educational and networking events for over 1,500 representatives of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to help them during the war.

The Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Sumy and Zaporizhzhya Chambers of Com-



merce, as well as the Regional Development Agency of Eastern

Donbas and the Regional Development Agency of Luhansk

marketing, investment attraction, participation in grant

programmes, tax changes, export operations, finding new markets, overcoming force majeure, and more.

“Despite the difficult circumstances, Ukrainian businessmen and businesswomen are striving for development, and we are ready to support them in every possible way,” said Frederik Coene, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ukraine. “The chambers of commerce and industry are playing a vital role in ensuring that local and relocated businesses can exchange experiences and cooperate for the benefit of communities.”

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, January 13

Day Light Snow
High: 0°C

Night Cloudy
Low: -3°C

Saturday, January 14

Day Cloudy
High: 2°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -5°C

published by

The Messenger

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