

Khatia Dekanoidze Resigns from UNM After Party Elects New Chair Levan Khabeishvili

By Liza Mchedlidze

After Levan Khabeishvili was elected as the chairman of the United National Movement, Khatia Dekanoidze decided to resign from the position of Chairman of the parliamentary faction of UNM.

Khatia Dekanoidze stated that everyone should stop speculating about Mikheil Saakashvili's health. She criticized Khabeishvili for his recent statements according to which the party is ready to leave the parliament, councils, offices and start everything from 'scratch' in exchange for Mikheil Saakashvili's freedom. Dekanoidze said such statements should be agreed upon by the members of the party and added that it was not discussed with her.

"First of all, I will say that the freedom, health, and life of Mikheil Saakashvili is the first priority for us, for me, and for all those people. I was not aware of this announcement. Therefore, in any case, I call on everyone to stop speculating on Mikheil Saakashvili's health. The main task is Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition and we must do everything to save his health, but the party is a collegial body and everyone needs to share thoughts and opinions with colleagues, especially when making such a serious statement such as, for example, the new chairman made now. I don't know in what context it was said. Any such serious statement must be agreed upon by all colleagues. This



statement was not discussed with me.

Let's suppose that the question arises that the political council of the party should decide this topic, I am not against that either. Everyone should understand that working in the parliament means working on the issue of Nika Gvaramia, as, for example, now in the Euro-

pean Council, working on the issue of Mikheil Saakashvili with our international partners. If the Political Council makes this decision, this decision will be made by the majority of our voters, so in any case, it will be acceptable to all the people who are in the parliament.

I really don't like it, when in reality there are only statements

and nothing concrete changes happen behind them. Therefore, in my opinion, populist politics should end once and for all, because populist politics simply has no future, not only in the party but in general. So that no one thinks that I am manipulating any opinion in this regard, I am going to appeal to the chairman of the parliament, to leave the

post of the chairman of the parliamentary faction, and actually, then we will make the decision, which, I think, is populist, but still harmful to the party," said Khatia Dekanoidze.

After the victory of Levan Khabeishvili in the internal party elections, several politicians have already resigned from the party positions.



Co-Chairs of Geneva Discussions Refused Entry to Occupied Abkhazia

By Liza Mchedlidze

Based on the information of 'Ekho Kavkaza', the so-called Minister of Foreign Affairs Inal Ardzinba stated that Occupied Abkhazia refused entry to the co-chairs of the Geneva discussion on security and stability in the South Caucasus.

According to him, the decision is related to the postponement of the 57th round of Geneva discussions. It was planned to be held on February 21-22, 2023.

"Recently, this is not the first

time that the co-chairs, without any objective reasons and without agreement with the participants in the negotiation process, make unilateral decisions to cancel or postpone the round. Only one of the four meetings planned for 2022 took place.

We see a similar picture at the beginning of this year when the co-chairs unilaterally decide to postpone the next round.

Our point of departure is that such actions of the co-chairs are

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6518; Euro - 2.8711; GBP - 3.2673; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.7543; Swiss Franc - 2.8585

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biased, hinder the work of this important international format of negotiations, and create additional threats to stability in the region.

Taking into account the cancellation of the round of negotiations planned for February 2023,

the Abkhaz side decided to refuse entry to the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia for the delegation of the co-chairs of the Geneva International Discussions, which was going to visit on February 8-9 to hold meetings with the officials of the Republic of Abkhazia," Ardzinba said in a statement.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized the Western representatives participating in the Geneva talks recently, saying that the European Union, the United Nations, the OSCE, and the United States are trying to hold this dialogue format to turn the events surrounding Ukraine into a 'hostage'.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with Vice Prime Minister of Moldova

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili met with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of Moldova, Oleg Serebrian.

According to the press service of the Prime Minister, the main

areas of cooperation between the two countries were reviewed. The successful cooperation of the respective agencies of the two countries in various directions was emphasized and readiness to further deepen the existing fruitful cooperation was expressed.

The importance of peaceful conflict resolution was emphasized at the meeting.

The head of the government once again confirmed the commitment of the Georgian government to the policy of peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova confirmed their strong mutual support in the issues of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries.

The conversation also touched on the process of integration of the associated trio countries into the European Union. Attention

was focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the European Council, the steps are already been taken, and there is the action plan.

The security environment and challenges of the region and the world were discussed at the meeting. The importance of joint efforts to overcome existing challenges was emphasized.

to the corresponding period of the previous year, the following sectors made a significant contribution to growth: construction, processing industry, transport and warehousing, financial and insurance activities, trade, hotels and restaurants.

A downward trend was observed in real estate-related activities, professional, scientific and technical activities and in

Geostat: Georgia's Economy Grew by 10.1% in 2022

According to the National Statistics Office of Georgia's preliminary assessment, in 2022, the economy of Georgia grew by 10.1 percent. In the updated data, it is noted that in December 2022, compared to December 2021, the volume of gross domestic product increased by 11 percent.

"In December 2022, compared

the fields of electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply," Geostat writes.



Award Ceremony

The Embassy of Italy in Tbilisi, within the framework of a gala event organized by the International Foundation for Sports, Tourism and Youth, was awarded for its contribution to the strengthening of cooperation between Italy and Georgia in the field of sports. We remind you that last year, on the initiative of the Embassy and the Foundation, the futsal tournament "Italian Embassy Cup" was held for the first time, in which young players from the most famous football academies in Georgia participated.

The award was presented to the first secretary of the Italian Embassy, Nicola Iorio. He emphasized the cultural closeness between the two countries, which are connected by the love of sports, especially football.



Weather

Wednesday, February 1

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 10°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 1°C

Thursday, February 2

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 5°C

Night Cloudy

Low: 1°C

published by
The Messenger

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