

Mikheil Saakashvili's family to appeal to Strasbourg if found guilty

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The mother of the third president of Georgia, Giuli Alasania, told reporters after visiting Mikheil Saakashvili in the "Vivamed" clinic that in the current conditions former president is, it is impossible for him to recover and the death is inevitable. She also said that if Saakashvili is found guilty by court, they will not back down and are planning on appealing to Strasbourg.

According to her, the ex-president has not 'had any oxygen' for a year and 6 months.

"He had a fever of 38 in the last 24 hours, then they brought him down, gave him medicine, he kept telling me that he's very weak. What is surprising, if we leave aside the fact that he is poisoned and has heavy metals in his body, in addition, the person has not had oxygen for a year and 6 months, has not seen the sky and the sun.

I brought exactly the same thing that I bring every day. Today is a little different, and by the way, I don't think it's differ-

ent in terms of calories, he just said himself that maybe bring me this tomorrow. Whatever he tells me, I always bring it. I heard that at such a time you should not force them, you should bring them what they want. He eats some part and it is difficult for him to take.

The previous process convinced me that under these conditions there is no need to talk about his survival, simply that death is guaranteed. I can't say anything more good about the doctors, I can say nothing more than thanks to the treating doctors who are in direct contact with the nurses, but there is a very inadequate attitude from above," said Alasania.

As Giuli Alasania said in a conversation with reporters, if the judge of the Tbilisi City Court, Giorgi Arevadze, issues a guilty verdict regarding the postponement of the sentence for Mikheil Saakashvili or the release from the sentence, in this case the family will continue the fight in the Strasbourg court.



Changes in The United National Movement Party

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

In a Congress of the United National Movement, Levan Khabeishvili was officially elected party chairman.

Petre Ciskarishvili was elected as the General Secretary and Levan Bezhashvili replaced Koba Nakopia.

The composition of the political council was also approved, and, according to the new internal party charter, the chairman of the party and political council will be elected for a term of two years instead of four.

"From today we start from a clean sheet and recognize only one enemy, the Russian oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili," Khabeishvili said.

Bezhashvili spoke about the changes made to the party's charter. According to him, the term of office of the chairman of the State National Assembly will be determined for a term of two years instead of four years, and the next elections will be held in 2025.



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6441; Euro - 2.8913; GBP - 3.2411; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.7492; Swiss Franc - 2.8954

Changes in The United National Movement Party

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“I would like to introduce you to the changes made in the party’s charter. The first change is related to the election of the party chair-

man once every two years. That is, the four-year term of office of the current political council will be reduced and the party chairman will be elected for two years. There will be new elections in 2025. The

second change is related to the introduction of regional councils.

Regional councils will be established in all regions, taking into account the administrative-territorial arrangement [...] Also,

we have determined that the political council’s authority will be established for a period of two years instead of four years.

Accordingly, elections for the chairman of the Politsabcho will

be held once in two years. Another important change is that the election of the chairmen of district organizations will be mandatory, for a period of no more than two years,” Bezhashvili said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Draft Resolution on Transferring Saakashvili Abroad for Treatment Registers in Verkhovna Rada



A draft resolution was registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, which refers to sending Mikheil Saakashvili abroad

for medical treatment. Olena Shuliak, Chairman of the People’s Servant party, wrote about this to the Telegram channel.

As she reported, with the resolution they address Georgia, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the European Com-

mission, PACE, and the parliaments of the EU member states. The document was signed by 90 deputies of the Verkhovna Rada.

“The former president of Georgia and the current citizen of Ukraine is currently in critical condition. Therefore, the Georgian side must provide proper medical assistance, as well as create conditions for his transfer to one of the European or American clinics for treatment,” wrote Shuliak.

Irakli Kobakhidze Supports Resumption of Direct Flights Between Georgia and Russia

Chairman of Georgian Dream Irakli Kobakhidze once again said that the resumption of flights with Russia is welcome.

According to him, this will benefit Georgian citizens living in Russia.

“We made our statement regarding the resumption of flights, our position is simple. This was the sanction that was imposed on Georgia by Russia in 2019, this, of course, aggravated the situation

of our citizens. We remind you that if 800,000 Georgian citizens live in the Russian Federation. If Russia lifts this sanction, and it is up to them, we welcome it because it will be a benefit to our compatriots and fellow citizens. This is our very clear position,” Kobakhidze stated.



On January 18, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that he hopes they will be able to resume direct flights with

Georgia soon.

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, assessed the idea of resuming direct flights with Russia negatively.

“At this point, if we remember anything about Russia’s outdated tricks, we should understand that the Kremlin will

‘bring up’ such topics when it hopes to create some kind of rift between us and our Western partners,” Zourabichvili stated.

TBILISI. 3 February 2023 – The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), are assisting six municipalities across Georgia to implement local projects focused on urban renewal, maintenance and development of public spaces, protection of historical and cultural heritage, preschool education, and quality public services.

The initiative is supported by the EU-funded programme EU for Integrated Territorial Development (EU4ITD) promoting balanced territorial development and improved living standards in Georgia’s regions.

UNDP, NALAG and Georgia’s Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure selected the six best local projects out of 52 ideas submit-

Local projects improve governance, policies and services in Georgia’s regions

EU and UNDP support urban renewal, tourism and education in six municipalities

ted by 22 municipalities. Each of the winning initiatives was funded in a range from EUR4,500 to EUR6,000. The total cost of a grant programme amounted to EUR30,800.

“Integrated territorial development serves to reduce disparities between the regions and shape solutions to economic and social challenges. The EU works with local authorities, civil society and communities to introduce this concept in Georgia,” said H.E. Pawel Herczynski, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia.

“We are supporting local projects designed by the municipalities in consultation with communities. Municipal initiatives should respond to people’s needs and create an environment for inclusive and equal development for all,” said Nick Beresford, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia.

Six local projects in three regions will continue through May 2023 covering the following areas of municipal development:

1. **Tskaltubo Municipality** (Imereti region): A recreational venue will be organized at Niko Lortkipanidze Museum located in Chune village. After exploring the museum and the surrounding park, visitors will be able to have a restful break in a comfortable environment, charge their mobile phones and enjoy free wifi access.

2. **Zestaponi Municipality** (Imereti region): four kindergartens will be equipped with a play-and-learn inventory to assist children in learning and physical activities.

3. **Lagodekhi Municipality** (Kakheti region): A multifunctional space will be created and equipped at the library of the newly renovated Lagodekhi Museum, serving as a venue for

educational activities, film screening and youth meetings.

4. **Telavi Municipality** (Kakheti region): 96 staff in 32 kindergartens will be trained and certified in first aid services. Two kindergartens will receive additional support to equip doctors’ offices at their premises. All participant kindergartens will be able to meet the legal requirements needed to receive authorisation in child health protection and accident prevention.

5. **Oni Municipality** (Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti region): Open Air Cinema at one of Oni’s newly renovated plazas will provide young people with a comfortable and inspiring space for film screenings, educational work and discussion club activities.

6. **Tsageri Municipality** (Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti region): The project will support the digital transforma-

tion of a municipal preschool education system. E-documents will replace the outdated paper versions that are still in use throughout the municipality. Electronic tools will be introduced for registering children with kindergartens and training teachers.

With EUR2 million in funding from the European Union, UNDP implements a four-year EU4ITD programme to advance effective, responsive and accountable national and sub-national governance in four regions of Georgia – Guria, Imereti, Kakheti and Racha-Lechkhumi/Kvemo Svaneti. The project promotes decentralization, inclusive and evidence-based policymaking, citizen engagement and better service delivery at the local level. It contributes to the implementation of the Pilot Integrated Regional Development Programme (PIRDP) and Georgia’s Decentralization Strategy 2020-2025.

Weather

Monday, February 6

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 4°C

Night Light Snow
Low: 2°C

Tuesday, February 7

Day Snow
High: 5°C

Night Cloudy
Low: 1°C

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