

President Salome Zourabichvili Meets with Seimas Chairman Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen

By Liza Mchedlidze

The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili, within the framework of her official visit to Lithuania met with the Chairman of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen.

According to the information provided by the President's administration, the conversation touched on the development of bilateral relations between Georgia and Lithuania, including parliamentary relations, as well as the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries.

"As it was mentioned during the meeting, the last resolution of the Seimas emphasizes the close ties based on the common values of our two countries and the constant support of Lithuania towards Georgia.

During the meeting with the Chairman of the Seimas of Lithuania, the President of Georgia discussed the ongoing war in Ukraine and the situation in the region, and once again, on behalf of the Georgian people, expressed solidarity with Ukraine.

Speaking about the process of integration into the European Union, the President of Georgia emphasized the fact that joining the European Union is the unwavering will of the largest part of the population of Georgia, and the protests held in March were an expression of this. At this stage in the European integration process, it is necessary for the Georgian people to receive a strong message and see that Europe stands by them. The visit of the President of Georgia and her speech in front of the European Parliament on April 18 serves the purpose of making the European Union understand the steadfast will of the Georgian people and once



again see that Georgia deserves the status of a candidate.

During the meeting, they talked about the difficult humanitarian situation created in the occupied territories of Georgia and that European integration is also

a great opportunity for the people living in the occupied territories.

The importance of Lithuania's role in strengthening and developing NATO-Georgia relations was emphasized. Also, it was noted that during the expansion of

the Euro-Atlantic space, Georgia should not be left behind, and Georgia needs to be involved at the highest level at the NATO summit in Vilnius," the President's administration's statement reads.

Irakli Gharibashvili Talks Inflation and Economic Growth in Georgia at Gov't Meeting

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili spoke about Georgia's economy at a government meeting, stating that in January-February, Georgia had a 'high' rate of economic growth averaging 7.1 percent.

As the head of the government noted, high activity in various directions, including construction, financial sector, trade, transport and tourism, contributed significantly to the high economic growth.

"In January, we had more than 8% and in February we had 5.8% economic growth, or overall weighted, the average figure came out to 7.1%, which of course is very welcome and especially considering what is hap-



pening in the world, wars and many challenges. I would also like to tell you what led to a significant positive contribution, what contributed to this high growth - construction, financial sector, trade, transport, tourism, high activity is recorded in all directions," said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister of Georgia also spoke about inflation and said that last year Georgia had the highest inflation - 13% which by the end of the year was reduced to 9% and now, in March, it is 5.3%, which according to Irakli Gharibashvili is a great progress.

"The second important information that I want to introduce

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5517; Euro - 2.7734; GBP - 3.1547; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.2768; Swiss Franc - 2.7845

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to the public is the reduction of inflation. As you know, inflation was and remains a challenge,

today there is high inflation all over the world, in America, Europe, Eurozone, for example, double-digit inflation was recorded last year. It was 20-25,

even up to 30% in EU member states, and inflation was 37% in Moldova.

At that time, our small country, despite so many challenges,

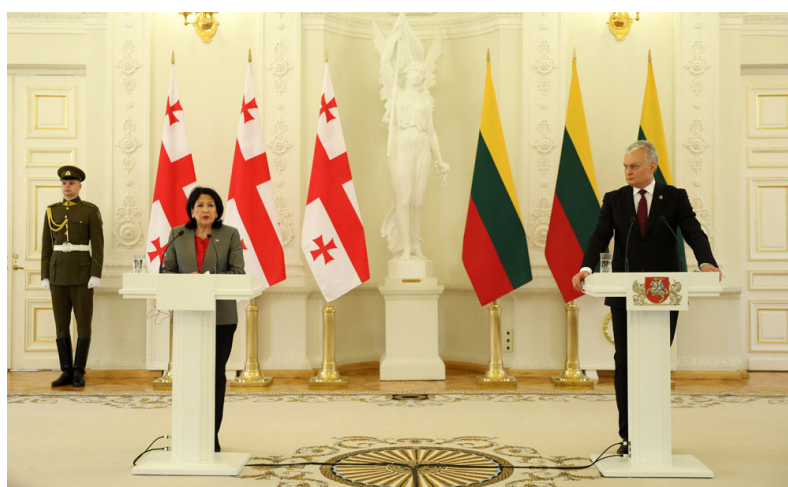
managed to have the highest inflation last year, at 13%. At the end of the year, we reduced inflation to 9%, and now, in March, inflation is 5.3%, which is cer-

tainly a great progress. Inflation has decreased by almost 2.8 percentage points compared to the previous month," Gharibashvili said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Salome Zourabichvili Meets with President of Lithuania Gitanas Nauseda in Vilnius



President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili within the framework of an official visit to Lithuania met the President of Lithuania Gitanas Nauseda in Vilnius. After the meeting, the presidents made joint state-

ments to the media.

The President of Lithuania said that Lithuania supports Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

"Lithuania and its people support the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia. At the meeting, we had the opportunity to discuss in detail the

prospects in the fields of bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and Georgia - a political dialogue between the countries, support for European integration, institutional and departmental cooperation.

Congratulations, President, to you and your people for giving a European perspective last year. We sincerely wish Georgia success in achieving its goal and becoming a member of the European Union.

The path of European integration is the path of transformation of the country, these are clear and tangible reforms that benefit the citizens and the well-being of the country.

Politically motivated cases, pressure on the media and the non-governmental sector are not the way to strengthen democracy and citizens' accountability," Gitanas Nauseda said.

President Nauseda said that Russia is still continuing a destructive war that destabilizes both the region and the world and also noted that it is important to impose sanctions on the aggressor.

Ministry of Economy to Present Bill to Insure Food Prices, PM Gharibashvili says

According to Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili, the govern-

ment continues to work to reduce food prices, and in this regard, the Ministry of Economy plans to submit a bill to the Parliament.

"We reduced the prices of medicine by 60-70-80%, we also

reaction is food prices, which certainly worries our population, our people.

We had successful negotiations in this direction as well, in the first stage, the Ministry of



introduced reference prices, and our people had a total saving of 200 million GEL last year. Also, as you know, we started working with importers to reduce fuel prices, we had successful negotiations and fuel prices have also been reduced. This, of course, played its role, and the third di-

Economy will present a draft law very soon, we will make sure from this, by adopting this law, that there are fair rules in the market, and all this will be reflected in reduced inflation. We have 5.3% inflation today, which is certainly very gratifying," the Prime Minister said at the government meeting.

BY MESSENGER STAFF

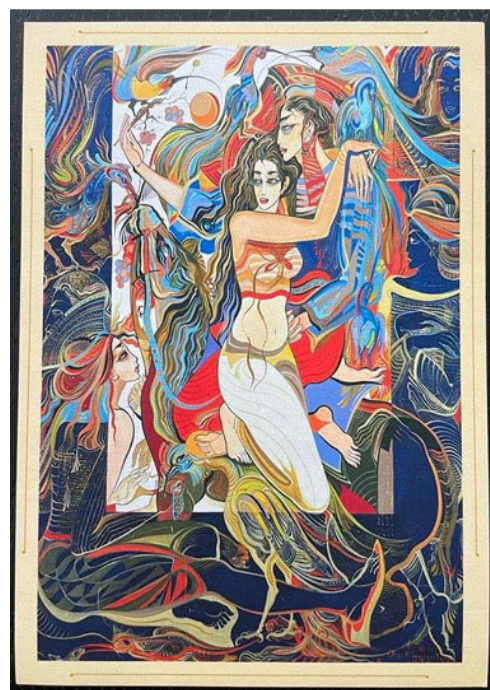
On March 30, the art gallery of the famous artist Rusudan Petviashvili was opened in Tbilisi.

The opening ceremony of the gallery was led by TV presenter Nikoloz Tsulukidze, and the music was performed by pianist Dini Virsaladze, who performed her own compositions.

As the artist Rusudan Petviashvili notes, the gallery presentation symbolically coincided with the birthday of her husband - Temur Badriashvili.

In the permanent art gallery of Rusudan Petviashvili, the works are located on two floors.

Renowned Artist Rusudan Petviashvili Gallery Opens in Tbilisi



The first floor of the gallery features a collection of Petviashvili's works created in the last two years, as well as the artist's latest piece. Meanwhile, the second floor of the gallery showcases the artist's older works, which were brought to Georgia from his Paris workshop.

Visitors to the exhibition can also view joint works by Rusudan Fetviashfli and her brother, sculptor Dima Petviashvili, which are crafted from wood. Additionally, several statues by Dima Petviashvili are on display for visitors to enjoy.

Several samples of Villeroy and Boch will be placed in the exhibition space.

Weather

Tuesday, April 4

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 20°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 9°C

Wednesday, April 5

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 20°C

Night T-storm

Low: 11°C

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