

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Expresses Gratitude to Military in Speech at Defense Forces Anniversary Event

On the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Georgian Defense Forces, Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili declared during a ceremonial event at the 4th Infantry Brigade's training ground in Vaziani that the Georgian army plays a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

He further emphasized the army's importance and expressed gratitude towards their dedication and service, emphasizing the responsibility to recognize their achievements and honorable contributions.

Irakli Gharibashvili expressed his gratitude towards the military for their loyal and dedicated service to the homeland:

"Congratulations on the Day of the Defense Forces of Georgia. Today, I want to congratulate all of you, our distinguished and proud military personnel, who serve our country with dignity. On this day, I would like to congratulate our undefeated, dedicated and heroic wounded fighters who, along with all the veterans of the defense forces, fought bravely and continue to fight for the freedom of our country.

I want to thank you all for your honorable service. I would like to point out once again that the Georgian army is the main guarantor of the protection of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country," Irakli Gharibashvili said.

He expressed his respect and paid tribute to the brave fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. According to Gharibashvili, their dedication and struggle for freedom have been instrumental in shaping the Georgian identity and preserving national and state values.

The Georgian Prime Minister also acknowledged the ongoing war in Ukraine and Russia's aggressive actions in his speech, which have led to a difficult-to-predict and turbulent geopolitical environment.

He recognized the responsibility of the government to exercise wisdom in such circumstances and emphasized the need to



strengthen the country's institutions, especially the Georgian army, which is crucial for maintaining peace and security. Gharibashvili said that the government is committed to continuing the development of its defense capabilities and transformation of the defense forces, with the aim of further strengthening the army.

The Prime Minister of Georgia expressed gratitude towards the international partners in his speech, including the USA and NATO member states, who have assisted in building up the Georgian army. In honor of the Day of Defense

Forces, the Prime Minister congratulated the soldiers and wished them victory and protection.

"Russia's aggression in Ukraine, a war that does not stop. In an already difficult to predict, turbulent geopolitical environment, we, the government, our authorities owe special wisdom.

At the same time, we understand very well that we should further strengthen the institutions of our state and, first of all, the Georgian army as the most important force for the security and peace of our country.

We continue to develop our defense capabilities according to the long-term plan, we continue the process of transformation of the defense forces, and I believe that our army will become even stronger.

Today, I would like to once again thank our international partners, the USA, NATO member states, everyone who helped and is helping to strengthen our Georgian army. Once again, I congratulate you on the Day of Defense Forces, I wish you victory, may God protect you," said Gharibashvili.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna Expresses Support for Georgia's Path to EU Membership

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



During a joint press conference with Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilia Darchiashvili, French Minister of Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna expressed support for Georgia's path towards the European Union.

Colonna noted the Georgian people's demonstrated connection and attachment to the EU and pledged to assist in accelerating the country's legislative efforts. While acknowledging that much work remains to be done, Colonna and other partners are committed to supporting Georgia on this road.

"I came to convey a message of support for Georgia. We would

like to share with you our attitude towards your sovereignty and territorial integrity through this visit and the relationship between the two countries. We want Russia to end the war, the violation of international norms, which has been going on for 14 months now, and Georgia knows it very well, because it is still paying the price for the policy that did not start on February 24, 2022. It started here in 2008. Georgia can count on France's solidarity. I have told this to the minister many times," Colonna said.

Catherine Colonna also discussed the issue of Georgia's candidacy for EU membership.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.4967; Euro - 2.7441; GBP - 3.1131; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.1102; Swiss Franc - 2.7884

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Colonna acknowledged the strong desire of the Georgian people to join the EU and recognized the numerous pro-Euro-

pean demonstrations that have taken place in the country. She highlighted that 85% of Georgians are in favor of EU membership, which she views as a promising sign for the country's

future. Colonna also noted that Georgia's future is in Europe, as was unanimously recognized in June. She emphasized that the path to EU membership is com-

plex and requires the fulfillment of 12 priorities and the implementation of reforms that uphold European values such as freedom, protection of institutions, pluralism, and freedom of

speech. She assured Georgia of France's commitment to help the country on this path and to assist with the necessary steps towards gaining EU membership.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

State Security Service Reports Unlawful Detention of Two Georgian Citizens by Russian Occupation Forces

citizens were unlawfully detained by representatives of the Russian occupation forces in the occupied territory close to the Kareli municipality's Dvani village.

The State Security Service promptly informed the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva about the incident, as well as the international part-

of the Russian occupation forces illegally arrested two Georgian citizens in the occupied territory near the village of Dvani, Kareli municipality. Upon receiving the information about the mentioned incident, the State Security Service activated the hotline operated by the EU Monitoring Mission.

International partners and co-chairs of the Geneva International Discussions were immediately informed about the incident. All existing mechanisms have been activated to release illegally detained persons in the shortest possible time.

Responsibility for all destructive actions committed on the occupied territories of Georgia, as well as along the occupation line, rests with the occupying power," the statement reads.

Ministry of Health ready to fast-track achondroplasia management protocol development

Deputy Health Minister Tamar Gabunia announced that members of the "Little People of

Georgia" organization will be able to participate in the activities of both the coordination council, which deals with rare diseases, and the

various measures included in the achondroplasia protocol, with the involvement of specialists in the field.

Additionally, the agency is in



multidisciplinary group that focuses on achondroplasia issues. The Ministry of Health's press service released her statement.

Tamar Gabunia stated that the Ministry is prepared to expedite the development of necessary protocols and guidelines for managing achondroplasia in the best interest of children.

"According to statements from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, active work is currently underway to proactively plan and negotiate

communication with the company that produces the medicine "Vosoritide" to ensure that all necessary procedures can be provided for children after the development of the protocol and management mechanisms," stated Tamar Gabunia.

The Ministry stated that their proposal to fund the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of diseases related to achondroplasia is applicable both within Georgia and overseas.



As per the State Security Service's report, two Georgian

ners involved. "On April 30, representatives

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank have announced Euro18 billion of financing under the Global Gateway, Europe's investment strategy for partner countries.

This will boost investment in Global Gateway's priority areas – climate action, clean energy and connectivity – in Europe's partner countries around the world. In particular, these projects will aim to help bridge the global climate finance gap and support prevention, adaptation and mitigation.



European Commission and EIB announce Euro18 billion to boost investments in climate action and sustainable economies in partner countries

Speaking from the Global Citizen NOW Summit in New York, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said: "Global Gateway invests in the projects our partners need – from natural risks prevention to clean transport and energy infrastructure. And this Euro18 billion in financing will get even more such projects off the ground, swiftly. Global Gateway will help advance the climate transition around the world, improving people's lives and making our partners more resilient."

Across the world, Global Gateway aims to mobilise Euro300 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027 with a mix of grants, concessional loans and guarantees to de-risk private sector investments.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, May 1

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 8°C

Tuesday, May 2

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 8°C

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