

## Irakli Kobakhidze Emphasizes Steadfastness as Key to Obtaining EU Candidacy Status

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Georgian Dream party, has voiced his worries regarding an upcoming 'political decision' related to Georgia's potential candidacy status in the European Union. He underscored the significant risks associated with this decision and expressed that the radical opposition is seeking to obstruct their candidacy status through political means, without regard for any previously agreed-upon 12-point agreements.

Kobakhidze highlighted that the opposition's strategy relies on denying candidate status to Georgia, which would enable them to pursue a revolutionary scenario in the future. He further mentioned a significant meeting held in Bakuriani where revolutionary training took place. Kobakhidze added that Zurab Japaridze revealed the 'radical' opposition has similar plans for December as they had in the previous year of June.

"I will remind you that when the famous meeting was held in Bakuriani, it was shortly after we had submitted our application. They conducted training on revolution and even brought in an American expert. The direct conversation during the gathering was about implementing the revolutionary plan when - not if - Georgia is not granted candidate status in June. Zura Girchi Japaridze also revealed a similar



plan for December. All the plans of the radical opposition are based on the fact that we should not be granted candidate status in December. They are working on it from beginning to end, ensuring that Georgia is not given the status of a candidate in December so that they can utilize it for revolutionary processes later on," said Irakli Kobakhidze.

According to the Chairman of Georgian Dream, it is crucial for

the government and society to demonstrate firmness as it increases the chances of being granted candidate status. Kobakhidze explained that if the Global War Party perceives any wavering within society and even a small possibility of a revolution occurring in case the status is not granted, it would diminish the likelihood of obtaining candidate status.

"The primary factor lies in the

solidity demonstrated by the government and, above all, society, as it directly impacts our chances of being granted candidate status. I am confident that as we approach December, we will maintain our current state of solidity. Presently, both the government and society are resolute and in favorable positions. If we sustain this condition, the likelihood of being granted candidate status will be significantly higher. How-

ever, if the Global War Party detects any slight wavering or the possibility of a revolution occurring in our country should the status be denied, then our chances would naturally diminish. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we remain steadfast. I am certain that both the government and society will firmly uphold positions that serve the best interests of our country," stated Kobakhidze.

## Khatia Dekanoidze Urges Access to Saakashvili for Public Defender of Ukraine and Examination by Polish Doctors

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to opposition MP Khatia Dekanoidze, Saakashvili is a citizen of Ukraine, and President Zelensky has both the right and obligation to protect his own citizens. Dekanoidze expressed concern about the current state of Georgia-Ukraine relations, highlighting that any previous requests made by Ukraine regarding the extradition of Saakashvili were disregarded.

Dekanoidze suggested that to improve relations between the two countries, it is important for the Public Defender of Ukraine to be granted the right to visit Saakashvili, and for Polish doctors to have the opportunity to examine him.

"Dialogue should be initiated with the Ukrainian authorities to find a joint solution regarding the transfer or treatment of Saakashvili. Failure to address

this issue in a cooperative manner will further deteriorate the relationship between the two countries," stated Dekanoidze.

Furthermore, Dekanoidze emphasized that the current state of relations between Georgia and Ukraine is at its lowest point. This deterioration not only undermines Georgia's strategic interests but also hinders its prospects for a European future.

"We must not forget that President Zelensky and the state of Ukraine protect their own citizens. Saakashvili has only one citizenship, which is Ukrainian citizenship. Additionally, it would be beneficial if the Georgian authorities took humane steps that could genuinely improve relations with Ukraine. I cannot predict the stance of the Georgian government. To put an end to this political ordeal, a change in the



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5969; Euro - 2.8270; GBP - 3.3162; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8284; Swiss Franc - 2.8974

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leadership of Bidzina Ivanishvili's government is necessary. I do not expect the Georgian government to exhibit sound judgment or

make efforts to improve relations with Ukraine. This situation originated in 2014 when the Georgian Dream party prioritized internal party conflicts over maintaining strong ties with the then-president

and government of Ukraine.

I find it deeply concerning that diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Georgia, as well as their overall relations, have reached a critical point.

The separation of Georgia and Ukraine is unthinkable and impossible. The initial step I propose to alleviate the current situation is to grant the Public Defender of Ukraine permission to

meet with Mikheil Saakashvili. Following that, negotiations should commence on finding a humane and humanitarian resolution to the issue of Mikheil Saakashvili," stated Dekanoidze.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### President of Parliamentary Assembly of Francophonie Presents Irakli Gharibashvili with Grand Commander Degree Medal



Georgian Prime Minister, Irakli Gharibashvili, held a meeting with Francis Drouin, the President of the Francophonie Parliamentary Assembly, as confirmed by the government administration's

press service. The primary focus of the meeting was the ongoing cooperation between the Georgian government and the Francophonie Parliamentary Assembly.

During the conversation, the importance of fostering cultural and educational ties was highlighted. Specifically, they acknowledged the collaboration

the Francophonie Parliamentary Assembly in advancing democracy and protecting human rights. The assembly serves as a platform for member countries to work together.

The Prime Minister expressed the Georgian government's willingness to further enhance cooperation with the Francophonie Parliamentary Assembly.

Subsequently, following the meeting at the government administration, Francis Drouin presented Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili with the Grand Commander degree medal and a special certificate.

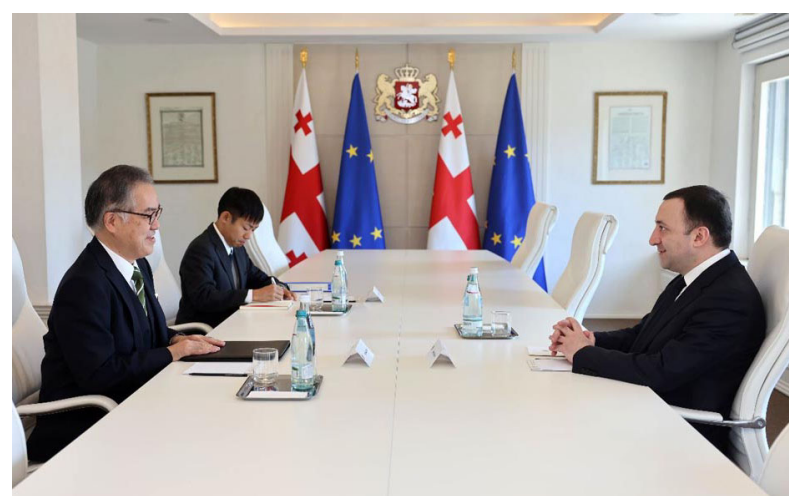
The government administration's press service disseminated the information regarding the award ceremony, where the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, Francis Drouin, honored Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili with the Grand Commander degree medal and presented a special certificate.

### Prime Minister of Georgia Meets Newly Appointed Japanese Ambassador Hideki Ishizuka

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, held a meeting with the newly ap-

pointed Ambassador of Japan to Georgia, Hideki Ishizuka.

During their introductory meeting, the Prime Minister extended his congratulations to Ambassador Ishizuka on the commencement of his diplomatic



mission in Georgia and wished him success.

The discussion primarily focused on the cooperation between the two countries in various areas. They deliberated on the existing economic ties between Georgia and Japan and explored possibilities for further enhancing and strengthening them.

Additionally, they acknowledged the favorable business environment in Georgia and emphasized the ongoing efforts to

attract direct foreign investments to the country.

The meeting also highlighted the potential for deepening cooperation in terms of investment attraction, promoting exports, and fostering the development of

small and medium-sized businesses.

Prime Minister Gharibashvili expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Hideki Ishizuka for Japan's steadfast support regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

The meeting, held at the government administration, was attended by Otaro Iwatara, the third secretary of the Japanese Embassy.

# EU and UNDP support training sessions on life-saving techniques in Ukrainian regions

The Public Health and Recovery Centres, recently opened by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme in health facilities in the Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv,



Poltava and Sumy regions of Ukraine, have provided certified training for health professionals.

These comprehensive courses provided 70 participants with the necessary knowledge and skills in various life-saving techniques. The trainees received international certificates from the European Council for CPR in basic life support and paediatric basic life support.

Additionally, the health care staff completed 'Stop The Bleed' - a certified course from the

American College of Surgeons. This comprehensive training will further enhance their ability to respond to critical situations and save more lives.

This initiative took place within the 'EU4Recovery - Empowering Communities in Ukraine' project, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, with financial support from the European Union.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Friday, July 7

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 33°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 21°C

Saturday, July 8

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy  
High: 34°C

Night 🌧️ T-storm  
Low: 19°C

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*On July 4, the American Friendship Club and its president Ilya Zukakishvili celebrated the 247<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Declaration Independence of the United States of America. The event was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Kelly C. Degnan, U.S. Embassy diplomats and various representatives of the society.*







