

Majority to Reject De-oligarchization Bill, Sending Draft Action Plan to Venice Commission

By Liza Mchedlidze

fter the parliamentary majority Ameeting at the central office of Georgian Dream the party's leader, Irakli Kobakhidze, announced that on September 19, the majority will vote on the deoligarchization bill in its third reading and will not support it.

According to Kobakhidze, the government has developed a draft action plan for de-oligarchization, which will be sent to the Venice Commission for evaluation. The final version of the project will be determined through collaboration with the European Commission.

Kobakhidze stated that the action plan includes several main directions and covers all relevant areas. He mentioned that a similar approach has been implemented in Moldova.

Additionally, Kobakhidze stated that amendments to the Law on General Courts have been developed and will be introduced in Parliament by the end of this week for review by the Venice Commission

"Meetings were held with representatives of the European Commission during which four issues were identified as areas where the European Commission expects to see progress by the end of September. The government of Georgia is committed to meeting the European Commission's expectations in all four areas. In line with the European Commission's recommendation, the Commission for the Integration of Georgia into the European Union, under the Govern-



ment of Georgia, has already approved a draft action plan for de-oligarchization. This plan will be finalized after additional consultations with the European Commission.

Additionally, the draft action plan will be submitted to the Venice Commission by the end of this week, as per one of the recommendations. With the approval of this action plan, the de-oligarchization law, which has already passed through two readings in Parliament, has lost its practical relevance. Therefore, in line with the European Commission's recommendation, the Parliament will deliberate on the third reading tomorrow and is not expected to approve the aforementioned bill, which was based on a personalized approach.

At the same time, we call on the European Commission to abandon the personalized approach, which is reflected in the 12 priorities and which has been actively used for speculation by the opposition in Georgia, as well as by members of the European Parliament and other foreign politicians connected to them," said Kobakhidze.

The draft law concerning the change in the number of votes required for the election of the CEC chairman and members will be presented to the Parliament for its first reading this week and subsequently sent to the Venice Commission. Additionally, laws related to the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Special Investigation Service, and the State Inspectorate Service will also be submitted to the commission.

Georgia's State Security Service Accuses Individuals of Planned Coup 'Backed' by Foreign **Financial Support, Receives Response**





By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

t the special briefing held at Athe State Security Service of Georgia, it was announced that a coup is being planned in the country. According to the State Security Service, civil un-

rest is scheduled for October-December, precisely when the European Union is expected to make a final decision regarding candidate status acceptance.

The agency reports that "specific groups, both within Georgia and abroad, are planning acts of destabilization." According to their findings, these planned riots aim to achieve a change in government through violence.

The State Security Service also provided specific names, including Giorgi Lortkipanidze, who served as the deputy of the former Minister of Internal Affairs, Vano Merabishvili, and is currently the deputy head of military intelligence in Ukraine.

CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6360;

Euro - 2.8131;

GBP - 3.2707; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.7320;

Swiss Franc - 2.9429

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He also mentioned the organization 'Canvas', explaining that "this organization is utilized to prepare youth groups for revolutionary scenarios." Additionally, they mentioned Mamuka Mamulashvili, who is actively engaged in combat against Russia in Ukraine.

According to the SSS, the plan is intended to be implemented with the coordination and financial support of foreign countries. They are certain that the organizers are contemplating a scenario similar to the Euromaidan events that took place in Ukraine in 2014. As part of this

plan, the victimization of both civilians and law enforcement officials is anticipated, according to them.

The commander of the Georgian Legion, Mamuka Mamulashvili, who is one of the people State Security Service is accusing of organizing a coup, has asserted that State Security Service's statement today was 'dictated from Russia'. In their statement, the Security Service referred to Mamulashvili as 'a member of Saakashvili's close entourage.²

Mamulashvili, speaking on 'Formula' TV, has linked the Security Service's statement to the Legion's activities in

"Everyone should do what they

can. The biggest role the media

can play is not to allow different

Georgian authorities are attempting to discredit them in this manner.

"This is directly dictated by Russia and is related, first of all, to our activities - the Legion is the largest foreign unit in Ukraine and, of course, this is a very big "disturbing" factor, because too many Russians die at the hands of Georgian Legion fighters. I don't want this to be directed and intended against people who come to see their families.

As you know, a trial was held in Russia against members of the Georgian Legion. Russia sentenced these people to various

Ukraine and believes that the articles. It may be an attempt to hand over these people who come to Georgia to Russia. So, I think this is purely Russian handwriting, the Russian government of Georgia has become active and is trying to discredit Georgian Legion," the Mamulashvili said.

Ilia University law lecturer and associate professor Giorgi Meladze also responded to accusations. He stated that the purpose behind the coup accusation is to intimidate active individuals

According to him, such statements are the signature of authoritarian states.

against me was published, authored by Kobakhidze, who at that time referred to me as an 'extremist.' Over the past 20 years, I have collaborated with numerous groups and activists, valuing the exchange of ideas and collective action with active individuals in civil society to foster improved governance systems.

What the State Security Service is currently engaged in reminds me of tactics employed by authoritarian states. Nevertheless, I am determined to persist in my work, spreading knowledge about non-violent campaigns," Meladze stated.

"In the spring, a statement

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili to **Continue European** Visits Despite Impeachment Procedure



Despite the fact that the impeachment procedure against the president was initiated due to her international visits without government permission, Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili has announced her intention to continue visiting European countries.

She stated, "Soon I will visit the Baltic countries, Poland, and Belgium, as one of the oldest European countries," during her speech at a meeting with non-

issues to overshadow what is important. The main thing is that all of us - the country, the society - want this European future, we have no other future. Another future, and I want to emphasize this, cannot be Russia today. Georgia will not allow this. I will not allow it, you will not allow it, and no one will allow it. No one should scare us that something is impossible. Everything is in our hands, and no one can destroy us. Whoever tries to do this will lose himself," said the President.

Georgian Prime Minister Gharibashvili Meets with Turkish **President Erdogan**

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, met with the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during a meeting held in New York as part of the UN General Assembly. According to the Prime Minister's press office, they discussed regional security issues, reviewed the results of the two countries' strategic partnership, and outlined new prospects for future cooperation.

Irakli Gharibashvili noted that Georgia and Turkey have made significant progress in their cooperation, which has been reflected in both economic and political dimensions.





ship between Georgia and Turkey. These projects are expected to contribute to greater economic independence, security, and prosperity for both countries.

As stated in the information released by the Prime Minister's press office, the parties also discussed the security environment in the region. Irakli Gharibashvili emphasized the importance of resolving issues through peaceful negotiations.

Irakli Gharibashvili thanked Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his strong support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, as well as European and North Atlantic integration.



AUGUST 22, BORJOMI Hotel BORJOMI LIKANI 19:00 AUGUST 24-25, BATUMI Ilia Chavchavadze Professional State DRAMA THEATER SEPTEMBER 22-23-24, TBILISI **Tbilisi State CONSERVATOIRE, GRAND HALL** 20:00

Festival Base Orchestra **GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI GEORGIAN PHILHARMONIC** ORCHESTRA

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governmental organizations.

Weather

Tuesday, September 19 Day 🚛 Light Rain High: 21°C Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 14°C

Wednesday, September 20 Day about Mostly Cloudy High: 23°C Night Partly Cloudy Low: 16°C

According to the Prime Minister, the existing regional projects serve as clear examples of effective strategic cooperation, sustainable development, and a reliable partner-

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Nino Metreveli Commercial Director

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NIGHT SERENADES

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All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

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The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

Within the framework of the "Night Serenades" festival, a master class was held for the beneficiaries of the "Parents' Bridge" association. The master class for those with disabilities was conducted by artist-designer Nino Mirianashvili.
The beneficiaries performed a funny optical illusion sketch.
The master class was held with the support of the Ministry of





Culture, Sports and Youth and Tbilisi City Hall, and about 30 beneficiaries took part.

The festival Night Serenades was founded by Liana Issakadze. Artistic Director: Giorgi Issakadze. Festival Director: Nina Tsagareli. Organizer company: Art Alliance







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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Event P5







