

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze Hopes for EU Negotiations on Georgia's Membership



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze expressed his hope that negotiations for Georgia's membership in the European Union will commence soon, indicating that a refusal would suggest a negative attitude towards the Georgian people. He shared these remarks with journalists following the fourth summit of the European Political Community.

Kobakhidze mentioned his interactions with approximately 20 political leaders during the summit, including Josep Borrell and French President

Emmanuel Macron. He described these discussions as productive and noted that they provided reasons for optimism about Georgia's European integration prospects.

"I had the opportunity [at the fourth summit of European Political Community] to talk to about 20 political leaders, for quite a long time, within the framework of this summit. When it comes to Maia Sandu's meeting, these meetings were held in the so-called buffet, where politicians were sitting and talking. I had a meeting in the 'buffet', both outside and inside. I had these meetings every-

where. I can list the people I met, including Josep Borrell, with whom I had an interesting conversation. I heard some interesting messages that I can't voice because I have to protect the privacy. There were many presidents and prime ministers with whom I had the opportunity to talk. President Macron was sitting next to me, with whom I had the opportunity to talk and I used this opportunity. I saw the overall picture, which gives me a reason for optimism and a reason to say that these misunderstandings are temporary, and as soon as the war in Ukraine ends, these misunderstandings will

also end. Among other things, the mood that I saw among the European leaders at this summit allows me to say this."

The Prime Minister highlighted a perceived inconsistency in the EU's approach, noting that Moldova, a CIS member country, was allowed to open negotiations despite facing significant challenges in political and media pluralism, democracy, and corruption.

"As for whether the negotiations will open in October, that is up to the EU. I hope that the Georgian people will not be refused to open negotiations. If it happens otherwise, it turns out

that there is a wrong attitude towards the Georgian people. You see the injustice, they opened negotiations for a CIS member country, Moldova, with zero political and media pluralism, with serious problems in terms of democracy, corruption. And they refused us. This is a complete injustice. The only explanation and reason for this injustice is different interests. As soon as the interests change, the approaches to Georgia will immediately change and the negotiations will be opened immediately," said Kobakhidze.



სახელმწიფო უსაფრთხოების სამსახურის

განცხადება

State Security Service Investigates Alleged Plot to Assassinate Bidzina Ivanishvili and Overthrow Georgian Government

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The State Security Service of Georgia has announced an investigation into alleged criminal actions, including the preparation of an assassination attempt on Bidzina Ivanishvili, the honorary chairman of the Georgian Dream party. The plot is reportedly organized and financed by former high-ranking officials of the Georgian government and former employees of

Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

According to a statement released by the State Security Service, the purpose of these criminal actions is to overthrow the Georgian government through violent means. The agency claims that destructive forces are seeking to create disorder and weaken the government as part of their strategy to facilitate a coup.

CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7152; Euro - 2.9446; GBP - 3.5045; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.1313; Swiss Franc - 3.0614

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

“Due to high public interest, we would like to inform the public that the State Security Service is conducting an investigation into the fact of preparing a terrorist act and conspiracy to overthrow the state government, a crime stipulated by the first part of Article 18-323 and the

first part of Article 315 of the Civil Code of Georgia,” the statement reads.

The State Security Service emphasized that active investigative and operational search measures are being carried out. As part of the investigation, specific individuals are being summoned to the investigative body for questioning as witnesses.

The agency’s announcement highlights the seriousness of the allegations and the extensive measures being taken to address the potential threat. The investigation is ongoing, and the State Security Service has committed to keeping the public informed about significant developments.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Lelo Leaders and Allies Meet President Zourabichvili to Discuss European Integration Plans



Leaders from the political coalition including Lelo, For People, and Freedom Square, met with President Salome Zourabichvili at the Orbeliani Palace. The group comprises Lelo leaders Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze, For People leader Ana Dolidze, and Freedom Square founder Levan Tsutskiridze.

Before the meeting, Lelo leader Badri Japaridze told journalists that the coalition planned to present their strategies and goals to the President. Japaridze emphasized the importance of President Zourabichvili as a key ally in advancing Georgia’s European integration

efforts. “Our coalition has a meeting with President Salome Zourabichvili. We are going to introduce her to the plans and steps that we have to take. We see that the President is doing everything within her competence, she can support the country on the path of European in-

tegration. We consider the President as an important partner in the fight for the country’s European future,” Japaridze said.

Ana Dolidze, leader of For People, highlighted the coalition’s ambition to become

the governing force and guide the country towards NATO and EU membership. “As you know, we have created a powerful coalition that is preparing to become the governing power in the country and return the country to the path of NATO and the European Union. Therefore, we have come today to inform the President of our plans, because we consider her to be one of the main allies on the path of EU reforms,” Dolidze stated.

Levan Tsutskiridze of Freedom Square added that the new political movement supports the President’s charter and aims to outline their vision of the coalition’s role in Georgia’s political future. “We, as a newly established political movement, support the President’s charter. We want to share our vision of where we see the important role of this coalition. We deeply believe that this coalition will be a central actor in the political system of Georgia,” Tsutskiridze remarked.

Tina Bokuchava Accuses Ivanishvili of Spreading False Fears Ahead of October 26 Elections

Tina Bokuchava, the chairperson of the United National Movement, accused Bidzina Ivanishvili of spreading false fears and conspiracies to influence the upcoming October 26

elections in Georgia. This statement was made in response to the recent announcement by the



State Security Service, which claimed a plot involving former high-ranking officials and Ukrainian law enforcement aimed to assassinate Ivanishvili and overthrow the Georgian government.

Bokuchava criticized Ivanishvili’s government, stating that absurd accusations and continuous attacks against Ukraine, USA, EU officials, and the West have led to a change in Western policy towards the ruling power. This shift has resulted in sanctions against Ivanishvili and his team.

She highlighted that discus-

sions in the US Congress mentioned financial sanctions against Ivanishvili due to his

anti-Western, anti-national, and anti-state policies. Bokuchava expressed confidence that Georgian citizens would reject these tactics and make an informed choice regarding the country’s Euro-Atlantic future in the upcoming elections.

“By instilling false fear, Ivanishvili is trying to mislead the citizens of Georgia and keep power on that basis,” Bokuchava stated. She emphasized the need for political discourse based on facts, ensuring that Georgian citizens are well-informed to make a decisive choice about their future.

EBRD procures municipal vehicles for Tbilisi

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has delivered a new batch of communal vehicles for the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

Tbilisi municipality received a variety of vehicles, including street sweepers, rubbish trucks, and aerial works platforms.

“We’re pleased to play a part in upgrading municipal services in the city while supporting environmental improvements,” the



EBRD said in a Facebook post. “The new vehicles will significantly cut emissions, air pollution, and reduce the city’s road safety risks.”

The machinery was provided under the EBRD’s Green Cities programme, which helps cities to apply a broad approach to identifying and prioritising environmental challenges and connecting them with infrastructure investments and policy measures. Tbilisi was among the very first cities to join the EBRD’s Green Cities family.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, July 25

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 32°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 21°C

Friday, July 26

Day 🌧️ Showers
High: 24°C

Night 🌧️ Showers
Low: 20°C

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