

## Politics

### Tbilisi Mayor announces new design of Parliament area

The area has been fenced since the beginning of the year



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## Economics

### Ambassador of the USA to Georgia talks about the bill initiated in the US Congress

Degnan was appointed as an Ambassador in 2019



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# Georgian media talks about Majoritarian candidates of the ruling party



The ruling party will announce its list today

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

With 2020 elections approaching, the Georgian media is speculating about the possible Majoritarian candidates of the ruling party. The Georgian

Dream is planning to open up its electoral campaign and name its Majoritarian candidates today, on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The ruling party will choose 30 people who will fight in this election under the name of Georgian Dream.

Imedi TV informed that among the people representing the ruling party will be Davit Sergeenko, Sozar Subari, Levan Kobiashvili, Gocha Enuqidze, and many others. The information was made public by Imedi TV on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Former Minister of Health, Sergeenko, is said to be a candidate for Saburtalo district of Tbilisi, Kobiashvili will fight for the district of Gldani, Subari will be representing Georgian Dream in the Isani district, while Kobiashvili will be fighting for the Gldani district.

According to the Main Channel, Zaza Lomidze will be representing the ruling party in Kutaisi, while Elguja Gotsiridze will be fighting for Tkibuli, Terjola, Tagdati and Zestaponi.

Nino Tsilosani, Enzel Mkoyan, Dimitri Khundadze, Irakli Sesiashvili, Zaal Mikeladze - according to the Main Channel, they will also be nominated by the ruling team as majoritarian candidates. The TV company announces that Enzel Mkoyan will be the majoritarian MP of one of the two constituencies of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda. As for the Telavi-Akhmeta-Kvareli-Lagodekhi will be fighting either the head of the Defense Committee, Irakli Sesiashvili, or the Chairman of the Parliamentary Procedural Committee,



Elections 2020 will be held with a new electoral system

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# Tbilisi Mayor announces new design of Parliament area



The mayor has shared the pictures on Facebook

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze has released photos of the render, showing images of the parliament area.

According to Kaladze, the fountain is being rehabilitated and the tiles. According to him, the historical tiles related to the events of April 9<sup>th</sup> have been stored and will be returned to the site once repaired.

The front space of the parliament is the main center of protests and rallies. In 2019, anti-government and anti-occupation rallies were actively

held there for almost half a year. At the end of the year, on December 31<sup>st</sup> the City Hall dismantled the protest tent of the father of the murdered child, Malkhaz Machalikashvili, and set up New Year's attractions, then did not allow it to be opened, and began fencing and rehabilitation.

There are protest signs made by activists on the green fence erected around the rehabilitation works. "Shame," "Bidzina's vegetable garden," "Stand up" and other phrases were written on it after the City Hall took over Malkhaz

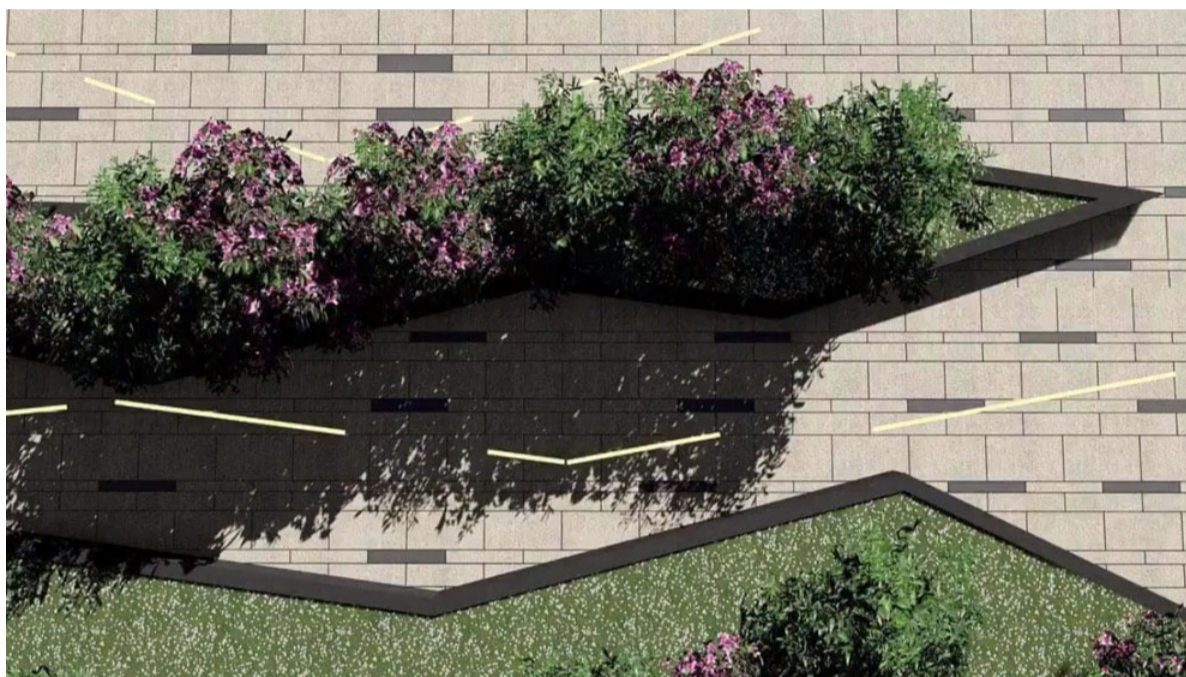
Machalikashvili's tent.

Civil activist Nodar Rukhadze accuses Tbilisi mayor of violating the law. According to him, the law calls on the Mayor to ask the public before starting such huge rehabilitations. According to him, it is still unknown who worked on or who approved the project. Rukhadze also noted that the activists believe this happened to prevent them from protesting.

The area around the parliament building was fenced by the City Hall with a green fence in January 2020. Activ-

ists immediately claimed the aim was to limit space to protest. Before the fencing, despite the resistance, the City Hall forcefully removed Malkhaz Machalikashvili's tent from this area and set up attractions. The mayor of Tbilisi said at the time that the mayor's office was starting rehabilitation works.

Malkhaz Machalikashvili has been protesting in the area for a long time now. He says that the case of the death of his son is still unresolved and there are many unanswered questions.



Kaladze says that the historical tiles related to the events of April 9<sup>th</sup> are being restored and will be returned to the site soon

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Guram Macharashvili.

According to the Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Georgian Dream is very rich in human resources. Maia Tskitishvili answered the question related to the opening of the election campaign and the majoritarian candidates.

As for the new faces, Tskitishvili said that 'there will definitely be a number of them.' She also noted that the ruling party will provide more detailed information later.

The Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia says that he has not

## Georgian media talks about Majoritarian candidates of the ruling party



The elections should be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>

thought about being a majoritarian MP. This is how he answered the media question whether he will be the Zugdidi majoritarian candidate.

"I understand that there is some interest and intrigue, let's wait for a while. It does not matter to me where I will be on the list, not at all. I have not thought about being a Majoritarian MP," Gakharia said.

The election date has not been officially announced, although according to the constitution, it should be held on the last Saturday of October.

This year, elections will be held with a new model, which means that there will only be 30 Majoritarian MPs, the rest will be chosen with a proportional system. The threshold at this year's election will be 1 percent.

### Weather

Monday, July 20

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 37°C  
Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 24°C

Tuesday, July 21

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 34°C  
Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy  
Low: 21°C

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## Ambassador of the USA to Georgia talks about the bill initiated in the US Congress

BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

Kelly Degnan clarified the details of the bill initiated in the US Congress, which envisages a reduction of financial assistance provided by Washington to Tbilisi in case of non-fulfillment of certain conditions. The US Ambassador spoke about this topic in an interview with 'Batumelebi.'

According to the ambassador, we need to see the picture from the other side. Degnan said that on the one hand, they are talking about only 15 percent, but the money that is set for Georgia is \$135 million US. Also, as she said, it is understandable that the congressmen want to see the development of Georgia, and Georgia is important for its geopolitical location and also because the fact that the country was able to show everyone its trust and dedication to democratic political institutions.

She also added that this is a very important message and should be taken seriously. On the one hand, the congressmen want to see a successful and de-



Ambassador noted that the USA supports Georgia's democratic development

veloped Georgia, but on the other hand they have questions as well. "These investments are being made properly, responsibly and serve the development of Georgia as a democratic partner of the United States. We cer-

tainly do not dictate what, where and how to spend, but we want to make sure that these funds are spent the way that they help the future Western integration of Georgia," noted Degnan.

Degnan also talked about the

new electoral system of Georgia. According to the US ambassador, some opposition parties think that the March 8<sup>th</sup> agreement has not been fully implemented, but in her opinion, it is important for the parties to start

their election campaign at this stage.

"In this case, perhaps my opinion is less important, it is up to the parties themselves because they were the ones that worked on the treaty. We know that there is a difference of opinion - some opposition parties think that it is not fully implemented and take a principled position in this regard. I think now that there is a very little time left before the elections, it is important for each party to start campaigning," noted the Ambassador.

Kelly Degnan is a career member of the Senior Foreign Services of the United States, she became the Ambassador of the USA to Georgia in September of 2019. In her first public speech, at her appointment, she called Russia a hostile neighbor to Georgia and outlined the importance of the democratization of the country. She has also many times referred to Georgia as a very strategic and important partner for the US, and also said that she supports Georgia's integration into the Western world.

### CLASSIFIED

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