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6 Georgian citizens return home from Afghanistan on Hungarian board



► 16 more Georgian citizens remain in Kabul, the Georgian side is actively working toward their rapid evacuation.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Six Georgian citizens who were in Afghanistan under a private contract, working at an American company, returned home from Afghanistan. A special flight was performed on a Hungarian board which landed at Tbilisi International Airport.

Ilia Darchiashvili, Head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, and Alexander Khvtisiashvili, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, met the Georgian citizens who returned home with their family members at the airport.

According to the Deputy Foreign Minister, the main problem is the movement of Georgian citizens to Kabul and their arrival at the airport due to the unstable and chaotic situation in the country. According to Khvtisiashvili, 16 more Georgian citizens remain in Kabul for whose rapid evacuation the Georgian side is actively working. He informed that citizens remaining in Kabul feel safe and healthy at the moment.

"There are 16 of our citizens left, we are actively working to bring them from the city to the airport, where the base is already controlled by the American and British, as well as the Turkish military, and then these people will be transferred from there to Georgia." There are dozens of flights planned with partner countries that people can take. At the same time, the ministry is also working to arrange flights from Georgia to evacuate the remaining people on time.

He also commented that Georgia is not going to accept refugees from Afghanistan and this issue is not being discussed.

According to the head of the Georgian government administration, the return of

compatriots to their homeland was safe.

Recall that on August 15, the Taliban movement occupied Kabul and announced the creation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

The European Union plans to hold talks with the Taliban on the evacuation of its citizens and Afghans. The statement was made by the representative of the Alliance for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Joseph Borrell.

"The Taliban have won the war, so we need to talk to them to engage in dialogue as soon as possible to avoid a humanitarian and potential migration catastrophe, as well as a humanitarian crisis," Borrell said.

He explains that the priority now is to safely evacuate the Europeans left in the country and those Afghans who have worked with them for the past 20 years and now want to leave the country. Borrell promises that the EU will do everything

to bring them asylum in the EU member states. The Afghan refugees will initially be received by Spain, which will act as a kind of hub until they are relocated to different countries of the union.

Borrell emphasized that this does not mean recognizing the Taliban, it means protecting Afghans, including women and girls, and for that, it is necessary to connect with them.

According to the EU representative, the mission in Afghanistan aimed to destroy al-Qaeda, which was later replaced by the construction of a modern state.

"A state that should be able to guarantee the freedom and fundamental rights of people, especially women and girls. Today, 20 years later, we can say that the first part of the mission was successful, the second - no," he commented.

A White House spokesman announced that U.S. troops have withdrawn 3,200 people from Afghanistan already, Britain plans to evacuate 1,000 people daily.

The United States has warned the Taliban not to interfere in the evacuation process from Afghanistan, or Washington will use 'destructive measures,' said US Central Command Commander General Frank McKenzie.

McKenzie said he met with Taliban leaders in Doha on Sunday and told them that any attempt to attack would be met with a crushing retaliatory measure.

The United States has also restricted the Central Bank of Afghanistan from access to \$ 9 billion. According to American media, the decision was made in Washington to restrict access to these assets for the Taliban.



► Afghanistan citizens are trying to leave the country by all means after the Taliban took control of Kabul. Afghans gather at the capital airport regardless of whether they have a visa or passport to leave the country.

EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 3.1191 | EURO - 3.6715 | GBP - 4.3031 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.2470 | SWISS FRANC - 3.4251 |

Enterprise Georgia releases annual report



the programs implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development Agency, Enterprise Georgia also published a study on the effectiveness of the results of the “Technical Support and Access to Finance Components”.

According to a survey, 89% of beneficiaries would not be able or it would be very difficult for them to start/expand their business without a program.

The research found that 1 subsidized GEL stimulated the investment of €15.7 from the private sector and also the same subsidized GEL introduced €5.04 in the budget in the form of taxes and created €8.7 GDP.

Due to the crisis situation created by the pandemic, the state has financed loans to 2,306 business entities since 2020. The volume of co-financing amounted to €57.6 million.

According to the agency, 1,544 companies used the co-financing mechanism for small and family hotels, and more than €45 million was issued as co-financing;

Through the co-financing mechanism to support the restaurant industry, 633 companies received more than €9 million in co-financing;

76 companies used the co-financing mechanism to support kindergartens and sports facilities and were provided with €1.2 million in co-financing; moreover, 53 event organizer companies received more than €2.4 million through the same mechanism.

► LEPL Produce in Georgia is one of the first government agencies in Georgia, whose main goal is to improve the business environment, develop the private sector, popularize the investment climate in Georgia and promote exports.

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The agency Enterprise Georgia published the results of state co-financing and business promotion programs. Through the agency, the state was able to support 652 companies with an investment of €1.8 billion. According to the agency, 494 enterprises, 152 hotels, and 6 tourist service facilities have been established or expanded and a total of 24,205 jobs were created.

At the same time, it is important that the credit-guarantee mechanism was launched in 2020, under which 242 projects were financed. According to the agency, these projects will create 4,418 jobs. The agency emphasized that in addition to local production most of the

implemented projects are export-oriented.

The micro and small entrepreneurship grant program has

been implemented since 2015, under which 6,911 projects have been supported so far, with a total investment of €79

million, a total of 10,083 beneficiaries have been funded and 17,489 jobs will be created.

In addition to the results of

NEWS IN BRIEF

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Tikaradze: ambulance doctors will receive a supplement of 500 GEL

"I want to thank the entire medical community, all hospitals, doctors who have been involved in this process from day one. I would like to point out that there are attempts by a number of political parties to make the government team and the doctors confront each other. This concerns paying doctors or thanking them.

I would like to ask everyone that today is not the time for such controversies to take place. All the interests of doctors are protected by the state. We have been giving supplements to doctors for several months, almost a year, this is prescribed and the salaries of the entire medical personnel are quite high. In addition, the council decided yesterday that the state emergency doctors, who

work in particularly difficult conditions, will be given a supplement of 500 GEL by the state, regardless of the region in which they are employed," stated Health Minister Ekaterine Tikaradze.

Melia: Gov't won't even come close to 40%

"I am sure that Zaal Udumashvili will do his best in the remaining time, together with the people of Mtskheta, to celebrate the victory in Georgia on October 2. Mtskheta must make the most important contribution.

I remember, in 2018 I was very actively involved in the Mtskheta election campaign and no one believed that we would win the elections in Mtskheta. We won the elections in Mtskheta, it will be the same now. The government won't even come close to 40%, I am sure of it more than ever. I have contact with people and I feel their support," said UNM's mayoral candidate Nika Melia.

THURSDAY		AUGUST 19	
Day		Mostly sunny	High: 33°C
Night		A few clouds	Low: 19°C
FRIDAY		AUGUST 20	
Day		Sunny	High: 33°C
Night		A few clouds	Low: 20°C

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