

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

## Georgian PM offers Ripple CEO to open Corporate Service Centre in Georgia

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili met Brad Garlinghouse, Chief Executive Officer of Ripple within the scope of his visit to Davos yesterday. The PM offered the CEO of Ripple, a United States-based technology company, to consider opening a Corporate Service Centre in Georgia, stressing that the country has a favorable investment climate and stable location.

The PM emphasized that the domestic market is favorable for the development of digital assets and it advances at a fast pace. He also noted that young, experienced, and competitive human capital makes Georgia fit for a multifunctional global and regional hub for financial services, and technological and innovative industries.

"With its reputation and friendly business environment, Georgia has shaped into a global leader with its ease of doing business. The country ranks among the developed markets including the USA, Singapore, Denmark, Norway, and the UK," the Government Administration's statement reads.

At the meeting the PM also noted that the Government had created a draft legal framework for the regulation of virtual assets, stating that the bill is being discussed with various stakeholders before its submission to the Parliament. According to him, the drafting is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Garibashvili also told the CEO of Ripple that Georgia is successfully



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili at the meeting with Brad Garlinghouse, Chief Executive Officer of Ripple.



The World Economic Forum is running between Sunday and Thursday

using Blockchain technology and is the first country in the world to introduce Blockchain technology in the public sector, namely in the process of land registration, which helped to cut the operation costs by 30%.

The meeting was held within the framework of the Prime Minister's visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos. As Revaz Lominadze, the Georgian Ambassador to Switzerland noted, the participation of a Georgian delegation in the forum was "extremely important" in light of the political and economic challenges facing the world. As he noted, Prime Minister Garibashvili had actively participated in the thematic panels of the forum and is scheduled to hold high-level bilateral meetings with leaders of different countries and representatives of large business companies.

Earlier yesterday, Garibashvili met with Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. The sides discussed Georgia's investment environment, ongoing economic processes, and the dynamic of post-pandemic economic revival. The meeting particularly underlined the critical role played by the relevant program supported by the IMF in the rapid post-pandemic recovery of Georgia's economy.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8767; Euro - 3.0677; GBP - 3.6172; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.9280; Swiss Franc - 2.9764

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

# Campaign for Recognition of Russian Genocide of Georgians Opens on May 24

Freedom Institute, Tabula, Voter Education Society, European Georgia, and the Abkhaz Assembly are launching a campaign to recognize the 1992-1993 genocide of Georgians committed by Russia.

The campaign opens on May 24, at 21:00 with an interactive exposition of the Georgian Genocide - "There was Abkhazia before Butcha" is hosted by Tbilisi night-club KHIDI. Organizers promise visitors the individual and unexaggerated experience of horrific atrocities committed by Russia, which have claimed the lives of thousands of civilians and endured hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.

"We firmly believe that in every society the past of this society speaks. In order to draw the right conclusions about the present and the future, the enemy and the lover, the good and the bad, we must understand and remember the past."

War crimes committed by Russia in Bucha, Mariupol, Irpen, Gostomel, and other Ukrainian cities have been declared genocide by the President

of the United States and a number of other world leaders. Estonia, Latvia, and Canada have officially recognized the genocide of Ukrainians.

Citing horrific stories collected from people who lived through the war, authors of the campaign write that many people forget, many do not even know that before Bucha and Mariupol there was Gagra and Ochamchire.

"At that time, the international community was celebrating the victory over the Soviet Union, the 'end of history', and was not ready to give an adequate response to the wicked tail of the evil empire. But the bigger problem is that our society does not even realize the horrible scale of the crimes committed by Russia against humanity in Georgia.

In order for Georgian democracy to win over the enemy, our citizens must know well who the enemy is, what he has done to us and what he is doing to us,



and why and how we are fighting him. Because the success of democracy rests with informed citizens whom you cannot easily deceive."

These organizations believe that a permanent exhibition on

the genocide of Georgians by Russia should be in the Museum of Occupation and become part of the high school curriculum, but they think it will be feasible only after 'defeating the Russian vassal regime'. Before that, they

invite citizens to visit the club KHIDI (Third Floor - Exhibition Space, Vakhushti Bridge, Right Bank) for a 3-day exhibition, which will open on May 24 at 21:00 and close on May 26 at 18:00.

## European Council President Meets Leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan



By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The President of the European Council Charles Michel hosted a trilateral meeting with the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan on May 22.

Summing up the results of the third discussion in this format Michel said that talks focused on the situation in the South Caucasus and the development of EU relations with both countries as well as the broader region.

According to him, the discussion was frank and productive and covered topics of humanitarian issues, including demining, and efforts to free detainees and address the fate of missing persons.

The sides reached an agreement on multiple issues. It was decided that the first joint meeting of the Border Commissions will take place on the inter-state border in the coming days. It will address all questions related to the delimitation of the border and how best to ensure a stable situation.

The leaders agreed on the need to proceed with unblocking the transport links. They agreed on the principles governing transit between western Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, and between different parts of Armenia via Azerbaijan, as well as interna-

tional transport through the communications infrastructure of both countries. Notably, they agreed on principles of border administration, security, land fees but also customs in the context of international transport. The Deputy PMs will take this work forward in the coming days.

The Presidents also agreed to advance discussions on the future peace treaty governing inter-state relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Teams led by the Foreign Ministers will take forward this process in the coming weeks. In addition to this track, I also stressed to both lead-

ers that it was necessary that the rights and security of the ethnic Armenian population in Karabakh be addressed.

The EU will take forward with both parties the work of the Economic Advisory Group, which seeks to advance economic development for the benefit of both countries and their populations.

Michel, himself, stressed the importance of preparing the population for long-term sustainable peace. 'The EU is ready to step up its support.'

The next meeting in this format will be scheduled for July/August.

### The News in Brief

#### Duma Includes Georgia in the list of Countries Hostile to Russian Media

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

According to the head of the special commission of the Russian Duma Vasily Piskariov, Georgia is among the leading countries in terms of discrimination against the Russian media.

Piskariov is the head of the State Duma Commission investigating foreign interference in Russia's internal affairs. According to him, the analysis of the last 5 years has shown that the most aggressive are the Russian media: Latvia, Ukraine, and France, but the list also includes Moldova, Poland, Lithuania, USA, UK, Georgia, Germany, Canada, Estonia, Romania.

According to Piskariov, there has been a mass campaign in the West for years to discriminate against the Russian media.

"We are talking about refusing accreditations, as well as creating banking problems and stopping broadcasting. In addition, Russian media representatives are stopped at the border, as well as detained for performing their professional activities and because they represent Russian media. "In their own countries, but also impose censorship on our information field," said the Russian MP.

He notes that a bill has been drafted under which they will take mirror measures.

"The measures we are proposing include the possibility of revoking registrations and licenses to international media if the information they disseminate is correct. That would be an adequate response," Piskarov said.

### Weather

Tuesday, May 24

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 20°C

Night Cloudy

Low: 11°C

Wednesday, May 25

Day Cloudy

High: 21°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 10°C

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