

Shame Movement Agrees to Join Today's Rally, Invites President to June 20 Demonstration

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili addressed the organizers of the June 20 rally during her briefing, saying "if they think about it, this rally, which is associated with many dangers, may be postponed".

She said now is not the time to show political ambitions and divide the society. Zourabichvili also warned the authorities that if the rally were to be held on June 20, the government would be responsible for all incidents, because the right to demonstrate must be protected and guaranteed.

One of the organizers of the aforementioned demonstration, 'Shame' movement accepted President's invitation and offered her an invitation from self-organized civil society groups to attend a 'Home - to Europe' rally, which is scheduled to begin near the Parliament on June 20 at 8 pm and end at Europe Square. As for the president's proposal to postpone the June 20 rally, 'Shame' replied using Zourabichvili's words: 'No and never!'. Recall that this was Zourabichvili's response to the speculations that she would pardon ex-president Saakashvili, and later, ex-director of TV Rustavi 2.

"For more than a week, civil society has been preparing for the June 20 rally, which aims to unite the Georgian people despite their political, ideological or other differences. Before making a historic decision, Georgian civil society must show its European partners that European integration is one of the rarest issues in which there is no polarization in society.

It is contradictory that President Zourabichvili, who calls on the civil society for consolidation for European integration, at the same time means an alternative action and offers the organizers of the June 20 rally to cancel the event. "No and never!" Movement wrote. According to the organization, in a country where we celebrate the New Year twice, it won't hurt if we celebrate our commitment to European integration twice.



The civil movement 'Shame' was formed as a result of a long protest against the Georgian Dream government in 2019 following the night of June 20-21, when Georgian authorities used rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannons to disperse demonstrators protesting the visit of Russian Duma Communist MP Sergei Gavrilov to Georgia and attempts to remove him from the chair of parliament in Russian.

Irakli Kobakhidze, the chairman of the Georgian Dream ruling party, said his team would not join the rally planned by the president. Kobakhidze states that the rally is unprepared and this is the criterion on the basis of which will not participate in it. According to him, such an unprepared rally will have a gap in terms of logistics and mobilization, which will only diminish the factual data that the 85% of the population supports EU membership.

In the context of this rally, the President called for unification with the 'National Movement', which, in Kobakhidze's opinion, is not serious.

"In addition, the EU should make a fair decision based on an assessment of the achievements of Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova. In terms of a fair assessment, there is no alternative to granting candidate status to Georgia. We will wait for the decision of the EU, we have faith that the truth and justice will prevail - these are the values on which the EU was founded."

Party European Georgia also announced that they will not join the June 16 rally, which, according to them, serves the purpose to demonstrate that the will of the Georgian people and the wishes of Bidzina Ivanishvili are identical and they are not going to help the government to strengthen this message. The party of ex-PM Giorgi Gakharia will not join either of the rallies, though they welcomed the citizens' decision to demonstrate their position on EU integration. They added that their number one task is to work with partners, which they do on a daily basis, so that Georgia receives candidate status.

The president's initiative was negatively

assessed by Girchi - More Freedom as well. 'Lelo', 'Citizens' and 'Shame' movement will join the rally on June 16. Leader of Lelo announced that the party will be present at both rallies. German Ambassador to Georgia Hubert Knirsch said he would participate in a public rally planned in Tbilisi on Thursday as well.

"It is remarkable that the head of state calls on the citizens to publicly show their position about Europe. I will be at Europe Square tomorrow to witness this declaration of intent," the German Ambassador said. Recall that the President invited ambassadors of EU countries to Georgia for the occasion, which comes amid the European Commission's deliberation over the country's application for membership candidate status.

On June 23-24, the Georgian government will receive a response from the European Council to its application for EU membership, which the country has completed together with Ukraine and Moldova.

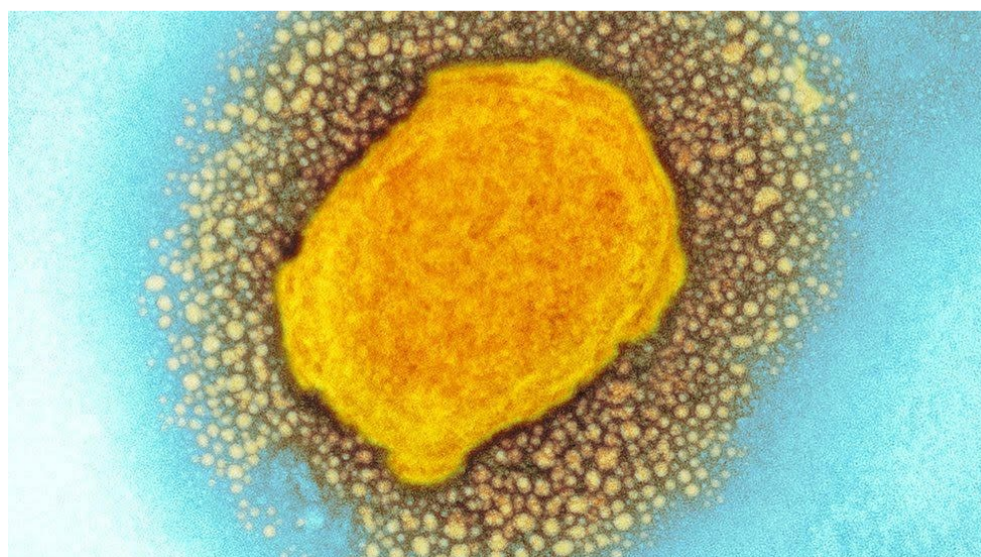
First Monkeypox Case Reported In Georgia

By MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia has reported the first monkeypox case, National Centre for Disease Control has said. According to the NCDC, the patient's condition was mild, she/he had already undergone a course of treatment and was discharged home.

The official statement also says that the patient had a history of travel to Europe, adding that their contacts had also been monitored with no clinical signs detected in any of the cases. The NCDC noted that it would continue to investigate suspicious cases if necessary.

According to the World Health Organization, Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease that is transmitted to humans



from animals. It can also spread between people through close contact. Symptoms of monkeypox typically include skin rash or lesions, fever, intense headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.

As the WHO notes, people with monkeypox are infectious while they have symptoms. Anyone can catch monkeypox through close physical contact with someone who has symptoms.

As of June 15, the Monkeypox virus has been reported in more than 30 countries where monkeypox is not endemic. The confirmed cases have approached 1,900, most of them reported in Europe. The virus mostly occurs in the west and central Africa and only very occasionally spreads elsewhere.

EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 2.9436 | EURO - 3.0855 | GBP - 3.5609 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 5.2302 | SWISS FRANC - 2.9492 |

Conservation And Development Of Cultural Heritage Workshop Held In Tbilisi State University



BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Within the framework of cooperation between Georgia and Italy in the field of protection and preservation of cultural heritage through the use of modern technologies, a workshop was held at Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University. The workshop - Conservation and Development of Cultural Heritage – was organized by the Italian Embassy in cooperation with the National Museum of Georgia.

According to the embassy, the event was attended by the acting Italian Ambassador to Georgia Nicola Iorio, Director of the National Museum of Georgia Davit Lortkipanidze, and Italian experts Annalisa Zarattini and Giovanna De Palma.

As the embassy notes, the Italian scientists involved in the Dzalisa project, one of the most important monuments of the Roman era in Georgia, shared their best Italian experiences with young Georgian archaeologists, museum conservation specialists, and students.

According to Nicola Iorio, Italy and Georgia have invaluable cultural heritage, an immeasurable wealth, that at the same time requires great responsibility.

“The Embassy of Italy is proud to have contributed to the cooperation of our countries. We are glad that young people are so actively involved in this initiative and show great interest in the protection of cul-

tural heritage,” acting Italian Ambassador to Georgia Nicola Iorio said.

As the embassy notes, the guests of the event will visit the Dzalisa monument on Thursday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

NBG: \$313 mln From Russia - 888% More Than Last Year

According to the National Bank of Georgia, the volume of remittances in the country in May 2022 amounted to 505.7 million US dollars (1502.1 million GEL), which is 169.4% (318.0 million US dollars) more than in May 2021. Of the \$ 505.7 million, \$ 91.76 million was sent to Georgia from EU countries and \$ 313.90 million from Russia, which is 62.07% of the total enrollment. The annual growth rate was 888.73%.

The NBG states that 98.1% of remittances to Georgia come from the 23 largest partner countries, with remittances exceeding \$ 1 million each in May. The same 23 countries accounted for 92.1% of all remittances in May last year.

In May 2022, 28.7 million US dollars (85.1 million GEL) were sent abroad from Georgia, which is 25.4% more than in the same period of May 2021 (22.9 million US dollars).

Violent Group Members Including Palavandishvili, Released on Bail

All seven people, including Guram Palavandishvili, detained during the June 6 rally by Putin's violent groups outside the EU office in Tbilisi, have been released.

They are known to have been taken to the police station for questioning for only a few hours, after which they were released on bail.

The violent groups held a rally in front of the EU Delegation Office yesterday.

Anti-Western groups demanded the expulsion of Georgian diplomats accredited from the country and had a banner with the relevant content on the ground.

The situation on the ground became tense when the protesters promised to burn the EU flag.

THURSDAY JUNE 16

Day Mostly sunny
High: 29°C

Night Partly clear
Low: 18°C

FRIDAY JUNE 17

Day Rain showers
High: 28°C

Night Partly cloudy
Low: 19°C

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