

## PM Garibashvili discusses recent fires in Georgia at the government sessions

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili, at the beginning of the government session, discussed the recent fires and their causes, noting that it is doubtful that the fires broke out in several regions at the same time. The Prime Minister added that the investigation should work in all directions and everything should be given an appropriate answer.

"Nothing is excluded, therefore the investigation should work in all directions. A comprehensive answer should be given to all versions and I know that it will be so," said Irakli Garibashvili.

"Too many people felt that the fires might have been caused by the carelessness of some people, or perhaps because of heatwaves. There are versions that there may be some sabotage. Nothing is excluded, since we know the nature of the destructive forces operating inside the country and their subversive tendencies."

Garibashvili thanked all those who participated in extinguishing the fires. He also thanked the Turkish side, which is helping us with a special firefighting plane.

"We are all very upset. We have been actively fighting the fire for the last 10 days. There were fires in practically all regions. I would like to point out that it is even doubtful that there were fires in several districts, regions at the same time, but I would like to point out that the Gomelauri agency managed this crisis very effectively. As you know, in my decision, the



defense forces were involved. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the process of this very difficult challenge.

Of course, our citizens know very well that the fire first spread in Borjomi, then it spread to different villages and districts, but it seems that it is practically lo-

calized and extinguished everywhere. I would also like to thank our friend Turkey and President Erdogan personally. As soon as our request for help was conveyed to him, he immediately gave the order and within 1 hour three planes were already in the air. Of course, we appreciate it

very much and Georgians will not forget this help," said the Prime Minister.

Irakli Garibashvili also urged citizens to be more careful:

"Here I would like to call on our citizens to be more careful in such a situation. Practically, there has been no rain in the

country for several weeks and the situation is very difficult. However, I would like to point out here that fires are started all over Europe, in America, everywhere, and we should take such matters more responsibly," said the Prime Minister.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

## Gov't to purchase three new helicopters, PM Garibashvili says

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili announced at the beginning of the government session, that the government of Georgia will buy three new helicopters.

As Garibashvili mentioned, according to the decision of the government, they will sell one expensive helicopter purchased during the previous government, which, according to his own assessment, was purchased for "luxuries".

According to the Prime Minister, the Gomelauri office is conducting active negotiations regarding this, in which the Ministry of Finance also takes part.

"The Gomelauri agency is now actively working on the purchase of three new helicopters. Al-



though all helicopters are absolutely in good condition, we pay a lot of attention to it, and we had a discussion about it. As you know, the state has one expensive, luxury helicopter, which was purchased by the previous government for the former president, and several tens of dollars or euros were paid for this helicopter. Our decision was that no one used this helicopter. I must emphasize here that despite the speculation that this helicopter is used in rescue operations, it is a lie. We had a discussion and made a decision that we will return this helicopter to its manufacturer or sell it and in return

we will purchase three new helicopters, which will be useful for various rescue or other operations. Active negotiations are now underway and the Ministry of Finance is also involved in this process," PM Garibashvili said.

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Levan Davitashvili at the briefing held after the end of the government session, when asked about the reasoning behind the decision of government purchasing new helicopters, he said:

"The situation today and years ago are as different as the sky and the earth in terms of

CONTINUED ON Page 2

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**'The place of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia in perspective is in Europe', says Olaf Scholz**

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, in his speech at the Karl University in Prague, once again confirmed Germany's strong



support for the EU enlargement policy and noted that the six

countries of the Western Balkans, as well as Ukraine, Moldova, in the future, Georgia should become members of the bloc.

"In the perspective of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and, of course, the six states of the Western Balkans, the place is with us, in the free, democratic part of Europe. Their joining the European Union is in our interests," said Scholz.

According to the German

chancellor, Germany continues to supply Ukraine with new weapons and the aim is to strengthen the armed forces of Ukraine further.

"In the coming weeks and months, we will send Ukraine new modern weapons, such as air defense and radar systems and aerial reconnaissance drones. The value of our latest package of weapons is 600 million euros. Our goal is a modern Ukrainian armed force that will be able to defend their country permanently." The German Chancellor said.

**Occupied Tskhinvali's so-called government accuses Georgia of violating airspace**

The so-called regime of the occupied Tskhinvali accused Georgia of violating of air space.

The so-called head of the border service of the State Security Committee (KGB) of the occupied Tskhinvali region Valery

Alikhant informed the leader Alan Gagloev about the alleged violation of the airspace by an unmanned aircraft.



"From August 21 to August 28, the situation on the border of South Ossetia and Georgia remained stable and predictable. The border patrol continues to record the activities of the representatives of the EU mission. They, together with the employees of the Ministry of Internal

Affairs of Georgia, carry out observation, and photo-video shooting in the border area from various positions, including using

unmanned aerial vehicles. Yesterday, at 10:15 p.m., an unmanned aerial vehicle flying from the Georgian villages of Sachkheri, Chorchan and violating the airspace in the territory of South Ossetia was observed in Uisa, a settlement of South Ossetia," Alikhant said.

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

training, equipment, technical equipment and helicopter training. The fleet of helicopters was renovated last year and the year before in order to fulfill the tasks before them today. May God protect us, but we are keeping reserves for more difficult challenges, so that if such challenges arise in the country, we will be ready,"

As Davitashvili explained, this helicopter should not be replaced with a luxury item, but with the type of flying equipment that will be used in rescue operations, emergency situations, or for other needs that the country has.

"This is a specific negotiation, a specific deal that the Prime Minister was talking about. There are negotiations with a specific manufacturer to replace this helicopter not with a luxury item, but with the type of aircraft that will be used in rescue

**Gov't to purchase three new helicopters, PM Garibashvili says**



operations, emergency situations, or other needs that the country has. There have been many speculations regarding this topic in recent days - where

is the state, are we prepared or not... I remember that I was actively involved in the process of extinguishing fires in 2017, I had to work in the field, and then the

country really had many challenges: equipment, training, preparation, etc. in the direction that fire changed a lot in the rescue services. The situation today

and years ago are as different as heaven and earth in terms of preparation, equipment, In terms of technical equipment and training of helicopters. The fleet of helicopters was renovated last year and the year before in order to fulfill the tasks before them today. God forbid, but we are keeping reserves for more difficult challenges, so that if such challenges arise in the country, we will be ready.

Today, fortunately, this process is under control and [the fire] is being localized. We must be prepared for the coming years and it is not that we do not have the means today. And the fact that we received international aid is an absolutely natural process. In the first days, I had a conversation with my colleagues, and the transport ministers of all the neighboring countries offered to help us in this regard. This is very natural, if we can, we should stand by our neighboring and partner countries," said Davitashvili.

Weather

Tuesday, August 30

Day ☀ Clear High: 35°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: 20°C

Wednesday, August 31

Day ☀ Clear High: 36°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: 21°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia  
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze

Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000  
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge  
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli

Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze

Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili

Layout Designer, Photographer

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# Art Alliance presenting Batumi -Tbilisi International Festival – “Night Serenades”

Giorgi Issakadze mentioned that he decided to republish Liana Isakadze’s book “Meditations”, which depicts her attitude toward people, Christian love, morality, and creativity.

Lela Surmanidze, Deputy Mayor of Batumi stated that the fact that the festival is of such high quality and importance in the cultural life of our country is the great merit of the musician Liana Isakadze.

The world-famous violinist and conductor Liana Isakadze’s book “Music Celebration-Meditations” has been published, a presentation of which took place in the Batumi-Tbilisi International Classical Music Festival “Night Serenades” at the House of Adjara Writers in Batumi.

After the concerts in Batumi, the festival will move to Tbilisi. On September 17-18, concert evenings dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and Georgia, France, and Georgia will be held at the Tbilisi State Conservatory.

Batumi-Tbilisi International Festival “Night Serenades” is supported by: the Tbilisi City Hall, the Batumi City Hall; the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara; the Embassy of Italy in Georgia, the Embassy of France in Georgia, the French Institute at the Embassy of France. The official insurer of the festival is the company “Ardi”

Partners of the festival: the furniture house “Nita” - the best guarantee of quality and design; the Company “Food Alliance”, the Chain of perfume stores “Lutecia”, the Perfume boutique “Aromateka”, the Company “Sarajshvili”, the “Khomlis Marani”, the Winery “Tiesvi”, the Pharmaceutical company “PSP”.

By MARIAM CHANISHVILI

Batumi-Tbilisi International Festival – “Night Serenades” presented its first concert in Batumi on August 25. Batumi Iliia Chavchavadze State Drama Theatre hosted the concerts on August 25-26.

The audience had the opportunity to listen to the famous German clarinetist Sabine Grofmeier and Katie Mahan.

Praised as “one of the most outstanding talents coming up today,” American

pianist Katie Mahan is capturing the attention of audiences worldwide.

Art Alliance is presenting Batumi-Tbilisi International Festival – “Night Serenades”. The founder of the festival is Liana Issakadze, the artistic director is Giorgi Issakadze, and the director of the festival is Nina Tsagareli.

This year’s festival participants include Andres Gabetta (violin, France), Gloria Campaner (piano, Italy), Alessandro Carbonare (clarinet, Italy), Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi (bandoneon, Italy), Sabine

Grofmeier (clarinet, Germany), Katie Mahan (piano, USA) and the base orchestra of the festival “Georgian Virtuosi”.

The Artistic Director, Giorgi Issakadze addressed the audience during the opening concert, reiterating the contribution and the merit of the festival’s founder, Liana Isakadze.

“This year the festival celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year, the guests of the festival are unique musicians who will pass on their experience to future generations,” he said.



Katie Mahan and Sabine Grofmeier

