

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze Condemns Vetting

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze responded to the information regarding two judges of the Supreme Court, Ekaterine Gasitashvili and Nino Bakakuri, stating, "They shouldn't talk about other people's integrity," in reference to their disagreement with the statement issued by the Supreme Court on Vetting.

Kobakhidze stated that according to the constitution, the only body responsible for checking the integrity of judges is the Supreme Council of Justice. He emphasized that anyone with concerns about potential law violations should approach the Supreme Council of Justice.

"As for the two judges of the Supreme Court, I think at least one of these two has a problem of integrity, based on the fact that one does not consider cases in due time, one is lazy. If there was a question of checking integrity, such judges should check their own, and they should not talk about the integrity of others, but this is the maximum statement I am going to make regarding the court. It is an independent branch. It is neither mine nor anyone else's job to check integrity

As for checking the integrity of judges - the only body, according to the constitution, which checks the integrity of judges, is the Supreme Council of Justice. Anyone who is interested in the integrity of judges and has certain doubts about violations of



law should contact the Supreme Council of Justice. Then let them see how correctly the Supreme Council of Justice investigates this issue. But there is no case. Therefore, they cannot apply to the Supreme Council of Justice

either. Therefore, it is empty talk," Kobakhidze said.

Kobakhidze pointed out that there's an unfounded campaign to discredit the judicial authorities, which is an attempt to interfere with the judiciary.

"As the head of one of the branches of the government, I find it categorically unacceptable to discredit the court's actions against the government without any valid arguments or justification. This is typically an attempt

to undermine the independence of the judiciary, which we cannot allow. The judiciary, like all other branches of the government, must remain independent and accountable only to the Georgian people," Kobakhidze stated.

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze Meets with Delegation from TAV Airports Holding

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Kobakhidze, met with a delegation from TAV Airports Holding, a member of the ADP group.

The discussion covered preparations for the upcoming summer season, including plans for new airlines entering the Georgian market soon. Emphasis was placed on the increasing tourism indicators and expectations for the current year, stressing the need for airport infrastructure to handle increased passenger flow comfortably.

Company managers briefed the Prime Minister on recent projects and highlighted plans for expanding the landing terminal to alleviate queues at border crossing points.

"The conversation covered the

preparations for the upcoming summer season, including plans for new airlines to enter the Georgian market in the near future.

There was emphasis on the growing indicators of tourism and the expectations for the current year. It was noted that it is essential for the airport infrastructure to be prepared to comfortably handle the increased passenger flow.

The company's managers informed the Prime Minister about the projects implemented in the last period and noted that the expansion of the landing terminal is planned in the near future. This expansion will help reduce queues at the border crossing point.

During the meeting, changes in the management of TAV Airports Holding were also discussed. It was noted that the French ADP group is the largest shareholder of the holding. Together with TAV Airports, they are represented in 108 airports across 29 countries worldwide," the statement reads.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia's Foreign Minister Meets US State Department's Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, met with Louis L.

Bono, the Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations at the United States State Department.

According to information from the Foreign Ministry, during the meeting, the parties discussed the current agenda of the strategic partnership between Georgia and the USA, as well as fu-

ture prospects for cooperation. "The strong support of the USA for the sovereignty and ter-

ritorial integrity of Georgia, as well as for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, was emphasized. The parties welcomed the historic decision to grant Georgia the status of an EU candidate country.

At the same time, attention was focused on the security challenges in the region and the world. The conversation touched on the difficult security and humanitarian situation created in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia.

The American side expressed its support for Georgia's peace policy regarding conflict settlement. In this context, the progress of international negotiations in Geneva was discussed," the statement reads.

Minister of Health, Mikheil Sarjveladze, Meets with Medical Staff of Republican Hospital

The newly appointed Minister of Health, Mikheil Sarjveladze,

met with the medical staff of the Republican Hospital.

The minister discussed the hospital's situation and received information about the challenges facing the clinic. The



health minister emphasized that the first task is to protect the interests of patients and the rights of medical personnel.

"At the meeting, they agreed on the format of future cooperation. Communication with the doctors about the problems re-

lated to the clinic and ways to solve them will continue. In the decision-making process regarding the mentioned issue, the interests of both the public and the medical personnel will be taken

into account in the most balanced manner," the statement reads.

For several months, doctors at the Central Republican Hospital have opposed the reorganization and demolition of the hospital, holding protests and marches.

Launching of the EU-Funded Food Bank Georgia Project

A Step Towards Sustainable Food Security

Tbilisi, March 13, 2024 - The launch event of the new EU-funded project "Civil Society Actors as Levers for a Sustainable Food System in Georgia" was held at Stamba Hotel.

In a significant stride towards combating food loss and waste and enhancing food security in Georgia, People in Need (PIN) Georgia, along with the European Union (EU), Czech Development Agency (CzDA) and key partners, celebrated the project's launch. The event gathered representatives from various governmental, non-governmental and international organisations, as well as the private sector.

Ms. Sofia Janjua, serving as the Country Director of PIN Georgia, opened the event with a welcome speech, underlining the project's importance and its capacity to bring about meaningful transformation. Mr. Catalin Gherman, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, representatives of the Czech De-

velopment Agency, government officials, and delegates from FAO and the European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) contributed their perspectives, underscoring the significance of establishing Georgia's first Food Bank as a sustainable initiative for ensuring food security and addressing the challenges of food loss and

waste prevention.

The EU-funded project will pilot a food bank initiative to address local food insecurity by redistributing unsold food items and will test the impact of the new Law on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, Food Recovery and Redistribution. It aims to reduce food waste, farm losses,

and greenhouse gas emissions, lowering food insecurity. Awareness-raising campaigns on food waste and loss will be conducted at the community level.

The keynote speakers also included Ms. Khatia Tsilosani - First Deputy Chairperson of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee

of the Georgian Parliament, Mr. Kakha Kakabadze - Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; Mr. Jumber Maruashvili - Senior Policy Advisor at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, Mr. Balazs Cseh - European Food Banks Federation (FEBA).

This initiative, which runs from 2023 to 2026, draws on PIN's and the Red Cross movement's global expertise in food security, waste management, and climate change mitigation. Additionally, the EU-supported project aims to empower local civil society actors to facilitate the identification of food-insecure individuals, the provision of food to vulnerable populations, cooperation with local farmers, and running awareness campaigns on food waste and food losses.

The EU and CzDA-funded project "Civil Society Actors as Levers for a Sustainable Food System in Georgia" is implemented in collaboration with the Georgia Red Cross (GRC), Parki ar Minda (PAM), and Eliots Sustainability, aimed to empower civil society actors to tackle the pressing issues of food waste and insecurity, with a specific focus on the Tskaltubo municipality.



Weather

Friday, March 15

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 16°C

Night Showers Low: 8°C

Saturday, March 16

Day Showers High: 12°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 6°C

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