

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Foreign Minister Ilya Darchiashvili Meets Brazilian Counterpart Mauro Vieira

During his official visit to Brazil, Georgia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ilya Darchiashvili, met with Brazil's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mauro Vieira.

According to information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the meeting, the ministers welcomed Darchiashvili's visit to Brazil after a long hiatus. They emphasized the special significance of this visit, given the global processes underway and the important regional roles of both countries.

Additionally, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Darchiashvili underscored the particular importance of partnership with Brazil for Georgia, in both bilateral and regional contexts.

"The ministers welcomed the intensive political dialogue between the foreign ministries of the two countries and reviewed the opportunities for cooperation in various sectors. Special attention was paid to the trade and economic direction. It was noted that Georgia is interested in developing ties with Brazil, as the world's leading economy, and fully demonstrating its economic potential. In this regard, the conversation touched on the importance of Georgia as a country carrying out the transit function connecting Europe and Asia, and the positive dynamics of its economic development. The ministers expressed interest in promoting regular contacts between business circles and facilitating the exchange of trade mission visits," the statement reads.

It was also noted in the statement that special attention was paid to granting Georgia the sta-



tus of a candidate country for EU membership. The parties reviewed the security challenges in the European region and the world. Mauro Vieira emphasized Brazil's strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Georgia's traditionally active cooperation with Latin Ameri-

can and Caribbean countries and Tbilisi's official involvement in various regional formats of South America were noted. Additionally, Georgia's activity in the unification of Portuguese-speaking countries, where Georgia serves as an associate observer, was emphasized.

The high-level cooperation es-

tablished between the two countries in the fields of people-to-people relations and culture was positively evaluated. This cooperation aids in increasing awareness of each other in Georgia and Brazil and in popularizing the cultural identity of these countries. The ministers welcomed the existing visa-free re-

gime between Georgia and Brazil and noted with satisfaction the growing trend of tourists from Brazil to Georgia.

The parties emphasized the special importance of the tourism industry for both countries and expressed their readiness to make efforts for further cooperation in this regard," the statement reads.

Georgia's Prosecutor's Office Seeks Extradition of Former Minister Zurab Adeishvili from Netherlands

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia has formally requested the Netherlands to arrest Zurab Adeishvili, former Minister of Justice of Georgia, and to extradite him to Georgia. According to them, the appeal was made on the basis of publicly disseminated information.

"The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, within the framework of its powers, implements all measures provided for by the law to bring individuals who have committed crimes in Georgia to face justice in Georgian courts, regardless of their location.

In this case as well, based on publicly disseminated information, the prosecutor's office appealed to the competent agencies of the Netherlands to arrest Zurab Adeishvili and extradite him to Georgia," the statement reads.

Adeishvili, adviser to the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, has joined the delegation from Ukraine, led by General Prosecutor Andrey Kostin, at the international conference "Restoring Justice for Ukraine," hosted by the Netherlands. During their visit, they also met with the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands. Notably, Adeishvili, who faces several criminal cases in Georgia, recently visited the Bundestag and the European Parliament. He left Georgia in 2012.

According to the prosecutor's office, Zurab Adeishvili is accused of torture of prisoners, the murder of Buta Robakidze, assaulting Koba Davitashvili, and involvement in other criminal cases.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Public Defender Says Proposed Abolition of Gender Quotas Disregards Women's Equality Progress

"The gender quota mechanism is not a privilege granted to women, but an important tool for eliminating discriminatory attitudes towards women, fighting stereotypes, and fulfilling international obligations.

Women face invisible barriers every

agencies, ensuring that women's needs and measures promoting gender equality are prioritized on the agenda," Public Defender stated.

Judge Madona Maisuradze Claims Husband's Dismissal from Public Service Due to Her Vetting Stance

The Department of Common Courts of the Supreme Council of Justice labeled Madonna Maisuradze's statement as 'baseless' and 'a lie'. According to the department, Giorgi Chemia systematically failed to show up for work or left after only half a day of work.

"We offered him, like other employees, to show up to work on time and work with a full workload (equal to his colleagues),



The Public Defender of Georgia criticized the draft law introduced in the Parliament of Georgia, which aims to abolish gender quotas through proposed changes to the election code, stating that the planned legislative changes disregard the progress that women have achieved through their long-term struggle for equality.

day, which can be eliminated, and substantial equality in the country can be achieved by improving the proportion of mandatory gender quotas and implementing other supportive measures.

For the democratic development of the country, it is necessary for the voices of women to be clearly heard in the country's legislative body and other policy-making



Judge Madona Maisuradze claims that her husband was fired from public service because of her stance on checking the integrity of the judges.

Maisuradze told Netgazeti that her husband, Giorgi Chemia, formerly a judge and specialist in the General Courts Department, "was asked to answer for his wife's actions and was forced to leave."

to which he refused, saying that this schedule was unacceptable for him and he would not be able to work intensively. Afterward, he made the decision to leave the job himself. Therefore, it is a lie that someone forced him to terminate his employment contract, and this is a targeted discrediting attempt," the statement reads.

Photo exhibition aims to raise awareness of landmine contamination in Ukraine

With co-funding from the EU and other international partners, UNDP in Ukraine has opened an exhibition by photographer Giles Duley on the occasion of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, Giles Duley said its purpose was to inspire action to improve the mine-contamination situation in Ukraine.

"With this exhibition I hope to bring home the realities of landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination in Ukraine," Duley said. "All I ask is that as governments, NGOs,



business, and individuals, we all ask ourselves this question: Are we doing all we can to make sure the legacy for future generations is one of peace and safety in a landmine free Ukraine?"

Duley, the UN Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations, was seriously injured while working in Afghanistan in 2011. He lost three limbs to an improvised explosive device.

Ukraine is currently the most heavily mined country in the world, and the exhibition is dedicated to the people who are working in various ways to make Ukraine safe and free of mines and unexploded ordnance. It also aims to raise awareness of mine action and mine victim assistance.

The exhibition – titled 'Defining Futures: People, Tech and Teams for a Mine-Free Ukraine' – is open until 7 April at the Museum of the History of Kyiv. From 4 to 19 April, it will also be shown outdoors on St. Sophia's Square in the centre of Kyiv.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, April 3

Day Partly Cloudy High: 23°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 11°C

Thursday, April 4

Day Partly Cloudy High: 21°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 9°C

published by The Messenger

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

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact. All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia's English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

ESU Public Speaking Competition 2024

The main goal of the English Speaking Union (ESU) is promoting friendship and understanding through the English language.

ESU is more than 100 years old. Over the last century, the English-Speaking Union has become a unique global educational charity that brings together people of different languages and cultures. ESU is involved in many cultural and educational programmes. The most popular is the International Public Speaking Competition. It is the largest public speaking competition in the world. It involves 1 000,000 young speakers, between 16-20, from over 50 countries. Through the international final in London, students from around the world have the opportunity to meet, form friendships and understanding that will last a lifetime.

Georgia joined the English Speaking Union in 1998. Since then, for 26 years running, ESU-Georgia has been organizing ESU Public Speaking Competition.

ESU-Georgia is sponsored by the Bank of Georgia.

In her speech Marina Tsitsishvili, the President of

ESU-Georgia said:

“We can already boast that we have our own history and statistics:

1. First of all, we must say that the popularity of this competition, as well as, the number of speakers taking part in it is growing every year. If at our first Public Speaking Competition, in 1998, we had only 10 speakers and two of them went to London, this year there were about one hundred.

2. Secondly, we must admit that the level of the speakers’ English and their skills in public speaking has improved considerably.

3. Our statistics also show that young ladies in Georgia are more active and hard-working than young men. In 25 years of our history we sent to London 38 young speakers to participate in the final, in London. Only 8 of them were boys.

But this year we were surprised to notice that young Georgian males are waking up. If we judge by the number of boys who got to the final this year, this tendency is promising. The level of speakers was so good that it was difficult to choose the best.”

12 speakers took part in the



final of ESU-Georgia Public Speaking Competition this year.

The members of the jury were:

- 1. Ms. Clare Allbless, Deputy Ambassador, British Embassy
- 2. Mr. Steven Quanttrill, British Defence Attache to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
- 3. Ms. Eavan Cully, Cultural Attache, American Embassy
- 4. Iva Fezuashvili, a writer,

winner of Saba and Tsinandali Prizes

5. Guga Sukhiashvili, Bank of Georgia

6. Marina Tsitsishvili, MBE, ESU-Georgia President

This year’s theme was: “A great leader can change the world in an instant”

The winner is - Bachana Ugrekhelidze

The Runner-up-Nini Gaprindashvili

The third prize winner – Saba Karamazashvili

Bachana Ugrekhelidze will go to London on 13th of May to participate in the International final together with representatives from more than 50 countries.

Good luck, Bachana!



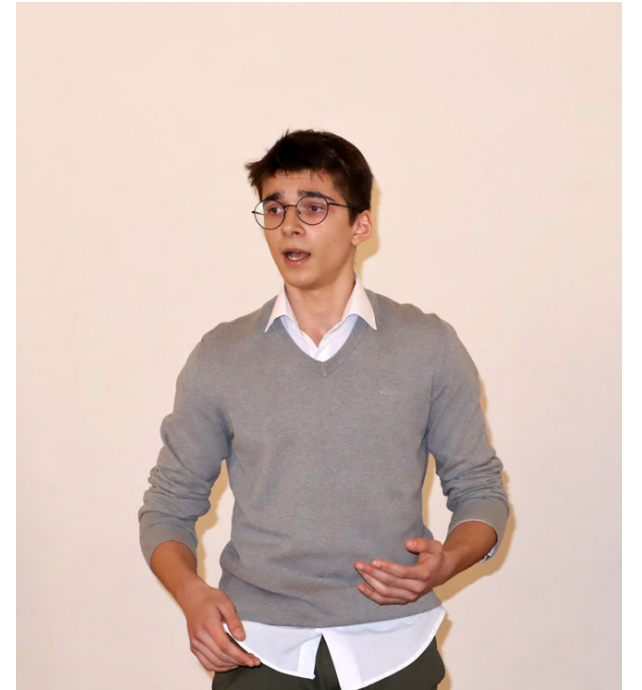
The winner - Bachana Ugrekhelidze



From the left: Ms. Marina Tsitsishvili, Iva Fezuashvili, Ms. Eavan Cully, Guga Sukhiashvili, Ms. Clare Allbless and Mr. Steven Quanttrill









The Runner-up-Nini Gaprindashvili



The third prize winner – Saba Karamazashvili

