

## Georgia, Kazakhstan Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership as Kobakhidze Continues Central Asian Tour

By MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Dream Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze and a senior cabinet delegation arrived in Kazakhstan on June 29 for talks with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, capping a third official Central Asian trip in under a month.

The visit follows top-level Georgian delegations to Kyrgyzstan on June 11-12 and Tajikistan on June 19-20, both described as first-ever visits at that level.

At Astana's airport, the delegation was received by Kazakhstan's Transport Minister Nurlan Sauranbayev. Kobakhidze was accompanied by Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili, Economy Minister Mariam Kvrivishvili, Agriculture Minister Davit Songhulashvili and Government Administration Head Levan Zhorzholiani.

The two leaders held an initial one-on-one meeting before expanded talks involving members of both governments, with discussions centering on trade, transport and logistics, tourism and high-level political relations. Both sides pointed to the Middle Corridor as a growing priority, stressing what they called the "importance of connectivity" between their countries.

The visit saw Prime Minister Kobakhidze and President Tokayev sign a Strategic Part-



nership Agreement, alongside separate memorandums between relevant agencies covering culture, information technology, and tourism, according to the Georgian government administration.

Kobakhidze called the agreement a "significant milestone" in

bilateral relations, praised Tokayev's leadership and invited him to visit Georgia. He also thanked Tokayev for supporting Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and noted the role of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Coopera-

tion in advancing ties between the two countries.

Tokayev, for his part, called Georgia a "trusted" and "utterly reliable" partner, framing the elevation of relations as "a historic decision that serves the fundamental interests of our peoples

and creates a strong foundation for further expanding cooperation between our two countries." He also praised what he described as Georgia's "impressive results" in democratic institutions, economic growth, and its international role.

## Gakharia Party Demands Investigation Into Parliamentary Brawl, Calls Law Enforcement 'Criminally Silent'

By MESSENGER STAFF

Berdia Sichinava, Executive Secretary of Gakharia for Georgia, held a briefing on June 29, calling for a criminal investigation into the June 26 parliamentary brawl, which the party characterized as a premeditated group attack organized by Georgian Dream MPs.

Three days have passed since the incident, Sichinava said, and law enforcement has yet to act. "We would like to remind them that the grave crime committed by the Dream MPs against members of the Georgian Parliament, namely the pre-organized, group attack on MPs during the performance of their official duties, in connection with their activities, is punishable by up to 12 years in prison, and no amount of hypocritical apologies can help this, which they committed only because of the public's reaction and not because they regret the crime they committed," he said.

Sichinava noted that under current legislation, media coverage of a crime is sufficient legal grounds to open an investigation, yet no such announcement has

been made.

He also drew a broader comparison with what he described as selective justice, referencing cases of young people held in pretrial detention on what he called fabricated charges, and the sentencing of journalist Mzia Amaglobeli. "A mother of 4 children was sentenced to 2 years for writing on a banner with a marker," he said. "In these circumstances, it is not only a political and legal, but also a moral obligation for us to fight to the end, for each victim of Dream's violence."

The June 26 brawl broke out during a parliamentary session after Gakharia party MP Giorgi Sharashidze addressed Kobakhidze and Georgian Dream deputies from the rostrum, referencing Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's recent visit to Georgia. Sharashidze noted that during Aliyev's meeting with Bidzina Ivanishvili, Kobakhidze was standing in the corner, which he said reflected the prime minister's actual standing. Georgian Dream MPs responded with loud shouts, a physical fight broke out in the chamber, and the live parliamentary broadcast was cut.

