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2012 Draft Budget Rejection Could be Grounds for Snap Election

By Gvantsa Gabekhadze

An initial discussion of the 2012 state budget was held in parliament on October 20. According to the Minister of Finance Dimitri Gvindadze "the budget project 100% ensures fiscal stability and is oriented towards results". However, the parliamentary minority did not share the government's claims and says that "the project is not up to standard". At the same time a definite part of the opposition and analysts admit that the budget will be rejected and this will serve as a reason for the authorities and the president to appoint snap elections.

"The main emphasis of the 2012 state budget has shifted to



Minister of Finance Dimitri Gvindadze has been discussing the 2012 budget which has drawn criticism from the opposition: rejecting the budget could be grounds for calling a snap election

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgian manuscripts included in UNESCO Heritage

Georgian historical manuscripts have been included in a list of UNESCO heritage. This collection is of an enormous importance as it is widely acknowledged that Georgian manuscript heritage contains unique material of Byzantine cultural development.

These works have preserved samples lost in Greek and other languages, while preserving important references to Byzantine authors that replenish the life and work of those writers and unknown writers of Byzantine literary history. This collection is unique and is deemed to transcend the boundaries of time and culture. Some of the translations are unique as the originals no longer exist and scientists rely on these translations for research.

Georgia submitted the manuscripts to UNESCO several months ago within the project entitled Memory of the World.

†(Rustavi 2)

New Agriculture Minister Appointed



Bakur Kvezereli has been removed from his post as Minister of Agriculture after six years at the ministry, he is replaced by Zaza Gorozia

By Salome Modebadze

Zaza Gorozia replaced the Minister of Agriculture Bakur Kvezereli on October 20. Gorozia, who will start active work in the near future said that the "main priorities in the agricultural sector have been successfully defined by the former minister, but specialists will start working in all regions to elaborate methods for getting more from the harvest". Emphasizing that Kvezereli would remain in the govern-

mental team and continue working Prime Minister Nika Gilauri stressed the need for a "new vision and new energy in the agricultural sector".

"I want to thank Bakur for his work. For six years he worked at the Ministry of Agriculture and for three years, he worked as the minister. He did a lot of good things, solved the problem of the vintage, improved the situation in the agriculture sector in general including export of products, but we

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Saakashvili Predicts 7% GDP Growth in 2011

By Messenger Staff

On October 19 President Mikheil Saakashvili, during a meeting with a group of public officials, assessed the results of the Centre for Law and Democracy according to which from 80 countries Georgia comes in second place according to ratings of budget information availability. Only New Zealand scored higher.

"Nothing has recently made me so happy as the survey results by the Centre for Law and Democracy", President Saakashvili said. "The survey precisely depicts the achievements the Georgia's state apparatus has. This success was caused by the reforms we are carrying out", he added. The Ask Your Government! 6 Question Campaign - was the name of the campaign, in the fames of which the researcher organizations requested information from various budgetary structures, without being notified about the survey in advance.

Talking about Georgia's economy and GDP the president stated that Georgia's 2011 second quarter real GDP growth slowed to 4.7% year-on-year, after an increase of 5.8% in the previous three months. Real GDP growth in the first half of this year was 5.2% and the growth was 6.6% in the same period for last year. Saakashvili also said that this year the economy will have growth of 7%. "Our economy is growing contrary to negative trends in the rest of the world," he added.

Saakashvili said everyone should think about where Georgia was 6 or 7 years ago and where the country is now, how the police worked years ago, the creation of the new Houses of Justice, which, the president said, foreign visitors always find amazing.

"When I asked you a few years ago to make exhibitions in order to show the population what each state office does, many of you found it quite surprising then. The

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Snow depth reaches 15cm in Kazbegi

A day after a fall of temperature across Georgia, snow has fallen in Georgia's remote region of Kazbegi. Snow reached 15cm deep there Thursday morning. Movement is prohibited for vehicles on the 68th and 106th sections of the main highway towards the Kazbegi region.

Weather forecasters say bad weather will continue throughout the country Thursday. It will snow in the mountains and rain is expected for the rest of the country. Strong winds will blow for the whole day. Forecasters do not expect any weather improvement for the next two days.

(Rustavi 2)

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