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Georgia's New Politics: Government Stays the Same, Lari Deflates

The Parliamentary elections have created a legislature of three groups – the ruling Georgian Dream coalition, which has an overwhelming majority (117 seats of its own and 2 others supported by it), the Patriotic Alliance of Georgia (6 seats) and the formerly-ruling United National Movement (27 seats).



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Georgia's New Politics: Government Stays the Same, Lari Deflates

By Dr. VAKHTANG MAISAIA, Specially from Munich, Germany

The Parliamentary elections have created a legislature of three groups – the ruling Georgian Dream coalition, which has an overwhelming majority (117 seats of its own and 2 others supported by it), the Patriotic Alliance of Georgia (6 seats) and the formerly-ruling United National Movement (27 seats). The leading party has allocated to its own members key positions such as Chair (Speakers) of Parliament (Party Secretary-General Irakli Kobakhidze), the various Committee Chairs, the First Deputy Chair of each committee and three Vice-Speakers.

The new parliament has approved the new government presented by Giorgi Kvirikashvili, and it is very like the previous one, as only three ministers have changed – those of Finance, Agriculture and Euro-

Atlantic and European Affairs. The State Ministry for Diaspora Affairs has been abolished, as its annual budget was only \$1 million and it had already completed all its important projects.

This government is going to be more technical in nature, not equipped to pursue the serious reforms which would help the economic and social development of the country. Unfortunately the ruling party has not been able to make any significant change in the political and economic life of the country. The reconstituting of the "old" government in the new parliament has actually made things worse: it has caused further deflation of the Lari, which is now worth less than ever.

At the time being the GEL-USD exchange rate is far worse than that which was determined by the so-called "Currency Exchange Corridor" which set a maximum exchange rate relative to the so-called "hard currencies", like the Euro, Dollar, etc.,

which was then endorsed by the National Bank and other financial state institutions. Since May 2016 the Corridor and the Georgian National Bank has used the rate of - \$1 = 2.38-42 Georgian Lari. However, due to several objective and subjective factors the Corridor has collapsed, and a replacement mechanism has yet to be defined.

Based on current realities, the new Corridor rate is likely to be more like \$1 = 2.5-2.55 Georgian Lari. This is the situation new Minister of Finance Dmitry Kumsishvili, who is a macro-economic specialist by education and not a financial manager, has to deal with. As the effective rate has reached 2.50 GEL to the USD further price inflation is inevitable, particularly for staples like food and fuel, and this will obviously have further economic impact.

However, it is reasonable to ask why this deflation is taking place, as it is by no means inevitable. Several factors are at



play. Amongst the most prominent are the following:

- The long Parliamentary election campaign, from June 8 till October 8, brought more than 30 million Lari onto the financial markets. However it used to bring in around 50 million. This means that a huge amount of money was put in circulation and created excessive critical money masses, which have greatly contributed to promoting a negative pattern for the national currency;

- The tourist season has ended, and only a few tourists are coming to Georgia with "hard currency" in their pockets. A shortage of dollars and Euros to underpin the economy has also affected the Lari;

- The Georgian National Bank's attempts at financial market stabilisation have been ineffective, and the latest intervention, an injection of \$60 million, has not helped;

- Georgia's foreign debt is more than 45% of GDP, at \$15

billion, and debt repayments are also affecting the national currency. It is known that the Georgian government is paying a number of debts in November-December, and as these repayments must be in USD this takes a big chunk of hard currency out of the economy.

These are the main reasons why the Georgian Lari is depreciating, and this process seems likely to continue. In such circumstances, reforms become more difficult to make.

NEWS

ECONOMY MINISTER-DESIGNATE SPEAKS OF PRIORITIES

Giorgi Gakharia, who has been nominated as new Economy Minister, named rapid economic growth, improved employment rates and reduced trade gap as three key challenges addressing of which "will enable us to transform Georgian economy from the economy of challenges to the economy of possibilities."

Giorgi Gakharia, who had been involved in business sector before becoming Georgia's business ombudsman in 2013, laid out the priorities on November 24 at a joint session of several parliamentary committees, held as part of ongoing confirmation hearings for the cabinet.

"Georgian economy is developing in very difficult conditions. I mean the foreign factors faced by us," Gakharia said.

"But we are not in the position to blame foreign factors for everything; there are certain internal moments, which also hamper economic development and these challenges should be addressed adequately," he said.

Government's forecast for 2016 economic growth stands at 3%, but the International Monetary Fund that visited Georgia on November 15-22, reduced this forecast to 2.7%. Economy grew 2.6% in the first nine months of this year, according to Geostat.



Gakharia also said that in the capacity of the minister he will focus on improvement of business environment, including through the involvement of private sector in legislative process and easing administration that "should be a permanent process."

"Foreign direct investment acceleration and creation of business environment that will promote attraction of investments is

utterly important for us," he told lawmakers at the committee hearing.

He also said that the country should fully unleash its export potential in frames of DCFTA with the European Union and free trade agreement planned with China.

Among other priorities Gakharia also named tourism promotion, transport development and prolongation of those state programs, which "promote entrepreneurship."

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TBILISI VOWS EFFORTS TO HAVE INTERPOL 'RED NOTICE' FOR ABKHAZ BORDER GUARD SERVICEMAN CHARGED OVER KHURCHA FATAL SHOOTING

The Georgian authorities spare no efforts to convince Interpol to issue so called 'red notice' and put Abkhaz border guard serviceman, suspected of killing Giga Otkhзорia, a Georgian citizen, on its wanted list, the Georgian Interior and Justice Ministers said on November 24.

Giga Otkhзорia was shot dead on the Georgian-controlled territory at the Khurcha-Nabakevi crossing point between the breakaway Abkhazia and rest of Georgia on May 19. CCTV footage from the scene shows the moment Otkhзорia, a native of the Gali district who lived in the town of Zugdidi, was shot. Military court in breakaway Abkhazia ordered on June 23 house arrest for Rashid Kanji-Ogli pending trial on charges of premeditated murder of the Georgian citizen. The Georgian Prosecutor's Office has also charged him with murder.

Interior Minister Giorgi Mgebrishvili said that the work is underway with Interpol to put Rashid Kanji-Ogli on its wanted list. "Let's wait for the results," he said.

"The process has been launched and in this particular case, we hope for more support from Interpol," Justice Minister Tea Tsulukiani said.

"This tragedy is one of the priority issues for the Georgian state and our efforts are aimed to achieve punishment for the perpetrator; it is essential to prevent similar cases in future," State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Ketevan

Tsikhelashvili said adding that this issue is regularly raised during Gali IPRM meetings.

These remarks were made at the committee hearings into nominated cabinet on November 24 after UNM lawmaker Giga Bokeria asked them about the measures implemented in connection with Otkhзорia's murder and slammed the Interior Minister for not mentioning even a word about "increasing crime rate, terrorism, hate-motivated crimes, kidnapping of our citizens and Otkhзорia's terrible murder."

"The crime rate has not increased in Georgia. These oral statements look like a gossip," Mgebrishvili responded.

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GEORGIAN LARI HITS ALL-TIME LOW AGAINST DOLLAR

Georgian national currency, Lari (GEL) hit a record low against U.S. dollar on November 25 after falling to 2.5026. GEL was trading at 2.4852 against dollar a day earlier.



GEL's previous all-time low of 2.4985 per U.S. dollar was recorded in January 2016. Georgian currency started depreciation in November 2014.

The National Bank's October 12 intervention was the last one, when it sold USD 40 million. Since the start of this year the central bank sold total of USD 240 million and bought USD 278.35 million in 23 interventions.

Gross international reserves stood at USD 2.760 billion as of October, down from USD 2.858 billion a month earlier and up from USD 2.449 billion a year

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World Diabetes Day was Celebrated in Georgia



world diabetes day
14 November



World Diabetes Day

On November 14 the World Diabetes Day Conference was held in Tbilisi to mark the 25th annual World Diabetes Day, which was instituted in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organisation.

World Diabetes Day is part of a global awareness campaign of the growing threat posed by diabetes. It is celebrated by numerous non-government organisations, public and private institutions in over a hundred countries. The main campaign topic for 2016 is diabetes and sight.

The four-part conference was attended by the leading specialists who shared their experience. It outlined cost efficient solutions for persons with undiagnosed diabetes and at high risk of contracting diabetes mellitus. Professor Ramaz Kurashvili, Director of the National Centre for Diabetes Research, gave an overview of the risk-factors and prevalence of diabetes.

The Georgian Times interviewed Professor Kurashvili, who is also Chairman of the Georgian Union of Diabetes and Endocrinological Associations and founder of the magazine Diabetes and Health, regarding the importance of the conference and its main objectives.

“Diabetes Mellitus is a chronic endocrinological disease which cannot be cured but can be brought under control. That is why we need to focus on priorities such as diabetes prevention and diagnostics. There are 200,000 diabetes patients in Georgia, and half are adults.

“This year’s activities were focused on the importance of screening for type 2 diabetes, which helps us to change the course of diabetes and minimise the risks of complications. Screening is the major component of controlling type 1 and type 2 diabetes. According to

the data obtained by the International Diabetes Federation in 2015, more than 193 million adults in the world are not aware of the fact they have type 2 diabetes. Early diagnostics allows us to begin treatment at an early stage, and as a result, the number of harmful and costly complications are reduced. Patients with type 2 diabetes do not notice any symptoms and do not know anything about their illness for years, nonetheless, their high levels of blood sugar secretly affect the whole body during this time. Therefore timely screening and diagnostics and appropriate treatment are of vital importance.

“Diabetes mellitus is a major cause of blindness, cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and lower extremity amputation. 1/3 of the people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes have eye problems which may lead to blindness. Raising the awareness of timely screening to reduce complications is of paramount importance. The key message of World Diabetes Day for 2016 is timely screening”.

Professor Kurashvili spoke at length about the achievements attained in fight against diabetes in Georgia.



Professor Ramaz Kurashvili,
Director of the National Centre for Diabetes Research

“Our country has achieved particular success in the provi-

sion of insulin injections. All insulin users in Georgia are provided with free, highest quality insulin preparations by the government. These are produced by the world’s largest insulin producers, Sanofi-Aventis and Novonordisk. Not one Georgian has died due to a shortage of insulin. The Ministry of Health plays a positive role in this process, which is of the utmost importance. It works productively in this area and responds promptly to any issue.

“The Diabetes Association of Georgia and the anti-diabetes drug producers also help raise awareness amongst doctors as well as patients. Their joint conferences and seminars have served to inform the public.

All of us working in this field are united around the same goal: prevention of serious complications in diabetes and provision of timely and correct treatment. We are so successful in this field that we can say that we are the leaders in the whole region”.

GT also interviewed Teimuraz Margvelashvili, Manager of the Diabetes Group of the Georgian branch of the leading

at length about the tasks and objectives of pharmaceutical companies fighting against diabetes.



Teimuraz Margvelashvili,
Manager of the Diabetes Group of the Georgian branch of the leading anti-diabetes drug producer Sanofi-Aventis.

“The leading pharmaceutical companies are committed to creating both effective and safe drugs, which are necessary for both doctor-specialists and patients. The close contacts and cooperation between the doctors, with their high practice skills, and the companies ensures scientific progress and the production of drugs which improve the quality of life of patients and are effective in the management of such chronic diseases as diabetes mellitus.

“The world of diabetology and our company have been closely connected for decades. Two years after insulin was discovered in 1921, our company started producing it. We offer a rich basket of anti-diabetic drugs, from tablets to insulin analogues produced using the latest technologies.

“The main goals of drug production are safety, quality and accessibility. Biotechnological drug production is a very complex process, and insulin is more

sensitive than the other chemically-synthesized compounds.

“Studies show that there is an essential difference between

published in December 2012. This covers not only insulin preparations but insulin analogues as well. The textbook clearly defines the pre-clinical and clinical research lists and requirements.

“The substitution of original drugs with similar biological products is prohibited in the vast majority of European countries where the EMA regulations run (including France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Several other countries have the same policy, including Canada, Australia, Turkey, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. An official list of medicines which cannot be substituted with similar biological products, which includes insulin, has been published in European countries such as Denmark, Finland, Norway, Hungary and Slovakia.

“The decision whether to use similar biological products in clinical practice should focus on safety, which will be demonstrated via clinical examinations. As the currently available similar biological products are at odds with the equivalence standards, the substitution of original drugs with bio-similar medicines is not yet justified.

“Given the relevance of this issue, the Association of Pharmaceutical Representations in Georgia organized a special conference on June 5, which discussed the existing international norms and the peculiarities of the regulation of bio-tech medicinal products based on recommendations provided by the European Medicine Agency and the World Health Organization. A special guest of the conference, European Medicine Agency expert and Professor of Pharmacology Bruno Flamioni, delivered a comprehensive report on this issue which evoked keen interest. This conference was attended by leading specialists, Health Ministry experts and members of the Health Committee of the Parliament of Georgia”.

the original drugs and new but similar biological products in terms of effectiveness and safety. However, despite all this evidences the threat of substituting original drugs with bio-similar medicines is still high, due to the latter’s low price. This requires the revision of bio-tech drug selling regulations at the legislative level.

“European Medicines Agency regulations make sure that bio-similar drugs are not identical copies of the original medicines; accordingly, bio-similar are not analogues of the original drugs but independent biological agents. Consequently, the EMA requires that they are registered as such.

“The revised version of the Guidelines on the non-clinical and clinical development of similar biological medicinal products containing recombinant human insulin and insulin analogues for evaluating the similar biological medicinal products management was

“I am proud to make the Georgian product Chirchkhela”

Chirchkhela is a new Georgian dried fruit brand. Though a wide range of products appears under its Owl logo, its slogan is very simple – “Enjoy”.

Here GT interviews Guri Guka Salukvadze, its 25-year old founder.

Where did the idea for Chirchkhela come from?

This sector does not have the traditions that others have. It was something I had to start from new. Eventually one thing simply led to another and I couldn't get the idea of working in agriculture out of my head.

I have always had a healthy lifestyle, and despite my busy schedule I still pay frequent visits to gyms, where trainers put us through various exercises and nutritionists provide dietary supplements. Dried fruit plays a pretty significant part in these.

Dried fruit is a delicacy, and so is hard to find at both good quality and reasonable price. So I decided to create something valuable, a natural product wholesome and enjoyable for people of my age, for kids and for those who want healthy snacks.

Dried fruit contains calcium,



has high energy value, enhances concentration, improves memory, has healing features and makes a great gift.

How did you turn your idea into a business?

I undertook trainings, masterclasses and consultations with professionals in the field. Then we developed our product range, and now we manufacture a variety of Georgian dried fruits such as prunes, figs, peaches, apples, kiwi, melons, watermelons and grapes. We also produce tasty Georgian “Tlkapi” and offer exotic fruits such as pineapples.

“Chirchkhela” Dried fruits are organic and without concentrates, and are thus at the top of the range. Our Head Tech-

nologist sets and strictly controls product quality.

Your trademark is rather unusual: why “Owl”?

Our owl is a very interesting and creative logo, as I wanted. I did not need to discuss the logo much when we worked on the branding, but we had lots of suggestions about the name. I decided on Chirchkhela as this name captures the Georgian spirit. After we had set our objectives our designer came up with the logo. Our Brandbook is very much liked by everyone, and this is just the beginning, as I am supporting of unconventional marketing.

Did you get any funding from the government?

No, this is our family business and we created “Chirchkhela” with our own funds, but I intend to participate in state programmes in order to grow the business further. We plan to introduce another important innovation in the dried fruit industry which, with your permission, I will not reveal at this time.

Where is your product available?

Information about it went viral with surprising dynamics, and catering and events service companies made contact with us and embassies started making orders. Chirchkhela is attractive to foreigners by name and content. We receive private and corporate orders, prepare



gift baskets and cases and also offer home delivery. We have obtained a number of New Year gift orders from various companies.

Chirchkhela is a high quality organic product with a distinctive design, creative packaging and standard prices.

How can interested persons contact you?

Our Facebook page “chirchkhela” advertises our entire product range. The webpage www.chirchkhela.ge is under construction. Those interested in making orders can call 571 11 12 33

Can you outline your future plans?

Demand is rather high. A Chirchkhela store will soon be opened in the central district of Vake. Our products are displayed in fitness halls and through various marketing networks, and we are in the pro-

cess of meeting export regulations.

We held a Chirchkhela presentation & tasting on November 10, at the Georgian Times/GORBI national business awards ceremony - an event attended by the leading figures of Georgia's top companies, ministers, ambassadors, government officials and media representatives. This once again proved the significance of our product, and that a Georgian, natural and wholesome product is vitally important for our customers.

Chirchkhela received high assessments at the ceremony; I am proud to make a Georgian product customers are satisfied with. It is the outcome of round-the-clock toil, but everything is still ahead of us. We are ready for business partnerships and interesting challenges.

“Life is tasty, enjoy Chirchkhela”



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“We started with Borjomi, but Rixos is also coming to Tbilisi and looking at Batumi”

Here GT interviews Derya Goksan, the newly-appointed GM of Rixos Borjomi

You have just been appointed the Head of Rixos Borjomi. Can you tell us your first steps?

For every newly-appointed GM the first step is always to look into sales and marketing issues, so I started by concentrating on the market, pricing and competitors. The second step is to assess the advantages we have and our competitors don't, or which they have and we don't. As Rixos is known around the world everything it does should be at the same level and have the same standards, so we are trying to bring up everything up to the Rixos standards, including accommodation, services, sales and marketing – that is one of the primary issues.

What kind of visions, development strategy and novelties will you introduce as a new manager?

We have a sales and marketing team at Rixos Borjomi, and a Head Office in Tbilisi, which work both locally and internationally – they attend international fairs and local promotional shows and conduct direct sales. My role basically consists of promoting the surrounding area instead of Rixos alone, because if we are going to sell Rixos Borjomi the area it is in is the main issue. It would be very difficult to promote Rixos Borjomi alone, but promoting it along with Borjomi is more effective. We also have some projects going in Bakuriani, so if we can get this done it will help the wider region. Everyone knows that the Romanovs' summer palace is situated in Borjomi, within our premises. There is some discussion about its renovation, and I believe that if this happens it would be perfect for the area, for Borjomi and for Rixos.

As Rixos is one of the highest standard hotel groups around the world we also have personnel standards – we are giving our staff training and study sessions to help them reach these standards. This will help the sector as a whole, as

we can see in countries like the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Egypt. They see Rixos as a school, and if you have a Rixos background you are better off – you don't have any problem when you want to find a job elsewhere in the tourism industry. The same is happening in Borjomi, since it is one of the Rixos hotels. We work on our employees, and when they reach the Rixos standards and want to further their careers in another country and gain experience we arrange for them to be employed in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Croatia, Switzerland, Kazakhstan or Russia – wherever a Rixos hotel is. Our employees have a great chance because each employee has the same level of knowledge of each and every Rixos hotel around the world.

What can you say about the business climate in this country, and how successful is its tourism policy?



Being in Georgia is quite an interesting experience for me. I have seen different parts of the world – Europe, the Middle East, the United States and the Far East, but Georgia is interesting. I first came here two

years ago as a tourist. I liked the city, the country and the people. As someone who has been around the world, including the former Soviet countries, I find that Georgians are different, much easier to deal with, and this comes from the culture. I am just pleased to be here. From the business viewpoint much still needs to be done for tourism in Georgia, but though it is a new field it is growing fast. When I see the city of Tbilisi and places such as Bakuriani I see a lot of hotel construction going on. Many hotel projects are also underway in Batumi. Tourism is a big sector around the world and now people in Georgia realise it. In Turkey people never saw tourism as a sector – the automotive industry was a sector, the textile industry was a sector, but they never saw tourism as a sector. However, tourism is one of the biggest sectors in the world and is grow-



because Georgians are learning and moving up. Now I see many expats, like myself, at the upper management levels, but I am sure that in the near future we will see Georgians there since they are picking up quick-

group, with about 25 hotels in different parts of the world – we are present in Croatia (Dubrovnik), Switzerland (Davos) and Turkey (ten hotels) and also Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Georgia, Russia, Kazakh-

stan and many other places. We have a Far East expansion project and we are growing in the Middle East and Europe as well. So we are a well-known international upper level hotel group. We started here with Borjomi,

What innovations do you offer your customers?

but Rixos is also coming to Tbilisi and we are looking at Batumi. We see a potential in Georgia and believe in it.

What we offer at Rixos may not be known to many companies in Georgia, but some, especially those based in Tbilisi, have already discovered it and started having meetings and seminars at Rixos Borjomi. We are providing this service to national and especially international companies. Another thing I have realised since I came to Georgia is that there is quite a big expat community in Tbilisi and most of them have not discovered Borjomi yet. There are also embassies and an international business community in Tbilisi, so I would suggest they consider a weekend getaway tour to Borjomi. It is less than 2 hours drive, and they can discover the health units of Rixos Borjomi and Borjomi itself, because this has long been a health zone, especially during Soviet times, when it specialised in treating stomach problems. Rixos Borjomi has a huge health centre whose doctors specialise in various fields. We are waiting for guests to visit us and enjoy Rixos standards and Rixos hospitality. They will see how we train our personnel and give a good service in Georgia.

ing. It is going to grow more in Georgia, and this will help a lot in reducing the unemployment rate. Right now we have some difficulties related to employees' qualifications, but I believe we will not have these for long

ly and the sector is growing, which will help the country a lot.

Do you plan to expand your investment portfolio?

As you may know, the Rixos Group is an international

group, with about 25 hotels in different parts of the world – we are present in Croatia (Dubrovnik), Switzerland (Davos) and Turkey (ten hotels) and also Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Georgia, Russia, Kazakh-



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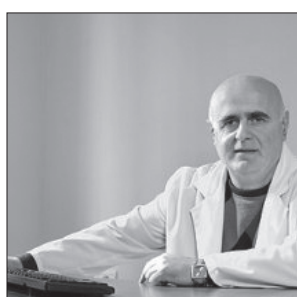
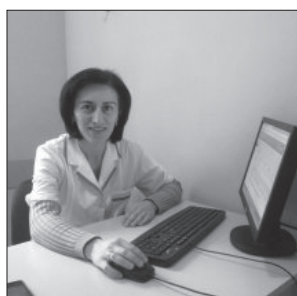


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GEORGIAN AMERICAN ALLOYS

Health Centre Laser Technology Clinic

Laser therapy is used for the treatment and prophylactics of varicose disease complications. It gives stable and enduring results. It is specifically useful in treating drug complications, as it means no ongoing and costly medication will be required. Laser therapy is also completely harmless.



Contemporary laser therapy is a synthesis of the latest approved technologies which gives better and faster outcomes at minimal expense. Health Centre uses it in several treatment areas, such as internal medicine, pediatrics, dermatological surgery and so forth. Our task is to introduce more successful and safe practices in other fields of medicine in order to improve results and reduce complications.

HEALTH CENTRE LASER TECHNOLOGY CLINIC

Laser technology was introduced in the last century. Multiple tests convinced researchers and clinicians of its high efficiency, safety and selectivity.

Although different laser methods are now successfully applied in all fields of medicine, they remain largely unknown and less sought-after by the public. There are plenty of reasons for this, but the major one is insufficient information, which makes people cautious. Laser technology is actually the

most advanced, ecologically friendly, controllable and safe option available. It is used in ophthalmology and surgery, oncology and pediatrics, neurology and gynaecology, otorynolaryngology and internal medicine, rehabilitation and cosmetology, inpatient and outpatient treatment. They have not been more widely intro-



duced simply because there is no strategy for doing so.

The modification of present treatment methods has now become an issue due to the multiple complications which arise from medication and surgical methods. The Laser Medicine department at Health Centre is trying to resolve this problem. Laser treatments are used alongside standard methods to achieve more effective and immediate results without causing any complications.

INNOVATIVE PHLEBOLOGY

The therapeutic-prophylactic activities of the Innovative Phlebology Department of Health Centre are based on the use of laser therapy. Varicose diseases are caused by failures

of the valves of perforator veins. Even when the patient undergoes traditional drug therapy and prophylactic procedures these are insufficient, as these diseases progress and become more acute, in the form of ulcers, phlebitis, deep vein thrombosis and other serious complications.

Traditional surgical phlebectomy of varicose veins is carried out in outpatient centres and has a number of drawbacks such as: hospitalisation, surgical trauma, the need for anaesthesia, the appearance of cosmetic defects, risks of the development of intra and post-operative complications, lymphostasis, long recovery periods etc. In our clinic we use inpatient practices (stripping, micro-phlebectomy, endovenous

laser coagulation) which are characterized by simplicity, safety, painlessness and strong clinical and cosmetic effects. Varicose vein blood vessels are treated with various inpatient and laser methods, but the latter are prioritized.

In Laser endovenous coagulation the procedure of "sticking" the vascular walls is performed without narcosis or any harm to the skin through the endovenous light-conductor. Following this the damaged vascular walls are repaired, and the risk of any further complications reduced to the minimum.

The emergence of microvascular varicose veins is deemed one of the complications of varicose diseases, as these create vascular networks, which cre-

ate considerably unpleasant visual defects in patients. Transdermal Laser Coagulation is the best way to remove such defects.

Standard methods are used alongside laser ones because this improves outcomes even further. For example, laser removal of capillaries is only effective if the capillaries are less than 1mm in diameter. Sclerotherapy is used on thicker capillaries. In such cases, the sclerosant is injected into the agent which causes the inflammation of the internal wall of the vein and scarring.

VARICOSE DISEASE PREVENTION

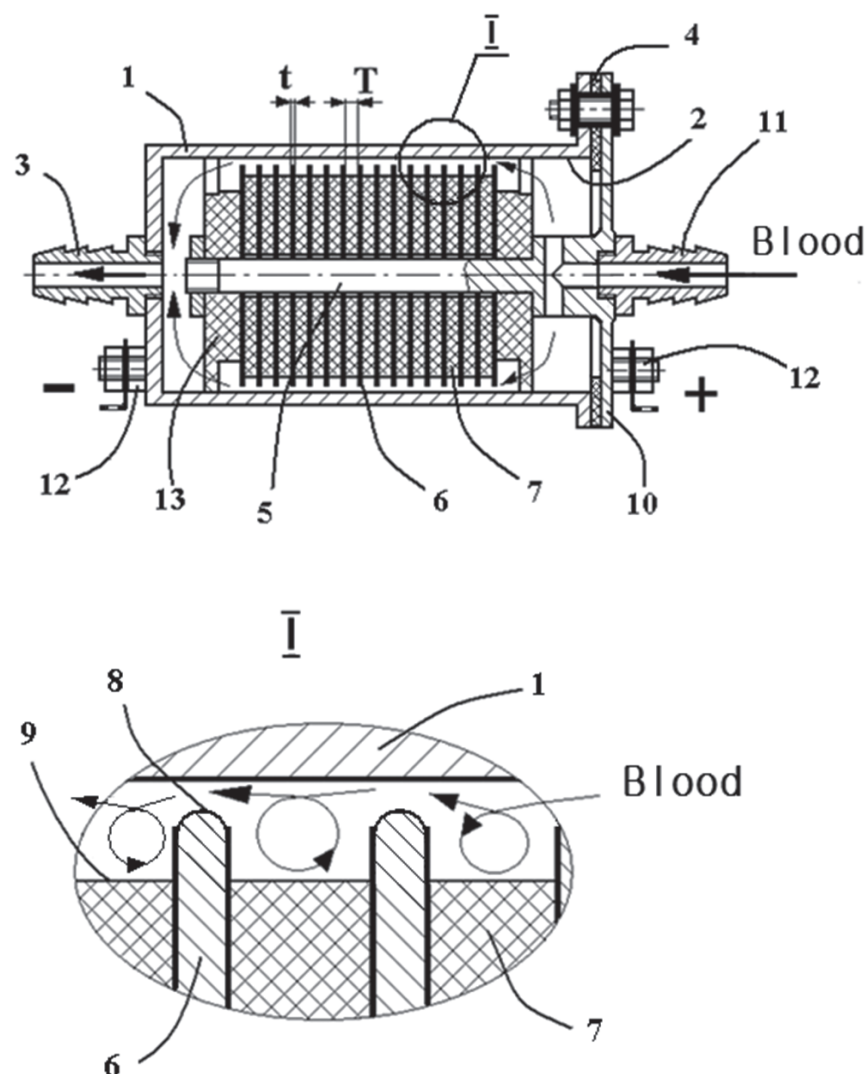
Low-level laser therapy is recognised as one of the most effective methods of preventing varicose diseases. It is anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antibacterial, anti-allergenic, improves the rheological properties of blood microcirculation, increases oxygen levels in tissues and blood, prevents thrombosis, improves metabolism and cell regeneration etc. All these properties of laser therapy considerably improve treatment results, accelerate regeneration (by countering atrophic disorders, healing ulcers, absorbing edemas and haemorrhages, etc.) ensure the sustainability of vascular walls and the restoration of valve functions, speed up recovery, slow down disease progression and so on.

Equipment for the Treatment of Leukemia

The new method for the treatment of leukemia is introduced by Kamo Kuregyan and employs patented equipment (published under number WO2013050882).

The invention of Kamo Kuregyan relates to transfusion and to the equipment designed for processing blood for the purpose of effective treatment of various diseases, including leukemia, as well as for deactivation of viruses.

Application of the known equipment for structurization and polarization of fuel, combustion mixture or water, as an equipment for extracorporeal treatment of blood of human or animal by the influence of electric field at the time of flowing in the channel between the electrodes made of gold and/or platinum and titanium or coated therewith, followed by reinfusion of blood into the patient's blood circulatory system.



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Donald Trump, 45th President of USA: Who Is He?

By Dr. VAKHTANG MAISAIA, Specially from Munich, Germany

The 45th President of the USA has been elected: the tycoon and non-politician Donald Trump, whose dramatic success has polarised the country. For the first time since the Declaration of Independence in 1776 a billionaire business tycoon has acceded to the presidency. He was elected by a minority of those who voted, but his 288 Electoral College votes have added a whole new dimension to his previous success.

Trump planned his campaign effectively, focusing on middle class and rural populations whose economic and social positions had deteriorated drastically. As the US has a \$25 trillion foreign debt and a domestic debt projected to be more than \$15 trillion (roughly 45% of GDP) following three massive economic shocks in 2002, 2008 and 2012, unemployment has reached its highest ever levels and the average American barely makes \$2,000 a month, Trump's victory might have been expected. From a Georgian perspective, having no idea how the American economy is being governed, it can

be difficult to foresee the outcome of any US election. But on a political talk show on Georgian TV six days before this one I predicted a Trump victory, giving concrete arguments when the polls seemed to be indicating the contrary.

Trump has achieved two major victories – the first when he defeated his challengers at the Republican Party primaries and causes to become the candidate and second when he defeated his Democratic Party challenger at national level. His unbelievable, bumper-sticker slogans such as “America First” and his very nationally-oriented policies made his campaign very appealing. His neo-liberal conceptual approaches and his neo-mercantilist orientation drew America's population to him in these troubled times and more than 30 million citizens who never usually voted came out to support him.

Unlike most politicians, Trump is a very well-known businessman and knows the value of promises. So he will do what he said. However Trump's foreign and security policies in particular promise to be at odds with those of present-day geopolitics. The USA system of governance



gives the president considerable leverage in domestic, defence and foreign policy, and therefore this divergence makes the country quite vulnerable to the challenges likely to occur in the near future.

During his campaign Trump as challenger mentioned a few foreign political problems (for instance, the wars in Syria and Iraq, relations with Russia under the odious Vladimir Putin, Ukraine's security dilemma, North Korea's nuclear gambling, USA-EU strategic co-

operation, etc.) but did not pay great attention to global issues, whereas former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made much of her mastery of these areas. However, he proposed imposing tariffs on imports from China and Mexico, demanding that allies like Japan and the EU pay more for their collective defence, being nicer to strongmen like Vladimir Putin, downsizing the US contribution to the NATO budget by 20% and promoting the American business elite's interests in the in-

ternational arena, recalling American industrial mergers to back to the country and producing more goods, such as automobiles, within its borders – resolving the so-called “Detroit Crisis”.

As a charismatic leader, Donald Trump will formulate his own foreign policy and will pursue it very pragmatically. The aspects of it he has already outlined might be expressed in the following way:

- To renegotiate trade pacts such as the NAFTA accord with Mexico and Canada

(and even threatening to pull out if the other parties won't play ball);

- To suspend future trade agreements expected under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) between the USA and 11 Asia-Pacific countries;

- To put the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the EU on hold and renegotiate its terms, at the risk of starting a “trade war”;

- To pursue protectionist policies at international level, and thus worsen relations with World Trade Organisation (WTO);

- To pull out of the Paris climate agreement and abrogate Obama's deal with China on this, as USA-China relations have worsened for many reasons, including geopolitical ones;

- To pursue a multilateralist foreign policy and accept a multipolar world order.

These are only small parts of the future Donald Trump programme that can be gleaned from his previous promises, but they key point for post-Soviet nations such as Georgia is whether he will make a Yalta-style deal that would recognise a Russian sphere of influence in its “near abroad”. Whether this policy could be implemented is another big question.



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