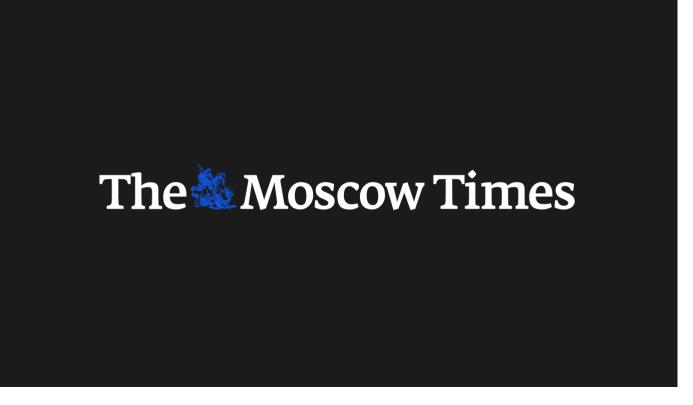


Georgia Proposes Joint League With Neighboring Countries

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TBILISI — Georgian soccer chief Zviad Sichinava has proposed launching a joint league with neighboring countries Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

"This is the plan, but we must first get the approval of both Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan," Sichinava was quoted as saying by local media.

He did not say how many teams might join the new league or when the project could get started.

Each of the three countries has a topflight 12-team league at present. Kazakhstan's season runs from March to November, while Georgia and Azerbaijan follow a more traditional European calendar.

In December, several top Russian clubs unveiled a plan to break away from Russia's topflight league and start a joint venture with neighboring Ukraine as early as next year.

(Reuters)

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