Georgia Marks Independence Day

Why GEL has Depreciated

1 USD must not be worth more than 2 GEL

Globalization fosters the development of communications, and that in turn makes the world more accessible to all. That increases competition. Those who don’t make the right choices in such a competitive environment won’t survive.

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Riga EU Partnership Summit: Too Much Expectation and Too Little Hope

On 21-22 May EU leaders and representatives of the Eastern Partnership countries met at the fourth Eastern Partnership summit in Riga. Summit participants took stock of what has been achieved since the Vilnius summit in 2013 and set out a positive agenda for the future.

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The Abashidze-Karasin Negotiation Format and Its Future Importance

Negotiations over the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia will now be undertaken by appointed envoys. The new, so-called Abashidze-Karasin Format is designed to foster Russo-Georgia dialogue and ultimately normalize relations between the two countries, and it has now become the main means of achieving these ends as the Geneva Format has proved ineffective.

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The Taliban Returns: New Geopolitical Game in Central Asia

Now spring has come in Afghanistan and the ISAF mission has been accomplished the Taliban are stepping up their operations. As soon as mission officially ended it launched a campaign of attrition against the central government, from both North and South, trying to seize the most important parts of the country.

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Constitutional Court Orders Overhaul of Majoritarian Part of Electoral System

President’s Office Warns Against Bill on Banking Supervisory Agency

First Diaspora Professional Forum In Georgia
On 21-22 May EU leaders and representatives of the Eastern Partnership countries met at the fourth Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga. Summit participants took stock of what has been achieved since the Vilnius summit in 2013 and set out a positive agenda for the future.

The summit was designed to demonstrate the EU’s determination to pursue close but differentiated relations with its six independent and sovereign partners to the east. The EU is strongly engaged with each one of them, whatever their levels of ambition in terms of relations with the EU. The scope and depth of this cooperation are determined by:

- The EU’s and its partners’ ambitions and needs
- The pace of reform
- The regional geopolitical implications of this relationship in the Black Sea space, where most of the partner nations are located
- The likelihood of further EU enlargement

During the summit, all participants agreed to make every effort to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine and find a political solution to it, and to achieve the peaceful settlement of other unresolved conflicts in the region.

The European aspirations and political choice of the partners concerned are acknowledged in their Action Plans. The EU leaders reaffirmed the importance of building stronger and more transparent institutions, free of corruption. Discussions focused on multilateral cooperation projects, - strengthened institutions and good governance,
- enhanced mobility and contacts between people,
- developed market opportunities by improving the business environment and legal norms in Eastern European partners and focusing on the digital economy.
- ensure energy security and improve energy and transport interconnections.

The Riga summit was also accompanied by a number of side events, which demonstrated that the Eastern Partnership goes beyond intergovernmental relations.

The summit participants welcomed the new EU policy orientation since the Vilnius Summit in 2013 aimed to strengthen the European aspirations of Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine. It implied a new commitment to conflict resolution in the region.

The three strategic partners are heavily dependent on the EU for cooperation in all sectors, which is most needed to combat the threat emanating from the Kremlin. Prior to the Riga Summit, the partners were taking three approaches to improving their relations with the EU.

These were:
- Identifying which among them would be the regional leader in the strategic partnership framework.
- Demonstrating their European foreign policy orientations and adherence to European democratic values.
- Gaining visa-free movement between the partners and EU states (Moldova was granted this in 2010, and since this regulation came into effect in 2013 all Moldovan citizens have been able to travel back and forth to the EU without hindrance).

The EU seems to regard Moldova as the regional leader, as it has successfully implemented all the EU’s requirements, including those concerning conflict resolution. This was noted in the Riga Summit Declaration: “The Summit participants welcome the EU’s contribution to further promoting stability and peace building, and underline the need for stronger EU engagement in this regard. They welcome the EU’s strengthened role in conflict resolution and confidence building efforts in the framework or in support of existing agreed formats and processes, including through field mission funding designed to ensure democratic values and have a European foreign policy orientation. The Declaration said: “The participants of the Summit reviewed and welcomed the significant achievements in the Eastern Partnership since the Vilnius Summit in 2013, notably the signing and provisional application of the Association Agreement (AA) with Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which constitute a major step in accelerating these partners’ political association and economic integration with the EU. The Summit participants stress that implementation of the Association Agreements (AA) will be a top priority of the EU and the partners concerned for the coming years. It is the key means of achieving sustainable democracy and the deep modernization of these partners’ economies and societies for which their citizens are calling.”

However, the Summit failed to deliver what Georgia wanted most: EU leaders decided that over 2.8 billion US dollar credit line for projects in Kiev and Odessa is conditional on Ukraine’s visa-free movement which “is very sad news for both countries and may seriously affect their future relations with the EU.”

The relevant passage of the Riga Declaration reads: “The Summit participants reconfirm that enhanced mobility of citizens in a secure and well-managed environment remains a core objective of the Eastern Partnership. This will facilitate easier and more frequent travel, business and people to people contacts. They welcome the fact that the visa-free regime for citizens of the Republic of Moldova has been operating effectively facilitating travel, business and people to people contacts. They warmly welcome the progress made by Georgia and Ukraine respectively in the implementation of their Visa Liberalization Action Plans as described in the latest Progress Reports by the European Commission. They look forward to completion by Ukraine and Georgia of the implementation of the 2nd phase of their Visa Liberalization Action Plans once all benchmarks are fulfilled through the implementation of all required reforms, and welcome the Commission’s readiness to do its utmost to support Ukraine and Georgia in the implementation of their VLPAs and its intention to report on progress by Ukraine and Georgia respectively by the end of 2015. Fulfillment of all benchmarks would allow to conclude the VLP process and the Commission to propose to the Parliament and to the Council to exempt Ukrainian and Georgian citizens respectively from the visa requirement in line with the criteria of the Regulation 539/2001.”

However, EU leaders have allocated Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova a €2 billion consolidation package, investment for projects in order to make these economies more competitive and create more jobs. These funds will be coming from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

“This investment funding is a concrete example of the EU commitment to its Eastern Partnership and of our determination to build closer economic relations with the partner countries,” said Commissioner for Europe, Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn after the Summit.

Georgia expected that the Riga Summit would reaffirm this principle, but whether it can be seen as a success is another matter.

The Georgian Institute for Geostategic and Euro-Atlantic Studies Institute, Chairman

Saturday, May 30, 2015

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Negotiations over the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia and South Ossetia will now be undertaken by appointed envoys. The new, so-called Abashidze-Karasin Format is designed to foster Russo-Geneva dialogue and ultimately normalize relations between the two countries, and it has now become the main means of achieving these ends as the Geneva Format has proved ineffective.

Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin has appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Karasin as his Special Envoy in order to increase his authority in negotiations with his Georgian counterpart Zurab Abashidze, who is already the Special Envoy of the Georgian government and has thus had higher authority than Karasin until now. This demonstrates that Russia is seeking to expand the scope of these meetings, as Georgia has also confirmed. Abashidze recently stated that the next such meeting will take place in Prague in June, thus emphasizing that it is conceived as an international event of similar status to the Geneva negotiations.

The last Abashidze-Karasin meeting took place in Tbilisi on February 26. Its main focus was on implementing an agreement on the basic principles of customs administration and trade monitoring between Russia and Georgia, and it was attended by representatives of the Economic Development and Foreign ministries of the two countries. However, now both ministers are de facto government officials in South Ossetia and Russia’s recognition of them as independent states.

What makes this problematic is that the Russian president has also appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Karasin as his Special Envoy on the ratification of the so-called treaty Russia signed with South Ossetia on March 18, according to Russian media reports. This so-called “treaty of cooperation and partnership” has already been published, and stipulates the creation of a common defense space, customs service integration, free movement through borders and wage and pension increases in occupied South Ossetia. Moscow signed a similar agreement with the de facto government of Abkhazia last year. It is therefore clear that he will enter negotiations about the breakaway republics from a standpoint Georgia cannot accept, and adopt positions Georgia cannot accept. This is an unusual basis to begin negotiations from, to say the least.

Abashidze’s reaction to this situation was interesting. He said: “Karasin manages relations with ‘21 countries and so-called successor states of the former Soviet republics. He presents documents for ratification. This is what happened last year, when the agreement between Moscow and Sukhumi was ratified. This is an absolutely illegal document.” However, Georgia acknowledges that he appointment of Karasin as Special Envoy on the ratification of the so-called treaty signed with South Ossetia is not sufficient reason to halt the bilateral Russian-Georgian negotiation format. Consequently, according to some media sources, the two envoys will now prepare a high-level negotiation posture in advance of a summit between the Russian and Georgian heads of government in a foreign country. Both sides have categorically denied this, but the reality is different.

First Diaspora Professional Forum In Georgia

By NAIA BAKRADZE

On May 27-29, Georgian Diaspora Days was held in Georgia, as Georgia’s Prime Minister and the Minister of Diaspora Issues has marked this day since 2008.

Various program was planned within the Diaspora Days and on May 27, it was opened with the first diaspora professional forum – “Share Experience with Your Motherland”.

Heads of diaspora organizations operating abroad, professionals in different fields, representatives of international organizations, experts in the field of international diaspora, including descendants of leaders of the first Diaspora of Georgia arrived in our country for participation in the event.

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili opened the first Diaspora Professional Forum. State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues - Gela Dumbadze, State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues - Giorgi Kvirikashvili, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Tamar Beruchashvili, State Minister of Economics of Georgia Giorgi Kvirikashvili also made speeches at the opening ceremony of the forum.

“Getting education abroad for our citizens is one of the directions that we need to develop and we have to give a chance to our youths to gain education in the best foreign universities. It is very emotional fact that lots of our citizens are choosing to get education in Georgia to share their experience with the people and their motherland. It is Gela Dumbadze’s real positive initiative that means to make consolidation of talents of skilled people, to leave Georgia and seek ways of success in different countries. Last year a historical fact was happened, Georgia signed the Association Agreement with the EU, that creates more opportunities for our country” – Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economics of Georgia - Giorgi Kvirikashvili said.

“During the last two months, I had visited 12 European states by the invitation of the Prime Minister. I held prolonged meetings with representatives of diaspora in each state. It was extremely reasonable practice” - State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues - Gela Dumbadze said. He expressed gratitude to the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia - Tamar Beruchashvili, as well as to those Georgians, who have always had permanent contact to Georgia. As to the Minister, representatives of the diaspora have great role in Georgia’s life.

“Image of our country and the attitude of our foreign partners toward Georgia, is mostly created on the basis of the activity of representatives of diaspora. Main duty of our diplomatic service is to ensure additional activity cooperation with the diaspora representative of diaspora. It is important that our countries working abroad to become active part of our foreign policy.”

The Georgian Institute for Geopolitical and Euro-Atlantic Studies Institute, Chairman, Minister of Economics of Georgia - Giorgi Kvirikashvili
The Taliban Returns:
New Geopolitical Game in Central Asia

By DR. VAKHTANG MAISAIA

The spring has come in Afghanistan. This is the moment when the Taliban units are being stepping up their operations. As soon as mission officially ended it launched a meeting of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to discuss what concrete measures can be taken to pursue a collective defense mission in its vicinity. This likewise confirms that the Taliban’s en- and international “black heroes” markets, including Georgia’s. One instance of the Taliban already using Georgian territory for this purpose was observed in summer 2014, when 2.79 tons of Afghani liquid heroin being smuggled through Georgia by Taliban traders was confiscated by customs officials. All this has forced the incumbent Afghan government to find a campaign of attrition against the central government, from both North and South, trying to seize the most important parts of the country.

Taliban units attacked several key cities simultaneously and also carried out terrorist acts in Kabul itself, including a raid on the Supreme Court. It now controls around 90% of the coun- try, and following its capture of Kunduz and Kandahar it is poised to take more.

On 18 May Taliban units supported by Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) operatives suddenly retook more than 80% of one of the influential Afghan provinces, Badakhshan, which borders Tajikistan. This is the first time the Taliban has ap- proached Central Asia since 2001, when US military units toppled the previous Taliban government. The victorious units have now been reinforced by others from North Waziristan (Pakistan), and roughly rebuffed by volunteers from the local Turkmens tribes they have ad- vanced to the northern part of Afghanistan and pose a real threat to Central Asia’s security.

Badakhshan is considered the richest region of Afghanistan, famous for its black pearls, gas and oil deposits, mineral resourc- es and its opium, heroin. It also borders the “Mountainous Badakhshan Autonomous Region” in Tajikistan and China, not to mention Pakistan. President Ashraf Ghani of Tajik- stan has recognized the threat the Taliban poses and has called for a regional counter-terrorism strategy.

Russia has recently refused to transit NATO ISAF military car- gos via its territory. It has closed the so-called Northern Transit Route used by NATO and can- celled the SOFA agreement un- der which these transits were made. However, these actions may prove to be against Russia’s national interests. The Taliban is closely associated with a num- ber of radical Islamist organiza- tions which operate hand-in-hand- ly in Central Asia, such as the IMU and Xizb-u-Tehran. As these provide each other with logistical support, they have the capacity to conduct major insur- gency in Tajikistan, Uzbekis- tan and Kyrgyzstan and to depose their current authoritarian re- gimes and replace them with theocratic ones similar to those of the Islamic Caliphate and the previous Afghan government.

An incursion into the Cen- tral Asian countries would also enable the Taliban to expand their drug smuggling network and increase their hold over regional political entity, the State of Daulat (the Afghan name for the IC) which will likewise stretch to the borders of Central Asia. There- fore the Taliban is seeking to take power in Kabul to protect itself. The IC sees Afghanistan as a stepping stone to expanding its reach into the North and Central Caucasus and the Cauca- pian region and setting up a true “Ca- liphathe Statehood” at global lev- el. However it is possible that the IC and the Taliban could join forces, as they share a Salafist ideological base, though they differ somewhat in practice.

In the Taliban’s Grip

Many of the additional 30,000 troops will be sent to provinces in southern and eastern Afghanistan in order to break the Taliban’s hold there.

The Georgian Constitutional Court has ruled that the country’s existing electoral system, in particular its majoritarian component, undermines equality of vote and should be changed. The Court’s ruling on May 28 stems from an applica- tion, which was filed by Public Defender Ucha Nanuashvili together with another applicant, arguing that large discrepancy in size of single-mandate, majoritarian constituencies is violating equality of suffrage.

Georgia has a mixed system in which 73 lawmakers in 150-seat Parliament are elected in 73 majoritarian, single-mandate constituencies, and remaining 77 seats are allocated proportionally under the party-list con- test among political parties, which clear 5% threshold. The size of single-mandate, majoritarian constitu- encies vary from each other by number of voters – ranging from over 150,000 voters in the largest one to less than 6,000 voters in the smallest one. Election observer organizations, including OSCE-led international election monitoring missions, have been repeatedly raising this issue for many years in their election monitoring reports noting that such huge discrepancy in size of single-mandate constituencies undermines equality of suffrage.

The Court’s ruling does not mean that the Georgian government will have to decide whether to withdraw the IC and the Taliban from Afghanistan. But the authorities should try to minimize such inequality,” the Court said.

In its Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, the Council of Europe’s advisory body for legal affairs, the Venice Commission, recommends that variation between the size of electoral districts should not be more than 10%, or 15% in “special case situations.”

Commenting on the Constitutional Court’s ruling, Parliament Chairman Davit Usupashvili said on May 28, that the Georgian Dream ruling coalition would present reform plan in the “near future.”

“These provisions (on majoritarian component of the electoral system) are in the election code for about twenty years already. The Georgian Dream had a clear position about it before and after 2012 elections – this is a shortcoming, which has to be addressed. We are working on the issue in the near future we will present Georgia’s people with a public new stage of electoral reform,” Usupashvili said.
Globalization fosters the development of communications, and that in turn makes the world more accessible to all. That increases competition. Those who don’t make the right choices in such a competitive environment won’t survive.

According to the old Georgian proverb: "If a man doesn’t have a proper education, life will punish him." The best instruments for making the right choices are knowledge and awareness. We have been suffering for the last 25 years because we haven’t had these.

So in order to alleviate this "suffering" I’d like to share my idea. I will describe in detail the reasons why the "domino effect" has caused GEL depreciation.

In order to conduct an accurate analysis of the depreciation of the Georgian GEL, a number of steps must be taken. First we must analyze the local factors impacting upon this depreciation, then we must test the parameters we have used in this analysis against those of the global financial market. Lastly we must combine the local and global factors to create a general analysis and set of economic indicators. We can take these steps in any sequence, including a chronological sequence.

It was to be expected that a depreciation of currencies in neighboring states would cause a corresponding depreciation of the GEL, as this is a regular occurrence in financial markets. The most important factor involved here is not how near these states are but how exchange rates fluctuate in the financial markets. The most significant fluctuations are very important for the GEL, whether the currency concerned is that of neighboring or distant countries.

It is important to analyze how what is happening in our neighboring countries however because it makes it easier to transform this data into a statistical format. A neighboring country is more likely to react to the same situation around us, as probability indicates that what is causing a problem there will also cause one here. By making such an analysis, we can see that, unlike the theoretical patterns at the end of 2013, the 2014 depreciation was primarily the product of speculative dealing.

Let’s divide the Georgian GEL market into two segments: one which is not oriented on currency transactions and one which is. Let’s further divide the second segment into two sub-segments: the GEL oriented only on USD purchase (basically for import protection) and the GEL mass oriented on purchasing other currencies (for import protection).

Let’s begin with the statement: if the value of “all other currencies” decreases in relation to the USD, then in the conditions of the free market, this will necessarily cause a GEL decrease. This statement is proven true by several factors. First of all, when the GEL decreases in value, fewer GEL to purchase the same fixed amount of “all other currencies” than we needed to buy the same amount of USD before. We can understand that the value of “all other currencies” has decreased, the GEL exchange rate is not formed by market supply and demand, but by the country’s exchange rate that is due to the increase in the GEL exchange rate.

I won’t explain these in detail, but the most important is the following: during exchange processes the GEL-USD mass segment of the GEL, “all other” currencies segment, and the GEL-USD exchange rate are determined by a combination of the two segments.

The GEL-"all other" currencies exchange rate is determined by a combination of the two segments. See the schematic diagram explaining the GEL-USD exchange rate. Fine, let’s call this during this period 15-17 GEL (03.2013) 1 Euro=(1.39*1.73)GEL, therefore 2.405 GEL. If we have the same exchange rate requires correction on the basis of the correlation coefficient of these segments. If we understand that, as in the global financial market, USD-GEL segment is two times bigger in our own market, the corresponding Euro segment (the “all other” segment) is nearly equal to the Euro segment, which is why we use the Euro when making calculations. The exchange rate must be 1, if it were three times bigger, it would be 1.3. Where have we a coefficient, when the Euro value decrease 15%, the USD will have the corresponding new balanced exchange rate of 15*(1.35-0.28)GEL/1.87GEL. Where we have a 1 coefficient, 1.5 will equal (1.73*0.28)GEL/ 1.87GEL .

However, the real correlation coefficient is somewhere between 1.2 and 1.5. Consequently the new exchange rate will be somewhere between 15*(1.35-0.28)GEL and (1.73*0.28)GEL/1.87GEL. The nominal (10.12.2014) GEL-USD exchange rate is within this interval; however it has actually increased to 2.0 GEL. In this case, the third factor doesn’t play an important role, as the reliability of its identification is equal to zero. The GEL has already left this interval.

Why? What is the difference between the decreases in the currency’s value in 2014 and 2013, and why does it look like the scenario, as in 1998? In order to understand this, we should give a chronologically detailed description of the increase in the Euro-USD exchange rate was Euro=0.95, but later, as a result of increased demand, it increased to Euro=1.25. But the same thing that happened in February-November 2001 the exchange rate had increased further, to 1.05. As we discovered last, at some point (probably after the Euro at 1.25) the Federal Reserve System applied certain financial instruments, in order to prevent such a rapid decrease of US value in relation to the Euro. As a result, during the crisis there was 20% shortage of USD.

Such a rapid decrease of Euro value and USD deficit gave the US the opportunity to stimulate its economy; that was called "domino effect" and thereby stimulate the global economy as well. As a result, the US regained its dominant position in the financial market; in return, glowing US dollar increased its influence in the global financial system. After the stimulation programmes had ended, the balance of the exchange rate was 1.05/1.35 USD, but in the spring of 2013 the rate increased from 1.35 to 2.0.

In the above-described scenario the most important factor is the so-called "imaginary excess" mechanism. If we analyze how what happened in the financial market in 2013, we see that from the beginning of the year the market had lowered to 1.25, the market price of the Euro was indeed $1.35, and that in turn makes the world more accessible to all.

In October-November 2013 there were particular changes in USD-GEL exchange rate, deriving from the fact that the dynamics of its formation had changed. It should be mentioned here that GEL exchange rate fluctuates in the global financial system. In the first place, the process of exchange rate formation is the global market as a whole differed in 2013 from those which had been in place in 1998. Since 2006 the GEL exchange rate has been formed in the activities of international banks as well as the exchange. As a result, the decrease in GEL value is less transparent now than it once was. However, we take certain financial indicators into consideration we can calculate that the change which took place in 2013 was caused by the increased correlation between the process of exchange rate formation and the buying and selling of treasury liabilities.

The non-banking currency market understood at the time that the increase in the GEL exchange rate had been caused by this correlation, and therefore they bought the National bank. It was surprising to discover that a significant mass of GEL which had been released through the buying and selling of treasury liabilities had not been used to continue doing this but had been used for purchasing USD. The National Bank was doing this once or twice a year, and it began doing this through the purchase of treasury securities and selling process had actually increased the value of the GEL, and not decreased. For example, the foreign currency interventions implemented by the National bank came into play. These could also have increased the currency’s value (this is common, and if they have been made before they would have prevented the GEL depreciation). However, they were not necessary, as following the law of the economy, the flow of USD, being freer from the market would have returned the point of balance to its initial position.

At the end of 2013 the exchange rate decreased from 15 to 1.68 to 15-1.79GEL, and in January 2014 it decreased further, to 1.75GEL. The growth of the Euro exchange rate for example, in January 2014 is not something that had been released through the buying and selling of treasury securities (it is connected with particular processes taking place within the financial system); there were rumors in Istanbul that the depreciation was a US initiative, but this could not be confirmed. As a result, the GEL also began to decrease in value, though not much.

In the above scene the scenario the most important factor is the US dollar. As we described, however, the exchange rate, in turn, makes the world more accessible to all.
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GEORGIA MARKS INDEPENDENCE DAY

PM Irakli Garibashvili said in his address on the occasion of the Independence Day: “I am convinced that we will build strong Georgian state, which will be equally attractive for Georgians, Abkhazians, Ossetians and all the other ethnic groups living in our country. I believe that the Georgian state will become united and we will live in the united strong Georgian state together with our Abkhazian and Ossetian brothers.”

A ceremony marking Georgia’s Independence Day in Vinnitsa, Ukraine, May 26, 2015. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had a symbolic role in the ceremony. “On Ukraine’s Independence Day, the people of Ukraine, the military and the political leaders of the country will demonstrate their support for Ukraine and its people’s resolve to build a European state. As always on this day, your national flag will fly in many places here, and a symbolic flag of Georgia encircled by a heart-shaped Ukrainian tricolor will be displayed in Vinnitsa as a token of unity between our nations and cities,” the Ukrainian President wrote in his message of congratulation to his Georgian counterpart. Official photos by Robert Bosch.

President’s economic adviser, Giorgi Abashishvili, said on May 22 that the government does not have information about the case against him, which was opened by the Constitutional Court of Georgia, and which is investigating the President’s economic adviser.

While visiting Mr. Domenti’s office, we have seen a lot of medical records and prescriptions. I am aware of everything and simply try to prolong the investigation process. There are no chemical additions in my medicines. My medicines are quite effective and they have contributed to the improvement of health of a lot of people. The fact is that the President receives the list of medications. A Miraculous medicine that is to be forbidden?! The famous healer has become very popular thanks to his medicine. The healers have paid taxes but, on the contrary, before the case was opened, the improvement of their health condition. Let them tell me that they have not been paid the taxes. The famous healer has become very popular thanks to his medicine.

A ceremony marking Georgia’s Independence Day in Vilnius, Lithuania, May 26, 2015. Georgian flag encircled by a 200-meter-long board and decorated with state symbols of Georgia is displayed at the Cathedral Square in Vilnius. Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite participated in the ceremony. “On Georgia’s Independence Day, the people of Georgia, the people of the Parliament will demonstrate their support for Georgia and its people’s resolve to build a European state. As always on this day, your national flag will fly in many places here, and a symbolic flag of Georgia encircled by a heart-shaped Lithuanian tricolor will be displayed in Vilnius as a token of unity between our nations and cities,” the Lithuanian President wrote in her message of congratulation to his Georgian counterpart. Official photos by Robertas Dakas.

Georgian independence, declared on May 26, 1918, was short-lived as Bolshevik Red Army invaded the country in 1921. Georgia restored its independence on April 9, 1991.

PRESIDENT’S OFFICE WARNS AGAINST BILL ON BANKING SUPERVISORY AGENCY

A newly proposed bill on stripping the Georgian National Bank of supervisory functions and transferring them to a separate agency can have adverse effect as planned reform seems to be motivated by political rather than economic reasons, President’s economic adviser, Giorgi Abashishvili, said on May 22.

Mr. Domenti Gagnidze is well-known all over Georgia. The famous healer has become very popular thanks to his medicine with unique features. The above-mentioned medicine is able to heal the diseases that can’t be treated by classical medicines and that’s why makes people’s life happier. His former and active patients especially point to the unique features of his ointment and recognize that his prescriptions are quite effective and have contributed to the improvement of health of a lot of people. The fact is that Mr. Domenti receives numerous letters of gratitude; however, someone tries to hinder his activity.

Mr. Domenti Gagnidze - healer: “Currently someone has opened the case against me and applied to the court. Besides, as I have been told, in this case I am the witness and that’s why I am not properly aware of the case materials. At the same time I am not given the possibility to continue working in proper way; it is a kind of conspiracy not only against me, but also against hundreds of people who thanks to my medicine are expecting the improvement of their health condition. Let them tell me that I am to blame and I will stop working. Up to now they haven’t managed to find any clue against me. I have been blamed for not paying taxes but, on the contrary, before the case was opened, one month earlier I received the letter of gratitude from the revenue service, as the best taxpayer: the total amount allocated to the budget was 700000 GEL. On the basis of this fact they try to blame me in not paying or hiding taxes! I am not afraid of taxes, but there is no evidence against me. They are purposely aware of everything and simply try to prolong the investigation process. There are no chemical additions in my medicines. My grandchildren use them. This medicine is for strengthening the immune system. Moreover, with this medicine we have managed to treat such serious disease as multiple sclerosis (up to 70 patients received excellent results). I am doing such a good business and I have no secret to this. I am doing such a good business because of the inspiration by heavenly forces and no one can confront God! Keep in mind, I have invented the recipe of this medicine with my own hands. I know this medicine is a gift from God and nothing may stop it.”

Heads of the country’s military component were on display for public viewing in Tbilisi center and eleven other cities.

Military equipment on display for public viewing on Freedom Square in Tbilisi, May 26, 2015. Photo: Eana Korbezashvili/Civil.ge

The oath-taking ceremony of 200 soldiers on the Freedom Square in Tbilisi was one of the main official events marking the Independence Day, which was attended by President Giorgi Margvelashvili, who is the commander-in-chief; PM Irakli Garibashvili and other government members; parliament speaker Davit Usupashvili, as well as head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ilia II. A large ceremony marking Georgia’s Independence Day Day in Kutaisi, May 26, 2015. Photo: Civil.ge

Similar to two previous years, no army parade was held, but Georgia’s Independence Day, which was attended by President Giorgi Margvelashvili, who is the commander-in-chief; PM Irakli Garibashvili and other government members; parliament speaker Davit Usupashvili, as well as head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ilia II.

U.S. troops participated in a ceremony marking Georgia’s Independence Day for the first time, Freedom Square, Tbilisi, May 26, 2015. Photo: president’s office

View of the Rustaveli Avenue from Freedom Square in Tbilisi, May 26, 2015. Photo: PM’s office

ANNOUNCEMENT

Miraculous medicine that is to be forbidden?! The famous healer has become very popular thanks to his medicine with unique features. The above-mentioned medicine is able to heal the diseases that can’t be treated by classical medicines and that’s why makes people’s life happier. His former and active patients especially point to the unique features of his ointment and recognize that his prescriptions are quite effective and have contributed to the improvement of health of a lot of people. The fact is that Mr. Domenti receives numerous letters of gratitude; however, someone tries to hinder his activity.

Mr. Domenti Gagnidze - healer: “Currently someone has opened the case against me and applied to the court. Besides, as I have been told, in this case I am the witness and that’s why I am not properly aware of the case materials. At the same time I am not given the possibility to continue working in proper way; it is a kind of conspiracy not only against me, but also against hundreds of people who thanks to my medicine are expecting the improvement of their health condition. Let them tell me that I am to blame and I will stop working. Up to now they haven’t managed to find any clue against me. I have been blamed for not paying taxes but, on the contrary, before the case was opened, one month earlier I received the letter of gratitude from the revenue service, as the best taxpayer: the total amount allocated to the budget was 700000 GEL. On the basis of this fact they try to blame me in not paying or hiding taxes! I am not afraid of taxes, but there is no evidence against me. They are purposely aware of everything and simply try to prolong the investigation process. There are no chemical additions in my medicines. My grandchildren use them. This medicine is for strengthening the immune system. Moreover, with this medicine we have managed to treat such serious disease as multiple sclerosis (up to 70 patients received excellent results). I am doing such a good business and I have no secret to this. I am doing such a good business because of the inspiration by heavenly forces and no one can confront God! Keep in mind, I have invented the recipe of this medicine with my own hands. I know this medicine is a gift from God and nothing may stop it.”

Miracles - features of this medicine are known as in Georgia, as abroad. We hope, justice will prevail!”

While visiting Mr. Domenti’s office, we have seen a lot of letters of gratitude from his patients. Moreover, there were published a number of books where people express their gratitude towards Mr. Domenti Gagnidze, which is so huge that can’t be presented in one article. The miraculous features of this medicine are known as in Georgia, as abroad. We hope, justice will prevail!”
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