

Politics

Rhetoric of epidemiologists encourages xenophobic sentiment - TDI Mushevani's incident

FULL STORY ON Page 2

Economics

Economic team of gov't, National Bank, and others meet to discuss consequences of Coronavirus

FULL STORY ON Page 3

Culture & Lifestyle

Ermile Nakashidze and George Bolkvadze - Country of Liquid Sun



FULL STORY ON Page 4

#stayhome Stay home, Stay safe #staysafe

9 dead and more than 220 recovered – updates on Coronavirus in Georgia



The cases of the virus in different regions of Georgia are rising.

BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

Over the weekend, the number of people infected by the coronavirus has surpassed 590, with 9 dead and more than 220 recovered. Among the infected are doctors.

The 9th deceased was treated in the intensive care unit of the First University Clinic. In a telephone conversation

with the main channel, the director of the clinic, Levan Ratiani, said the deceased was a woman in her 60s who developed acute respiratory distress syndrome, acute pneumonia and acute sepsis after infection. According to him, the patient has been treated in their clinic for more than three weeks.

According to Lali Turdzeladze, Clinical Director of the First University Clinic, the 9th patient who died due to complications of the Coronavirus in

Georgia is the mother of an infected athlete whose case was reported a few weeks ago. According to her, she was suffering from chronic diseases and was in a critical situation from the beginning of the infection.

People of all ages can be infected with the novel Coronavirus, however, older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. COVID-19 is mainly trans-

mitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air, and quickly fall on floors or other surfaces.

The virus has originally spread from the Wuhan region of china, where it has infected more than 80,000 people. The virus quickly spread around the world and as of now its cases have been reported in most of the countries around the world.



There are more than 590 cases reported in Georgia.



The virus has originally spread from Wuhan region of China.

Rhetoric of epidemiologists encourages xenophobic sentiment - TDI Mushevani's incident



TOLERANCE & DIVERSITY INSTITUTE

The institute calls on the Georgian authorities to pursue a policy based on inclusion, equality and integration

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The Institute for Tolerance and Diversity (TDI) says it is important for the government and epidemiologists to refrain from making unreasonable statements provoking intolerance on ethnic/religious grounds. The case concerns comments about the events in the village of Mushevani in Bolnisi,

when locals did not allow doctors to transport those infected with the Coronavirus.

According to Amiran Gamkrelidze, head of the Centers for Disease Control, they were informed that political processes had taken place in the village of Mushevani of the Bolnisi region and that religious leaders of the region had also played a role.

Gamkrelidze later explained that he meant the need for religious leaders to do more to help to educate and explain the current situation better to the ethnic minorities. TDI writes that such rhetoric contributes to stigmatise ethnic and religious minorities and to stir up xenophobic attitudes in the society.

The institute calls on the Georgian authorities to pursue

a policy based on inclusion, equality and integration. Also, to stop discriminatory policies against Muslims and to establish fundamental human rights instead of security; To ensure timely and proactive informing of ethnic minorities about the epidemiological situation.

"Muslims are systematically discriminated against in Georgia. The state is rudely interfering in the autonomy of the religious community and they are not doing anything to protect their rights," reads the statement of TDI.

On May 1st, local residents in the village of Mushevani in Bolnisi did not allow doctors to take those infected with the virus to hospitals. As Gogi Meshveliani, a majoritarian MP from Bolnisi, said, epidemiologists were prevented from transporting the infected by local youths who were drunk. The infected were taken to the clinic on May 2nd.

According to the governor Shota Rekhviashvili, the incident in Bolnisi municipality is a single case. According to Rekhviashvili, religious leaders have played a supporting role in the Kvemo Bolnisi community and helped spread the word about the virus.

An investigation is underway with Article 187 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, which stipulates damage or destruction of an item. Two vehicles were damaged, the agency said.

The novel coronavirus has spread in most of the countries around the world, infecting more than 3,5 million people. Most cases were reported in the US, where there are more than 1,6 million confirmed cases.

The number of people infected is rising every day. In Georgia, there have already been more than 590 cases reported, out of which, 9 have died and 221 have recovered.



An investigation is underway under Article 187 of the Criminal Code of Georgia

Declaration by the High Representative Josep Borrell, on behalf of the European Union, on malicious cyber activities exploiting the coronavirus pandemic



Copyright: European Council

As the coronavirus pandemic spreads around the world, the European Union and its Member States have observed cyber threats and malicious cyber activities targeting essential operators in Member States and their international partners, including in the healthcare sector.

CONTINUED ON Page 3



3 MAY

World Press Freedom Day

Our deep appreciation for Georgian journalists & other media workers who put themselves at the frontline of reporting on #COVID19 crisis

#takecare #staycommitted #journalismwithoutfearorfavour

Weather

Monday, May 4

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 24°C
Night T-storm
Low: 13°C

Tuesday, May 5

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 26°C
Night Showers
Low: 14°C

published by

The Messenger

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia's English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1923; Euro - 3.5048; GBP - 4.0076; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.2341; Swiss Franc - 3.3163

Economic team of gov't, National Bank, and others meet to discuss consequences of Coronavirus



Parties discussed future plans of the government

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

In the framework of a dialogue forum and under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the economic team of the government, the Central Bank and strategic and analysis organisations, addressed the economic implications of the outbreak and the coronavirus and also talked about the government's post-crisis policies and Strategies.

The video conference was chaired by the Prime Minister's economic adviser Beka Liluashvili. The conference was also attended by Deputy Minister of Finance Nikoloz Gagua and Vice President of the National Bank Papuna Lezhava.

The forum was formed on direction of the Prime Minister. The Government's economic team, along with the Central Bank, NGOs, and consultancies reviewed core issues relevant to the Anti-Crisis Strategy, and the Post-Crisis Programme, which will ensure that the country's economy improves rapidly and returns to successful patterns shortly.

The following issues were covered: further activities of the post-crisis tourism support plan; promoting the construction and infrastructure industry and major firms; implementing strategy to encourage foreign direct investment and improv-



The first case of the coronavirus was reported in Georgia two month ago

ing private sector corporate governance as a post-crisis resource.

The initiatives adopted by the government in the context of the anti-crisis program were favorably assessed by the analytical and academic organisations involved in the conference. The Economic Policy and post-crisis views have been shared and the groups will soon send their suggestions to the government.

Furthermore, GEL liquidity requirement was at the root of the matter presented by the NGOs and discussed by the National Bank. Some new tools should be generated according to the National Bank that will help to lower existing interest rates on the economy.

The government's policy committee will consult periodically with the National Bank, academic and research organisations. The USAID Economic Governance initiative, which funds the Georgian Government's advisory mechanism and research institutions, acknowledges the effect of the outbreak on the economy.

As the coronavirus further spread around the world, huge parts of the economy were hit hard. As of today, most of the businesses in Georgia either fully stopped working or are working remotely, which poses serious threats to the economy of the country, with many having lost income.

Because of many different regulations to stop the spread of the virus, many fields of economy had to face a lot of challenges. The first one to face the problems was the tourism sector, as a result of which, many lost their jobs.

The first case of the coronavirus was reported in Georgia two months ago, and since then, more than 590 cases were reported in Georgia, among them, 9 are dead and 221 have recovered.

Declaration by the High Representative Josep Borrell, on behalf of the European Union, on malicious cyber activities exploiting the coronavirus pandemic

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Since the beginning of the pandemic,

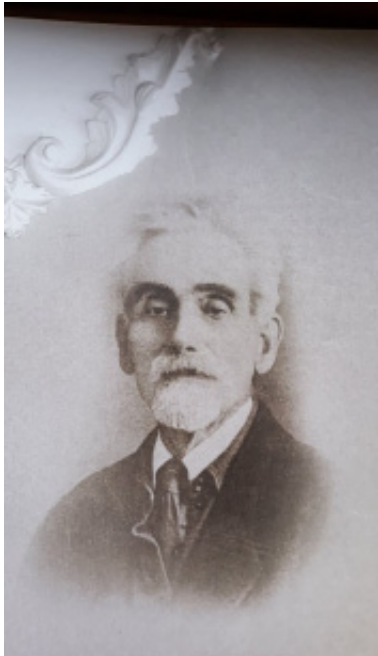
significant phishing and malware distribution campaigns, scanning activities and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS)

attacks have been detected, some affecting critical infrastructures that are essential to managing this crisis.

The European Union and its Member States condemn this malicious behaviour in cyberspace, express solidarity with all countries that are victims of malicious cyber activities and underline their continued support to increase global cyber resilience.

Any attempt to hamper the ability of critical infrastructures is unacceptable. All perpetrators must immediately refrain from conducting such irresponsible and destabilising actions, which can put people's lives at risk. We need the entire world to stand united in this global fight against the virus. It is a matter of humanity and universally shared values.

Ermile Nakashidze and George Bolkvadze - Country of Liquid Sun



Ermile Nakashidze



nasium in Kutaisi. In 1883, now a successful graduate, he continued his studies at the Agricultural and Forestry Institute of Novoalekseevka in Poland on a scholarship from the Kutaisi Prince's Bank. Nakashidze was the only student from the Caucasus in this Institute. In 1886, after his graduation, he returned to Georgia.

Nakashidze had close friendships with well-known agronomists: A. Sharashenidze, D. Gedevanishvili, S. Cholokashvili, K. Modebadze, T. Kvaratskhelia and I. Lomouri all of whom had greatly contributed to the development of the practical and theoretical foundations of Georgian vine growing. Young agronomists, who afterwards became prominent scientists, often had

meetings in Nakashidze's family.

Ermile Nakashidze, primarily, turned his attention towards the condition of vine growing and wine making in the regions of Guria, Samegrelo, Ajara and Abkhazia, in particular. He dedicated many reports, articles and monographs to a number of urgent issues in the country.

From 1877-1892, Nakashidze was the principle of the newly-established Agricultural School in Tsinamdzgvariantkari. The School trained many specialists in the field. From 1892-1896, he worked with the Caucasian Phylloxera Committee and as an agronomist-inspector at the Land Farming Department from 1896-1906. Nakashidze returned to Ozurgeti and lived there from 1905-1911 and continued working in the Ministry of Land Farming from 1911-1921.

Ermile Nakashidze died at the age of 78. His contribution, as a prominent specialist and scientist in the field of agricultural, remains invaluable. He lived and worked during a period when well-educated and professional agronomists were scarce in Georgia. In such a difficult situation, an agronomist needed a rather diverse knowledge in order to properly direct a diversified Georgian agriculture.



The contribution of Giorgi Bolkvadze, a famous technologist and businessman, in the development of Georgian alcoholic beverages, remains, unfortunately, under appreciated. Bolkvadze, who produced alcoholic beverages beginning in 1865, further expanded and developed his production at the end

of the nineteenth century.

Giorgi Bolkvadze started an alcohol factory and began the production of vodka and other alcoholic beverages in Kutaisi and established a wholesale outlet in the factory's warehouse. In 1895, Mr Muravliov, a merchant in Kutaisi, purchased Bolkvadze's factory together with its warehouse and invited another merchant, Parsadan Avsarkisov who joined him in establishing Muravliov's Vodka Factory and Wholesale Warehouse. That same year, Avsarkisov purchased the factory with his funds and together with Giorgi Bolkvadze founded a new firm, Bolkvadze

ing modern equipment. His rectifying and distilling equipment and plants as well as the bottling and corking machines and the filters were imported from Europe. The cognacs produced by Bolkvadze's firm-Dzveli (Old) No. 1, Khelovnuri (Artificial) No. 3, Natural Caucasian Cognac, absinthe, rum No. 3, currant liqueur, ash berry liqueur, vodkas, purified wine No. 10, double distilled wine, Royal Vodka and other products-won over 60 different prizes at competitions, fairs and exhibitions in various European and American cities including grand prizes, golden medals, diplomas and others.



and KO.Co. Avsarkisov was in charge of financial issues and

The vodka Kina-Kina (Quinine), which he produced, was especially popular with its label listing the whole set of medals which it had won.



Bolkvadze was responsible for those related to technological, technical and distribution issues.

Bolkvadze's factory in Kutaisi was located at the crossing of Mikheil and Gymnasium Streets. It had its trademark: an eagle from 1873 and the monogram of Bolkvadze's name and surname in Russian, ГБК from 1865.

Raw materials, from which Bolkvadze produced the alcohol, came from Georgia with his factory being the only well operating enterprise at that time us-

In addition to the form and trademarks, the export labels were also written in Russian and French as well as the advertising signboards, business cards and letterheads which also featured the figures of the horse and lion and the crowns of the Russian Empire. Bolkvadze and KO, Kutaisi, Factory of Liqueur, Rum, Cognac and Absinthe was written on each and every label of his products.

