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Rallies continue in Georgia, as opposition meets with the ruling party



The meeting between the two sides was held at the US Ambassador's residence

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The second meeting of the representatives of the Georgian Dream and opposition was held at the residence of

the Ambassador of the United States to Georgia Kelly Degnan. The meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia Carl Hartzell. The first meeting was held on Novem-

ber 12, the second one - on Saturday, November 14. The dialogue participants haven't shared the details but stated the dialogue would continue.

The leader of Girchi Zurab Japaridze

said that the conversation did not have any particular outcome and the positions of the sides are still very different. Japaridze said the opposition is standing its ground and demands snap elections.

Archil Talakvadze, a Georgian Dream representative, confirmed that the dialogue will continue. He stated that this time around, there is more chance for stability in the country. He also called on the opposition parties to join the Parliament and 'use this opportunity.'

On Saturday, opposition representatives, their supporters, activists, and others gathered in front of the Parliament to protest the published election results. The representatives of the opposition once again stated that they refuse to join the Parliament unless the government agrees to snap elections.

One of the leaders of the European Georgia Davit Bakradze said that rigged elections would not guarantee the future development of the country in the right direction, which is why it is so important to have snap elections. He once again said that the opposition would not join the Parliament.

However, both sides are talking about the importance of dialogue in this situation. The opposition representatives state that holding snap elections is crucial for Georgia. The Georgian Dream disagrees and says there won't be any snap elections.

The parliamentary elections were held in Georgia on October 31. As the Election Administration of Georgia reported, the Georgian Dream party got 48 percent of the votes in the election, the UNM got 28 percent. A total of 9 political parties managed to get more than 1% of the votes, which is needed to be part of the Parliament.



Opposition continues rallies in Tbilisi

Over six thousand cases reported in Georgia over the weekend

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Over the weekend, a total of 6524 new cases of the Covid-19 were reported in Georgia. Out of this, 3504 were reported on Saturday, and 3020 were reported yesterday, on Sunday. The number of deaths as a result of the Covid-19 complications have increased significantly as well.

Total of 67 people have died because of the Covid-19 over the last two days, 33 on Saturday, 34 on Sunday. In total, 703 people have died in Georgia because of Covid-19 since February. Since February 26, more than 79,000 cases were reported in the country, most of them in the last three months.

In Tbilisi, 2586 new cases of

the coronavirus were reported in the last two days. The number of daily cases in Tbilisi has been more than 1,000 for most of the last week. On Saturday, Tbilisi reported 1232 cases, while on Sunday – 1354.

Prime Minister of Georgia, Giorgi Gakharia has met with the executives of private healthcare facilities to talk about available hospital beds at each facility. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Health Ekaterine Tikaradze, and Finance Minister, Ivane Matchavariani.

PM Gakharia once again noted that the country will continue its path of precision-targeted and localized approaches. As he said, there are no systemic restrictions placed by the gov-



Total of 6524 new cases of the Covid-19 were reported in Georgia over the weekend



PM Gakharia met with the executives of private healthcare facilities

ernment of the country.

At the time of writing 2 425 individuals are in quarantine, 3361 - at COVID Hotels, 5 355 - under medical supervision at hospitals of the country.

The first case of the coronavirus was reported in Georgia several months ago, in February. Since then, the virus has spread throughout the country. At first, during the Spring, the virus was spreading at a very low pace, according to some experts, one of the major reasons for this was the strict restrictions that were in the country.

The virus started spreading

very fast from September onwards, starting in the Adjara region of the country. However, as of now, Tbilisi is leading with new daily case numbers of the coronavirus.

At the time of writing, there have been more than 54 million cases of the Covid-19 reported worldwide, out of which, more than 1,3 million have been fatal with about 38 million people having already recovered. The United States is leading in terms of most reported cases, with more than 11 million cases reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality: Government's indifference claims another human life

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality has published a statement, saying the indifferent attitude of the Government of Georgian has claimed another

human life. We offer you the unchanged Facebook post published by the office:

"The indifferent attitude of the occupation regime claimed another human life. We express our condolences to the family of the deceased Onise Gatenashvili.

On November 14, with the involvement of the Red Cross, from the occupied Tskhinvali region, the so-called Onise Gatenashvili, a resident of occu-

pied Akhlagori, who was transported to the clinic, was taken to the Ergneti crossing for treatment.

As soon as the Georgian central government received information about the preparation of a medical evacuation from the Red Cross, it immediately carried out the necessary evacuation procedures. It is noteworthy that the patient was in an extremely serious condition and

died in the ambulance.

Occupied Akhlagori has been closed for more than a year. The abolition of so-called checkpoints has already claimed the lives of 16 people. The occupiers do not allow citizens to cross into Georgian-controlled territory, restricting their access to critical health services.

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, together with other

relevant agencies in Georgia, continues to work to alleviate the plight of the population beyond the occupation line, to allow them to move freely, and to prevent them from receiving critical assistance. To this end, we call on international organizations and partners to step up pressure on the occupation regime."

(Prepared by the Messenger Staff)

Weather

Monday, November 16

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 12°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 5°C

Tuesday, November 17

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 12°C

Night Showers

Low: 6°C

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

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Tonino Guerra's Forgotten Fruit Alley organized at the Georgian National Botanic Garden

A special ceremony was organized and held at the Tbilisi Botanical Garden by the Tonino Guerra Foundation. Ambassador of Italy to Georgia, H.E. Enrico Valvo, and the Director of the Tonino Guerra Foundation, Nino Abuladze attended the event along with the Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi Andria Basilaia. Lora Guerra, the wife of the great Italian poet also attended the ceremony remotely.

Seedlings of old apple and almond trees specially brought from Italy and donated by the Forli Association Patriarchi della Natura to the Tbilisi Botanical Garden were planted in the name of prominent representatives of Italian and Georgian culture.

This corner of the Tbilisi Botanical Garden, like the Forgot-

ten Fruit Garden created by Tonino Guerra in his native novel, was called the Forgotten Fruit Alley. Other Italian and local tree species will be added to the alley in the future.

The initiative has a symbolic significance and indicates the cultural proximity between Italy and Georgia and the great interest in the art of Tonino Guerra and Federico Fellini in Georgia.



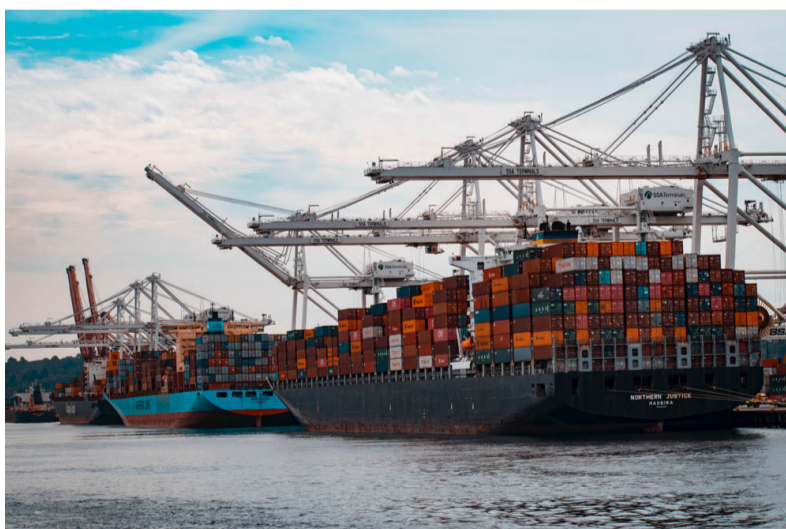
Recently, the Italian Embassy held an event dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of

the two Italian artists.

(Photo courtesy of Tbilisi City Hall)



Georgia's exports decrease by 2.2%



Exports of goods from Georgia in October 2020 amounted to \$312.6 million

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE
The National Statistics Office of Georgia has published a report regarding the external merchandise trade of Georgia from January 2020 to October 2020. The express release reads

that the external merchandise trade of Georgia amounted to as much as \$9159.5 million from January to October of this year.

The report also reads that the value of exports also decreased significantly in the country, by 11.1%, and is down to \$2715.3

million. The imports have also declined by 16.6% and stand at \$6444.2 million.

According to GEOSTAT, the trade deficit in the country equaled \$3728.9 million, and the shares of it in trade turnover constituted 40.7 percent.

According to a report published by GEOSTAT, exports of goods from Georgia in October 2020 amounted to \$312.6 million, which is 2.2% less than the same period in 2019. As for the imports, GEOSTAT noted that it fell 23.5% in October to \$706 million.

The report of the National Statistics Office of Georgia also shows that for the first time since the beginning of the economic crisis in September, exports rose 8.3% year-on-year to \$331 million. It is true that the volume of exports decreased in October, but it is not significantly lower than in 2019.

As for the total 10-month results, the report shows that exports amounted to \$2.7 billion,

which is 11% less than in 2019, while imports decreased by 16% and amounted to \$6.4 billion.

The National Statistics Office of Georgia also noted that the final and detailed results of the international trading will be published on November 19, and it will be easier to tell which industry influenced the current situation the most.

The National Statistics Office

of Georgia, the legal entity of public law, carries out its activities independently. It is an institution established to produce statistics and disseminate the statistical information according to the Georgian legislation. The National Statistics Office of Georgia is established by the Law of Georgia, 11 December 2009, on Official Statistics.



Imports in Georgia decreased by 16% and amounted to \$6.4 billion