

Politics

FM Zalkaliani talks about new bill adopted by the US Senate and its importance for Georgia

According to David Zalkaliani, the US-Georgia strategic partnership is irreversible.



Economics

Clubs and festivals are demanding that fines be written off and the definition of 'entertainment businesses' changed

Mzesumzira was fined with ₾10,000 on July 17th

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BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Yesterday, 14 new cases of Coronavirus were reported in Georgia. According to Amiran Gamkrelidze, most of the new cases in the country are imported. Some of them have a connection

New coronavirus cases reported in Georgia over the weekend



According to Gamkrelidze, 10, 14, and even 20 new cases are manageable.

tion with the so-called Lilo-Cluster. "5 out of 14 cases are related to the Lilo market cluster, 6 cases are imported, 4 of them are truck drivers, one of them is a doctor. An ongoing in-depth epidemic study is on the way about two of the cases, to have a final answer about their origin," said Gamkrelidze.

According to Gamkrelidze, 10, 14 and even 20 cases are manageable, however, it is noteworthy in the sense that the virus is circulating in the country. He said

that if people are massively examined and isolated in a timely manner, the number of cases detected on a daily basis will decrease.

According to Gamkrelidze, this situation was foreseen because of the events that are happening now. As he said, there are several reasons why the number is rising, however, the country still manages to control the situation.

As of now, there have been 1131 total cases of Covid-19 reported in Georgia, out

of which, 920 have already recovered. Sadly, 16 patients have passed away.

Also, a few days ago, the Prime Minister's office announced that the government of Georgia continues to work on an additional portfolio of anti-crisis economic support measures. A special meeting also took place a few days ago, which was attended by Ekaterine Tikaradze, the Minister of Internally Displaced persons from the occupied territories, labor, health and social affairs of Georgia, Finance Minister Ivane Machavariani, Business Ombudsman Mikheil Daushvili, Beka Liluashvili, the prime minister's advisor on economic issues, and Deputy Finance Minister Giorgi Kakauridze.

According to the PM, additional anti-crisis measures developed by the government, which will further alleviate the negative consequences of the economic crisis and will be more focused on supporting citizens, will be presented to the public in the nearest future.

During the meeting, the minister of internally displaced persons from the occupied territories, labor, health, and social affairs presented her proposals in terms of establishing the right goals to the prime minister, while the minister of finance presented his proposals regarding the financial resources available in the country.

They also discussed the implementation of the social support measures envisaged by the Anti-Crisis Economic Plan. A total of 685,986 persons have received various types of financial compensation from the state to date.

The first case of Coronavirus in



14 new cases of Coronavirus were reported in Georgia.

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FM Zalkaliani talks about new bill adopted by the US Senate and its importance for Georgia



Georgian Foreign Ministry said that the bill contains huge support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The document contains strong messages of support for Georgia's territorial integrity, Euro-Atlantic integration, and the country's defense capabilities.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

According to Georgian Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani, the latest version of the US Senate National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 put an end to speculation and the opposition's attempt to bring narrow partisan interests into the Georgia-US strategic relationship. Zalkaliani talked about these with the media about the approval of the US Defense Authorization Bill for the fiscal year 2021, which did not reflect Senator Risch's initiatives.

According to David Zalkaliani, the US-Georgia strategic partnership is irreversible. He also thanked Senator Risch for his support for the bill.

"It was a support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Support for Georgia's European, Euro-Atlantic integration. There is support for strengthening Georgia's defense and security, and, of course, there is support for strengthening Black Sea

security. Georgia is particularly isolated in the region in the legislative act, which has a special function in terms of strengthening security in the region. I would like to emphasize once again that the Senate version of the Defense Act is unconditional support for Georgia's role in the region," said Zalkaliani.

The US Senate has approved the US Defense Authorization Bill for the fiscal year 2021. The document contains strong messages of support for Georgia's territorial integrity, Euro-Atlantic integration, and the country's defense capabilities.

The initiator of the amendments to the draft budget was the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Jim Risch, and the purpose of the initiative was to link the democratic state of US military support to Georgia. The bill, which was drafted by the Senate Foreign Relations Chairman, focused on the situation in Georgia, last year's protests, and the March 8 agreement.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, the version of the Foreign Operations and Related Programs Bill approved by the US House of Representatives contains

important records in terms of strengthening the de-occupa-

tion and non-recognition of the Russian-occupied regions of Georgia.

As for the funding allocated to Georgia by the bill, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia says that the US State Department, Foreign Operations and related programs bill still provides solid financial

assistance to Georgia and it reaches \$ 132, 025,000 million.

The U.S. House of Representatives on July 24 approved by 224 votes to 189 the bill on the fiscal year 2021 state, foreign operations, and related programs. The draft law also talks about Georgia.

New coronavirus cases reported in Georgia over the weekend

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Georgia was reported in late February. However, the country was able to fight against the pan-

demic very successfully and as of today, in the region, Georgia has the least amount of people infected by the virus.

Around the world, there are

more than 16 million people infected by the Coronavirus, out of which, about 650,000 have passed away, and almost 10 million have recovered.



The government is working on a new anti-crisis plan.

Weather

Monday, July 27

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 35°C
Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 22°C

Tuesday, July 28

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 35°C
Night 🌧️ Showers
Low: 22°C

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Clubs and festivals are demanding that fines be written off and the definition of ‘entertainment businesses’ changed



Representatives of the industry have said that they are ready to work more with the government

By NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

Clubs, bars, festivals and music event organizers have issued a joint statement urging the government to write off fines and change the definition of “entertainment business” to “cultural event”.

In addition, they demand that the Ministry of Health start cooperating instead of ‘punitive measures’ and establish regulations that will allow them to host different types of events safely.

The joint statement refers to the meeting held at the Ministry of Health, which was attended by the Minister, representatives of the City Hall and the Ministry of Culture. They said the meeting discussed easing regulations, imposing fines, and promoting business.

Representatives of the creative industry note that it was after the meeting that they started organizing events.

“Because there was no communication from the health ministry, we thought that the agreement that was reached between us and the council was final. Finally, another regulation came into force, which did not include our industry, and we were named as ‘entertainment business,’ which is not regulated as of now,” reads the statement.

They say the state has no understanding of the cultural significance of the scene and similar attitudes threaten the scene, which is already in a difficult situation due to the pandemic. According to them, because of this resolution, almost all events were held on July 17-18, where

electronic music was played.

“The only precondition for holding the event was the encouragement given by these gentlemen at these meetings. We encouraged ourselves to come into action and then, despite full compliance with the rules, we were fined without any warning.”

Representatives of clubs, bars, and festivals also point to selective attitudes, while talking about other places where, according to them, the regulations are not being followed. The representatives of

clubs and festivals talked about a concert in Kikvidze Park and the opening of a dendrological park.

According to them, they are ready to work with the leadership of the country to make sure that they can hold the events, while also working on the safety and security of everyone who attends these events. ‘Mzesumzira’ was fined ₾ 10,000 for an event held on July 17th. As they say, in their case the reason is electronic music and nothing else.



According to the industry representatives, the state has no understanding of the cultural significance of the scene

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