

Politics

Bodies of the two missing bar employees found dead in the river



All the victims of the fire damage at the Varketili market have been compensated

Insurance company IRAO has already completed the compensation of commercial facilities damaged by the fire in the Varketili market area.

FULL STORY ON Page 2

Economics

Georgia's highest investors in 2019

FULL STORY ON Page 3

Controversy around Tbilisi-Minsk-Tbilisi flight



The flight was arranged on August 16th.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

The government plane which flew from Tbilisi to Minsk raised some questions for the opposition party members. On August 16th, information was spread on the internet that the passenger of the plane was the president of Georgia, Salome Zurbashvili, however, according to the government, the flight was arranged for the Georgian ambassador to Belarus, Valeri Kvaratskhelia, who had been visiting Georgia since August 6th, but, due to the recent events in Belarus republic, the ambassador's immediate return to Minsk was necessary. Still, the above is doubted by the opposition members, who believe that the flight had hidden intentions.

The statement issued by the MFA clarifies that the decision to transport the ambassador by governmental plane was made based on the situation when two countries have restricted air traffic due to the pandemic.

One of the leaders of the United National Movement, Salome Samadashvili calls the official version 'unconvincing'. She does not understand why the ambassador was not in Belarus, while 'history is practically being created there,' she also wonders 'why did Georgian people have to pay dozens of hundreds of Lari from their own pockets, while there are, for example, 5-6 flights from Kyiv to Minsk daily,' therefore, Samadashvili does not believe that the reason of the flight was the Ambassador. If, however, this was the case, she demands that the state publish the documentation since she believes that the budget funds have been wasted.

Sergi Kapanadze, who is one of the leaders of European Georgia, also wonders why Kvaratskhelia was not on location during this very important time for Belarus.

According to Gia Volski, the first vice-speaker of the parliament, the statements of the opposition are 'incompetent' and 'harmful'.

"one of the Russian websites reported

that the president's plane had landed in Minsk, which then led to our opponents' statements, that some kind of secret flight had taken place. Besides incompetence, this is destructive as well, since the information is inauthentic. Our Ambassador, who has been to Georgia prior to the elections, has traveled back (to Minsk) and will provide us with detailed information from there," Volski Stated.

concerning the current tense situation in Belarus, the president of Georgia has made a statement which reads that "We hope the current process will be completed in a way that will not harm or hinder Belarus's democratic and European future. We distance ourselves from all forms of violence. We believe that Belarus and its people will be able to decide their own future democratically."



The Ambassador of Georgia to Belarus, Valeri Kvaratskhelia.

Bodies of the two missing bar employees found dead in the river



Bar Bauhaus shared the photos of Giorgi Shalamberidze and Baia Beruashvili on its Facebook Page, saying they were missing.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

Two employees (male and female) of Bauhaus Bar in Tbilisi, went missing on August 15th. After a 3-day search, bodies of the missing have been found in the

Mtkvari River.

According to the bar, Giorgi Shalamberidze and Baia Beruashvili went missing on August 15th, during their shift. They left the bar at 5:00 AM for and left their bags as well as telephones inside the building. The disappearance of two young people was reported to the police at 21:00 of August 25th, and, as the MIA States, 'the response from the police was immediate and relevant searching operations were commenced in an intensive mode' to find the employees.

Unfortunately, as a result of searching operations in the river Mtkvari, first, the body of Beruashvili and a few hours later, the body of Shalamberidze was found and identified.

The investigation was launched under Article 143 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, which is an unlawful deprivation of liberty. Corpses have been brought to the morgue.



As a result of searching operations, an 8-person rescue team found the bodies of the bar's employees in the river Mtkvari.

All the victims of the fire damage at the Varketili market have been compensated

By ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

Insurance company IRAO stated that all the victims of the fire at the Varketili market, the owners of each damaged commercial object, received compensation due to the insurance.

According to them, 245 entrepreneurs received compensation for 382 commercial objects, and the amount paid is up to ₾1 million.

"Representatives of IRAO were gradually determining the value of the products destroyed by the fires in the process, finding the relevant documents in cooperation with the market administration and the landlords. Accordingly, the entrepreneurs received their remuneration in several stages," stated the company.

According to them, as of today, there are only two entrepreneurs left, with whom the process of collecting documents is actively underway, and they will



IRAO starts the process of loss adjustment as soon as the fire breaks out.

be able to receive their remuneration as soon as possible.

"It was one of the largest fires and we can confidently say that our company was able to quickly deal with the damage caused by the fire. Since the public interest in this fire was also very high, we have been in constant communication with the affected entrepreneurs all this time. I think this precedent will significantly change the attitude of the public and businesses towards insurance. This unfortunate case further highlighted the need for insurance to protect the business from unforeseen costs in the event of such an emergency. The mission of our company is to promote financial security and stability," stated Vakhtang

Dekanosidze, General Director of IRAO.

In Varketili, on Shuamta Street, the fire broke out on the night of June 15th. The fire spread over an area of 4 thousand square meters.

About 130 firefighters with 25 units of equipment tried for several hours to extinguish the fire at the market in Varketili that occurred on June 15th. There was also a threat of fire spreading to the gas station and residential building, although it was avoided. The fire burned down a certain area of the mixed market. The fire spread to the warehouse booths and according to the initial information, clothes and various items prepared for sale were burned. By the next



This is a compulsory type of insurance that has been in effect since March 2019 for mass gathering facilities.

morning, the fire was completely extinguished.

According to the head of the Tbilisi Fire and Rescue Division, the fire probably broke out in the middle of the market, where, according to Otar Kereselidze, flammable substances and fire-

works were probably stored.

The government has promised the traders that it will allocate a safe area for them before the market is restored, as well as exempt them from taxes for several months.

Weather

Tuesday, August 18

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 27°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 19°C

Wednesday, August 19

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 29°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 19°C

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Georgia's highest investors in 2019

By NATALIA KOCHAISHVILI

Geostat released revised data on foreign direct investment in 2019. According to statistics, \$ 1.3 billion was invested in Georgia last year. The highest investments came from the United Kingdom (\$ 236.6 million), Turkey (\$ 175.3 million), and Ireland (\$ 133.2 million).

In 2019, \$ 53.7 million more investment came from the UK than in 2018. The highest increases were recorded in Ireland (\$ 130.1 million) and Turkey (\$ 125.4 million). Foreign direct investment fell the lowest last year from Azerbaijan (\$ 210.6 million) and the Netherlands (\$ 109.8 million).

The largest investor countries in terms of foreign direct investment in Georgia in 2019: The UK, Turkey, Ireland, the US, Netherlands, Panama, Luxembourg, Russia, China, Japan, and others.

The Statistics Service is also aware of the preliminary data of the first quarter of 2020 Foreign Direct Investment, according to which \$ 1.7 billion of foreign direct investment was made in January-March this year. According to preliminary data, the highest investments in the first quarter came from the United Kingdom (\$ 73.1 million) and the United States (\$ 28.1) in the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period last year, the number of foreign direct investment decreased by 45.2%.

Last year, the highest amount of foreign direct investment was made in the financial sector (20.8%) and energy (20.0%). Data from the financial sector also include data on foreign direct investment in banking, microfinance, and insurance organizations.

In 2019, compared to 2018, \$ 1.9 million less was invested in the financial sector and \$ 139.2



In 2019, the highest amount of FDI was made in the financial and energy sectors.

million more was invested in energy. In 2019, the largest decrease in investment by sectors of the economy was recorded in the construction sector (by \$ 138.5 million) and amounted to \$ 35.3 million. The number of investments in the real estate sector also decreased significantly (by \$ 122.1 million), in which \$ 8.7 million was invested.

The Statistics Office is also aware of the preliminary data of the first quarter of 2020 foreign direct investment, according to which \$ 1.7 billion of foreign direct investment was made in January-March this year. In January-March this year, as well as last year, the highest investments were made in the financial (\$ 95.1 million) and real estate (\$ 33.9 million) sectors.



According to the data published by the National Bank, the official value of \$1 became ლ 3.0686.



ღამის სერენადები / NIGHT SERENADES

ფესტივალის დამფუძნებელი ლიანა ისაკაძე
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მთავარი დირექტორი
ვახტანგ მატავარიანი

Principal Conductor
VAKHTANG MATCHAVARIANI

ბათუმი BATUMI

AUGUST 27 აგვისტო

თბილისი TBILISI

SEPTEMBER 2,4 სექტემბერი

