

2177 new cases of Covid-19 reported in Georgia over the weekend, 12 deaths



Over the weekend, 12 people passed away due to the complications of Coronavirus

Politics

UNM's rally in Batumi, followed backlash

UNM says the number of people showed up at the rally surpassed their expectations



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Economics

Economic growth forecast of Georgia

According to the information of IMF, in 2021, the economy of Georgia will grow by 5%

FULL STORY ON Page 3

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The number of Coronavirus cases in Georgia has significantly increased over the past few weeks. Over the last two days, a total of 2177 cases were reported in the country. Out of this, 957 was reported on Saturday, and 1192- on

Sunday. The number of cases reported in Tbilisi is increasing: on Saturday, 397 new cases were reported in Tbilisi, while on Sunday, there were 471 new cases of Coronavirus in Tbilisi.

On Saturday, 226 cases were reported in Adjara, 232- in Imereti, and almost 100 in other regions of the country. On

Sunday-343 cases were from Adjara, 211 from Imereti.

Georgian government representatives repeatedly state that they don't plan on tightening restrictions in the country. This is followed by sharp criticism from

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There are total of 9281 active cases in Georgia

UNM's rally in Batumi, followed backlash

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The United National Movement held a rally in Batumi, which was attended by thousands of people. The ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili addressed the gathered, and claimed that the government had artificially spread Coronavirus in Batumi.

The rally, which was attended by thousands of people, was followed by huge criticism from society and other political leaders. Recently, Sergi Kapanadze, the head of the European Georgia

election headquarters stated that their plans to hold a protest rally would have been canceled because of the pandemic situation in the country.

The Mayor of Tbilisi Kakha Kaladze commented on the UNM's rally in Batumi and said that Georgia is fighting against two viruses, 'Coronavirus and the UNM.' Also, Ombudsperson of Georgia Nino Lomjaria said that when it comes to the critical situation like the country is in today, it is 'extreme irresponsibility' to gather such a large number of people for a rally,



Mikheil Saakashvili addressed Georgians, said the government artificially spread Coronavirus in Batumi



The rally that was attended by thousands of people, was followed by sharp criticism from society and other political leaders

without following any guidelines.

The Speaker of the Parliament Archil Talakvadze also assessed the act as irresponsible behavior and added that the fact forces the country to have to double the health resources. According to him, it was a 'shameful attack' on public health and the safety of citizens.

According to the Executive Secretary of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, the rally organized by the National Movement in Batumi is not only irresponsible, but also a deliberate harm. He spoke about it at a briefing in

the party office. According to him, the opposition party gathered about 1,500 people for the rally and took them to Batumi. Kobakhidze added that this deliberate action was aimed at "facilitating the spread of the virus in the country and moving it from Batumi to other districts."

Zaal Udumashvili, the leader of the United National Movement, says that the party is planning on more gatherings. As he explains, they had mobilized thermo screening machines and face masks, though they did not expect such a large number of people.

The rally was held in Batumi, Ajdara, which has been the epicenter of the virus in the last few weeks.

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the society, calling on the government to effectively intervene in the situation.

Marina Endeladze, head of the boxing department at Hospital for Infectious Diseases says the Coronavirus epidemic in

Georgia is 'alarming.'

Yesterday, the leader of a political party Lelo, Mamuka Khazaradze, tested positive for Covid-19. "This one is the first test; I will take another one in 48 hours to be 100% sure. As of now, I do not have a high temperature anymore, and I'm feeling good," wrote Khazaradze on his Facebook.

In total, there have been more than 17477 cases reported in the country, with 8060 recoveries and 136 deaths. As of Sunday evening, there are 9281 active cases in the country.



Khazaradze tested positive for Covid-19.

Weather

Monday, October 19

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 27°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 16°C

Tuesday, October 20

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 23°C

Night Rain

Low: 12°C

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Economic growth forecast of Georgia



According to the forecast of the World Bank, in 2021, Georgia will have 4% economic growth

IMF claims the country's economy will shrink by 5%

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Due to the restrictions adopted to overcome the challenges related to the pandemic, the largest portion of the country's economy was put on hold. As of today, experts are having a hard time forecasting the economic growth in the future. However, the forecast that most of the experts are talking about, is surprisingly positive.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund published a report on the future

economic growth of many different countries around the world. According to the IMF, in 2021, the economy of Georgia will grow by 5%. As for 2021-2025, the economic growth of the country will be 5.5% on average. However, this forecast might change in the future.

As of 2020, the IMF says that Georgia's economy will shrink by 5%. The forecast is the most positive for Georgia in the whole region. For Russia, the economic growth that is forecasted by IMF in 2021 is only 2.8, in Ukraine- 3%, for

Azerbaijan- 2%, and Armenia- 3.5%.

The Finance Minister of Georgia Giorgi Kakauridze stated that in 2021, Georgia will experience a 5% economic growth even if the tourism sector in the country is not restored at all. "The 5% plan is based on realistic factors," said Kakauridze, and added that if the tourism sector opens up in full force in 2021, the country has a chance of reaching as much as 7% economic growth. However, he also said that there are also some risks, including the ongoing economic process around the world.

According to the forecast of the World

Bank, however, in 2021, Georgia will see only a 4% economic growth. State Audit Office representatives also stated that they are pessimistic about the 5% increase in 2021.

Economic growth is an increase in the production of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another. It can be measured in nominal or real (adjusted for inflation) terms. Economic growth means there is an increase in national output and national income and is usually defined by two main factors: An increase in aggregate demand (AD) and an increase in aggregate supply.

Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, 'What Do We Have in Common' started in Tbilisi

The second edition of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial entitled "What do we have in common" will be held from October 17 to November 8, 2020.

This year's concept of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial envisages the understanding of the concept of commonality and unites Georgian and foreign ar-

chitects, urbanists, artists and scientists. Over the next 3 weeks, numerous lectures, workshops, symposiums, digital projects, installations, and exhibitions will be held on the Biennial platform, with physical projects in various cities around the world, including Tbilisi, Berlin, Milan, London, Kiev, War-

saw, and more will be held.

The spread of COVID-19 raises new questions in the social and urban context regarding the notion of commonality. Tbilisi Architecture Biennial turns newly created constraints into opportunities and will hold the event almost entirely on a digital platform

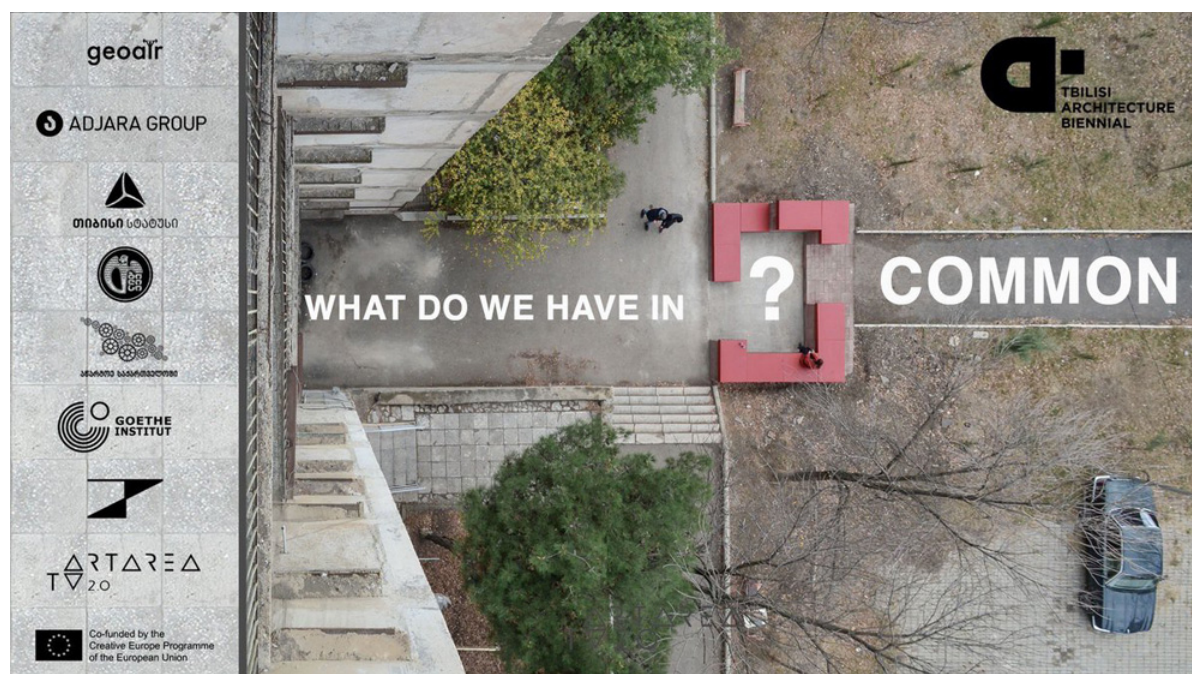
(www.biennial.ge). Using the new format, the Biennial wants to become a voice that will reach more people and cover a larger area. Thus, the 2020 event will become a "Common Architecture Biennial", which will originate from Tbilisi, but will try to spread this idea beyond the borders of Tbilisi and Georgia.

As part of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, the event will host speakers from around the world and talk about community and collective spaces from an individual, social and other rel-

evant perspective.

The full program of events will be available on the Biennial digital platform (www.biennial.ge). It will discuss all tangible and intangible resources that are common property and explore the topics of common space, its uptake and redistribution, distance and separation.

The event was opened at Dicho Tbilisi Pavilion, on October 17, 2020, at 7 PM. The Tbilisi Architecture Biennial is co-sponsored by the EU's Creative Europe program.



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