



Coronavirus updates

TOTAL
NUMBER
OF DEATH
CASES
REACHES
178

9,401 PEOPLE RECOVERED AND **78** DIED,
4408 PEOPLE ARE STILL IN QUARANTINE MODE.

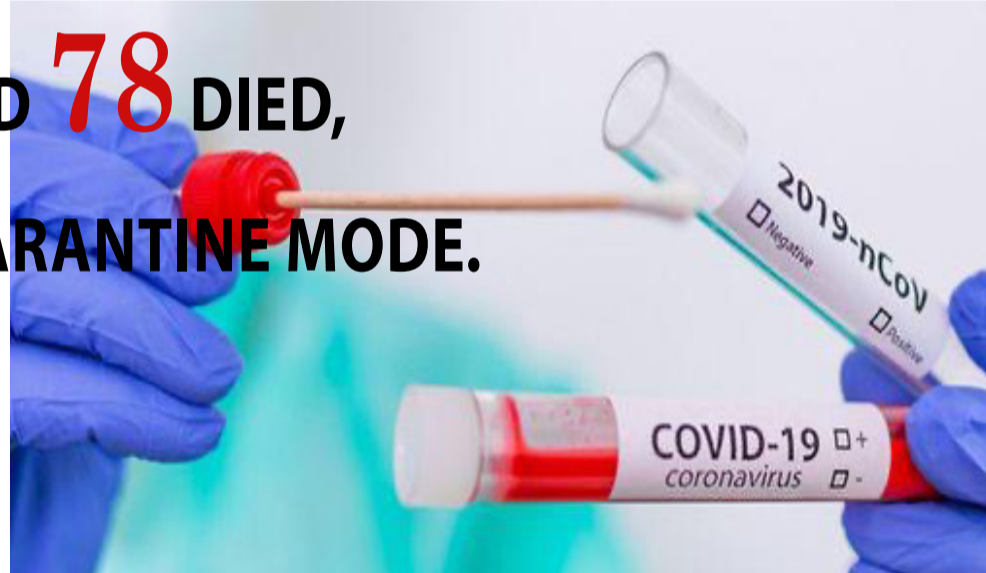
BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

Stpov.ge informs that in the last 24 hours, 1595 new cases of coronavirus have been reported in Georgia.

To date, 178 people have died from coronavirus in the country. Another 398 patients recovered, the total number of recovered being 9,401.

4408 citizens are in quarantine, and 3155 people are under supervision in the hospital. 1848 patients are treated at a Covid Hotel. 41 Georgian citizens have been transferred from abroad for treatment.

A total of 22,803 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Georgia.



► The number of cases increases daily.

POLITICS

ICDI releases a statement, urging the CEC not to violate rules during elections



FULL STORY ON Page 2

ECONOMICS

Three main challenges for the financial sector in Georgia amid pandemic



FULL STORY ON Page 3

ICDI releases a statement, urging the CEC not to violate rules during elections

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES HAS APPEALED TO THE CEC TO ENSURE THAT THE DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT VOTERS IN CLINICS AND ISOLATION DOES NOT VIOLATE THE RULE.

BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

The International Center for Democratic Initiatives, one of the NGOs for Elections Together, has appealed to the CEC not to provide personal information about voters in quarantine and self-isolation.

The information is spread by the International Center for Democratic Initiatives.

According to the first paragraph of Article 5 of the Resolution of the Central Election Commission of Georgia (45/2020 of October 19th, 2020), to ensure the participation of voters in inpatient facilities and isolation (quarantine, self-isolation) and their participation in the October 31st, 2020 elections, the CEC established the lists of the special and portable ballot box of the voters of the polling station determined for exercising the right to vote.

Also, according to Article 5, Paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Resolution, persons in inpatient medical institutions and isolation (quarantine, self-isolation), as well as, according to Article 4 of the Resolution, observers, election subjects/and based on data on representatives of other mass media no later than the 3rd day before the elections (October 28th) the CEC approves the special list of voters by decree.

Under Article 5, paragraph 3 of the Resolution, the mobile ballot box list is compiled based on the unified and special voter lists and the voters specified in Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Resolution are included in it.

According to Article 3 of the Resolution, the Interagency Coordination Council, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs



► ICDI asks the CEC to pay attention to the issues given in this statement and respond accordingly.

of Georgia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the LEPL Security Police Department, the LEPL Emergency Coordination and Emergency Management Agency, Within the scope of competence, in the form established by the CEC, should submit to the list of people who:

1. Due to infection with the new coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, will be placed in inpatient medical facilities and quarantine areas by polling day;

2. Will be placed in quarantine areas on election day to prevent the spread of New Coronavirus infection;

3. Based on the Resolution №322 of the Government of Georgia of May 23rd, 2020, will be in self-isolation for the voting day;

4. Will be treated at home according to "Management of Mild Cases of New Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19) at Home" - approved by Order 101-286 /the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of the Occupied Territories of Georgia.

5. Due to working conditions (medical facility and quarantine area administration staff, medical staff, technical staff, support

staff, security staff), will not be able to leave the inpatient medical facility and quarantine area on the polling day.

According to Article 5, paragraph 12 of the resolution, the CEC transmits the lists of special and portable ballot boxes (versions for public information and election commission) to the relevant special group no later than 12 hours before the voting.

According to Article 31, Paragraph 4 of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia" (hereinafter referred to as the "Code"/"Election Code"), the CEC is responsible for the formation of a unified voter list, its computer processing and the part belonging to public information (surname, name Photo; Date of birth; Address according to the ID card of the citizen of Georgia or the database of the Agency, as well as the address of the actual place of residence - for a person internally displaced from the occupied territory of Georgia, for a person registered without address, for a person deregistered by place of residence; By decision; date of voter registration in the unified voter list) for posting on the official website of the CEC.

Accordingly, the list provided by the agencies specified in Article 3 of the Resolution and the data indicated therein shall not be subject to issuance to the entities specified in the Election Code until the CEC approves the special voter lists.

After the approval of the special voter lists and the compilation of the mobile ballot box lists, only the public information will be issued to the subjects defined by the Electoral Code.

Accordingly, the personal numbers and telephone numbers of the persons specified in the above-mentioned decree constitute the personal information of these persons and they are not subject to issuance.



ცენტრალური
საარჩევნო ადმინისტრაცია

► The CEC is responsible for the formation of a unified voter list, its computer processing, and for posting on the official website of the CEC.

FRIDAY		OCTOBER 23	
Day		Sunny	
		High: 21°C	
Night		Mostly clear	
		Low: 10°C	
SATURDAY		OCTOBER 24	
Day		Sunny	
		High: 22°C	
Night		Mostly clear	
		Low: 10°C	

published by **The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia

Founded by Prof. **Zaza Gachechiladze**
Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Phone: +995 99 56 56 21; +995 77 76 00 00
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Natalia Kochiashvili
Executive Editor

Nino Kavelashvili
Design and Layout

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 – 3.2274 | EURO – 3.8267 | GBP – 4.2147 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE – 4.1869 | SWISS FRANC – 3.5721 |

Three main challenges for the financial sector in Georgia amid pandemic

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Within the framework of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the President of the National Bank of Georgia (NBG) Koba Gvenetadze participated in the online meeting of the IMF Central Bank Governors of the Middle East and Central Asia, which was attended by the heads of central banks of 29 countries.

According to the information released by the NBG, the main topic of discussion was to promote economic recovery and maintain financial stability through monetary and financial sector policies. The meeting was chaired by Jeffrey Okamoto, First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF.

The speakers of the event were the President of the National Bank of Georgia Koba Gvenetadze and the President of the Central Bank of Morocco Abdellatif Jouhari.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the role of financial sector policy in promoting inclusive growth, as well as aspects of financial stability in a pandemic. In his speech, the President of the NBG spoke about the steps taken to mitigate the negative impact on the financial sector of the COVID-19 country's pandemic and to stimulate the country's economy. It also focused on policies pursued to strengthen the financial sector and challenges in the sector. According to Gvenetadze, as a result of the reforms carried out in previous years, the Georgian financial sector has faced the pandemic crisis well prepared - with the necessary capital and liquidity buffers, high asset quality, and historically low



►NBG president participated in the meeting of the Governors of the Central Banks of the Middle East and Central Asia.



►The National Bank sold \$ 40 million at a foreign exchange auction.

rates of non-performing loans.

The challenges that Georgia came across were multiple: Firstly, even though the banking sector was 'healthy', the magnitude of the shock was uncertain; There was a confidence shock in the market, which could slow down lending to the economy and increase the shock; There was a high operational risk associated with the indefinite pace of pandemic development, lockdown, and, consequently, limited human resources for both the regulator and the financial sector.

"In response to these challenges, we have developed a temporary oversight plan that has allowed lenders to defer significant amounts of loan services during the closing period and, at the same time, extend lending to the real sector," Gvenetadze said in a speech. He also stressed that in parallel with the easing of monetary policy during the pandemic, additional liquidity delivery instruments were launched, such as "currency swaps for banks and microfinance organizations," as well as "a tool to support lending to small and medium-sized enterprises."

According to Gvenetadze, the crisis is not over yet but appropriate monetary policy actions and timely use of macroprudential instruments will enable the financial sector to withstand the negative impact of the pandemic and play a crucial role in restoring the Georgian economy.

The NBG sold \$ 40 000 000 at the foreign exchange auction held on October 22nd. The average weighted exchange rate was 3.2173. This is the 18th foreign exchange intervention by the NBG this year. The Central Bank has sold a total of \$ 569,650,000 from foreign exchange reserves in 2020, including the above

Georgia marks a decade of progress in arbitration

SUPPORTED BY THE EU AND UNDP, ARBITRATION OFFERS COMPANIES AN ALTERNATIVE TO GOING TO COURT

TBILISI. 21 October 2020 – Since the adoption of a model legal framework ten years ago, Georgia has set the precedents and trained the skilled cadre needed to make arbitration a viable means for commercial dispute resolution. The challenge now is to win the confidence of the business sector. These were the conclusions of a discussion organised today by the Georgian Association of Arbitrators (GAA) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU). In adopting its Law on Arbitration in 2010, Georgia followed international best practices. The legislation is based on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, which was designed by the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UN-

CITRAL). "Since establishing a legal framework for arbitration, Georgia has made steady progress in establishing arbitration as a profession," said UNDP Head Louisa Vinton. "Now it is important to build on these reforms by showing businesses that arbitration is an efficient and fair way to settle commercial disputes."

"Arbitration has come a long way since 2010," said GAA Chair Sophie Tkemaladze. "The next step is to increase the professional qualifications of Georgian arbitrators, raise awareness and trust of the private sector in this mechanism and promote Georgia as a seat for regional and international dispute resolution."

The GAA was established in 2013 to accelerate the development of both international and domestic arbitration in Georgia.

The GAA adopted a Code of Ethics in 2014; rules for disciplinary proceedings took force in 2018; and four leading arbitration institutions signed a memorandum earlier in 2020 agreeing to adhere to professional standards and norms of ethical behaviour.

With the EU and UNDP support, Georgian arbitration centres resolved more business-to-business (B2B) cases and universities introduced academic programmes in arbitration, allowing students to take part in international educational initiatives, including international arbitration moot courts. Since 2015, Georgia has hosted an annual international conference – GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi – aiming to provide an exchange and networking forum for arbitrators from all over the world.

"Providing credible alternatives for resolving disputes helps to improve the business environment and encourage foreign investment," said Catalin Gherman, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Georgia.

"The EU is supporting the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution – arbitration and mediation – in Georgia to ensure easy and diverse access to justice for citizens and commercial companies and protect their civil and economic interests."

The anniversary discussion was also attended by UNCITRAL Secretary Anna Joubin-Bret, Supreme Court Justice Mzia Todua and Head of the Legislative Department of Georgia's Ministry of Justice Irina Tsakadze. Despite evident progress, Georgian businesses still

lack awareness about arbitration as a form of alternative dispute resolution.

A recent survey commissioned by the EU and UNDP shows that over 50 percent of Georgian companies have never heard of arbitration. However, 90 percent of those who have used arbitration assess it positively. And once the concept of arbitration was explained to them, more than half of the companies surveyed said that they would choose arbitration over going to court.

The EU and UNDP have been supporting mediation and arbitration in Georgia since 2016. This assistance is part of the EU's wider programmes, EU4Justice and EU4Business, contributing to justice reforms and private sector development in Georgia.