

U.S. Financial Assistance to Georgian Health Institutions Potentially Suspended



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

TV company Formula reports that the United States may suspend financial assistance to Georgia's National Center for Disease Control and the Lugar Laboratory. This potential move has raised concerns among Georgian health officials.

Amiran Gamkrelidze, former

head of the National Center for Disease Control, told TV Pirveli that if a suspension is confirmed, it will likely be announced this week.

"If any projects were stopped or paused, I think they will not be permanently halted. Our main partner should not sever ties with the health sector," Gamkrelidze said, emphasizing

the Lugar Laboratory's importance.

Deputy Director Paata Imnadze confirmed to Formula that while aid has not been halted yet, discussions are ongoing about certain projects. He could not specify which projects are under review.

The situation remains fluid, with further details expected

soon regarding U.S. support for these vital health institutions.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken explained that as of May 23, the U.S. is pausing over \$95 million in assistance to the Georgian government due to its "anti-democratic actions". However, Blinken assured continued support for programs that benefit the Georgian people, in-

cluding efforts to strengthen democracy, independent media, and economic development. Over the past 32 years, the U.S. has provided over \$6.2 billion in aid to Georgia, aiding in various sectors from defense to health. Blinken reaffirmed the U.S.'s commitment to supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

National Bank of Georgia's Monthly Review Highlights Key Economic Trends

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The National Bank of Georgia has released its latest "Monthly Review", which provides a snapshot of the country's economic and financial situation.

The review shows that inflation is currently low, at 1.8% for July, down from 2.2% in June. When excluding volatile items like food, energy, and cigarettes, base inflation is even lower, at 1.1%. Local inflation also saw a slight decrease to 1.9%.

In the banking sector, loans increased by 17.8% year-on-year in June, excluding currency exchange effects. Dollarization of deposits was at 49.1%, and the dollarization of the total credit portfolio dropped slightly to 45.2%.

The foreign trade data for June indicates a 9.6% decrease in goods imports compared to last year, mainly due to a drop in consumer goods imports. However, imports of investment goods saw a modest increase. Exports, on the other hand, grew by 5.8% year-on-year, largely driven by higher exports of consumer and intermediate goods, even though investment goods exports declined.

The report also notes that official international reserves fell by USD 19.0 million from the previous month, totaling USD 4.6 billion.



საქართველოს ეროვნული ბანკი
National Bank of Georgia

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Salome Zourabichvili Invites Bidzina Ivanishvili to a Debate



President Salome Zourabichvili has publicly called for Bidzina Ivanishvili, former Prime Minister of Georgia, to participate in a debate. The invitation came during a press conference held at the Orbeliani Palace courtyard. Zourabichvili emphasized the need for

Ivanishvili to clarify his positions on critical issues facing the nation. She expressed her readiness to engage in a debate if Ivanishvili declines a personal meeting. "No one has understood where he is, what he wants, why he wants it, and

what he is doing to this country. I am personally ready and invite him to a debate. If he does not meet me personally, let him come to the debate," Zourabichvili said. She further questioned Ivanishvili's actions, particularly his decisions to dismiss and re-appoint a corrupt prime min-

ister, urging him to clarify these actions in a public forum.

Parliament Chairman Criticizes Danish Embassy Over Saakashvili Poster



Georgian Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili has criticized the Danish embassy for not explaining why a poster of Mikheil Saakashvili, whom he described as the "creator of the human torture system," appeared at a Danish government-sponsored event. Papuashvili shared his concerns on social media, emphasizing the need for

transparency. Papuashvili noted that the embassy is accountable to its own government, not to the Georgian people. He stressed that when foreign entities interfere in other countries' affairs, they should uphold ethical responsibilities and be accountable. He also highlighted the increasing demand from Georgians for transparency regarding foreign finances and interests influencing their lives. "No one should be surprised when the Georgian people, now by law, demand transparency of the finances and interests that influence their lives. It's as if it's elementary," he wrote.



ღამის სერენადები
NIGHT SERENADES

21 AUGUST
BORJOMI | Borjomi Likani Hotel

23, 25 AUGUST
BATUMI | Batumi Drama Theater

15, 17, 18, 20
SEPTEMBER
TBILISI | Tbilisi State Conservatoire

Founder of the Festival
LIANA ISSAKADZE

Artistic Director
GIORGI ISSAKADZE





Weather

Tuesday, August 6

Day Clear
High: 33°C

Night Clear
Low: 21°C

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