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PM discussed the current situation regarding the pandemic.

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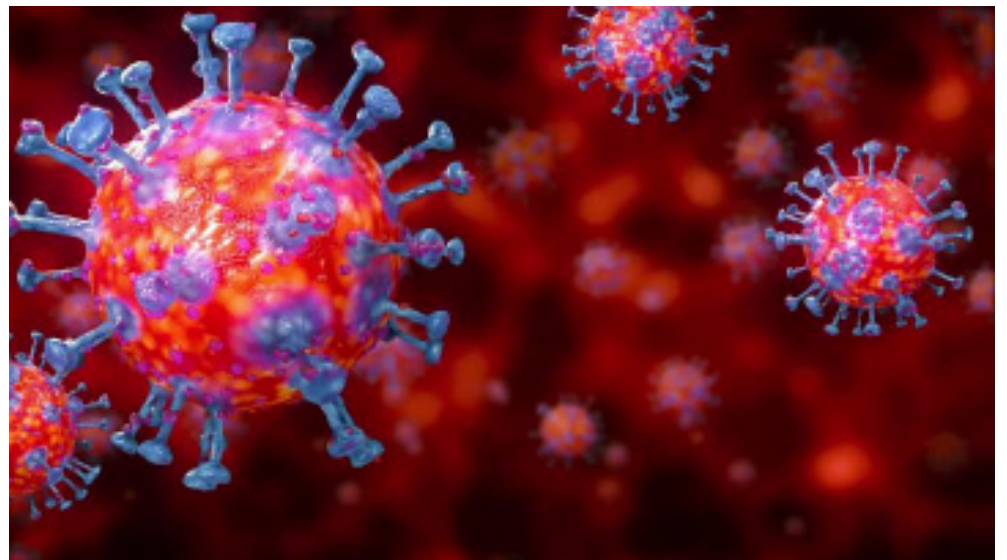
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#stayhome Stay home, Stay safe #staysafe

More than 250 cases of Coronavirus in Georgia with 63 recovered



Levan Ratiani said that among the recovered is a 24-week-pregnant woman.



Number of the people infected by the Coronavirus is growing daily.

BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

Over the weekend, the number of people infected by the novel coronavirus has amounted to as much as 252 in Georgia. Officials state that in a few cases the source is unclear, meaning that the virus is already spreading from person to person.

According to Marina Ezugbaia, Medical Director of the Tbilisi Infectious Diseases Hospital, the statistics have increased, although this is a moderate and controlled number of cases. In Kobuleti municipality, several administrative units are subject to strict quarantine restrictions. Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, Spokesman Irakli Chikovani

stated at a special briefing.

He said a special regime is being introduced in Gvara, Mukhaestate, Leghva and Tskavruka, and strict quarantine restrictions are in place.

In addition to the restrictions imposed by the state of emergency, entry and exit are prohibited in these administrative units. The implementation of this regime on the ground is ensured by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Defense Forces.

Citizens will be able to leave the house only if they need to buy a product or medicine or receive medical care. They will be able to continue their agricultural activities if they follow the protocol created for

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NEWS IN BRIEF

By The Messenger staff

Georgian Orthodox Church to schedule Easter Litany during gov't-imposed curfew hours



Easter Litany will be scheduled on Easter Saturday, during the state-announced curfew amid Coronavirus outbreak concerns.

The church rituals will start at 22:00, and at 23:00, the Patriarch of Georgia Ilia II is planned to make an appearance, with the Litany taking place at midnight.

The schedule was announced by Archimandrite Demetrius after the service at The Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The 6:00-22:00 curfew has been imposed in Georgia since March 31st. Hundreds of citizens are fined GEL 3,000 every day for violating the rule.

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PM Gakharia holds session of Coordination Council

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Giorgi Gakharia held the session of the Coordination Council in relation to coping mechanisms of the country amid the pandemic. At the session, the Ministry of Healthcare presented information regarding the readiness of the so-called fever clinics of the primary healthcare system and the clinics designated to receive COVID-19 patients.

According to the PM, the

greatest importance is attached to the detection of new cases of the virus and the effectiveness of the management system.

Active monitoring of clinics throughout Georgia is ongoing under the leadership of Dimitri Khundadze, chairman of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia.

It was decided at the session of the Interagency Council that the responses to the results of

monitoring must be as fast and efficient as possible, and that this will be systematically verified. Majoritarian Parliament deputies and local government representatives will be actively involved in the process. Control will be carried out in full coordination with the Ministry of Healthcare and the special headquarters.

The situation in terms of food and medical supplies in the country was also discussed. Agricul-



Gakharia said that 112 has become the first line of defense in the fight against COVID-19.



According to the Prime Minister, revealing the infected is of utmost importance.

ture and Environmental Protection Minister Levan Davitashvili noted that the country has no problems with food supply. It was noted that control measures (including the thermal screening of the population) are being actively implemented at the special checkpoints set up at the entrances to municipalities. It was also stated that it cannot be ruled out that the council will make similar decisions in connection with other cities, depending on the future development of the epidemiological situation and the recommendations of medical professionals.

The control of labor safety regulations is continuing in agrarian markets throughout Georgia as well. The markets whose administrators will fully observe the special mandatory protocols of the National Food Agency will be able to resume operation.

As of now, there are more than 250 reported cases of the Coronavirus in the country. 3 people have died from the complications of coronavirus in Georgia and 63 have recovered. Around the world, the number of people infected with the virus is more than 1.8 million.

More than 250 cases of Coronavirus in Georgia with 63 recovered

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such cases.

He said that the health services have started to investigate all possible contacts related to the so-called Kobuleti cluster. Doctors and epidemiologists have started thermo-screening the citizens on the spot, as a result of which, all the residents in this administrative unit should be checked.

At the time of writing, 63 people have recovered from the Coronavirus. Among the recovered are critical patients as well.

According to Ratiani, an 80-year-old woman in their clinic

was cured after 18 days of treatment. He said that according to the protocol, they received a negative response to the infection twice. The patient will be transferred to the therapy department and will probably be discharged from the clinic on Monday, April 13th.

“An 80-year-old woman who was transferred to our clinic 18 days ago, was on artificial lung ventilation. She had acute lung injury syndrome, heart damage syndrome, acute kidney injury syndrome,” added Ratiani.

Ratiani added that a 79-year-old man has also recovered from the Coronavirus. “The 79-year-old man was diagnosed with bilateral acute pneumonia, acute respiratory distress, the patient’s condition is now stable, the lung damage has been corrected; he will leave the clinic in a few hours,” Ratiani

told reporters.

The number of people infected by the virus around the world as of now is more than 1 million.

The most cases of the virus

were reported in the US, where the number of reported cases has already surpassed half a million. In Europe, Spain and Italy have reported the most Coronavirus cases.



The US has reported the most cases of the virus.

Weather

Monday, April 13

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 15°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 4°C

Tuesday, April 14

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 17°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 5°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi,
0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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NBG announces new emergency measures



NBG says that microfinance organisations play a vital role in providing financial services to businesses and population

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The National Bank of Georgia, NBG, announced that they are continuing to take emergency measures to ensure the smooth provision of financial services to the economy within the framework of the plan to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the country's financial sector.

According to the NBG, in this process, smooth provision of liquidity to various sectors of the economy is one of the main responsibilities of the central bank. As of today, the financial system has excess liquidity of foreign currency, therefore, the

demand for the national currency has increased.

The National Bank of Georgia has efficient monetary instruments to provide the financial sector with liquidity in the national currency without restrictions. In the case of foreign currency, international reserves including reserve requirements for foreign liabilities (currently \$ 1.4 billion) are an additional source for liquidity supply.

NBG says that against the backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic and existing logistical constraints, demand on cash has increased significantly (by about \$ 700 million. Also, to finance

the costs of the pandemic, the state budget is mobilising funds from its accounts in the commercial banks (Up to \$ 850 million) to the governments account in the National Bank.

In addition, the National Bank of Georgia absorbed more than \$ 300 million liquidity through foreign exchange interventions. Also, commercial banks and most microfinance organizations offered borrowers a three-month grace period, which led to the reduction of Inflows of liquidity, which also increases the demand for liquid funds.

In view of the above, the demand of the financial system for liquidity in the national currency has increased significantly, and this demand must be balanced by the central bank with liquidity management instruments.

The NBG also announced that microfinance organizations have a vital role in providing financial services to businesses and population in the regions of Georgia. Accordingly, in addition to standard refinancing loans, the National Bank will provide liquid-

ity support with additional 'swap' operations, which, in addition to banks, will also be available to microfinance organisations.

In particular, in order to support liquidity, the National Bank announced that they will provide \$ liquidity to commercial banks and microfinance organizations with swap operations with a maximum limit of \$ 200-200 million (in total 400 million).

The total amount of the swap will be distributed among the participants of the scheme in proportion to the market share of the financial institution. However, in order to avoid excessive concentration, a limit of 25% of the total volume will be imposed on one organization, which will increase the availability of resources for small financial institutions.

The term of swap operations is set at 1 month, with the right to monthly renewal for the next year.

The novel coronavirus has spread from the Wuhan region of China in December 2019. After China, the virus has spread around the world and managed to infect more than 1,8 million people worldwide.



The virus has infected more than 250 people in Georgia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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Covid-19 statistics increased but under control, says Marina Ezugbaia



Photo: Radio Tavisupleba

As of April 12th, there are 257 confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Georgia. According to the medical director of the hospital for Infectious Diseases Marina Ezugbaia, the cases have increased but the situation is still under control.

"Yesterday morning, we had 233 cases, with 19 new patients. If we subtract 252 the number of recovered patients, there are 191 patients under treatments in Covid Medical Centre currently.

67 patients with the Coronavirus in Georgia have recovered and 3 died. In addition, 3 Georgian citizens have been transferred from abroad for medical treatment.

Luarsab and Dimitri Kipianis - Country of Liquid Sun



Grand Price Kipiani lived in the villages of Tola, Khvanchkara and Chorjo located at Racha-Lechkumi border where grapes have always grown well and abundantly. The Kipianis were interested in these fertile lands and cleared them for the planting and cultivation of vineyards. Grapes of the red Aleksandrouli variety grew here in the main with the local population until present day still using them as a source

for their subsistence. lages of Pirveli and Meore Tola, Khvanchkara, Patara Chorjo, Bostana and Ghviara. In addition, the Kipianis owned the lands at the Buneuli Bridge where, from 1880, the famous Bugeuli "Iarmukoba" (fair) was held. Such public fairs used to be held in Shaori and Chrebalo as well.

Amongst the most outstanding of the Kipianis were Konstantine, Kaikhosro, Luarsab and Dimitri who were interested in wine production although they had commercial interests rather than the improvement of wine production technologies. As the local elders have told, they made no changes to the traditional wine production processes with the people of Racha still calling the wine made from Aleksandrouli grapes as

"Kipiani wine." Konstantine and Kaikhosro Kipiani, however, were interested in local wine production technology and they even managed to enter the Kutaisi market with Racha wine.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the Military Road was completed which was a significant development for the region of Racha. The work had begun in 1858 and led, to a certain extent, to the revival of local life. In 1886, regular communication began between Kutaisi and Oni and five postal stations were opened. The construction of the road was followed by the opening of taverns in Ambrolauri and Oni where they served local wines although the largest market for Racha wine was in Kutaisi.

Up until the mid-nineteenth century, Chkhaveri and Ojaleshi wines were the most popular in the Guria and Samegrelo regions of West Georgia although various diseases, especially phylloxera, ruined the vineyards almost in their entirety. By 1875, Samegrelo was importing wine from Shorapani and other parts of Racha. Rachian wines were beyond the competition at all of the competition for Racha wine having disappeared at the Kutaisi market. After the construction of the Military Road, there was greater ease in the transportation of wine from Racha which led to the success of Aleksandrouli wine.

Wine traders Nestor Tsereteli and Varlam Papuashvili contributed much to the international recognition of Aleksandrouli. They worked for Luarsab and Dimitri Kipiani and managed the commercial firm in Kutaisi established by the Kipianis in 1897. The firm was engaged in sale of wines produced by the family and those peasants from the lands of Kipianis, in posses-

sions in Kutaisi with its cellar located in the city at 25, Tbilisi Street and where they stored and sorted wines from Racha, processing them according to the European method required, and bottling, labeling and selling them.

This firm was quite popular in Georgia at the beginning of the twentieth century and it had its own branches in the North Caucasian city of Maikop. Later,

Kaikhosro Kipiani presented their wines as well as wine those of Giorgobianis. In particular, the wine of Luarsab Kipiani was a great success and was awarded the medal with the mark of "praiseworthy. This was the first official recognition of Kipiani wine.

In 1907, Tsereteli and Papuashvili sent the wine made at the estate of Luarsab and Dimitri Kipiani to the interna-



Luarsab Kipiani with his wife Ninutsa Tsulukidze

tional exhibition in the Belgian city of Oostende. Aleksandrouli wine, with the name of "Kipiani Wine," was awarded the highest prize: that is, the Grand Prize with the firm being awarded a medal with the image of Leopold II, King of Belgium. After receiving this award, the labels of Kipiani wines added four new

distinctions: Grand Prize from the Oostende exhibition, the medal from the Batumi exhibition and the image of King Leopold II on both the front and back sides of the Oostende medal.



Dimitri Kipiani with his wife

In 1904, Dimitri Kiplani established a new partnership by purchasing small parcels belonging to former landlords and expanded production in the village of Khvanchkara by enlarging the Aleksandrouli and Mujuretuli vineyards. During the Soviet period, "Kipiani Wine" was called Khvanchkara.



for their subsistence.

This family of the well-known Racha princes originates from Svaneti with the story even told in a publication about their arrival and settlement. It was following the weakening of the power of Imereti king that the Kipianis settled in Imereti and Kartli.

At the end of the eighteenth century, the Kipianis were the landlords of the Tola and Khvanchkara villages. In Racha, their lands were located on the right side of the Rioni River, between rivers Aski and Ritsula, and included the vil-



Luarsab Kipiani during wine tasting