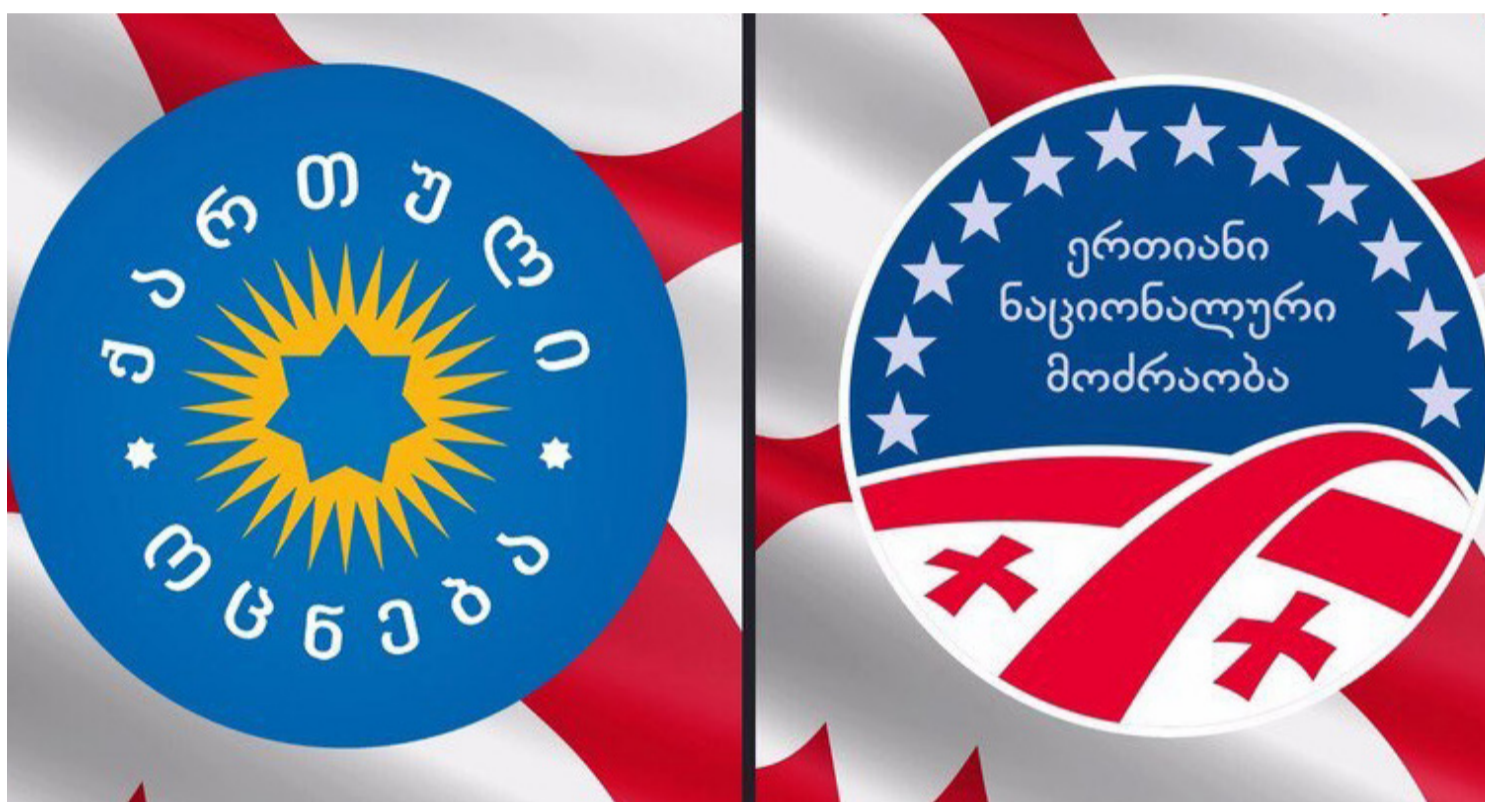


Georgian Dream - 52%, UNM-19% - British company Survation publishes interim survey commissioned by Rustavi 2



► According to a public opinion poll commissioned by Rustavi 2, conducted by the British company Survation, 81% positively assess the army and 75% the church.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

At the request of Rustavi 2, the authoritative company Survation published a public opinion poll.

1 200 people of electoral age were interviewed and asked questions by the company about the upcoming parliamentary elections, their economic situation, and the work of the institutions.

If the parliamentary elections were

held today, which of the following parties would you vote for? The votes were distributed as follows:

- Georgian Dream - 52%**
- UNM - 19%**
- European Georgia - 8%**
- Alliance of Patriots - 5%**
- Lelo - 5%**
- New Georgia - 4%**
- Other 7%**

One month before the publication of this research, on July 16, Formula TV also released the data of the research commissioned by it. According to an Edison Research poll, 39% of respondents supported the Georgian Dream, 16% supported the United National Movement, and 3% supported the European Georgia and the Free Democrats coalition. 20 percent of citizens had not yet decided who to vote for.



► Mdinardze says Rustavi 2 poll is closest to reality.

POLITICS

Remains of 13 missing people in 1992-93 identified



FULL STORY ON Page 2

ECONOMICS

In January-July, exports fell by 17% and imports by 18%



FULL STORY ON Page 3

According to Vice-Speaker Mamuka Mdinardze, the research commissioned by Rustavi 2 is the closest to reality. He talked about it on the same channel.

"According to the Patriots Alliance, we have 13%, according to the IRI, 33%, according to your data, 52%, and in fact, we have a rating of up to 60%, this is a reality," Mdinardze said on Rustavi 2.

According to a public opinion poll commissioned by Rustavi 2, conducted by the British company Survation, 81% positively assess the army and 75% the church. Police are in the third position.

ARMY:

- Positively - 81%
- Negatively - 9%
- Don't know / Refuse to answer - 9%

CHURCH:

- Positively - 75%
- Negatively - 16%
- Don't know / Refuse to answer - 9%

POLICE:

- Positively - 68%
- Negative - 25%
- Don't know / Refuse to answer 7%

Remains of 13 missing people in 1992-93 identified

FAMILY MEMBERS OF 13 PEOPLE GONE MISSING IN THE 1992-1993 CONFLICT HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT THEIR LOVED ONES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC).

By ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

The information about this was spread by the committee. According to them, the identities were made possible within the framework of the coordination mechanism working on the issues of missing persons as a result of the 1992-1993 conflict in Abkhazia, which has been functioning under the auspices of the CJSC since 2010 and involves Abkhazian and Georgian participants.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the remains of these 13 people were found during excavations conducted in 2017 and 2018 in Sokhumi, Gulrifshi, Ochamchire and Mtskheta districts under the leadership of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"The bodies of the 13 people were found during excavations in 2017 and 2018 in Sokhumi, Gulrifshi, Ochamchire, and Mtskheta districts. In compliance with international standards within the world experience, identification was carried out by the JCC through a multidisciplinary scientific process. The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality informed the families about the identification of their loved ones. The transfer of the remains to the families will take place on August 14th at the Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau, where families will have the opportunity to meet with the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. During this process, we will also continue to provide psychological support to families so that they can cope with the difficult emotional state caused by identifying deceased loved ones," read the statement.

Jerome Tue, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Program Coordinator for Missing Persons, said that family members of missing people have the right to be informed about their loved ones and that work in this area is extremely



The Red Cross-platform is humanitarian only and acts on behalf of the families of the missing.

important.

According to the committee, the farewell ceremony will take place on August 15th at Trinity Cathedral. Despite the obstacles posed by the Covid-19 crisis, the International Committee of the

Red Cross has made every effort to continue the identification process. Local and foreign specialists in the fields of genetics, archeology, and anthropology continued to analyze and reconcile existing data to achieve



Jerome Tue, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Program Coordinator for Missing Persons, refuses to give up and is determined to inform the families of the missing people about their whereabouts.

concrete results. A few days ago, 13 families received the answer about their lost loved ones.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 2,352 people, both military and civilian, are missing in connection with the conflicts of the 1990s and August 2008.

According to the committee, the remains of a total of 563 people have been found since 2013, of which 191 have been identified and handed over to families, and work continues to determine the whereabouts of people missing as a result of the conflict. The State Minister attended a meet-

ing of a coordination mechanism set up by Georgian and Abkhazian participants in Yerevan to determine the whereabouts of 2,258 people missing during and after the armed conflict in Abkhazia in 2018. The meeting was chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross following its status as a neutral mediator.

The Coordination Mechanism was established in 2010 under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross; The goal is to find people who went missing as a result of the 1992-93 conflict.

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AUGUST 27 პაპიშვილი SEPTEMBER 2,4 სპიტიბერი

FRIDAY AUGUST 14

Day ☀️ Sunny
High: 30°C

Night 🌙 Clear skies
Low: 18°C

THURSDAY AUGUST 15

Day ☀️ Mainly sunny
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Partly cloudy
Low: 17°C

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In January-July, exports fell by 17% and imports by 18%

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

According to the operative data of the National Statistics Office, in January-July 2020, the foreign trade turnover of goods in Georgia (excluding undeclared trade) amounted to \$ 6,030 billion, which is 17.6% less than the same period last year.

Of this, exports were \$ 1,758 billion (down 16.8%) and imports were \$ 4,272 billion (down 17.9%).

Accordingly, the negative trade balance during this period amounted to \$ 2 513 billion and 41.7% of foreign trade turnover.

"Imports fell by about 33% in the second quarter," Archil Mestvirishvili, Vice President of the National Bank of Georgia (NBG), said during the presentation of the monetary policy report.

According to the NBG, the drop in imports was caused by the decline in tourism and forecasts in this regard. According to him, the main assumption of reducing imports comes from tourism; about 40% of tourism consumption is imported, so one is that "we have better dynamics in imports than before, but on the other hand tourism indicators have deteriorated."

"We used to expect a 70% reduction in tourism and expected some recovery to begin in September. Now we expect that tourism will be restored from the second quarter of 2021; therefore, tourism revenues have decreased more, and we have changed the import forecast," explained Mestvirishvili.

For reference, according to the monetary policy report published by the NBG, as a result of reduced foreign activity and weak domestic demand, imports of goods in the second quarter also declined significantly.

In total, in the second quarter of 2020, imports of goods fell by 32.8% year on year. Imports from countries in the region are mostly reduced from Turkey. The decline in imports continued from the US and China. In contrast, imports from the region are mostly increased due to the import of precious metals from Armenia, as well as copper ores and concentrates for re-export.

However, the monetary policy report states that in March of this year, the number of international visitors continued to decline in the second quarter due to restrictions on international air traffic and closed land borders. Overall, the number of international visitors decreased by 94.3% year-on-year in the second quarter. Amid the declining number of visitors, revenue from international travelers fell 96.7% year-on-year in the second quarter of the year. It should be noted that, like the number of visitors, revenues from international travelers are expected to



► Ministry of Agriculture Releases Information on Non-Standard Apple Procurement Subsidy Project.

be minimal before the opening of borders with all countries and the intensification of world tourism.

Due to the sharp reduction of the international market price for non-standard apples, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture will implement a non-standard apple subsidy project. According to the ministry, in order not to leave the products uninhabited during the apple harvest season, farmers do not face the problem

of crop sales and earn income, a state project to promote the sale of non-standard apples was developed.

Within the framework of the project, in case of purchasing non-standard apples, the state subsidy will be given to fruit processing companies, which by December 1, 2020, will purchase 1kg of non-standard apples from individuals employed in the fruit field for not less than ₾0.22, Rural and Agricultural Development Agency will issue it.

According to them, a coordination headquarters will be set up for organized delivery of non-standard apples to enterprises.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Giorgi Gakharia, made a statement on subsidizing the purchase of non-standard apples yesterday.

"We have to decide to subsidize the purchase of non-standard apples for 10 tetri," he said. As the PM noted, the price of apples in international markets has fallen considerably, which

is why the government, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, will subsidize the purchase of apples.

"The main goal is that not a single gram of product produced by our farmers should be left unattended. This was the reason for our assistance to growers, and as you know, the government subsidizes the purchase of grapes this year," Gakharia reminded.

According to the head of the government, the next step will be accommodating the apple corp. All companies that will be involved in the procurement headquarters created specifically for the accommodation of apples, will receive this subsidy in the amount of an additional 10 tetris. This program will continue until December 2020.

It was also voiced at the government's session yesterday that customs clearance of cars will be postponed until March 2021.

The head of the government gave the relevant instruction to the Ministry of Finance and noted that there had been several relevant adjustments by the importers and the government had already taken this step once. According to him, the mentioned benefit will apply to 24,000 car owners.

"This means that as the customs clearance will be postponed, the fines will not be charged. This will apply to approximately 24,000 car owners and this is approximately a tax relief of more than 30 million," said Gakharia noting that it is necessary to help car importers and avoid these necessary daily expenses, especially during the crisis.



► According to the NBG, the drop in imports was caused by the decline in tourism and forecasts in this regard.