

## About 1,000 cases of Covid-19 reported in Adjara region over the last 10 days



In Georgia, 3502 cases of Covid-19 reported.

### Politics

**Georgian Dream Nominates Majoritarian MP Candidate for Zestaponi, Baghdati, Terjola, and Tkibuli**

**Elections will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>**

FULL STORY ON Page 2

### Economics

**Mamuka Khazaradze talks about the plans of 'Lelo for Georgia' party**

**Khazaradze is one of the founders of Lelo for Georgia.**

FULL STORY ON Page 3

**New United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework presented via virtual meeting**

FULL STORY ON Page 3

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

According to official data, in the last ten days, 1,553 people have been infected by the Coronavirus. The majority of these cases were reported in the Adjara region of Georgia, with more 979 cases (64% of all cases in the last ten days). According to health officials, it's impossible to classify cases into clusters.

The fast dynamic of the spread of the virus started in Georgia on September 10<sup>th</sup>. On this day, 57 new cases of the Covid-19 were reported in the country; out of this, 25 were from Adjara. Starting from September 12<sup>th</sup>, the daily number of new cases in Adjara has been more than 100 every day, which is double as much as in other regions of the country.

The virus in the region started spreading after the so-called 'Dona Cluster', which is a cafe in Batumi. Almost all of the employees of the cafe were infected by the Covid-19.

The increase in the Covid-19 cases comes after a stable situation in the country. Up until recently, the average daily cases of the Coronavirus in Georgia was not more than a few dozen.

The situation got worse with the tourist season.

The Hospital of Infectious Diseases noted that the condition of 14 patients is critically severe, and 80 patients, in general, are in severe condition. Over the weekend, a total of 383 cases of the Covid-19 have been reported.

On Saturday, there were 187 cases, and on Sunday – 196. Most of the cases out of these were reported in the Adjara region of Georgia. However, experts are claiming that there is nothing to panic

about. As they have said, the situation today is more under control than it was before because now the country knows the ways to fight against it.

Recently, because of the spread of the virus, the leadership of the country decided to postpone the start of the schools and universities in big cities. As of today, all universities and schools have started working in the online regime for now.

CONTINUED ON Page 2



Most of the cases are reported in the Adjara region of Georgia

# Georgian Dream Nominates Majoritarian MP Candidate for Zestaponi, Baghdati, Terjola, and Tkibuli

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The presentation of the Majoritarian MP Candidate for Zestaponi, Baghdati, Terjola, and Tkibuli was held by the Georgian Dream. Bejan Tsakadze was presented as the GD's candidate in the 2020 elections of this region. The presentation was attended by the representatives of the ruling party, including the Prime Minister of the country Giorgi Gakharia. He talked about the situation in the country, including economic challenges.

As Gakharia noted, the government should take concrete steps to maintain Tkibuli as an industrial city. As he said, there are not so many cities in the country that has the potential of developing at the same pace as Tkibuli has. He also said that there are some challenges that the whole region faces. He talked about the importance of the safety of people working in the city, especially of those working in mines.

He noted that it is very important for the government of the country to make sure to take structured steps so that the city develops soon. As Gakharia noted, the shortage of jobs is especially felt in Tkibuli, which is the biggest challenge for the government today.

"We must all face this challenge together. We need to understand that any economic reform we are imple-



Leaders of the Georgian Dream attended the presentation.



Bejan Tsakadze was presented as the ruling party's candidate for the region.

menting is primarily aimed at creating new jobs. This is especially problematic today in a pandemic crisis...Georgia will enter the phase of economic recovery with one of the best positions, and we must all understand this and work together," noted Gakharia.

He said that this is the most important thing in cities like Tkibuli, according to him, no matter where people live, they should have access to the basic functions and services of the state. These include roads, water, gas, and many other services.

The presentation was attended by the Mayor of Tbilisi Kakha Kaladze, who said that "after the elections of 2012, the country started developing at a very fast pace." He also noted that he is sure that the ruling party, Georgian Dream, will win the 2020 elections on October 31st.

He said that since 2012, the government has been "serving its people, constantly listening to its public."

Parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held in Georgia on 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2020 to elect the 150 members of the Parliament. The elections will be held in a new electoral system. According to the electoral reforms adopted by the Georgian Parliament on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the elections will be held in a mixed system, combining both majoritarian and proportional.

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Experts have also claimed that there are no needs for further regulations. As they are saying, the country should

learn to live with the virus. Around the world, the number of Covid-19 infected people is increasing daily. In total, there are more than 31 million cases of Coronavirus reported around the world, out of which, the most almost 7 million, was reported in the USA. India follows with 5.4 million cases, and then Brazil with 4.5 million cases.



More than 31 million cases were reported worldwide

### Weather

Monday, September 21

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 21°C  
Night Showers  
Low: 17°C

Tuesday, September 22

Day Cloudy  
High: 24°C  
Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 18°C

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## Mamuka Khazaradze talks about the plans of 'Lelo for Georgia' party



Khazaradze and Japaridze founded the party.

them and have already prepared the first documentation on what legislative acts are needed to establish an international arbitration in Georgia, in which they will participate," noted Khazaradze.

Khazaradze also names the factors that have a negative impact on the GEL exchange rate. According to him, state policy has an impact on both the national currency and the attitudes towards it as well.

In an interview with Forbes Georgia Editor-in-Chief Giorgi Isakadze, Khazaradze also spoke about the trend in recent years in business circles, saying that the field of business "has lost its joy."

There are a lot of things that influence the devaluation of the Georgian Lari.

Among the things that he noted are uncertainty, frozen economy, wrongdoings of the National Bank, and frozen reforms.

According to Khazaradze, Georgian businesses have been investing in foreign banks for several years because they no longer believe in the development of the Georgian economy. "This is the worst trend. What are we even talking about when a businessman, who is tied to the whole infrastructure in this country, has no plan to reinvest the money taken from there and is accumulating it in the economy of another country?"

Lelo for Georgia is a political party in Georgia that was created at the end of 2019 by businessmen Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze. The party has attracted a number of prominent political figures and parties, including David Usupashvili's Development Movement, the New Rights Party, and Pikria Chikhradze. The political party was officially established on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

One of the founders of the Lelo for Georgia party, Mamuka Khazaradze, spoke with the Forbes Talks. He talked about the future plans of the country and the problems that Georgia is facing today. According to him, establishing international arbitration for local and foreign investors in Georgia is part of the 'Lelo for Georgia' election program.

Speaking to Forbes Talks, Mamuka Khazaradze, the party's chairman, said it would be a professional arbitration house similar to the London Arbitration and the London Arbitration team is working on the necessary legislative changes to establish it.

"If we want to attract international capital, we have to offer them the legal space they have in London, New York, Geneva. I mentioned London because I already signed a contract with them when I was in Anaklia consortium. It is a union of lawyers from the United Kingdom and Ireland. 180,000 lawyers are united. We have signed a contract with

The political party was officially established on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

## New United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework presented via virtual meeting

On September 18 of 2020, at 10:00, the United Nations in Georgia and stakeholders hold a virtual meeting to validate the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework, UNSDCF, for 2021-2025. This framework represents a strategic planning document of the United Nations and is aligned to national development priorities of the country.

The preparation of a new United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) has undergone a thorough participatory process, consisting of consultative workshops with government at all levels, civil society, academia and the scientific community, private sector and donors/development partners.

The UNSDCF reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to work for the "Enhancement of Human Wellbeing, Capabilities and Social Equality." The framework sets out the strategic priorities for partnership between the UN and the government of Georgia from 2021 to 2025 in five priority areas: effective, transparent and accountable institutions; equal and inclusive access to quality ser-

vices; inclusive economy and human capital development (jobs/livelihoods); human security and resilience; and environment and climate change.

During the presentation, Head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, Natia Mezvrishvili and UN Resident Coordinator, Sabine Machl, addressed the participants of the presentation. The strategic document was presented by the Head of the Resident Coordinator's Office, Marine Chitashvili.

Natia Mezvrishvili opened the meeting and she expressed appreciation to all partners, especially to the UN family, who worked on the new Cooperation Framework. "The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed socio-economic challenges," said Natia Mezvrishvili. "Therefore it is very important that this document was resolved to end the common threat of the

COVID19 pandemic and help "build forward better".

UN Resident Coordinator Sabine Machl thanked the Government of Georgia and all other partners for their continued support to UN's work and for giving their time and feedback to this strategic document of the UN system.

Marine Chitashvili highlighted the one overarching priority of enhancing wellbeing, human capabilities and social equality of the Cooperation Framework and how the UN will contribute to Georgia's development process over the next five years. She noted that a distinctive feature of the Cooperation Framework is its vivid focus on the development of comprehensive partnerships. Particular attention will be paid to building partnerships with civil society and the private sector, whose innovative potential

will be useful to achieve the objectives of the Cooperation Framework.

In addition, during the presentation, the representatives of UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP also presented their Agencies' Country Programme Documents (CPD) for 2021-2025.

UNICEF Deputy Representative, Amy Clancy, stated that the overall goal of the UNICEF Country Programme (2021 - 2025) is to support the Government in meeting its commitments to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children, as stipulated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals. She noted that despite Georgia's continued commitment in key child rights areas, demonstrated by its progressive legislative and policy initiatives, significant disparities persist.

Therefore, the focus will be on addressing key barriers and bottlenecks to ensure that all children in Georgia, particularly the most disadvantaged, have their rights fulfilled and have improved opportunities and support to develop to their full potential.

Participants appreciated the consultative process in the lead up to formulating the Framework and found the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) comprehensive and well aligned to national development goals.