

## 590 new cases of Covid-19 reported in Georgia over the weekend



There have been total of 5254 cases of coronavirus reported in Georgia

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Over the weekend, a total of 590 new cases of the Coronavirus was reported. On Saturday, there were 296 cases in the country, and on Sunday, the number of new COVID-19 cases was 294. On Saturday, 60 more people recovered from COVID-19, and on Sunday, the number of people recovered from the Coronavirus was 87.

"20 patients are critically ill, including 17 being on ventilator," Marina Endeladze, head of the boxing department at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, told reporters. According to her, more than 60% of the new cases are still from Adjara.

A significant share of new cases of the Coronavirus infections on September 27<sup>th</sup> still falls on Adjara. Out of 294 new cases, 193 have been identified in Adjara. 494 patients are treated in eight medical institutions of Adjara. Among them are 41 minors and 15 pregnant women. There are 22 patients in the intensive care unit.

A total of 26 patients were recovered from the COVID-19 in the region, and as the Health Ministry of Adjara says, a

total of 600 beds have been allocated for COVID-19 patients in medical institutions of the region.

According to the Ministry of Health of Adjara, up to 4000 PCR tests were performed in Adjara during the last 24 hours. In order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, from September 26<sup>th</sup>, long-distance transport was restricted in Adjara. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, municipal transport was restricted as well in

Adjara.

According to the Deputy Minister of Health, Tamar Gabunia, the educational process in Adjara will be resumed and the traffic will be restored when the epidemiological situation stabilizes. According to official data, in the country, half of the daily confirmed cases of the virus come from Adjara.

CONTINUED ON Page 2



The most cases in Georgia are reported in Adjara region

### Politics

#### 27 years since the fall of Sokhumi

The battle for Sokhumi lasted for 11 days, while the conflict in Abkhazia lasted for over a year.



FULL STORY ON Page 2

### Economics

The loss of Georgian banks was reduced to ₾ 317 million

The data has been published by the National Bank of Georgia.

FULL STORY ON Page 3

# 27 years since the fall of Sokhumi



13 months of military confrontation in Abkhazia claimed 30,000 lives. More than 300,000 become refugees.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Georgia honors the memory of those killed in the armed conflict in Abkhazia. The state flag of Georgia is down on all administrative buildings in the whole territory of the country, the ministers lay wreaths at the memorial of the fallen heroes.

Tea Akhvlediani, State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality visited the Heroes' Memorial.

"We respect the memory of the heroes who died in the fight for the unity and freedom of Georgia. It is this memory that makes today a very strong symbol of the unconditional importance of peace.

As for our policy, I believe that our efforts to further reconciliation will be strengthened," said Akhvlediani.

13 months of military confrontation in Abkhazia claimed 30,000 lives, more than 300,000 became refugees. On the 27th anniversary of the fall of Sokhumi, Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia visited the memorial and said that there was no winner in this war and that this war was a tragedy for all of us, Abkhazians and Georgians.

"Today is a day of great pain. We all understand that this is the gravest tragedy for Georgians as well as Abkhazians. There are no winners in this war and this war is a tragedy for all of us, Abkhazians

as well as Georgians. Today, 20 percent of Georgia's territory is occupied. Therefore, we must work every day to ensure that our children, together with Abkhazians - Abkhazians and Georgians, all of us together - can live in an economically strong, just, European, educated state. This is our duty to our children, and I am certain we will fulfill it," noted Gakharia.

The Prime Minister of Georgia Giorgi Gakharia, together with the Head of the Presidential Administration Natia Sulava and the Commander of the Georgian Defense Forces, Major General Giorgi Matiashvili, presented the children of Georgian Major General Geno Adamia, who died in the Abkhaz war, with the highest state award - the Order of National Hero. The title of National Hero

was awarded to Geno Adamia by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister after his death.

The government administration stated that the public school N1 in Senaki will be named after Geno Adamia. Geno Adamia was appointed Deputy Commander of the 23rd Brigade in August 1992, and in September of the same year - Commander of the Brigade and Chief of the Sukhumi Garrison. His name is associated with almost all important and successful military operations to defend Sokhumi.

Today marks 27 years since the fall of Sokhumi. The military confrontation in Abkhazia began on August 14th, 1992. The conflict lasted for 13 months and 13 days. The battle for Sokhumi lasted for 11 days and ended with the fall of the city.



The military confrontation in Abkhazia began on August 14th, 1992, the conflict lasted 13 months and 13 days.

# 590 new cases of Covid-19 reported in Georgia over the weekend

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The epidemiological situation in the country got worse in the last few weeks. Up until then, the situation was fairly stable. However, it quickly changed at the end of the tourist season. Schools and universities were supposed to start on September 15th; however, it was postponed due to the increased cases of the virus.

Recently, it was announced that the only schoolchildren in 1-6 grades will be able to continue offline studying on October 1st. Everyone else, will, for now, continue the educational process online. The first case of the COVID-19 was reported in Georgia in February.

In total, as of today, there have been 5254 cases of coronavirus reported in the country. Out of which, 1906 have recovered. Around the world, the numbers are increasing as well. There have been more than 33 million cases reported around the world.



Around the world, there have been more than 33 million Covid-19 cases reported

## Weather

Monday, September 28

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 24°C  
Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 15°C

Tuesday, September 29

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 23°C  
Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 13°C

published by  
**The Messenger**

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

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 - 3.3332; Euro - 3.8812; GBP - 4.2365; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.2875; Swiss Franc - 3.5930

## The loss of Georgian banks was reduced to ₾ 317 million



In January-August 2020, Georgian commercial banks suffered a total loss of 317 million.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

In January-August 2020, Georgian commercial banks suffered a total loss of 317 million - according to a report published by the National Bank. According to the same document, the operating performance of financial institutions improved in August, as a result of which

the net loss, which amounted to ₾413 million in 7 months, decreased to ₾317 million in August.

If similar operating figures of banks are maintained until the end of the year, then it is possible that the financial sector will end 2020 with a loss of less than ₾100 million or a net profit of tens of millions of Lari.

As can be seen from the financial indicators, the main determinant of the existing losses is the accumulation of ₾1.2 billion in the expected credit loss reserve by banks. In total, Georgian commercial banks have reserved ₾1.22 billion in the 'possible asset loss' buffer, which reflects the amount of possible loan losses due to the expected crisis.

The President of the NBG also made a statement on the financial performance of banks. According to Koba Gvenetadze, it is expected that in 2021, the sector will return to the profit figures of previous years.

"Commercial banks carry out active appraisals and I hope that this amount will not be that much (₾1.2 billion), however even in the worst-case scenario, the banks maintain a fairly high level of capital adequacy and liquidity and their functioning is not threatened by any

a small loss, although given the stable operating income, it is expected that they will regain their positions next year," said Gvenetadze.

As for operating activities, in the first 8 months of 2020, they received ₾2.42 billion in interest income, which is 10% more than in the same period of 2019. More specifically, the income from loans to individuals was ₾1.29 billion, which is an increase of 1% annually, while the income from loans to legal entities is ₾910 million, which is an increase of 18%.

Non-interest income amounted to ₾561 million, which is reduced by 2% on an annual basis. This subgroup includes banks' income such as commissions, fines and others. Revenue from commissions in the first eight months of 2020 was ₾199 million, down 18% from the previous year, while revenue from fines and penalties was down 111% to ₾28.8 million.

As for total expenditures, it amounts to 3.49 billion Lari, which is 36% more than in 2019. 1.2 billion Lari reserved for possible loan losses are included in these expenses. In addition to reserves, banks also increased interest costs. In particular, the interest rate on deposits increased by 157 million and amounted to ₾714 million, while the interest rate on other borrowed funds attracted by the banks themselves increased by 28% to ₾510.8 million.



In total, Georgian commercial banks have reserved ₾1.22 billion in the 'possible asset loss' buffer.

problems. As for their losses, due to the reserves spent, they may end 2020 with

*Association "Nakvalevi" held an event "Ilia's Nakvalevze" in Saguramo, at the Ilia Chavchavadze Saguramo State Museum on September, 25.*

*Association "Nakvalevi", which started its activities at Ilia's house and implemented its first project "Let's be Friends and Discover Georgia", continues to follow Ilia's path. On its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary "Nakvalevi" establishes the tradition to turn Ilia's yard once again into the place for foreign diplomats to get introduced to the Georgian culture and to talk about Georgia.*

