

## Politics

**Interior Minister Vakhtan Gomelauri meets with Director of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Police Department Avtandil Galdava**

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## Economics

**PM says government's resources are limited in terms of support for businesses**

**PM and business representatives discussed current challenges**



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# NCDC: phone calls 'on behalf of Lugar Lab' about COVID-19 medication are fake



Number of Covid-19 cases in the country have increased significantly, especially in Tbilisi, Adjara, and Imereti

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) announced yesterday that people are receiving fake phone calls allegedly on behalf of Lugar Laboratory and are being offered medications for Coronavirus prevention and treatment. The NCDC strongly recommends calling

the Ministry of Internal Affairs in case of receiving such calls in future.

Over the weekend, a total of 3869 new cases of the coronavirus was reported in Georgia.

Head of the government administration Natia Mezvirishvili has recently stated that the government urges people to wear masks even when outdoors.

"Outside, in places where it is impossible to keep a distance, such as in queues, bus stops, etc., wearing a face mask and keeping a distance is strongly recommended by the government," Mezvirishvili told the Prime Minister's Interagency Coordination Council on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Since February, when the first case of coronavirus infection was confirmed in

Georgia, a total of 28,431 cases have been registered. More than 10,000 have already recovered, while 201 of them have passed away. Most cases are being reported in Tbilisi and Adjara regions.

As of now, the government isn't planning on another lockdown or further tightening of restrictions.



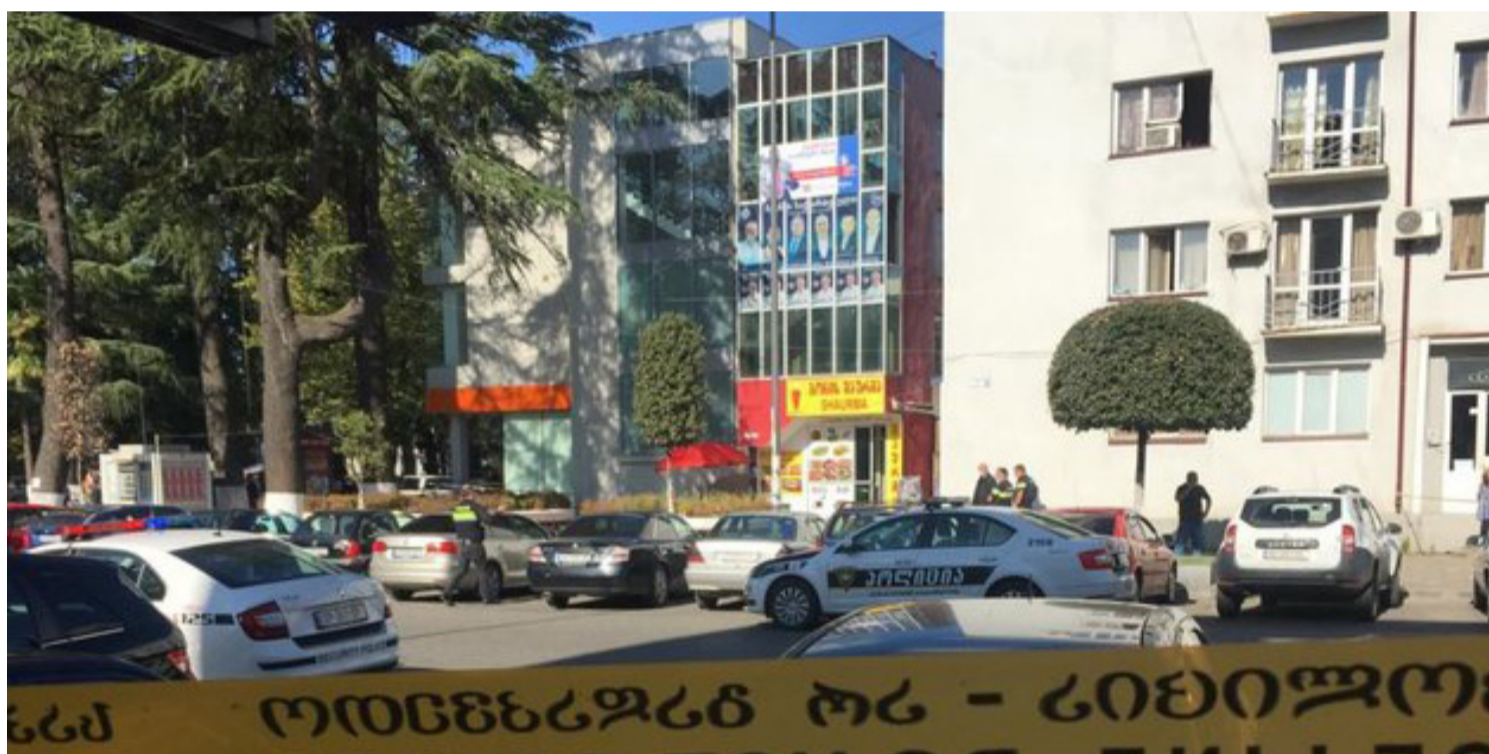
Over the weekend, a total of 3869 new cases of the Coronavirus was reported in Georgia

# Interior Minister Vakhtan Gomelaury meets with Director of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Police Department Avtandil Galdava

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE



Gomelaury arrived in Zugdidi in connection with the robbery of the Bank of Georgia branch



According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the person who robbed the bank is identified

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia Vakhtang Gomelaury arrived in Zugdidi to meet with the director of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti police department Avtandil Galdava.

Entering the police building, the Minister of Internal Affairs refused to give any comments to the media.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has released a statement, according to which the identity of the perpetrator of the robbery attack on the Bank of Georgia has been found and the person has been identified.

“We would like to provide additional information to the public about the ongoing investigation into the October 21<sup>st</sup> robbery of the Bank of Georgia in Zugdidi. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, as a result of complex investigation, has found the identity of the perpetrator of the robbery and he has been identified,” reads the ministry’s statement.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs appeals to the media and the public not to share photos of the robber, as doing so would hinder the ongoing investigation.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, an armed man took 43 hostages in one of the branches of the Bank of Georgia in Zugdidi. After the gradual release of the hostages, the armed man, who demanded \$500,000 and safe passage, left the bank building together with three hostages and the director of the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Police Department, Avtandil Galdava.

They left Zugdidi by car late at night, and in the morning the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued an official statement that all hostages had been released, their lives and health were not in danger, and an intensive investigation was underway under Articles 179, 236 and 144 of the Criminal Code.

## The United Nations at 75: Georgia marking United Nations Day

In commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, the United Nations in Georgia in partnership with the educational platform Kant’s Academy launched a joint campaign.

“Today Is United Nations Day! Let’s join our efforts to

leave no one behind,” said Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia. “The UN at 75 global campaign is an opportunity for everybody to speak up. Share with us what you think about our future. This biggest-ever conversation is a great chance to design new targets based on people’s needs and priorities”.

A launch event, “Imagination Creates the Future”, was held in Rustavi on October 20, 2020. The Mayor of Rustavi Irakli Tabaghua and the Director of the

Georgian National Library Giorgi Kekelidze discussed with the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives of civil society as well as young people major issues our world faces and the future we imagine together.

The campaign will continue and cover the cities of Telavi, Gori, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Batumi and Tbilisi.

“UN Talks” will take place on 27 October, at 15:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace. Several prominent representatives of Georgian society will

share their vision of the future for 2045.

A focused communication campaign on social media and outdoor advertising on public screens will be carried out over the coming weeks and we encourage all people living in Georgia to participate in the campaign by tagging the hashtags #UN75 #ShapingOurFutureTogether and #FutureWeWant

Throughout the campaign, an ideathon, meetings with local population and dialogues with young people are planned to ensure that Georgians will have a say in what devel-

opment priorities world leaders should consider by 2045 by completing the UN75 Survey: <https://bit.ly/3421faa>



### Weather

Monday, October 26

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 23°C  
Night Clear  
Low: 10°C

Tuesday, October 27

Day Clear  
High: 23°C  
Night Clear  
Low: 12°C

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# PM says government's resources are limited in terms of support for businesses



The meeting was held to come up with new ideas to help the business sector in Georgia

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia met with business representatives in the administration of the government of Georgia. The meeting was held to discuss ways of helping the business sector to overcome the challenges raised by the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the last week, five business associations sent PM

Gakharia a special letter, asking for assistance from businesses in the country. "The resources of the state are quite limited in terms of support for business as well as for individual citizens, this is well understood by all," said Gakharia. At the meeting, the PM noted that the government is working on packages of social support for both business and citizens, adding that in frames of targeted business support,

special attention will be paid to hospitality and tourism as one of the most affected sectors. Gakharia spoke about the state strategy at the stage of adaptation to the virus and its management, which implies point restrictions, noting that a systemic lockdown is not planned. "When we say that systemic restrictions are not planned and there will be point measures, we all need to understand that the price is simple -

we have to follow the basic rules, be it a shop, restaurant, hotel, market, public transport, or enterprise..These rules will be very strictly monitored." The PM also noted that Georgia "has one of the best positions in terms of post-crisis recovery" and called on businesses to prepare for attracting new investments and create additional jobs, for which they "will have special support from the state."



Gakharia spoke about the state strategy at the stage of adaptation to the virus

The 'EU4Energy governance' project is running a campaign to raise awareness of the project's work, and the benefits of energy reforms in the six Eastern partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

As part of this campaign, the project uses the hashtag #EnergyReforms4Citizens on social me-

## Green recovery from COVID-19: What it means for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

dia to share simple tips on energy efficiency. This week's focus is on the green recovery from COVID-19. Check out some important milestones on this topic below:

Green recovery aims to help countries to recover from the pandemic, using the 'building back better' approach. This means cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as boosting the economy via investments in new clean energy technology and improving energy efficiency through the renovation of existing buildings.

The EU has also announced NextGenerationEU – a recovery tool, worth €750 billion, to support those hit hardest by this crisis. The tool will invest in a recovery that builds a greener, more digital and resilient EU. Around €10 billion from NextGenerationEU is expected to be earmarked for neighbourhood, development and international cooperation, which will also allow funding for the Eastern partner countries;

Ukraine received a €500 million loan from the EU in May 2020 (as part of a special macro-financial assistance, totalling €1.2 billion) to tackle the most serious consequences of the pandemic.

The EU has also agreed on macro-financial assistance programmes of €150 million for Georgia and €100 million for Moldova for tackling COVID-19-related problems.

The Energy Community continues to work with national authorities and international financial institutions to address difficulties in the energy sector, such as growing energy poverty and the decreasing revenues of utility companies due to late or non-payment of bills as a result of the pandemic.



Photo: European Union