

POLITICS

Ambassador Degnan hopes to see the end to 'polarizing personality politics' in Georgia



FULL STORY ON Page 2

New technology park in Batumi



FULL STORY ON Page 2

ECONOMICS

The UN Celebrates its 75th Anniversary



FULL STORY ON Page 3

BY LIZA NORWICH GERWICK

The head of the National Center for Diseases, Amiran Gamkrelidze announced at the briefing held in the government's administration that Georgia has already paid part of the price and transferred the amount of 4 million USD for the coronavirus vaccine, which will cover about 700,000 people's (20% of the population) vaccination.

"Georgia has already transferred the tranche of money. When the vaccine is received and approved by regulators, Georgia should receive it for about 20% of the population (700,000 people). The total cost is from \$ 16 million to \$ 17 million. The country has already transferred up to \$ 4 million," said Amiran Gamkrelidze.

As for the availability of the Covid-19 vaccine, the deputy head of the National

A tranche of Covid-19 Vaccine for 20% of Georgian population already purchased, Gamkrelidze says



► Amiran Gamkrelidze



► Paata Imnadze

Centre for Diseases Paata Imnadze stated that presumably, the vaccine will be available in the world by the end of the year and in Georgia by Spring 2021. The first countries to receive the vaccine will be manufacturer countries, according to Imnadze.

"There will be several vaccines available by the end of 2020. We know that China already has one vaccine, and there is a discussion about two other vaccines. In my opinion, it will first be available in manufacturer countries and for the rest of the countries by Spring 2021."

According to Amiran Gamkrelidze, a large number of vaccines have been developed and are undergoing pre and post-clinical research. He said that there are about ten vaccines in the third phase, adding that only time will tell how effective it will be.

Ambassador Degnan hopes to see the end to 'polarizing personality politics' in Georgia

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

A few days before the 2020 Georgian Parliamentary Elections, which are scheduled to be held on October 31st, the US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan had a pre-election conversation with acting Public Affairs Officer Christopher Anderson.

Ambassador Degnan said that "Georgians have chosen a path towards a more democratic and pluralistic society." She added that the US would continue to support this decision, since the crucial direction of the US-Georgia strategic partnership is to help Georgia build "a strong, unified, sovereign and more democratic country."

The ambassador remarked that she wishes to see candidates who focus on explaining how they would fulfill the priorities of the electors, such as creating jobs and stimulating growth. She also wishes to see an end to personality politics "which has been so polarizing to Georgia's society, opening a way for Russia and other malign actors to create divisions, and to sow confusion in the country."



► The US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan

According to Degnan, the United States has been supporting elections in Georgia for over 20 years. The US cooperates with the Central Election Commission (CEC) to build its system and procedures. The US also works with the legislative body to develop election legislation that meets international standards and helps political parties to focus their programs as well as their platforms on

voters' priorities. The ambassador remarked that this year, they have done some extra work in cooperation with CEC to ensure that voters can vote safely despite the COVID pandemic, and to protect voter's personal information from potential cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns.

Degnan noted that the US embassy works closely with local and foreign monitoring organiza-

tions, as well as with highly 'respected, professional' Georgian civil society organizations, such as GYLA, ISFED, TI, PMMG, and international organizations like IRI, NDI, and IFES.

In response to Christopher Anderson's question of whether the United States has any preferred candidate, the ambassador stated that the US does not have a favorite party nor candidate and that they will

work with any party that is legitimately elected by the Georgian people.

The ambassador encourages people to go to the elections and cast their votes on the election day. She stated that the US wants these elections to go smoothly and for its part, the United States will continue to be "a strong friend and partner to Georgia as it proceeds with its democratic development."



► Degnan: "I would love to see a calm, peaceful atmosphere on the election day and the day after, so that people can safely cast their votes, and I would love to see a high turnout this Saturday."

New Technology park in Batumi

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Natia Turnava, together with the Head of the Adjara region government Tornike Rijvadze held an opening ceremony of a new technology park and training center in the new campus building of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. The opening ceremony was attended by the Head of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency Avtandil Kasradze and the deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development.

The new technology park is a space where technological, educational, and professional resources are gathered and represents a platform for developing businesses, which are based on



► Technology park is located in the new campus building of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University.

innovations and technology. The purpose of the technology park is to support the local population, private companies, the government of Adjara, and the local self-government to develop their work and gain knowledge in the field of innovation and technology as well as entrepreneurship.

The project was implemented with the financial assistance of

the World Bank and the government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, which allocated over €3 million from the budget to build new facilities for the university.

Batumi technology park presents a universal lab (Fab Lab) of industrial innovations, which is equipped with the latest equipment. A laboratory space staffed with highly qualified specialists



► The government of Adjara allocated over €3 million from the budget to build new facilities for the university.

will help interested persons with modeling and prototyping.

The Technological park combines an education center, a co-working space for startups, and freelancers. The place is equipped with all the conditions to facilitate startup development.

As Rijvadze stated at the opening, this space will allow more young people to implement their

ideas. He noted that the government is doing its best to support the field of IT as well as to attract other global companies to the region. According to the information published by the government of Adjara, the facility contributes to building an economy based on knowledge, developing an inclusive economy, and mobilizing investment.

THURSDAY		OCTOBER 29	
Day		Some clouds	High: 22°C
Night		Clear skies	Low: 10°C
FRIDAY		OCTOBER 30	
Day		Sunny	High: 25°C
Night		Clear skies	Low: 11°C

published by **The Messenger**

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The UN Celebrates its 75th Anniversary



► The United Nations celebrated its 75th anniversary and the UN Day in Georgia.



► Ambassador of Germany to Georgia, H.E. Hubert Knirsch attended the celebration

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The United Nations celebrated its 75th anniversary and the UN Day in Georgia at the Sheraton Metechi Grand Palace.

The event was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia Sabine Machl, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and special guests.

Participants spoke about the role of the UN, missions, and the experience it has gained over the past 75 years.

The ambassador of Germany to Georgia H.E. Hubert Knirsch spoke with The Messenger about the importance of the UN and the upcoming elections in Georgia. Knirsch emphasized that all embassies, including the German one, are very closely observing the election environment.

“I am glad that the violent incidents have abated at the moment, but we receive many reports about various aspects of the process, and we will make the assessment after the elections together with the ODIHR observer missions.”

The Ambassador of Switzerland to Georgia Patric Franzen also commented on the upcoming parliamentary elections, noting that Switzerland hopes to see free and fair elections between all parties. Franzen hopes that all participants will refrain from violence and that there will be a high turnout of voters. According to him, Switzerland will monitor the election process closely, and that on election day, embassies will have small teams present at different stations.

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the UN started a large-scale global survey. The survey covers three main questions- what kind of future do we want to create in the next 25 years, whether we are on the right track or not, and which actions are necessary. The UN calls on each individual to share their ideas, expectations, fears, critical views, assessments of current and future risks, opportunities, and the means of resolving global cooperation. Georgia joined the campaign

with the message Imagination creates the future.

“Everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change and many other global challenges we face,” the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres stated.

The event was organized by the Kant Academy with the support of the UN Mission in Georgia.



► You can find the UN75 survey at <https://un75.online/>

French natural winemakers, Thierry Puzelat and Jean-Francois Nicq visit Georgia

French Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Diego Colas hosted French winemakers Thierry Puzelat and Jean-Francois Nicq at Polyphonia Restaurant, along with restaurant owner and winemaker John Wurdeman on October 28.

Thierry Puzelat started importing Georgian wine some 10 years ago, he owns 12 wineries around France. He imports non-French wines to France, particularly focusing on Georgian wines. After visiting Georgia, he started making Georgian Qvevri wines with his

friends in France. Thanks to his international reach, he has helped to open doors for Georgian wine around the world. Filmmaker Phillippe Gessier has made a documentary on the remarkable friendship between the Georgian and French winemakers that was shown on

the national television in France, as well as various wine and film festivals. Today, you can find natural Georgian wine in Parisian Michelin-Star restaurants, as well as wine bars and restaurants all around France.

