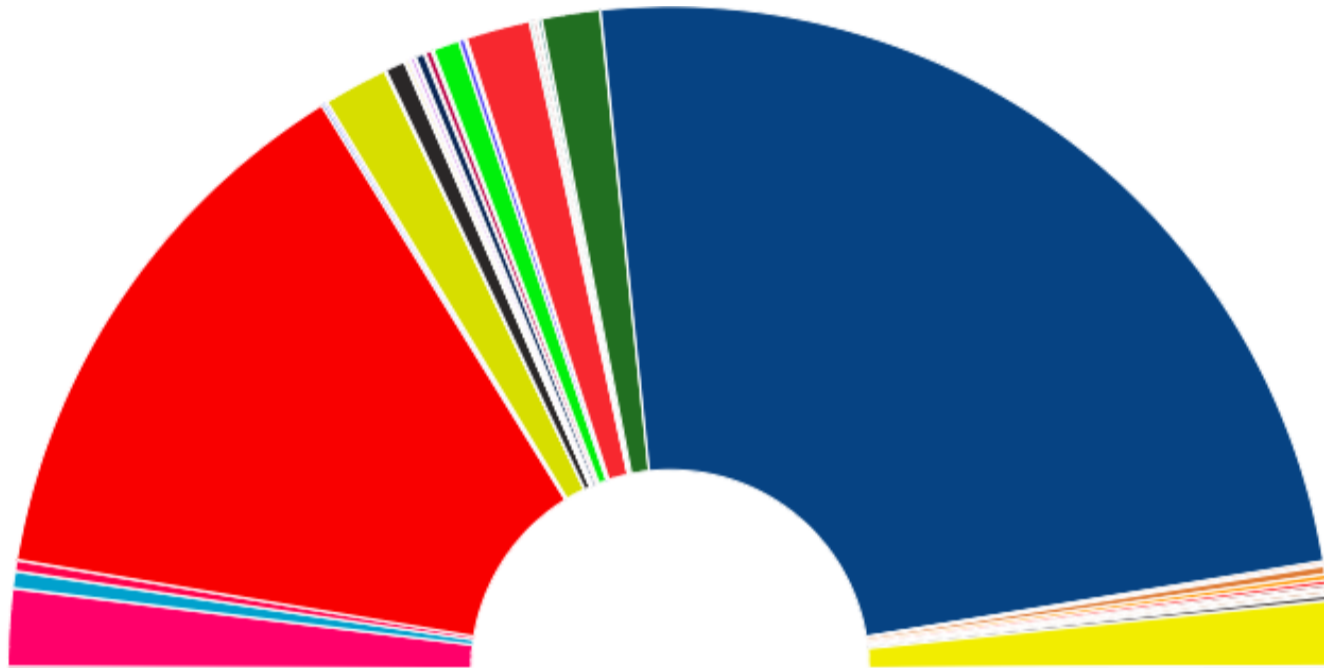


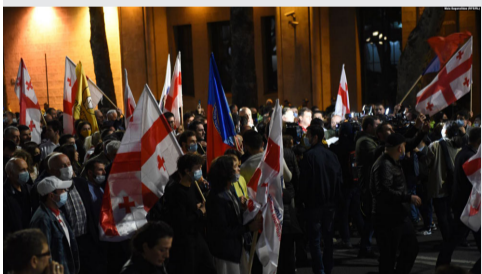
CEC publishes elections results: Georgian Dream receives over 48 % votes



Georgian Dream got more than 48% of the votes

Politics

Opposition is protesting in front of Parliament after the primary results of elections
The election results are released by CEC



FULL STORY ON Page 2

Economics

Estimated real GDP in Georgia has declined by 0.7% in September
GEOSTAT reported about it recently



FULL STORY ON Page 3

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

On Saturday, October 31, Georgia held its 10th parliamentary elections. As the results of the election indicate, Georgian Dream has won the elections, however, in several majoritarian districts, the second round will be needed to identify the final winner, as, in most of the districts in Tbilisi and some around the country as well, no candidate was able to

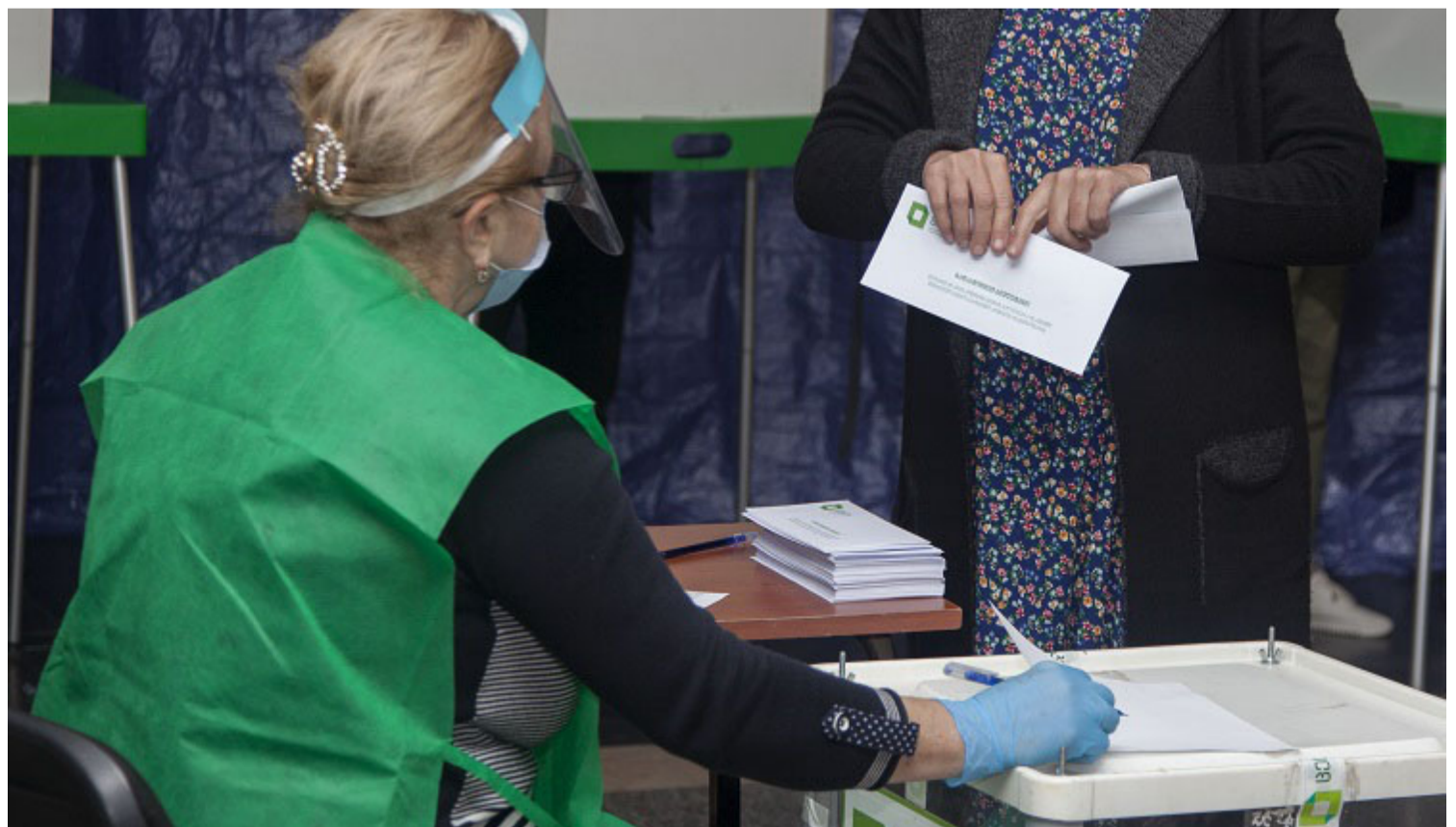
get more than 50%.

At the time of writing, the Election Administration of Georgia, CEC, has already counted and released results of 99,9% of districts.

CEC states that the Georgian Dream got more than 48% of votes, UNM more than 27%, European Georgia has 3.78%, Lelo has 3.16%, Strategy Agmashenebely and Alliance of Patriots each have 3.15%, and Girchi has 2.89%.

The US Embassy has published a special statement welcoming the high voter turnout during the parliamentary elections of Georgia. The US embassy noted that they are sharing the initial assessment of the OSCE/ODIHR, claiming that the parliamentary elections in the country were competitive and overall the fundamental freedoms of people were respected.

CONTINUED ON Page 2



US Embassy commented on 2020 elections

Opposition is protesting in front of Parliament after the primary results of elections

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Yesterday, at 16:00, the opposition held a rally in front of the parliament, stating they do not recognize the election results. Party leaders say they will relinquish their parliamentary seats to hold snap elections.

Gigi Ugulava, representing European Georgia, said that the political party does not recognize the elections, and he would not like to enter this parliament. Nanuka Zhorzholiani from UNM also said that she hopes that the opposition will not accept the mandates and she hopes for the developments to go differently. Zurab Japaridze, leader of Girchi, said that the opposition has not yet decided what to do, but saying no to mandates is one of the things being discussed.

Lelo representatives say that elections that do not express the will of free people cannot be legitimate. Lelo does not recognize the outcome of this election and also call on voters and civil society to unite.

“We do not recognize the falsified election results. We call on our voters, civil society, and political parties to unite because a parliament without legitimacy cannot play a positive role in the political life of Georgia. The only solution is early elections,” said the



At 16:00, the opposition held a rally in front of the parliament



Protesters gathered in front of the parliament building and moved to Bidzina Ivanishvili's residence in Sololaki

representative of Lelo, Pikria Chikhradze.

According to Tiny Kox, the head of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) observation mission, it is disrespectful to voters from opposition to question the election results on election day and call for rallies. He also called on the parliament to convene soon.

“It is not typical for developed democracies to question the election results on election day. I urge all parties to first look at the election results, evaluate them, use the opportunity to appeal, and then make a decision,” said Tiny Kox.

Protesters gathered in front of the parliament building and moved to Bidzina Ivanishvili's residence in Sololaki. Patrol police were mobilized on the spot. The leader of European Georgia, Gigi Ugulava, also announced a large protest rally on Sunday, November 8. He talked about this in his speech at the United Opposition rally.

Former President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili responded to the preliminary results of the parliamentary elections and said that he shares the emotions of the opposition parties and the public who are protesting against the preliminary results of the elections on Rustaveli Avenue.

CEC publishes elections results: Georgian Dream receives over 48 % votes

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

However, the US Embassy calls on political parties in the country to address some of the events that could have affected the elections. The US Embassy showed its support to the voters and parties to use existing legal procedures to file complaints about the elections. They also encourage all authorities to impartially investigate all documents that address violations in elections.

“The United States will continue to monitor closely the

election's progress, including the complaints and appeals process and the next round of campaigning and voting. We ask Georgia's citizens to be patient and allow the process to be conducted in a calm, peaceful, and respectful manner in accordance with Georgian law and international standards and practices. It is the responsibility of all sides to ensure the electoral code is implemented and enforced,” reads the statement of the Embassy of USA.

The parliamentary elections in the country were monitored by many international organizations. The EU, EU Member States, Norway, and Switzerland announced, they would deploy a team of European Diplomatic Watch in Georgia. The European Diplomatic Watch was



The European Diplomatic Watch, which attended the elections, was composed of more than 70 teams

composed of more than 70 teams, which covered more than 1000 polling stations in Georgia during the elections on Saturday.

EU Ambassador to Georgia, Carl Hartzell also visited some of the polling stations in the country. He also wrote on his

official Twitter page that he supports “the ODIHR electoral observation mission, Georgia's democracy, and electoral process.”

Weather

Monday, November 2

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 23°C

Night Cloudy

Low: 13°C

Tuesday, November 3

Day Cloudy

High: 19°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 12°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 - 3.2327; Euro - 3.7732; GBP - 4.1896; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.0776; Swiss Franc - 3.5288

Estimated real GDP in Georgia has declined by 0.7% in September

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

GEOSTAT has reported recently that compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, the decline in real GDP in September was as much as 0.7%. According to the report, the average drop for the first nine months of 2020 was -5%. According to GEOSTAT, there is a downtrend in most sectors of the economy.

“In September 2020 the estimated real growth compared to the same period of the previous year was posted negative in Transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities, Arts, entertainment and recreation, Construction, Professional, scientific and technical activities, Information and communication,” reads the statement of GEOSTAT.

GEOSTAT also reports that the increase was seen in other industries as well, manufacturing, mining, financial and insurance activities, and many others.

Unlike other months, the turnover of VAT-paying enterprises increased slightly by 3.2% year-on-year to GEL 7.6 billion in September. For comparison, from March to August, the turnover of VAT-paying enterprises was reduced on an annual basis.

The Finance Minister of Georgia Ivane Machavariani talked about the situation in the country and noted that this is a result of fiscal stimulus issued by the government of the country.

“This means that we have almost the same economic activities in September as we had last year. At the same time, we must keep in mind that according to



Finance Minister said this is a result of fiscal stimulus issued by the government of the country

various estimates, the share of tourism in our economy is about 9-11%, and we have lacked this data. Still, in practice, we are at last year's level,” added the Fi-

nance Minister.

Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia said at a news conference after the end of the Coordination Council, that

the negative economic growth has been reduced to a minimum, citing the September economic growth rate released by GEOSTAT.

He said this is the result of the government working together with businesses, citizens, and epidemiologists during the first and second waves of coronavirus.

Geostat produces monthly rapid estimates of real GDP growth rate using administrative data on VAT taxpayers' turnover, fiscal and monetary statistics. The compilation of rapid estimates is an internationally adopted practice to obtain a preliminary monthly growth rate of real GDP. For those sectors, where preliminary monthly data do not exist (e.g. agriculture, non-observed economy etc.), estimations are based on the data for previous periods.

The National Statistics Office of Georgia, the legal entity of public law, carries out its activities independently. It is an institution established to produce statistics and disseminate the statistical information according to the Georgian legislation. The National Statistics Office of Georgia is established by the Law of Georgia, 11 December 2009, on Official Statistics.



Gakharia: The negative economic growth has been reduced to a minimum

Georgia: EU4Youth pre-acceleration programme targets social entrepreneurship in Ninotsminda

On 3-5 November, an intensive online pre-acceleration programme will be held for young people in Ninotsminda, as part of EU4Youth activities to develop social entrepreneurship in Georgia.

The programme is initiated by the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) in partnership with the Impact Hub Tbilisi, as part of the EU-funded project 'EU4Youth - Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development

(SEED) for Green Growth in Borderline Communities'.

The online business camp is designed for young people living in Ninotsminda Municipality and aims to support local youth in generating, developing and implementing business ideas aimed at solving environmental and social problems.

In total, 22 young people have registered for the pre-acceleration programme.

The participants will work on practical assignments, engage in ideation sessions, and master skills for effective pitching of their ideas. The programme will host successful social and green entrepreneurs to share their experience with the young participants.

The main goal of the EU-funded EU4Youth SEED project is to create a favourable ecosystem for the development of social entrepreneurship and

green innovation in the border regions of Georgia (Gori, Akhmeta, Ninotsminda) and Armenia (Lori, Tavushi, Shirak). The aim of the project is to discover the entrepreneurial potential in the most vulnerable municipalities and to promote entrepreneurship opportunities among youth.

(euneighbours.eu)