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1049 people fined for violating Covid-19 restrictions over 24 hours

Over the weekend, 9771 cases of Covid-19 were reported in Georgia



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The grant will increase the country's immediate response to the pandemic

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Mdinaradze: Early elections are ruled out, opposition's demands are unrealistic



Mamuka Mdinaradze

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Mamuka Mdinaradze, one of the leaders of the Georgian Dream ruling party announced that the demand of opposition calling on snap elections will not be met.

"Snap elections are ruled out. They know it very well, and they knew it a month ago as well. We can't fail our voters - millions of people who decided to vote for the Georgian Dream," said Mdinaradze in his interview with TV Imedi.

As for the opposition, their main demand is snap elections. As the representatives of the opposition are saying, snap elections represent the cornerstone of their plan.

The plan was sent to the Georgian Dream on December 4 with the help of the international partners of the country. According to the statement, if the demands are not met, the opposition will continue its boycott and will not join the Parliament.

However, specific details of the ongoing negotiations between the opposition

and ruling party, with the help and involvement of the US and EU representatives in Georgia, are still not disclosed. The opposition, on the other hand, has many times noted that the formation of a new election administration and the release of political prisoners are among their demands.

Several representatives of the opposition parties in the country have noted that it is acceptable to hold a plebiscite in the context of calling for early elections.

Mdinaradze confirmed that the Georgian Dream has already read the plan provided by the opposition, where several problems are discussed. Mdinaradze said that there are many topics which 'can be considered.'

In terms of snap elections, Mdinaradze

also rules out plebiscite, as he believes that "the opposition won't like the outcome of the plebiscite and will say to do it all over again."

It is still unknown when the third round of talks between the government and the opposition, mediated by international partners, will take place. According to the opposition, they also expect a written response from the Georgian Dream regarding their plan.

On December 4, after a meeting of the opposition with the ambassadors, it was said that international partners had requested two days to continue the process.

The parliamentary election in Georgia was held on October 31. Over the last month, representatives of the opposition have been calling for snap elections.



The opposition's remains



Next date of talks between the opposition and the ruling party is still unknown

1049 people fined for violating Covid-19 restrictions over 24 hours

By NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

The Ministry of Internal Affairs reported yesterday that 1049 people in the country were fined in 24 hours for violating Covid-19 restrictions. 67 people were fined for violating mobility restrictions from 9 pm to 5 am, 982 individuals were fined for not wearing a face mask.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs calls on people to follow the rules in place.

Over the weekend, a total of 9771 cases of Covid-19 were reported in Georgia. At the moment, a total of 1282 people are in quarantine, and 6897 patients- hospitalized.

In Georgia, the condition of 1,066 patients was assessed as severe. Among them, 420 people are using ventilators: 187 in Tbilisi, 88 in Adjara, 48 in Imereti.

The number of current active cases is 27,434. Among them - 6 897 patients are treated in clinics, another 16 568 are at their own homes, and 3 969 people are staying in Covid hotels: 1 282 - in Tbilisi, 1 942 - in Adjara, 428 - in Imereti.

In total, Georgia has



The number of current active Covid-19 cases in Georgia is 27,434



Most of the cases are being reported in Tbilisi and Imereti

reported 162,475 cases of Coronavirus. Out of these, 133,511 have already recovered. On the other hand, the number of people dying because of Coronavirus complications is increasing fast as well. The number is now at 1504. On Sunday, 42 deaths were reported.

Most of the cases are reported in the Tbilisi and Imereti regions of Georgia. The number of cases in Shida Kartli is increasing as well.

Many countries have adopted new restrictions to fight against the spread of the virus. The hopes that the vaccine will be available in Georgia in early 2021 are high. However, health experts are saying that people in the country might have to wait until spring to get the vaccine.

Recently, Pfizer's and BioNTech vaccine was applied for approval in Europe. Moderna also seeks approval in the US and Europe. The UK has recently become the first country in the west to approve Pfizer's vaccine, and experts are saying that the vaccine might be available in the coming weeks.

Implementing ECHR judgments: Council of Europe strongly urges Russia to resolve the issue of paying compensation to Georgia

Strasbourg, 04.12.20 – The Committee of Ministers of the 47-nation Council of Europe has adopted an Interim Resolution (*) expressing profound concern that the just satisfaction awarded by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the *Georgia v. Russia (I)* case has not yet been paid. The text strongly urges the Russian authorities to finalise consultations with the secretariat of the Committee of Ministers in order to either directly pay the just satisfaction and the interest accrued to the Government of Georgia, or to commit to using the

Council of Europe as an intermediary for that payment.

The Interim Resolution was adopted during the committee's latest regular meeting to examine the implementation of judgments from the European Court of Human Rights.

The *Georgia v Russia (I)* case concerns the arrest, detention and expulsion from the Russian Federation of large numbers of Georgian nationals from the end of September 2006 until the end of January 2007. The European Court of Human Rights, in its principal judgment, ruled that, from October 2006, a coordinated policy of arresting, detaining and expelling Georgian nationals, amounting to an administrative practice, had been implemented in the Russian Federation. The Court found six violations of the human rights convention, as

well as the failure of the Russian authorities to comply with their obligation to furnish all necessary facilities to the court in its task of establishing the facts of the case.

In its just satisfaction judgment of 31 January 2019, the Grand Chamber of the ECHR held that, within three months, the Russian Federation was to pay the Government of Georgia 10mln euros in respect of non-pecuniary damage suffered by the group of at least 1,500 Georgian nationals, who were the individual victims of the violations. The court indicated that these amounts should be distributed by the Government of Georgia to the individual victims under the supervision of the Committee of Ministers within 18 months of the date of the payment or within any other period considered ap-

propriate by the committee.

The Committee of Ministers examined the issue of payment of the just satisfaction in September and December 2019, as well as in March, September and October 2020.

Since the last examination of the case, in October and November 2020, consultations were held between the Russian authorities and the secretariat of the Committee of Ministers, as well as with the Georgian authorities, with a view to the Russian authorities either directly paying the just satisfaction to the applicant government (Georgia) or committing to using the Council of Europe as an intermediary for that payment.

At this week's meeting, the Committee of Ministers again focused on the issue of the payment of the just satisfaction. The committee reiterated its insistence on the unconditional obligation under the human rights convention to pay the just satisfaction awarded by the court, noted with interest the ongoing consultations and strongly urged

the Russian authorities to finalise them without further delay. The Committee of Ministers also noted the position of the Russian authorities concerning the need to identify the individual victims, the violations suffered and the sums due to them before the just satisfaction can be distributed by Georgia.

The committee decided to resume its examination of the case at its next meeting on the execution of ECHR judgments, which will take place in March 2021, on the basis of information to be submitted by the Russian authorities on the concrete progress made to execute the judgment by 1 February 2021. It further decided to concrete progress by 1 February 2021, to consider at that meeting the possible means at its disposal to achieve progress in the full execution of the judgment.

(*) *An Interim Resolution is a form of decision adopted by the Committee of Ministers aimed at overcoming more complex situations requiring special attention.*

Weather

Monday, December 7

Day Light Snow

High: 3°C

Night Snow Showers

Low: 0°C

Tuesday, December 8

Day Snow Showers

High: 3°C

Night Snow Showers

Low: 0°C

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ADB's \$2.5 million grant will support Georgia's fight against Covid-19

ADB

Georgia of ADB, Shane Rosenthal said that the Georgian health system has been under great pressure because of the increased pace of the spread of the coronavirus in the country over the past few months.

"This grant will help to strengthen Georgia's immediate response and is part of ADB's ongoing assistance to support Georgia's health system, social protection, and the livelihood of its communities," noted Shane Rosenthal.

ADB has been helping the country fighting against Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. In May, Asian Development Bank has approved a \$100 million loan to help the country contain the

spread the Covid-19.

Also, it helped the country to support the local economy and businesses most affected by the virus and safeguard the livelihood of the most vulnerable people in the country, including children.

Then, in October, ADB approved a \$200 million loan to address key challenges that the country's public financial management and social protection systems faced. To support Georgia adopt PCR equipment, the bank also provided a grant to Georgia in August.

The grant was funded by the regional technical assistance project. The equipment helped the country to increase PCR testing capacity and it also

gave the authorities the chance to have a better trace of the virus to better contain it.

The Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. The company also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia.

As the official website of ADB reads, ADB's key development priorities in Georgia include fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth, accelerating poverty reduction, and enhancing regional connectivity.

ADB's new grant aims to help Georgia fight against the Covid-19 pandemic

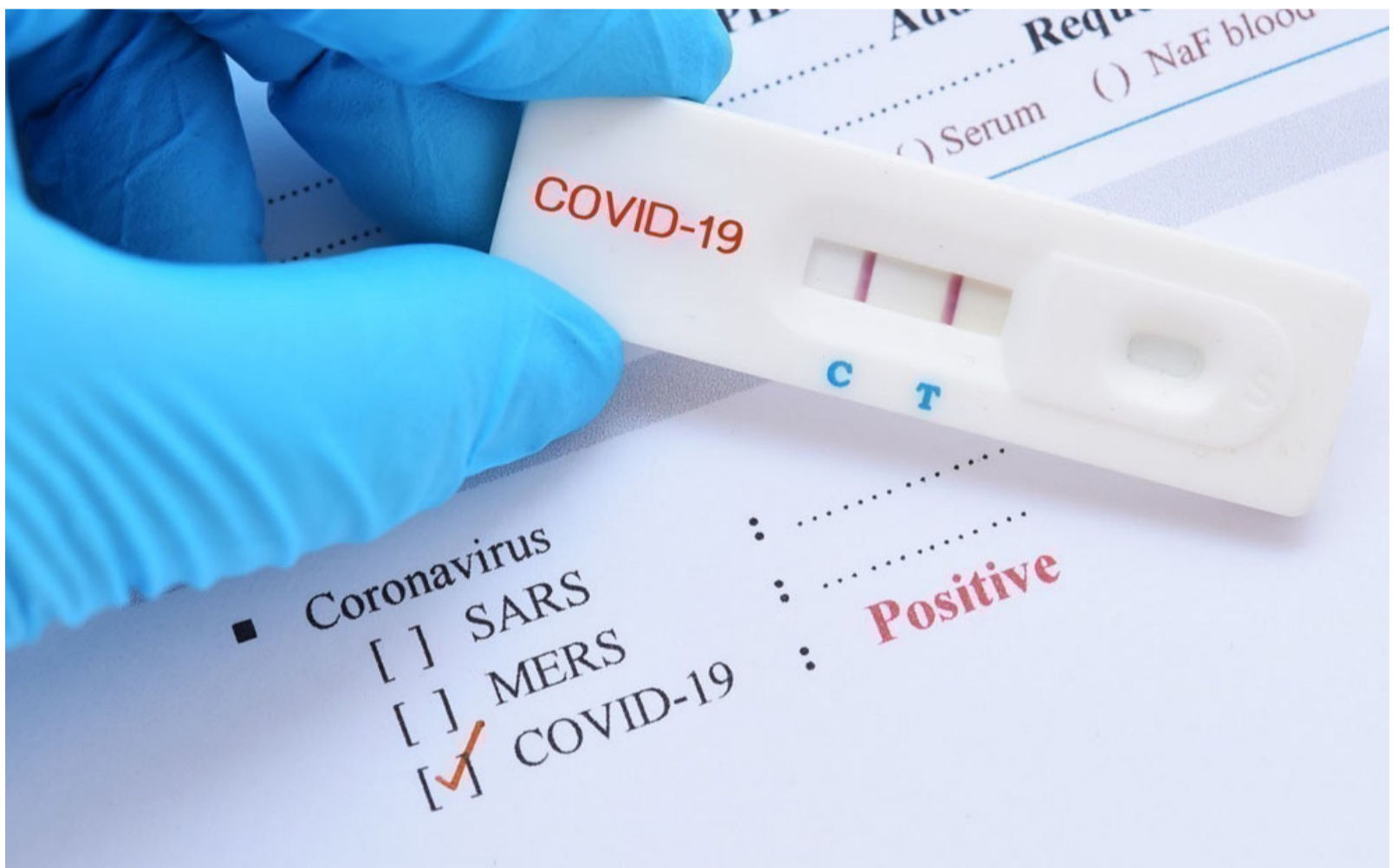
BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a grant of \$2.5 million. The grant aims to help the country in its ongoing fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The grant, called the Covid-19 Emergency Response Project, was financed by ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, APDRF, which is contributed by the Government of Japan. It will be used to provide needed services for communities most affected by the pandemic.

This will include increased laboratory and diagnostic testing capacity and providing personal protective equipment and other types of general medical equipment required for the country to continue its fight against the virus.

The country director for



The country director for Georgia of ADB, Shane Rosenthal said that the Georgian health system has been under a great pressure

Eastern partner countries discuss strategies for climate change adaption

Around 100 government officials from the Eastern Neighbourhood region gathered online for the second regional workshop on climate adaptation plans and strategies on 26 November.

Organised within the 'EU4Climate' initiative, the workshop highlighted best practices and presented efficient tools for policymakers to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Officials from the Eastern partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) also participated in the event. They were joined by presenters and participants from several environmental bod-

ies from the EU Member States and experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The 'EU4Climate' initiative (implemented by the UNDP and funded by the EU) contributes to mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as developing low-emission and climate-resilient economies under the Paris Agreement.

The project aims to help the six Eastern partner countries to adopt climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in order to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and manage the effects of climate change.



Photo: Unsplash.com