

Amiran Gamkrelidze explains Monkeypox outbreak in Georgia and where the country stands in this new outbreak

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to the head of the National Center for Disease Control Amiran Gamkrelidze, as soon as the first few cases of monkeypox were detected in different countries, relevant preliminary works were carried out in Georgia to prevent its outbreak.

"Since May, we have had 10 suspected cases of monkeypox, 9 of which were not confirmed by the laboratory, and one case was confirmed and the patient has already been discharged and is feeling well," said Amiran Gamkrelidze.

According to him, new recommendations will be published on Monday and Georgia will act according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization.

Gamkrelidze also explained how Monkeypox is not similar to the Covid pandemic, saying:

"The WHO has not declared an emergency. The organization's director, Tedros Ghebreyesus, has declared a public health emergency of international concern as cases of monkeypox is on the rise. This is the first time for this disease that such a number has been recorded. He explained that this is not a pandemic, it is a concentrated epidemic in a certain group of people and groups, mostly in men, and the speed of spread is not the same as we have in the conditions of the



covid pandemic, but it is necessary to be prepared in the countries and he called on the countries to be prepared."

Gamkrelidze told the media that Monkeypox is not as widespread as other respiratory diseases and that there is no reason to panic, but the mode of

being prepared and raising public awareness is the best way to prevention.

He also spoke about where Georgia stands in this new epidemic:

"The countries were divided into four groups, we are in the first group, meaning the coun-

tries in the first group are countries where monkeypox has not yet been reported, or there was monkeypox and no new cases were registered in the last 21 days. We had one confirmed case. When cases were first reported in different countries, we did appropriate preliminary

work. We have strengthened the surveillance of diseases with a rash. In Lugar, we have a laboratory facility as a means of PCR test, and we can make a diagnosis through genome research," said the Head of National Center for Disease Control Amiran Gamkrelidze.

Russia is to blame for the world food crisis, says Charles Michel



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to Charles Michel, the President of the Council of the European Union, only Russia is to blame for the food crisis in the world. Charles Michel spoke about this at the summit of first ladies and gentlemen.

"The Kremlin's war against Ukraine is having an extremely large impact on food security. A few minutes ago, we had a conversation with the Prime Minister of Ukraine. A few hours ago, Russian missiles were fired at the port of Odessa, targeting millions of tons of grain that are stuck in the ports due to the Russian blockade. This poses a huge threat to the lives of millions of people in the world," said Michel.

As the President of the Council of the European Union mentioned, he was recently in Africa, where the leaders of the African countries expressed concern about the situation created by the actions of Russia, which may

become even more complicated.

"We must clearly understand that Russia is to blame for this crisis. Only it is to blame for the food threats in the world. That is why the sanctions against Russia will remain in force," said Michelle.

One day after the agreement on Ukrainian grain exports and unblocking of ports, the Russian Air Force launched a missile attack on infrastructure in the port of Odessa, Ukraine.

"The enemy attacked the seaport of Odessa with Kalibr cruise missiles. The Air Defense Forces of Ukraine were able to shoot down 2 missiles, and 2 destroyed the infrastructure of the port," writes the Southern Operational Command of Ukraine on Telegram.

On July 22, the parties signed an agreement on the unblocking of Ukrainian ports and the export of grain. Within the framework of the agreement, Ukraine will be able to export approximately 20 million tons of grain from the country.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7986; Euro - 2.8456; GBP - 3.3429; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.7550; Swiss Franc - 2.8986

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

Russia is trying to appropriate a part of occupied Abkhazia

Russia is no longer satisfied with the occupation of only Abkhazia and forces the proxy government of Sukhumi to hand over the territory of Bichvinta for 49 years, which is important from a touristic and strategic point of view. The Georgian government, which is busy criticizing the West and accusing the US ambassador of interfering in Georgian affairs, is not saying anything about this attempt of Russia.

Even though the Georgian government has been trying to "not irritate" Russia for years, and because of its position on the Russia-Ukraine war, Georgia is included in the list of "friendly countries of Russia", this does not stop Moscow's aggressive policy towards Georgia for a moment.

In the Tskhinvali region, the drawing of the "border" is continuous, and with the expansion of the occupied territory, scandalous information has spread about the transfer of the Bichvinta State Country House to the ownership of Russia.

The corresponding agreement was signed by the puppet government of Sukhumi on January 19, 2022. 186 hectares of Bichvinta land and 115 hectares of sea space are transferred to the ownership of the Russian Federation. All buildings and structures become the property

of the Federal Protection Service, and the Black Sea Ecuatoria with the surrounding lands will be transferred to Russia on a 49-year lease. The agreement was signed in secret and was not made public until March.

There are two versions as to why Russia needs the Bichvinta territory:

According to the first version, Moscow plans to join Gagra and Bichvinta with the "federal territory" created in the Krasnodar region - Sirius. This territory was created in 2020 and is sometimes called a "city of science", although its purpose is not defined.

According to the second version, Russia intends to create a military base in Bichvinta instead of developing tourism. The Bichvinta cape, with its strategic geographical location, is in the hands of Russia, and it needs marine waters for the deployment of submarines. In this case, the country houses built during the Soviet period will play the role of a military base management complex.

When it became known about the transfer of Bichvinta Cape to Russia, it caused protests in Abkhazian society. Abkhazian

politicians are trying to find an explanation acceptable to society. Some say that they should be "grateful" to Russia for helping them and gaining "independence".

In other words, they organized ethnic cleansing of Georgians on the territory of Abkhazia, gave Russian citizenship to the rest of the population, and deployed military bases. They also provide for "possible aggression", so it turns out that if the territory of Bichvinta is handed over to Russia, the aggressor will be more careful because minor aggression against the Sokhumi regime will also be considered aggression against Russia.

It is difficult to say how much such an explanation will satisfy the disaffected, and it is a fact that Moscow is not going to give up on the appropriation of this territory. In the background of all this, the silence of official Tbilisi is strange. No protest statement was made regarding Russia's new annexationist plans. On July 20, "Strategy Agmashenebeli" MP Teona Akubardia held a briefing and called on the authorities to condemn the fact of Russia's annexation of Bichvinta.

"While the anti-Western

rhetoric is getting stronger in the country, and "Georgian Dream" and the deputies who defected from it storm the US ambassador and the West, the process of annexation of Abkhazia continues, Russia is taking Bichvinta away, and, "Georgian Dream," says nothing about it," Teona Akubardia stated.

Moscow is not planning to annex Bichvinta alone. He also wants to make changes in the Geneva format of negotiations, which have been going on between Georgia and Russia since the 2008 war. The negotiations are held under the co-chairmanship of the European Union, the United Nations, and the OSCE. The negotiations are not very successful because of Russia's position, but in this format, Georgia is not left face to face with Russia.

The 56th round of international discussions in Geneva was scheduled for March 20-30, 2022, but was postponed due to the war in Ukraine. A few weeks ago, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko raised the issue of "moving the meetings from Geneva to a neutral place" as one of the conditions for resuming the discussions in Geneva.

Recently, Abkhazia's de facto

foreign minister Inal Ardzinba naturally repeated the same. According to him, not only do Geneva discussions need to be moved to another city, but it turns out that a "politically less committed" format is needed.

Moscow and its satellites from the occupied territories of Georgia are still speaking and acting in the same aggressive mood. Many people in "Georgian Dream" probably still believe that Russia is invincible and that Putin will win in Ukraine. The ruler of Chechnya, Kadyrov, threatens Poland after the destruction of Ukraine, but what if the events had developed differently?

Ben Hodges, the former commander in chief of the US Army in Europe, the reserve lieutenant general, asked an unexpected question to the Georgian Dream government in an interview with Voice of America. "The Russian Federation will begin to disintegrate in the next few years, is Georgia ready for this possibility?" Hodges believes that Ukraine will win a war with Russia. If we take into account the statements and actions of the Georgian government, the Georgian Dream is not thinking about such a possibility.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY
MESSENGER STAFF

WHO so-called A state of emergency has been declared due to the increase in cases of monkeypox



World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global emergency in the field of health over the monkeypox epidemic.

The decision of the organization is related to the increase in cases of infections with the monkeypox virus in the world. WHO made the decision to de-

clare a state of emergency after the end of the second meeting of the special committee convened on the virus.

clare a state of emergency after the end of the second meeting of the special committee convened on the virus. According to Tedros Ghebreyesus, director general of the organization, more than

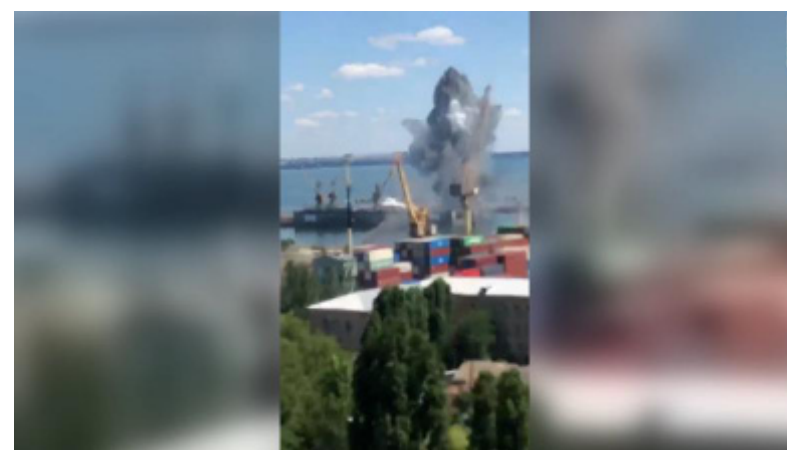
16,000 cases of the virus have been registered in 75 countries. As a result of the virus, 5 people have died. "According to the World Health Organization, the risk of spreading the so-called monkeypox globally and in all regions is moderate, except for Europe, where we assess the risk as high," said Ghebreyesus.

On June 15, the first case of monkeypox virus was recorded in Georgia.

Within a day of the grain unblocking agreement, Russia bombed the port of Odessa

A day after Kiev and Moscow agreed on the export of wheat from Ukraine, Russia bombed the port of Odessa.

According to Friday's agreement, Russia promised not to target the port as long as ships loaded with grain were moving here.



The agreement was described by the United Nations as a ray of hope in the face of several months of war.

The Southern Command of the Ukrainian Army announced that on July 23, at dawn, 2 bombs fell in the port of Odesa, and 2 more were neutralized by air defense.

Andriy Yermak, the head of President Volodymyr Zelensky's office, condemned the attack and

accused Russia of "systematically creating a food crisis."

"The Russian missile is Vladimir Putin's spat on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Erdogan, who made enormous efforts to reach an agreement and to which Ukraine is grateful," said the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Oleg Nikolenko.

Weather

Monday, July 25

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 18°C

Tuesday, July 26

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 31°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 19°C

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