

NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA

July 6-9

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❖ Occupied Regions

❖ Tskhinvali Region (so called South Ossetia)

1. De-facto president says South Ossetia plans to succeed in promoting its positions in Latin America

Anatoli Bibilov, de-facto president of South Ossetia, plans to succeed in promoting its positions in Latin America. Bibilov stated about it at the meeting with Andrey Tibilov, representative of the de-facto foreign ministry to Brazil.

"The taken steps and the set goals will ultimately give us good results. There is a great frontline of work in Latin America. We should clearly follow the current foreign policy course. I am sure we will definitely succeed," the de facto president said.

Representative of de facto foreign ministry to Brazil Andrei Tibilov noted that he would do his best Latin America to be better informed about "South Ossetia."

Brazil does not recognize independence of Georgia's occupied territories and "South Ossetia" does not have official status in Brazil (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

2. Syrian Coalition President condemns Assad regime's recognition of independence of Georgia's breakaway regions

According to the statement, President of the Syrian Coalition Abdurrahman Mustafa met with the Georgia's Ambassador to Ankara Irakli Koplatadze and the Georgian General Consul in Istanbul Inga Kikvadze and discussed with them the latest political and field developments in Syria. At the meeting Abdurrahman Mustafa expressed his support for the Georgian people (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

❖ Abkhazia Region

3. MFA denies reports about visit of Jordanian official delegation to Sokhumi

The information as if the official delegation of Jordan has visited Sokhumi is not true, - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia said.

According to the Press and Information Department of the Ministry, this is a private visit of Circassian Diaspora representatives and the proposals and / or initiatives voiced by them do not reflect the official position of Jordan. (Munir Sobar does not represent the vice president of the Senate, he is an ordinary senator and the rest people are not civil servants) (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

4. So-called border guards detain young man near occupation line

So-called border guards detained 30-year-old man Paata Arkelov, living in the village Akhrisi of Gori Municipality, near occupation line. Arkelov has been taken to militia isolator. The man is likely to lose his way and appear on the occupied territory (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

❖ Foreign Affairs

5. Vice Prime Minister of Belgium to visit Georgia

Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, will visit Georgia today, - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia told "InterPressNews". As the Ministry informs, Foreign Minister of Georgia Davit Zalkaliani will hold a bilateral meeting with Didier Reynders. During the visit, Didier Reynders will hold a meeting with Prime Minister of Georgia Mamuka Bakhtadze (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

6. Georgian military base was shelled during Defence Minister's visit in Afghanistan

After the visit of Georgian Defence Minister Levan Izoria to the base of the Georgian Platoon in Afghanistan, two indirect fire in the direction of the base. According to the Defense Ministry of Georgia, the shells dropped near the base "Kunduz".

"Fortunately, there was no causality. The soldiers of the platoon of IV Mechanized Brigade of the Georgian Armed Forces continue performing their duties. Defense Minister Levan Izoria was accompanied by the representatives of the German Armed Forces on the base "Kundez"," the Ministry said (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

7. Russian Foreign Ministry, together with Georgian authorities, studying incident of spilling toxic agent at Tbilisi Airport – Karasin

"The Russian interests section of the Swiss Embassy in Georgia is in constant contact with the Swiss Ambassador, who represents our interests in order to find out all the details of the incident at Tbilisi airport on July 2," said Grigory Karasin.

A citizen of Russia was detained for spilling a toxic substance at Tbilisi International Airport causing the intoxication of several persons (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

8. Stefan Meier : Risk of suspension of the visa-free regime with Georgia is not on the agenda of Germany

Georgia's Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Nino Javakhadze attended Georgian-German Strategic Forum, organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation annually.

InterPressNews was informed by the Internal Affairs Ministry that the forum was held in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany.

According to MIA, within the forum, the sides discussed Georgia's visa-free regime with the EU and the recent situation in Germany in this regard.

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Germany Stefan Meier expressed his satisfaction over the immediate response of the Government of Georgia when the number of asylum seekers from Georgia increased sharply by the end of 2017 (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

9. PM - We have quite positive expectations from the Brussels summit

"This will be the first time in Georgia-NATO relations when Georgia is attending these formats and it will be attended by all NATO member states at the level of leaders, and it is another indication that Georgia-NATO relations have moved to a new stage. This will be the first time when Georgia's issue is discussing in a separate format," PM Bakhtadze said adding that the NATO Summit agenda clearly demonstrates the important progress Georgia has achieved through the reforms implemented in recent years. "I'm sure our partner countries will appreciate it...We have quite positive expectations from the Brussels summit,"- Mamuka Bakhtadze said (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

10. President Margvelashvili- NATO and region will be more protected after Georgia joins NATO

"At both highest level meeting, which are attended by non-member countries, Georgia will be represented and this is an unprecedented achievement. Georgia's security issues will be discussed by NATO leaders. We expect that as a result of these meetings, as well as the bilateral meetings planned within the summit, we will achieve the respective recognition of Georgia's progress and the important step forward to Georgia's NATO membership.

We are asking for NATO membership and all the adequate measures that will accelerate this process. The logic of our assertion is that NATO and the region globally will be more protected when Georgia joins NATO," Margvelashvili said.

❖ Internal Affairs

11. Experts studying causes of Chuberi natural disaster

Experts have launched studying the causes of natural disaster. Nino Tandilashvili, deputy minister of environment and agriculture, together with representatives of the National Environment Agency, is at government's Disaster Liquidation Headquarters in the Nenskra Gorge.

InterPressNews was informed by the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture that there was a concurrence of hydro-meteorological and geological processes occurred on the river Nenskra and its tributaries (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

12. PM- Muddled forest cutting is one of the main causes of the recent disaster in Chuberi

According to the Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze, muddled forest cutting is one of the main causes of the recent disaster in Chuberi.

"According to the initial assessment, the natural disaster is caused due to sediment, but it should also be noted that the process was stimulated by muddled forest cutting and we'll definitely "take care" of people, who have been engaged in it," Mamuka Bakhtadze said. Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze has arrived in disaster affected areas in Chuberi village (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

13. PM – GEL 200-259 mIn will be saved as a result of structural changes in government

Reporters asked Prime Minister about the IDFI report saying that the structural changes launched in December of 2017 failed to save bureaucratic costs.

"The ministries have not optimized yet and how we can have results? They can make assessments after we implement the plan. Our maximum limit will be 3,9% (% of GDP), while it is amounted to 4,3% presently. We are talking about a significant saving - GEL 200-259 million, which will be spent for more important programs," the Prime Minister said (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

14. Prosecutorial Council names three candidates for Chief Prosecutor's post

Prosecutorial Council has named three candidates – Shalva Tadumadze, Shalva Shavgulidze and Nino Gogniashvili for the post of Georgia's Chief Prosecutor.

After being interviewed one of the selected candidates will be supported by the Prosecutorial Council. The Council will submit the selected candidate to the government for approval (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

15. MP Gia Volski supports Shalva Tadumadze's candidacy for the post of Chief Prosecutor

"Shalva has some ties with the team. He headed the Administration of the Government. I have known him since 2011 as principled and fair person. As for Shalva Shavgulidze, I have been known him as a good man, however in recent period he moved to a very hard political position and has been formed as

a politically motivated person. I do not know the third candidate, " Volski said adding that it was his personal position and the team would hold consultations (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

16. "Georgian Dream" names Tornike Rizhvadze as candidate for post of Adjara AR government

"Georgian Dream" has nominated Tornike Rizhvadze's candidacy for post of chairman of Adjara AR government.

Tornike Rizhvadze has been the head of the Georgian Energy Foundation. He had been served as legal director of "Adjara Water Georgia" (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

17. President Margvelashvili : We need the Chief Prosecutor enjoying a high confidence in the public

The President said that the issues, raised by non-governmental organizations, were put off and we started discussions on individual candidates. In order to avoid listening to the saga of tragic histories at Rustaveli Avenue, we need the Chief Prosecutor enjoying a high confidence in the public and the ability to implement principal reform of the system," Giorgi Margvelashvili said (*IPN.GE, July 7, 2018*).

18. Giorgi Margvelashvili says he will meet with Usupashvili after NATO Summit

"I'm familiar with this letter. I can tell you that I am sharing the main spirit of the letter in the part of assessing the current situation. I also want to tell you that this is a part of the letter. Then there are concrete steps what we can do and how can we serve our country - Mr. Davit, I and other political leaders. I spoke to Davit Usupashvili on the phone yesterday. We will meet each other after the summit ", Giorgi Margvelashvili said (*IPN.GE, July 7, 2018*).

19. Eka Beselia says opposition behaved inappropriately and unworthy at Fact-finding Commission sitting

The "European Georgia" broke down that important mandate of the Fact-finding commission, - Eka Beselia, member of the Ruling Party and Parliament's Fact-finding Commission on Khorava Street murder case, said when commenting about incident at today's sitting.

According to Beselia, it is important the Commission to show at least the minimum standard that it is interested in obtaining information from those persons, who are summoned (*IPN.GE, July 7, 2018*).

20. Sergi Kapanadze calls on Fact-finding Commission members to refrain from discrediting the Commission

"It is unfortunate that some members of the Commission are trying to politicize the work process because they do not like some questions and answers from the invited people, "said Sergi Kapanadze, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Temporary Investigative Commission on murder of teenagers on Khorava Street.

The lawmaker calls upon everyone to abstain from negative assessment of the commission's work because it discredits the work of the commission (*IPN.GE, July 7, 2018*).

21. Discussions about renewed composition of government to begin this week

Discussions about the renewed composition of the government will begin this week, - Mamuka Mdinardze, chairman of the Georgian Dream faction, told journalists. According to him, the names of ministerial candidates will be known this week.

Mdinardze also spoke about the opposition boycott and said that the opposition is tendentious because they do not trust them without knowing their views (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

22. American couple said to be killed in Khada Corge

Criminalists are working in the Khada Corge. "Ryan and Laura Smiths lived in the Marneuli municipality. They and their four-year-old son went missing on July 6. Representatives of the relevant

service launched search efforts on the same day, as soon as they received a notification. The husband and wife were unfortunately found dead, while the search for their child still continues. According to the initial reports, the foreigners had no signs of violence, but kvirispalitra.ge was informed that the case was not an accident and the law enforcers have already arrested the suspect. We received this information from several sources” (*KvirisPalitra.Ge, July 9, 2018*)

❖ Economy and Social Affairs

23. 4,4 tons of peach exported from Georgia

Georgia has exported 4,4 tons of peach so far this year, which is 3.5 tons (5-fold) more compared to the same period of the last year, - the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture told InterPressNews.

The Ministry says that the leader of importing countries of Georgian peaches is Russia (66.5%). 16,1 percent of peaches was exported to Armenia, and 14.6 percent - to Azerbaijan. These were followed by Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and the United Arabs Emirates (*IPN.GE, July 6, 2018*).

❖ Sports and Culture

24. Tochinoshin starts with victory

Georgian sumo wrestler Tochinoshin has started Nagoya Basho with victory. In the first fight, he had defeated Ikioi (*sportall.ge, July 8, 2018*).

Additional Information

July 9, 2018
OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

1 USD - 2.4460 GEL	1 GBP - 3.2370 GEL	100 RUB - 3.8692 GEL
1 EUR - 2.8635 GEL	1 TRY - 0.5310 GEL	100 JPY - 2.2104 GEL

Monday 9 July	Tuesday 10 July	Wednesday 11 July	Thursday 12 July	Friday 13 July
				
22° 33°	23° 35°	23° 36°	23° 37°	22° 34°

- [Movie Events - English Sessions - Tickets](#)
- [Friends of Museum \(Membership to access Georgian National Museums For free of charge after one payment\) - Membership](#)
- [Marjanishvili Theatre – Events and Tickets](#)
- [Rustaveli Theatre - Events and Tickets](#)
- [Opera and Ballet – Events and Tickets](#)
- [Concerts – Events and Tickets](#)
- [Sports – Events and Tickets](#)