

NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA

July 17-18

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❖ Foreign Affairs

1. Vladimir Putin warns Russia will extremely negatively respond to Georgia and Ukraine's integration into NATO

"It is a direct threat to our national security. NATO's infrastructure is a threat to our borders. Accordingly, our reaction will be extremely negative," the Russian president said in an interview with Fox News (*IPN.GE, July 17, 2018*).

2. President Margvelashvili and President Mattarella sign joint memorandums

Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia, and Sergio Mattarella, President of Italy, have signed several joint memorandums as part of President Mattarella's visit to Georgia. Please find titles of signed memorandums [here](#) (*IPN.GE, July 17, 2018*).

3. Georgia has demonstrated itself as a reliable and stable partner of Italy and the EU - Italian President

The meetings with the heads of institutions have assured me of your country's great potential; the ruling party is determined to achieve economic modernization and carry out necessary reforms for further development, strengthening of democracy, inclusive and sustainable growth, - Italian President Sergio Mattarella said at the Georgia-Italy business forum (*IPN.GE, July 17, 2018*).

4. Prime Minister is starting his foreign tour from Brussels, which is positively seen by Brussels - Natalie Sabanadze

The Prime Minister is starting his foreign tour from Brussels. This is positively seen by Brussels, - Natalie Sabanadze, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Belgium and Luxemburg, head of the mission of Georgia to the EU, said when commenting on the first working visit of the head of the government.

According to her, the first visit of the Prime Minister to Brussels begins today, he will meet with high level representatives and will have his first meeting with President Tusk (*IPN.GE, July 17, 2018*).

❖ Internal Affairs

5. Sozar Subari and Mikheil Chkhenkeli appointed as advisers to PM

Georgian Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze has two new advisers. As InterPressNews was told by the Press Office of the Governmental Administration, Sozar Subari was appointed as Adviser to the Prime Minister on regional development issues, while Mikheil Chkhenkeli will be the Adviser to the Prime Minister on issues of education (*IPN.Ge, July 17, 2018*).

6. Foreign experts to get involved in examination of Mindeli mine incident

"The preliminary conclusion of what happened in the mine yesterday will presumably be available in the second half of the day. As for the involvement of foreign experts, we have addressed the

International Labor Organization, which recommended four advisory organizations and we will select one of them. We are now negotiating with all four organizations. Representatives of one of these organizations, which are staffed by German experts, will be in Georgia today or tomorrow. Consultations with these experts will begin tomorrow," Beka Peradze Head of Labor Inspectorate Department of the Ministry of IDPs, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia said (*IPN.Ge, July 17, 2018*).

7. Former Ministers of Regional Development and Economy questioned at Prosecutor's Office

"Former Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Dimitri Kumsishvili and former Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure Zurab Alavidze were questioned in the Prosecutor's Office within the scope of the investigation of the above mentioned criminal case. The case will be investigated and information will be provided to the society, "- the Prosecutor's Office says (*IPN.Ge, July 17, 2018*).

8. Dimitri Kumsishvili: I gave comprehensive answers to all questions

"I arrived at the Prosecutor's Office about 20 days ago. It was a format of questioning, they wanted me to express my view on several issues, including the case that we had sent to the Prosecutor's Office when I was a minister. I gave comprehensive answers to all questions," Kumsishvili said (*IPN.Ge, July 17, 2018*).

9. President nominates Tornike Rizvadze's candidacy for the post of Chairman of Government of Adjara

President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili nominated Tornike Rizvadze's candidacy for the post of Chairman of the Government of Adjara.

Tornike Rizvadze was a candidate of the Georgian Dream. Other two candidates were Armaz Akhvediani, a candidate of six political parties, and Gocha Gugunava, a candidate named by a public movement (*IPN.Ge, July 17, 2018*).

10. Grigol Vashadze: I will be with you until the national goals are not achieved

"People, who are now in the opposition and who served Georgia honestly, will do a lot for rebuilding of the country", Vashadze said and thanked the parties for naming him as presidential candidate (*IPN.Ge, July 18, 2018*).

11. Court of Appeal upholds conviction of former President Saakashvili

The Court of Appeal upheld the guilty verdict against former President Mikheil Saakashvili in the Sandro Girgvliani's case.

Mikheil Saakashvili had been accused of abuse of power in the Sandro Girgvliani case and had previously been sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the Tbilisi City Court. He was also disqualified from holding public office for one year and five months (*IPN.Ge, July 18, 2018*).

12. Georgian Dream will reportedly hold consultations on presidential elections in the last week of July

"We will have consultations both within the political board and the parliamentary majority," Kobakhidze said.

As for the candidates, Kobakhidze said that "there are several candidates in the ruling team who might win in the first round of elections" (*IPN.Ge, July 18, 2018*).

13. Chairman of the Parliament should step down - Davit Chichinadze

Davit Chichinadze, MP of the Parliament from GD, has criticized the statement of Chairman Kobakhidze, who said that the Parliament had compromised with the Labour code after former PM Kvirikashvili asked them not to make major changes in the law.

"After this statement Kobakhidze must resign, he had insulted the Parliament as an institution and if he compromised with Kvirikashvili, this compromise has resulted death of 4 workers, he should take moral responsibility and resign (*IPN.Ge, July 18, 2018*).

14. Davit Chichinadze expelled from Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia party

"In the past few months MP Davit Tchitchinadze, a member of the Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia and the parliamentary majority, has made numerous public statements which insulted the members of the political team and damaged the image and interests of the party. Davit Chichinadze has repeatedly violated party discipline and universally recognized moral and ethical norms. Internal party democracy and freedom of expression are the guidelines for the Georgian Dream. All members of the party have the ability to express critical opinions on various issues. However, insulting the teammates, violating moral and ethical principles and damaging the political team goes beyond all the limits of freedom of expression of internal party. Taking into consideration the circumstances, the Secretariat of the Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia has unanimously decided to expel Davit Chichinadze from the Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia party," the Secretariat said in the decision (*IPN.Ge, July 18, 2018*).

15. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs to lead analytical-consultative organization

"This center will be set up in Georgia, but I think it will have international activities as well. We cannot tell you details as the concept is in the process of development. The idea is that the Center will work on issues of European reforms, governance and economic policy. The center will consult the government of Georgia, business sector and other countries' governments and businesses," Janelidze said (*IPN.Ge, July 18, 2018*).

❖ Economy and Social Affairs

16. PM: International financial institutions say Georgia will be the leader in economic growth in the nearest futures

"This clearly indicates that Georgia is implementing the right economic policy. Our task is to integrate our economy into a global economy. Therefore, Georgia protects and will always protect free trade principles," Bakhtadze said.

He also spoke about the dynamics of credit ratings. According to him, Moody's improved our rating in the autumn.

"The remaining two credit agencies are very positive about our reforms. According to the program submitted to the Parliament, one of our main economic tasks will be to improve the credit rating of Georgia. Georgia will become an attractive country for investors," Bakhtadze said.

According to him, we had historic results of the direct foreign investments last year. "We are very glad that the contribution of Italian companies to these attracted investments is quite significant", he said (*IPN.Ge, July 17, 2018*).

Additional Information

July 19, 2018

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

1 USD - 2.4546 GEL

1 GBP - 3.1981 GEL

100 RUB - 3.8927 GEL

1 EUR - 2.8520 GEL

1 TRY - 0.5126 GEL

100 JPY - 2.1726 GEL

Thursday

19 July



20° 32°

Friday

20 July



20° 33°

Saturday

21 July



20° 31°

Sunday

22 July



20° 29°

Monday

23 July



20° 29°

- **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](#)**