

DAILY NEWS REPORT ON GEORGIA

Compiled by: *Mary Bugadze*

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❖ Occupied Regions

❖ Abkhazia Region

1. **Ex-defence minister of occupied Tskhinvali appointed as chief of so-called Gen. Staff of occupied Abkhazia**

Vasily Luniov, Ex-defence minister of occupied Tskhinvali/South Ossetia, has been appointed as a chief of so-called General Staff of occupied Abkhazia "Your duty will be to strengthen the cooperation with the Russian side, the Ministry of Defense of Russia. We will continue our strategic cooperation in the field of defense, "the de facto president of occupied Abkhazia Raul Khajimba told the newly appointed "chief". Vasily Luniov noted that it's necessary to react to the "military exercise between Georgia and NATO member countries." "During the meeting with the Minister of Defence we discussed NATO's military trainings in Georgia and of course, the demonstration of power requires relevant actions from us," Vasily Luniov added (IPN.Ge, August 3, 2018).

2. **Secretary of de-facto Security Council of Abkhazia says Georgia may join NATO at the expense of some concessions**

Georgia may join NATO at the expense of some concessions, - Mohammed Kilba, Secretary of the so-called Security Council of the occupied region of Abkhazia, stated. "I would not be surprised if Georgia is forced to recognize the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It is an option. However, this is a big responsibility, since after our recognition by Georgia, the attitude of the international community towards us will be quite rigid," Kilba said. According to him, the "Republic" should be ready for everything: military aspects, rule of law, stability in society, economic and social development are important. "We should not just wait that everybody will recognize us. We should work hard and build a cozy state for every citizen who lives here," Kilba says (IPN.ge, August 4, 2018).

3. **Football Federation responds to reports about arrival of Nigerian youth team in occupied Abkhazia**

The Georgian Football Federation has released a statement on the information spread by the media about the arrival of Nigerian youth team in occupied Abkhazia." The Georgian Football Federation will use all means to prevent any sports activity against Georgian statehood and territorial integrity," reads the statement. Abkhaz news agency Апсадгьыл-инфо reported that on August 8, a friendly game will be held in Sokhumi between the youth teams of Abkhazia and Nigeria (IPN.ge, August 4, 2018).

❖ Tskhinvali Region

4. **Anatoly Bibilov: "Tskhinvali is actively working to establish contacts with other countries"**

Anatoly Bibilov, de facto president of the occupied South Ossetia, states that "Tskhinvali is actively working to establish contacts with other countries." "We have not had such activity in the foreign policy for the past 10 years. Of course, we will continue this policy," Anatoly Bibilov stated. According to Bibilov the official Damascus will protect South Ossetia's interests in the Arab world.

"At the meeting with Bashar Assad, we announced that we will promote the interests of each other in third countries, be it Iran, or any Arab, African or Latin American state," the de facto president said (IPN.ge, August 4, 2018).

❖ Foreign Affairs

5. According to Dmitry Medvedev Georgia's accession to NATO may have catastrophic consequences

Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev stated that Georgia's accession to NATO may have catastrophic consequences. "Georgia's accession to NATO can provoke a terrible conflict. It is unclear who needs it?" - Dmitry Medvedev noted.

Medvedev also stated that in 2008 the armed conflict between Georgia and "South Ossetia" could have been avoided. The statement comes a month after NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed the readiness of the alliance to accept Georgia, although he did not elaborate on the date (IPN.ge, August 6, 2018).

6. Medvedev's threat and response of Tbilisi - legislators speak of threats

Members of the Parliament of Georgia response on Dmitry Medvedev's statement that Georgia's NATO membership will have catastrophic consequences. According to Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, the member of Faction "Georgian Dream" Giorgi Volski Russia does not guarantee Georgia's security. According to Salome Samadashvili, a deputy chairperson of United National Movement faction the August war was due to interference with NATO membership. Davit Bakradze, the Chairperson of "European Georgia - Movement for Freedom" and the presidential candidate says that the country should not slow down its NATO aspiration (Rustavi2, August 6, 2018).

7. Georgia with its development course does not oppose anyone - Tsikhelashvili responds to Medvedev's statement

The Official Tbilisi responds to Russian Prime Minister's statement that Georgia's NATO membership may have catastrophic consequences. The State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Ketevan Tsikhelashvili says that similar statements have become more frequent from Russia recently. In a response to Medvedev's threat, Tsikhelashvili says that Georgia's Euro-Atlantic development course serves to develop and secure a country (Rustavi2, August 6, 2018).

8. Georgian Soldiers are not among the dead or injured in suicide attack in Afghanistan

According to the Ministry of Defence, there are no Georgian soldiers among the dead and injured in a suicide attack in Afghanistan. The Ministry explains that there are Georgian soldiers in Parwan Province, but the explosion occurred in the sector of Czech soldiers. Three soldiers of NATO-led Resolute Support mission have been killed in a suicide attack in the east part of Afghanistan (IPN.ge, August 6, 2018).

9. NATO military exercises in Georgia nurtures a militarist mood- Maria Zakharova

NATO military exercises in Georgia nurtures a militarist mood,- Maria Zakharova, spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of Russia, stated.

"We cannot agree with the statement of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia that these exercises are

aimed at ensuring security in the Black Sea region. Stability and security are constructive dialogue and not helicopters and tanks. The real purpose of these exercises is to demonstrate forceful pressure, first of all over South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Russia,” Maria Zakharova stated. Multinational exercise "Noble Partner 2018" opened on August 1 and will end on August 15 (IPN.ge, August 4, 2018).

❖ Internal Affairs

10. State Security Service arrests Georgian citizen for affiliation with terrorist organization and assistance to terrorist activities

Investigation is in progress at the Counterterrorist Center of the State Security Service in relation to Georgian citizen Malkhaz T. into the case of affiliation with the terrorist organization and assistance to the terrorist activities. According to agency, the officers of the Counterterrorist Center of the State Security Service detained the mentioned person on the basis of the court order on the charge of illegal purchase and possession of ammunition. Islamic State flags and various attributes were seized during the search of Malkhaz T's residence. According to the State Security Service, investigative actions continue to obtain additional evidence (IPN.ge, August 6, 2018).

11. ISIS Georgian group releases video threatening Georgian government

The ISIS Georgian group has spread a threatening video. The video released by PalitraNews has Georgian transcripts. ISIS Georgian group threatens the Georgian government with revenge. Georgian citizen Malkhaz T., arrested by the State Security Service of Georgia, on the charges of illegal purchase and possession of weapons, has links to the mentioned group (IPN.ge, August 6, 2018).

12. Salome Zurabishvili to announce her political intentions on Monday

Salome Zurabishvili will announce her future political intentions and activities on Monday, August 6. Former Foreign Minister Salome Zurabishvili is a member of the Parliament of Georgia from Mtatsminda single-mandate district in Tbilisi. In the previous parliamentary elections Zurabishvili ran as an independent candidate and was supported by the Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia party, which did not nominate a candidate against her (IPN.Ge, August 3, 2018).

13. Shepherd accused of killing Smiths' family taken to psychiatric department

Malkhaz Kobauri, the 19-year-old shepherd accused of killing three members of the Smiths' family in Khada Gorge, has been taken to psychiatric department of Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau. Malkhaz Kobauri is charged with the pre-meditated murder of two or more persons. If convicted, the offence carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment (IPN.Ge, August 3, 2018).

14. Police seize large amount of heroin near Georgia-Azerbaijan state border

Employees of the Georgian Border Police have arrested one individual born in 1990. He was found to have 3.5 kilograms of drugs on his person, including 1.119 kg heroin and 1.1935 kg of methamphetamine. The convict may face imprisonment from 15 to 20 years or life in prison (Agenda.ge, August 5, 2018).

15. So called Cyanide Case and P.S. Survey - Most of the Citizens Think Dean Mamaladze Is Innocent

The so called Cyanide case soon will be discussed by the Strasbourg Court. Lawyers of the archpriest Giorgi Mamaladze have exhausted every instance in Georgia. Among them is the Supreme Court, which has not received the case for consideration. The defendant's lawyers are now lodging a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights.

From the day of arrest, the archpriest says he is innocent. Only a few high hierarchy clergy believe in his innocence. The trust towards the Church is decreasing (Rustavi2, August 5, 2018).

16. Presidential Administration to begin consultations to select Chairman of Supreme Court

The Presidential Administration will begin consultations today to select the Chairman of the Supreme Court. The first meeting will be held in the Avlabari Palace. The President called on representatives of the academic sphere, lawyers, who have been working for years to improve the Georgian judiciary, to get involved in this transparent democratic process (IPN.ge, August 6, 2018).

17. Vacant position of the Chairman of the Supreme Court - Consultations in the Presidential Administration ended today

The consultations on the president's administration are over. The President's Administration states that candidates on the position of the Chairman of the Supreme Court have not been named (Rustavi2, August 6, 2018).

18. PM – Candidate for Supreme Court Chair must be apolitical and should enjoy a very high reputation

The candidate for the Chair of the Supreme Court must be apolitical and should enjoy a very high reputation in professional circles as well as in the general society, - Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze stated (IPN.ge, August 6, 2018).

19. Millions issued to the Ministers from Secret Fund Requests to Study Declarations of Acting and Ex-Senior Officials

United National Movement has already appealed to the Prosecutor's Office to initiate the investigation based on the inconsistencies in the declarations of former and acting high-ranking officials. According to Levan Khabeishvili, Bidzina Ivanishvili gives compensation to the members of the government in exchange for their obedience. "Saturday Courier" has broadcasted a story about the Secret Fund in the Government of Georgia. According to the reliable sources, some ministers receive tens of thousands of GEL from this fund. The opposition is convinced that a large amount of money is transferred to the Fund by Bidzina Ivanishvili (Rustavi2, August 6, 2018)

20. Allowing the use of drugs is the enmity of our nation – Patriarch

Allowing the use of drugs is the enmity of our nation - Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia state at Sunday's sermon. In connection with legalization of marijuana consumption, Ilia II states that the Constitutional Court passed this decision under the "pressure and influence".

The Patriarch focuses on the danger that the marijuana legalization might bring and addresses everyone to prevent the government from enacting this illegality (Rustavi2, August 5, 2018).

❖ Economy and Social Affairs

21. Georgia ranks 18th in “Europe's best countries for business 2018” rating

Georgia holds the 18th position with 69 points of 100 among the 46 countries in “Europe's best countries for business 2018” rating. The list was published by the European Chamber (IPN.Ge. August 3, 2018).

22. There are about 80 thousand people in Georgia, who are infected with hepatitis C and do not know about it – Paata Imnadze

Our intention is to identify all those people until 2020, who have hepatitis C and are not aware of it, - Paata Imnadze, head of the Scientific Board at the National Center for Diseases Control, stated. According to Paata Imnadze about 80 thousand people are infected with hepatitis C in the country and do not aware of it. The head of the Scientific Board at the National Center for Diseases Control recommends screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection (IPN.ge, August 3, 2018).

23. July 2018: Georgia hosts over 1 million international travellers

According to the Georgian National Tourism Administration. Over one million international travellers (1,039,027) visited Georgia in July 2018 of which 564,977 were tourists (Agenda.ge, August 3, 2018).

24. Jan-July 2018: Georgia earns \$107m by exporting 45m bottles of wine

Georgia exported 45.4 million bottles of wine to 50 countries in the first seven months of 2018, announces the Georgian National Wine Agency. In January-July of 2018 Georgia generated about \$107.8 million from the sale of wine abroad.

Revenue increased by 28 percent from January-July 2018, while the volume of exports increased by 19 percent, said the Georgian National Wine Agency. Export growth was notable in Japan among other countries:

- Japan – 124 percent increase (166,032 bottles) (Agenda.ge, August 6, 2018).

Additional Information

August 6, 2018

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

1 USD - 2.4484GEL 1 GBP - 3.1822 GEL 100 RUB -3.8593GEL
1 EUR - 2.8340 GEL 1 TRY - 0.4816 GEL 100 JPY - 2.1923 GEL

25 day forecast

Monday
6 August



19° 29°

Tuesday
7 August



21° 32°

Wednesday
8 August



20° 33°

Thursday
9 August



20° 29°

Friday
10 August



19° 30°

- **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](#)**