

NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA

August 23-25

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Date: **August 26, 2019**

❖ Occupied Regions

❖ Abkhazia Region

1. MFA - So-called presidential election in the occupied region of Abkhazia is another failed attempt of illegal occupation and legitimization of the steps towards the factual annexation

„The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia responds to the so-called presidential elections in the occupied region of Abkhazia, which is another unlawful act against Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on Russian Federation to respect its international commitments, to comply with its international obligations and implement all provisions of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, to change the illegal decision on the so-called independence about the so-called occupied territories of Georgia”, – the official statement reads (*ITV, August 25, 2019*).

2. Salome Zurbishvili - The de facto authorities in Abkhazia are holding today illegitimate “presidential elections”

„The de facto authorities in Abkhazia are holding today illegitimate “presidential elections”. Georgia condemns this sham process as yet another violation of our national sovereignty”, – The president of Georgia Salome Zurbishvili tweeted today (*ITV, August 25, 2019*).

3. European far-right politicians praise Abkhazia election as free and democratic

Two politicians from the German far-right AfD were among the foreign observers who were present during Sunday’s election for de facto president of Abkhazia. The election was not recognized by Georgia.

Among the dozens of international observers to the elections were Stefan Keuter, member of the German Bundestag representing the far-right AfD, Gunnar Norbert Lindemann, a member of the Berlin House of Representatives also from AfD, Ján Čarnogurský, a former Prime Minister of Slovakia (1991–1992) who currently is chairman of the Slovak-Russian association, and Austrian Patrick Poppel, a fan of Russian conservative philosopher Alexander Dugin and former secretary general of the Suvorov Institute in Vienna.

The election was also observed by representatives of Russia as well as other self-declared republics, such as Donetsk and Lugansk non-recognized republics, Transnistria or Karabakh (*DFWatch.net, August 25, 2019*).

❖ Tskhinvali Region (so called South Ossetia)

4. Russia-occupied Tskhinvali region to temporarily close so-called ‘border’ today

The crossing-point that connects the Russian occupied Tskhinvali (South Ossetia) region with the rest of Georgia will close at 8 p.m. today, as Tskhinvali is celebrating the 11th anniversary of Russia's recognition of its "independence".

The "security committee" of the occupied region announced earlier this week that the so-called "border" will reopen at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27 (*ITV, August 25, 2019*).

❖ Foreign Affairs

5. Georgian PM meets with President of Belarus

Georgia's Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze, being on an official visit in Belarus, met with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko.

The sides discussed issues of bilateral relations and stressed the positive dynamics of cooperation especially with respect to trade, tourism, transport, information technologies, agriculture and culture spheres. President of Belarus expressed support to Georgia's territorial integrity and state sovereignty (*ITV, August 23, 2019*).

6. Prime Ministers of Georgia and Belarus meet at Government House

Georgia's Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze, being on an official visit in Belarus, met with his colleague Sergey Rumas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, at Government House.

The two Prime Ministers held a face-to-face meeting, which then continued in an expanded format with participation of delegation members of the two countries.

The sides discussed bilateral political and economic relations and stressed the positive dynamics of cooperation in trade and economic spheres (*ITV, August 23, 2019*).

7. "Georgian House" opened in Minsk

"Georgian House" was opened in Minsk, Belarus, with the support of the government of Belarus. Partnership Foundation financed the project.

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze, being on a visit in Belarus, attended the opening. Members of the Georgian delegation and Tbilisi City Assembly, businesspersons and representatives of the Georgian Diaspora and Diplomatic Corps also participated in the ceremony.

Tbilisi Mayor underlined on the importance of the establishment of "Georgian House" in Minsk and expressed hope that the project would contribute to the enhancement of friendly relations between the two countries.

"This space represents Georgian history, culture and traditions. I am sure all visitors will find it interesting," Kaladze said. Tbilisi Mayor also said that Georgian businesspersons would be able to offer Georgian products to residents of Minsk and guests of Belarus (*ITV, August 24, 2019*).

8. Parliament's Speaker congratulates Ukrainian people on Independence Day

"On behalf of the Parliament of Georgia, I congratulate the Ukrainian people on the Independence Day of Ukraine. Georgia and Ukraine are strategic partners. The friendship between Georgians and Ukrainians is strong and enduring. We share common values and the struggle for freedom. Our choice is a dignified and

full membership of the European family. Congratulations to Ukraine on this important day! Слава Україні!!” reads the statement released by the Parliament’s Chairman (*1TV, August 24, 2019*).

9. PM - Georgia stands firmly beside Ukrainian people in struggle for independence and territorial integrity

“I congratulate Ukraine on Independence Day! Georgia stands firmly beside Ukrainian people in the struggle for independence and territorial integrity. We support your aspiration to build a flourishing European state,” Bakhtadze wrote on Twitter.

❖ Internal Affairs

10. Public Defender urges for discussions about difference in salaries between men and women

Georgia’s Public Defender Nino Lomjaria urges for the launch of discussions about the difference in salaries between men and women and welcomes the campaign of Women’s Movement.

The office of Georgian Public Defender says that there is no methodology in Georgia based on which equal labor charge will be determined. Also, the measures carried out by the state are insufficient with respect to women’s economic strengthening and improvement of their labor rights (*1TV, August 23, 2019*).

11. Traffic movement to be limited at Rustaveli Avenue from August 27 to September 4

Starting August 27 to September 4, the traffic movement will be limited at central Rustaveli Avenue from Rustaveli Subway Station to Freedom Square due to the ongoing shooting of one of the episodes of the Hollywood Blockbuster “Fast and Furious 9” in Tbilisi.

Traffic movement will be blocked at Aleksandre Chavchavadze, Laghidze, Besiki, Ukrainka, April 9, Meskhia, Vaso Abashidze, Chanturia, Jorjadze, and Purtseladze Streets.

According to Tbilisi City Hall, pedestrians will be able to move freely across the section of the central road from 21:00 till 07:00 (*1TV, August 23, 2019*).

12. Chairman of Legal Affairs Committee – Georgia has Constitution of European type

Georgia has the Constitution of European type based on national values and traditions – Anri Okhanashvili, Chairman of the Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee said.

According to Okhanashvili, Constitution determines past and the future of the country as well as the principles on which the Georgian state is built and to which the country’s development is related.

MP underlined that major changes were made into Constitution during the 9th convocation of the parliament with respect to human rights, arrangement of the state and strengthening the model of the parliamentary republic.

Constitution Day is marked on August 24 in Georgia. On this day in 1995, the country officials signed the Constitution – the country’s basis of law. The Constitution is the supreme law of Georgia and the country’s main document that outlines all laws (*1TV, August 24, 2019*).

13. Parliament Speaker – I am sure that together with Abkhazian and Ossetian brothers and sisters, we will work on Constitutional law related to restoration of territorial integrity

The new edition of Constitution is a visit card of our country in a civilized world – Parliament Speaker Archil Talakvadze said during a reception at Presidential Palace on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Talakvadze said the first constitution adopted in 1921 was grounded on progressive principles and European values, and that the parliament of the 9th convocation fulfilled the historic mission successfully.

“The new edition of Constitution is a refined legal document, which represents a strong basis for the long-term democratic development of the Georgian state,” Talakvadze said (*1TV, August 24, 2019*).

14. Mamuka Bakhtadze - Children of our great ancestors have a special mission to protect the Constitution of Georgia and to protect our national interests

„Neither domestic nor the foreign enemy forgave The First Republic of Georgia the strive for freedom, and today we – the children of our great ancestors have a special mission to protect the Constitution of Georgia and to safeguard our national interests”,- the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mamuka Bakhtadze said at a special reception at Georgia’s Presidential Palace in connection with the adoption of the Constitution of Georgia.

„I would like to point out with great pride that our Constitution is based on the Constitution of the First Republic. The constitution that back then was meant as the most progressive”,- Georgian PM said (*1TV, August 25, 2019*).

❖ Economy and Social Affairs

15. ADB approves new strategy for cooperation with Georgia

Based on the document, the volume of sovereign credits for Georgia will be USD 2 billion for the next 5 years with additional co-financing to be allocated for three governmental projects of East-West/North-South transport and economic corridors, Anaklia Deepwater Port, and Development of Economic Zone.

The projects are said to make Georgia a regional center and give economic corridors to the Black Sea and Europe to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The ADB has been supporting Georgia since 2007. The volume of both sovereign and non-sovereign credits issued to Georgia by the ADB is USD 2.8 billion (*1TV, August 23, 2019*).

❖ Sports and Culture

16. Georgian judoka Lukhum Chkhvimiani won Gold Medal at the World Judo Championships Tokyo 2019

Georgian judoka Lukhum Chkhvimiani (60 kg. weight category) won Gold Medal at the World Judo Championships Tokyo 2019. Chkhvimiani defeated his rival – Sharafuddin Lutfullaev from Uzbekistan.

Unfortunately, Amiran Papinashvili (60 kg. weight category) dropped out from the tournament prematurely (*1TV, August 25, 2019*).

Additional Information

August 26, 2019

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

1 USD - 2.9279 GEL

1 GBP - 3.5764 GEL








100 RUB -4.4581 GEL

1 EUR - 3.2365 GEL

1 TRY - 0.5072 GEL

100 JPY - 2.7464 GEL

Monday 26 August	Tuesday 27 August	Wednesday 28 August	Thursday 29 August	Friday 30 August
				
19° 32°	18° 29°	19° 33°	18° 31°	17° 25°

-  **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](#)**