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GEL/RUR=**0.0496**

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Events:

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- > Georgian Exhibition of Iranian production – Tbilisi – May 4-8
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Top Stories

o Opposition Leader Nino Burdzhnadzze Reportedly Facing \$1 mil USD Tax Fine

Nino Burdzhnadzze, former spokesperson of Georgia's parliament, and one of the opposition leaders currently demanding the president's resignation, faces a tax fine of almost \$1 mil, Georgian TV company Rustavi-2 reported.

Rustavi-2 reports that in 2008, Burdzhnadzze bought a dacha in a mountainous resort of Tskheti not far from the capital, Tbilisi. For the country house located on 31,696 square meters (around 3 hectares) of a state property worth 12 mil Georgian lari (\$7 mil) she allegedly paid 1 lari (\$0.60).

Tax inspectors claim that Burdzhnadzze has missed this year's April deadline for submitting her tax declaration and has not paid the relevant tax.

"No records proving that Ms. Burdzhnadzze has submitted the declaration in question according to Article 217 of Georgia's Tax Code, or has paid to the state budget the required amount are available. Ms. Burdzhnadzze has been issued a fine in the amount of 1.5 mil Lari (\$925,000) and has been notified accordingly, "a source from the Georgian internal revenue service announced in a live Rustavi-2 TV broadcast.

The leader of the Democratic Movement-United Georgia party has a few days to protest the assessment, or face a daily 0.07 percent increase in the overdue fine amount.

Burdzhnadzze has responded by telling journalists that she considers the matter "an attempt to intimidate her and distract her from her opposition activity."

For more: <http://www.mosnews.com/money/2009/04/23/burdzhnadzdetaxfine/>

o World Bank Moves Georgia Up to 15th for Doing Business

This week in its annual report, Doing Business 2009, the World Bank has ranked Georgia as the 15th most business-friendly nation.

Elsewhere in the Caucasus, Azerbaijan was ranked in 33rd place and Armenia came in 44th. The Russian Federation lagged far behind in 120th place. The Doing Business index tracked various red-tape hurdles to economic activity, including the time and cost of opening and running business in a given economy. The report does not measure other relevant factors, such as the quality of infrastructure, inflation and

criminal activity.

Georgia's Finance Ministry expressed hope that the World Bank's assessment would boost foreign investor confidence that has diminished in the wake of the 2008 war with Russia, domestic political turmoil and the global financial crisis

For more:

<http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/news/articles/eav042109d.shtml>

o Demonstrations Wear On Rustaveli Business

Businessmen complain that the opposition protests on Rustaveli Ave. have led to unpredicted losses and expect further damages if the new wave of demonstrations continues. The protests began on April 9 and recommenced April 21 after a short break for the Easter holidays.

Rustaveli Cinema has reported significant losses due to the opposition protests. Situated on Rustaveli Ave. in front of the Georgian parliament, the heart of the opposition activity, the cinema has been closed from April 9-16. The management claims losses of 50,000 lari. "The protests have most certainly had a negative impact on our business as we are located just in front of parliament," Gvakharia said. "We run about 20 showings per day. This means that we canceled around 140 showings the week we were closed. Losses reached 50,000 lari."

Several other businesses on Rustaveli Ave. have temporarily closed due to the protests. The companies that continue to operate report reduced sales figures and fewer visitors. The Rustaveli Ave. branch of the Safilo optical chain has been closed for four days due to the protests.

For more:

http://georgiatoday.ge/news_details.php?id=146&version=456

o Saakashvili and Putin: Can't We Just Be Friends?

After rising to power in Georgia, President Mikheil Saakashvili traveled in February 2004 to Moscow for his first meeting with Vladimir V. Putin.

Here would be the climactic face-off: on one side, a young and impulsive modernizer who fancied himself leader of so-called color revolutions that would sweep away unsavory holdover regimes from the Soviet years. On the other, a dour and calculating ex-K.G.B. spy who saw much to like in the old ways and wanted to restore his nation to its proper glory.

Only one problem. Mr. Saakashvili at first didn't show up. He supposedly lost track of time while doing laps in his hotel pool, arriving at the Kremlin half an hour late and leaving Mr. Putin seething, according to three Georgians who were there.

For more:

<http://www.democrats.ge/en/media/276-the-georgian-and-putin-a-hate-story-.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/weekinreview/19levy.html>

o BP General Manager Pushes for Expanding BTC Capacity to 1.2 Mil Barrels

BP, one of the world's largest energy companies, operating in Georgia since 1996, paid about USD 30 mil in taxes to the Government of Georgia in 2008.

Officials of company BP say that BP is one of the largest foreign investors in Georgia, having invested more than USD 1 bil into the country's economy and with social investment commitments of more than USD 100 mil up to 2010. Neil Dunn, General Manager for BP in Georgia, in an interview last week, speaks about the latest developments of the company's business and reviews the CSR activities that company BP Georgia has taken part in.

For the full interview:

http://www.finchannel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=35130&Itemid=1

o 2009 European Judo Championships Open Today in Tbilisi

Georgian team will take part in European championship without two of its leading judokas. 2006, 2007 and 2008 European title holder Zaza Kedelashvili (66 kg) decided to rest and is not participating in tournament. Irakli Tsirekidze, world and Olympic champion decided to go up in weight but isn't ready for 100 kg challenge yet.

Georgian national team coach Shota Khabareli, named seven members of current squad: Nestor Khergiani (60 kg); Mindia Khomizauri (66 kg); Tengiz Paposhvili (73 kg); Levan Tsiklauri (81 kg); Varlam Liparteliani (90 kg); Levan Zhorzholiani (100 kg); Adam Okruashvili (+100 kg).

For more:

http://www.judo2009.ge/news_2.htm

o BRIEFLY NOTED

>Diplomat Georgia to Complete Construction of Head Office in June. Diplomat Georgia, a dealer of Procter & Gamble goods in Georgia, will complete the construction of its head office on the Kakheti Highway in June 2009.

>Fresh to Launch Production in Kutaisi in Three Months. Fresh, an Egyptian company, plans to launch production in the town of Kutaisi, the Imereti Region, in three months, Economic Development Minister Lasha Zhvania told Capital, a business covering program of Imedi TV.

>Populi Revenue Increases by 10% in Q1 2009. Revenue of Populi, a network of supermarkets, increased by 10% to 23.2m GEL in Q1 2009 compared to the same period of 2008, Archil Melikadze, Executive Director

>Cartu Generates Insurance Premium of 9.359m GEL in 2008
Tbilisi (GBC) - Cartu, an insurance company, generated insurance premium of 9.359m GEL in 2008. The share of reinsurance is 225,342

>Catoni & Co Transport Decreases 30 Per Cent. Catoni & Co, a transport company, saw a 30% decline in the volume of shipment in Q1, 2009

>Beeline Plans to Strengthen Corporate Presence. Beeline, the trademark of VimpelCom, the second largest cell-phone operator in the Russian Federation, has launched new corporate tariff scheme in Georgia in an attempt to strengthen its corporate presence.

For more: <http://gbc.ge/index.php?m=home&ncat=46&lang=eng>

EVENTS

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>2009 European Judo Championships – Sports Palace Tbilisi – April 24-26

Georgian team will take part in European championship without two of its leading judokas. 2006, 2007 and 2008 European title holder Zaza Kedelashvili (66 kg) decided to rest and is not participating in tournament. Irakli Tsirekidze, world and Olympic champion decided to go up in weight but isn't ready for 100 kg challenge yet. For more visit http://www.judo2009.ge/news_2.htm

>Azerbaijani-Georgian Business Forum - Tbilisi - April 27-29
Tbilisi to Host Azerbaijani-Georgian Business Forum. Tbilisi will host an Azerbaijani-Georgian forum on April 27-29. For more info, visit www.investingeorgia.org

>Georgia Exhibition of Iranian production – Tbilisi – May 4-8
Tbilisi, Georgia Exhibition of Iranian production, B-to-B meetings between Iranian and Georgian companies. For more info, visit www.investingeorgia.org

>Pablo Picasso Exhibit Coming to Georgia – Tbilisi - 28 June - 2 August
For the first time Pablo Picasso exhibition is coming to Georgia. In result of the collaboration between Georgian National Museum and the Ion Department of France, Picasso masterpieces will be exhibited in Georgia from 30th May to 6th September 2009:

30 May - 23 June in Signagi

28 June - 2 August in Tbilisi

8 August - 6 September in Batumi

For more, http://georgiatoday.ge/article_details.php?id=6451

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> Sales Manager - Tbilisi Business Journal
Responsible for developing and maintaining sales of advertising banners, event and training listings and sponsorships

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and sales plan, which details activities to follow during the fiscal year, which will focus on meeting organizational objectives and business plan

* Initiates and executes campaigns for pushing up the sales.

* Executes action plans for calling efforts, search of sales leads and prospects

Requirements:

* Must be a great communicator with relevant sales and marketing experience - at least 3 years

* Should have strong negotiation skills

* Knowledge of external relations and communication industry is a significant advantage as he/she will be selling products directly to the heads of corporate communication at top blue chips.

* Should be customer oriented, initiative driven and with pleasant personality

* Ability to meet deadlines

* Strong PC skills (skills in PowerPoint, Excel, Internet skills).

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