

Georgia election to be brought forward

After six days of rioting, Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili has said he will seek a fresh mandate in a special presidential election on January 5.

Under the constitution he must resign 45 days before the election date



Mikhail Saakashvili: Came to power in 2003 in so-called **Rose Revolution**. Claims Kremlin is behind protests. Wants to take his small Caucasus nation into NATO and European Union

Opposition: Accuses Saakashvili of corruption and of not doing enough to tackle poverty.

Patriarch Ilia II, head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, condemns government crackdown



Russian
military
bases



South Ossetia, Abkhazia: Breakaway territories have been *de facto* independent of Georgia since 1991 fall of Soviet Union



Tbilisi, Nov 7: State of emergency declared after 50,000 Georgians protest outside parliament

