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September 2, 2011

Clearer Picture



Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant re-privatization

Back in 2007, then-U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor wrote in a cable that "like the subsequent sale of the Kryvorizhstal steel plant, it was apparent that the two Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant tenders [in 2003 and 2004] were rigged in favor of [Viktor] Pinchuk, the son-in-law of then-President Leonid Kuchma, for a cut-rate price." Production of ferroalloys is one of Ukraine's most profitable businesses.



Dniproenergo acquisition

Billionaire Rinat Akhmetov's acquisition of Dniproenergo, a large electrical power generation company, was seen by U.S. diplomats as "another example of problems besetting Ukraine's 'deeply flawed privatization policy.'" The U.S. ambassador then also believed that Ukraine's government got too little for the stake.



Church regrets supporting Yanukovich

According to a U.S. Embassy cable leaked by Wikileaks, a high-ranking official in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate acknowledged to an Embassy official that the church's support of the candidacy of Viktor Yanukovich during the presidential elections in 2004 was a mistake. In the conversation, the church official "stressed the independence of the Ukrainian branch of the Russian Orthodox Church."



Gas intermediaries in Ukraine

Former U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor described in 2008 the controversies and operations of two natural gas trading intermediaries that were co-owned by billionaire Dmytro Firtash (left). The U.S. government believed that such intermediaries served no useful purpose and should be removed in the gas trade between Ukraine and Russia, a goal pursued by Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister.

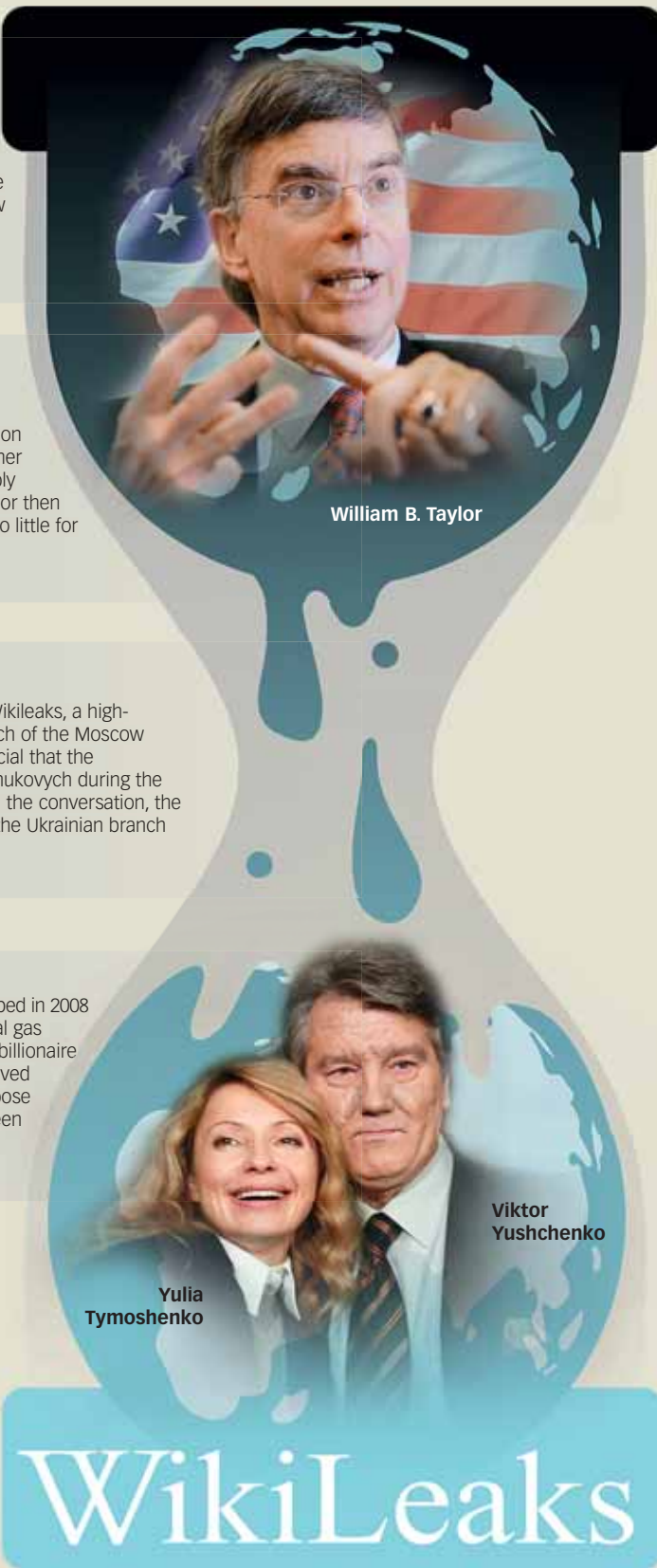
BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

The U.S. government was among those publicly happy for the triumph of the 2004 pro-democracy Orange Revolution, hoping it would spark a break for Ukraine away from corruption and towards better governance.

But diplomats and officials were privately critical of the policies and style of governance under President Viktor

Yushchenko and his two prime ministers, Orange ally Yulia Tymoshenko and Orange foe Viktor Yanukovich.

Cables from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, recently released by the WikiLeaks whistleblower organization, paint a clearer picture of how the American representatives viewed Ukraine's political and business leaders. Diplomats describe a kleptocracy in which insider deals were brokered to dole out valuable state assets → 10



Trial watchers: Pukach says Kuchma gave order to kill

KYIV POST STAFF

A key suspect in the 2000 slaying of journalist Georgiy Gongadze testified on Aug. 30 that he carried out the brutal killing in a plot orchestrated by former President Leonid Kuchma and other top officials, according to two persons allowed inside the closed trial.

Olexiy Pukach, a former senior police official charged with killing Gongadze nearly 11 years ago, testified that Kuchma ordered the slaying together with other top officials, according to Valentyna Telychenko, a lawyer representing Gongadze's widow, Myroslava.

Oleksiy Podolsky, a former colleague of Gongadze's who also attended the trial, was also quoted by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty as saying that Pukach "clearly named former President Leonid Kuchma and former Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko as having ordered the murder."

President from 1994 through 2005, Kuchma has repeatedly denied all such accusations. His office declined to comment on Aug. 30. The Daily Telegraph in London quoted Kuchma's lawyer, Viktor Petrunenko, as saying that Pukach is not credible. "His motive for slander is obvious," Petrunenko said. "It is to cast himself as an unthinking individual without his own → 11

Ex-minister Ivashchenko's son: 'This is about revenge'

BY WILL FITZGIBBON
FITZGIBBON@KYIVPOST.COM

With attention focused on the trial of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, relatives of another imprisoned former government minister are struggling with what they denounce as his politically motivated imprisonment and his fragile health.

Largely out of the spotlight, Valeriy Ivashchenko, a former acting defense minister from June 2009 until March 2010, was arrested on Aug. 21, 2010 on charges of abuse of office. He remains in jail as his trial continues, one of a dozen former high-level government officials who are under investiga- → 10

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Polish president: Tymoshenko trial could harm Ukraine's EU ties

WARSAW, (Reuters) – The trial of Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko may slow Kyiv's push for closer ties with the European Union, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski told his visiting Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich.

Poland, which holds the EU's rotating six-month presidency, has long championed Ukrainian efforts to move out of Russia's shadow and closer to the West and strongly supports talks between Kyiv and Brussels to create a free trade zone.

But many countries in the 27-strong EU say the trial of Tymoshenko, Yanukovich's arch rival, is politically motivated.

"Obstacles have appeared (on Kyiv's path to European integration) and one of these is undoubtedly the trial of Yulia Tymoshenko, which in Europe, in many countries, is seen as a trial of a political, not a criminal, nature, that harms the image of Ukraine," Komorowski said late on Aug. 30.

"The Ukrainian authorities need

to find a solution that removes any doubts that this trial is an act of political revenge against the opposition," Komorowski told Yanukovich, who was on a one-day visit to Poland.

"This issue is a hurdle for Ukraine if it is a question of the speed of its move towards European integration. And that worries us as an advocate of Ukraine's cause."

Tymoshenko, Yanukovich's rival for the presidency in last year's election, is facing charges that she abused her position as prime minister in 2009 by signing a gas deal with Russia that her critics say is detrimental to Ukrainian interests.

Her trial has triggered street demonstrations by her supporters and has drawn criticism from the United States as well as the EU.

Yanukovich has taken a pro-Russian line on policy areas, such as ditching ambitions for joining NATO, but he has also made clear he sees Ukraine's long-term future in the European mainstream.



Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, right, gesturing during a walk with his Ukrainian counterpart, Viktor Yanukovich, during an informal meeting in the Polish president's summer house in Jurata, Poland on Aug. 30. (AP)

Ukrainians, stuck in Iraq, seek help from home government

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO
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Amid searing heat, daily explosions and a shortage of food and water, 27 Ukrainian workers have been stuck for several months in Iraq's troubled capital of Baghdad, awaiting payment for work on a cancelled building project.

They arrived there six months ago to construct villas for an Arab League summit. But when the event was postponed until next year, the construction company stopped building and told the foreign workers to go back home without the promised pay.

But the Ukrainians, along with seven

Bulgarians and one Nepalese, refused to leave until they got paid. They now live in an abandoned compound near the building site without air conditioning or sufficient food. They get little support from Ukraine and hope for more international support.

"We received help from the American Embassy, from the Australian Embassy but not from ours, the Ukrainian Embassy," one of the workers told the Kyiv Post by phone, refusing to be identified for fear of retribution.

He said the builders had limited food supplies and little clean drinking water, which already caused health problems for some of them.

Antonio Salanga, head of the Baghdad regional office of International Organization for Migration, said the organization found that four of the workers were sick and sent them for a medical check-up to a United Nations military doctor. IOM now regularly supplies the workers, including one female cook, with food and water.

Salanga said the group lives in terrible conditions in a former shop. "Small rooms, no ventilation and no air conditioning, while the temperature in Baghdad can reach to 50 C," Salanga said by telephone.

One of the workers recently tried to commit suicide, depressed about the

illness of his child back in Ukraine, and the lack of money for treatment.

Some 217 people came from different countries to Baghdad to work on construction of the villas for the Turkish construction company Salar Group. They were promised salaries of \$2,500 per month, but their real salary was about \$1,700-1,800 and few of the workers received any pay, Salanga said.

When work stopped, the company offered the workers \$1,000 each to make their way home.

"The company said if you refuse our conditions, we will abandon you," said one of the workers, adding → 11



KyivPost
SOCCER LEAGUE
2011

STANDINGS

AUG. 27-28, 2011

GROUP A

Premier Palace	0	2	ISTIL Group	9
SPORT bigmir.net	5	1	CreditExpress	6
Premier Palace	5	1	CreditExpress	3
ISTIL Group	11	1	SPORT bigmir.net	0
ISTIL Group	14	0	CreditExpress	0
Premier Palace	6	4	SPORT bigmir.net	0

GROUP B

VOLIA	7	0	Alcatel-Lucent	9
Ernst & Young	1	4	Horizon Capital	6
VOLIA	7	3	Horizon Capital	3
Alcatel-Lucent	4	3	Ernst & Young	0
Alcatel-Lucent	3	5	Horizon Capital	0
VOLIA	4	1	Ernst & Young	0

GROUP C

3M Fighters	1	7	PwC	7
Publicis Groupe	4	1	Raben Ukraine	6
3M Fighters	8	3	Raben Ukraine	4
PwC	1	4	Publicis Groupe	0
PwC	4	3	Raben Ukraine	0
3M Fighters	3	3	Publicis Groupe	0

GROUP D

YUG Contract	7	0	Contour Global	7
Piraeus Bank	1	4	Imperial Tobacco	6
YUG Contract	7	3	Imperial Tobacco	4
Contour Global	4	3	Piraeus Bank	0
Contour Global	3	5	Imperial Tobacco	0
YUG Contract	4	1	Piraeus Bank	0

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TAX MATTERS

Tax Losses Carryforward

Acting as a mediator between business and taxmen the European Business Association keeps a watchful eye on taxation developments to stave off the challenges taxpayers face. Recently the issue of negative value reporting arose on the public agenda thus calling for immediate consideration and elaboration.

European tax codes are rather generous to investors and allow *tax losses carryforward* technique designed to use losses to reduce or even wipe out tax on current and future gains—raising overall returns. In Ukraine there are still hurdles on the way to smooth process of tax losses carryforward.

New Tax Code of Ukraine clearly states that if the result of calculation of the object of taxation of the taxpayer, based on performance of the first quarter of 2011, is a negative value, the amount of such negative value should be included into the expenses of the second calendar quarter of 2011. However tax authorities still allege for not including the negative value calculated on the basis of 2010 fiscal year into gross expenditures of 2011 tax reports thus posing the threat to the non-recognition of actual investment expenditures made in 2010. Here is the gist of the concern.

The official interpretation posted on the website of the State Tax Administration of Ukraine in subsection 110.05 "order for recording of the negative value of taxation object" of the Tax Knowledge Base is rather ambiguous in terms of its practical usage and goes in controversy with the actual provisions of the TCU. To ease the taxpayers' concerns legislative measures should be matched with official explanation of the provision in the form of either tax tutorials or consultations.



On including the negative value of the tax object calculated by results of 2010



OLEG KUKOBA,
Head of legal department, Dragon Capital

Practical usage of the Tax Code of Ukraine (hereinafter the "Code") has already shown that its adoption did not stamp out a problem of ambiguous interpretation of tax legislation norms. Particularly, it is evidenced by position of the taxmen with respect to the application of Clause 3 of Subsection 4 of Section XX of the Code. Tax officials claim that Tax officials claim that of corporate profit tax can include into the gross expenditures for the second quarter of the current year only the expenditures incurred in the first quarter of 2011, excluding the negative value of the tax object calculated by results of 2010.

In my estimation such interpretation of Clause 3 of Subsection 4 of Section XX of the Code by state tax authorities is incorrect. The mentioned provision clarifies the specifics of implementation of Clause 150.1 of Article 150 of Section III of the Code in 2011. The necessity of such regulation is caused by Section III "Corporate Profit Tax" of the Code became valid on 1 April 2011, that is from the second quarter of a tax year, while Clause 150.1 of Article 150 of Section III of the Code establishes a procedure for including the negative value of the tax object calculated by results of the previous tax year starting from the first calendar quarter of the current tax year. Therefore, actually Clause 3 of Subsection 4 of Section XX of the Code envisages that for the purposes of including the negative value of the tax object as per to Clause 150.1 of Article 150 of Section III of the Code in 2011 the first

tax period shall be the second quarter 2011.

According to Clause 6.1 of Article 6 and Clause 22.4 of the Law of Ukraine "On Corporate Profit Tax" the negative value of the tax object, calculated by results of 2010 and the previous tax years, was a subject to be included into the gross expenditures of the first quarter 2011 and was considered when the tax object was calculated by results of such quarter.

Tax Code of Ukraine clearly states that "if a result of calculation of the tax object of a taxpayer who is a resident of Ukraine by results of the first quarter 2011 is the negative value, then the sum of such negative value is a subject to inclusion into the gross expenditures of the second calendar quarter of 2011".

The above mentioned provision does not establish any



Tax losses carryforward technique designed to use losses to reduce or even wipe out tax on current and future gains—raising overall returns



selective approach when calculating the tax object for the first quarter 2011 (for instance, the negative value of the tax object by results of 2010 is separate from the negative value of

the tax object by results of the first quarter 2011), on the opposite, it clearly states that the negative value of the tax object that was calculated (but not received as the state tax authorities believe) by results of the first quarter 2011 as per to the requirements of law is a subject to inclusion into the gross expenditures of the second quarter 2011. In turn, paragraph 3 of the mentioned Clause stipulates the procedure of calculation in 2011 the negative value of the accumulated tax object without any peculiarities with respect to the methodology of its calculation by results of the first quarter 2011.

Health Care European Safety Mark to be Valid in Ukraine

CE Mark for medical devices is a quality assurance awarded to the items that meet European safety standards and signals that the product meets the requirements of relevant European directives (EU Directive 93/42/EEC, 90/385/EEC, 98/79/EEC for medical devices respectively). Currently Ukrainian legislation envisages excessive levels and rules of CE mark national certification and approval thus setting hurdles for high-quality European medical devices inflow on the country's market.

Recently EBA Health Care Committee which unites premier pharmaceutical market players has proposed to simplify the procedure of CE-marked imported medical devices approval in Ukraine in order to avoid unnecessary and time-consuming double-check for the items already marked with CE label. Committee members have already addressed CE-related and other matters to the respective policymakers with a proposal to legislate the amended statutory acts on medical devices, in particular the Draft Law "On Medical Devices".



EBA Business Morning

"Global economic situation and its impact on Ukraine"



May the turmoil in global financial markets threaten the economic recovery in the European Union and affect Ukraine's business activities? Will the global economic turbulence shake Ukraine's market confidence? Will this summer worldwide developments harm Ukraine's monetary base?

In the course of EBA Business Morning country's premier economists and business leaders will provide an insight and share their thoughts on the prospects of summer 2011 global economic phenomenon. In the framework of an active dialogue and panel discussion you are welcome to address your vision and concerns and discuss the input on these and other questions with the guest experts and the audience.

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Chief Executive Officer, Dragon Capital; EBA President



Max Alier
Resident representative in Ukraine, International Monetary Fund (IMF)



Volodymyr Lavrenchuk
Chairman of the Board of Raiffeisen Bank Aval; EBA Board member



Martin Raiser
World Bank's Country Director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

Editorials

Open trials

Ukraine and the world could be on the verge of finally learning who ordered the murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze, who was kidnapped, beaten, strangled, beheaded and burned – apparently just because his work on the Ukrainska Pravda news site irritated people in power then.

But President Viktor Yanukovich and the nation's judiciary – a branch of the government widely seen as subservient to the presidential administration – don't want the public to know what is happening. The murder trial of ex-Interior Minister Gen. Oleksiy Pukach is taking place in Kyiv behind closed doors, the indictments are sealed and the public has no idea what is going on inside. The justification behind the blanket closure is protection of state secrets.

This is no way to instill confidence in a judiciary that is widely held in disrepute. The public's right to know what is happening in a decade-long tale of murder and cover-ups by top officials outweighs any claim to state secrets. If there were legitimate state secrets at stake, only the portions of the trial involving them should be closed to the public – not everything, as is the case now.

So Ukraine is left relying on the word of two court observers with privileged status, Valentyna Telychenko, who has access by virtue of her role as widow Myroslava Gongadze's lawyer, and Oleksiy Podolsky, a former journalist who Pukach kidnapped and beat in a similar fashion to the crime involving Gongadze.

This week's sensation barely sent a ripple through the public because it is what many people have assumed all along, based on the available evidence: That the volatile ex-President Leonid Kuchma set in motion the chain of events that led to Gongadze's murder.

We have the "suicide" by two gunshot wounds of his confidant, the late Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko; the confession of Pukach; and the conviction of Pukach's three subordinates for the crime.

If Kuchma is truly the victim of a smear campaign, as he has claimed all these years, he has an interest in having this trial open – so that the public can judge for themselves the veracity of the accusations against him. The charges against him – abuse of office in giving an order that led to Gongadze's death – should be fast-tracked for trial, rather than lingering since March.

If Yanukovich is serious about his claim that there is no longer a caste of untouchables above the law, he should back up his words by insisting on public, jury trials for the accused and prod the judicial system to get moving on the trial of Kuchma.

Friendly advice

Often the best advice comes from your closest friends. They know you well. They have your best interests at heart. They can be taken into your confidence.

The same is true from personal friendships to ties between nations.

Therefore, when Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski invites President Viktor Yanukovich to Poland and warns him of trouble, Ukraine's leader would be wise to listen. Poland is one of the strongest supporters of Ukraine's ambitions to join the European Union.

In what must have been a "who-are-you-trying-to-fool" moment between the two presidents, Komorowski clearly presented the ongoing criminal trial of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Yanukovich's strongest political foe, as part of the democratic retreat under way in Ukraine. And this, he said, runs contrary to EU values and, in turn, jeopardizes Ukraine's European integration plans.

"Obstacles have appeared (on Kyiv's path to European integration) and one of these is undoubtedly the trial of Yulia Tymoshenko, which in Europe, in many countries, is seen as a trial of a political, not a criminal, nature, that harms the image of Ukraine," Komorowski said on Aug. 30.

"The Ukrainian authorities need to find a solution that removes any doubts that this trial is an act of political revenge against the opposition," Komorowski told Yanukovich. "This issue is a hurdle for Ukraine if it is a question of the speed of its move towards European integration. And that worries us as an advocate of Ukraine's cause."

It's less clear what Yanukovich said in response. We hope he didn't stick to incredible denials that his administration doesn't tamper with the judiciary. Unfortunately, that's the message we keep hearing in the halls of his presidential office.

For the sake of Ukraine and Yanukovich's obviously less-important legacy, we hope he does some soul-searching. He must realize that Poland, a friend and neighbor, is trying to help get him out of hot political water internationally and get his nation back on the right course.



NEWS ITEM: Protests against the decision by a judge to arrest former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on Aug. 5 for contempt of court have taken over part of Kyiv's main Khreshchatyk street for almost one month. Local residents complain that noise from Tymoshenko's supporters – and a pro-presidential crowd sent to counter them – is unbearable. Songs and speeches blast out daily in a loop from morning until early evening. Shops located behind the protesters say business is suffering as access for customers is restricted and they are put off by the heavy police presence. (Drawing by Anatoliy Petrovich Vasilenko)

Back Story: Rinat Akhmetov and mining disasters



MICHAEL WILLARD

I have never met Rinat Akhmetov.

I have had, of course, several Akhmetov sightings while in the lobby of his Donbas Palace hotel in Donetsk, which he owns and where he has a reserved seating area. There also was a curious nod from him as I paced and practiced for a speech in a public area of the same fine hotel.

However, he appears regularly in our newspaper, and sometimes in a less flattering light than I am sure he and his employees would like. We are writing, of course, about Ukraine's No. 1 billionaire, industrialist and a longtime backer of President Viktor Yanukovich.

Recently, he was prominently mentioned in an early-August issue in connection with the coal mine disaster at the Sukhodil'ska-Skhidna mine in Luhansk Oblast, where 28 miners lost their lives.

In my view, the coverage was fair, and I sent the reporter, Vlad Lavrov, a note telling him so. He strove for balance, including information that mines owned by Metinvest, the steel and mining holding majority owned by Akhmetov, were safer than others due to the owner's improvements.

On the other hand, I felt that our headline ("Deadly Greed?") went beyond the facts presented in the story and fell into the same category as a similar headline ("Killer Kuchma?") that appeared a while back. Both were editorial adjudications. Making them questions did not lessen the inference of guilt.

→ Aside from an overly sensational headline, I thought coverage of recent coal-mine deaths was fair, honest

In my role as the Kyiv Post's CEO and self-appointed ombudsman, I brought the issue up – after the fact – with senior editor Brian Bonner. About 95 percent of the time, the editor and I are on the same page, usually the same paragraph, often the same line. I respected him as an editor's editor even before I came to the newspaper.

We have had a few energetic and healthy discussions, and we had one on this issue.

The same issue carried a statement issued on Akhmetov's behalf that pledged support for the miners' families and a commitment to continue mine modernization and employee safety.

A few weeks later, Akhmetov's company announced that \$1.75 million would be spent to upgrade safety at the Luhansk mine. That news was reported by this newspaper.

I believe the Kyiv Post's coverage was both fair and honest. However, those being written about tend to be much more sensitive than the reporter doing the story.

Having been on both sides of this fence, I think the issue bears exploration. The best way to do that is openly. → 14

KyivPost

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The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please e-mail all correspondence to Brian Bonner, senior editor, at bonner@kyivpost.com or letters@kyivpost.com. All correspondence must include an e-mail address and contact phone number for verification.

Ukraine loses its way under Yanukovich



VACLAV HAVEL

Editor's Note: The following article won signatures of support from Andre Glucksmann, a philosopher and essayist; Vaclav Havel, who was president of the Czech Republic; Michael Novak, a Roman Catholic theologian; Yohei Sasakawa, president of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation; Karel Schwarzenberg, foreign minister of the Czech Republic; Desmond Tutu, archbishop emeritus of Cape Town and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Richard von Weizsäcker, former president of the Federal Republic of Germany; Grigory Yavlinsky, chairman of the Russian United Democratic Party Yabloko; H.R.H. El Hassan Bin Talal, chairman of the West Asia-North Africa Forum; and the Dalai Lama. All signatories are members of the Shared Concern Initiative.

PRAGUE – Since the election of President Viktor Yanukovich in 2010, Ukraine has experienced a significant and alarming deterioration in its democratic framework. Fundamental tenets of a democratic society, such as freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press are increasingly coming under pressure. And the prosecution of opposition members, which has now culminated in the arrest and detention of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko – during an ongoing trial that most of the West has deemed political – seems to confirm that the rule of law is being brushed aside.

Given Ukraine's strategic importance, the country's fate has become an urgent matter of concern not only for Europe, but for the entire international community. Among the most worrying factors underlying Ukraine's anti-democratic turn are the following:

Consolidation of power. After Yanukovich's election last year, the Constitutional Court rescinded constitutional changes made in 2004 as part of the settlement that brought about a peaceful end to the Orange Revolution. By doing so, a consensus was reversed that aimed to reduce the presidency's powers and move toward a more parliamentary system. Instead, Ukraine's president is now increasingly consolidating his total control over the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary.

Endemic corruption. Corruption is widely believed



People march behind a Ukrainian flag during a rally called by several nationalist parties outside President Viktor Yanukovich's office in Kyiv on Jan. 14. Protesters demanded an end to political repression against the opposition. (AFP)

to be endemic in the country's police, secret service, administration, government, and prosecutor's office. On Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2010, Ukraine scored 2.4 on a scale from zero (highly corrupt) to 10 (very clean). Efforts to combat corruption are at best half-hearted and are not bringing any apparent results. Corruption cripples the country's institutions and the government's inaction on this problem is also having an economic impact.

Increased Security Service (SBU) activity. Evidence of increased SBU activity with political motives was presented in various human rights groups' reports. Individuals, NGOs, and journalists have been either overtly threatened or placed under surveillance. For example, in July 2010, Nico Lange, the head of the Ukrainian office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, was detained at the Kyiv airport after publishing a critical report on the process of Ukrainian regional elections (the incident was subsequently presented as a "misunderstanding"). In September, SBU searched the offices of organizations funded by philanthropist George Soros; in October 2010, the offices of the Vinnitsa Human Rights Group were also searched by police without a court order.

Harassment of opposition parties and independent media. The ongoing criminal proceedings against opposition politicians, including Tymoshenko, together with the impact of changes in the electoral law to favor the president and his supporters, are weakening opposition forces.

Harassment of the independent media ranges from administrative obstruction to much worse. The disappearance of Vasyl Klymentyev, the editor-in-chief of *Novyi Styl*, a newspaper which focuses heavily on corruption in Kharkiv Oblast, has never been fully investigated. Most television channels are in the hands of four groups, most of which have close links to the ruling Party of Regions. Valery Khoroshkovsky's continued ownership of Inter Media Group, in addition to his roles as head of the country's security service and as a council member of the National Bank of Ukraine, is an obvious conflict of interest. Overall, there is clear evidence of a decline in media pluralism since Yanukovich came to power.

A weak civil society. While observers believe that further harassment of NGOs is constrained by the administration's wariness of international reac- → 14



VOX populi

WITH OKSANA MARKINA

It's hard to hear yourself think on Kyiv's Khreshchatyk Street at the moment. Pro-presidential lawmaker Oleh Kalashnikov's recorded diatribe against ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is blared repeatedly over loudspeakers, along with ear-piercing music. Tymoshenko is on trial nearby, charged with abuse of office. **Does it bother you to walk on Khreshchatyk and when will all this noise stop?**



Anna Boyko,
student

"All of this really bothers me and I'm tired of it. I cannot freely enter every shop. All this noise

will take place until Yulia is in prison."



Volodymyr Zaysevskiy,
pensioner

"[President Viktor] Yanukovich turned this into a terrible mess. His gang will pres-

sure Yulia until he prevents her from running in elections, to sideline her from politics. We don't have anyone except Yulia who can help us."



Antonina Zaika,
laborer

"I can't imagine how people can work and live here with all this noise and incon-

venience. I'm sure that most of the people standing here are paid to do so. Our nation is so unpredictable. I don't know how long this will last."



Anton Alekseenko,
student

"All of this is so great! I came here from Moscow for a few days and now I

have the opportunity to observe politicking. I can look at all of these flags and listen to such interesting music."



Inga Kryukova,
entrepreneur

"I think all of this is just a circus – the opposition and ruling upper circles are making a show.

Tymoshenko will not be in jail for long because Yanukovich has no benefit from imprisoning her for a long time. When she is free, all of these demonstrations will stop."

New energy war brewing between Ukraine, Russia



BY YURIY KOROLCHUK

Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was quoted this week by *Korrespondent* magazine as giving a stark warning to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin about negotiations on natural gas prices: "You are pushing us into a corner, from which there's only one way out – severance of the contract."

The answer came from Putin's spokesman: "We don't have any information as to whether such a final decision has been taken and what could be the basis for such a decision."

After the summer break, Ukraine-Russia gas negotiations are under way once more and even intensifying. Ukraine's government hopes to renegotiate the contract, which it says has left it paying an unbearably high price for gas from Russia.

Even though a spokesman gave the Russian reac-

tion rather than Putin himself, the very fact that it was so rapid and sharp indicates how concerned the Russians are by this issue.

Such an uncharacteristic reaction by Russia to the rather commonplace statement from the Ukrainian prime minister should encourage the Ukrainian authorities. In fact, Azarov had been waiting for a response for some time – even that kind of response – from his Russian counterpart. Because that means that there's some kind of progress in the gas negotiations.

Even if Naftogaz, Ukraine's state energy company, files a lawsuit against Russian state gas giant Gazprom in the Stockholm Arbitration Court, this would not necessarily cancel Ukraine's obligations to fulfill the conditions of the contract. Nevertheless, Russia could regret pushing negotiations with Ukraine to the critical moment, just as happened with the German gas company E.ON, which at the beginning of August announced it had started arbitration proceedings against Gazprom, although negotiations also continue.

In order to find a reason to appeal to the Stockholm court, Naftogaz will need to clearly argue and denote the reasons for changing the conditions of the contract.

The head of Naftogaz, Yevhen Bakulin, waited as long as possible for positive results from the recent

meeting between Energy Minister Yuriy Boiko and Gazprom chief Alexei Miller. But the latest proposals from the Russian leadership that Ukraine go down the Belarusian path – meaning sell a share in its pipelines to Russia – demonstrated that Boiko was unable to reach an agreement and that he messed up negotiations with Russia that he's been conducting for a year.

At the moment, Ukraine is in a position to pay its monthly bill to Gazprom. This is achieved with the help sales of state bonds, which do not improve Naftogaz's financial situation. However, it does allow Ukraine to fulfill the conditions of the gas contract.

Against this background, the decision by the International Monetary Fund to postpone its mission to Ukraine from the end of August to the end of October gains added importance. For Ukraine, \$3 billion of financing hangs on the work of this mission. This financial injection would allow Kyiv to continue to stand up to Moscow, at least until presidential elections in Russia in 2012, which could lead to a change in policy in the Kremlin. In this case, the IMF loan will take the role of ammunition in support of Ukraine.

This means that it's too early to talk about another gas war, but it is time to start digging in.

Yuriy Korolchuk is an analyst at the Energy Studies Institute in Kyiv.

See Story on page 7

Medvedev complains that Ukraine is cheap

Ukraine puts fifth satellite into orbit

BY KATERYNA PANOVA
 PANOVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine's National Space Agency launched an observation satellite on Aug. 17 that it says will provide accurate data to government ministries, helping them to prevent disasters by locating forest fires and floods and checking the growth of crops across the country's territory.

At a cost of \$15 million, the fifth Ukraine-made, owned and operated satellite in orbit since independence in 1991 will provide images of earth for government officials and clients for an undisclosed fee.

The previous four Ukraine-operated satellites are no longer operational, having exhausted their lifetimes. The Sich-2 has, however, already managed to send its first snapshots of earth from orbit. It will go into full operation this fall.

Designed at Dnipropetrovsk's

Pivdenne Design Bureau and built at the Pivdenmash plant, Sich-2 differs from the much talked about and highly profitable telecommunication satellites. It has a scientific mission. In addition to taking infrared photos, it will study particles, as well as electric and magnetic fields in the earth's upper atmosphere.

Ukraine's mostly government-run space industry is on the up this year, more than doubling output in the first quarter and bringing in \$113 million profit. Its main activity is launching other country's satellites and producing carrier rockets.

The cost of the design and construction of Sich-2 was kept low after Egypt ordered a similar satellite. Egyptsat-1 was built by Ukraine and launched in 2007.

Natalya Borotkanych, spokeswoman for the agency, said Sich-2 is actually an enhanced version of Egyptsat-1, which is no longer operational.

"These satellites are pretty much the same, and many Sich-2 technical solutions were tested on Egyptsat-1," said Svitlana Naimenko, a spokeswoman for Pivdenmash.

Sich-2 will work in test mode until mid-October. The first pictures of Russia, Poland and Ukraine have been received at a data processing center in the town of Dunaivtsi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast.

The National State Space Agency said the satellite has advantages over the free images provided by Google Earth using the Digital Globe and GeoEye satellites.

Sich-2 provides more accurate and detailed data, they claim.

Images will be provided without a delay that is usual for data provided by satellites operated by other countries, Ukrainian officials said.

Serhiy Voloshin, head of the Ministry for Emergency Situations' monitoring and forecasting unit, said the satellite



The Sich-2 satellite (illustrated in top right-hand corner) took a snapshot of farming fields divided by Ukraine's Dnipro River in Dnipropetrovsk oblast (main image) as one of its first trial photographs.

could help pinpoint forest fires and floods in remote areas with greater accuracy and prevent them from growing into large-scale disasters.

The space agency said the Ministry for Agrarian Policy could also use the satellite to track crop growth and drought risks. The ministry said the satellite images could be very useful and promising, but is waiting until testing ends before placing orders.

The space agency said Sich-2 is

not a commercial project, but private individuals and companies can order images from the Dniprokosmos website (www.dniprokosmos.dp.ua).

It is as yet unclear how much the service will cost.

The National Space Agency said it was keen to launch one or two more Sich satellites to provide greater coverage, but admitted government financing for the project was unlikely before 2014.

→ On the move

Editor's Note: On The Move, a regular news feature of the Kyiv Post, will change its format in September. Rather than free-of-charge listings, the items will become paid announcements and will be labeled as such to distinguish them from news stories for which the newspaper does not accept payment. Until then, please continue to send items to otm@kyivpost.com.



REUVEN DINEL

was appointed ambassador of Israel to Ukraine after his predecessor, Zina Kalay-Kleitman, finished her diplomatic mission to Kyiv. Dinell comes to

Kyiv after serving as Israeli Ambassador to another former Soviet republic, Turkmenistan, since 2009. In the early 1990s, Dinell became the first official representative to the CIS region of Israel's Mossad intelligence gathering and special operations service. According to Israel's Haaretz newspaper, he was "in 1996 the Mossad man expelled from Moscow after Russian security forces caught him accepting classified satellite photographs from senior army officers." Turkmenistan, according to Haaretz, was not eager to accept him as envoy. Dinell was born in the Soviet Union, in the city of Vilnius, today capital of Lithuania. His family moved to Israel in 1969.



SERHIY MELNYK

has been appointed director of the Sukhodil'ska-Skhidna coalmine, replacing Pavlo Moiseenko, who was dismissed from the position after 28 miners died in a meth-

ane blast on July 29. The new director's main objectives will be to ensure strict compliance with health and safety rules at the mine and roll out approved programs enhancing health and safety. This will include additional air cooling programs, automated systems to control location of people and equipment in the mines, and health and safety training courses for employees. Melnyk was director of the Sukhodil'ska-Skhidna mine from 1999 through 2003, but then moved to the position of director at Donetsk Coal Energy Company, and later became director of Dovzhanska-Kapitalna mine. He graduated from Moscow All-Union Polytechnic Institute with a degree in mining engineering.



VITALIY KOPYCH

has been appointed chief financial officer of Winner Group, a leading importer and retailer of automobiles in Ukraine. Kopych started his

career at Winner Imports Ukraine as a business analysis director in 2006 and was soon promoted to financial director. Kopych has over 10 years of professional experience with various companies, including Proctor & Gamble and SARS. He graduated from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University with a master's degree in economic cybernetics. Kopych obtained his master's degree of arts in economics as well as master's degree of science in finance from the University of Colorado in the United States.



OLGA PIKULSKA

was appointed public relations and marketing manager at Asters, a leading Ukrainian law firm. In her new role, Pikulska is expected to enhance the company's marketing and

PR strategy and manage the work of the business development department. Before joining Asters, Pikulska worked as a public relations manager at Paritet law firm. She also has journalistic background. Pikulska is a graduate of Kyiv Shevchenko National University and holds a degree in English and German. She is currently studying for an advanced certificate in public relations at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

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Shell reaffirms plans to invest \$200 million

KYIV POST STAFF

Royal Dutch Shell has reaffirmed its commitment to a 50/50 partnership with a subsidiary of state energy company Naftogaz, pledging to invest up to \$200 million into a joint effort to explore for hydrocarbons in eastern Ukraine.

Inked on Sept. 1, the agreement follows up on a joint activity partnership that was first formed between Shell and state-owned gas producer Ukrzavudobuvannya in 2006, when investment interest in Ukraine surged on the heels of the pro-democracy 2004 Orange Revolution.

The updated agreement was signed in the presence of Shell CEO Peter Voser and Ukrainian Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko. Ukrainian officials boasted that as much as \$800 million could be invested into Ukraine by Shell: \$200 million in the initial exploratory phase followed up by \$600 million for production.

Over the years, declarations about the vast potential of the project and joint cooperation abounded, but relatively little progress was made below or above ground.

The purpose of the updated joint activity agreement signed on Sept. 1, according to a Shell statement, "remains unchanged – exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the license areas."

Shell said the revised and updated agreement "improved understanding" of the joint activity license areas, introduced a phased approach to the exploration program and refined governance and funding arrangements.

The administration of Viktor Yanukovich, president since 2010, says it is stepping up efforts to attract international energy majors into Ukraine's



Royal Dutch Shell's CEO Peter Voser (front, right) stands next to Ukrainian Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko (second from right) during a signing ceremony in Kyiv on Sept. 1. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

domestic energy sector, which has long been dominated by domestic and Russian business interests. The aim, they say, is to bring in the financial investment and know-how needed to boost domestic hydrocarbon production, in turn helping Ukraine to diversify away from increasingly expensive Russian fuel imports.

On Aug. 31, presidential chief of staff Serhiy Lyovochkin told journalists that Shell was on the verge of investing up to \$800 million into exploration and production.

Shell, however, provided a far smaller number for the amount of investment it has thus far committed. As far as the much-delayed exploration and production into the Dnipro-Donbas basin goes, Shell said that upon completion of preliminary exploration work under the 50/50 project, its expenditure will amount to \$200 million. Drilling is expected to commence in 2012, Shell added.

Ukrainian officials point to Shell as one of a growing list of international energy giants, including Italy's Eni, America's ExxonMobil and Chevron and Russian-British TNK-BP, which are eager to unlock Ukraine's potentially large hydrocarbon reserves bringing investment, traditional and new technologies such as shale gas extraction.

One of the few international energy majors that has maintained a large office in Ukraine since the 1990s, Shell on Sept. 1 stressed that it remains committed to helping Ukraine unlock fresh energy reserves.

"At Shell we have a proven track record of developing large and complex projects ... and are keen to apply our global experience and innovative technology to unlock [Ukraine's natural] gas potential in the joint activity agreement areas safely and effectively," said Patrick Van Daele, general manager of Shell Ukraine Exploration and Production.

Economic Snapshot

Editor's Note: Economic Snapshot is a new Kyiv Post feature on the economic situation in Ukraine.

If global economy slows down, expect weaker exports and currency devaluation

Industrial production in Ukraine grew by 8.9 percent year-on-year in June, but the outlook has deteriorated for the second half of 2011 in line with weaker export prospects, private equity firm SigmaBleyzer said in its August report.

Analyzing the economic prospects in Ukraine, SigmaBleyzer analysts noted the "sharp economic growth slowdown in developed economies" in the second quarter of 2011 and the continuing sovereign debt crises hitting confidence in the European Union. These and other factors, according to SigmaBleyzer, are "pointing to weaker global economic growth prospects."

According to the report, cumulative gross domestic product growth in Ukraine stood at 4.4 percent in year-on-year terms during the first half of 2011. But "real sector data for June and July showed signs of easing domestic consumer demand."

With prospects also deteriorating for exports, which account for 50 percent of Ukraine's gross domestic product, SigmaBleyzer downgraded its real GDP growth forecast for Ukraine to 4 percent year-on-year in 2011.

The firm's economists noted that state budget performance was "better than projected" in the first half of 2011, with the deficit standing at 1.7 percent of GDP, which is almost 2.5 times lower than in the first half of 2010. "Nevertheless, the broad fiscal deficit target of 3.5 percent of GDP looks difficult to achieve due to higher imbalances" at state oil and natural gas company Naftogaz, which is importing natural gas from Russia at increasingly expensive prices.

In a bit of positive news, SigmaBleyzer revised down its annual inflation forecast to a still double-digit level of 10-11 percent, explaining that "international price pressures are expected to ease."

But the combination of higher fuel import prices and falling hard currency inflows into the nation due to waning demand for exports could hit the nation's currency.

"With weaker exports in the second half of 2011, strong imports, the high population demand for foreign currency and large external private debt financing needs, the hryvnia is likely to be under depreciation pressure in the second half of 2011. The current level of international reserves will allow the National Bank of Ukraine to keep the hryvnia exchange rate stable for a while, but over the medium term some depreciation should materialize," SigmaBleyzer concluded.



Prime Minister Mykola Azarov

Cabinet seeks to raise \$5-10 billion via gas firm IPOs

(Reuters) – Ukraine wants to raise \$5-\$10 billion from an initial public offering of the state-run natural gas exploration company, now a part of Ukraine's largest oil and gas firm Naftogaz, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was quoted as saying on Sept. 1.

"We have decided to restructure Naftogaz, to separate [out of it] the gas exploration company and ... to carry out an IPO on an exchange," Interfax Ukraine quoted Azarov as saying.

Earlier this year, Ukraine energy minister Yuriy Boyko said the former Soviet republic wanted to raise \$5-\$6 billion selling a minority stake in Naftogaz, adding the funds could be used "to develop the company, to increase gas production in our country and to upgrade our gas shipping system."

Naftogaz chief executive Yevhen Bakulin said earlier this year the company planned an IPO around 2013.

Medvedev complains that Ukraine is cheap

KYIV POST STAFF AND REUTERS

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Aug. 31 that he was perplexed by Ukraine's attempts secure a cut in gas prices and accused the former Soviet republic of trying to sponge off Moscow.

Medvedev, speaking in Sochi, said Ukraine wanted a discount in gas prices but was offering nothing to Russia in return.

"It is very sad, it is sponging," Medvedev was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov responded on Sept. 1 saying that Ukraine wants a fair gas pricing formula, not cheap gas as Medvedev suggested.

Rhetoric between the two sides has intensified recently, as Ukraine seeks to renegotiate a 2009 gas deal in which it claims to be paying higher prices than some of its neighbors in the European Union.

On Sept. 1, a senior Ukrainian official speaking on condition of anonymity upped the ante, warning that Ukraine would file an appeal to settle the dispute through arbitration if negotiations fail to produce a result by October.

The tense negotiations are being closely watched in Brussels due to their economic, energy security and geopolitical implications.

During previous disputes, Russia has shut down the pipeline that crosses Ukraine, cutting off natural gas supplies to the European Union.

Russia has pushed hard using energy prices and other levers of influence



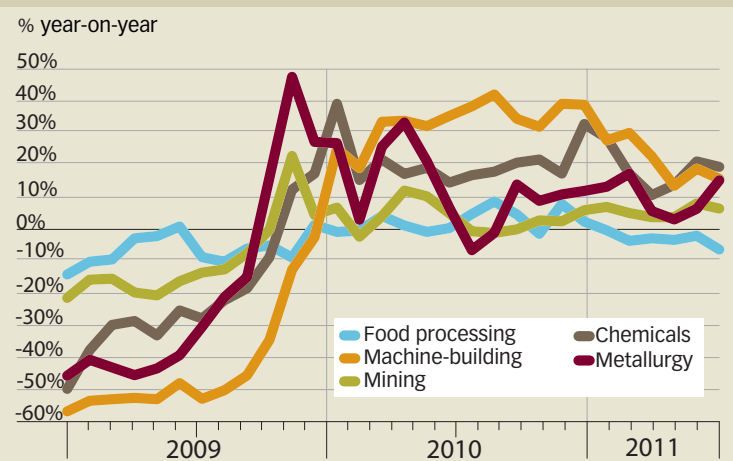
Russian President Dmitry Medvedev

to make Ukraine drop its European Union integration plans. Medvedev said that in order for Ukraine to obtain a discount it must either join the nascent customs union with Kazakhstan and Belarus or sell its pipeline grid to Russia.

"It seems to me that we have made a clear offer: if you want a gas discount, you must join the integrated zone...or you must make a business offer that has benefits for Russia, for example the sale of the gas transport grid," Medvedev said according to Interfax.

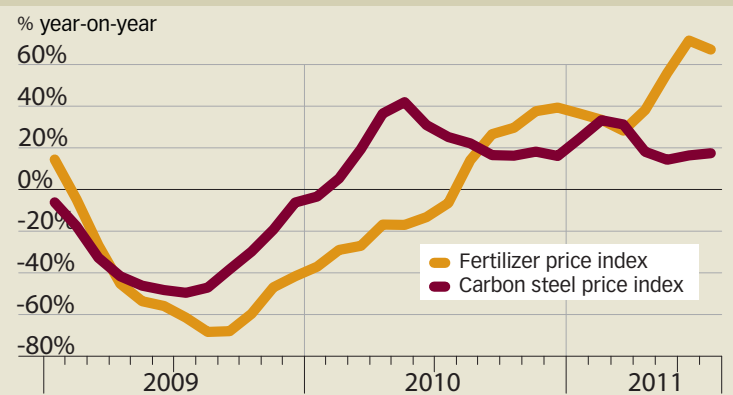
But Ukrainian officials claim that they cannot accept lower gas prices in return for dropping European Union integration plans, and can't – as a member of the World Trade Organization – join a joint customs union with non-WTO members (Russia, for example).

Industrial Production Growth in Ukraine



Source: State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, SigmaBleyzer

World Steel and Fertilizer Price Indices



Source: SigmaBleyzer, World Bank and other sources

Inside HR

Capital Recruiters is a partner of Inside Human Resources

Editor's Note: The Kyiv Post is launching a new project called Inside Human Resources, a guide to employment and the job market. To contribute articles, contact senior editor Brian Bonner at bonner@kyivpost.com.

What I have learned about hiring reliable employees



BRIAN BONNER
[BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com)

I once had a boss, the editor of a large U.S. newspaper where I worked, tell me that her hiring track record was 50-50 – half of the people she hired worked out well, the other half didn't.

I'd like to think my hiring record is better than 50-50 in the three years I've been editor at the Kyiv Post, where I've done a lot of hiring and a little firing. I've also had to lay off people during the 2008 economic crisis, and that is never pleasant.

While I am no expert, here's what I've learned. The advice goes to employers and job seekers as well.

Three tips for employers:

You're always hiring – Whatever the economic conditions or whether you think you're fully staffed, you should never stop looking for talent. Sometimes, the Kyiv Post runs help wanted ads even if we don't have an immediate opening. There are several reasons for doing this. One is to test who is on the market and reading our ads. Another is very practical: You never know who is going to quit, and bad hiring decisions usually get made when you have to fill an opening in a hurry. A third reason may sound cruel, but it's a fact of life: You may find somebody better out there for a particular job than the employee currently performing the task. Loyalty matters, but I know from experience that even my own boss has an eye out for someone who can do my job better than me. It's only fair.

Don't short-circuit the process – It's tempting to go with gut instinct, but I have found this usually leads to mistakes. At the Kyiv Post, even



Visitors attend a Kyiv Post Employment Fair on July 4. (Andriy Kravchenko)

though I make the final hiring decisions of journalists, it is far better to reach consensus among the five main editors – from reviewing CVs, to interviewing, to checking references. My colleagues have saved me from big mistakes. Also, employers should put the candidate through the paces – try them out as long as possible to see if they are a good fit with your organization. We have saved ourselves headaches by asking prospective employees to write or edit stories, and to spend time in the newsroom to get a feel for the place. It works out well for both sides. One job candidate walked out after a few hours, when she realized this is not where she wants to be and what she wants to do. For writers, we also ask them for three story ideas and writing samples.

Know your limits – We went through a phase of rapid hiring during the 2010 launch of kyivpost.ua, our online Ukrainian/Russian-language news site. It's clear we should have

slowed down and taken more time in deciding who to hire. Also, better attention could have been given to the sequence in hiring – you probably don't need an Internet sales director until you've built some kind of sizable readership, for instance.

Three tips for job candidates:

Pay attention – Generally, we are not interested in what you look like, how old you are or what your hobbies are. Same with your marital status or whether you have children. So you can take all that off your CV. Also, please keep your CV to a single page – it will help you get to the point. When you email your CV, follow up with a phone call to make sure we received it. A direct conversation is another opportunity for you to make your pitch. If you are lucky enough to get called for a job interview, bring multiple copies of your CV and whatever work samples you think will help you get the job. Don't come in empty-handed and say: "I emailed you that

three weeks ago." You'd better have the answer to the following question rehearsed in your head: "Why do you want to work for the Kyiv Post and what are your ideas for how you can improve the newspaper?" Don't tell us you've always wanted to be a writer and you thought this would be a good place to realize your dreams. By all means, read the Kyiv Post! Know its style, its focus and its writers, if you want to get hired. If you have great references, list them on your CV; otherwise "references available upon request" will suffice, but be ready to supply three.

Don't talk salary, vacations right away – "How much do I get paid?" and "When can I start taking a vacation?" are two questions that will likely kill your chances of getting hired if asked too early in the process. First, get the job offer; salary is the last question discussed. And when it comes to pay (ours is competitive), I will always ask you for the figure and why you think you are justified in making that amount. I think people are the best judge of the market, their talents and what they are willing to work for. Don't put a specific salary on your CV; it's all negotiable.

Trashing your previous/current employer – Chances are, we've never met before the job interview, but when I hear you talk about what a jerk your boss was or what a lousy place you worked at, I am thinking you'll do the same to us if the experience doesn't work out. Find a way to diplomatically phrase the reasons you moved on or want to move on. And, while you're at it, come clean about anything in your past that may hurt your ability to perform the job for which you are seeking. Dishonesty is often fatal to the chances of getting hired.

Kyiv Post senior editor Brian Bonner can be reached at bonner@kyivpost.com.

Employers, educators out of sync

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Sometimes it seems that Ukraine's educational system and labor market exist in parallel universes.

University graduates are frustrated by their fruitless search for jobs that either do not exist or for which they are not qualified.

Companies, in turn, are disappointed by the inability to find specialists in some areas and the need to re-educate employees for jobs that the new hires were presumably educated to perform.

Experts say Ukraine simply lacks good research that would help employers, educators and graduates better link job openings with the skills required.

"I haven't seen any quality research showing the state of the job market in Ukraine," said Oksana Semenyuk, human resources director of Kraft Foods Ukraine. →9



Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk



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Monsanto: Our seeds can help double crop

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Visiting Kyiv this week, top management of leading global agriculture seed producer Monsanto said their company hoped to sharply boost business in Ukraine, selling and producing premium seeds to help the nation double its crop.

"We are aiming to increase our role in Ukraine's agriculture sector," Gerald

A. Steiner, vice president of U.S.-based Monsanto, said at a briefing on Aug. 31. Monsanto President Hugh Grant was also in Kyiv for the visit, which included meetings with President Viktor Yanukovich and Agriculture Minister Anatoly Prysyzhnyuk.

Monsanto sells corn and rapeseed seeds in Ukraine under the DEKALB brand. Steiner said introducing Monsanto's seeds along with other

farming techniques common in developed countries could help Ukraine increase its corn yield from the current 4 tons per hectare levels to European productivity of 7-8 tons per hectare.

"When we look at soil and climate conditions, Ukraine is very well set up" to become a top world corn supplier, he added. Ukraine is expected to surpass Brazil this season as the third-largest corn exporter worldwide.

Blessed with some of the world's best soil and weather, Ukraine also ranks as a top global producer of barley, wheat, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil.

Monsanto is currently a large supplier of high-quality agriculture seeds in Ukraine, foremost for corn and rapeseed. The company first broke onto the domestic market in the early 1990s. It claims business has gradually increased since, but could surge if Ukraine realizes

its full agriculture potential by opening the door more to investors and improving the investment climate.

The company could not give figures on the sales volumes it has registered in Ukraine during recent years. Olena Fomina, head of Monsanto's office in Ukraine, said the company occupied a 14 percent share in Ukraine's corn seed market in 2010 and is going to increase it by 5 percent in 2011.

Frustration running sky high in job market

→ 8 One in three young Ukrainians cannot now find a job, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Social Policy. Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk also sees a problem, including a supply-and-demand mismatch in many professions.

Tabachnyk says Ukraine has too many economists and lawyers, but not enough engineers, biologists and mathematicians. He says he is trying to redress the imbalance by redistributing scholarships in universities to better meet market demands.

However, an influential Tabachnyk critic – Sergiy Kvit, director of the prestigious Kyiv Mohyla Academy – said the government never consulted with his university on priorities.

For instance, Kvit said the state ended scholarships for the master's program in journalism, even though graduates have been successful and needed in the market. He said the distribution of state funding is "conducted solely by the subjective will" of Tabachnyk.

Experts say that even if Tabachnyk is motivated by the best intentions of making education more market-oriented, he will have trouble doing so because the ministry is not good at predicting future employment trends.

Oleksiy Zvolynskiy, general manager of the HR outsourcing company GP Group, said the government needs to also do a better job of identifying qualifications that employers are demanding. He said the government's forecasts are not keeping up with the fast-changing market needs.

Zvolynskiy showed the Kyiv Post a list of professions with the most vacancies in July and August and noted that they differ radically from Tabachnyk's assumptions.

Kraft Foods' Semenyuk said the company has had trouble finding good marketing and other specialists knowledgeable about international business and with good English-language skills.

Faced with poorly skilled graduates, Kraft Foods decided to intervene earlier in the education process by identifying students with promise and working with universities on planning courses. "We collaborate with Sumy State University," Semenyuk said. Consequently, many graduates are now working for Kraft Foods.

Zvolynskiy said other companies are also identifying talented students. Firms are also doing more in-house training or simply inviting specialists from abroad. To start with, Zvolynskiy said better information is needed from leading companies about their needs. "Based on this research we could create a prognosis of the job market for the next two to five years and make this information public," Zvolynskiy said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com.

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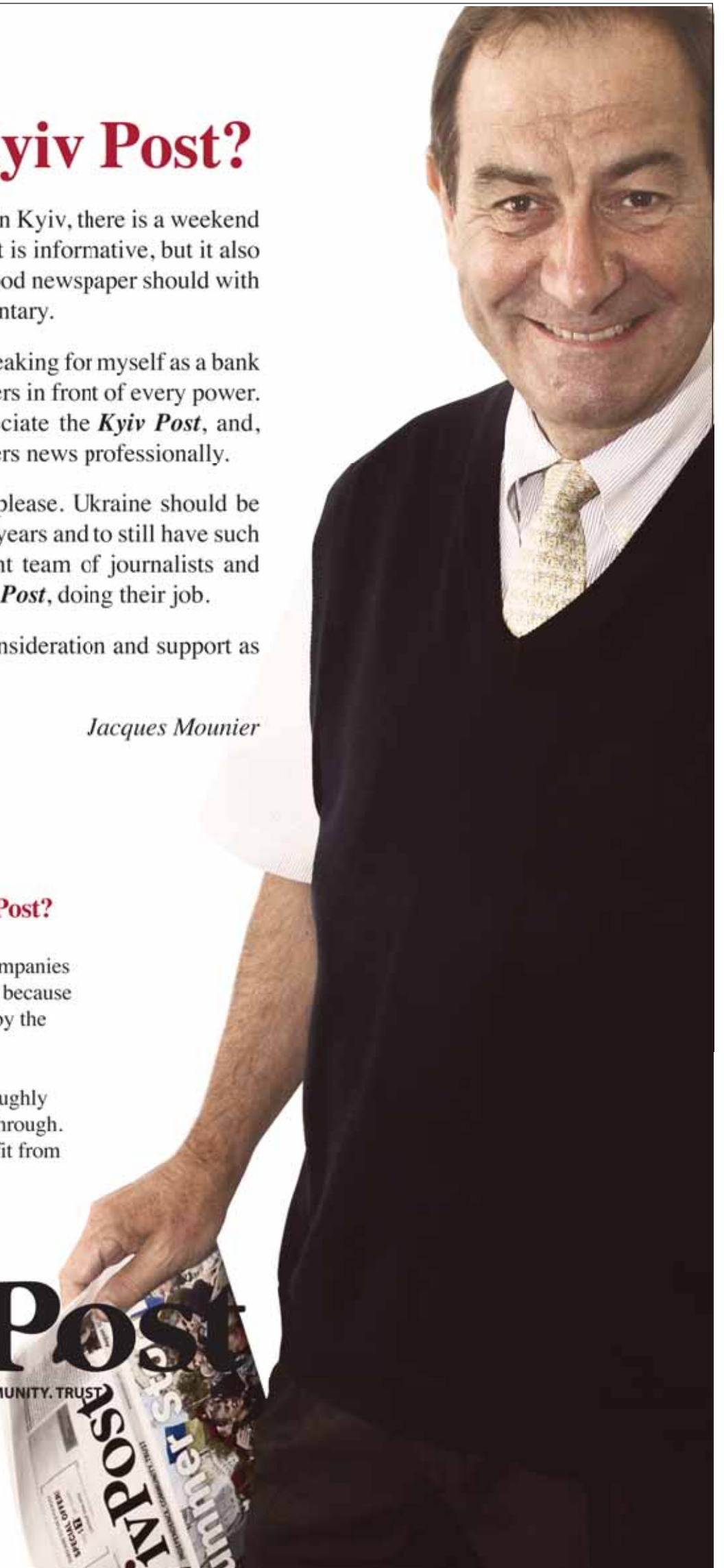
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US officials describe Ukraine as kleptocracy in WikiLeaks cables

→1 to favored oligarchs at cut-rate, bargain-basement prices.

U.S. officials do not comment on the cables unearthed by WikiLeaks, while Ukraine's four presidents have defended their records, including privatizations, as complying with Ukrainian law.

With many of the same influential oligarchs still around and looking to acquire more state assets in a new round of privatizations, the disclosures renew questions about how transparent state sales will be under Yanukovich, president since Feb. 25, 2010, especially given his track record as prime minister during some of the questioned deals from 2002-2004.

Steven Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Kyiv and now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute in Washington, said the failure of the Orange Revolution leaders to establish a firm rule of law meant that history could repeat itself.

"One of the opportunities that was missed during the five years following the Orange Revolution was the opportunity to strengthen rule of law, so that you would not have this sort of insider deals not to Ukraine's advantage," Pifer said.

He added that "the system [in Ukraine] has not changed much" and that he would not be surprised to see such injustices happening again.

Gas intermediaries

One of the main revelations of the new batch of released cables has been the strong U.S. opposition to intermediaries in the Russia-Ukraine natural gas trade that, officials said, made enormous profits for private owners at the expense of state-run companies.

In one January 2008 cable, then-U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor described the controversies surrounding two gas intermediaries then operating — RosUkrEnergo and UkrGaz-Energy, a joint venture between RosUkrEnergo and state energy monopoly Naftogaz.

The cables detail the U.S. government's public and private position, questioning the transparency of such gas intermediaries in the multi-billion-dollar bilateral trade between Ukraine and Russia. Seeing no transparent role for them, the U.S. called for privately-held intermediaries appointed by top officials to be removed, noting that this goal was relentlessly pursued by Tymoshenko as prime minister. But she is on trial for alleged abuse of office in a 2009 gas deal with Russia that removed RosUkrEnergo from the gas trade.

Critics see the criminal charges as retaliation by her enemies, including RosUkrEnergo's billionaire co-owner, Dmytro Firtash. He is close to Yanukovich's administration, which denies any interference in the judicial process.

In the U.S. cable, UkrGaz-Energy is accused of making money from the lucrative gas trade at the expense of Naftogaz — and its owners, the Ukrainian taxpayer. "Its profitability came at the expense of Naftogaz," reads the cable. "Reportedly, UGE has yet to pay 2006 dividends to Naftogaz, even though Naftogaz owns a 50 per cent share."

Taylor also wrote that "it is completely murky what financial flows and dividends move between" RosUkrEnergo and UkrGaz-Energy, essentially echoing Tymoshenko's accusations of "shady schemes" com-



Rinat Akhmetov

ing at the expense of Ukrainians. The intermediaries have repeatedly denied wrongdoing and defended their roles as helpful in the bilateral gas trade.

Privatization cloud

Concerns were raised by the U.S. ambassador in 2007 regarding non-transparency in the privatization of state assets and the nation's weak judiciary.

The U.S. was severely critical of the government's sales of the state-owned Kryvorizhstal steel plant and Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant, both privatized under the presidency of Leonid Kuchma, who governed from 1994-2005, and then-Prime Minister Yanukovich, in power between 2002-2004.

Back in 2003, Ukrainian billionaire Viktor Pinchuk paid less than \$100 million in a controversial privatization tender to seal his control over the prized state-owned plant. The market value was \$1 billion, the diplomat wrote. "Like the subsequent sale of the Kryvorizhstal steel plant, it was apparent that the two Nikopol Ferroalloy tenders were rigged in favor of Pinchuk, the son-in-law of then-President Leonid Kuchma, for a cut-rate price," reads the cable.

Kryvorizhstal was sold in 2004 to Pinchuk and Rinat Akhmetov, the billionaire backer of Yanukovich and the pro-presidential Party of Regions, for \$800 million. In 2005, however, Tymoshenko returned the company to state ownership and subsequently sold it during a competitive and transparent tender to Mittal Steel (now ArcelorMittal).

This repeat Kryvorizhstal privatization tender fetched a whopping \$4.8 billion for the national treasury — the highest amount ever received for a state asset. In fact, this sale alone accounts for a majority of what Ukraine has raised from privatization deals. Such transactions helped Akhmetov accumulate a net worth of \$30 billion, while Pinchuk amassed assets worth billions of dollars.

At some point, according to the cables, Pinchuk allegedly told U.S. diplomats that he is willing to reimburse the government for the price difference.

Spokespeople for Pinchuk and Akhmetov had not responded to Kyiv Post requests for comment by Sept. 1, but have always previously denied wrongdoing.

Government attempts to re-privatize the controlling share of the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant dragged on in courts for several years before the state lost its case and a peace agreement of sorts was reached. Since then, the plant is controlled under a murky ownership structure believed



Viktor Pinchuk

to involve Pinchuk and billionaire Igor Kolomoisky, who had for years been trying to gain control over the plant from Pinchuk.

According to the cable, the failed privatization attempt also demonstrated shortcomings in Ukraine's judicial system, with Pinchuk defending his interests by taking "advantage of the jurisdictional ambiguities in the Ukrainian judicial system, winning court decisions to counter other court judgments against him ... The episode underscores that in Ukraine's business world, as in its politics, problems are solved through deal-making between powerful individuals, not through the manipulable court system," Taylor summarized.

According to a December 2007 cable, U.S. Embassy officials were also suspicious of the acquisition of Dniproenergo, a large power generation company, through the issuance of shares bought by Akhmetov, allegedly below their true value. Akhmetov spent \$200 million for up to 40 per cent share of the company while some estimated the market value of the entire company between \$1.5 billion and \$2.2 billion at the time.

While the company remained in the hands of Akhmetov, its transaction was seen by U.S. diplomats as "another example of problems besetting Ukraine's 'deeply flawed privatization policy.'"

Taylor wrote: "The Dniproenergo case is not an isolated one, as Ukraine's history is marred with non-transparent privatizations that have benefited a few well-connected insiders." Akhmetov denied the transaction was illegal and added that he paid a fair price for the share.

What comes next?

The sobering picture of Ukraine's past raises concerns about the upcoming sale of state assets, including Odesa Portside Plant, which produces chemicals, and several regional energy producers. Firtash has shown interest in the Odesa chemicals plant. Akhmetov appears to be eyeing majority stakes in energy companies, including Dniproenergo.

Maksym Boroda, analyst at the Kyiv-based International Center for Policy Studies, said the system of governance remains essentially unchanged.

"Everyone knows that courts are corrupt and politicized and controlled by the ruling political elite, but the previous Ukrainian leaders were not against such a system either," Boroda said. He said neither the government nor the political opposition feels public pressure for change.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuriy Onyshkiv can be reached at onyshkiv@kyivpost.com.

Revenge cited as motive for imprisonment of ex-minister

→1 tion in what Western capitals have called selective prosecutions.

His daughter, Valeria, issued a public plea for his release on Aug. 14 as his father's imprisonment entered the one-year mark. But Valeria, 26, and her brother Serhiy, 29, spend most of their time out of public view, poring over court decisions, medical reports and case documents.

"Most mass media are interested in Tymoshenko because she is the opposition leader. Maybe now we will get less attention to our case. But we always try to stress that this case shouldn't exist, to make people hear us," Valeria said.

Prosecutors accuse Ivashchenko of exceeding his authority on Nov. 18, 2009 by signing an allegedly unlawful draft plan for the reorganization of the bankrupt Feodosia Ship Repair Plant in the Crimea, a charge he denies. President Viktor Yanukovich has repeatedly denied any interference in the cases against Tymoshenko, whom he defeated to win the presidency in 2010, and her allies.

The family thinks that people Ivashchenko fired while he was defense minister are now seeking retribution with the change in power.

"There are no reasons for keeping him in prison. It was a political decision," Serhiy said. "We think that this is about revenge."

The General Prosecutor's Office did not respond to questions faxed on Aug. 19 as Kyiv Post went to print on Sept. 1.

Ivashchenko has been kept in detention since his arrest. In court he is held in a cage; he can see one family member once per month. His family claims his poor health is being exacerbated by a lack of appropriate medical care.

Valeria and Serhiy are convinced of their father's innocence. They are also sure that the authorities are pursuing him and treating him harshly for political reasons.

On Aug. 1, Pechersk District Court in Kyiv denied motions seeking more lenient measures that would have allowed Ivashchenko to attend his trial without being encaged and to be released from detention on bail.

Current detention rules restrict family visits to one every month. Valeria saw him on a recent Friday. "But if I will visit him once in a month, he will not be allowed to see my mother or my brother in that same month," Valeria said.

Visits last for one hour and Ivashchenko's children and wife may only communicate with him through a glass partition and speak via telephone. In 2000 and again in 2002, the European Commission for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment criticized this Ukrainian practice.

A recent report from the Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights criticized numerous aspects of Ivashchenko's trial, including his caging, the postponement of medical treatment, and the violation of his right to family life through what it called "the excessive and disproportionate" restrictions on Ivashchenko's contact with family members.

Ivashchenko's children are particularly concerned by their father's dete-



Former Acting Defense Minister Valeriy Ivashchenko

riorating health.

While media attention over recent days has focused on the health of Tymoshenko, Ivashchenko has been complaining of serious medical problems for months. Most recently, his son said, Ivashchenko began to lose feeling in his toes due to a back injury sustained in youth that requires regular medical treatment.

"In prison it is impossible to get medical help because there is no neurologist or neurology department," Valeria said, rifling through months of medical testimony piled high on a desk. She said examinations of her father at the Kyiv Hospital of Emergency Aid and the Kyiv Center of Endocrinology have confirmed his need for neurological treatment, but the detention center says it cannot provide such medical assistance.

A spokeswoman for European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said Ivashchenko's health is "a matter of concern to us."

Ivashchenko has also claimed that his ailments are aggravated by confinement to a cage during trial.

His children said they believe that prosecutors are deliberately denying him medical treatment for existing conditions. "They will try to destroy him physically," Serhiy said.

The official explanation for the continued detention of Ivashchenko is that "he could put pressure on or influence witnesses through his corrupt connections," said Serhiy, citing court documents.

He added that family members are considered witnesses and "corrupt connections," even though "we know nothing about what happened."

Ivashchenko's trial continues on Sept. 20.

Meanwhile, the children struggle on without their father, reading documents and meeting with lawyers to fight his corner.

"We feel the absence of our father every day," Valeria said.

"There were no reasons for thinking it could happen," Serhiy added. "But as we found out, it can happen in our country. Especially under the current authorities."

Kyiv Post staff writer Will Fitzgibbon can be reached at fitzgibbon@kyivpost.com

Pukach accuses Kuchma

→1 free will who carried out somebody else's orders so that he can avoid harsh punishment such as life imprisonment."

Fresh denials of involvement in Gongadze's murder also came from Parliament speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn, then Kuchma's chief of staff, and former deputy interior minister Mykhailo Dzhaha, now the governor of Vinnytsia Oblast. Both have been implicated in the plot to kill Gongadze.

The trial is closed to the public so the accounts of Telychenko and Podolsky could not be confirmed.

In a related investigation, Kuchma was indicted in March on abuse-of-office charges in Gongadze's death. Prosecutors suspect he gave illegal orders to his subordinates that eventually led to Gongadze's death.

Pukach's superior, Kravchenko, was found dead in his summer house near

Kyiv on March 4, 2005, from two gunshot wounds to the head. The official cause of death was said to be suicide. Authorities have publicly identified him as a conspirator in the murder.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports that Telychenko said that Pukach testified to killing Gongadze because the victim and two associates had been preparing "since 1997 to seize power in Ukraine illegally, and so I killed him to save the country."

Pukach is the former head of the Main Criminal Investigation Department at the Interior Ministry's foreign surveillance unit. His three subordinates – Valeriy Kostenko, Mykola Protasov and Oleksandr Popovych – were convicted in March 2008 and sentenced to 12-13 years in prison. Pukach went into hiding from 2003, until police found him in rural Zhytomyr Oblast on July 21, 2009. Gongadze, who wrote about corrup-

tion among Ukraine's political elite, was kidnapped on Sept. 16, 2000. His decapitated body was found outside Kyiv several months later.

The murder sparked months of protests against Kuchma after a key witness released tape recordings in which a voice that sounded like Kuchma's is heard complaining about the journalist and suggesting subordinates deal with the problem.

The criminal investigation against Kuchma, 73, was initiated unexpectedly in March. Kuchma had been questioned in the case in the past but not as a suspect.

Meanwhile, the secrecy of the Pukach trial came under sharp attack.

Andriy Fedur, the lawyer of Gongadze's mother, Lesya Gongadze, told journalists he was convinced Pukach's trial is being held behind closed doors to ensure that his tes-



Ex-President Leonid Kuchma

timony does not become common knowledge.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists also on Aug. 31 criticized the court for closing the proceedings on grounds of protecting state secrets. The court has denied three requests by Telychenko to open the trial to the public.

In an interview with the Committee to Protect Journalists, Myroslava Gongadze again called for the unsealing of the indictments and proceedings. "By sealing the trial on allegations of state secrets' protection, the court violates my plaintiff rights," she said. She appealed to the European Court of Human Rights for help in opening the trial to the public.

The murder of Gongadze became a leading symbol of the lawlessness of the Kuchma era, while the drawn-out battle for justice is seen as a litmus test of Ukrainian democracy.

Ukrainian workers feel abandoned by employers, their own nation

→2 that the Salar Group owes him \$9,000. The company's total debt to the workers is \$285,000, according to the IOM.

Salar Group officials could not be reached for comment.

While the international or so-called "green zone" of Baghdad where the Ukrainian builders live is probably the safest place in this dangerous city, even there "something explodes every other day," one worker said.

The Ukrainians can't leave as they came to Iraq with transit visas that have now expired. If they left the green zone, the Iraqi police could arrest them.

IOM recommends that the workers be transported to Ukraine and paid by the Salar Group there. The organization has encouraged both the Iraqi government and Ukrainian diplomats to help the workers receive visas.

Salanga said IOM organized a meeting between the builders and the Ukrainian consul in Baghdad, who



Ukrainian laborers speak on Aug. 20 to an official from the International Organization for Migration at a construction site in Baghdad's Green Zone, where 27 Ukrainians and others are housed. (AFP)

promised to discuss the issue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kyiv.

Oleh Voloshyn, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said he learned about this story from the Kyiv Post. He added that Ukrainian diplomats can

do little to help labor migrants who get into money troubles abroad. "If they [the workers] are going to sit there for a year waiting for their salaries, the state can't feed them for all this time," he said.

The builders said they contacted the Ukrainian consulate for the first time in February, complaining that they were trapped in bad accommodation and asking for help with visas. "We received then several packages of water, soap and toothpaste and that was it," said one of the workers.

Voloshyn said Ukrainians often get into trouble with debts abroad, and the country's embassies usually helps only if people's lives or health are endangered. "They go somewhere, and then start complaining to the Foreign Ministry when somebody owes them," he said.

But the builders argue they found this job through the legal recruiting agencies, sometimes even paying them with the help of bank loans. "Some people paid \$300-\$400 to get this job, some even \$1,000," the builder said, adding that one of recruiting firms in Lviv was called Sital.

A phone call to a number for this

company found on the Internet was answered by a man who introduced himself as Oleksandr. He denied that Sital recruited people to go to Baghdad but said he knew about this story. Oleksandr assured that some Czech company, whose name he couldn't remember, assisted in hiring of the builders.

Salanga said the company Noblehus, Salar Group's subcontractor, conducted the recruitment of the workers from abroad. Noblehus could not be reached for comment.

The workers said they hold out little hope of receiving the money, but just want to obtain visas to give them legal status in Iraq.

"Several days ago the officials from the Iraqi labor ministry came and promised to make maximum effort to help us," said one of the builders.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com

September 9

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- British Council Ukraine** (4/12 Hrihorija Skovorody St.)
- Ciklum** (12 Amosova St.)
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- European Business Association** (1A Andriivskiy Uzviz)
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- Hudson Global Resources** (19/21E Nyzhnyi Val)
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- MBA Strategy** (32 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
- SC Johnson** (19B Moskovskiy Prosp.)
- Staff Service Solution** (1-3 Frunze St.)
- Students Travel International** (18/1 Prorizna St.)
- Via Kiev Lufthansa City Center** (172 Horkoho St.)

Restaurants

- Al Faro** (49A Velyka Vasylkivska St.)
- Arizona Barbeque** (25 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.)
- AutPab** (3/25 Kominterni St.)
- Babay beer Club** (4 Sofiivska St.)
- Baraban** (4A Prorizna St.)
- Belle Vue** (7 Saksahanskoho St.)
- Belvedere** (1 Dniprovskiy Uzviz)
- Bierstube** (20 Velyka Vasylkivska St.)
- Bochka Pyvna** (3B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St., 19A Khreshchatyk St.)
- Bulvar Cafe/Shaliapin** (44 Velyka Vasylkivska St.)
- Cabaret 'Paradise'** (5-7/29 Taras Shevchenko Boulevard)
- Concord** (L.Tolstogo sq. BC «Kiev-Donbass» 8 floor)
- Dim Kavy** (15 Khreshchatyk St.)
- Dom Bergonie** (17 Pushkinska St.)
- Dubki** (1 Stetsenko St.)
- Dva Bobra** (91 Komarova St., village Mila)
- Fellini** (5 Horodetskoho St.)
- Fish Market** (24A Volodymyrska St.)
- Fluger** (14 Artema St.)
- Fridays** (5A Besarabska Sq.)
- Goodman Steak House** (75 Zhylianska St.)
- Grandal** (24B Polyova St.)
- Himalai** (23 Khreshchatyk St.)
- IQ bar** (25 L.Tolstogo St.)
- Il Patio** (112 Saksahanskoho St., 5A Besarabska Sq., 5/13 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St., 57/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St.)

- John Bull Pub** (36 Saksahanskoho St.)
- Klovsky** (16A Mechnykova St.)
- Kraina Kavy** (5 Spaska St.)
- La Bodeguita del Medio** (21/20 Yaroslaviv Val St.)
- La Casa Del Habano** (13 Klovskiy Spusk)
- Le Cosmopolite** (47 Volodymyrska St.)
- Leonardo** (2 Besarabska Square)
- Lun Van** (26 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
- Marokana** (24 Lesi Ukrainki Boulevard)
- Monako** (20A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)
- Natürlich** (3 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
- New Bombay Palace** (33A Druzhby Narodiv Boulevard)
- News café** (6 Hetmana St., TRC Bilshovyk)
- O'Brien's** (17A Mykhailivska St.)
- O'Panos** (10 Tereshchenkivska St.)
- Panda** (76 Saksahanskoho St.)
- Panorama** (3 Sholudenko St.)
- Pantagruel** (1 Lysenko St.)
- Planeta Sushi** (68 Saksahanskoho St., 12 Khreshchatyk St., 57/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St.)
- Route 66** (87/30 Zhylianska St.)
- Schnitzel Haus** (51 Saksahanskoho St.)
- Shokoladnitsa** (53/80 Saksahanskoho St., 48 Velyka Vasylkivska St., 1/2 Baseina St., 4 Lunacharskoho St., 33 Dniprovsk Naberezhna, 12 Luhova St., 58/2A Artema St.)
- Shooters** (22 Moskovska St.)
- Soho** (82 Artema St.)
- Stina** (2 Besarabska Sq.)
- Sunduk** (22A Prorizna St.)
- Sutra Bar** (3 G. Tymofiivoi St.)
- Svitlytsia** (13B Andriivskiy Uzviz)
- Time** (31A Sahaidachnoho St.)
- Time Out** (50 Horkoho St.)
- Trans Force** (34B Moskovskiy Prosp.)
- Tsarske Selo** (42 Ivana Mazepy St.)
- Under Wonder** (21 Velyka Vasylkivska St.)
- Vezevio Pizza** (25 Reytarska St.)
- Videnski Bulochky** (25B Sahaidachnoho St., 14/1 Instytutska St., 14 Mechnykova St., 1-3/5 Pushkinska St., 107/47 Saksahanskoho St., 34 Lesi Ukrainki Boulevard, 20 Esplanadna St.)
- Viola's Bar** (1A Taras Shevchenko)
- Warsteiner Pub** (10 Horodetskoho St.)
- Wolkonsky Keyzer** (15 Khreshchatyk St., 5/7-29 Taras Shevchenko Boulevard)

Sport Clubs

- 5 Element** (29 Elektrykiv St.)
- Favorit** (6 Muzeiniy Lane)
- Kiev Sport Club** (5 Druzhby Narodiv Boulevard)
- Planeta Fitnes** (10 Kropyvnytskoho St.)

Hotels

- Adria** (2 Raisa Okipna St.)
- Attaché Hotel** (59 Zhylianska St.)
- City Park Hotel** (20 Vorovskoho St.)
- Diarso** (5 Velyka Kiltseva Doroha)
- Express** (38/40 Taras Shevchenko Boulevard)
- Hotel Dnipro** (1/2 Khreshchatyk St.)
- Hyatt** (5A Alla Tarasova St.)

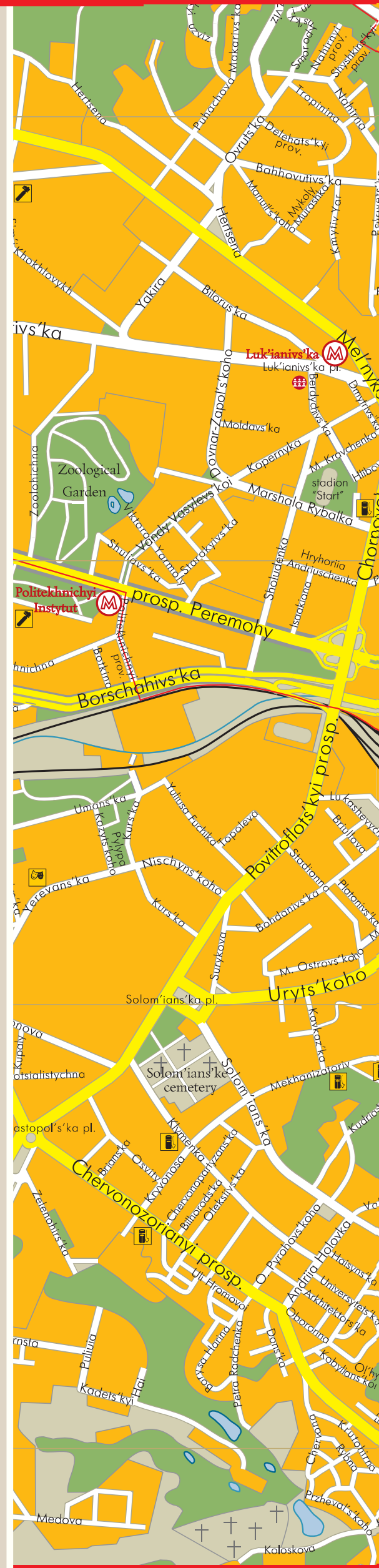
- Intercontinental** (2A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)
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- Kozatsky Stan** (Boryspilske Shose, 18 km)
- Khreshchatyk Hotel** (14 Khreshchatyk St.)
- Lybid** (1 Peremohy Prosp.)
- Opera Hotel** (53 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
- Oselia** (11 Kameniariv St.)
- Premier Palace** (5-7/29 Taras Shevchenko Boulevard)
- President Hotel** (12 Hospitalna St.)
- Riviera** (15 Sahaidachnoho St.)
- Rus** (4 Hospytalna St.)
- Salyut** (11B Ivana Mazepy St.)
- Senator's Park Hotel** (Novobukhivska Doroha, 9 km.)
- Senator Apartments** (6 Pyrohova St., 62/20 Dmytrivska St.)
- Slavtych** (1 Entuziastiv St.)

Educational establishments

- British International school** (45 Tolbukhina St.)
- International Business Institute Kyiv Mohyla Business School** (8/5 Voloska St.)
- Kyiv International School** (3A Sviatoshynsky Lane)
- London School of English** (39 Politekhnicna St.)
- Master Klass** (16 Lavrska St.)
- MIM-Kyiv** (10/12 Shuliavska St.)
- Pechersk International School** (7A Viktora Zabily St.)
- Speak Up** (14 Kotsiubynskoho St., 25B Sahaidachnoho St., 4 Lunacharskoho St., 136 Peremohy Prosp.)

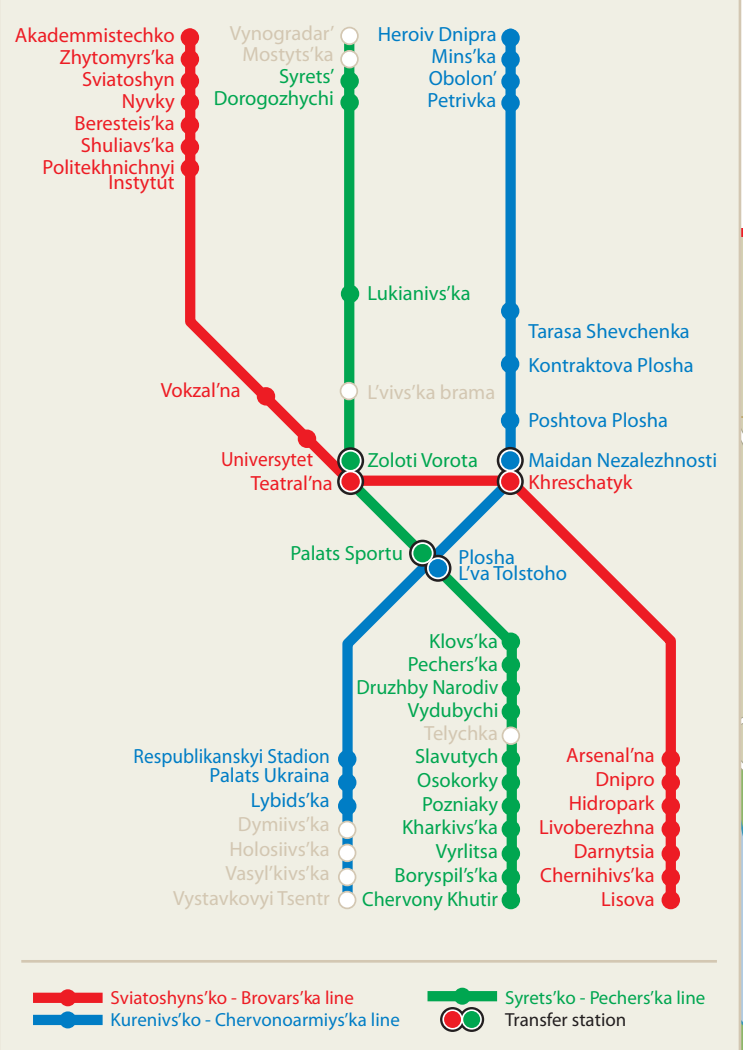
Business Centers

- Arena** (2A Baseina St.)
- Artem** (4 Hlybochytyska St.)
- Cubic Center** (3 Sholudenko St.)
- Diplomat Hall** (59 Zhylianska St.)
- Eurasia Ukraine** (73-79 Zhylianska St.)
- Evropa** (4 Muzeiniy Lane)
- Evropa Plaza** (120 Saksahanskoho St.)
- GOOIOORD B.V.** (34/33 Ivana Franka St., 36 Ivana Franka St., 11 Mykhailivska St., 52B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
- Illinsky** (8 Illinska St.)
- Khreshchatyk Plaza** (19A Khreshchatyk St.)
- Kiev-Donbass** (42/4 Pushkinska St.)
- Podol Plaza** (19 Skovorody St.)



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Opposition should get back to basics of EU integration



WILL RITTER

With the 2012 election barely a year away and the ruling, pro-presidential Party of Regions having embraced the rhetoric of pro-Europeanism and economic reform, Ukraine's opposition parties today finds itself in an ideological no-man's land, suffering from a lack of resonant themes with which to effectively challenge the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich.

Thus far, there have been only two unifying strands among the various opposition groups. The first is the much-talked-about deterioration of democratic standards and press freedoms under the new administration, culminating in the trial of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko on vaguely articulated abuse-of-power charges.

This theme is certainly legitimate, but it is not, by itself, a substitute for a credible economic ideology and platform. The absence of the latter is one of the primary reasons why support for the opposition has remained stagnant even as the ratings of Yanukovich and his party have begun to decline.

The other theme which the opposition parties have latched onto is fighting tooth and nail against the government's plans to structurally reform the Ukrainian economy, especially the measures of pension reform and utility tariff rises mandated by the International Monetary Fund. While this second theme reflects a specific ideology, it is one which would appear to be at odds with Ukraine's future integration into European structures.

It is therefore somewhat surprising to see such a virulent stance against economic reforms from parties such as Tymoshenko's Fatherland (Batkivshchyna), Arseniy Yatseniuk's Front of Changes (Front Zmin), and Viacheslav Kirilenko's For Ukraine (Za Ukrainu), all of which state that



Protesters on July 7 take part in a rally against pension reforms that would raise the retirement age. (UNIAN)

they are firmly for European Union integration.

In the case of pension reform, which the above politicians have vociferously criticized, there is not much room for serious debate. At 55, Ukraine's current retirement age for women is between seven and 10 years less than in the rest of Europe, and simply not fiscally sustainable.

Opposition to heating tariff rises also makes little sense from a pro-European standpoint, as failure to stem the multibillion-dollar losses of state energy company Naftogaz can only increase Ukraine's dependence on the Kremlin for a privileged natural gas price – a benefit which would only be extended if Ukraine were to renounce its European aspirations and join the Customs Union of former Soviet states. The recent experience of Belarus illustrates the obvious perils of relying on Moscow's largesse for economic stability.

Also opposed to the government's

reforms is the "elephant in the room" of today's Western Ukrainian politics, the Svoboda (Freedom) Union led by Oleh Tiahnybok. Svoboda, which subscribes to a nationalist-populist ideology antithetical to the modern European idea of "unity with diversity," was by far the best-performing party in the Ukrainian-speaking western regions of the country during local elections held last autumn.

Svoboda's victory begs the question of why there is currently no moderate, pro-European political party with an enthusiastic following in western Ukraine, the region of Ukraine which is closest, both geographically and historically, to Europe. It appears that Svoboda has essentially hijacked Ukraine's respected national-democratic movement, which led the country's independence drive in the 1980s and its push toward Europe in the 1990s.

The rise of Svoboda in western Ukraine, inasmuch as it siphons support away from pro-European, center-

right parties in the region, clearly benefits the pro-presidential camp. As 2004's Orange Revolution vividly demonstrated, moderate Ukrainophone parties based in western Ukraine are capable of exerting a powerful influence on the country's national politics, and would present a tough challenge to the Yanukovich's Party of Regions in future elections.

For their part, the president's political camp is now at a crossroads. They are faced with the stark choice of either moving ahead with bold but controversial structural reforms, or turning away from Europe and back down the path of populism treaded by so many previous Ukrainian governments for short-term electoral gain.

Most of the structural reforms on the table – the tax code, pension reform, cutting the public sector workforce, reducing energy inefficiency – are bound to be initially unpopular, since they will yield positive economic results for the general population only over a

period longer than the election cycle.

Of course, income-boosting economic growth of 7-8 percent is a real possibility in the coming years if Ukraine signs a free trade agreement with the European Union (Ukraine's fellow EU aspirant Turkey grew at a stunning 11 percent last year), but global factors beyond Ukraine's control mean that such rapid growth is not guaranteed.

President Yanukovich may ultimately have to choose between being remembered as either a bold reformer who led his country into Europe but lost his reelection bid, or as a Ukrainian version of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who has clung to power through authoritarian means for a decade in Belarus while gradually surrendering national strategic assets to Moscow.

Ukraine's opposition parties should be mindful of the irony that the more successful Yanukovich is in pushing through his stated reform agenda, the better their own chances will be of making parliamentary gains in 2012 and of reclaiming the presidency in 2015.

The only significant political forces in Ukraine today opposed to European integration are the Communists on the far left and Svoboda on the far right. The mainstream opposition parties should therefore do the nation a favor by ending their obfuscation in regard to necessary reforms. Instead, they should declare a consensus with the Party of Regions whereby all non-extremist political forces, both left and right, commit to work together in promoting a European path for the country.

Such a broad consensus, which was a critical factor in bringing Poland into the EU fold in the 1990s, would not only be in the interests of Ukraine as a whole; it would also allow the Orange opposition to finally start climbing out of the rut of unpopularity and impotence in which it has been mired for the past 18 months, and get to work on building some positive credibility with voters for 2012 and 2015.

Will Ritter is a Kyiv-based freelance writer who can be reached at writer404@yahoo.com.

Authors: West should insist that Ukraine respects democracy

→5 tion, particularly from the EU, the operating environment for civil-society organizations remains extremely difficult, and they have no opportunities for genuine inclusion in policymaking.

Ukraine has reached a crossroads. One signpost points towards democracy; the other towards autocracy. The former path leads to membership in the European Union; the latter would take Ukraine to a darker and more dangerous destination. Millions of Ukraine's citizens favor EU membership, but their enthusiasm is tempered by the absence of a clear EU policy towards Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the administration of Yanukovich proclaims its willingness to join the EU, but has failed to introduce the changes needed to meet the qualifying criteria. As a result, Ukraine is unlikely to be invited to start membership negotiations anytime soon.

It is in the EU's vital interest to strive

for a far more active policy towards Ukraine than it has so far. The current Polish EU presidency should hark back to the origins of Poland's thriving democracy, and recall the essential support that it received from the West a generation ago. A similar effort is needed for Ukraine today, and that effort should not be set aside for reasons of political expedience, or, for that matter, pursued for reasons of simple economic self-interest. We urge the EU and its member states to insist that the rule of law is respected. At the very least, the EU should demand that Tymoshenko and the other opposition leaders are set free on bail so that they can more vigorously defend themselves in court.

Editor's Note: The following opinion piece was published by Project Syndicate, www.project-syndicate.org, which retains the copyright to the material. The Kyiv Post obtained permission to publish the article.

Willard: Tragedies demand humane response from all

→4 In the interest of full disclosure, the marketing and public relations agency of which I am chairman, Willard, has worked with Akhmetov's System Capital Management holding and many of its companies, including Metinvest, over the last half dozen years. I consider them well-run and forward-thinking companies.

Also, when it comes to coal mining disasters, I have an emotional interest.

I come from West Virginia, which, like eastern Ukraine, is coal mining territory. I have had dinner at a coal miner's table and I have been a kilometer down a mine.

As a reporter, I covered the violent Brookside mine strike against the powerful Duke Power Co. in Harlan County, Kentucky. Some years ago, I worked to make Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine chief Mykhailo Volynets a better spokesperson, at the request of the U.S. Embassy.

Coal mining is one of the most hazardous occupations in the world. Often, people hold to and cherish their jobs as miners because it is the only job in a depressed region. It can be made safer, but it will never be a safe profession.

Some mines are more dangerous than others. To compare one with a cavernous shaft to a dog-tail mine with narrow seams is to compare apples to oranges. Levels of combustible methane in the mines vary from region to region.

From my perch as a crisis counselor, Akhmetov should be commended for taking the lead in mine safety in Ukraine, and by pouring – by his company's accounting – all of the operation's profits for last year, nearly \$500 million, into improving conditions.

Having said that, Akhmetov managed to slip on a few banana peels when it came to reacting to a crisis; and, by definition, a mine explosion in

which lives are lost is a crisis. In the first place, the boss should have been front and center.

A crisis needs a face, and the higher up the food chain, the better the public (and the media) can understand that the company realizes its obligations, plans to meet expectations, and is sympathetic to victims. A statement released by the head office is a poor substitute for an on-camera appearance at the scene.

Additionally, while the pledge of money is generous, it should always be accompanied by a concrete strategy to back it up, saying specifically what steps will be taken. It doesn't hurt if a few innovative ideas are offered as well.

When it comes down to it, reacting to a crisis is not about the press or public relations. It is about compassion and common sense.

Michael Willard is the CEO of the Kyiv Post.

If you don't have a Ukrainian embroidered shirt yet, use our guide on its meaning and places where to buy it.

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Ukraine's male luxury fashion grows stronger



WITH NATALIA A. FEDUSCHAK
FEDUSCHAK@KYIVPOST.COM

The old new face of Berlin speaks culture

BERLIN – In a domed, dimly-lit room that visitors could easily miss if arrows didn't point the way, Nefertiti's beauty is as shocking as it is ageless.

Enclosed in a glass case with a guard standing nearby, the 3,300-year-old bust of the Egyptian queen is back on display at the city's Neues Museum after a 70-year absence. One of the most famous pieces of Egyptian art, the statue, which was discovered in 1912, has long been considered the cultural symbol of Berlin. The bust is like the city itself – aching, surprising, rejuvenating.

Berlin. Just the name conjures up images of Germany's extensive and often conflicted history. As capital of the Prussian kingdom, the Weimar

Republic and the Third Reich, Berlin is the embodiment of the new Germany. A city once divided by a famous wall that carried its name between a democratic West and communist East, Berlin has merged both those worlds, while putting on a decidedly new face.

For those short on time, Berlin can be experienced in a day; there are plenty of tour buses that will take visitors on a ride to the city's most prominent sites, which include the Brandenburg Gates, sections of the Berlin Wall and even Checkpoint Charlie, which despite its one-time importance looks almost comical located in the middle of a busy street. But that would be a waste.

To get a feel of Berlin and how it is carving out its post-Communist identity, the city merits several days at the least.

Although Berlin had loomed large in my studies from university days, I had never been to the city and didn't know what to expect. It is perhaps the lack of expectation that left me pleasantly surprised and wanting to return.

Berlin is imminently livable; it is green with an envious number of bike paths that meander through its parks. Public transportation is good; one can easily reach the city's two airports, or central train station, which is the largest in Europe. And it is safe: One night near midnight I found myself walking along the Tiergarten, Berlin's largest park, near my hotel (the Pestana Berlin Tiergarten) and ended up near the Victory Column. Inaugurated in 1873 to commemorate the Prussian victory in the Danish-Prussian War, it was moved to its current location on Grosser Stern by Hitler and his principle architect, Alfred Speer. The path to the column was brightly lit and a police car stood nearby.

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Manager of Passage 15 Man luxury store Vadym Medvedev (C) says his customers are well-traveled, successful Ukrainian men who like looking after themselves. (Evheniy Maloletka)

BY WILL FITZGIBBON
FITZGIBBON@KYIVPOST.COM

He is tall, fit and young. He works as a senior manager, in a top government post or runs his father's business. Apart from having strong business instincts, he can also spot the difference between a Zegna-canvassed suit and its Corneliani competitor at 10 paces. Meet a member of Ukraine's emerging male fashion class.

The financial events of 2008 hit Ukraine's luxury industry hard, which shrank on average by 30 to 40 percent, according to industry analysts. The impact was clearly felt among the small clique of the estimated 0.3

to 0.5 percent of Ukrainians who are "hard consumers of luxury goods and services."

Nonetheless, the market is getting its confidence back. Young and wealthy Ukrainian males are contributing to the luxury industry's renewed vim and vigor. With a swath of luxury hotels such as Hilton and Swissotel ready for opening, and with fashion magazine-reading Ukrainians returning from Milan and Paris with exacting demands, Ukraine's male luxury fashion businesses are hoping the country's men will capitalize.

After years of financial uncertainty, the mood of the male fashion shopper

"is more relaxed and they are ready to rumble," says Vadym Medvedev, the manager of Helen Marlen Group's Passage 15 Man, who expects his store's annual revenue to increase by 10 to 15 percent in coming years.

"The good Ukrainian is a bad Italian," ironizes Medvedev, who believes that Ukraine's new fleet of fashion-conscious men will soon "show Europe we are not a laughing stock anymore."

It's true that the Soviet-era *borsетки* – Ukraine's small, black leather "purses" – are still a regular feature on Khreshchatyk Street. It's also true that many Ukrainian men continue to don a tie with a short-sleeve shirt. But such fashion sins are increasingly

under attack from younger Ukrainian men who prefer European and North American styles.

"As I see it," says Ihor Kretov, the starch-suited communications director of Kyiv-based luxury store Sanahunt and self-appointed ambassador for men's luxury in Ukraine, "this new generation of young businessmen spends more and more attention on how to dress well."

According to Kretov, the typical "he" starts to think of his appearance, "not just his dress. He is getting manicures and thinking of his skin. He wants the 'total look.'"

Sanahunt's strict confidentiality policy means that it's difficult to know → 18

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KYIV MARATHON

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Registration on kyivmarathon.org

Jazz festival in Crimea



Sept. 15-18

Festival Jazz Koktebel combines exquisite jazz, refreshing climate of the Black sea shore and dozens of unforgettable concerts during three days of the festival.

The annual festival attests that jazz is not old-fashioned, or passe, and is embraced by the young generation. This year the festival will welcome renowned Oliver Lake, Anna Christofferson, Abraham Berton, Yuriy Kuznetsov, Lush Life and Debbie Davis. Sweden, USA, Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland, Estonia and Netherlands will be represented by their best jazz musicians.

Sept. 15-18, village of Koktebel, Crimea, <http://koktebel.info/>, tickets: Hr 75-465.



Saturday – Sunday, Sept. 3 – 4

Polish street theater and a giant puzzle

To mark Poland's presidency in the European Council, Kyiv will host a series of art events "I, Culture" organized by Polish artists. Theatre Travel Bureau will present a performance inspired by writer and futurologist Stanislaw Lem. In "Planet Lem," fantasy characters communicate without words, using movement, unusual costumes and music.

On the second day of the festivities, visitors can learn the art of "upcycling" with Ukrainian artist Alina Kopytsya. It is an eco-friendly technique, which allows seemingly useless objects gain new shape and functionality. For example, old bicycle tires can be turned into a stylish chair, and old magazines folded into paper jewelry. No artistic genius is necessary to "upcycle," but imagination is essential. Polish artists will also offer a master class in hand-made objects.

A vast canvas of 20 x 20 meters will be sprawled on the square and visitors will be invited to decorate it with trinkets they crafted during workshops. Their creation will then travel around 12 capitals to let other nationalities contribute to this puzzle.

Saturday – Sunday, Sept. 3 – 4, 9 p.m., «Planet Lem», Sofiyivska Square, www.culture.pl/iculture. Free admission.

Sept. 4, 2 p.m. – 7 p.m., "I, CULTURE PUZZLE," arts and crafts workshops. Free admission.

Friday, Sept. 9



oktoberpromotion.com

Bald Skin returns solo

Known as much for her shaved head as for her vocal talents, Skin (real name Deborah Anne Dyer) was the lead singer of the British rock group Skunk Anansie for 12 years. Also a model, she was on the catwalk wearing Alexander McQueen, Gucci and Gianfranco Ferré's collections. She shared the stage with an unlikely range of musicians, ranging from U2 and Aerosmith to Pavarotti and Bjork but recently decided to sing solo. Touring European and American dance floors with her DJ set, Skin will make her stop in Kyiv.

Friday, Sept. 9, 11 p.m., Sullivan Room, 9 Prorizna St., 098-333-6161, www.sullivanroom.kiev.ua, tickets: Hr 250.



Sunday, Sept. 4

American Labor Day Ukrainian style

Although you might not get a true American BBQ this Labor Day weekend, you can celebrate the holiday with fellow expats with some shashlyk and beer. Democrats Abroad organization will host a traditional summer celebration "Pork and Pivo III" on the Dnipro's shore. Guests from all political strands are welcome, as long as they are ready to

mingle and down the beers. Shashlyk and beer are included in the ticket price, but feel free to bring snacks and drinks. The guests are also welcome to rent a boat nearby or go fishing.

Democrats Abroad is an offshoot of the Democratic Party for the millions of Americans living outside the United States. DA has been in Ukraine for 7 years and now has about 170 members.

Sunday, Sept. 4, 2 p.m., Baza Izumrudnaya, 65/54 Heroyiv Stalingrada St., metro Heroyiv Dnipro. RSVP to renodomenico@democratsabroad.org.ua or 067-503-0433. Tickets: Hr 100 per person, free for children under 14.



Friday, Sept. 2

Geometric abstractions from Italy

Studying in the art academy, painter Lucian Chinese happened to work next to the pioneers of the Italian spatialist group in the 60's known for the concept of movement captured in the real time. At 25, he opened his own art gallery in the town Udine, and a few years later – a gallery in Venice. In his work, Chinese enjoys mixing up painting with other art forms such as poetry, installation, performance art and theater. Colorful geometric shapes, especially ovals, prevail in Chinese's abstract works. The themes of space, time, light and universe are evident in the titles: "The return of dreaming," "Light Space" and "Space Ontology," among others.

Friday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m., an opening of the "Cosmic Atmospheres", National Museum of Bohdan and Varvara Hanenky. Saturday, Sept. 3, 4 p.m., Chinese's public lecture titled "Modern Art of Italy. Beginnings." 14 Tereshchenkivska St., metro Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho.

Movies



Young Australian actress Mia Wasikowska plays lead character in Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre' adapted by Cary Fukunaga in the 2011 Hollywood production. (www.poptower.com)

Editor's note: Kyiv cinemas were left short of English-language copies of the latest world releases yet again. So we hope you enjoy practicing your Russian and Ukrainian watching this selection of films in Russian with Ukrainian subtitles.

JANE EYRE
USA 2011

Directed by Cary Fukunaga
Starring Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender, Jamie Bell

It seems that major film studios are running short of ideas and are reluctant of trying something new and risky. Instead, they hire young directors and unknown actors and bless them with a chance to retell evergreen stories once again. This scenario rings true for young documentary director Cary Fukunaga and fledgling Hollywood star Mia Wasikowska who shot to fame with another take on "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.

The film is about a young girl who enters adult life as a governess after bleak childhood. She meets Mr. Rochester, her new master, who seems cold and estranged but also virtuous and noble. She falls in love with him but soon finds out

that her lord has a terrible secret.

Watch this movie if you are fond of Bronte's novels or simply love melodramas. Everyone else can give it a miss and rent a classic Franco Zeffirelli's 1996 film of the same name on DVD instead.

HIDDEN
USA 2011

Directed by Antoine Thomas
Starring Sean Clement, Simonetta Solder
A group of young people decide to spend a weekend in an abandoned monastery that used to be a place for some secret medical research. They soon find out the nature of horrible experiments: Scientists tried to eradicate some human vices with the help of exorcism. They failed but spirits remained in the walls of the monastery waiting for revenge.

If you have 90 minutes to spare, watch this nice little horror film. It's a typical low-budget scary movie, but is still worth watching.

APOLLO 18
USA 2011

Directed by Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego
Apollo 18 mission was abandoned and NASA never returned to the moon. No clear explanation has ever been given to

that fact except for the lack of money, which didn't seem like a genuine excuse. This film attempts to explain what happened telling the story of two astronauts who were secretly sent to the Moon and found something so scary and terrible that NASA abandoned the mission forever. It is one of those "found footage" movies in the spirit of "Blair Witch Project" and "Paranormal Activity." It has been unfairly underrated by the critics but it's one of the best films in its genre.

UKRAINA

5, Horodetskoho St., 279-6750

Jane Eyre

Sept. 1 – Sept. 7, 12:10 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 9 p.m.

APOLLO 18

Sept. 1 – Sept. 7, 10:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

MEGAPLEX

34 Moskovsky Pr-kt., 498-4833

Hidden

Sept. 1 – Sept. 7, 10:30 p.m.

APOLLO 18

Sept. 1 – Sept. 7, 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Live Music



Enjoy the party and live music in Kyiv pubs and bars. (club.foto.ru)

ART CLUB 44

44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137, www.club44.com.ua

Concerts traditionally start at 8 – 10 p.m.

- Sept. 2 Makulatura, Legkiy Flirt, Hr 60
- Sept. 3 Red Rocks, Hr 50
- Sept. 4 Soyuz 44, free admission
- Sept. 5 Marina Kramarenko band, free admission
- Sept. 6 Fusion band, free admission
- Sept. 7 Kandur, free admission

DOCKER'S ABC

15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717, www.docker.com.ua

Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.

- Sept. 2 Mary, More Huana, Hr 70
- Sept. 3 Antytila, Tex-Mex Company, Hr 70
- Sept. 4 Foxtrot music band, free admission
- Sept. 5 Freddie Mercury Birthday Party: Strong Time, Gera and Second Breath, Hr 50
- Sept. 6 Tres Deseos, free admission
- Sept. 7 Animals Session, free admission
- Sept. 8 Mr Och, free admission

DOCKER PUB

25 Bohatyr'ska St., metro Heroyiv Dnipra, www.docker.com.ua

Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.

- Sept. 2 Tabula Rasa, Red rocks, Hr 70
- Sept. 3 ChiliBombers, Chill Out, Hr 70
- Sept. 4 Vostochnyy express, free admission
- Sept. 5 Animals Session, free admission
- Sept. 6 More Huana, Hr 20
- Sept. 7 Rockin' Wolves, Hr 30
- Sept. 8 Strong Time, Ruki v Briuki Rockabilly Party, Hr 50

BOCHKA PYVNA ON KHMELNYTSKOHO

4B-1 Khmelnytskoho St, metro Teatralna, 390-6106,

www.bochka.com.ua

Concerts traditionally start at 9-10 p.m.

- Sept. 2 Lucky Dand, free admission
- Sept. 3 Chill Out, free admission
- Sept. 4 Germanov, Poster, Hr 30
- Sept. 8 Carte Blanche, free admission

PORTER PUB

3 Sichnevogo Povstannya St., 280-1996, www.porter.com.ua

Concerts traditionally start at 7:30 p.m.

- Sept. 2 Crazy Train
- Sept. 3 Brown Sugar
- Sept. 6 Dveng
- Sept. 7 Ivan Bliuz
- Sept. 8 Dikie Liudi

Other live music clubs:

JAZZ DO IT, 76A Velyka Vasylkiv'ska St., 289-56-06, http://jazz-doit.com.ua

GOLDEN GATE IRISH PUB, 15

Zolotovoritska St., 235-5188, http://goldengatepubkiev.com/

TO DUBLIN IRISH PUB, 4 Raisy Okipnoi

St., 569-5531, http://www.to-dublin.com.ua/

PIVNA NO.1 ON BASEYNA, 15 Baseyna

St., 287-44-34, www.pivna1.com.ua

DRAFT 1/2 Khoryva St., metro Kontraktova

Ploshcha, 463-7330

KHLIB CLUB 12 Frunze St., www.myspace.com/xlibclub

CHESHIRE CAT 9 Sklyarenko St., 428-2717

O'BRIEN'S 17A Mykhayliv'ska St., 279-1584

DAKOTA 14G Heroyiv Stalinhrada St., 468-7410

U KRUSHKI 12/37 Dekabrystiv St., 562-6262.

Reviews by Alexey Bondarev

Compiled by Alyona Zhuk

Days numbered for worst male sartorial sins

→ **15** just what kind of man is part of this trend. Yet Luxor Management, a Ukrainian consulting and communication firm researching the luxury market, finds that “the majority of luxury consumers [in Ukraine] is made up of politicians, state authorities and their environment,” according to managing partner Oleksandr Chetchikov.

Happily, Ukraine's wealthy men are unlikely to pay much more at the cash register than their overseas counterparts. At Helen Marlen's Passage 15, fashionable high-end Tom Ford suits start from Hr 30,000, shirts from Hr 4,000 and ties from Hr 1,800. Harrod's in London, for its part, sells Tom Ford two-piece suits from Hr 26,000, while its shirt and tie prices exactly match those of Passage 15.

In Chetchikov's opinion, Ukraine represents a particular male luxury demographic. “The average age of a luxury consumer in Ukraine is between 35 and 50 years old,” he says, “whereas in Europe the same refers to males aged between 45 to 60 years old.”

The relative youth of the market is music to the ears of Sanahunt's Kretov. “Men are the most loyal customers of all,” enthuses Kretov, who does his best to keep his male clientele pleased with a live DJ in the foyer and refreshing glasses of

Footballer Andriy Shevchenko is one of the trendiest men in Ukraine.



wheatgrass upon arrival.

The youthful demographic rings true for Medvedev's Passage 15 Man. Its clients are usually between 30 and 45 and are businessmen from Kyiv and other major cities. The store has around 500 regular clients on its books, defined as those who shop at the store at least three to four times per year. The average shopper spends around \$500 per visit, he says.

When it comes to identifying Ukraine's leaders of the fashion pack, footballer Andriy Shevchenko's close friendship and modelling engagements with fashion designer Giorgio Armani spring to mind. However, industry commentators put other names forward: Ukrainian restaurateur Serhiy Gusovsky, Vice Prime Minister Serhiy Tigipko, and soccer player Oleksandr Shovkovsky.

Ukraine's emerging male luxury market matches global trends. The 2011 World Wealth Report, an annual study of trends concerning the world's best-heeled compiled by Paris-based consulting firm Capgemini and investment giant Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management,

→ **Men are the most loyal customers of all, according to Sanahunt's Ihor Kretov.**

records the changing demographics of wealth. In its annual barometer that measures what it calls High Net Wealth Individuals (HNWI), defined as those who earn more than \$1 million per year, men represent 73 percent of HNWI and a younger generation is emerging. In 2010, HNWI under 45 made up 17 percent, up from 13 percent in 2008.

Luxor Management's Chetchikov also sees a positive trend reemerging but warns that full recovery won't happen until 2014-2015.

But what is certain is that a happy few male fashionistas are changing their beige cotton socks and sandals for silk windowpane leggings and Santoni leather shoes. Or, if Sanahunt's Kretov is to be believed, next year they won't be wearing socks at all.

Kyiv Post staff writer Will Fitzgibbon can be reached at fitzgibbon@kyivpost.com

Sanahunt

8/16 Hrushevskoho St.
www.sanahunt.com

Helen Marlen

11 Horodetskoho St.
www.helen-marlen.com

Ermenegildo Zegna

20/1 A Volodymyrska St.
www.storelocator.zegna.com/a/ukraine



Olmecca Plage in Hydropark is popular with golden youth. (nasha-karta.ua)

Beach paradise on Hydropark turns randy after sunset



It was a starry Friday night in the middle of August. Unwilling to spend it at home, we ventured out to Hydropark, a huge beach complex in the middle of Kyiv that has many entertainment options for rich and poor. We picked Olmecca Plage nightclub eager to sample Kyiv's roaring parties.

As we hit Olmecca, I was astonished by its pompous and beautiful features. The club – the size of roughly three tennis courts – was a mixture of outdoor bars and beach huts on the sandy bank of the Dnipro River. Reflections of people, sipping their drinks, gleamed in a large swimming pool in the center. A couple of yachts were parked nearby. This club may have been anywhere in the world. There was nothing really Ukrainian about it, apart from the prices. To get a table, one had to pay between Hr 4,500 and 10,000, depending on location and the size of the seating area. Where else would you have to pay that much? The money doesn't go to waste though, as you can eat and drink until this scandalous payment runs out.

To be fair, it was not a regular party at Olmecca. Ukrainian singer Tina Karol was on the menu that night so her numerous fans attended the gig. But it was still hard for me to grasp the concept of a \$1,000 table, which I am told is an ordinary price in Kyiv's most glamorous clubs.

Resentful of what seemed like another ripoff, I asked a bartender if there's any other way we can watch the concert. He let us sit at the bar behind the stage.

The first people started to arrive around midnight. They were not well-off businessmen or foreign ambas-

sadors who were more likely to afford the bill, but hip teenagers dressed as Hollywood stars. Young women – many looking anorexic – fashioned their perfect noses, legs, breasts and short dresses. Some of them were escorted by men who attempted Justin Timberlake's fashion looks, while others were followed by a contingent of elderly men. Photographers couldn't get enough sleazy shots and outrageous wardrobes.

“Golden youth,” my Ukrainian friend told me, “they seem less harmful than those in Moscow.” Well, only until they get behind the wheel, I remarked, thinking about dozens of cases that involved the children of the rich who caused lethal car accidents. Watching them party was eye-opening.

My interest started to fade when I asked for a coke. It cost me some Hr 70. The concert didn't begin until 2 a.m. It cheered me up a little, but still, everywhere I looked I saw a young woman in a dress revealing her Lolita-like figure, hand-in-hand with a 50-year-old foreigner with a beer belly. I was not impressed.

I would only visit Olmecca again if I were assigned on a story about the rich youths wasting their money away or the sex tourism sector in Ukraine. The beach gazebos and groomed sand, however, are very good in the daytime. The same type of crowd seems to frequent the beach, but they don't stand out from happy sunbathers all wearing bikinis and splashing in the water.

Kyiv Post staff writer Rina Soloveitchik can be reached at soloveitchik@kyivpost.com

Olmecca Plage

Hydropark, across the Venetian bridge, go straight following a woodland trail
Entrance to night parties: Hr 200-300
Tel: 232-2244
nasha-karta.ua/ru/places/Olmecca-Plage

Kyiv Post Soccer League 2011 continues playoff matches

Saturday – Sunday, Sept. 3-4

The group-stage matches of the Kyiv Post Soccer League-2011 were held on Aug. 27-28 at the KIDEV Sport Stadium.

Matches in groups A and C took place on the first day. The second day decided which teams would contest the quarterfinals from groups B and D.

The group matches were full of emotion and tension, but the players didn't forget about fair play under the watchful eyes of referees from the Kyiv Football Federation.

Families of the footballers and colleagues from their companies watched and enjoyed the sporting battle on the pitch for the image of their companies. They celebrated victories together or shared in the sadness of defeat.

All the teams showed style and great effort in their three group matches, but only the best proceeded to the quarterfinals and retained the



Ernst and Young team play with Alcatel Lucent team during group games on Aug. 28. (Andriy Kravchenko)

chance to take the cup.

The quarterfinals are as follows:

1. ISTIL Group – Horizon Capital
2. VOLIA – Premier Palace
3. Publicis Groupe – YUG Contract
4. Contour Global – PwC

The quarterfinals and also the semifinals of the Kyiv Post Soccer League-2011 will take place next Saturday, Sept. 3. The match for third place and the final will be held on Sunday, Sept. 4.

World Traveler: Berlin's charms need several days to explore

→15 The heart of Berlin is the Reichstag, Germany's parliamentary building.

Steeped in history – Hitler despised the building – it stands at the foot of a long park, where Berliners regularly sunbathe and picnic. The Reichstag's glass dome offers one of the most stunning views of Berlin and is a good place to get a sense of how the city has changed architecturally since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Berlin's newest buildings stand in the area that was East Berlin and was a no-man's land. The Berlin Wall ran along the back of the Reichstag; a white brick line today outlines where it once stood. The sheer proximity to the Reichstag is humbling, as is a quick bus ride under a bridge that once divided the city into east and west.

To visit the dome, be sure to reserve a place and time in advance – ter-

rorist threats recently curtailed unfettered access to the Reichstag. It takes a security checkpoint, a glassed lift and long walkway to reach the top. Visitors can also sign up for tours of the building when parliament is not in session. Inside, graffiti left by

Soviet soldiers who captured the building in 1945 during the Battle of Berlin is still evident. To their credit, the Germans preserved the scribbles, some hailing Stalin's greatness, during the building's reconstruction after the country was reunified.

Reservations can be made at www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/visits/kupp.html.

The Reichstag is a stone's throw from the white contemporary structure where German Chancellor Angela Merkel works; Berliners lovingly refer to the building as "the washing machine."

The chancellor herself can be seen driven around in a non-descript vehicle along the park's narrow streets and waiting in traffic, just like



The 18th century Brandenburg Gate, through which Berlin was once entered, is a cobbledstoned pedestrian zone today. When the Nazis claimed power, the Gate served as one of their party symbols. (Flickr.com)

everyone else.

Also nearby are the Brandenburg Gates, which size-wise felt smaller to me compared to the monumental symbolic meaning they have carried for Americans. U.S. presidents have liked to use the gates as backdrops when talking about democracy; today the gates are the setting for smiling guys outfitted in the U.S. and Red Army uniforms posing for pictures.

One tidbit: the American Embassy, a spiffy new structure, is situated next to the gates on Pariser Platz where the original embassy stood in 1939.

Berlin is a museum lovers' haven. Home to over 150 museums and galleries, a number of outstanding museums are dedicated to the Nazi period and the Holocaust and should not be missed. Museum Island, a complex of several buildings, is a UNESCO

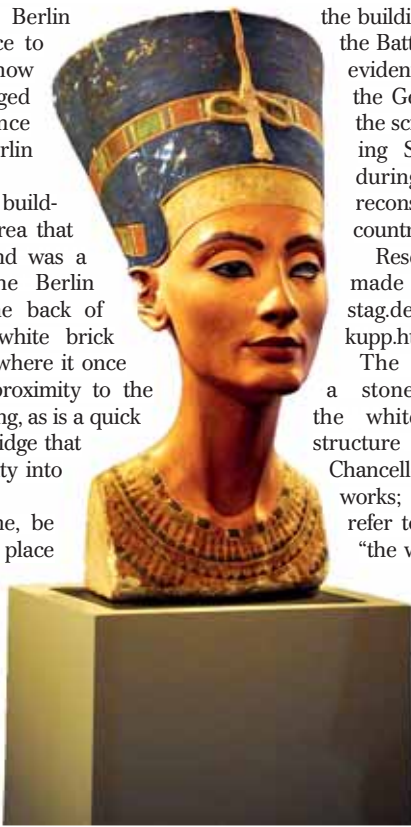
World Heritage Site. A royal decree around 1841 dedicated the island to art and antiquities and since then it has housed some of the world's great artifacts. A lover of antiquities, I spent the better part of two days in several of the museums.

To be sure, disputes between Germany and foreign governments about several important artifacts remain: Egypt, for instance, feels Nefertiti's bust was exported using questionably methods. In postings throughout, Germany attacks Russia for not returning art looted in the Second World War, including important findings from Troy, despite a treaty.

Still, one may never find another impressive collection of antiquities in one place. The Pergamon Museum houses the breathtaking Pergamon Altar, a monumental construction from Turkey dating from the first half of the 2nd century BC, and Babylon's Ishtar Gate, constructed around 575 BC. The

Altes Museum has the finest collection of antique Etruscan, Roman and Greek Art I have ever seen. Even though the Neues Museum houses an absolutely stunning papyrus collection – patience when viewing them is a virtue – if you're lucky, you can find that single moment when you are standing alone, face-to-face, with the eternal Nefertiti.

Staff writer Natalia A. Feduschak can be contacted at feduschak@kyivpost.com.



The 3,300-year-old bust of Egyptian queen Nefertiti stands proudly in Berlin Neues Museum.

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Touching the sky

→ Hot air balloons colored the Kyiv Oblast skies on Aug. 24-28 during the international festival Air Adventures. Festival participants from Ukraine, Russia and Lithuania took off from Vasytkiv town open fields and glided peacefully to the admiration of those on the ground. Some sportsmen showed their mastery at air soccer racing in their hot air balloons to the gates to strike a goal. Others donned medieval costumes for the Tournament of Air Knights, which aim was to make it first to the pole and grab a key hanging on it. The festival's over now but if you want to rent this romantic carriage for an aerial ride, go to www.ballooning-ua.com/english or www.nashare.com.ua. (Anastasia Vlasova)



If you want Kyiv Post Paparazzi to cover your event, please send details or invitations to news@kyivpost.com or contact photo editor **Yaroslav Debelyi** at 234-6500



Models present a collection made of natural fabrics.



Eco-party at Bessarabka

Anne Duruflé, director of French Cultural Center



Natalia Yusupova, one of the organizers of Eco-chic party



A woman eyes fresh dill and cabbage among other organic produce.

Health-conscious people flocked to Bessarabian market on Aug. 29 in search of new ideas on how to improve their diet. Guests feasted on organic jamon, goat cheese and freshly baked bread from eco-gastronomy Arbequina and grocery Eco-chic. They could also swap their unwanted clothes with other fashionistas at the market thanks to the GoodbyeFashion project. Throughout the night, everybody enjoyed the live piano performance and opera voice of Olena Grebenyuk. (Tetyana Monakhova, Andriy Kravchenko)



Regular commerce was stalled for the night with vendors leaving their watermelons and other fruit under the nets.

Why Ukraine's national shirt, vyshyvanka, came back to life

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Wearing traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirts, or vyshyvanka, used to be seen by many as a political act, distinguishing the wearer as a Ukrainian nationalist.

Now, 20 years after the country declared independence, embroidered items are making their way into everyday life, decorating a range of items, including socks, caps, belts, book covers and even underwear.

"I think it was independence that worked," said Oleksiy Dolya, director of the Folklore and Ethnography Center at Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University. "It brought to life everything national: traditions, customs, rituals and, of course, clothes."

The story of vyshyvanka goes back centuries, but no one knows exactly when the first one appeared. It is a traditional item of clothing, usually a shirt or a blouse, made from linen and decorated with embroidered patterns.

The original meaning of vyshyvanka was symbolic, with colors and decorations differing from region to region and even village to village. Red and black acorns are usually embroidered in Kyiv and its surrounding area, green and orange patterns are from Prykarpattya and Bukovyna regions in western Ukraine. The famous white-on-white embroidery became popular in several places across Ukraine, including Poltava, Cherkasy and Chernihiv. Blue decorations, according to Dolya, are the youngest ones, appearing at the beginning of the 20th century.

Volodymyr Tkach, a 25-year-old embroiderer from Kosmach – a village



Aliona Poklonska takes orders to embroider anything from t-shirts to underwear. (Alexey Furman)

in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, said the popularization of embroidery is leading to a loss of its original meaning.

"Ukrainian national embroidery is a direct protective charm for the one who wears it, and it should protect a particular area [of the body]," he said.

"Women's embroidery should end at the level of the breasts, as women are believed to breathe with their breasts, and for men embroidery should end at the level of the solar plexus, as men are known to breathe with their womb. This is a rule."

This and many other rules Tkach learned during his upbringing in a family of embroiderers. In his makeshift workshop in a tent on

Andriyivskiy Uzviz hang dozens of unique vyshyvankas. "All these shirts are my family's work," Tkach enthused. On a plastic chair in the corner lay an unfinished shirt with a needle in it.

"In ancient times people could guess what village a person came from just from the embroidery on his or her clothes. Now people think about the meaning of embroidery much less. Actually, they simply want to see their clothes aesthetically beautiful," he said.

Aliona Poklonska, a Russian by origin, follows all the modern styles in Ukrainian embroidery. Her company Alternative Design had many famous clients, including science-fiction writers the Kapranov brothers, singer Oleh Skrypka and former first lady Kateryna Yushchenko.

"When I just started embroidering professionally, no one wanted Ukrainian national symbols. We used to embroider different flowers and twigs. Now the situation changed and most people want to have national patterns," Poklonska said.

She moved to Ukraine when she was

15, eventually graduating, marrying and settling down here. Her grandfather was Ukrainian, and she remembers his vyshyvanka as "something mysterious and interesting."

Her three-room basement shop in downtown Kyiv houses a workshop, a show-room and a warehouse and is a treasure trove for embroidery lovers. Embroidered shirts hang on the walls alongside evening dresses and dolls.

"I even have clients who cover car seats with embroidered leather," Poklonska said. She has noticed an increase in popularity of embroidery, even though her machine-made items are not cheap – a T-shirt will set you back Hr 200 and shirts start from Hr 900.

Handmade embroidery, such as that made by Tkach, is even more expensive as the process is distinctly more laborious and time-consuming. Prices can reach Hr 4,500 or even higher. "Usually it takes me about one month to embroider one shirt. I can't say exactly as it mostly depends on the size, quantity and complexity of the decoration," he said.

The Kapranov brothers are well known for their love of vyshyvanka, which they often wear in public appearances.

"It's not only cool and stylish, but just a comfortable piece of clothes," Dmytro Kapranov said. "You can wear it whether you are going to visit a friend or the Queen of England – it is always appropriate and beautiful."

He added that he expects a further growth in popularity for vyshyvanka as people search for themselves and their roots.

Ethnographer Dolya said he also sees a deeper motivation that just a fashion trend. "This is an essential part of the formation of a political nation. Even if a person doesn't consider himself a Ukrainian by birth, but still puts on and wears vyshyvanka, we can say that this person has already defined himself or herself a Ukrainian," he said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at shevchenko@kyivpost.com.

Alternative Design

26A Predslavynska St.
Tel. 331-25-92, 067-943-7086
alternative-design@ukr.net
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Andriyivskiy Uzviz
Tel. 050-200-3023
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http://www.tsum.com.ua/
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KYIV POST

Call 234-65-03
 ask for Nataliia Protasova, protasova@kyivpost.com

Soldiers far from home



1, 4—At the end of June, 275 Ukrainian peacekeepers landed in Liberia, a war-torn nation in West Africa, to replace the outgoing contingent. Ukraine has been sending its army personnel to Liberia for seven years as part of the United Nations' 15,000-man peacekeeping force.

Liberia is home to 3.5 million people, who over the last decade have been trying to rebuild their country after warlords left it in tatters following battles for control. During the civil war that started in the 1990s more than 250,000 people were killed and nearly 800,000 fled. 3—Ukrainian peacekeepers were first deployed seven years ago. 6—They live at the military base some 60 kilometers away from Liberian capital Monrovia patrolling the territory and transporting UN freight. After the rotation in June, 60 peacekeepers flew to the Ivory Coast, which suffered a civil war last year. 2—At the Liberian base, Ukrainian army personnel eat Ukrainian food. 5—Their brick quarters and cars are often disinfected to prevent the spread of malaria by mosquitoes. But the dangers of the war zone combined with a threat of infectious diseases are usually outweighed by some \$1,000 salary that attracts Ukrainian peacekeepers to Liberia. (*Evheniy Maloletka*)

