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High Hopes!



BY JAMES MARSON,
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The football legend embraced his coach after striking to secure Ukraine victory. A wide-eyed young boy held his arms aloft in celebration. The president punched the air in a booming stadium colored in Ukraine's yellow and blue.

This was the moment that Euro 2012 really kicked off in Ukraine.

The national team's → 9

Ukraine fans clad in the national team's yellow and blue raise their hands in celebration at their team's 2-1 victory over Sweden at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium on June 11 (above). President Viktor Yanukovich (below left) punches the air to celebrate Ukraine's goals. Young soccer fan Timur (below center) cheers the winning goal by striker Andriy Shevchenko in a clip that captured the country's euphoria and went viral on YouTube. Shevchenko embraces head coach Oleh Blokhin (below right) after heading a second goal to win the game for Ukraine. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin, president.gov.ua)



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'Witchcraft' can turn losers into winners

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
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Desperate times call for desperate measures. If your team keeps losing, it players struggling with injuries and yellow cards, and chances of a quarterfinal are slipping away, some basic witchcraft may just be the way to go.

Walking around the fan zone you may have been handed a flyer with a somewhat obscure message.

"Do you know who you, where you are and why does you live on the earth?" the leaflet asks, mysteriously. "Are you created in the image and likeness of God, or a sheep?"

Follows a more sombre tone: "Do you often have an aversion to life?"

"But let's start with the Euro 2012. A simple spell to win your team," the perplexing message ends.

But each ending is also a beginning, as those who look up the website on the flyer will be quick to find out.

From the cosmos of the World Wide Web, self-trained wizard and author of "Witchcraft without witchcraft" Sergey Kovalenko teaches about meditation, esoteric and "real" witchery.

In an hour-long conversation with the Kyiv Post in a downtown restaurant, Kovalenko said his craft comprises such activities as channeling one's vital energy, healing with the hands, and magnetism – the art of focusing one's mental acumen to influence the thinking of others.

Like with Cleopatra. Everybody knows she wasn't particularly attractive

→ 'Warlock' says time to send energy to favorite team is during anthem



Self-taught "warlock" Sergey Kovalenko

yet she was able to focus her sensual energy so strongly that men would be ready to give their lives for a single night, he said.

Learning to do it is quite difficult, though. On average at least six months of practice are needed to start controlling minds. Influencing the course of a football game is much easier.

Kovalenko is convinced fans can make a difference if only they believe in victory hard enough and put all their energy into cheering for their team.

But this innovative approach is not quite as easy as it sounds. As with most things in life, the key is proper preparation. First, you have to visualize the match, see yourself shooting the

goals, winning on the penalties. Then you have to send this energy of victory to your team. The best moment to do this is during the anthem, when all the players are close together.

"You don't want the energy going to the wrong team by accident," Kovalenko advises.

But you don't want to stop after that, as the teams need support throughout the game.

"Don't relax, otherwise you lose," he warns, referring to a common problem for football players and wizard apprentices alike.

"Personally, I have a problem, just like most people – once I achieve something, I stop trying," the autodidact sorcerer explained.

This happens often to couples, when one partner stops working on creating the energy of love, and the relationship begins to fall apart.

Or with Hitler – once he had entranced the population, he stopped trying and things turned ugly, Kovalenko adds.

He first became interested in the esoteric arts after practicing karate. This interest then moved to eastern philosophies, and he picked up as much literature as he could lay his hands on. Help came in the form of a resourceful friend who would break into a storage place for thrown-out books meant for recycling, hunting for gems of wisdom.

Kovalenko later got involved with darker arts, too, but prefers not to go in depth about it.

The "warlock" also bears a grudge against the Orthodox Church, which he says is too restrictive. Everything about the religion is about bans, he says: don't take that apple, don't covet that woman, don't climb that tree.

"From childhood you keep being told what not to do," he deplors.

Moreover, the church bans communication with the spirits of dead people or using magic and curses, but then they do it themselves, Kovalenko bemoans.

But for now, the key is spreading the wisdom: "I want people to learn to use energy to become happy. And they can practice for the Euro."

Kyiv Post staff writer Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com

Treat yourself to the exclusive!

DANONE
АКТИВІА



In pursuit of "investment summer"



Members of Domestic and Foreign Investors Advisory Council

Speaking during the latest meeting of the Domestic and Foreign Investors Advisory Council, EBA President Tomas Fiala made an overview of the progress the government made on the reform path and gave insights into the investment climate covering the aspects hampering Ukraine's advancement. He tackled the external factors like compliance with the provisions of IMF memorandum, delays with signing of Association Agreement and DCFTA and unprofitable gas agreements as well as internal factors such as corruption, rule of law, necessity of deregulation, problematic privatization and other burning issues.

Dear Mr. President, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen!

A year ago, at our previous meeting, I was asked to characterize the investment climate in Ukraine. I said the existing state of things could be best described as "early spring". Several of my colleagues concurred with this assessment. We also expressed hope that we would progress towards "summer" in the coming year. After the meeting, we handed the government a list of our recommendations on 130 pages.

Unfortunately, no matter what indicator we take to evaluate the investment climate today — be it the indices of the IFC, EBA or the Tax Administration, Ukrainian Eurobond yields, ability to access capital markets, GDP growth or bank lending dynamics — I have to say things have gotten worse. Worse both in absolute terms and in comparison with other countries in the region. The yield on five-year sovereign Eurobonds has grown from 6.25% to 10% over the past 12 months. Neither the government nor a vast number of corporates have been able to tap foreign capital markets in the past year. At the same time, other emerging economies have attracted over \$160 billion of capital since the beginning of 2012, a record amount for the past 10 years.

On behalf of the European Business Association, which unites over 900 companies and accounts for more than 10% of jobs in the Ukrainian private sector, and on my own behalf as the founder of the largest Ukrainian investment bank that annually promotes our country to hundreds of international investors and has attracted billions of dollars for the Ukrainian government, municipalities and corporations, I would like to list three exogenous and eight endogenous reasons that explain why Ukraine is still losing in the competition for international capital. The exogenous factors first:

In 2013 the Ukrainian state will have to repay foreign lenders almost \$8 billion, including \$5,5 billion to the IMF.

1. Failure to comply with conditions of the IMF memorandum, which has kept IMF aid frozen for 1.5 years now. Please note that in 2013 the Ukrainian state will have to repay foreign lenders almost \$8 billion, including \$5.5 billion to the IMF. It will be extremely difficult for the government and the National Bank to meet these obligations unless IMF aid is resumed and access to foreign credit markets is restored.

2. The delay in signing the association and free trade agreement with the EU, as well as the significant worsening of relations with the union.

3. An unfavorable gas deal with Gazprom, which swells the current account deficit and increases the budget deficit as a share of GDP by several percentage points.



Tomas FIALA President of the European Business Association

As regards the internal factors, I could repeat everything I said a year ago since the only progress area is the pension reform, whereas other tasks included in the presidential reform plan and cited during our last meeting remain unresolved:

1. Corruption — according to an IFC survey, domestic companies increased expenses on bribes from 6% of revenues in 2008 to 10% in 2011.

2. Rule of law — local businesses have not experienced any improvement yet, despite the fact that many laws have been passed and many intentions have been declared.

3. Taxation — on the one hand, we are encouraged by the transparency of the new leadership of the Tax Administration and its willingness to communicate with businessmen. On the other hand, in 2011 tax revenues as a share of GDP grew to the highest level since independence (25.4%) and in 2012 are likely to top 26%, while the post-independence average has stood at 21%. Some of the unlawful practices employed by the tax authorities include the prohibition to carry forward losses, refunding of VAT only if 50-70% of the refunded amount is returned as prepaid income tax or to purchase government bonds. Of the nominal tax rates, only one (corporate income tax) has been cut. The pace of tax revenue expansion is double that of nominal GDP.

Unlike in 2010 investors will no longer pay attention to declarations and will wait for the delivery of promises made.

4. Deregulation — remains on paper. Even a well-written construction industry reform has been voided by numerous executive orders after it passed the parliament. As a result, last year's construction volume, despite sizable government infrastructure investments, stood at the 2001 level, meaning it was 54% lower than in 2007.

5. Privatization — the achievement of approved privatization revenue targets is definitely a positive.

At the same time, the terms of many tenders were written in such a way as to minimize competition and sale prices.

6. The domestic capital market (and the jobs it creates) is fleeing to Warsaw and London while the National Bank continues to oppose dual listing of Ukrainian companies with holding structures in EU jurisdictions. It is also important to liberalize access to Ukrainian Eurobonds for local commercial banks.

7. Agriculture — while it remains the most attractive sector for foreign investment in Ukraine, it seems that lawmakers who drafted the land market bill only intended to bring instability and punish the largest and most successful companies on this market. This further tarnishes our reputation among Polish and other international investors who have put several billion dollars into the bonds and shares of Ukrainian agrarian companies.

8. Banks — one major issue is corruption in the courts, where loan and pledge agreements can be canceled for money. Resulting from this is the highest share of bad loans in the region and deceleration in lending — bank lending growth was half the nominal GDP growth rate in 2011 and has slowed to zero this year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your willingness to build a positive dialog and for the opportunity for EBA representatives to participate in the meetings of the Economic Reforms Committee. I would like to suggest allocating time during each meeting for business representatives to speak in order to provide you with regular feedback from the business community on the impact of the reforms. Of all the committee meetings I have attended over the past year, only the latest gathering seems to have had a realistic vision of the current situation. This probably had to do with a recent government reshuffle, which encouraged the business community. But unlike in 2010, investors will no longer pay attention to declarations and will wait for the delivery of promises made.

It gives me absolutely no satisfaction to say these unpleasant things. But as long as we fail to overcome our "teething troubles", Ukraine's progress in global rankings will remain sluggish at best.

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Editorials

So far, so good

The run-up to the Euro 2012 championship saw a slew of articles depicting Ukraine as a racist-filled death trap for those reckless enough to come. So far, none of the fears have proved true.

To the contrary, the games have taken place amid a festive atmosphere and pleasant weather.

The transport infrastructure, though strained, is holding up. Most importantly, foreign fans of various nationalities and skin colors have been welcomed without prejudice. Not a single racist incident has been reported in Ukraine, according to tournament organizer the Union of European Football Associations.

Even more uplifting are the scenes one can see in the host cities, where fans sing and cheer and drink beer until the kegs are empty. Walking late at night through Kyiv after the match with Sweden, one could see elation and disappointment, but not aggression. Aside from a scuffle between Ukrainian and Russian fans in Lviv, quickly broken up by the police, no incidents have been reported.

For events of this size – with tens of thousands of inebriated young men running through the streets – this is a tremendous success.

It also contrasts to the situation in co-host Poland, where hundreds of Polish and Russian fans clashed ahead of the two countries' match on June 12. The Poles were provoked: Russians demanded to march through Warsaw in celebration of Russia's national day holiday, despite UEFA policy against political manifestations. Many displayed Soviet symbols, which are illegal in Poland. Several days earlier, Russian hooligans attacked stewards at the game in Wroclaw in a brief but violent brawl.

Commendably, Poland's authorities have vowed to crack down hard on any troublemakers and deal swiftly with those arrested. But while isolated cases of racist chanting in Poland and politicking in Ukraine cast a shadow over the games, the prevailing mood is of celebration.

From Gdansk to Donetsk, joyful photos and comments from fans have swamped the web. The only hope is that the tournament continues in that same spirit until the end – the championship game in Kyiv on July 1.

A successful Euro 2012 will not be enough to change the harsh coverage that Ukraine receives internationally. Some of this coverage is deserved, such as the criticism of President Viktor Yanukovich's increasing authoritarianism. But much of this coverage is simply ignorant or recycles tired stereotypes.

However, a successful Euro 2012 will hopefully change minds and improve the nation's image. It certainly has guaranteed that football lovers from Ukraine and abroad have a great time, and that the world sees Ukrainians as they truly are.

Health victory

For all the deserved criticism President Viktor Yanukovich is getting in his steady march toward authoritarianism, his two-year-rule has its bright spots. One of them is the president's strong support for public health, at least when it comes to adopting policies that help break his nation from the deadly habit of smoking.

Yanukovich on June 13 signed into law a complete ban on smoking in public places – restaurants, bars and nightclubs – as well as government buildings. Small smoking sections will still be allowed in private buildings.

"The new law means that Ukraine moved one more step toward Europe and the smoke-free facilities that are the norm in most European countries," said Konstantin Krasovskiy, the nation's tireless tobacco-control champion.

In signing this legislation, Yanukovich courageously stood up to the insidious tobacco lobby, whose representatives spread false information in their shameful pursuit of addicting millions of new smokers every year. About 11 million of 46 million Ukrainians habitually smoke, with an estimated 115,000 dying prematurely from smoking-related illnesses every year. Smoking prevalence among men is among the highest in the world and life expectancy among the lowest.

The pieces of the nation's comprehensive tobacco-control strategy are now coming into place. This fall, an advertising ban will go into effect and health warnings will be larger and contain graphic images covering 50 percent of the front and back of a pack. In December, the smoking ban will start to protect non-smokers from harmful second-hand smoke and prompt smokers to cut back.

But the most effective piece of this strategy – tax increases – still needs a lot of work. While taxes have been hiked in recent years on cigarettes, the increases have not been high enough to substantially raise the cost of smoking. Cigarettes still sell for only \$1.50 a pack or even less. Heavy taxation is the most effective way to reduce smoking. It also raises sorely needed government revenue. Higher cigarette taxes will also be effective in ending Ukraine's notorious status as a supplier of cigarettes smuggled internationally. More than 100 billion cheap cigarettes are produced every year in Ukraine's factories.

The president has shown that he knows how to lead on this issue, so we hope that he will push through a hefty tax hike on cigarettes before parliament adjourns for the summer.



NEWS ITEM: No foreign ministers or heads of states joined President Viktor Yanukovich and the country's other top officials in their VIP suite in Olympic Stadium in Kyiv on June 11, when Ukraine beat Sweden 2-1 in its tournament debut. Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle urged German fans on June 14 to remember ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as they gathered for their country's game against the Netherlands in Kharkiv, where she is serving a seven-year prison sentence. The West considers Tymoshenko's conviction as politically motivated and calls for her release.

Yanukovich was instead joined by Ukraine's three former presidents, Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Yushchenko, as well as the country's most powerful oligarchs, including richest billionaire Rinat Akhmetov.

How Ukraine is portrayed in West's Euro 2012 coverage



SALOME GONGADZE

Is Euro 2012 the most scandal-filled football event in recent history?

"Ukraine's prostitutes hope to cash in on Euro 2012."

"Whose awful idea was it to host Euro 2012 in Ukraine, anyway?"

These are the headlines that title much Western-based media coverage of the current Euro 2012 football match.

The intent of these articles is questionable: Do they help get information out? Or do they simply degrade the already poor image Ukraine has on the European stage, an image that the government has not in any way attempted to make better? In fact, arguably, the Ukrainian government has only helped to make the image worse.

Is the Western media helping, or is this coverage coming with a cost to the already fragile reputation Ukraine holds among its Western European and American peers?

Outside of the usual sports reporting concerning the rounds of the cup, there has been a high volume of articles covering more sensational and political aspects of the cup's controversy. Everyone from local news media to national broadcasters have taken notice, especially in many Western European nations.

Whether focusing attention to particular smaller issues or covering the more broad scope of the controversy, most ask the same questions: Is the decision to choose Poland and Ukraine as Euro Cup hosts one that the UEFA should be regretting?

The issue lies not with the question, but rather more in the treatment and coverage of possible answers in the media. The practice of erasing details and giving broad statements to explain these issues is being misused, in my opinion.

Big issues – racism, freedom, and the safety of football fan visitors – are being painted with a large brush that often-times blurs the lines of facts and sensationalism.

Various incidents such as the now infamous racially-motivated Krakow taunting are being used as wide examples. The way that this information is presented reflects poorly and inaccurately on the people of Eastern Europe, and

how they treat visitors and players. News outlets are further fueling the flames by raising questions about the safety of visiting players and fans.

This is not to say that these are not genuine questions to be considered, just that the treatment of these issues often-times paints a wrong picture of the open-mindedness and ethics of Ukrainian and eastern European soccer fans.

The other large issue regards recent political upsets plaguing Ukraine. The use of them in cup coverage has become quite troubling. Hot-button incidents like the Yulia Tymoshenko case and human rights abuse are relevant, but are often misused and exploited in these articles. Editorials and opinion-motivated pieces are citing these incidents as prime examples of how more established, "safer" European nations should be the ones allowed to host such events.

Ukraine lacks the PR machinery required to handle this sort of misrepresentation, and it can be questioned if the government has the motivation to deal with these issues the way other nations might.

Lack of action has already damaged Ukraine's reputation in the opinions of the public who read this media for basic information. Instead of this event being used as a way to advance Ukraine's role in the European stage and promoting its attractions, tourism, and rich cultural heritage, it suffers more setbacks. It loses the respect of nations, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, many of whom make it clear their hostility towards games being played in Ukraine.

Such poor reporting and lack of action can further damage Ukraine's profile in the world. The people of Europe deserve a healthy, fun football match.

Choosing Poland and Ukraine as the hosts of the 2012 Euro Cup was done with good intent that has been blackened by such practices.

I sincerely hope that visitors to the nation taste the fine hospitality of the Ukrainian people and sample the life there.

May they find that stereotypes and examples are not true – and that even as the government digs a deeper hole for itself, the people put on a good match and come together in the spirit of national pride and sportsmanship, displaying the true cultural and historical wealth Ukraine has.

Salome Gongadze is a student, artist and writer studying at the H-B Woodlawn Program in Washington, D.C. The daughter of Georgiy and Myroslava Gongadze, she is interested in international politics and issues involving Ukraine.

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The great Euro 2012 scam



OSTAP SEMERAK

For the first time ever, the biggest European championship is co-hosted by a former Soviet state. It is the grandest possible event for an army of fans. But the problem is that this three-week festival of football was unwittingly paid for by the fans themselves and the rest of Ukraine's citizens, including those who have no interest in football.

We all paid the same way as when we get into crowded public transport and come out without a wallet. Except in the case of Euro 2012 it wasn't the tram pickpocket who ran with our cash, but the highest statesmen. As a result, every Ukrainian has lost nearly Hr 2,000.

The original concept for Euro 2012 preparations created by Yulia Tymoshenko's government envisaged that the lion's share of financing would come from private investors, including foreign ones. According to the first draft of the state preparation program for the championship, the state budget had to set aside only about Hr 18 billion (\$2.25 billion) for it.

But for President Viktor Yanukovich's team, who view power primarily as a tool for personal enrichment, it was not profitable enough to get private investment because it's difficult to pocket.

But state expenditures, on the contrary, grew sky high, reaching Hr 80 billion (\$10 billion). This was made up of direct bud-

get expenditures, state guaranteed loans and investment in state-owned businesses. Moreover, local budgets spent another Hr 3.8 billion (\$470 million). And to make sure that nothing stands in the way of siphoning sackfuls of cash, the government of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov legalized a mechanism of corruption soon after his appointment. First, a Cabinet decree was issued, and later the pro-government majority in parliament approved a law that canceled competitive tenders for all state procurement contracts related to Euro 2012.

The right to distribute contracts and cash was granted to the national agency for preparation and conduct of Euro 2012. It was headed by the president's home region companion, Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov, who was in charge of preparation. But this was the formal arrangement. In reality, key decisions were taken by the deputy prime minister himself.

This enabled state contracts to be handed over to companies which directly or indirectly belonged to government officials or a part of a corrupt pact that involves them.

The scheme is very simple: the official and his chosen contractor agree to share the budget cash. They cook up an overblown budget, and the contractor pays off a part of it back to the official as soon as he receives a transfer – usually in cash.

Sources in such companies have said that this scheme allowed officials to receive (or, to put it bluntly, steal) between 30 to 40 percent of the state funds allocated for the tournament's preparations. We're talking about Hr



Ukrainian football team fans celebrate in the fan zone in Kyiv on June 11. Opposition members of parliament want investigations into how \$10 billion in public money was spent for Euro 2012. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

30 billion, or up to \$4 billion.

The brightest illustration of this scheme comes from the biggest sites that were built or reconstructed for Euro 2012. These include Olympic Stadium in Kyiv, the new stadium in Lviv, airport terminals in Donetsk and Lviv, and big stretches of roads.

By an unambiguous coincidence, when Kolesnikov took charge, all the general contractors that used to work at these sites were replaced by other companies that were connected to the new deputy prime minister one way or another.

First of all, of course, these are the legendary companies from Donetsk,

Altcom and AK Engineering. The traces of the real owners (or owner) of Altcom, which received a dreamlike share, are lost in an offshore maze that leads to Central America's Belize, while the connection between AK Engineering and Kolesnikov is clear as daylight. (Editor's Note: Kolesnikov has repeatedly denied any connection to Altcom.) Some data suggest that these companies alone received no less than Hr 9 billion from the state.

The construction budgets where Altcom and AK Engineering were employed kept changing and growing. Reconstruction of Olympic and the surrounding territory alone came to

cost Hr 5.6 billion (\$700.8 million), of which Hr 5.4 billion came from the state and the local budget. This is a lot more than was spent on the best stadiums in Europe.

Moreover, the Ukrainian statesmen did not miss an opportunity to finance a number of expenses from the state budget that clearly only benefit them or their comrades, but have nothing to do with the football championship.

The biggest case in point is the construction of a helicopter pad close to Kaniv worth more than Hr 150 million (nearly \$19 million). The site has nothing to do with participants or guests of Euro 2012, but it helps Yanukovich and his escort to easily get to hunting grounds located nearby.

There is also a vast discrepancy between financing of construction projects that belong or are controlled by the people close to the government, and the rest of the "poor relatives."

There are many incidents of corruption in the name of Euro 2012. One day the story will be told in detail by the prosecutors in court, where this major fraud of two decades will end up. The court will one day rule on the fate of its inspirers and executors.

That will happen one day. And in the meantime, we have a bunch of officials who have robbed their country and wasted the huge investment potential of Euro 2012. It's only somewhat sweetened by the good start of the Ukrainian team in the tournament.

Ostap Semerak is an opposition member of parliament of Ukraine and was a minister of sport, tourism and Euro 2012 in ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's government.

VOX populi

WITH MARYNA IRKLIYENKO



What impresses you most about Ukraine, apart from football?



Robert Lundgren, Sweden
"I like Kyiv very much. I am from a small city [in Sweden], so it's quite big for me. After the game Sweden

against Ukraine, all the people on the streets [were] so happy and cheering. I am [most] impressed with the people."



Pernilla Nelson, Sweden
"The Swedish fans [impressed me most]. [They are] happy and friendly. In Ukraine everybody is very

helpful. We went on a bus tour and everybody was very friendly."



Michael Johansson, Sweden
"I believe I came with a lot more prejudice. I thought it was a lot less modern. So I am really impressed with the city and how modern it actually is

and also how friendly the people are. We get picked up by strangers who want to talk to us. I don't understand a single word they say but I can understand that they are friendly at least. That impresses me a lot."



Cissandri Berd, Sweden
"After all the parties at night [where] everyone was throwing glasses on the floor, when we woke up it was so clean

and so nice. I like it here in Ukraine actually. We have an apartment up here [on Khreshchatyk] but we go to the Swedish camp [on Trukhaniv Island] and just relax on the beach."



Huber Sjoberg, Sweden
"The hospitality [impressed me most]. Everyone is very friendly, I did not feel uncomfortable at any time,

[people] welcome us. Back home I'm used to faster tempo. Here it takes some more time, but you actually get something. I like Kyiv and Olympic Stadium was amazing. The biggest I've ever seen. It was the highlight of this trip."

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Euro 2012 spending boosts some businesses, but not all

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
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With tens of thousands of football fans flooding into Ukraine for Euro 2012, the nation is destined to earn badly needed tourist cash. But the event is turning out to be a disappointment for at least some businesses in downtown Kyiv, restaurants and pubs.

The mixed results are building upon the uncertainty of analysts who question how much Ukraine will cash in as co-host of the biggest sporting event to be held in Eastern Europe since the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Ukrainian officials said they expect the nation to earn up to \$1.5 billion in tourist spending, but many think that number is too high. A random survey of some central Kyiv businesses during the first few days of games found that business was down, not up.

More than 500,000 fans are expected in Ukraine for the three-week tournament. The presence of tens of thousands of Swedes was noticeable in Kyiv, where their team is playing all of their first round games.

During the first days of the tournament, some 60,000 tourists visited Lviv, spending more than \$1.1 million, Lviv authorities reported on June 11. Nearly 90,000 foreigners arrived into Ukraine through Kyiv's Boryspil Airport during the first three days of games, about 20 percent up compared to the same period last year.

And, of course, prostitutes were set to cash in. Many fans have been peppered on the main Khreshchatyk Street with business cards advertising 24-hour massage parlors with available women of the night.

But out of four restaurants and pubs located right next to Kyiv's fan zone, only one reported an increase in sales, while others said client numbers had actually decreased.

Handily located across the street from the Vladimir Lenin statue on Shevchenko Boulevard, Chaikoff cafe seems to be doing great. Oleksandr Tereshchenko, the cafe's administrator, said sales picked up by 20 percent.



Some restaurants and pubs in Kyiv that were popular in normal workdays may have lost business to the Kyiv Euro 2012 fan zone. It has seen big crowds and long lines for beer, food and souvenirs. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Sales figures have not yet been made public, but beer, food and souvenir sales are, however, clearly booming at the jam-packed fan zone on Khreshchatyk.

In contrast, the lunchtime scene on June 11 at the nearby Naturlih pub was mixed. It was full of visiting Swedes, but staff said that does not mean necessarily equate to more than the regular business it gets during regular working days.

"We have not had more clients, even though the number of foreigners has gone up," the pub's administrator said while refusing to provide his name. A few days earlier, when the championship started, the bar switched to 24/7 operation. "But it hasn't paid off yet," he added.

Naturlih's competitor, Bochka pub, located in the back yard of Bohdana

Khmelnyskoho Street, says it has not gained any business, either. "We have just as many clients as we used to just before the games," said Serhiy Golik, the pub's manager. Since many roads in the center are blocked off during the games, suppliers are having trouble delivering orders, he explained.

Located just around the corner from Kyiv Pecherskyi District Court, Bochka picked up a lot of business during the abuse-of-office trial of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and other opposition leaders. They added extra daytime clientele because many journalists and opposition politicians frequented the affordable food and drink establishment to take a break from the long hearings. In summertime, indoor restaurants in Kyiv usually experience a drop in

sales while those with summer terraces – like Bochka – get a boost. But with the crowded fan zone posing major competition during Euro 2012, the bar has been losing business, Golik said. "Considering our investment into advertising and promotion, this is not likely to pay off and it's not what we expected," he said.

By contrast, Polish media report that restaurants are experiencing such a jump in demand that some eateries are running out of necessities such as salt.

Economists have praised the billion-dollar infrastructure upgrades conducted in Ukraine in the run-up to the games as achievements that will pay off for the economy in the long term. But they have questioned how much the nation will actually make during the games.

Despite charging prices higher than

in many European countries, Ukrainian hotels are booked. Increased airline passenger traffic will offer a boost.

Citing various estimates, London-based consultancy Capital Economics said in a May report that Ukraine and co-host Poland could each receive "around one million extra visitors, with each tourist spending as much as 150 euros a day."

"On the (admittedly arbitrary) assumption that each visitor stays for a week, spending per visitor would amount to 1,050 euros. Hence, total additional tourist spending as a result of Euro 2012 could be as much as 1 billion euros in each country – equivalent to 0.3 percent of gross domestic product in Poland and 0.8 percent of gross domestic product in Ukraine," Capital Economics added.

This short-term boost could help counterbalance current economic risks facing Ukraine. Even though the country's GDP increased by 5.2 percent last year, the near-term future does not look as bright in light of the mushrooming Eurozone crisis. Ukraine's fragile economy, still very vulnerable to external shocks, is expected to post about 1.6 percent of GDP growth this year.

Foreign direct investment into Ukraine since independence is only a fifth of that pumped into Poland, the only European economy to post growth during the 2009 recession that hit Ukraine particularly hard.

Apart from this one-off Euro 2012 economic boost, if Ukraine is serious about raising bigger and long-term investment and tourism dollar inflows, it should just fix the economy and investment climate, not pin its hopes on one-time sporting events, said Vasyl Yurchyshyn, economic analysts at the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center.

"Overall, the criterion [for long-term] success will be on whether there is an increase in foreign direct investment – if investors want to invest into the country," Yurchyshyn added.

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Olympic Stadium figure admits guilt in \$3 million embezzlement

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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The general contractor of Kyiv's \$585 million Olympic Stadium confessed in court on June 6 to embezzling Hr 24 million (\$3 million) of public money.

During questioning in the Shevchenko District Kyiv City Court, Volodymyr Artiukh, who heads AK Engineering, said he "effectively helped commit a crime" when he allegedly helped funnel money from a bank that was under state administration to renovate its head office near St. Sophia Square following the global financial crisis.

Authorities allege the renovation was never done and that the money disappeared.

"If possible, don't put me in prison. I'm more useful on the outside," a reporter from Ukrainska Pravda news portal quoted him as saying in the court room on June 11.

Artiukh testified that he was offered 3 percent of the Hr 24 million, or Hr 740,000, for initiating a money transfer that led to the money's disappearance via a chain of companies.

When Infrastructure Minister Borys Kolesnikov's National Euro 2012 agency handpicked Artiukh's AK Engineering as the Olympic Stadium's general contractor in June 2010, Artiukh was already under investigation for the alleged financial fraud.

Investigators allege Artiukh in 2009 received money that originated at Rodovid Bank, then being bailed out by the government, without doing the



An aerial view of Kyiv's reconstructed Olympic Stadium, the venue for five Euro 2012 matches, including the July 1 final. (Courtesy of www.nsc-olimpiyskiy.com.ua)

renovation work and instead sent the money down a chain of subcontractors, the last of which investigators say was a fictitious company headed by a homeless person.

Artiukh subsequently spent three days in a pre-trial detention center, reportedly for not cooperating with investigators. He signed a pledge to not leave Ukraine when he was released and which is currently still in force.

Artiukh's AK Engineering has also been probed in two investigations concerning the Olympic Stadium, one of which is still ongoing. Investigators allege that AK Engineering funneled Hr 119 million through a chain of

companies to purchase and import a German-manufactured vacuum plumbing system for the stadium.

At the end of the money trail, investigators allege, part of the money was used to purchase the equipment by individuals whose signatures were allegedly faked on the customs declarations, while the rest of the money was converted into cash.

Investigators furthermore probed how AK Engineering procured Australian-made stadium seats. They had alleged that Hr 3.8 million wasn't paid into state coffers because a beneficiary company along the money trail had allegedly inflated the VAT credit



Volodymyr Artiukh, the head of AK Engineering. (Courtesy of www.pravda.com.ua)

amount. The company Vailis, according to past court rulings is "a fictitious enterprise that is used to minimize tax obligations."

A court in Cherkassy closed the case into the stadium seats. Since June 2010, AK Engineering has received more than Hr 2 billion in government orders for reconstructing the Olympic Stadium. It also received Hr 80 million in public money under a no-bid tender to refurbish the Palace of Sports near the stadium where the Union of European Football Associations, the Euro 2012 organizer, is housing the media and accreditation center for the three-week football tournament.

Media reports have linked AK Engineering to Kolesnikov whose lawyer had been a co-founder of the company along with Artiukh. Kolesnikov has categorically denied benefiting from AK Engineering's government orders and denies any association with the company. Artiukh has denied having relations with Kolesnikov.

"You don't have to in principle tie me with Kolesnikov because we aren't friends. Kolesnikov is a top politician and businessman. I'm a tiny builder that can't do anything else," he told Ukrainska Pravda in an November 2011 interview.

Nevertheless, media reports uncovered old ties between Artiukh and Kolesnikov as well as billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest person. According to documents published by Ukrainska Pravda website, Artiukh was the co-founder of Ukrinterstroj together with the late Zhyhan Taktashev, who was the ex-vice president of Akhmetov's Shakhtar football club. Taktashev is also reported by the publication to have been a partner of Kolesnikov in the Yug company.

Ukrinterstroj was once the founder of Ukraine's largest transportation and logistics company – Lemtrans. The latter company is today controlled by President Viktor Yanukoych's family and Akhmetov, according to Ukrainska Pravda.

Artiukh is scheduled to appear in court next on June 21.

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As some European banks move to exit Ukraine, others buying into market

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
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Banks throughout Europe are hurting as credit bubbles inflated over years continue to pop. Ukraine's ailing banking sector has more than its share of non-performing loans. But as some foreign investors try to cut losses and move out, others see it as the perfect time to buy.

News broke this month that German banking giant Commerzbank was seeking to dump Ukraine-based Forum just a few years after acquiring it for \$650 million and investing more than \$1 billion.

Officials at the bank have refused to comment on what they describe as market speculation, but Smart Holding, owned by recently-naturalized Ukrainian billionaire Vadym Novinsky, announced on June 7 that it was in talks with Commerzbank to purchase its Ukrainian subsidiary.

Investment bank Dragon Capital said Commerzbank would incur significant losses on the prospective sale, as the bank had invested close to 10 times book value of \$135 million.

This would weigh heavy on the decision to sell the bank, though turbulence in the European banking sector could push Commerzbank to go ahead with the sale.

A wave of downgrades of major banks has swept through Europe. Over the past month, rating agency Moody's has downgraded three Austrian, seven German and 16 Spanish banks. Markets got an even bigger scare when rival agency Fitch sliced an unprecedented three notches – A to BBB – from Spain's rating. A 100 billion euro bailout, announced June 9, has since assuaged fears.

Credit rating agencies cited the ongoing debt crisis in Europe, poor capitalization and the possibility of growth risks. Worries also surfaced about the possibility of a bank run, after Greeks pulled 700 million euros from their deposits on a single day.

Exposure to volatile East European economies also contributed to the rating agencies' concerns. Moody's cut the rating of Erste Group Bank by two notches, from A3 to A1, while Raiffeisen Bank International and

UniCredit Bank Austria (owner of UkrSotsbank) both lost a notch.

Moody's also reduced ratings on the local units of Raiffeisen Bank International in Ukraine: Raiffeisen Bank Aval and Raiffeisen Leasing Aval. According to a research note by Kyiv-based investment bank ICU, "there could be further cuts ahead."

Commenting on the Europe-wide downgrades, ICU warned the biggest threat was the possibility that a parent company's credit downgrade could reduce financial support for subsidiaries in the case of further turbulence.

Back in December 2011, Austria's bank regulator told banks not to support East European subsidiaries should they need recapitalization.

In order to boost confidence in the sector, Ukraine's state fund which guarantees bank loans announced it was considering to double the guaranteed threshold from 150,000 hryvnias (\$12,000). Only 0.8 percent of account holders have enough savings to potentially be affected, but they account for over a third of Ukraine's 330 billion plus deposits.

But where others see only risk others smell opportunity. In recent weeks Poland's Getin Holding joined Smart Holding in announcing plans to expand their domestic banking operations.

Majority-owned by Poland's fourth richest man Leszek Czarniecki, Getin Holding is a Warsaw Stock Exchange-listed financial services group, mainly active in banking and insurance.

The company first entered the Ukrainian market with the purchase of an 82-percent stake in Prykarpattia Bank, later renamed as Idea Bank.

The retail bank is ranked 22nd in Ukraine by size of assets.

Getin management board president Rafal Juszczyk said the financial holding plans to acquire another retail bank in Ukraine, which would then merge with Idea Bank.

"It's a buyer's market," said Anastasia Tuyukova, analyst at Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital. "It is possible for institutions with capital to find good assets," she added.

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During the Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum in Kyiv on June 11, Georgia's Deputy Economy Minister Mikheil Janelidze (right) explains how his nation skyrocketed up from 115th to 16th place in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking. Looking on are Andre Kuusvek (left), director of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development in Ukraine and Aivaras Abromavicius partner at East Capital. (Courtesy)

Swedish forum highlights Ukraine's age-old problems

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO
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The 31-year-old deputy economy minister took the microphone to speak at a business conference in Kyiv on June 11 and, in fluent English, began rattling off his country's achievements: a rise from 115th to 16th in the World Bank's doing business ranking, reduced bribery and greater trust in police.

"The transformation we made and achievements which I can list during the period of 2005-2010 [mean that]



From left, Kyiv Post publisher Mohammad Zahoor, Natalie Jaresko CEO of Horizon Capital and Roman Shpek, adviser to President Viktor Yanukovich. (Courtesy)

we've been named as the number one reformers," he said.

Sadly for Ukraine, this was not one of its own officials, but Georgia's Deputy Economy Minister Mikheil Janelidze.

Janelidze was speaking at the Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum, which had gathered together potential investors to inform them about investment opportunities in Ukraine. His Ukrainian counterpart produced a speech in heavily accented English that was full of platitudes.

Janelidze's fluent presentation of Georgia's successes raised the question as to why Ukraine still remains toward the bottom of international business rankings.

Natalie Jaresko, CEO of Horizon Capital investment bank, pointed to the age difference between Ukrainian and Georgian elites. She said Ukraine's "Soviet heritage" was holding the country back, as older politicians and officials are not open to new approaches and a more global view.

"I don't know what the average age of our Cabinet of Ministers is today, but it's older than 35," she said.

Tomas Fiala, CEO of investment bank Dragon Capital, said he had also noticed the limited international exposure of members of the government and presidential administration.

"Last week at a meeting with the

president, there was about half the government members present and unfortunately about 75 percent of them did not speak English and had their headphones on," Fiala said.

Georgian Janelidze is among many members of Georgian government, led by President Mikheil Saakashvili, known for having a number of young, Western-educated members. The president himself received a masters of law from Columbia Law School and has a good command of English.

Having recognized corruption as the core problem of Georgia's development, the government saw younger people as a solution. "We had a huge change in the administrative staff. Instead of corrupt officials, we hired new people, with less working experience but with no experience of taking bribes. They were young but we trained them," Janelidze said.

Roman Shpek, an adviser to Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, admitted at the forum that Ukraine needs more "concrete knowledge" of international trends.

"Very important not to find how to build on our own way, we should use more international experience," the 57-year-old said in heavily accented English.

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Euro 2012 tourney starts well on and off the field

→ **1** 2-1 victory over Sweden on June 11 brought the tournament to life, as veteran Andriy Shevchenko poached two headed goals to send the country into celebration.

The championship opened in co-host Poland on June 8 but had only simmered in Ukraine until it reached boiling point with the unexpected win, which could help the Yellow-Blues reach the quarterfinals.

Tens of thousands of fans from across Europe have poured into the country for the tournament, bringing color, song and high spirits, and drowning out the bad news stories that had dogged the run-up.

Fans

Foreign fans dismissed the pre-tournament scare stories that Ukraine wasn't ready, was too expensive and that locals were unfriendly and racist.

"We heard a lot of bad things about Ukraine. That it is dangerous, and so on. But once we came everyone was so

nice and nothing bad happened so far," said Marcus Edvinsson, a 25-year-old Swedish bartender tucking into a beer in the fan zone.

"Kyiv is fine. It is above expectations," said Stig Christensen, a 28-year-old chemistry student from Denmark. "I know that it's a bit lower standard than Denmark, but it's fine." Tournament organizer UEFA said there had been no reports of racial abuse during the first round of games in Ukraine, disproving claims that Ukraine was a hotbed of racism and advice that black fans should avoid the country because of potential attacks. Police commended fans' behavior, saying there were no arrests connected with the Ukraine-Sweden game, which attracted 60,000 fans to the stadium and many thousands more in the fan zone on Khreshchatyk.

After the game, Ukrainian fans celebrated into the early hours, blasting car horns, pumping fists out of their windows and chanting, "Sheva! Sheva!" and "Ukrayina! Ukrayina!"

Not everything has gone smoothly. Local media reported a scuffle between a handful of Russian and Ukrainian fans in Lviv on June 10. Ukraine, however, has seen none of the violence between fans or the allegations of racism that have hit Poland.

Early arrivals at Camp Sweden on Trukhaniv Island were disappointed that the site was lacking many crucial amenities. But by June 10, improvements had been made and many of the around 5,000 Swedes at the camp said they were happy, even with the somewhat Spartan conditions.

"We love camping. We normally do this," said Ingo Soderland, the camp leader. "The main point is to be together, connect with people and support the national team."

Boycott

President Viktor Yanukovich celebrated ecstatically when Shevchenko gave Ukraine the lead against Sweden. But he's had little else to cheer. Foreign

leaders from at least a half-dozen European countries have snubbed the games in Ukraine in protest at the continued incarceration of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Yanukovich brushed aside the boycott as "a rash act." But one European diplomat in Kyiv said the boycott was a "slap in the face" for Yanukovich as it had become his "personal project."

He's still clearly hoping for a bounce in popularity from the tournament and paid his second visit to the team in a week after the victory.

European ministers weren't the only ones to give the tournament a miss. At the game between France and England on June 11, which is typically a big draw, there were thousands of empty seats. Fans appear to have been put off by high hotel prices and the distance involved in traveling to the host city furthest east.

Hopes

The win against Sweden gives Ukraine

a great chance of qualifying for the quarterfinals, placing the team top of Group D after England and France played out a 1-1 draw in the other first-round game. Ukraine faces a tough challenge against France on June 15, followed by a decisive clash against England on June 19.

Shevchenko, a national hero as the national team's all-time top goalscorer, said the team would have to be at its best to qualify.

"Every game for us is like a final," he said after the Sweden game.

Whether the Yellow-Blues qualify or not, there are already calls for the head of one Ukrainian who is failing at the tournament. Funtik – an "oracle" pig who is predicting winners by choosing which of two bowls marked by flags to gobble food from – wrongly predicted that Sweden would beat Ukraine.

"It's time to make that Funtik into salo," read one headline in the popular Segodnya daily, referring to the Ukrainian national dish – pig fat.

Kyiv Post Employment Fair starts at 10 a.m. June 16

BY ILYA TIMTCHENKO
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Euro 2012 has been a catalyst in improving Ukraine's infrastructure and job market with \$13 billion in direct investment, but it remains to be seen whether the labor market will remain robust for the rest of the year.

Amid the excitement of the tournament, the Kyiv Post Employment Fair will take place on June 16 in the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce on 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska St. It will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an entrance fee of Hr 20 and Hr 10 for students.

The event will include seminars held by Kotra Ukraine, HH.ua (headhunter.ua), Syngenta and Dopomoga Ukraine. Their experts will offer employment tips and discuss work ethics, company policies and interview guidelines.

Job seekers will learn tips for interviews and the latest trends in the

employment market, helping them gain an edge in finding jobs.

The last Kyiv Post fair on Nov. 5 attracted nearly 30 companies and almost 3,000 people. At Saturday's event, 15 leading companies are expected during the typically slower summer hiring season. They include: Coca-Cola, Ernst & Young, Radisson Blu & Park Inn by Radisson Hotels, Beiten Burkhardt, Mazar-Ukraine, B.C. Toms & Co., Bank of Cyprus, Doromoga Ukraine, Kotra, Intertop, Super Job, Syngenta Ukraine, HeadHunter, Fairmont Grand Hotel Kyiv, ProCredit Bank, Nova Robot and Konica Minolta.

The Employment Fair has proven a successful way for job seekers to improve their skills and for employers to scout top-notch prospective employees. Amid continuing concern over the sluggish global economy, there are bright signs on the Ukrainian market. In May, Kyiv Post partner

HeadHunters (HH.ua), an authoritative website, had 30 percent more vacancies posted and 36 percent more resumes this year versus last year.

HH.ua said the traditionally active job spheres are informational technologies, sales and marketing.

Programmers, java developers and project managers continue to be in strong demand.

"There are few of them (programmers) but the IT market in Ukraine is growing and will continue to grow," says HeadHunter Ukraine spokeswoman Nataliya Matsipura.

"Every day there are multiple technological changes and, correspondingly, professionals are needed to maintain the given changes. In this regard, the demand for IT specialists will remain high," she added.

HH.ua says 70 percent of job seekers are already employed, but looking to improve their positions or consider

other possibilities. According to research by Reputation Capital and HeadHunter Ukraine, the top two reasons for leaving a company are salary cuts and the absence of professional and career growth.

The overall employment market is expected to be weak for the rest of the

year. According to the International Labor Organization, Ukraine's unemployment rate was 8.6 percent during the fourth quarter of last year.

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A rotten state of affairs



ANDREW WILSON

Editor's Note: The following opinion piece was originally published by Open Democracy at <http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/andrew-wilson/ukraine-today-guide-for-digging-deeper>

Sport engages us most when it provides a test of character. Normally of course this is when people are actually playing the sport in question; but Ukraine's co-hosting of the European Championship Finals with Poland this summer has had a similar function, casting an unexpectedly bright light on all that is wrong with modern Ukraine.

It was supposed to be the other way around. When the tournament was originally awarded jointly to Poland and Ukraine in 2007, just three years after the Orange Revolution, the underlying story was about cooperation across borders and between the many versions of 'Europe', and even Ukraine's long-term European future.

But fast-forward to Yanukovich's Ukraine in 2012 and the narrative has flipped into the stark contrast either side of the new EU border, between 'good' Poland and 'bad' Ukraine - and to certain common central-east European problems like residual racism.

A snapshot of the British press on just one day, the Sunday before the Championship began, shows the chorus of criticism. The Sunday Times looked at corruption in building work

for the tournament; the Observer, inter alia, focused on the rise of the far-right Freedom Party; while the Sunday Telegraph had the headline worth quoting in full: 'The Euro 2012 welcome that awaits in Ukraine. Racism, corruption, human rights abuse - could it be any worse for the co-hosts of Euro 2012?'

The Ukrainians like to be precise about these things. According to Denys Bohush, vice president of PR-League, only 62 percent of stories in the international press about Ukraine were negative from January to October 2011. From the Tymoshenko conviction in October 2011 until March 2012, the figure grew to 82 percent. Now it might be even higher.

Some of this may be exaggerated, as always when group-think descends, particularly the stories on hooliganism. Ukraine shares the common cultural problem throughout much of Eastern Europe of a total lack of political correctness, and has a strong nationalist sub-culture in the west. The big cities of east Ukraine have the same skinhead culture as in Russia. But the BBC's Panorama programme looked mainly at Kharkiv, where the number of skinhead racists who are also Ukrainian nationalists cannot be very large.

The Ukrainian leadership under Yanukovich deserves every inch of bad press it is now getting. Rampant corruption, likelihood of default on foreign loans, crackdowns on former leaders of the 2004 Orange administration such as Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuri Lutsenko have been the regime's major achievements in the last two years.

Ordinary Ukrainians will provide visiting football fans with a warm wel-

come. Anyone who travels to Ukraine will know how much Ukrainians appreciate any attention and effort paid to their country and their language. A few words of politesse in Ukrainian will make the welcome particularly warm.

But the Ukrainian elite is another matter. Schadenfreude is an underrated pleasure - and the Ukrainian leadership under Yanukovich deserves every inch of bad press it is now getting. Journalists are ranging far and wide because they can tell that current problems are symptomatic of something deeply rotten at the heart of the state. It is right, for example, that the Tymoshenko saga has been kept at centre-stage. In one package, it covers so much of what is wrong with the current regime: its mafia-like instincts, the persecution of opponents, the reliance on Soviet-era law, the incompetent handling of a trial that presented almost nothing in the way of actual "evidence," and the pig-headed refusal to compromise or even recognize the damage being done to Ukraine's national interests.

But here is my personal guide for those who want to dig further.

Look in more detail at the legal system. The Tymoshenko affair has demonstrated that Ukraine does not have a defective rule of law; it has no rule of law at all. Things were bad enough even before Yanukovich came to power in 2010. There were two major judicial crises under 'orange' Ukraine that left the whole legal system deeply discredited: the first when political infighting left the Constitutional Court inoperative and unable to function in 2005-06; the second when both sides tried to bribe and intimidate the Constitutional

Court to rule in their favour during the dissolution crisis in the summer of 2007. So the legal system was a soft target for Yanukovich's judicial 'reform' in the summer of 2010. But Ukrainian courts have no real jury system; the procuracy acts as a hired gun for the political authorities; so judges were the last line of defense against arbitrary justice until the highly centralizing 2010 "reform" placed all aspects of their working lives (pay, promotion, dismissal, caseload) under executive authority. No wonder that conviction rates are over 99 percent.

Follow the money. Corruption in the Euro 2012 building process has meant rake-offs of more than a third on most projects, especially after the incoming Yanukovich administration abolished competitive tendering for most contracts in 2010. How much did it all cost? No one really knows.

Follow the money to the top. Power is increasingly shifting in Ukraine to a literal and metaphorical 'Family'. Why is Oleksandr Yanukovich, the president's oldest son, also the world's richest dentist, with a fortune of \$96.4 million? The answer is unfortunately simple: 'Family' members have taken over the finance and tax authorities, the National Bank and most recently the "siloviki." Yanukovich junior and all of the Family cronies are getting rich through the smash-and-grab predatory power of the state (raiderstvo in Ukrainian).

Look below the surface. Money also drives the political system. The authorities have already fixed the rules for the parliamentary elections in October 2012; now they are using covert funding to try and fix the cast list as well.

Several fake opposition parties have appeared to split the opposition vote, and more will appear before October. Even the far right phenomenon can be partly blamed on the ruling authorities, who have cynically manipulated the Freedom Party to create a 'scarecrow' and unelectable opposition.

Go to Brussels. Ukraine gets a bad press, but spends a lot on PR, particularly in Washington and Brussels. Though one reason Ukraine gets such a bad press is that the authorities don't understand how the media works. The medium needs a message; but the authorities have cynically invested in propaganda instead.

Stay in Kyiv. It was right for Michel Platini to complain about 'bandits and crooks' being responsible for Ukraine's skyrocketing hotel prices. This is not just a question of supply and demand. There is evidence of mafia protection rackets forcing hoteliers to raise prices by more than they wished. The supply problem is also symptomatic: the Ukrainian elite has built several new high-end hotels that they themselves might use, but middle-market chain hotels are still under-represented in the local market. Just like the Ukrainian economy as a whole, where big business dominates government and the SME sector has actually shrunk in recent years.

The list could go on. Others may have their own suggestions. But any story that goes beyond the football to look at Ukraine's current woes is likely to be a long one.

Andrew Wilson is a reader at University College London. His latest book, "Belarus - The Last European Dictatorship" was published by Yale.

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Poland's Robert Lewandowski fires in the opening goal of the tournament against Greece in Warsaw on June 8. Greece fought back in the second half to draw with the co-hosts 1-1 in the first game in Group A. (AP)

Group A

Russia looked set to cruise to the top of Group A after an opening night 4-1 demolition of Czech Republic, but stumbled to a draw against Poland and will need a draw in their finale to ensure they move on. Young playmaker Alan Dzagoev has been a revelation with three goals and leads an attack that should be strong enough to send the Russians through.

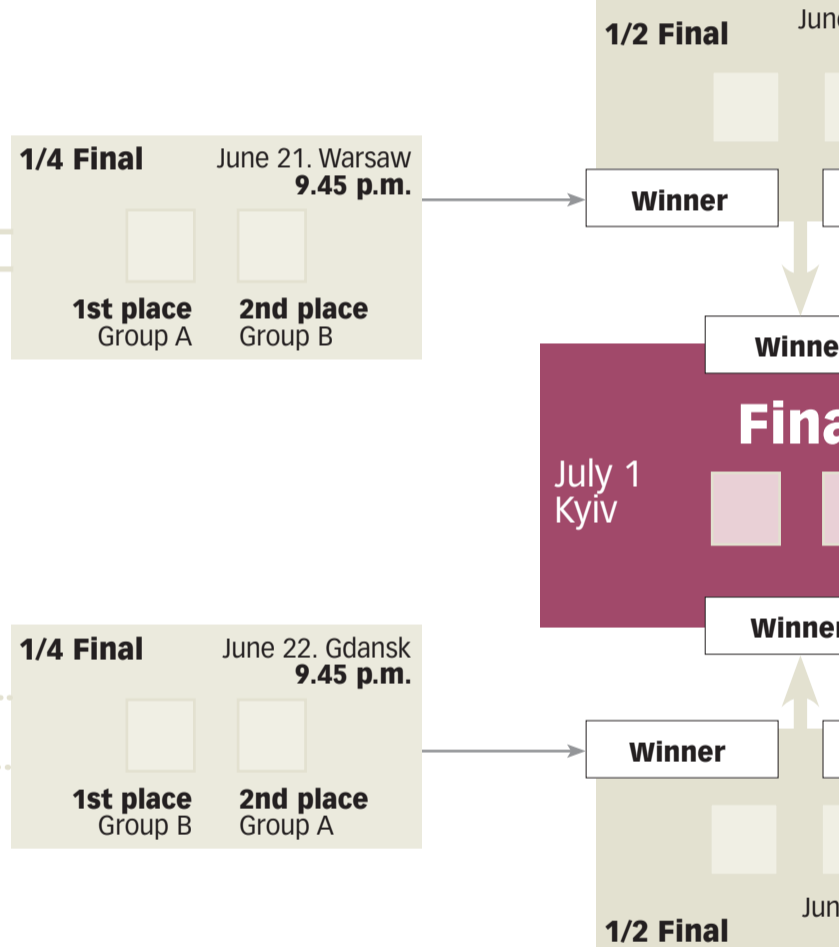
Czech Republic had one foot out the tournament door after their disappointing start but rebounded with two quick goals against Greece to keep hopes alive. Captain Tomas Rosicky was at the heart of the turnaround, blasting his team's first-game effort in the press before leading by example in the Greece win. However, he could miss the Poland game with an Achilles injury.

Poland is rueing a host of missed opportunities from two inconsistent performances. The Polish attack has looked fluent at times, disjointed at others, and the side has failed to turn chances into goals in their pair of draws. The Polish midfield must do a better job of connecting the striker with the defense if the co-host is to prevail in a must-win game against the Czechs.

Greece gutted out a hard-earned, come-from-behind point in front of a deafening National Stadium crowd against Poland in Warsaw but couldn't do the same against Czech Republic. Greece's negative style is more suited to grinding out draws and is unlikely to yield the win they need against Russia.

Group A	June 8 Warsaw, 7 p.m.	Poland	1	1	Greece	1
	June 8 Wroclaw, 9.45 p.m.	Russia	4	1	Czech Republic	
	June 12 Wroclaw, 7 p.m.	Greece	1	2	Czech Republic	
	June 12 Warsaw, 9.45 p.m.	Poland	1	1	Russia	
	June 16, Wroclaw, 9.45 p.m.	Czech Republic			Poland	
	June 16 Warsaw, 9.45 p.m.	Greece			Russia	

Group B	June 9 Kharkiv, 7 p.m.	Netherlands	0	1	Denmark	1
	June 9 Lviv, 9.45 p.m.	Germany	1	0	Portugal	
	June 13 Lviv, 7 p.m.	Denmark	2	3	Portugal	
	June 13 Kharkiv, 9.45 p.m.	Netherlands	1	2	Germany	
	June 17 Lviv, 9.45 p.m.	Denmark			Germany	
	June 17 Kharkiv, 9.45 p.m.	Portugal			Netherlands	



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo tries a spectacular kick in his team's opening loss to Germany on June 9. Ronaldo, who is Portugal's star man, needs to pick up his performance in the team's last game to help it qualify. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Group B

Germany has lived up to its billing as the tournament favorite and looks like the team to beat after wins against Portugal and the Netherlands. Mario Gomez, hounded for years by accusations that he couldn't get it done at the international level, has scored three goals (Germany's entire total) in two games. The Germans look stout in defense, dangerous going forward and it will take a massive effort from an opponent to keep them from lifting the trophy.

Denmark will be disappointed with its luck. The side knocked off rival Netherlands for one of their biggest wins in decades and followed it up with a dramatic two-goal fight back against Portugal – before giving up a late winner to Silvestre Varela. Now, Denmark must get a result against powerhouse Germany to go through. The strong performance from the young Danes thus far deserves better.

Portugal has been impressive, going toe-to-toe against Germany and rebounding to beat Denmark. The Portuguese were minutes away from reverting to their close-but-no-cigar major tournament history but will now be freed up to play with confidence. Star attacker Cristiano Ronaldo and midfielder Raul Meireles must improve for this side to make a dent in the knockout rounds.

Netherlands is the bust of the tournament. Questionable defending and internal discontent have been simmering under the surface for years and have exploded into two losses from two games. Amazingly, the Dutch still have a chance to advance, but on current form, don't bet on it.

Group C

Croatia was overlooked by many coming into the tournament but put the field on high alert with a technical shredding of Ireland. The size and strength of striker pair Mario Mandzukic and Nikica Jelavic gives this Croatian side a toughness past versions have lacked. The survivor of the Croatia-Italy match will likely move on as a dark horse contender – and the loser will likely be out.

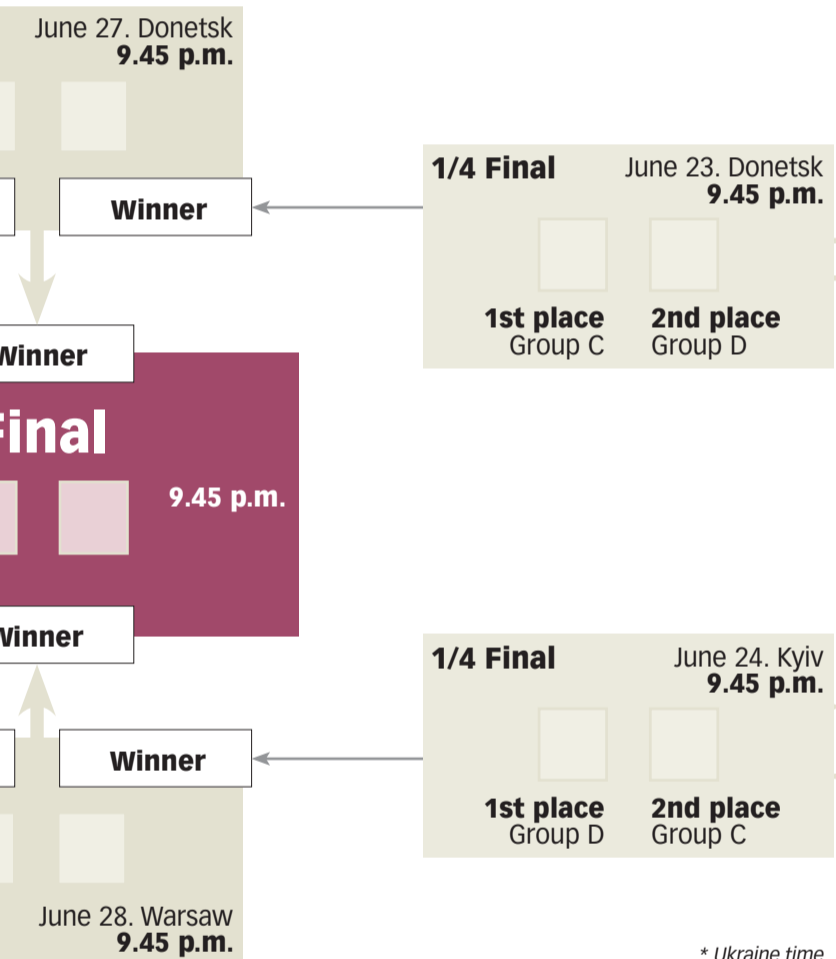
Spain coach Vicente del Bosque went with an unorthodox, six-midfielder formation to open the tournament, and the result was a typical Spanish fluency combined with an atypical wastefulness in front of goal. To make a deep run, the Spaniards need a true striker to step up, be it the out-of-form Fernando Torres or overlooked Llorente.

Italy drew with Spain with a stereotypical Azzurri formula: Stout defense and a blistering counterattack. This style should serve them well against the ever-attacking Croatians, but gritty, pragmatic Ireland looms as a spoiler in the group finale. If Italy's forwards remain efficient with their limited chances, this side should edge past Croatia into the quarter-finals.

Ireland surprised no one with their aggressive, borderline desperate work rate against Croatia, but a normally spotless defense was staggeringly poor in giving up three goals. Earning results against Italy and Spain will be too much of a mountain to climb, but Ireland's supporters have been the fans of the tournament and will revel in the occasion anyway.



Italy's Antonio Cassano (left) battles for the ball with Spain's Gerard Pique during the teams' 1-1 draw in Gdansk, Poland on June 10. (AP)



Match	Time	Home	Score	Away	
Group C	June 10 Gdansk, 7 p.m.	Spain	1 - 1	Italy	
	June 10 Poznan, 9.45 p.m.	Ireland	1 - 3	Croatia	
	June 14 Poznan, 7 p.m.	Italy		Croatia	
	June 14 Gdansk, 9.45 p.m.	Spain		Ireland	
Group D	June 11 Donetsk, 7 p.m.	France	1 - 1	England	
	June 11 Kyiv, 9.45 p.m.	Ukraine	2 - 1	Sweden	
	June 15 Donetsk, 7 p.m.	Ukraine		France	
	June 15 Kyiv, 9.45 p.m.	Sweden		England	
Group C (continued)	June 18 Gdansk, 9.45 p.m.	Croatia		Spain	
	June 18 Poznan, 9.45 p.m.	Italy		Ireland	
	Group D (continued)	June 19 Kyiv, 9.45 p.m.	Sweden		France
		June 19 Donetsk, 9.45 p.m.	England		Ukraine

* Ukraine time

Group D

Ukraine fans could not have dreamt up a better start to Euro 2012, as national legend Andriy Shevchenko struck twice with pinpoint headers to turn a 1-0 Sweden advantage into a dramatic victory. Yellow-Blues supporters are now hoping that the transcendent moment is not the only one of the tournament. Traditional powers France and England await, but the discipline of the confident Ukrainians gives them a legitimate shot at advancing.

France showed flashes of their brilliance against England but were frustrated into a draw. Les Blues showed plenty of creativity but always seemed one pass shy of a breakthrough. If the attacking triumvirate of Samir Nasri, Yohan Cabaye and Karim Benzema can find their fluency, France will be poised for a title challenge.

England will have been pleased with their opening result but will need to improve to survive the group stage. Manager Roy Hodgson sent out a surprisingly positive line-up against France and his side rewarded him with 30 minutes of the most creative play the Three Lions have shown in years. They regressed after scoring the opener, however, and will need to rediscover their rhythm to advance.

Sweden's fans have been a joy to behold in Kyiv, relentlessly boisterous and positive. Their team is on the brink of elimination, however, and likely need a win against England to stay alive. Captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic needs some help in attack if the Swedes are to reach their pre-tournament potential.



Andriy Shevchenko shouts in celebration at his second headed goal against Sweden in Kyiv on June 11. Shevchenko's double sent Ukraine to the top of Group D. (UNIAN)

Text by Matt Pentz

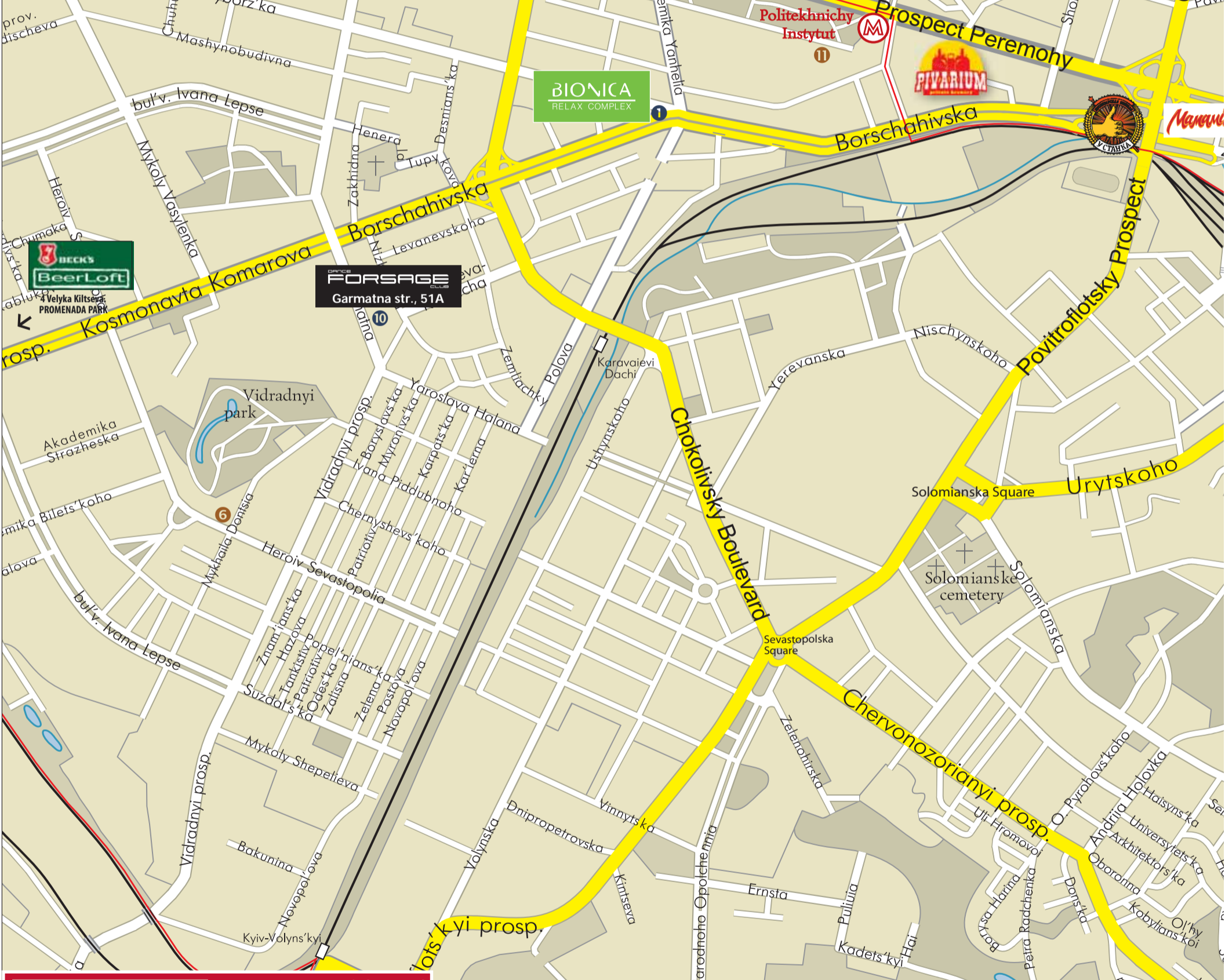


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Nothing compares to Paul, the octopus → 20



From breakfast show to world fame



Vitalii Sediuk, an infotainment journalist from 1+1 becomes a celebrity after playing a series of tricks on stars. (Courtesy)

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

He made Hollywood nice-guy actor Will Smith lose his temper. He gave goat milk to singer Kylie Minogue in public. He tricked Bill Clinton's bodyguards, allowing him to get close enough to pose questions to the former U.S. president. Vitalii Sediuk, who works for 1+1 TV station's breakfast show, is something like Ukraine's Borat.

Sediuk has been grabbing international attention for playing tricks on celebrities for less than a year since he gave a hydrangea to Madonna last September in Cannes. She put the flower down, hissing "I absolutely loathe hydrangeas."

He got a lot of sympathetic press then, and Madonna was accused of treating a journalist badly. She felt so strongly about the incident that she even released a video on Youtube later, in which, instead of an apology, she says: "It's a free country! So f**k you, I like roses!"

Sediuk says his job as an infotainment reporter is all about getting a reaction, preferably an unusual one. He seems to manage it well.

Trained in martial arts, he has been doing infotainment for nearly two years, while studying at the same time. He graduated last month, at the age of 23.

Sediuk originally developed his provocative style of reporting while doing

an "English for Euro-2012 series" for his TV show. He pretended to be a foreigner and approached medical and police workers with questions, testing their English skills.

He then moved on to reporting celebrities, and Pamela Anderson was his first. After Anderson came Minogue, whom he gave a bottle of goat milk he knew she likes. Then came Bill Clinton, whom Sediuk caught surrounded by bodyguards during his visit to Kyiv. He managed to trick the bodyguards, and got to interview Clinton.

"It is nearly impossible to arrange an interview with a world celebrity," Sediuk says. "They won't just talk to some random reporter from Ukraine. So you go to the red carpet and try to

ask your questions while being pushed away by the guards. But I enjoy it even more than having a regular interview."

Because of this style of reporting, Los Angeles Times recently compared Sediuk to Borat, a brash imaginary character created by the British comic Sacha Baron Cohen.

Yet Sediuk claims he has no idea who Borat is. "I definitely need to watch it, now that everyone compares me to Borat," he says, grinning.

L.A. Times last month reported the incident with Will Smith in Moscow, when he slapped Sediuk, thinking the reporter was about to kiss him on the mouth. Sediuk caught the actor coming to the premiere of "Men in Black 3," first hugging him and → 16

World Traveler



WITH SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Do the Chinese eat dogs?

The moment you come back from China, friends and relatives shower you with millions of questions, trying to reality check their ideas about this country with you. What did you eat there in the country of dog meat and all the weird stuff? Are workers in villages paid with a bowl of rice per day? How did you handle the smog?

While China is more than able to shock foreigners, it mostly impresses with its sharp contrast of bustling cities and hi-tech modernity - and the virgin countryside where life has not changed much for the last 1,000 years. So, as you pack your bags, get ready for contrasts like wandering between skyscrapers along the streets that are so clean you can eat off them, and then seeing villagers skinning slaughtered dogs at a local market.

Arriving in Shanghai, China's biggest city with a population of 23 million people, you are taken aback even as you board the Maglev train from the airport to the city, going more than 400 kilometers per hour. Setting foot in the very heart of the city feels like stepping into Futurama science fiction cartoon, with skyscrapers of all shapes and colors and huge spaces around you.

Somehow, even in this busy area, Chinese find a way to fill it in with cozy small parks, fountains and flowers that sometimes make you forget you are in the city. And, just to get that question about the smog out of the way - no, it is not an issue in Shanghai, at least no more than it is in Kyiv.

Just a stone's throw away from the bustling financial center you find another China - the old city where streets are so narrow and maze-like that it takes an effort for two people to pass. The laundry is hanging everywhere just above your head and locals are cooking on stoves, squeezed in their tiny balconies. Unlike shopping malls outside the old city, shops here are so tiny some of them have space for just a chair and a basket of fruit, or baozi - stuffed steamed buns - for sale.

As you take the metro and go away from center, you find the Shanghai where most people live - fields of pillar-like residential buildings, which seem to never end. However, diving into the cozy streets between the buildings you realize that it is here that you can see a regular day of the Chinese: neighbors playing a traditional table game of mahjong, elderly women knitting and gossiping loudly, children running around in flocks and old men selling juicy sugar cane sticks on every street corner.

Another reality awaits you in rural China. We chose → 21

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Infotainer gets world fame for messing with stars

→ 15 then apparently trying to plant a kiss.

Smith reacted with a slap and was heard saying "Hey, man, what the hell is your problem, buddy?"

The Ukrainian was accused of being rude, but he says he didn't mean to be. "I've heard that he was sort of upset after that," Sediuk says. "I didn't plan that kiss. The only thing I planned was my looks. I thought everyone's going to wear black for the 'Men In Black' premiere and wore a white suit to be noticed."

Sediuk, who actually seems like a genuinely nice guy, says he apologized to Smith in his interview with CBS channel because he "understands that he crossed a line and intruded into personal space."

Organizers kicked him out of the premiere after the attempted kiss, and wanted to take the tape away. But he and his cameraman found another way out and kept the recording. He was then approached by a Russian reporter, who asked whether he was going to sue Smith for the slap.

"I was like 'no, no', and the first minute I got into the train [back to Kyiv], I called my mother and told her to pay no attention to any strange things that she may hear about me," the reporter recalls.

"Those couple weeks were crazy," he says, sitting cozily in a Kyiv coffee shop. He just returned from Hollywood, where he was flown to give three interviews about the incident.

Sediuk is now planning to meet Selena Gomez, Sheryl Crow and Madonna – again. The pop queen is coming to Kyiv to give a concert in August.

Sediuk says he has already heard, unofficially, that he is persona non-grata at Madonna's Ukrainian press events. That won't stop him, though. He wants some tete-a-tete with the diva, and is thinking what kind of flowers he should be giving her.

"Giving her roses that she likes is a bit ordinary," he says. And ordinary just does not seem to go with him.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com

Tasty speciality beers give a flavor of Ukraine

BY DENIS RAFALSKY
RAFALSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

Apart from ubiquitous mass-produced big beer brands, Ukraine can offer some brews that you just can't find anywhere else. One particular lager stands out for a long history on this turf.

"Ukraine is a lager nation," says Artem Starikov, a 31-year old lawyer and beer blogger. "And the most famous sort in the country is certainly Zhigulivske lager."

It's a historic brand dating back to the era before the Soviet Union. Sometimes it's referred to as "Zhiguli" – the same as a popular Soviet car, which in the West was more commonly known as Lada. Legend goes that it was originally brewed by Alfred von Vacano, an Austrian entrepreneur, in 1881, in Samara, Russia. It was called Viennese Beer then.

In 1936, the Soviet authorities changed the bourgeois-sounding name and launched its production at many breweries. At the time the lager was a very pale straw color and contained around 2.8 percent of alcohol. This was pretty much the only beer brand easily available all over the Soviet Union.

It disappeared for a while after the break-up of the Soviet Union, and it took breweries a while to realize that it's a brand well worth recycling. "Beer producers consider Zhiguli to be an essential type [for making now] because its name attracts consumers that are nostalgic for the Soviet past," Starikov says. "Sometimes they don't follow the original formula and slap the Zhigulivske label on anything, knowing



Ukraine offers some brews that can't be found anywhere else. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



that there are always going to be those who buy this beer because of the name."

To find the authentic Zhigulivske, Starikov recommends buying the brand made by the Kyiv Podil brewery or the Uman brewery. These breweries

Zhigulivske is an historic brand older than the Soviet Union. Look out for these labels of the Podil brewery in Kyiv.

designed labels reminiscent of the original Soviet one. Look out for blue stripes on a red background, with Zhigulivske inscribed at an angle in gold letters.

Starikov says that Lager Zhiguli Pivo Barnoe, brewed and bottled by Radomyshl brewery to the recipe of the Moscow Zhiguly Restaurant, is also a must. It's available practically in any supermarkets and in many bars.

Of course, Zhigulivske is not the only pebble on the beach. An adventurous beer lover is also advised to try a range of beers coming from the Lviv Brewery Persha Pryvatna Brovarnya.

"I never have any second thoughts about drinking new brands of this brewery because the beer is always of high quality," Starikov says. "I'd recommend to try Avtorske and Platinum beers."

Kyiv Podil brewery also makes a remarkable dark lager (temne in Ukrainian), called Gostynniy Dvir. "This is German Dunkel (a traditional style brewed in Munich and popular throughout Bavaria) with a Ukrainian zest," Starikov says. "My friends and I regaled English beer expert Peter Brown coming to Kyiv with Gostynniy Dvir recently. He seemed fully satisfied with its taste."

In Ukraine, beer is usually accompanied with snacks. Salty dry fish tops the list of beer accompaniments. It may be unusual for the European palate, but here it goes down like a song. Fried cheese, onion rings, sausages or nuts are also common.

Kyiv Post staff writer Denis Rafalsky can be reached at rafalsky@kyivpost.com

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Going Out Guide

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Comments and tips are welcome. Email the lifestyle team at ls@kyivpost.com

June 20

Hugh Laurie to play blues in Kyiv

Hugh Laurie might have been one of Britain's top actors for decades, but the Ukrainian audience discovered and fell in love with him only in recent years, after he played the main role in the popular American TV series *House M.D.* Cynical and clever, Gregory House became a heartthrob for many women here. And now Laurie is about to capitalize on his fame in this part of the world, and present a different side of himself. He is coming to Kyiv with his debut blues album called "Let Them Talk."

Released in 2011, the album is made up of classical blues songs recorded in New Orleans and Los Angeles.

Laurie is a vocalist and keyboard player of the Los Angeles charity rock band called "Band from TV," whose members are stars of US television series. In addition to piano Laurie plays guitar, drums, harmonica and saxophone.

Hugh Laurie. June 20. Palats Ukraina. 8 p.m. Hr 300-2,900
The Kyiv concert is a part of Laurie's ongoing tour across Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

Friday, June 15

Classical music

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free ①

Gulf Stream. Chamber Music Festival. Works of Poliova, Sydorenko, Arefyev, Tsalko, Popov, Yaskov (cello, viola, violin, piano, synthesizer). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40 ②

Theaters

Sylvia (lyrical comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 40 – 70 ④

Edith Piaf. A Life On A Loan. (musical). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20 – 150 ①

Zaporozhets Beyond The Danube (opera). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10 – 200 ②

On A Holly Night (premiere). New Theater On Pechersk. 7 p.m. Hr 80 ③

Live music

Mad Heads UkrainSKA & Red Rocks (rock hits). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ①

Partizanske Vytivky (Russian rock). Docker's ABC. Midnight. Hr 50 ②

Wake Up! (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ③

Clubs

Pandamania Party. Egoist. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ⑤

Dj Anna Lee Birthday Party. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 30-60 for males ⑥

Rave On: Future! Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males ⑦

Miscellaneous

Mykola Krisochenko (art exhibition). Wunjo-Art gallery. 10 a.m. Free ⑧

Ukraine-Music-Europe (music festival). Sullivan Room. Midnight. Hr 150-500 ⑨

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition.

Spivoch pole by Lavra. Hr 20 ⑩

Ukraine Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids ⑪ See more details on page 19

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 ⑫

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Thin Ties (art exhibition). Greter art-center. 11 a.m. Free ⑬

PAC-UA Pavlo Makov exhibition. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ⑭

700 T-Shirts From World's Best Football Players. Atmosfera 360. 11 a.m. Hr 30 ⑮

Shows

Michael Feiner. Crystall Hall. 11 p.m. Hr 150 ⑯

Ivanushki International. SkyBar. 11 p.m. Hr 200 for females Hr 400 for males ⑰

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 4:15 p.m. Hr 24-30 ⑱

Saturday, June 16

Classical music

Works of Bach, Vidor, Albinoni, Pachelbel (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ⑲

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free ⑳

Theaters

An Uncle's Dream (tragicomedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15 – 110 ㉑

Swan Lake (ballet, starring Nino Ananiashvili). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10 – 150 ㉒

The Guests Are Coming At Midnight (tragifarce). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 40 – 70 ㉓

A Heavenly Deal (premiere). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15 – 120 ㉔

The Gypsy Baron (premiere). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80 – 150 ㉕

Live music

Aria Tribute With Symfomania (Russian rock). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ㉖

Mad Heads UkrainSKA. Docker's ABC. Midnight. Hr 75 ㉗

Dilya (pop rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ㉘

Clubs

Summer House Punks. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males ㉙

Kazantip Party. Egoist. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ㉚

Girls, Girls, Girls Party. City Entertainment in Sky Mall. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ㉛

Shows

Kiev Big Band (salsa jazz). Freedom Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 150-350 ㉜ See more details on page 18

Status Quo (rock). Palats Ukraina. 5 p.m. Hr 100-2,500 ㉝

Ukraine-Music-Europe (music festival). Sullivan Room. Midnight. Hr 150-500 ㉞

W-You. Babuin Library Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 60 ㉟

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoch pole by Lavra. Hr 20 ㊱

Ukraine Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids ㊲

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 ㊳

The Knight of Kiev Detinets. Historical Fencing Tournament. Kyivska Rus Park. 3 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 50 for kids. Free for kids under 7 ㊴

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Thin Ties (art exhibition). Greter art-center. 11 a.m. Free ㊵

PAC-UA Pavlo Makov Exhibition. Pinchuk Art Center. Free ㊶

700 T-Shirts From World's Best Football Players. Atmosfera 360. 11 a.m. Hr 30 ㊷

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 12:30 p.m. Hr 24-30 ㊸

Sunday, June 17

Classical music

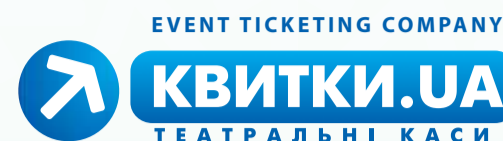
The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free ㊹

Theaters

I Am The Heir (premiere). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40 – 70 ㊺

Quartet (drama). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10 – 75 ㊻

Aida (opera). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10 – 200 ㊼



for tickets online, please visit
www.kvytky.ua

Bolero. Rain (ballet). Kyiv Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and Youth. 7 p.m. Hr 50 – 60 ㊽

Live music

Crazy Train (rock hits). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ㊾

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker's ABC. Midnight. Free ㊿

Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ①

Jazz Trio of Nataliya Lebedeva, Kostyantyn Ionenko and Alex Fantayev. Babuin. 7 p.m. Hr 35 ②

Club

Phototerapia Party. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-30, free before midnight ③

R'n'B Boom. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 10-30 ④

Shows

Global East Rock Fest. Stereo Plaza. 1 p.m. Hr 450 ⑤ See more details on page 17

Jucifer. Xlib Club. 7 p.m. Hr 70-100 ⑥

Lebedeva Trio. Babuin. 7 p.m. Hr 35 ⑦

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoch pole by Lavra. Hr 20 ⑧

Ukraine Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids ⑨

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 ⑩

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Thin Ties (art exhibition). Greter art-center. 11 a.m. Free ⑪

PAC-UA 7 Pavlo Makov exhibition. Pinchuk Art Center. Free ⑫

700 T-Shirts From World's Best Football Players. Atmosfera 360. 11 a.m. Hr 30 ⑬



June 17

Global East Rock Festival

Organizers of this festival have an ambition to fulfill: they want to have Eastern Europe's biggest rock metal festival in Kyiv.

This year, the rock galore is taking place on June 17, and will feature an impressive lineup of bands from Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Poland, Denmark, Estonia and Holland.

The festival's lineup is featuring The Holy Blood, Nekrosun, Hollow Haze, Troll Gnet El, Metsatoll, Symbolizer, W.H.I.T.E., Within Temptation, Sylpheed, El-Int, Inferno, and Lucky Punch. So, those who like metal, get your gear ready!

Global Rock Festival. June 17. Stereo Plaza. 1p.m. Hr 450

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Georgian jazz diva returns to Kyiv (again)

Georgia's best jazz voice Nino Katamadze is much loved in Ukraine. She also seems to make good money here because she comes frequently and her concerts tend to sell out. This time, however, she will give an open-air concert in the official fan zone of Euro 2012 on Khreshchatyk Street.

The 38-year-old singer will be accompanied by Insight jazz band and will perform musical compositions of her own. Her music is a mix of Georgian and modern world music schools, with surprising, strong, emotional and deep vocals. It has been defined as jazz, rock, pop and psychedelia.

Katamadze's warm-up act will be the band Mgzavrebi, a modern Georgian jazz band.
Nino Katamadze & Insight. June 20. Euro 2012 official fan zone. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1,600



blackseanews.net

June 20

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 12:40 p.m. Hr 24-30 1

Monday, June 18

Classical music

Evening of Viennese Classics. Works of Mozart (organ, piano). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 2

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free 1

Live music

Animals Session (classic rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 1

Vostochnyi Express. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 2

Armenian Project (ethno jazz). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free 4

Alexei German (trumpet). Divan. 8 p.m. Free 5

Theaters

Spectators Are Not Allowed! (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 4

The Cynical Comedy (based on William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure"). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 25-120 2

La Traviata (opera by Giuseppe Verdi). Kyiv Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and Youth. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 2

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoche pole by the Lavra. Hr 20 2

Ukraina Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids 6

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 2

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Thin Ties (art exhibition). Greter art-center. 11 a.m. Free 5

700 T-Shirts From World's Best Football Players. Atmosfera 360. 11 a.m. Hr 30 2

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 4:15 p.m. Hr 24-30 1

Tuesday, June 19

Classical music

Kyiv-Brass Chamber Ensemble Playing Scheidt, Handel, Handy, Borodin, Khachaturian, Bilousov. House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 2

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free 1

Live music

Ruki V Bryuki (rockabilly). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 1

Tres Deseos (latino). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20 2

Top Orchestra (balkan). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free 4

Theaters

Venice Waltz (ballet). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-300 6

Four Reasons To Get Married (love comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 4

A Wife Is A Wife (based on Anton Chekhov works). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-200 1

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoche pole by the Lavra. Hr 20 2

Ukraina Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids 6

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 2

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 4:15 p.m. Hr 24-30 1

Wednesday, June 20

Classical music

Lyatoshynsky Classical Music Ensemble Playing Haydn, Vivaldi, Liszt (oboe). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90 2

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free 1

Live music

Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 1

The Magma (pop rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 2

Dok (jazz rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free 4

Jazz Wednesday with Viktor Solomin and DomRa Band. Divan. 8 p.m. Free 5

Theaters

The Bat (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120 2

Dangerous Liaisons (drama). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70 4

The Cross Paths (tragicomedy). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-200 1

Stories From The Dressing Room (tales about theater). New Theater On Pechersk. 7 p.m. Hr 80 2

Cinderella (opera by Gioachino Rossini). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-200 6

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoche pole by the Lavra. Hr 20 2

Ukraina Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids 6

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 2

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Shows

Hugh Laurie. Palats Ukraina. 8 p.m. Hr 300-2,900. See more details on page 17 1

Nino Katamadze & Insight. Kyiv Official Fan Zone Euro 2012. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1,600. See more details on page 18 5

TE Morris. Spartak Stadium. 7 p.m. Hr 50 2

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 4:15 p.m. Hr 24-30 1

Thursday, June 21

Classical music

Works of Byrd, Scheidt, Pachelbel, Bach, Widor (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 2

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free 1

Live music

Mama Mia (italiano disco). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 1

Karnavalnaya Zhara (rock hits). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 2

Boobamara (balkan). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free 4

HeartBlanch. Divan. 8 p.m. Free 5

Theaters

A Heavenly Deal (premiere). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120 1

The Gypsy Baron (premiere). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 30-100 2

The Crossroads (ballet-triptych). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-200 6

Carmina Burana (scenic cantata). Kyiv Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and Youth. 7 p.m. Hr 20-50 2

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Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoche pole by the Lavra. Hr 20 2

Ukraina Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids 6

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20 2

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Shows

Death In June (dark folk). Sullivan room. 8 p.m. Hr 250 6

Movies

Chico Y Rita (cartoon musical). Zhovten. 4:15 p.m. Hr 24-30 1

Don't Look Now. Master Class 7 p.m. Free 5

Friday, June 22

Classical music

Works of Albinoni, Scarlatti, Bach, Handel, Marcello (organ, harpsichord). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-70 2

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free 1

Salsa night with Kiev Big Band and stars

If you're into salsa, this week has a real treat for you: a rare chance to see some world class salsa stars in Kyiv.

The biggest local jazz band Kiev Big Band is joining forces with Frankie Vasquez and Mitch Frohman, who are

flying in from New York to perform 16 salsa compositions live. The concert is called "Salsa in the big city" and it will indeed be sexy.
Salsa jazz. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 150-350



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June 16

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Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Shows

Virskiy Academic Dance Ensemble. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 80-450

Saturday, June 23

Classical music

Works of Bach (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100

The 10th International Competition of Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Live music

Tabula Rasa & Partizanski Vytivky. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Mad Heads XL & Rockfour. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

MJ project (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Point. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Welcome To Ukraine (premiere). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120

Vasya Should Call (tragicomedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Nazar Stodolya (knights ballad). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Romeo And Juliette (ballet). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-300

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition. Spivoche pole by the Lavra. Hr 20

Ukraina Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids

Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20

Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Shows

Tony Sheridan. Crystal Hall. 6 p.m. Hr 300

Sunday, June 24

Classical music

Works of Grieg, Sibelius, Part-Trisagion, Shnitke (piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Live music

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Free

Crazy Train (rock hits). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Stiletto Heels (blues). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Kaydashova Family (comedy). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

Return Of The Prodigal Father (premiere). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Manon Lescaut (opera by Giacomo Puccini). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-200

Miscellaneous

Euro 2012 Flower Exhibition.



Through July 1

Ucraina terra cossacorum, a Polish and Ukrainian culture fest

Mamayeva Sloboda, an ethnic-themed park in Kyiv, and Polska Organizacja Turystyczna, the Polish Organization for Tourism are making their own investment into Euro-mania in both nations, albeit with a spin. Mamayeva Sloboda will be hosting a Polish-Ukrainian medieval culture festival through July 1. A horse and traditional weapons stunt show will be taking place every day at noon, complimented with folk band performances, tastings of traditional foods and drinks of both nations, as well as various master classes throughout the day.

Ucraina terra cossacorum. Mamayeva Sloboda. Through July 1. Hr 40 for adults, Hr 20 for kids. See mamajeva-sloboda.ua for a detailed schedule.

Spivoche pole. Hr 20
Ukraina Terra Cossacorum. Polish and Ukrainian Culture Fest. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 20 for kids
Kyiv Sculpture Project. Central Botanical Garden. Hr 20
Litvinovka Football Fan Fest. Litvinovka village. 6 p.m. Hr 165

Addresses of venues

Classical Music
National Philharmonic of Ukraine
2 Volodymyr Uzviz St., 278-1697
filharmonia.com.ua/en
House of Organ Music
77 Velyka Vasylkivska St., 528-3186
organhall.kiev.ua
School of Jazz and Pop Art
7-A Chelyabinska St., 517-6188
National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music
1-3/11 Horodetsky St. (044) 279-1242
operna-nmau.kiev.ua

Movies
Zhovten
26 Kostyantynivska St., 205-5951
zhovten-kino.kiev.ua/
Kyiv
19 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervonoarmiyka), 234-7381
kievino.com.ua
Kinopanorama
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-3041
kinopanorama.com.ua
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6 Saksahanskogo St., 287-6780
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Live Music
Docker Pub
25 Bohatyrska St., metro Heroiv Dnipro, 537-1340
docker.com.ua
Docker's ABC
15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717,
abc.docker.com.ua
Porter Pub
2A Konstantynivska St., 536-9571
porter.com.ua
Art Club 44
44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137
club44.com.ua
Divan
2 Bessarabyska Square, 235-7366
festrestdivan.com.ua
Bingo
112 Peremohy Avenue 424-2555
bingo.ua
Babuyn Library Pub
10 Petlury St. 235-7316. babuyn.ua
Porter Pub
34 Heroiv Dnipro St., 485-2011
porter.com.ua
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Clubs
Bionica
128 Borsahovska St., 277-4747
bionicaclub.com.ua
Seven Music Club
1G Saksahanskoho St. 205-4451
se7en.com.ua
Koleso Theater
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partyroom.com.ua
Cinema Club
1 Enthusiastov St., 295-5854
Saxon Club
4 Trutenko Onufriy St., 257-4070
saxonclub.com.ua
Dorothy Pub
16/43 Saksahanskoho St., 287-0530
pubdorothy.com.ua
Sky Bar
5 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervonoarmiyka), 465-8880
skybar.com.ua
Zolotoy Dukat
26 Shota Rustaveli 254-0715
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galleryclub.kiev.ua
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forsageclub.com.ua
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8 Nauky Av., 524-2209
primeclub.in.ua
Crystal Hall
1 Dneprovsky Spusk, 288-5069
crystalhall.com.ua
Arena Entertainment
2A, Basseynaya St. 492-0000
arena-kiev.com/eng
Mantra
4 Basseynaya St., 504-2555
mantra.dj
Egoist
124/140 Gorlovskaya St., 223-3633
egoist-club.com.ua

Fiesta
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fiesta.im
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ft.org.ua
Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater
5 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo St., 234-4223
rusdram.com.ua
Koleso Theater
8 Andriyivskiy uzviz St., 425-0422
koleso.teatr.kiev.ua
Drama & Comedy Theatre on the left bank of Dnipro
25 Brovarsky Avenue, 517-8980
drama-comedy.kiev.ua
Kiev Academic Drama Theater in Podil
4 Kontraktova Pl., 425-5489
Theateronpodol.com
National Opera Theater of Ukraine
50 Volodymyrska St., 279-1169
opera.com.ua
Suzriya Theater
14B Yaroslaviv Val St., 272-4188
suzriya.org.ua
Golden Gates Theater
1A Grushevskogo St., 501-8595
zoloti-vorota.kiev.ua
Plastic Drama Theater
7A Shovkovychina St., 253-9383
ktpd.ho.com.ua
House of Actors
7 Yaroslaviv Val St., 235-2081
actorhall.com.ua
Molody Theater
17 prorizna St., 234-6251
molody.kiev.ua
Kyiv National Academic Theater of Operetta
53/3 Chervonoarmiyka St., 287-6257
kiev-operetta.kiev.ua
New Theater on Pechersk
5 Nemirovich-Danchenko St., 253-6550
newTheater.kiev.ua
Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and Youth
2 Mezhyhirskaya St., 425-4280
musicTheater.kiev.ua

Dakh Modern Art Theatre
13B Velyka Vasylkivska St., 529-4062
dax.com.ua
Art Union Chorny Kvadrat
1-5 Artema St., 353-0843
artkvadrat.com
Shows
Palats Ukraina
13 Velyka Vasylkivska St. 247-2316
npmu.com.ua/
Freedom Hall
134 Frunze St. 468-3232
freedomhall.com.ua/
Xlib Club
12 Frunze St., Thu-Sat 417-2546
myspace.com/xlibclub
Kinopanorama Arthouse
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-1135
kinopanorama.com.ua/
Stereo Plaza
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www.stereoplaza.com.ua/
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Animals compete to be best oracle of Euro 2012 games

BY ANASTASIA FORINA
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Neither the German elephant and cow, nor Ukraine's own pig and polecat can match the predicting talent of Paul the octopus. In fact, even multiple bookmakers around the world cannot predict the results of Euro 2012

matches with the same accuracy as Paul, the deceased octopus who was the chief oracle of World Cup 2010. Impressively, the mollusk predicted all eight results correctly. Ukraine's duo of hog Funtik and polecat Fred have struggled to repeat his achievement.

Fred managed to predict

the correct outcomes of seven matches, including Ukraine's victory on June 11. He also turned out to be correct about the championship's very first match between Poland and Greece on June 8, which ended with a draw.

Fred was born in Kharkiv zoo three years ago, and got his non-Ukrainian sounding name from the word "ferret," a sim-

ilar mammal, according to Oleksiy Hryhoriev, director of the zoo.

"We have high hopes for him," Hryhoriev said in an interview with a Kharkiv newspaper.

Until June 11, Funtik was the lead oracle with 66-percent accuracy. He misread the fortune for his native team, and failed to pre-

dict any draws, but is still scoring better than William Hill, the world's biggest bookmaker, whose accuracy stands at 40 percent.

"He is just the best. He is calm and cool-headed," says Ivan Shpakovsky, his caretaker and guard.

Funtik was brought to Kyiv on June 8 and with much fanfare he was placed in the fan zone on Khreschatyk. He has had so much attention from the fans that he often just turns his head away from the crowd in a pitiful gesture. Funtik is just three years old, but weighs 386 kilos. He had a reputation even before arriving to Kyiv for accurate predictions of results of local matches in his home town in Zhytomyr Oblast.

The actual method of making predictions is the same for all competing animal oracles: they are offered two plates of their favorite food, with flags of both contenders attached. The one the animal picks is supposed to become the winner.

→ **Bookmaker William Hill has something to learn from the oracles of the animal kingdom**

If the oracle refuses to touch either of them, that means a draw.

Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at forina@kyivpost.com

NEWS ITEM: Ukraine's psychic pig Funtik, who is predicting the results of matches at the Euro 2012, was wrong twice on June 11 when it predicted that France would beat England and Sweden would win over Ukraine. France played England to a 1-1 draw and Ukraine beat Sweden 2-1. Before his June 11 double mistake, Funtik's success rate was 66 percent after he got the wins for Germany, Russia, Denmark and Croatia right. Before arriving to Kyiv, Funtik was famous for his accurate predictions of results of local matches in his home region of Zhytomyr Oblast.



Funtik the hog is living in Kyiv's fan zone. His predictions are better than some of those by bookmakers. (Ganna Bernyk)



Advertisement

TV Hostess Olga Freimut Shares Summer Sensation Activia Piña Colada

What's the taste of summer? For TV hostess Olga Freimut, it's new Activia Piña Colada drinkable yogurt.

Freimut met journalists at an airfield in Odessa on June 9 to talk about the new Activia flavor while flying in a hot air balloon and then a helicopter.

She said that a healthy lifestyle and good nutrition gives an incredible feeling of lightness. Freimut, Activia's celebrity spokeswoman, is an uncompromising advocate for healthy digestion and nutrition.

The new Activia Piña Colada is natural low fat (1.5%) yogurt with coconut milk and pineapple, an exotic taste girls love in the heat of summer!

During the news conference, Freimut shared the main principles of her diet with journalists.

"Breakfast is very important to me" said the TV hostess. "Every morning, I eat Activia and three or four types of fruit."

"Later in the day, I prefer grilled fish — but not salmon — for protein, and boiled chicken or veal. I try to eat very little bread and lots of vegetables. I eat small portions, but I eat often. It's so easy!"

A TV hostess' life can be very active. In Odessa, Freimut bravely climbed aboard a hot air balloon and into a helicopter, which gave her an impressive aerial view of the city known as the Jewel of the Black Sea.

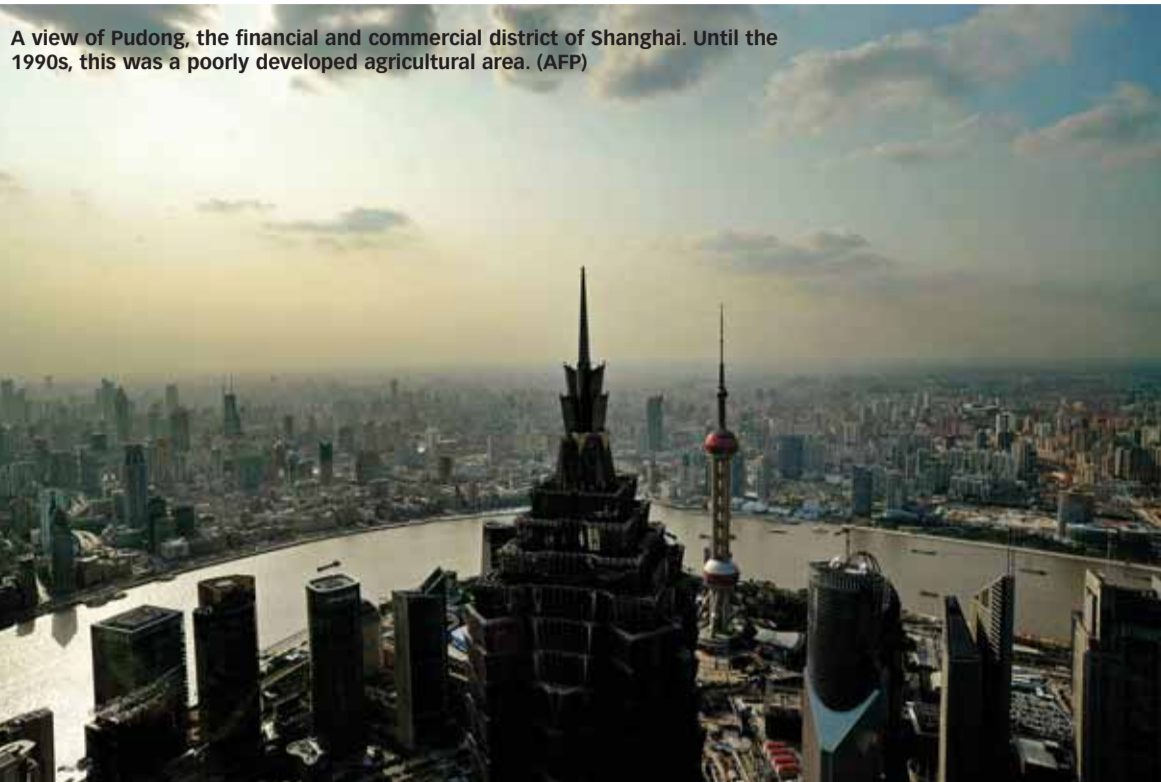
Journalists went aloft as well, then, after sampling Activia Piña Colada, took a walk around the city.

"In the office or on a stroll outdoors," Freimut said, "Activia Piña Colada is the new taste of summer!"



TV hostess Olga Freimut prepares to experience a double feeling of lightness: a flight over Odessa in a hot air balloon, and the refreshing taste of summer — Activia Piña Colada drinkable yogurt.





A view of Pudong, the financial and commercial district of Shanghai. Until the 1990s, this was a poorly developed agricultural area. (AFP)



A woman bakes and sells cakes with different fillings at the outdoor market in Shanghai (top) (shanghaishakeblog.com). Boats in the ancient town of Zhujiajiao near Shanghai. (Svitlana Tuchynska)

China is waiting to be discovered

→ **15** Yangshuo district in the southern province of Guanxi, a mountainous place amid the Li River, so beautiful it has inspired Chinese painters and poets of ancient and modern times. The place is believed to be one of the most picturesque areas in the whole of China and is depicted on the 20 Yuan banknote.

While Yangshuo is crawling with foreign and Chinese tourists, it is the villages around the town that show you the other side of China.

Here, in a village market, you might

Flight Kyiv-Shanghai (via Moscow, Aeroflot) return ticket \$600
 Three-star hotel near the city center in Shanghai (double room) \$26
 Four-star hotel in Yangshuo (double room) \$15
 A meal for two people in a middle restaurant in Shanghai - \$8-\$15
 Bamboo boat ride from Fuli to Yangshuo - \$17 per six-seat boat.

get an answer to that dog eating question – yes, in some areas people do eat dogs. A butcher stripping the slaughtered dog of its fur is certainly a sight to remember.

As I rushed from the market wondering if I am going to get sick, I thought about pigs and cows, which are lovely animals as well. I do eat those, so I guess it's kind of strange that a skinned canine would make me so nauseous.

Other things locals do are much more pleasant to watch. Besides, it does not seem that people here are poor and starving, like friends back home imagine.

The ancient Fuli town specializes in making traditional paper fans of all sizes and colors. Mashed-up paper is poured onto special canvases to mold the shapes of fans. Canvases are then carefully placed outside most houses to dry in the sun.

Inside the house there is usually a person busy peeling dry paper fans

from their molds, painting them and attaching wooden handles. When a woman saw us staring through the open door to at the process, she started gesticulating inviting us in her house. She got on with her work, chirping about what she was doing. She clearly couldn't care less that we don't understand a word of her Chinese.

The neighboring ancient village of Xingping has a different specialty: people there grow oranges. A compact village squeezed between the mountains and the Li River, it uses every plot of land in and around the village, even up in the hills.

Walking up to these gardens makes for a lovely hike, and you will also be rewarded with a marvelous view over the area, with its rice paddles, the jungle stretching on the opposite side of the river, and the mountains on the horizon.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchynska can be reached at tuchynska@kyivpost.com



The area around the ancient town of Yangshuo in Guangxi province is considered one of the most picturesque in China. (Svitlana Tuchynska)




Welcome to Dali Art Cafe, the new project of Kozyrna Karta

On June 8, in the Mystetskyi Arsenal inner yard Kozyrna Karta new project - Dali Art cafe – opened their doors. All guests enjoyed the concert programme prepared for the special date – Fashion Performance by Svetlana Bevza, Equilibrists Show and music by DJ Stas and DJ Zahar Z-Form.

It was also the day when new menu by chef was presented for the first time. The speciality of the menu was Garlic soup – the favourite dish of Salvador Dali.

Dali Art Café is a project of Kozyrna Karta to support the First Kyiv Biennale Arsenale 2012.

Dali Art Café - 12 Lavrska St.
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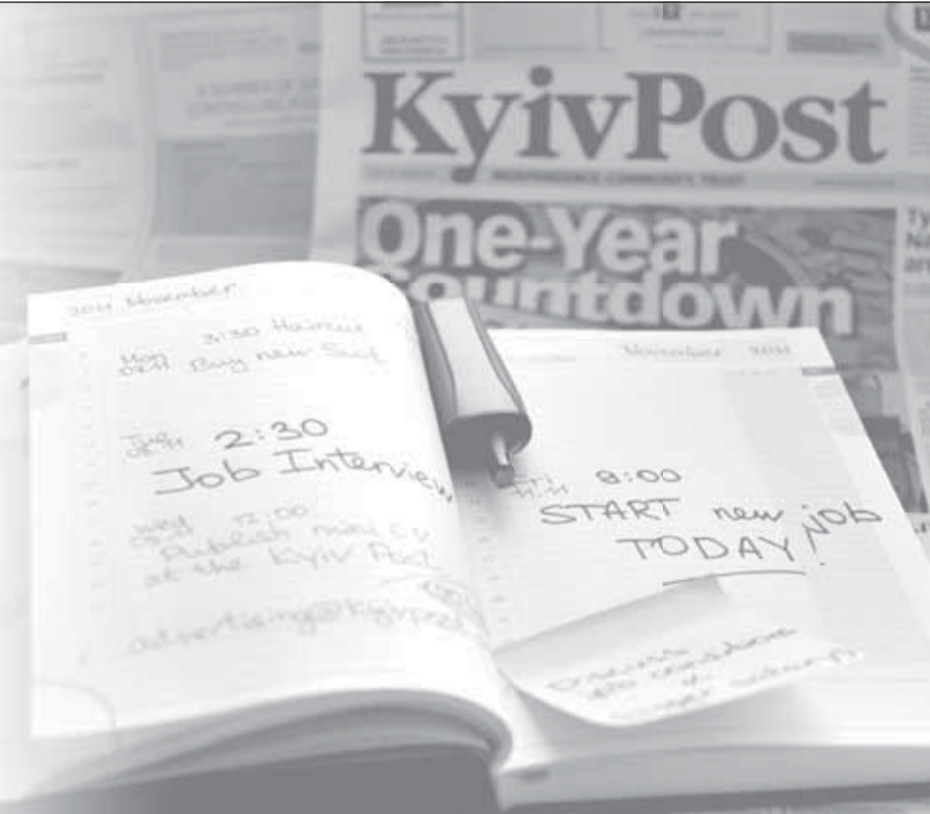
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The British Embassy Kyiv is seeking to recruit a Media and Digital Communications Officer to support the work of the Policy Delivery Team of the Embassy. The position is full time fixed term to cover maternity leave. The successful candidate must be able to start work not later than Monday 16 July 2012.

The Media and Digital Communications Officer will be responsible for supporting to Embassy digital engagement, including Embassy website and social media accounts; organising public diplomacy events and campaigns, including inward visits, press-conferences and interviews, projects, and evaluating impact; handling publicity and promotional materials, including website marketing and Embassy corporate branding matters; responding to routine enquiries and information requests; covering for other members of Policy Delivery Team as required.

The successful applicant should have excellent presentation skills; relevant IT skills, including MS Office Excel and Word; be fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian; excellent translation skills; be attentive to detail; be self-motivated and able to maintain professionalism under pressure, have experience of working with the media, web-administration and social networks.

Further details of duties and responsibilities, as well as the application form, are available from <http://ukinukraine.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/our-embassy-in-ukraine/working-for-us/>.



This should be completed in English and submitted to vacancy.kyiv@fco.gov.uk. The deadline for applications is **Sunday 01 July 2012**.

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The USAID funded project implemented by Pact and based in Kyiv is seeking for qualified candidates to fill in the positions from August 01, 2012:

Position Title: Finance and Administration Director (FA Director)

Position Summary: The FA Director will be responsible for all financial and administrative operations of the project. The FA Director is to have a strong knowledge of non-profit financial management. The FA Director is responsible for strategic planning; budget & forecast development; grants management; audit & finance analysis; internal controls, policies & procedures development; monthly financial reports preparation.

Qualifications:

- University Degree in Finance or Management;
- Minimum 5 years of experience on similar position;
- Progressive experience of work with international technical assistance programs supported by USAID or European donors;
- Excellent computer skills, knowledge of accounting programs (QuickBooks, Sun System, ACCPAC);
- Proven knowledge of Ukrainian tax, financial and labour laws; knowledge of Ukrainian and international accounting standards;
- Strong leadership skills;
- Fluent oral and written English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Position Title: Finance and Administration Assistant (FA Assistant)

Position Summary: The FA Assistant is responsible for coordinating administrative and financial support of the project, under supervision of the FA Director. The successful candidate will manage petty cash payments and conduct bank operations; coordinate financial operations of the project, maintain appropriate records and documentation, ensure compliance with Pact and donors' regulations and Ukrainian legislation.

Qualifications:

- BA in Finance, Accounting, or related field required;
- Work experience with an international organization preferred;
- Knowledge of Ukrainian and international accounting standards;
- Excellent computer skills are required (QuickBooks, Sun System, ACCPAC);
- Fluent oral and written English, Ukrainian and Russian, and word processing.

To apply: Please send your CV and Cover Letter to jobs@pact.org.ua not later than July 01, 2012. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs is looking for a **Political/Elections Program Assistant**

Requirements:

- BA Degree (Political Science or related subjects)
- Interest and knowledge in Ukrainian politics and elections
- 2 years of relevant work experience
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Fluent English and Ukrainian;
- Written and oral translation experience
- Proven organizational skills and efficiency
- Studying/living/working experience outside of Ukraine preferred
- Ability to travel, work in a team and under pressure
- Computer literacy (Excel, PowerPoint)

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- Assist in program implementation, reporting and administration
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- Perform other job-related duties, as assigned.

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For additional information about organization please see www.ndi.org and if you have additional questions regarding this vacancy please write to: Oksana@ndi.kiev.ua

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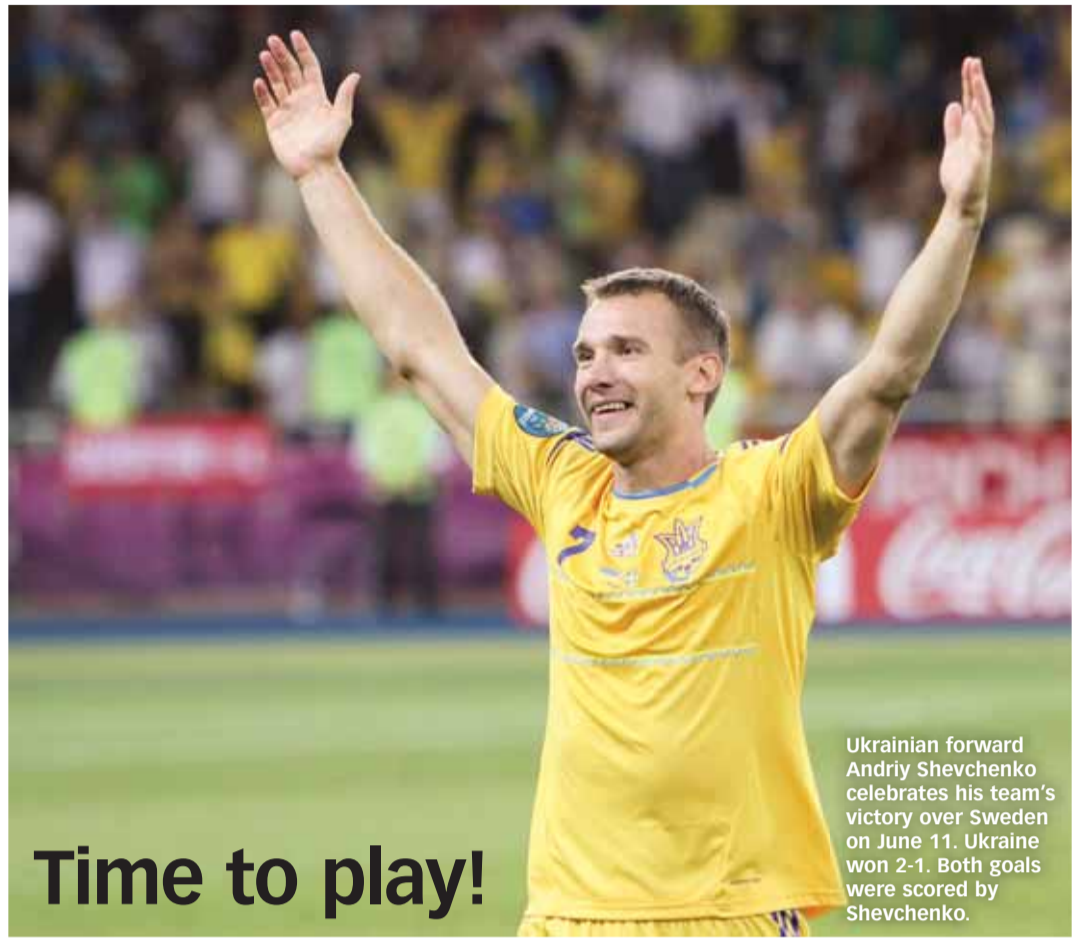
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Ukrainian forward Andriy Yarmolenko cheers as his teammate Andriy Shevchenko scores the second goal against Sweden on June 11 at the Olympic Stadium in Kyiv. (AFP)



Ukrainian child celebrates the goal against Sweden during the Euro 2012 soccer championship.



Ukrainian forward Andriy Shevchenko celebrates his team's victory over Sweden on June 11. Ukraine won 2-1. Both goals were scored by Shevchenko.

Time to play!

June 11 was truly a blue-and-yellow day in Kyiv. Both countries whose teams were playing on that day, Ukraine and Sweden, have flags of those colors, and the fans dressed accordingly.



➔ After years of preparations, the Euro 2012 football championship kicked off in Poland and Ukraine on June 8. It brought a flood of emotions to many fans who traveled to support their team, as well as millions of viewers who are watching the games across the world. Despite a flood of bad press and doomsday predictions Ukraine received in the months coming up to the championship, the tournament seems to be going well. Dozens of fans who talked to the Kyiv Post said they were happy with the organization, the prices and accommodation. Some complained about greedy taxi drivers, and noted that Ukrainians need to learn English to be able to present themselves to the world in a more favorable light. Few fights and crimes have been reported in Ukraine, in a stark contrast with Poland, where 183 people were arrested for violence that accompanied the Russia-Poland game on June 12. The game resulted in a draw. Ukraine's team played a day earlier, and won 2-1, to the delight of thousands of fans who watched the game at the Olympic Stadium in Kyiv, and possibly millions in front of TV screens. Both goals against Sweden were scored by the legendary forward Andriy Shevchenko. The games in Ukraine were marred somewhat by the boycott of European leaders, as a result of which President Viktor Yanukovich shared his VIP booth at the Kyiv stadium with locals only. The boycott came in protest against ill-treatment of the jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko and other political prisoners. (Photos Kostyantyn Chernichkin, AFP, Mark Rachkevych)



Polish fans are preparing to cheer for the team by having national flags painted on their faces before the June 8 match with Greece.



Supporters of Poland's national team cheer before the Euro 2012 soccer championship Group A match between Poland and Greece in Warsaw on June 8.



A German fan drinks beer on a street in Lviv, before Group B match in Lviv between Germany and Portugal on June 8.



Polish soccer fan cheers before the first match of the Euro 2012 soccer championship between Poland and Greece, in Warsaw.



Models from an agency in Kharkiv make money off their good looks by charging five euros for a picture. (Mark Rachkevych)