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The Kyiv Post is joining other news organizations in publishing a blank front page to protest the attempt by pro-presidential lawmakers to silence journalists and other citizens with a draconian new libel law. A demonstration urging members of parliament to kill the draft law will be held on

Monday, Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. on 18/2 Hrushevskoho St.,
across the street from the Verkhovna Rada.

See related stories on pages 2, 4.

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Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-3408 subscribe@kyivpost.com

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Mailing address:
Kyiv Post,
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004
Advertising
tel. +380 44 591-7788
fax +380 44 591-7789
advertising@kyivpost.com
Editorial staff
tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
news@kyivpost.com
Subscriptions
Elena Grysiuk
tel. +380 44 591-3408
fax +380 44 591-7789
subscribe@kyivpost.com
Distribution
Andrey Beley
tel. +380 44 591-3409
fax +380 44 591-7789
distribution@kyivpost.com

Lawmakers say they will back off libel law

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

Threatened with a Stalinist libel law that a majority of the nation's 450 lawmakers voted to support, many of Ukraine's leading media outlets united in a series of protests that forced its author to back off – at least for now.

The new law, which passed the first reading on Sept. 18, would criminalize libel and defamation. Steep fines and jail terms of up to five years would be introduced for those who "deliberately spread libel." The law would leave it up to a judge to determine whether an accused person or news organization has deliberately broadcast or published knowingly false information about a person, constituting slander or libel. Moreover, the offending journalist could be banned from the profession for up to three years after the prison sentence.

The law would affect all citizens, but the measures proposed against journalists are the most severe.

The author of the draft law, Vitaliy Zhuravsky, a member of the ruling pro-presidential Party of Regions, initially defended his law, saying that "every Ukrainian has to receive effective protection for their honor and dignity." But faced with pressure from dozens of media outlets, as well as President Viktor Yanukovich and his fellow party colleagues, Zhuravsky called off his draft from parliament late on Sept. 25.

However, because the draft law passed the first reading on Sept. 18, the procedure for calling it off is no longer simple. Zhuravsky is required to register a new draft resolution to rescind the law given initial approval. The resolution needs to win a majority of votes in parliament to annul the first reading of the libel law.

Representatives of the parliamentary minority said that the libel law is expected to be repealed next week. However, by the time Kyiv Post went to print, a vote had not been scheduled on the Verkhovna Rada's agenda. The parliamentary majority supported the law in the first reading with 244 votes, with the most votes coming from the pro-presidential Party of Regions, the



A banner at www.kyivpost.com on Sept. 25 reads: "Stand up for your right to know. Say no to the libel law." Many media owners, publishers and editors joined together to protest a proposed law that criminalizes libel. (AFP)

Communist Party and members of Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's bloc.

Lyudmyla Pankratova, a media lawyer with the Regional Press Development Institute, says the law will have very serious consequences for Ukraine. "It's a direct way to self-censorship," she said. "Because it can destroy careers and lives of any person, and particularly a journalist. A person convicted for libel will lose the right to go back to their job, will have trouble getting visas or running for elections, and will have little chances to get employed, among other things."

Moreover, the fines for libel will start from Hr 8,000 (\$1,000) if this law takes effect, and will be used along with the moral damage compensation, which are often awarded now. These compensations hover around Hr 3,000, the lawyer said.

The other danger is that law enforcers will get the right to decide whether information in the media was libelous, based on any document such as a court ruling. The court could rule information as libelous if, for instance, an act of alleged corruption exposed by a journalist was never officially pun-

ished, Pankratova fears.

The biggest danger, of course, is to society if journalists and others stop investigating wrongdoing in government or business.

Predictably, the law angered many journalists, editors and media owners, who designed a series of protests that kicked off on Sept. 25. Dozens of media outlets, including the Kyiv Post, Ukrainska Pravda, Korrespondent, Segodnya.ua, LigaBusinessInform, UkraNews and Telekritika put up a huge black banner on their websites to alert their audience to the threat of libel and to highlight those deputies who supported the move in parliament. "Call their office, write them an email and ask why they did it," the banner said.

Also, about a dozen weeklies, dailies and magazines have come out with blank or protest-themed covers between Wednesday and Friday, including Korrespondent magazine, Vlast Deneg business magazine and many major newspapers in Lviv, as well as other regions. A protest rally is also planned on Oct. 1 on 18/2

Hrushevskoho St., in front of a parliamentary committee building.

The protests began at an awkward time for Yanukovich, who traveled to New York this week to take part in the United Nations General Assembly. He told Ukrainian journalists traveling with him that it was "no accident" that Zhuravsky called off his controversial draft.

"Zhuravsky did not take the decision to call it off by accident," Yanukovich said. "He heard my point of view, the point of view of his fellow party members. These kinds of decisions cannot be taken hastily."

Yanukovich said the author wants to correct his own mistake, which would cost the nation's leaders much in the way of their already tattered reputation internationally and at home.

"If we tell [the world] that we are creating for the journalists, for the media, all [the right] conditions while we do the opposite – nobody will understand us," Yanukovich's press service quoted him as saying.

But there are plenty of signs that even if the law is halted now, the issue will arise again after the Oct. → 22

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Ilona Popenko

CEO of SPN Ogilvy Ukraine

Let's start with an introduction of yourself and an overview of your company. What's your company's strategic position on Ukraine's communications market?

As part of the Ogilvy PR Worldwide global agency, SPN Ogilvy has been present in the Ukrainian market for about seven years. As a multi-disciplinary agency, we offer a full range of expertise and services, including such areas as marketing communications, media communications, special events, internal communications, crisis management PR, public affairs, government relations, communication consulting, analysis, monitoring, design and creative solutions. Moreover, in March 2011, the agency launched a new practice 360° Digital Influence which deals with communication in social media. SPN Ogilvy 360° Digital Influence practice in Russia and Ukraine is headed by our colleague in Kyiv office.

SPN Ogilvy has been present on the CIS market for almost 20 years. What was the SPN Ogilvy office in Kyiv like in the beginning?

The history of SPN Ogilvy in the CIS started more than 20 years ago in Saint Petersburg. Entering the strategically important Ukrainian market was a logical and rational step to take for expansion in the CIS market – Ukraine boasts a large consumer base and a high concentration of businesses. Initially, our Ukrainian office started in 2005 with only 16 people team. The first contract we signed with Kyivstar, soon after launching we started our partnership with Nokia, DTEK and Wimm-Bill-Dann. We're proud to have long-lasting business relationships with most of our clients!

"Our strategy is described by a phrase David Ogilvy once said, "Only first class business, and that in a first class way."

What were Ogilvy's original goals and objectives in Ukraine? Do you think these goals have been achieved? What are your further plans and ambitions for growth?

It's little wonder that our first and foremost goal was to make everything work, here, in Ukraine! We had everything we needed to achieve success – a strong professional team, and the support and expertise of our colleagues from CIS and global offices. Due to our head office we had exceptionally strong positions in IT the Telecommunications area. The successful cases we implemented in IT and Telecoms triggered our further expansion into other areas. At the moment, our priorities are to continue our cooperation with a large pool of our current clients from FMCG, Auto, Pharma and other sectors, to sustain and nurture our employees, and to achieve steady growth.

As for the success of your business model - do you attribute this success to the name built by Ogilvy international, or its local experience?

The name and reputation of advertising guru David Ogilvy definitely contribute greatly to the perception of our agency. The pool of expertise and capabilities of our global practices also set the standards for our work.

Each and every market and every country has its local peculiarities. That's why striking a perfect balance between global experience and the specifics of a local market is the most important thing.

What were the main challenges SPN Ogilvy faced?

Without going into detail and the reasons, I have to say that unclear tender criteria and the procedures some companies follow are some of the barriers we have to deal. One of the other challenges is a global one, and it's echoed in Ukraine as well: the monetary value and the assessment of PR's input into a business are still not properly appreciated. However, I do believe that soon this tendency will change, and PR will be valued as highly as it is in other countries.

"In our dynamic world of hyper-connectivity, there is an increasing need to disconnect and "recharge," so as to tune in to the world around you."

What are the main trends on Ukraine's communications market now? What is, in your opinion, the future of the much-talked-of social media?

Companies, not just in Ukraine, but all over the world, are switching from holding chaotic and one-time PR events to devising long-term professional PR strategies – that's the main trend I see. Another global trend stands out – technologies are changing the way people communicate. I remember the debates and concerns about blogging seven years ago – and now we clearly see that Internet technologies have not only survived and developed, but have also given a visible impetus to communication, and insight into our lives. Innovations are everywhere. New ideas and new technologies emerge every single day. One in three of us get our daily news from social media news feeds. We all want to be heard and stay connected, stay tuned in. Importantly, these global tendencies shape Ukraine's communications realm as well, as the Internet has no limits or borders.

Speaking about the future of communication area, I will refer to the 2012 Cannes Lions, and mention two of the five trends of both online and offline conversation:

Go Offline: In our dynamic world of hyper-connectivity, there is an increasing need to disconnect and "recharge," so as to tune in to the world around you.

Back to Basics: With new technologies emerging daily, the basics of human behaviour – joy, empathy, sadness, compassion etc. – still remain. The challenge is to identify how these new technologies can be used to cater to basic human instincts. Notably, the best, award-winning works of this year's Lions promoted this 'Back to Basics' approach and concept.

What inspires you? Do you have a kind of a 'dream' project?

My source of inspiration and motivation is simple – I do what I love to do. I'm happy to work in communications, as every single day brings interaction with new interesting people, projects and challenges.

My 'dream' project is my everyday work, and my ambition to rise to a new level, to projects of even greater scope, for my efforts to achieve something for the sake of society and other people. We're proud and happy to be engaged in pro bono projects with the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), to give back to the community and to contribute to the fight to save the planet.

Who do you most admire as a business leader, and why? Do you have any role models?

I've never tried to emulate anyone, and I've never idolised people. Of course, I try to be guided by the success stories of great and talented people, iconic business leaders. My image of a perfect leader is a kind of combination and mix of all of the best qualities and abilities I see in various people.



"I always follow the rule – "Be soft with people and tough with the issue." By no means vice versa."

What has been the most important management lesson you have learned?

When I started my job at the helm of SPN Ogilvy Ukraine, I faced a lot of challenges as leader, and at the same time I was given various opportunities, 'open doors' and new perspectives. I always remember and follow some advice given by one of my senior colleagues – "Be soft with people and tough with the issue." By no means vice versa.

Looking ahead five years, how do you see the future of SPN Ogilvy Ukraine?

Our strategy and goal can be described by a phrase David Ogilvy once said, "Only first class business, and that in a first class way." Our priorities are obvious – stable and steady development, retaining loyalty and earning the respect of our clients, and making the best of our talents, our team. We're certainly committed to opening up new horizons and gaining new outlooks, as well as maintaining and enriching our presence on the Ukrainian market.

Recently we opened up a new vector of cooperation with one of the biggest Ukrainian state establishments, we're successfully running a joint project, and I hope our partnership will continue and flourish.

What experience during your career in communications (project, award, campaign etc.) you are most proud of?

Each and every award we win is a milestone, an honor, and they mean recognition for us, for our team, [and they're] a benchmark for doing the right thing in the right way. We were extremely proud to win a prestigious SABRE Award 2012 for our "I Love Ukraine" campaign for Kyivstar. And recently, our I Love Ukraine campaign was chosen from more than 2 600 companies introduced at the Asia-Pacific, EMEA and North America SABRE Awards contests and was shortlisted for Global SABRE Awards. It is only for the second time that Global SABRE Awards are being awarded, and it's the second time in a row SPN Ogilvy becomes laureate. No other agency in CIS can boast of such achievement!

Editorials

White & black

It would be great to live in Ukraine without having to maintain eternal vigilance against attacks on basic liberties and freedoms. But that is simply not possible, especially with President Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of Regions in charge.

The sad spectacle of the libel law that lawmakers tried to enact is the latest attempt by a budding authoritarian regime to roll back democracy. To borrow one of the president's favorite phrases, "it is no accident" that 244 members, or 54 percent, of parliament on Sept. 18 voted for a law that could imprison journalists and other citizens for insulting the dignity and honor of an individual.

With the courts and prosecutors used as political tools by the administration to attack rivals and critics, there is no doubt that such a libel law would be used to threaten any news organization that dared to investigate corruption or criticize officials or powerful businesspeople. It would keep media and regular citizens in a constant state of fear over saying or writing the wrong thing.

But Ukrainian journalists and others showed they will not let free speech die without a fight. News organizations coordinated their response with meetings, black website banners and white front pages, including today's edition of the Kyiv Post. Journalists rang the alarm bells with the "white & black" protest. The website banner urged citizens to "Stand up for your right to know. Say no to the libel law." Fortunately, Yanukovich was in New York for the United Nations General Assembly this week. He listened and responded correctly.

Yanukovich sent word to pro-presidential lawmaker Vitaliy Zhuravsky, the author of the libel law, to withdraw the legislation. "It was no accident that Zhuravsky decided so, as he heard my opinion and the opinions of his party colleagues ... parliamentarians must have not understood the documents when they voted for them," Yanukovich told journalists in New York on Sept. 25.

At best, the claim that lawmakers from the Party of Regions, Communist Party and Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's bloc simply didn't know what they were voting for is somewhat dubious. If true, it's because of parliament's habitual flouting of the law that requires lawmakers to vote in person, rather than have colleagues cast ballots for them, allowing laws to be rammed through laws without public disclosure or debate.

But there's no reason to relax just yet. The resolution to kill the law still hasn't been passed by parliament. Thus, a protest will be held on Monday, Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. on 18/2 Grushevskogo St., across the street from the Verkhovna Rada. Even in backing down Zhuravsky showed contempt for democracy and free speech. "I continue to adhere to the same political opinions and beliefs: the necessity to strengthen the responsibility for an attack on the honor and dignity of every person, not only politicians, is long overdue in a society," he said. In other words, he's not sorry and will try to reintroduce similar legislation after the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, when criticism no longer matters.

"Ukraine should stick to European standards in all spheres," Yanukovich also said in New York. If he believes what he says, he will have a lot of work to do upon returning from the United States, and not only in the area of free speech.

D.C. questions

As the remnants of independent news media in Ukraine continue to courageously protest a draconian libel law, urging the public to ask lawmakers why they voted for it, Americans who care about Ukraine should consider contacting their president and an influential D.C. lobbying firm to ask tough questions of their own.

According to U.S. public records, the Podesta Group lobbying firm this year reported a \$200,000 contract with the European Centre for a Modern Ukraine. Described by leading Ukrainian news portal Ukrainska Pravda as controlled by President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, the Brussels-based nongovernmental organization claims to be educating "governments, opinion leaders and businesses about advancements in Ukraine in order to build a more prosperous future for the country and a closer relationship with the European Union."

Founded by D.C. insiders, brothers John and Tony Podesta, the Podesta Group reported that it was hired to help on "issues pertaining to relations between Ukraine and the United States." John Podesta was chief of staff to former U.S. President Bill Clinton and has reportedly advised current American leader Barack Obama.

Here are some questions that Ukraine's American friends could ask the Podesta Group and Obama. Is it kosher for Obama's close associates to be cashing in on lobbying services for an organization that is disguised as a front for Yanukovich's camp, while the president and his party continue to quash democracy back home? Why did Obama and his wife agree to be photographed with Yanukovich at the recent United Nations General Assembly in New York? Should he have the taken example from former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice? She avoided a photo opportunity with Yanukovich at the recent Yalta European Strategy conference.



NEWS ITEM: Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich wished his American counterpart Barack Obama luck in the upcoming presidential elections as the two spoke briefly on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sept. 26. Asked by journalists what after wishing Obama success, he added "that we are also heading into elections [on Oct. 28] and hope they will be democratic."

Yanukovich officials waste opportunities in Washington, D.C. visit



OLENA TREGUB

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The largest Ukrainian government delegation to Washington in recent history visited the U.S. capital last week to bring a pro-business message to American investors and attract American capital.

The delegation headed by the governor of the National Bank of Ukraine Sergiy Arbuzov included: Ihor Kaletnik, head of the State Customs Service; Oleksandr Klymenko, head of the State Tax Service; Yuriy Kolobov, minister of finance; Mykola Prysyazhnyuk, minister of agrarian policy and food; and Eduard Stavitskiy, minister of ecology and natural resources.

The Ukrainian officials met with International Monetary Fund representatives, but it remains unclear if the new financing will become available for Ukraine after the parliamentary election this fall.

With its struggling economy Ukraine badly needs an IMF loan. The government seems to be ready to meet the IMF demand of increasing prices of gas for domestic consumption – if only that increase comes after rather than before the elections. Arbuzov told journalists he believes Ukraine will manage to unblock IMF frozen loans by the end of 2012 and that the government is considering raising gas prices.

However, the target of the trip was not just the IMF but American business in general. In this respect it seems the Ukrainian delegation is also coming home empty-handed.

On Sept. 20, the US-Ukrainian Business Council hosted a dinner with Ukrainian officials and American business people at the upscale Guarisco Gallery at the Ritz-Carlton, sponsored by ExxonMobil, SigmaBleyzer and Cargill. Naturally,

no journalists in attendance were allowed to ask questions and some of them left in protest.

The number of businesses present was modest compared to a similar event in 2010, when President Viktor Yanukovich visited the U.S. after winning the presidency. At the most recent meeting, representatives of close to 20 businesses, most of which already operate in Ukraine, e.g. Citi, Dupont, Philip Morris, VISA, Intel, Coca-Cola, Monsanto, Cargill, Chevron, ExxonMobil mixed with experts on Ukraine as well as IMF and U.S. government staffers.

The mood of the meeting was also very different. Firms were not as curious and cheerful as they were when they first met the newly elected president. This time, those in the room seemed to have no illusions.

Many stressed the need for real reform, not empty promises. Eric Trachtenberg, director for food and agriculture at McLarty Associates, said: "The key to success will lie in the government's willingness to create conditions that bring positive results for both business and ordinary Ukrainians."

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer, currently director of the Brookings Arms Control Initiative, pointed out: "The Ukrainian delegation described a country that is open and eager for foreign business. But reports from foreign businessmen about problems such as growing corruption and complex tax and regulatory rules, plus the country's low ranking in ratings like the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' survey, suggest that Ukraine still has much to do to build a business climate that truly welcomes foreign investment."

Matthew Rojansky, deputy director of the Russia and Eurasia program at the Carnegie Endowment, said: "Now it's time to prove seriousness about reform not only to Americans but to Ukrainians themselves."

Former Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, currently director of the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University, added: "What is important is what the government does in Ukraine, not speeches in D.C. → 22

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J. Michael Willard, Chief Executive Officer
Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Editors: Katya Gorchinskaya, Roman Olearchyk, Jakub Parusinski
Staff Writers: Oksana Faryna, Anastasiya Forina, Oksana Grytsenko, Vlad Lavrov, Yura Onyshkiv, Mark Rachkevych, Denis Rafalsky, Olga Rudenko, Daryna Shevchenko, Svitlana Tuchynska
Photo Editor: Ganna Berynk. Photographer: Kostyantyn Chernichkin
Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Sales Director: Yevgeniya Baranska
Sales Managers: Elena Grysiuk, Alyona Nevmerzhytska, Anastasiya Sergienko, Svetlana Semakova, Elena Symonenko

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Chief Accountant: Galyna Rogachova
Accountant: Tatyana Shargorodskaya
IT Manager: Andriy Polyakov

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Timely US resolution helps build pressure



OSTAP SEMERAK

Late in the night of Sept. 22, the U.S. Senate approved a resolution calling on Ukraine to release former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko from prison and introduce sanctions against the officials who were instrumental in her jailing.

Senate Resolution 466 was initiated by Senator James Inhofe (Republican-Oklahoma) in May. Later, Senators Richard Durbin (Democrat-Illinois), Barbara Boxer (Democrat-California), Robert P. Casey Jr. (Democrat-Pennsylvania) and Robert Menendez (Democrat-New Jersey) joined in to push the initiative.

It took the Senate four months to go through the whole procedure, which is now criticized by Ukraine's Foreign Ministry in a very non-diplomatic fashion.

The reaction of the Foreign Ministry, which questioned the procedure for approval and essentially attacked the US for lack of democracy, was nothing but unhealthy.

But this reaction of Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, which would be unacceptable anywhere in the civilized world, is quite understandable because his ministry failed to follow up on its progress in the Senate. The resolution's appearance on the agenda became a nasty surprise for President Viktor Yanukovich ahead of his visit to the United States for the United Nations General Assembly session.

Although it's called: "A resolution calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko," it covers a wide spectrum of political problems in Ukraine. It lists major events in the nation's politics since 1991, pointing out various stages of ruining the democracy.

Among other things, the resolution assesses some actions of Yanukovich and his team. It says the criminal code was used to punish political decisions of a dozen Ukrainian politicians associated with the Orange Revolution, which became the society's reaction to falsifications of the previous presidential election in favor of Yanukovich.

Thus, the authors of the resolution are clearly hinting at personal motives for persecution of opponents, which our president has.

The main messages for the Ukrainian government in the resolution is a call to free from prison the political opponents and conduct a fair and transparent election in October 2012, which would meet the standards of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) member nations.

The Senate also expressed concerns that the country that is supposed to preside over OSCE in 2013, is practicing politically motivated selective justice. This message can even be interpreted has a possible



U.S. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama greet Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich during the United Nations General Assembly reception at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York on Sept. 24. (White House photo)

beginning of the procedure to remove Ukraine from this mission.

And finally, the Senate recommended its government to introduce visa limitations for the persons responsible for the imprisonment and mistreatment of Tymoshenko and other political leaders associated with the Orange Revolution.

While the resolution was moving through the Congress, several American senators visited Ukraine and met with Yanukovich. Senator Durbin, co-author of the document, was one of them.

Ukraine's media reported that he discussed with the president of Ukraine the fate of Tymoshenko, selective justice issues and rollbacks of democracy. It seems that Yanukovich may have given more promises that he failed to keep, hence the speedy and unanimous decision on the resolution.

Moreover, the circumstances under which the vote took place also deserve attention. First of all, it was approved a month before the parliamentary election, which the Party of Regions is afraid to lose so much that they are prepared for falsifications.

Secondly, Ukraine was recently receiving the president of Poland, which is trying to play the role of communicator between the European Union and Ukraine.

It's not yet clear what the USA think of this policy of Poland's, but it's clear and significant that with the approval of the resolution, the United States stands side by side with the European Union in their expression of discontent with the political situation in Ukraine and pushing for the immediate release of Tymoshenko.

The new thing in the U. S. Senate resolution was the paragraph on possibility of personal sanctions

against Ukrainian officials. The situation might deteriorate for them after the approval of the Magnitsky Bill with powers extended beyond the Russian Federation. This bill, apart from visa sanctions, allows for the financial and asset sanctions, too. Such proposals have been going around the Capitol Hill for a long time.

Also remarkable is the unanimity of senators on this resolution. The procedure in the Senate is such that it could have been blocked by any one of the Senate members.

Just before the day of the vote, a high-ranking Ukrainian government delegation visited Washington, which was putting titanic effort to block the document or at least agree on a vote after election in Ukraine.

But all of this effort crashed against the humanitarian position of each senator which does not depend on their party affiliation. I was utterly impressed by this position of the Senate, and I would like to express personal admiration and gratitude for their devotion to the principles of justice, rule of law and humanism.

So, what can we now expect from Yanukovich and his government? Unfortunately, the most expected reaction is revenge. First of all, it will be revenge against the person who is now particularly vulnerable yet very dangerous for the regime.

But the internal and external pressure should one day force the government to start a civilized dialogue, since nobody can hold absolute power forever.

Ostap Semerak is a lawmaker with the opposition Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko in Ukraine's parliament.

Yanukovich strains US ties

Editor's Note: The following are remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Philip H. Gordon at the roundtable called "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood" in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 19.



PHILIP H. GORDON

Thank you, Herman [Pirchner] for your opening remarks, and Ambassador [Oleksandr] Motysyk for that kind introduction. I am delighted to join you this evening to help launch what I'm sure will be a productive two days of discussions that address the full range of issues with Ukraine -- from the state of its democracy and economy to questions of energy security and national identity. It is good to see so

many friends here tonight from government, think tanks, embassies and the diaspora community.

In the 21 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has worked with its European partners to build a Europe that is whole, free, democratic, and at peace. Today, this aspiration has been achieved across much of the continent as Central European countries have become valued members of NATO and the European Union while significant progress has been made in furthering Euro-Atlantic aspirations in the Western Balkans.

Indeed, the United States looks to Europe as our partner of first resort in confronting global challenges because of what these countries bring to the table: shared values of democracy and human rights, strong market economies, and valuable military capabilities.

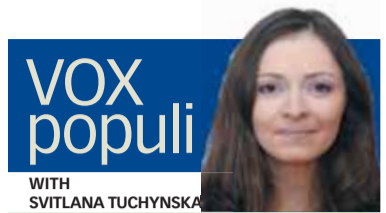
Despite these successes, we recognize that this historic project is far from complete. Included in this category of 'unfinished business' in Europe is the goal of the Ukrainian people to develop a more democratic and prosperous state, which the United States strongly supports. Ukraine is a country of massive

untapped potential -- with an educated population, a vibrant civil society, rich agricultural land, energy resources, and a large consumer market.

It remains deeply in America's interest to see an independent, prosperous and irreversibly democratic Ukraine; a Ukraine that is modernizing as a European state; a Ukraine where all citizens enjoy the full protection of the rule of law; and an inclusive Ukraine where all citizens can contribute to public life.

Over the last two decades, the U.S. has sought to strengthen and deepen our partnership with Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine Charter on our Strategic Partnership, which was signed in 2008, outlines the breadth of our relationship and clearly enumerates our shared interests and common goals. These include protecting Ukraine's security and territorial integrity, supporting innovation and technology, and strengthening rule of law, economic freedom and democratic institutions.

This partnership was launched in July 2009 by Vice President [Joseph] Biden in Kyiv, with follow-on meetings led by Secretary [of State Hillary] Clinton → 15



VOX populi

WITH SVITLANA TYCHYNSKA

What do you think about the proposed law to criminalize libel?



Vyacheslav Antonov, 60, engineer

"It is true that many media in Ukraine do not bother with checking their facts and

getting the picture right. That is putting it mildly. But these cases are to be solved in court and it is up to a court to decide if the information was true or false and the punishment for the journalist or media. I do not understand why they need this law."



Mykhailo Kalinin, 49, entrepreneur

"This law is a complete disgrace. It is designed to silence the truth. Not this, not any

previous government reformed the judicial system. Our courts are corrupt and they can rule whatever they are paid for. They can always twist the truth so that the true information will be called false and journalists will be put in jail."



Maryna Polyakova, 44, public servant

"We have read about this law at work today, that it is being withdrawn from

parliament. I do not know the details of it but I am glad it did not pass. Of course, the media should not give unchecked and false information. But this punishment, up to five years in jail, is too much."



Ivan Stetsenko, 20, waiter

"Media should not spread rumors, run after sensational information which is not

verified. If you say something, be prepared to back it up. I am for this law. On the other hand, imprisonment is way too much. At the most, I think libel is to be punishable by a fine."



Lyudmyla Chugai, 49, engineer

"I have heard about the law on the news and I am against it. I think this law will be used to put

pressure on journalists and freedom of speech. It will worsen the situation with freedom in Ukraine in general. Hopefully they will kill it in parliament."

Visa: National payment system will increase costs, hurt customer service

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukrainians could soon face problems with online shopping, mobile phone payments and their electronic cards. A controversial bill recently passed by Ukraine's parliament, if adopted, will likely worsen standards for consumers, warns Steven Parker, head of Visa operations in Southeastern and Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia.

Passed in the first reading on Sept. 18, Ukraine's payment bill proposes to create a national monopoly that takes over essential elements of the electronic payment system – routing, switching and clearing. The idea is to increase national oversight and move operations into Ukraine, thus reducing the costs for banks and consumers. Authorities are also looking to introduce obligatory electronic payments for purchases above Hr 8,500 (roughly \$1,050). Critics see this as a way to force consumers to cough up more per transaction while allowing authorities to better control currency flows.

Visa currently earns less than \$10 million yearly from its share in the Ukrainian processing market, said Parker, but has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to set up infrastructure on which the nation depends. Visa's Europe processing center, for instance, cost \$500 million. The company also

spent millions, together with other market participants and central authorities trying to set up Topaz, a failed earlier project to create a national system.

"For a single body to start building something completely new – which will cost hundreds of millions – Where will that money come from? The banks or other people will be taxed, but in the end it will go back to consumers," Parker said.

"We will be taking Ukraine back 5 years simply so that somebody can build a monopoly onshore in Ukraine. That's not how the world economy works nowadays. That's not the way technology intensive businesses work," he continued.

The Visa head said he asked Economy Minister Petro Poroshenko whether he supported the idea during the recent Yalta conference. He said he was categorically against it.

Experts at the National Bank of Ukraine, controlled by President Viktor Yanukovich loyalist Serhiy Arbuzov, however, argue the new system will increase efficiency. They claim to be still in talks with the business community on the final version of the bill. It remains unclear what it will look like.

According to Volodymyr Yerenenko, bank infrastructure and payment systems committee coordinator at the Independent Association of the Banks of Ukraine, the legislation will clear the



Steven Parker, regional head of Visa's operations. (RIA Novosti)

card payment field of monopoly-type positions and create a homogenous legislative framework, which will improve efficiency.

"The experience of other countries that for a long time have had national routing and clearing operations convincingly shows that national payment infrastructure reduces the cost of service operations, allowing banks to efficiently use available resources to expand their card programs, develop infrastructure for payment card acceptance (terminals in stores), and the best way to ensure the needs of consumers," he said.

Yet Parker said there are few similar examples worldwide. Russia considered similar legislation in recent years, he said, but ultimately decided it would harm the country's international competitiveness.

One Russian bank he did not want to name set up its own system for a price tag of \$800 million, but ended up facing regular glitches. "Once every month they actually have to take the system offline for a few hours. Sometimes they have breakdowns," he said.

China Union Pay is perhaps the most comparable scenario, Parker argued. Founded in 2002, it is the only company allowed to process domestic currency transactions and is an obligatory partner for any company seeking to issue payment cards in China. It was recently ruled a monopoly by the World Trade Organization, suggesting its days in its current form may be limited.

While partnerships with international lenders mean CUP cards are now accepted in over 100 countries, the system long suffered from isolation and recurring problems. "The system breaks down very frequently, and they only just got to things like contact lists and to prepaid, so the system is very far behind many other countries in the region," said Parker.

Moreover, Ukrainians could face problems using their cards abroad, and this could be a hurdle for tourists visit-

ing the country.

Yet the biggest headache is arguably security. Ukraine has currently one of the lowest levels of bank fraud in the world despite being home to some of its best hackers. While the lack of appealing targets is one of the reasons why, another is the millions spent on research and protection infrastructure.

Without constant innovation hacking could result in identity theft, appropriation of card details, and fraudulent payments, to name but a few. Given the pervasive corruption, it would in theory also be possible to access individuals' and companies' spending records, something that is technically unfeasible under the current system. Yerenenko argues that the NBU would deal with oversight, which would mean better anti-fraud measures and tracking of shady transactions.

"If the system is built without really strong – read expensive – data security, there is always the risk that data could be stolen," Parker, the Visa head counters. "There's an exact correlation between how much you spend on a system and how secure it is."

"15 years of infrastructure, 150 banks, several payment systems... What, are you going to just rebuild that in 12 months, 24 months? It's a very complex task," Parker said.

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

Ukraine bid to hike tariffs alarms US, business

GENEVA, Sept 26 (Reuters and Kyiv Post Staff) – Ukraine's announcement that it intends to raise hundreds of tariff ceilings may have an impact on the global trading system, the U.S. ambassador to the World Trade Organization said on Sept. 26.

The move has raised fears that Ukraine has found a way to get around a fundamental check on protectionism that was put into place when the WTO was created in 1995.

"We are very concerned about the systemic implications of what Ukraine is contemplating, and I would say that

there's a broad diversity of WTO members that are concerned about what Ukraine is contemplating," Michael Punke told reporters in Geneva.

"To give you an example of how broad that diversity is, this is an issue where I anticipate we'll be working very closely with countries like Brazil to address our concerns. I think many members seem to be concerned about the actions that Ukraine seems to be contemplating and have lots of concerns about it," Punke added.

Ukraine notified the other 156 members of the WTO in a document earlier

this month that it intended to raise the ceilings on more than 350 tariffs.

If other countries were to do the same, the system of legally binding tariff ceilings could unravel, some trade diplomats and lawyers have said.

A U.S. official previously said the United States had "serious concerns and questions" about the plan, which uses a loophole in the rules and, according to some experts, is tantamount to renegotiating its membership of the WTO.

Local business groups in Ukraine also expressed concern.

Anna Derevyanko, executive director of the 921-member European Business Association in Kyiv, issued this statement:

"Looming increases in import tariffs discourage investors to a great extent. It is a blowout that can oust Ukraine from global trade and shake investors' confidence. Disappointingly, duties increases may spoil the outlook of our country's trade environment at the very moment it was projected to recover.

"The increase feeds worries of the companies with no local manufacturing capacities – those importing agrochemicals, tires, mineral wools and

→ **EBA sees threat to trade, investor confidence**



Anna Derevyanko

consumer electronics. A lot of appeals received by the EBA from representatives of these sectors have a single notion – a dramatic duty rate increase can stifle businesses and put additional pressure on consumers' budgets.

"Global setbacks triggered by such step are rather gloomy and clearly worrisome – push back from the World Trade Organization, a detrimental impact on trade relations with European counterparts, priced out investors. We may see this echoed if WTO increases tariffs for certain Ukrainian products or, in a most adverse scenario, question our membership in the organization.

"Although government stakeholders

bluntly insisted that the import duties hike was a part of efforts to support local producers and give impetus to national industry, this was universally not accepted by companies. A sound business climate, predictable regulations, competitive and fair market conditions, unbiased courts – here is the backbone for local producers, instead of artificial barriers to international trade in Ukraine. For now, importers are very, very wary of their future."



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Kyiv Post Employment Fair helps boost job prospects

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

The Kyiv Post Employment Fair has been bringing employers and job applicants together for many years. At the latest one on Sept. 22, in which 2,000 people and 20 companies participated, the newspaper heard several suggestions for how to improve the event in the future.

Here are some of them:

- The Employment Fair should last for two days, not just one;
- Set up a Student's Corner for talks with company reps, HR trainings and presentations;
- Workshops on how to prepare a proper CV should be interactive, giving everyone a chance to create their own resumes on their laptops or at the training center;
- Invite more top companies from the banking, finance, design and linguistic sectors;
- Internships and part-time offers should be separated from full-time job offers;
- Make a conference room available for job interviews at the fair;
- Have more job offers from the Kyiv Post itself;
- Send invitations directly to universities to attract more students.

"We appreciate these suggestions," said Kyiv Post CEO Michael Willard. "We will try to incorporate as many of them as possible in future fairs and we welcome new and better ideas all

→ Many participants have ideas for making job fair more useful

the time." Willard added that anyone can write to news@kyivpost.com and make suggestions on how to improve the fair or any other part of Kyiv Post's operations.

Herman Ovcharenko, the head of SuperJob.ua portal, said the fair attracts a great number of students looking for part-time jobs or internships. "But I need to warn the (students): the most important thing for young employees is to get experience, not big salaries," he said.

Lack of experience is the biggest problem among Ukrainian graduates.

Oksana Gavrylyk, a graduate of the Kyiv Hotel Management College, said she has not been able to find anything in Kyiv for two months. "I want to work as a salesperson," Gavrylyk said. "But I have no experience, so it is a bit difficult."

Gavrylyk is among 16.8 percent of young adults who have failed to



An Adecco company representative (L) speaks to a Kyiv Post Employment Fair participant at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 22. About 20 companies and 2,000 people attended. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

find a job in over two months of searching, according to a study by Headhunter.ua, another employment website. Ovcharenko suggests students start working while still enrolled in college to gain experience. "You need to emphasize your personal achievements and have some professional background during the job interview, so start work as soon as possible," Ovcharenko said.

This message was reinforced by Headhunter expert Mykhailo Avdyushkin during a workshop on

optimal job searching. Avdyushkin also gave pointers on how to properly structure a CV and tips for succeeding in a job interview. "Many visitors wanted to know how to increase one's chances to get a suitable job; in other words what to do and not to do during a job interview," Avdyushkin said.

The most sought after jobs unsurprisingly include information technology specialists and sales managers, shows the SuperJob.ua database. "There are also good chances to find work as a (search engine optimization specialist),

engineer and copywriter," Ovcharenko added.

Those fluent in English (as well as German, French, Spanish or Polish) could try out for summer internships at Astapov law firm, a newcomer to the fair. Iryna Andreeva, Astapov's human resources manager, said the internships will help students gain professional skills and are the first steps toward landing a dream job. "Our candidates are becoming more particular and so we need to offer not only a work station, but a place where they can be happy and show off their professional skills and dedication," Andreeva said.

But the job market is far from perfect, employees say.

Only one in six Ukrainians are happy with their jobs, according to a Headhunters study. Valeriy Matviychuk hopes he can become one of them. Matviychuk has been looking to teach English or German since 2009 after finishing his studies.

"I used to have some internship or freelance, but no official work," Matviychuk said. "I hope to find something interesting as an interpreter here, so I visited the fair rather often. But I'm almost desperate, because I know three languages and cannot find a place to work up to now. I gave my CV to some companies I am interested in. The fair is a good chance to talk to the companies' representatives and to get useful contacts."

Kyiv Post staff writer Olena Goncharova can be reached at goncharova@kyivpost.com

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Ukraine may dole out huge tracts of unused farmland

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine's government says it has found a solution for doing its part to address food security in a world that will need to produce 1 billion tons more cereal and 270 million tons more meat annually to feed 9 billion mouths by 2050.

The Kyiv Post has obtained a blueprint that outlines a bold agricultural production sharing plan that the government plans to roll out to investors. It at once addresses rising global demand for food, as well as rural Ukraine's dire economic state that suffers from unemployment and infrastructural decay.

Essentially the plan will "intensively develop the agrarian sector without privatizing farmland" while bringing badly needed investment and modern technology, which in turn will "create sustainable rural jobs," a government source close to the plan said on condition of anonymity because the plan isn't official yet.

Although in the conceptual stage, the public-private partnership program envisions letting investors farm up to 4 million hectares of currently unused government land for up to 50 years in large-scale 400,000-hectare projects. The government source said each project would require an initial investment of \$200 million, and much more down the road.

Not all the government land ear-

marked for cultivation is zoned as agricultural so the program wouldn't presumably significantly encroach on the 32.5 million hectares of farmland that the country has.

Together, this would allow investors to reap from economies of scale by using modern land management practices and equipment such as, GPS monitoring, satellite imagery, as well as other up-to-date farming techniques to boost production.

Incentives include giving investors tax breaks, free land use, and exempts them from having to pay import duties and value-added tax on imported goods, labor and services. In addition, there'll be no export duties, licenses and quotas, and investors won't have to pay taxes for repatriating profits or income.

"This is just what the government of Ukraine needs to do," said Morgan Williams, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council based in Washington, D.C. "It solves many major problems with the usage of government land and gets it into private hands and provides proper incentives and produces income for the government. It would be a major breakthrough, a major step forward and a very positive signal the private sector."

Investors will do contractual business exclusively with the national government, not with local administrations. And the plan foresees international arbitration should disputes arise.



John Shmorhun

Williams continued: "One, the government lands would be taken out of the control of local and mostly corrupt politicians; two, there would be long-run contracts which are good for investors, good to promote infrastructure investment and good for long-run strategic buyers of commodities; three, these would be contracts under a PSA [production sharing agreement]-type plan which could be taken to international court."

Estimates vary, but up to 25 percent of Ukraine's arable land is only farmed by so called efficiency farms that lease more than 50,000 hectares. And they are the

ones driving productivity and yields. Investment bank Concorde Capital said in a recent agriculture report that the sector as a whole suffers from poor land management practices, lower application of fertilizers, and depreciated farming machinery that harm yields.

Experts furthermore estimate that up 5 million hectares of arable land lies fallow and unused.

And although there are many government ideas floating around on how to optimize Ukraine's still hugely unfulfilled agricultural potential of doubling harvests to above 100 million tons of grain and oil seeds, questions linger about their proper execution.

"I've heard about this (plan)," said John Shmorhun, CEO of Harmelia, a 75,000-hectare grain farming business in Kharkiv Oblast. "An agricultural PSA would be unique in the world... the government is treating land as a renewable resource... (which is) a powerful instrument if managed properly. And, if the government manages to do this right it'll be quite a coup."

To qualify, however, investors will have to compete globally through what the governments says will be a one-stop shop run by an inter-governmental agency committee which will decide who qualifies for the project.

Preference will be given to investors who meet the following criteria: an optimal business strategy, quality of production distribution proposal, sus-

tainable land productivity, agricultural experience, financial capacity and best combination of international know-how and Ukraine experience.

But the plan overall thus far lacks in specifics, and much remains to get the project off the ground.

However, the government source the Kyiv Post spoke with said that an agricultural PSA bill could get adopted as early as mid-October, giving the endeavor solid legislative footing. The plan also skirts Ukraine's snail pace action on creating a land market. Currently agricultural land can't be bought or sold but government will allow investors to use land for 50 years without addressing the issue of privatization.

Again, "the problem is execution, and how these (public sharing) agreements will be properly executed, so this wait and see... its' also about government lands and how they're clustered, the land cadastre has to be completed... accurately," said Shmorhun.

Whatever the shape and size of land, the potential is still there, said Shmorhun. "Whether it's agricultural or pasture land, you can do a lot, you could grow crops of all sorts of different sorts of operations... there's dairy production, pig farming, greenhouse vegetables, fruits, orchards and berries - there's room for renewal in so many sectors."

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

"We're looking to the future with optimism!"

KSG Agro is a vertically integrated company that stands head and shoulders above its competitors in the Ukrainian agricultural business. After just 11 years of professional teamwork, the agricultural holding has taken a leading position in crop production in Dnipropetrovsk region.

Using investment attracted in 2012, KSG Agro has managed to acquire 23,000 hectares of land to add to its existing land bank of 61,000 hectares - as part of the steady implementation of the strategic plans of the company. As well as being internationally recognized, the group has managed to earn the trust of Dnipropetrovsk region. As a result, the land bank increase became possible due to the fact that about 10,000 farmers in the region entrusted their land shares to the company.

The holding is mainly focused on the agriculture sector, and covers almost all segments of the agricultural market: from the cultivation and storage of agricultural products, to their processing and distribution.

Unlike elsewhere in Europe, the fertile soil of Dnipropetrovsk doesn't require the extensive use of fertilizers and plant protection chemicals. Instead, using modern agricultural technology, the company's experts can steadily increase the efficiency of land use while constantly maintaining a crop rotation regime.

The strengthening of the vertical integration of the holding is being achieved through the development of the food processing segment, which helps increase profitability and reduces the risks that come from inevitable price fluctuations. KSG Agro has already attained significant achievements in this area, including a fourfold increase in its grain storage capacity, from 30,000 to 120,000 tonnes.

As noted by the principal shareholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of KSG Agro Sergey Kasyanov: "Our main goal is to provide the residents of the Dnipropetrovsk region with good quality food. That's in first place. Afterwards, will come all of the other regions of Ukraine. The general marketing strategy of the company is the principle of 'from the field to the counter.'"

However, it's well known that the seasonality of agricultural production has a great affect on liquidity, so to reduce this factor the group is starting to develop new business segments and new branches of production. Last year two systems with a total capacity of 7,000 tonnes to produce fuel pellets from agricultural waste were successfully launched. In addition, contracts for the supply of pellet production equipment with a total capacity of 60,000 tonnes were signed. The new plant is to be launched by the end of 2012.

2012 has also seen the start of the reconstruction of a pig-farming complex in the village of Niva Trudovaya, which is located in the Apostol district of Dnipropetrovsk region. The relaunch of what had been one of the biggest pig-farming complexes in the former Soviet Union is expected to be launched in 2016. The delivery of Danish breeding pigs, plus modern equipment made by Germany's Big Dutchman Pig Equipment GmbH, worth of a total 12 million euros, combined with support from the solid German bank Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg, will allow the group to increase the amount of pigs it can process per year to 240,000 animals.

The Pererobnyk complex is another of the latest acquisitions of the holding, which will allow the group to further strengthen its food segment - particularly flour and animal feed production. The complex consists of three plants with a total processing capacity of 173,000 tonnes of wheat per year. The capacity of the animal feed mill is 70,000 tonnes per year. Also, the Pererobnyk complex is to form the basis of a facility for pellet production.

Overall, it is planned to increase the group's revenues from pellet production and pig breeding to 30% by 2015.

All in all, KSG Agro is confident about the future. The group has set an audacious strategic goal: to become one of the largest vertically integrated agricultural holdings in central Ukraine.



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Firtash takes liking to greenhouses as way to improve food supplies

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Billionaire Dmytro Firtash, who controls much of Ukraine's natural gas, fertilizer and titanium sectors, clearly has a nose for money. So it's no surprise he is setting his sights on Ukraine's huge agribusiness potential.

DF Agro, the agribusiness arm of his Group DF holding, has unveiled a 30-35 million euro, 18-hectare greenhouse project in his hometown of Synkiv, Ternopil Oblast.

Dubbed the largest greenhouse project in western Ukraine, plans envision it being expanded to 40 hectares in coming years, helping to fill the year-around Ukrainian market demand for fresh tomatoes, sweet peppers and cucumbers.

We are building "one of the most modern greenhouse businesses in Europe," Firtash said at the Sept. 21 opening ceremony. "On Monday (Oct. 1) the first truckload of products will leave (the complex). The cucumber harvest has been completely sold."

Annual production plans include 350 tons of cucumbers, 1,550 tons of peppers and 4,000 tons of tomatoes. DF Agro said it will cut Ukraine's need to import sweet peppers by 20 percent.

For Firtash, the new greenhouse is a big leap into agriculture. But for Ukraine, it's a drop in the bucket of what it will take to replace fruit and vegetable imports with domestic produce.

Meager investment into greenhouses



and refrigerated warehouses, among others, mean Ukrainian consumers experience a shortage and high prices for certain types of out-of-season fruits and vegetables.

As a result, Ukraine imports around 40,000 tons of vegetables every year from warmer countries, according to official figures. Much of the produce comes from Turkey, the Middle East, Egypt and Poland.

Meanwhile, sizable portions of

domestically produced vegetables and fruits rot in poorly ventilated and refrigerated storehouses. In 2011, hundreds of tons of rotten onions had to be thrown away.

According to Ihor Strelyuk, a vegetables and fruits expert at the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club, new greenhouse projects will help put more vegetables on Ukrainian tables.

"The project launched by Firtash will be especially good for sweet pep-

pers, which are now largely imported," Strelyuk said.

Harvesting more domestic produce in greenhouses will not alone, however, solve the nation's shortage issues, said agriculture expert Andriy Yarmak.

"Producers have to start making products of better quality, storing them in better conditions and maintaining stable supplies during the whole year," he said.

This will be hard for average farmers

and suppliers for whom loan rates are currently extremely high.

Agriculture Minister Mykola Prisyazhnyuk recently said government could step in by offering millions of hryvnias annually in subsidies. "The government is considering compensating vegetables producers the costs of storing their produce," Prisyazhnyuk said.

Despite the hurdles, progress has been made.

"In the past five years, Ukraine has greatly improved storage infrastructure. While 5 years ago only 6-9 percent of tradable vegetables and potatoes were stored in good storage facilities, today the percentage went up to about 47-50 percent," Yarmak said.

"The situation with respect to fruits is even better. About 65-70 percent of fruits are now stored in relatively modern storage facilities while five years ago the capacity was satisfied by only 20-25 percent," he added.

Still, industry experts say that an astonishing 60 percent of fruits and vegetables harvested in Ukraine don't make it to consumers because of poor logistics and temperature control management. That's twice what perishes in the Netherlands and above other European Union countries.

And the rising cost of energy remains a major risk for many greenhouses.

The price of Ukraine's gas imports from Russia's Gazprom exceeded \$400 per 1,000 cubic meters in recent years, causing some greenhouses to shut down. According to estimates from the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club, → 10

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Bunge raids highlight problems with aggressive customs, tax authorities

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Recent tax raids of the Odesa branch of Suntrade, a subsidiary of global grain trading giant Bunge, spooked investors and highlighted the constant problems that foreigners face when doing business in Ukraine.

While Ukraine remains a promising destination for agribusiness investments, massive red tape, bureaucracy and shakedowns by the authorities are a constant hassle that can cut into profit margins and patience of a business. In particular, businesses complain state services, particularly tax and customs, are treating them as cash cows and harassing them with incessant inspections.

One of the loudest recent examples of the problems faced by companies came when Bunge unveiled the Odesa office of its subdivision Suntrade was raided by tax authorities on Aug. 28. According to the company, the agents confiscated documents, computers and personal items of employees in con-

nection to an ongoing investigation. They also seized the company's VAT refunds and costs for transactions with allegedly suspicious companies. This amounted to around Hr 3.3 million (\$400,000), a Bunge spokesperson told the Kyiv Post.

The state tax service has brought two cases against Suntrade, for large scale tax evasion and property misappropriation and embezzlement. The company is appealing against these cases.

The state tax service could be reached despite multiple attempts to reach officials for comment.

Whatever the verdict, usage of such hardline tactics by local authorities is a common problem for companies, experts say. But the phenomenon of so-called chain audits, whereby any company that has done business with someone is suspected of wrongdoing, is also a problem.

According to Viktoriia Fomenko, an associate at Salans law firm, these chain audits are a major basis for unscheduled investigations. However,

→ Red tape cuts into profits, patience of agriculture investors

in these cases, authorities are only allowed to audit the transactions carried out with the suspicious entity, Fomenko said.

"If some violations were in the audit of a taxpayer, you can only be checked with respect to (transactions) with this taxpayer, not everything else," Fomenko said.

Customs audits are a whole different beast, however, because officials have the administrative power to stop cus-

toms clearance. Just checking goods in a customs laboratory can easily cause a month of delay during which companies are powerless. "You do not have any power to appeal because they do it in a legal way," Fomenko said.

According to Taras Koval, a lawyer at Gide Loyrette Nouel and a former tax manager at Bunge, the problem is a lack of accountability on behalf of the authorities. Previously, they were held accountable for 5 percent of the losses caused through ungrounded inspections, he said, but now no such provision exists. Moreover, budget shortfalls mean tax authorities will fight hard against value-added tax refunds, he added.

"If there is no responsibility, they may act as they want. To protect themselves, companies are losing time and money. This is, actually, the Bunge case," Koval said.

"It's a waste of time and waste of money. That's why we in the legal profession advise that either you use the same practices as the tax authorities, by going to court, to the prosecu-

tor's office, to the government, or you negotiate [a settlement] with the tax officers," Koval advised.

For all the problems, there are some improvements on the horizon.

A recent study by the European Business Association, a Kyiv-based business advocacy, showed an improvement by polled companies in working with customs authorities. Only 3 percent of companies experienced post-customs checks in the first half of 2012 compared to 23 percent in previous six months. The time it takes to get customs clearance fell slightly, from 2.8 days to 2.5 days.

"The results of the (survey) can be summed up by the phrase: 'everything is relative,'" noted Alexander Lazarev, co-chair of the EBA customs committee.

While problems remain, "three months have passed since the customs code's adoption and we can already see some perceptible changes," Lazarev added.

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

→ On the move

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Monsanto, one of the world's leading agricultural corporations, named **MICHEL DE JONGH** as its business lead to take the reins of its operations in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. The citizen of the Netherlands joined Monsanto back in 2004 and served in various regional and global roles in South

America and Asia Pacific. Before coming to Ukraine, he worked as a Managing Director in Korea and Japan. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead Monsanto in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, as these countries are ones of the most important breadbaskets of the world, being the leading producers of food and feed. Monsanto has already built up a firm position in the local corn and rape seeds industry, and I will look forward to grow our business further and strengthen our reputation for high quality products, technology and leadership, always focusing on contributing to the success of the farmer," De Jongh said.

Greenhouses could help cut imports of fruits, vegetables

→ the amount of glass greenhouses dropped in 2011 from 407 hectares to 384 hectares. Surging gas prices mean greenhouses have to cut margins or find alternative energy sources.

"Vast majority of green houses, especially the old Soviet types, were heated with gas. They are very sensitive to the price of gas," says Streluyuk.

Firtash has an obvious advantage. He controls a sizable chunk of Ukraine's fertilizer supplies. A former partner of Russia's Gazprom in the supply of gas to Ukraine, Firtash-owned Ostchem continues to import fuel into Ukraine at an undisclosed price that is negotiated separately from the state.

As small to mid-sized farmers increasingly complain about expensive fuel, fertilizer and loans, Firtash

seems to have all the resources at his fingertips to heat up greenhouses and enrich the nation's already superior Black Soil.

Asked whether he would heat up his own greenhouses with his own gas and fertilizer at subsidized prices, giving his farming businesses a competitive advantage, Firtash conceded that the share of energy expenses in the cash cost of DF Agro's products is around 50 percent. But, he added: "The gas business is not related to the greenhouse business. Yes, I'm a shareholder in both businesses, but they are not related. These are two different companies."

Not all Ukrainian greenhouses are so energy intensive, though.

Warm and sunny Crimea benefits

from a mild, hospitable climate.

"There are more (plastic film greenhouses popping up) each year ... and they are very profitable," Yarmak said.

Experts say investments into greenhouses are a solid bet, if the main risks and potentially large heating costs can be contained.

"More people are trying to lead healthy lifestyles by eating more vegetables and fruit. Demand will grow," said Lesya Sukhodolska, a spokesperson at Ukragroconsult, a leading domestic agribusiness consultancy.

Export potential is another driver. "Many interesting projects are being discussed," Streluyuk said.

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

The Kyiv Post's Business Focus in its **October 12th** edition will be on

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Going Out Guide

● – see address in the box below and on the pull-out map.

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For tickets online, please visit kvytky.ua, parter.ua, freedomhall.com.ua, bilethouse.com.ua, karabas.com, or biletik.ua.

Sept. 30



(thekooksfans.tumblr.com)

The Kooks

One of the most popular and successful British indie pop rock bands, "The Kooks," is heading to Kyiv to promote their latest album "Junk of the Heart" released in September 2011. This is the band's third record following their 2006 number two UK chart "Inside in/Inside" and 2008 number one called "Konk." The Kyiv show is a part of the band's ongoing tour across the UK, Europe, U.S., Canada and Australia.

The Kooks. Sept.30. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 800-1400

Friday, September 28

Classical music

Ave Maria. Works of Bach, Caccini, Schubert, Saint-Saens, Donizetti, Gilman, Tosti, Perosi, Vierne (organ, flute). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80

Impression of Artistic Exhibition. Works of Debussy, Franck, Poulenc (piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Classics on Fridays. Works of Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Donizetti, Gluck, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff (piano, vocal). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 35-40

Manhattan Short Film Festival (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. Hr 30-40

The Pelayos (comedy). Kyiv. 1 p.m. Hr 35-45

Moonrise Kingdom (comedy). Kinopanorama. 11:20 a.m., 2:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Ot Vinta & Red Rocks (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75

Mad Heads UkrainSka & Mama Mia (rock, italiano disco). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Zapiski Neizvestnogo (hip hop). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Vzrosliy Band & The Magma (rock). Route 66. 9 p.m. Free

Clubs

Open Space Estiva. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 40-60 for females, Hr 50-70 for males

Zhara Party. Mantra. 10 p.m. Hr 100 for females, Hr 200 for males

Whiskey Disco. City Entertainment at Sky Mall. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males

Party Monsters. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males

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

Theaters

Woe From Wit (based on Aleksandr Griboedov's comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1,000

Satisfaction (premiere, based on William Shakespeare play "Merchant Of Venice"). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Mr. X (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-100

Mistress Of The Inn (comedy). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 70

Miscellaneous

Bogdan Zadorozhnyi Exhibition. AVS-ART Gallery. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free

The Night of Ad Eaters. Zhovtnevy Palats. 8 p.m. Hr 150-450

Sculpture Salon. Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 20

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110-350

Transfer (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

Saturday, September 29

Classical music

Works of Caccini, Bach, Handel, Liszt, Schubert, Grieg, Vierne (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 50-200

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 35-40

Manhattan Short Film Festival (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. Hr 30-40

The Pelayos (comedy). Kyiv. 1 p.m. Hr 35-45

Moonrise Kingdom (comedy). Kinopanorama. 11:20 a.m., 2:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Ot Vinta & Partizanske Vytivky. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75

Kozak System & Red Rocks (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

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

Clubs

Season's Final Party (Dj Mujuice). Green Theater. 11 p.m. Hr 70

Autumn Mantra. Mantra. 10 p.m. Free for females, Hr 200 for males

Men Strippers Show. Seven Music Club. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 70 for males

Wet Shirts Party. Egoist. 11 p.m. Hr 25 for females, Hr 50 for males

Theaters

Enough Stupidity In Every Wise Man (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1,000

Until Mother Did Not Come (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

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

Am I Crazy? (tragicomedy). New Theater On Pechersk. 7 p.m. Hr 60

Shows

Pikardijska Tercija. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1000

Nochnye Snajpery (rock). Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1500

Ihor Huberman. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 120-350

Igor Sirodzha. Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Free

Mercury Fest. Bochka. 8 p.m. Hr 30-50

Slim. Sharpei. 7 p.m. Hr 100-300

Miscellaneous

Bogdan Zadorozhnyi Exhibition. AVS-ART Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Big Bul-Bul Show. Artist's House. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. Hr 60-120

Chocolate Country. Pyrogovo Folk Open-Air Museum. 10 a.m. Hr 30

Sculpture Salon. Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 20

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Medival Fall (festival). Kyivan Fortress. 3:30 p.m. Free

Indian Summer (festival). Mamayeva Sloboda. 11 a.m. Hr 40 (for Ukrainians) Hr 100 (for foreigners)

Aviasvit-XXI (festival). Antonov Kyiv airfield (Gostomel). 10 a.m. Free

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110-350

Transfer (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

Sunday, September 30

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 35-40

Manhattan Short Film Festival (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. Hr 30-40

The Pelayos (comedy). Kyiv. 1 p.m. Hr 35-45

Moonrise Kingdom (comedy). Kinopanorama. 11 a.m., 2:20 p.m., 5:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Tania BerQ & Karnavalnaya Zhara. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 50

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

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

Clubs

Technical Freaks. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20

Sex Instructor's Hen Party. Bionica. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 20-40 for males

Theaters

Enough Stupidity In Every Wise Man (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1,000

Woyzeck. Carnival Of Flesh (premiere). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Athens Nights (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

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

Shows

The Kooks. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 800-1400

Schumacher Brothers. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

27/15 Band. Bingo. 7 p.m. Hr 120

Miscellaneous

Chocolate Country. Pyrogovo Folk Open-Air Museum. 10 a.m. Hr 30

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Indian Summer. Mamayeva Sloboda. 11 a.m. Hr 40 (for Ukrainians) Hr 100 (for foreigners)

Aviasvit-XXI (festival). Antonov Kyiv airfield (Gostomel). 10 a.m. Free

Don't Take Fake (brand-show). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110-350

Transfer (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

Monday, October 1

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 35-40

Manhattan Short Film Festival (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. Hr 30-40

The Pelayos (comedy). Kyiv. 1 p.m. Hr 35-45

Moonrise Kingdom (comedy). Kinopanorama. 11 a.m., 2:20 p.m., 5:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

Dyadya Vasya. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

Z Band (fusion jazz). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

The Heirs of Raburden (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1,000

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Cyrano de Bergerac (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70

Generals In Skirts (comedy). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70

The Bat (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-100

Shows

Behemoth. Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 300-500

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Wednesday, October 3

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free



(relax.com.ua)

Sept. 29-30

Air show

About 20 aircraft representing the Air Forces of Ukraine, Russia, Austria and other countries will conduct dazzling flights this weekend. And more than 80 planes will be on display during the 8th Aviasvit-XXI 2012 International Aerospace Show, which will take place in Kyiv Oblast's Hostomel on Sept. 29-30. An AN-225 Mriya plane, the new regional AN-158 and AN-148 aircraft, a multipurpose AN-74 plane, an AN-3 aircraft, the military and sport aircraft of the aerobatic teams of Rus (Russia), First Flight (Russia), the helicopters of Motor Sich (Zaporizhia), the special and business aircraft of Diamond Aircraft (Austria) and many others will be shown to visitors. Apart from air show, the exhibition also features works of well-known Ukrainian artists that will be displayed inside an AN-225 Mriya plane.

Marshrutkas will go to the airshow grounds from Akademmistechko metro stop and Irpin and Bucha railway stations. For more information go to event's website <http://aviasvit.com.ua> Aviasvit 2012 International Aerospace Show. Sept. 29-30. Hostomel, Kyiv Oblast. Free

Tuesday, October 2

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 35-40

Manhattan Short Film Festival (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. Hr 30-40

The Pelayos (comedy). Kyiv. 1 p.m. Hr 35-45

Moonrise Kingdom (comedy). Kinopanorama. 11 a.m., 2:20 p.m., 5:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Tres Deseos (latino party). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

More Huana (cover band). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20

Vzrosliy Band (blues). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

The Heirs of Raburden (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120-1,000

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 35-40

Manhattan Short Film Festival (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m. Hr 30-40

The Pelayos (comedy). Kyiv. 1 p.m. Hr 35-45

My Fairy Lady (musical). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Moonrise Kingdom (comedy). Kinopanorama. 11 a.m., 2:20 p.m., 5:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

The Magma (pop rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30

Maksim Yermachkov (acoustic). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

Torchalov (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Romances. Nostalgia (musical drama). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Four Reasons To Get Married

Sept. 27-30



(drabyna.org)

Modern drama festival

Here's a good opportunity to learn more about modern dramatic art. A special selection of modern Ukrainian and European plays will be performed during the Drama.ua modern drama festival taking place in Lviv on Sept. 27-30.

The fest is set to bring together well-known local and world famous playwrights who will give a series of master classes and take part in discussions about modern dramaturgy.

For the detailed schedule visit the event's website at <http://drabyna.org> **Modern Drama Festival. Sept. 27-30. Lviv. 1 p.m. - 10 p.m. Free**



Sept. 29

Medieval Fall Festival

Can't wait to wish your friends a happy New Year? Do it this Saturday at Kyiv fortress, a 200-year fort in the heart of the prestigious Pechersk district which will be hosting Medieval Fall Festival to mark the Byzantine calendar's New Year.

A bright and colorful show featuring medieval music and dance awaits visitors. In addition, distinguished Ukrainian singer Nina Matviyenko and rock musician Oleh Skrypka who is also the organizer of the event, will perform some of their hits.

The lineup also includes local jazz band "Zabava" and Kostyantyn Chечeruya's ancient music ensemble.

Medieval Fall Festival. Sept. 29. Kyiv Fortress. 2 p.m. Free

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

Gisele (ballet). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-300

Shows

Akvarium. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 250-1000

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Thursday, October 4

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Farewell, My Queen (drama). Kinopanorama. 12:00 p.m., 1:40 p.m., 3:20 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 8:20 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m.

Hr 40-70

Live music

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

Animals Session (classic rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30

Vivienne Mort (indie). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Theaters

So Summer Is Over (based on Irwin Shaw novel 'Lucy Crown'). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Frederick Or Crime Boulevard (premiere). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Sorochinsky Fair (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120

Shows

Mentalist (phenomenal show). Atmosfera 360. 8 p.m. Hr 100-150

Kvartal 95 Studio (comedy show). Palats Ukraina. 8 p.m. Hr 100-2500

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Friday, October 5

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Classics on Fridays. O Bella Voce Concert. Works of Mozart, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Puccini. Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40

Movies

Farewell, My Queen (drama). Kinopanorama. 12:00 p.m., 1:40 p.m., 3:20 p.m., 5 p.m., 8:40 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Red Cardell & Dyadya Vasya. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100

Mad Heads XL & Red Rocks (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Riffmaster (rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Theaters

I Love! I Love! I Love! (Tbilisi Theater). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Confession Of A Nun (Women Theater). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 60-80

Little Adultery (drama). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

The Highest Good In The World (drama). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80

Shows

Kvartal 95 Studio (comedy show). Palats Ukraina. 8 p.m. Hr 100-1500

Kasta (rap). Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 200-350

Cover Show: Monsters Of Rock. Bingo. Hr 70

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Saturday, October 6

Classical music

Kyiv Music Fest. 23rd International Festival. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Farewell, My Queen (drama). Kinopanorama. 4 p.m., 5:40 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m. Hr 40-70

Live music

Mad Heads XL & More Huana (cover band). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100

Banderas Blues Band & Tex-Mex Company. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Mamma Mia (italiano disco, rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Theaters

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

He Is My Sister (comedy). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-600

Kaydashy (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Miscellaneous

Anima (relationships festival). Ukrainian House. 10 a.m. Hr 140-280

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Sunday, October 7

Classical music

Dedication to the Feast of Intersection of the Holy Virgin. Works of Zubytsky, Astafiev, Ukrainian Folk Songs. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

Farewell, My Queen (drama). Kinopanorama. 12:00 p.m., 1:40 p.m., 3:20 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 8:20 p.m. Hr 20-50

Dredd 3D (action). Ukraine. 9 p.m.



Durga Puja

Durga Puja is one of the most important and popular festivals of India, especially Bengal. Goddess Durga represents the unification of all the divine forces to overpower the evil spirits. To fight with the demon Mahishasur, the gods decided to create a real powerful force.

The celebration of this Festival will include especially on the 21st of October wonderful Indian and Ukrainian dances, kids competition, such as „Fancy dress „, „Talent show“, cookery competitions for all and games like „Tambola“ or „Lotto“, „Raffles“ etc and etc. of preparing Indian food.

DATE: 20-24 th of October
VENUE: „State Exhibition Complex“
Prospect Glushkogo, pavillion №7
All are welcome. The entrance is free.

For detailed information and schedule visit www.sanskriti.com.ua or call us: 044 285 47 20



Hr 40-70

Live music

Segodnya Nochiu & Animals Session (classic rock). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Fee to be announced

Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Turnaround. Route 66. 9 p.m. Free

Theaters

Joan of Arc. Discount? (Volodymur Zavalnyk Theater-Studio). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 50-100

Quartet For Two (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Chasing Two Hares (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-150

Schweik (drama). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

Shows

Omar Rodriguez Lopez Group. Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 300-500

Artur Berkut. Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 110-170

Stigmata. Bingo. 7 p.m. Hr 100-120

Miscellaneous

Skladnosuryadni (literature drama performance). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 9 p.m. Hr 60-200

Indian Dance. Flamenco. Artist's House. 6 p.m. Hr 50-200

Anima (relationships festival). Ukrainian House. 10 a.m. Hr 140-280

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children)

Addresses of venues

Classical Music

● National Philharmonic of Ukraine
2 Volodymyr Uzviz St., 278-1697
filarmonia.com.ua/en

● House of Organ Music
77 Velyka Vasylykivska St., 528-3186
organhall.kiev.ua

● School of Jazz and Pop Art
7-A Chelyabinskaya St., 517-6188

● National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music
1-3/11 Horodetsky St. 279-1242
operna-nmau.kiev.ua

● Movies
● Zhovten
26 Kostyantynivska St., 205-5951
zhovten-kino.kiev.ua

● Kyiv
19 Velyka Vasylykivska St. (former Chervonoarmiytska), 234-7381
kievkino.com.ua

● Kinopanorama
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-3041
kinopanorama.com.ua

● Budynok Kino
6 Saksaganskogo St., 287-6780

● Ukraine
5 Gorodetsky St., 2796750, 279 8232
kino-ukraina.com.ua

● Outdoor cinema
31 Nyzhniyurkivska St. <http://kinokombo.blogspot.com/>

! For more schedules visit kino.ukr.net/cinema/kiev/

● Live Music
● Docker Pub
25 Bohatyrskaya St., metro Heroyiv Dnipra, 537-1340
docker.com.ua

● Docker's ABC
15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717,
abc.docker.com.ua

● Art Club 44
44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137
club44.com.ua

● Divan
2 Bessarabskaya Square, 235-7366
festrestdivan.com.ua

● Bochka
22 Verhniy Val St. 067-433-0433
bochka.ua

● Route 66
87/30 Zhylyanska St. 584-3865
www.route66.com.ua

● Clubs
● Bionica
128 Borschahovska St., 277-4747
bionicaclub.com.ua

● Seven Music Club
16/43 Saksahanskoho St. (former Chervonoarmiytska), 093-815-1468
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 Vasylykivska St. (former Chervonoarmiytska), 465-8880
skybar.com.ua

● Sullivan Room

8 Prorizna St., 095-455-7724
sullivanroom.kiev.ua

● Forsage
51A Harmatnaya St., 406-7600
forsageclub.com.ua

● Prime Club
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
115D Horkogo St., 353-7685
fiesta.im

● Golden Gate pub.
15 Zolotovoirovska St. 235-5188
goldengatepubkiev.com

● Vegas
44 Shchorsa St. 063-772-4972

● Museum Le Club
10 Muzeiny Lane 221-1101
museum-club.com

● Allegro Hall
82 Pobedy Ave., (Nivki Park) 237-9209
067-443-4439
allegro.net.ua

067-548-8188
club-cbf.com.ua

● Home
2 Perova Blvd., 558-2545, 383-7738
home-club.kiev.ua

● Green Theatre
2 Park Alley 093 5912514
greentheatre.com.ua

● Ajour
3 Leontovicha St., 234-7494
avalon.ua/en

● Xlib Club
12 Frunze St., Thu-Sat 417-2546
myspace.com/xlibclub

● Vodka Bar
Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Globus mall, 2nd line, 391-1102
vodka-bar.com.ua

● TransForce
28B Moskovskiy Ave. 221-8981

● Sharpei
26 Moskovskiy Ave. 390-1712
sharpai.ua

● Theaters
● Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theater
3 Ivana Franka Sqr., 279-5921
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

4 Kontraktova Pl., 425-5489
Theateronpodol.com

● National Opera Theater of Ukraine
50 Volodymyrska St., 279-1169
opera.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 Chervonoarmiytska 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 Mezhyrhyrska St., 425-4280
musictheater.kiev.ua

● Dakh Modern Art Theatre
13B Velyka Vasylykivska St., 529-4062
dax.com.ua

● Art Union Chorny Kvadrat
1-5 Armeta St., 353-0843
artkvadrat.com

● Kyiv Small Opera
5 Dehtyarskaya St. 502-3247

● Shows
● Palats Ukraina
13 Velyka Vasylykivska St. 247-2316
npmu.com.ua

● Freedom Hall
134 Frunze St. 468-3232
freedomhall.com.ua

stereoplaza.com.ua
● Palats Sportu
1 Sportyvna Square 246-7405
spalace.com.ua

● Artist's House
1/5 Armeta St. 272-0547

● International Exhibition Center
15 Brovarskiy Avenue 538-0827
iec-expo.com.ua

● Lavra Gallery
17 Ivana Mazepy St. 280-0290

● Underground Music Hall
13B Moskovskiy Avenue 360-9594
underground.co.ua

● Zhovtnevy Palats
1, Instyutskaya St. 279-1582
icca.kiev.ua

● INAU Center of Culture and Arts
1 Kosmonavta Komarova Ave., 406-6835
ckm.nau.edu.ua

● Expocenter of Ukraine
1 Glushkov Ave. 596-9116, 596-9101,
expocenter.com.ua

● House of Officers
30/1 Mykhaila Hrushchova St., 253-8072

● Bingo
112 Peremogy Ave. 424-2555
bingo.ua

● Miscellaneous
● Kyiv Expo Plaza
2b Salutna St. 461-9585
expoplaza.kiev.ua

● Master Klass cultural center
16 Lavrska St., 594-1063
masterklass.org

region 526-5765
nmmapu.org.ua

● Mamayeva Sloboda
2 Myhayla Dontsya St. 361-9848
mamajeva-sloboda.ua

● Ostrich farm
32 Pidilna street, Yashohorodka village, Kyiv region (04578) 232-40,
ostrich.com.ua

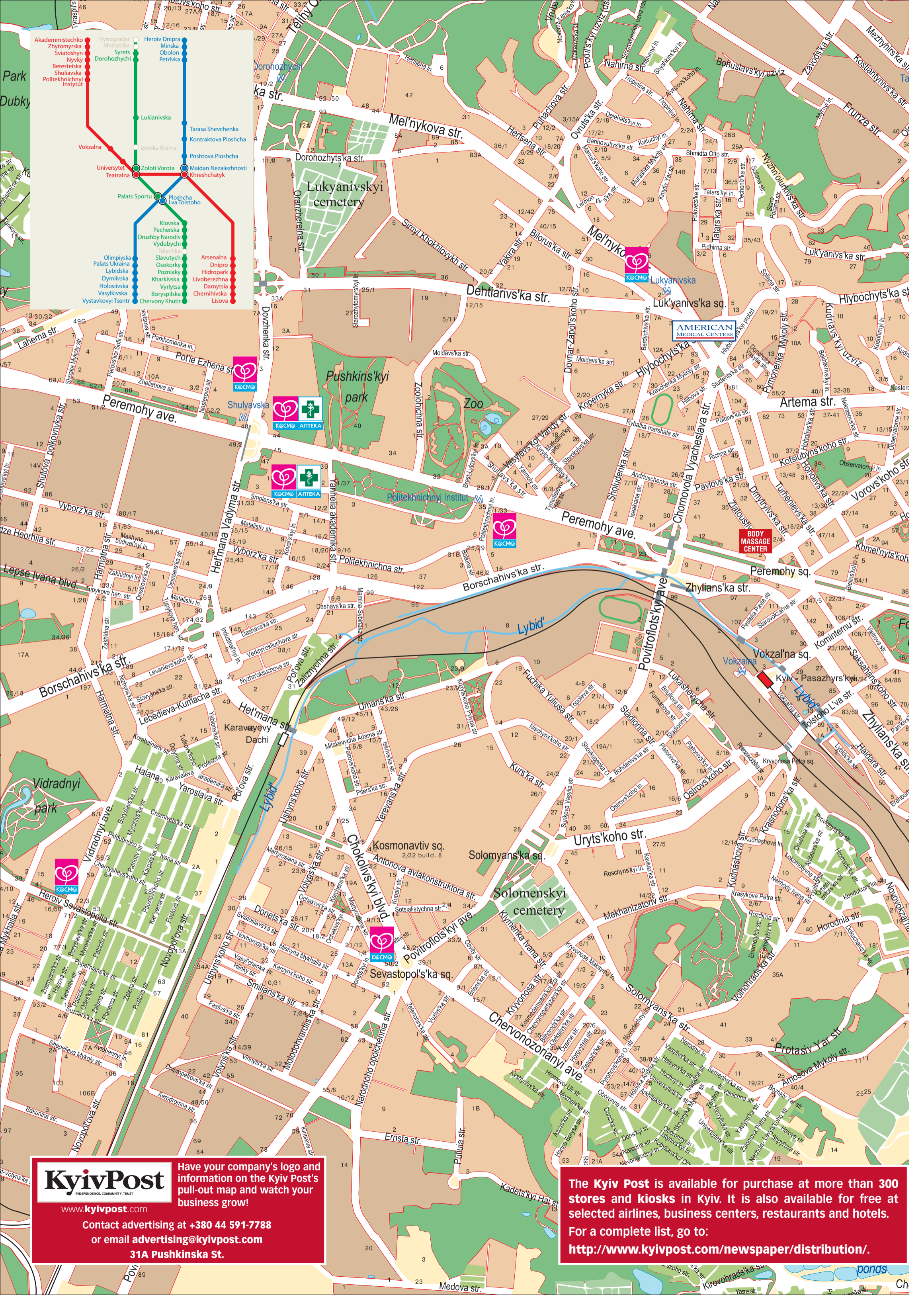
● Kyivska Rus park
Kopachiv village Kyiv region 461-9937
parkkyivrus.com

● KPI Art Center
37 Peremogy Avenue 241-8626

● Museum of Books and Publishing of Ukraine
21, Building 9, Ivana Mazepy St. 280-7976
vuam.org.ua

● M17 Contemporary Art Center
102-104 Gorkogo (Antonovycha) St., 596-2030
m17.com.ua

● Kyiv Children and Youth palace
13 Ivana Mazepy St.



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Gordon: Ukraine must free Tymoshenko and her allies

→ **5** in Kyiv and Washington. I was in Ukraine most recently in February and continued our strategic dialogue through discussions with officials, opposition leaders, and civil society on non-proliferation, energy security, economic reform, and advancement of democracy and human rights.

The United States has long put its money where its mouth is in terms of support for Ukraine, as we have been the largest bilateral contributor of assistance over the last 20 years. To support Ukraine's goal of Euro-Atlantic integration, our assistance programs promote the development of sustainable institutions that advance democracy and human rights, increase the interoperability of the Ukrainian military, diversify options for energy independence, encourage nonproliferation, and improve conditions for economic investment.

We believe that enhanced engagement with the European Union offers Ukraine the best guarantee of prosperity and stability, as it has for so many of its neighbors. The U.S. supports the EU's Eastern Partnership program that promotes security, stability and prosperity in six partner countries including Ukraine. We work to ensure that our bilateral assistance complements the EU's political and economic reform efforts.

After five years of negotiations, we welcomed the initialing on March 30 of the text of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine as well as the initialing on July 19 of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement. While initialing these agreements was an important milestone, the EU has said that it will not sign or ratify them until political circumstances are appropriate. We support that approach and remain in close contact with our European colleagues regarding developments in Ukraine.

Let me be clear: we have not and will not ask Ukraine to choose between East and West, between the United States and Russia. That is a false choice that ignores Ukraine's history and geography. Rather, we want a strong and stable Ukraine that achieves its own goal of European integration and enjoys close relations with all of its neighbors. The U.S. has been striving under the Obama Administration to improve its own relationship with Russia. We do not expect the government of Ukraine to do otherwise.

Together, the United States and Ukraine have made significant achievements. Earlier this year, Ukraine completed the removal of highly enriched uranium from its territory, supporting our joint efforts to secure the world's vulnerable nuclear material and make the world safer. We also appreciate Ukraine's important contributions to peacekeeping and security operations, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo.

On the economic front, we welcomed the recent selection of Chevron and Royal Dutch Shell in tenders to develop shale gas resources as well as the selection of a consortium led by Exxon Mobil to explore for hydrocarbons off-shore in the Black Sea. And the U.S. remains committed to on-time completion of the Neutron Source Facility at Ukraine's Kharkiv Institute for Physics and Technology, which will enable Ukraine to apply new industrial and medical techniques for the benefit of its citizens.

However, more must be done in order to fulfill Ukraine's potential as



A protester and supporter of imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko shakes her fist at a banner depicting (from left) German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and U.S. President Barack Obama. The picture came during a rally by opposition parties in front of Kyiv's Administrative Court of Appeal on Sept. 26, ahead of the country's Oct. 28 parliamentary elections. (AFP)

a hub for foreign investment. When I was in Kyiv, I met with American business people who described the challenges of working in Ukraine. Their anecdotal frustrations are confirmed by Ukraine's continued low rankings in international surveys on its business and investment climate.

For example, Ukraine was listed 152nd out of 183 economies in the 2012 World Bank "Ease of Doing Business" rankings. While U.S. companies are interested in further investment in Ukraine, they are confronted by tax and customs problems as well as corruption. And they rightly worry about fair treatment in court. In order to alleviate these concerns, Ukraine must provide companies – both foreign and domestic – with a level playing field that includes better legal protections and transparent, predictable rules.

The Yanukovich administration has adopted some important legislation, including measures related to the tax and customs administrations, a new criminal procedure code, and laws guaranteeing public access to official documents and enhanced due process protections.

On the governance front, the parliament established a sound basis for NGOs to operate, while the parliamentary election law did, in the end, pass with the support of most opposition MPs. These are all helpful steps that will have positive effects – if the laws are fully and properly implemented.

Ukraine is now in the midst of another key event in the development of its democracy – the campaign leading up to parliamentary elections on Oct. 28. When Ukrainian citizens last went to the polls in 2010 to choose a new president, the election reflected the peaceful expression of their political will. That election provided a clear choice among candidates in a calm atmosphere that was followed openly by the media and engaged citizens who turned out in high numbers. And that presidential election was judged by international observers to be free and fair.

I was proud to be part of the US delegation that attended President [Viktor] Yanukovich's inauguration. Yanukovich and other senior officials have pledged that the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections will similarly meet international democratic standards, including full access for international and domestic election monitors. We

urge Ukraine to follow through on these commitments.

The United States is providing approximately \$5 million in funding for activities to promote free and fair parliamentary elections. We are supporting long-term observation by over 260 Ukrainian and international monitors and short-term monitoring by 3500 domestic observers, as well as a Parallel Vote Tabulation and exit poll.

We are strengthening the capacity of Ukraine's Central Election Commission to train election management bodies, training lawyers and administrative court judges to ensure the protection of voters' and candidates' rights, and encouraging the promotion of public debate and engagement in the electoral process through voter education campaigns.

It is worth stressing that free and fair elections extend beyond activities on Election Day to the three month campaign that precedes voting. Media freedom is a key component of this process. We are therefore concerned by reports of harassment of independent and opposition outlets by local authorities, tax inspectors, and prosecutors' offices.

The disappearance of independent television station TVi from cable operators in multiple cities

has the appearance of a deliberate effort to silence one side in the pre-election debate. We urge the government of Ukraine to address these problems.

We deeply regret that two imprisoned opposition leaders – former Prime Minister Tymoshenko and former Interior Minister Lutsenko – have been disqualified from participating in the election. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated on May 1, we "call for Ms. Tymoshenko's release, the release of other members of her former government and the restoration of their full civil and political rights."

We also urge the government of Ukraine to cease further prosecutions against them and other political opposition leaders. While two former members of Tymoshenko's former Cabinet were released earlier this year, we are disturbed to see the Prosecutor General's Office continuing to pursue additional investigations against Tymoshenko and Lutsenko.

When I was in Ukraine earlier this year, I reiterated our concerns about politically motivated prosecutions of opposition leaders. Such trials undermine democracy and democratic values, risk ingraining self-censorship in the media, and discourage civic participation given fear of prosecution.

They also create a stumbling block in our bilateral relations as well as in Ukraine's quest to become a truly democratic society. Leaders of the EU and its member states have specified that they will not move ahead on signing and ratifying their agreements with Ukraine until this problem of selective prosecutions has been addressed.

Ukraine's parliamentary elections come at a time when Ukraine is preparing to assume the chairmanship-in-office

o f



NEWS ITEM: The vicar of the Kyiv Cave of the Monastery (Russian Orthodox Church) Metropolitan Pavlo Lebid allegedly attacked Kseniya Karpenko, a Korrespondent magazine journalist, when she approached him for comments on Sept. 24. Karpenko said Lebid became aggressive when she asked him about the lavish lifestyles of the church clergy. He allegedly grabbed her and took her cell phone which she used to record the conversation. According to Lebid, however, Karpenko was the aggressor. He said she entered his car, bit his finger and injured his leg. He has already called on the president and parliament "to take measures" with "crazy journalists." Lebid, who also is a Kyiv City Council member from the ruling Party of Regions, is notorious for his clashes with the media. He previously threatened to sue another journalist for asking questions about his lavish lifestyle.

Election Watch

Oct. 28 parliamentary election



Parliamentary elections 2012: Is Ukraine repeating history?

BY OKSANA FARYNA
FARYNA@KYIVPOST.COM

The last time that Ukraine had a mixed election system – electing half of its 450 members of parliament in geographic districts, the other half through party lists – was 2002. This year's return to the mixed system a decade later, for the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, is instructive because of the high probability that history will repeat itself in the voting results.

Ten years ago, the opposition did well on the party lists, but failed to muster a majority after doing poorly in the single-mandate districts. Experts think that history will repeat itself in the fall parliamentary election, enabling President Viktor Yanukovich, like Leonid Kuchma 10 years before, to retain control over the Verkhovna Rada.

The expectation is that opposition candidates will do poorly in the 225 districts, where the watch of election observers will not be strong enough in number to catch pro-presidential candidates using influence, voter intimidation and more, to squeeze out victories.

If this scenario plays out, the outcome will be the same as a decade ago, with the ruling, pro-presidential parties still in charge.

According to the Central Election Commission, in 2002 the pro-presidential parties "For A United Ukraine!" and the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united) got 18 percent of



A woman stands between two lightboards for Vitali Klitschko, whose party is expected to win seats in parliament. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

votes combined on the party-list voting. They were defeated by oppositional forces, which then consisted of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine, the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko and Socialist Party of Ukraine, which together gained 37.7 percent.

But the strong showing was not enough for the opposition to form a coalition as the results in the geographic district races were poorer. Polls and experts are expecting the same this year. It's one reason why Yanukovich's Party of Regions championed the change from the all-party list format in electing the nation's 450 lawmakers.

A poll conducted by Democratic

Initiatives Foundation and Razumkov Center between Aug. 10 and 15, showed that the ruling Party of Regions may get 28.1 percent of votes during the next election. In contrast, the United Opposition and Vitali Klitschko's UDAR Party combined may get 37.1 percent of the votes. But that opposition triumph is expected to be offset by victories in the districts by candidates from the Party of Regions and other pro-presidential groups.

"Certainly, history will repeat," said Iryna Bekeshkina, director at Democratic Initiatives Foundation.

Olexander Vyshnyak, head of the Ukrainian Sociology Service, predicts

more than half of the 225 single-mandate constituencies will be won by Party of Regions candidates and 20 percent will be won by independents, most of whom will join the Party of Regions faction in the new parliament. "Even on its own, the Party of Regions will have about 200 mandates as a result of this election and together with non-partisan candidates it will get up to 250 lawmakers," Vyshnyak said.

Bekeshkina said the opposition is itself, in part, at fault. "I travelled recently to Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Donetsk oblasts, and saw no strong candidates from the opposition there," she said.

Volodymyr Bondarenko, an opposition lawmaker who took part in the 2002 election and is running for re-election, said bribery will be rampant. Bondarenko said the price for one vote in his constituency in Kyiv is \$50. He said voters are given Hr 150 first by officially employed campaign agitators and are then promised the rest of the money after the elections if the candidate wins.

"The scale of this phenomenon is huge," Bondarenko said. "It will greatly influence the result of these elections."

Votes are generally cheaper to buy in the provinces. Viktor Rybachenko, vice president at the Association of Political Psychologists of Ukraine, said that earlier this month, one of the local candidates was handing out bread and a chocolate bar to bribe his voters. "There was not enough stuff for every-

one. People were fighting," Rybachenko said.

Vasyl Horbal, currently a Party of Regions lawmaker who has experience in the 2002 campaign but is now running as an independent, says it's likely that attempted bribery of voters will take place.

The payoffs may extend to election commissions. "In remote villages, where there will be no international observers and exit polls, such bribes will be widespread," added Bekeshkina.

But bribery is not the only way to trick voters. Many self-declared independents are really supported by the ruling party. It often becomes obvious only when by the level of support a candidate receives from local authorities – either by direct government favors and spending, privileged access to meeting halls and rally sites or favored treatment in the local news media. Often it's a combination of all three factors for the government favoritism, also called "administrative resources."

According to the new election law, voters can temporarily change their place of voting without changing their permanent voting address. This may lead to an abuse involving organized group of voters sent to vote in certain districts in order to influence results.

"Unfortunately, the 10 years between these two elections made them neither more democratic nor more transparent," Bondarenko concluded.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Faryna can be reached at faryna@kyivpost.com.

Police hound creator of political billboard

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

Maksym Holosny is doing a lot of running these days, literally and figuratively. He is running from law enforcement while simultaneously running for parliament.

Serving in previous years as a rural government official unknown to most Ukrainians, the 30-year old broke onto the national political stage after paying for a handful of billboard advertisements in the Yelyzavetivska region of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

Holosny's anti-government billboard depicted a cat with a granny who says: "When I found out my grandson voted for the [pro-presidential] Party of Regions I rewrote [my will] to give my house to the cat [instead]."

Shortly after the billboard were taken down, but the picture and theme spread like wildfire on the internet. Hundreds of satirical memes mocking President Viktor Yanukovich's party appeared on social networks.

But Holosny was no longer laughing. Local police issued a search warrant for him early this summer, roughly the same time he registered as a candidate for parliament in a Dnipropetrovsk single mandate contest.

Holosny has been hiding from law

enforcement ever since, with little opportunity to campaign on the ground, face-to-face with his voters. He says his political ambitions are the reason behind his troubles with the law and that the investigation will be dropped once he withdraws his candidacy.

Some say this is an example of fear and intimidation that opposition and independent candidates in single mandate districts in the run-up to elections.

Commenting on Holosny's situation, political analyst Oleksiy Haran said "the authorities are clearly trying to use all kinds of methods to sideline candidates (in single mandate constituencies) that they do not back."

The election is scheduled for Oct. 28. Half of parliament's 450 seats will be elected through closed party lists, where opposition parties are neck-to-neck with pro-presidential ones. The other half of seats will be chosen in 225 decisive single mandate contests.

Dnipropetrovsk police dismissed allegations that their probe into Holosny was linked to the election, explaining that the investigation dates back to last November. They said Holosny was charged this July with illegal appropriation of goods while heading Yelyzavetivka, a village in Dnipropetrovsk region. He faces up to



Maksym Holosny

four years imprisonment.

In a telephone interview with the Kyiv Post, Holosny said he landed in politics by chance. Several years ago he gave a prominent speech at a village council about solving local problems, after which he was encouraged to run for the village head. He won the local elections in October 2010, after working six years at his father's architecture firm.

He headed the village for only 10 months, strongly opposing land reform,

which he thinks would deprive rural people of their land. He said this made him a target for regional authorities, and that he was illegally voted out of office.

Holosny claimed he has a strong chance of getting elected to parliament. Recognizing this, pro-presidential authorities are, according to Holosny, trying to sideline him through prosecutions, investigations and possibly imprisonment.

"I was told by my sources in the police that once I remove my candidacy, the police will immediately drop the investigation," he said.

Police maintain that when Holosny was head of Yelyzavetivka, he took into possession and never returned local council property worth Hr 4,500 (\$560). The property includes a car, a laptop, a cell phone and coupons for petrol.

Holosny claims he is innocent, adding that the petty charges show authorities struggled to find any serious wrongdoing.

It is clear that the "case is fabricated," he said.

Holosny admitted that he is still in possession of certain items from his days running the village, adding that he never thought of keeping them. He said he is keen to return them to the local council.

He has been in hiding since August after in late July the Dnipropetrovsk police put him on the wanted list to find and question him. Holosny claims his apartment and is potential whereabouts are under 24/7 police surveillance.

"[I am] always on the move, changing places and cell phones," Holosny said. "I had to relocate my wife and one-year-old daughter to a safe place. I do not see them often nowadays."

Holosny said he will agree to talk with police once he gets a subpoena. Despite police claims about sending multiple letters, he said his lawyers regularly checked his mail but never found one.

Holosny describes his pre-election campaign as stressful, but has no regrets.

When asked about his campaign financing he said that help from friends, volunteers, and random people supporting his actions were enough to cover his modest needs.

Once elected to parliament, Holosny said he "will do everything to stop land, health and pension reforms," which are designed to rob Ukraine's unprotected and poor rural citizens.

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



Bonding with nature in Kyiv



Oleksandr Siryi, Ekzoland's zoo technician, holds an iguana on exhibit in Ekzoland. Visitors are allowed to touch animals, take pictures and even feed them in Ekzoland at Dreamtown which makes it an ideal place to take kids on the weekend. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BY ANASTASIA FORINA
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Animal lovers finally have an alternative to Kyiv's notorious zoo, whose reputation has been tainted in recent years by mysterious animal deaths and other scandals.

Two exhibitions in Ukraine's capital are becoming increasingly popular with tourists and locals alike.

Featuring rare reptiles and mammals from across the world, the "Discover Your Ekzoworld" petting zoo was launched last spring at Dreamtown, a major shopping center on the north side of the city.

Another, darker place, to stop by is

Night World, an exhibition at the Kyiv Natural History Museum. Located in the very center of Kyiv on 15 Bohdana Khmelnytsky St. (metro station Teatralna), it has more than 50 species of nocturnal animals on display.

With the cold weather of winter around the corner, the next half year is a good time to visit both indoor exhibitions.

The staff at both venues is friendly and skilled. Admission costs about Hr 20 for children and Hr 50 for adults.

The zoo is owned by Bion Terrarium Center, which runs an animal breeding laboratory in Kyiv. Some of the animals exhibited in Ekzoland were bred there while the rest were brought from for-

eign and domestic zoos.

Ekzoland

More than 30 rare species are on display at Ekzoland, an indoor zoo which opened its doors last May at the older section of Dreamtown, the Obolon district shopping center that stretches from metro stations Obolon to Minska. The 300 square meter exhibition is situated on center's third floor, by the food court.

You can get a glimpse of little tamarinds weighting about 300 grams or a giant Indian python several meters in size among the many animals exhibited here.

One of the hottest attractions,

though, is Ukraine's sensational two-headed tortoise. It has two heads, six paws and a single intestine. It was previously displayed to Kyivans in March during an exhibition held at the Natural History Museum.

"These are conjoined twins, a rare case," said project coordinator Natalia Kalymbet. "They would not survive in ordinary conditions. Here we provide them with special support."

"We let the visitors touch almost all of the animals and take pictures of them. They can also learn how to feed them," said Kalymbet. Feeding chameleons is arguably the most exciting process, she added.

Most of the animals are kept in →21

Food Critic



WITH ELENA PASHKOVSKAYA
PASHKOVSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

A halal bite at Bessarabsky Market

Walking on Bessarabsky square in downtown Kyiv, it's easy to make the mistake of overlooking a small cafe called Lina'ss Caffee.

This small but tasty place right next door to the Billa supermarket offers nothing special apart from decent, affordable portions of Middle Eastern and South European dishes, often with both regular and halal versions.

That's enough of a reason to stop by for most stomachs.

Lina'ss occupies two floors, but fills up quickly around lunchtime.

Don't panic as you can order takeout, which will make your meal even cheaper.

While the streetside tables are a bit cramped, they offer a view of the action in downtown Kyiv. In contrast, the downstairs eating area offers more privacy and comfort, with stone tables, cozy chairs and mirror walls.

The menu is user-friendly, with pictures of dishes that are useful if you don't know, for example, what comes in a marush (a sandwich with chicken, pickled cucumbers and sauce) or falafel (fried ball or patty made from beans wrapped in pita with vegetables and spicy sauce).

After several visits, I found my perfect lunch dish – "Meat Breakfast." It includes an omelette, french fries, light salad, succulent chicken pieces and costs only Hr 43. But I also developed a fondness for "Lina'ss Tauk" – chicken kebabs with souse and french fries, also Hr 43.

Full meals rarely exceed Hr 50-100. If you're not that hungry, try the mushroom cream soup (Hr 23), a delicious combination with Lina'ss house bread.

In general, various sandwiches cost about Hr 23 if you eat in, but fall as low as Hr 15 for takeout. That's a hard to beat price for those who don't mind lurching on a Khreshchatyk bench or in a nearby park.

The main advantages of Lina'ss are: Service is simple, yet sufficient; food, including various salads, is fresh; queues are never long, and the bill is always ready when you want to pay.

If you have not finished your entire meal, the waitress will swiftly wrap your food in a container.

The waitresses are mostly local. The ever-present manager is from the Middle East.

The atmosphere is really nice, especially downstairs.

The only potential discomfort, depending upon your sensitivity, could be the music channel playing too loud.

A lot of foreigners hold their business lunches there, and it's common to hear two or three languages being spoken at any given time.

Kyiv Post staff writer Elena Pashkovskaya can be reached at pashkovskaya@kyivpost.com

Lina'ss Caffee
2 Bessarabska Square
(063) 669-6799.

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

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A family business devoted to making men look good

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

The antechamber of Larisa Voronina's office, the head of men's suit maker Voronin, looks as classic as the suits the company crafts – it's large with two assistants and furnished with cozy armchairs that convey the sense of being in the presence of a big shot.

That impression vaporizes once inside the boss' office, a big, snug and messy place with fabric samples piled high on a leather sofa.

"I didn't feel like moving to my father's office, but he wanted me to," says Voronina.

Her father, Mikhail Voronin, whose portrait hangs on the wall behind Voronina's desk, put his life into establishing Ukraine's largest production center of classic men's attire. He started as a tailor in the 1950s and ended up owning chain of 61 stores in Ukraine and a sewing factory in Kyiv.

When Voronin died in April at the age of 73, his daughter officially took over the company that she's de facto ruled for the last two years due to her father's illness.

In taking the CEO's chair, Voronina left the United States, where she spent the last 19 years, arriving in 1993 to give her seven-year-old son a shot at a better life.

"The early 1990s were a dangerous time for business people and their families. My father's business was already quite large at the time, and my son, Eugeni, was the family's only weak spot. I took him abroad to protect him and give my family freedom to do business," Voronina says.

Her life in the U.S. exemplified the typical American dream. Having to work as a press operator at a dry cleaner at first, she ended up owning a senior citizen's home. Still, Voronina says she had no doubts about returning to Ukraine when the family business demanded it.

Voronina says it was difficult to face Ukrainian bureaucracy after the experience of doing business in the U.S.

"I've got so used to filing documents on payments by just one click of a mouse that all the paperwork I have to process here is quite unusual for me," she says, touching piles folders on her desk.

Her father had probably suffered even more difficulties making the transition from being a tailor to a successful businessman in a Soviet environment.

"Voronin used to say: 'From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. I am a businessman, but after that I'm a designer,'" recalls Svitlana



Founder Mikhail Voronin, who died in April at the age of 73.

→ Daughter takes over the clothing business started by her father, but still needs to persuade son to take up family trade

Batrak, the company's spokeswoman.

Referring to her father, Voronina often calls him a "genius" for his attention to detail.

She shows off her father's tailoring inventions. The most important one looks like a vest cut in details, connected by pieces of measuring tape. This vest model was meant to help fit a jacket for a future client on custom tailored orders. Instead of taking a client's measurement, Voronin would count how different the client was from the standard, placing a vest on him and moving measuring tapes. That meant the client didn't need to come for multiple fittings.

Individual orders played a huge role in Mikhail Voronin's brand reputation. Italian opera tenor Alessandro Safina and Ukraine's former presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma are on the list of Voronin clients.

Even though foreign top brands like Brioni and Ermenegildo Zegna



Cutting machine shapes details of future men's suits at Voronin factory in Kyiv. (Ganna Bernyk)



In one of the factory's workshops, employers give shape to finished jackets using steam. (Ganna Bernyk)

have conquered Ukraine's elite lately, Voronina says her company is not hurt.

"Buying a Brioni suit can be hard if you have a non-standard figure. Like, sleeves can be too short, or a jacket won't fasten because of your belly. To avoid these troubles, at Voronin we sell each size in many fits," Voronina says. "And of course, our suit would cost several times cheaper."

Depending on apparel, Mikhail Voronin suits cost Hr 1,800 to 3,800, while custom orders start at Hr 5,000 and have no price ceilings. The most expensive suit ever, according to Batrak, was made in the 1990s and cost \$50,000.

The company also produces a small collection of women's apparel meant to allow Voronin to accept corporate orders that include women's wear. Boryspil International Airport employees and Customs Service officers wear uniforms made by Voronin.

Voronina confides she once ran a

small garments business of her own, having gained experience very close to her father's communal apartment sewing. In the 1980s, she delved in children's clothes design and production.

"We would buy some nice children's suit produced abroad, cut it in details and copy it in all sizes," she says. "I used to come home from work, put my sewing machine on the kitchen table and work. The kitchen was the only place in our tiny one-room apartment where I could do that. When father came home from work, I had to put down sewing machine so he could have dinner. Then the machine went back and I continued."

Now Voronina confidently leads her way through multiple workshops of the Voronin factory, showing production stages in suits. The factory's staff numbers about 400 workers.

Larisa is not the only Voronin family member at the company. Her mother, Inna Voronina, spent her life helping with her husband's business, starting

with delivering orders to clients and ending with her current position as the public relations director.

Larisa Voronina's son, however, doesn't plan on entering the family business.

"He shocked us once, saying 'I guessed what my grandfather's business secret was. He was so successful because he was doing what he liked. I'm going to do what I like too.' So now he is a tennis coach," Voronina says with a smile.

"But we still have hope."

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



Larisa Voronina shows the vest model that helped her father in filling individual orders. (Ganna Bernyk)

Voronin Kyiv locations:

- 54 Zhylyanska St.
- 14 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervomoarmiyiska)
- 55 Kharkivske Shose
- 23 Moskovsky Av.

Upscale events to rock Kyiv

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO
IRKLIYENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Kyiv is about to experience a new level of fashion and music events. Oliver Kloes, a German event organizer, is throwing a concert and a fashion show featuring American iconic musician Narada Walden. Ukrainian stars will perform the greatest hits he wrote and produced for Mariah Carey, Aretha Franklin and others.

The Fashion Rocks Kyiv has two parts – a concert and fashion show – which will kick off on Oct. 11 and 12, respectively, in Ukraine's capital.

The selection process of Ukrainian stars for the concert was not easy. A multiple Grammy Award winner and producer of more than 10 international music hits, Walden spent time trying to find the right Ukrainian stars to perform his hits in English.

While Walden was impressed with numerous Ukrainian musical talents, he felt strongest about Jamala, Kamaliya (wife of Kyiv Post publisher Mohammad Zahoor), Hard Kiss, Allois (former vocalist of Gorchitza) and Viktor Romanchenko from X-factor.

They will have an opportunity to perform some of the greatest international hits together with Walden, who will play on drums, including "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and "All the Man That I Need" by Whitney Houston, "I Don't Wanna Cry" by Mariah Carey,



Oliver Kloes



Valeriy Bebko

"Freeway of Love" and "Jimmy Lee" by Aretha Franklin and many others.

Valeriy Bebko, producer and guitar player of Ukrainian band Hard Kiss,



Singer-actress Kamaliya performs during an ISTIL Group corporate event on Dec. 23, 2011. Kamaliya will open the Fashion Rocks Kyiv concert on Oct. 11 at Crystal Hall. She will introduce a new program and also perform "All the Man That I Need," a song made famous by the late Whitney Houston. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

says they did not hesitate when offered to participate in the concert, which meant a chance to work with Walden. "Yulia, our vocalist loves Narada's songs, she grew up on Whitney Houston" said Bebko. "It wasn't hard to prepare, because Yulia already knew the songs."

But no matter how good the performers are, the concert doesn't mean much without the crowd. "The quality of the concert comes from a very good crowd," says Kloes. "If you have good energy in the crowd, then the musicians on the stage will feel the same energy that forms a perfect symbiosis that you will remember for the rest of your life."

He says to ensure that kind of atmosphere the ticket price comes at a fairly low level of Hr 190 (\$24).

Meanwhile, the next-day fashion show will be an upscale event at the Fairmont Grand Hotel on the Dnipro River. London designer Roubi from New Bond Street will present his new hunting collection for men and women.

But this time, it won't be "just another fashion show," says Kloes. According to him, Ukrainian events have way to go to catch up with Paris and Milan fashion shows. "It's not enough just to put two BMW's and a red carpet [at such event]" he says. "But what matters

is every single detail from champagne and hostess personnel to the quality of catwalk."

Unlike Ukrainian Fashion Week, this will be a Western-type of fashion show which will include a staged performance, a mini-concert by Kamaliya, Waldan and Hard Kiss.

"It will be one-hour theatrical show," says Kloes. The fashion show performances will be accompanied by all the music styles, from classical to hard rock, pop and jazz. "It's really like a theatrical complete, well choreographed and well-staged show with different artists, acts, ballet dancers, etc," he adds.

U.S. musician and producer Walden will host the event together with Yulia Sanina, a singer from Hard Kiss. While an Italian star chef Massimo Riccioli, will come to Kyiv specifically to cook dinner for the event.

According to the organizers, such a combination of fine cuisine and glamorous fashion is already attracting upscale international crowd to town, as business people from London, Paris and Brussels, Roubi's main clientele, are already booking their fashion show tickets coming at a hefty price of 450 euro (Hr 4,740).

The Oct. 11 concert sponsors

include Ukrainian International Airlines and Belgian Art Zone while the Oct. 12 fashion show includes: Fairmont Grand Hotel; Neocleous law firm in Kyiv; Dryer One engineering company in Belgium; and Belgian Art Zone. The Kyiv Post is a media sponsor.

Kyiv Post staff writer Maryna Irkliyenko can be reached at irkliyenko@kyivpost.com.



Ukrainian jazz singer Jamala performs in the Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet on Nov. 15, 2011. Jamala will sing "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," made popular by the late Whitney Houston, and "I Don't Wanna Cry" also sung by Mariah Carey during the Fashion Rocks Kyiv concert on Oct. 11. (Ukrinform)

Fashion Rocks Kyiv - The Concert

Date: Oct. 11.
Time: 8 p.m.
Venue: Crystal Hall, 1 Dniproviskiy Spusk.
Website: <http://crystalhall.com.ua/events/fashion-rocks-kyiv-concert/>
After-show party: Belgian Art Zone
Ticket price: Hr 190

Fashion Rocks Kyiv - The Fashion Show

Date: Oct. 12
Time: 7.30 p.m.
Venue: Fairmont Grand Hotel Kyiv, 1 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska Street
After-show party: Belgian Art Zone
Ticket price: (Hr 4,740)

4th of October at 19:00

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GogolFest rises from ruins in industrial zone



The Gogometal fire show, staged by Vlad Troitskyi, is part of the GogolFest opening ceremony on Sept. 21. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

In a matter of weeks, the GogolFest team turned an abandoned factory on the outskirts of Kyiv into one of the city's hottest locations for street art, alternative music and offbeat theater.

Several thousand people filled the vast space in the industrial grounds near Vydubychi metro station on Sept. 21 to enjoy Ukrainian modern culture and a kaleidoscope of unconventional art. The festival will continue until Saturday with concerts of modern classical and alternative music, art-house cinema, theater performances, lectures on pressing art issues and master classes on artistic photography and directing films. A closing party will be held late on Sept. 29.

Named after the legendary Nikolai Gogol, considered both a Ukrainian and Russian writer, the festival was held in Mystetskyi Arsenal from 2007 to 2009 until the complex was reconstructed, making it an impractical venue. It moved to the Dovzhenko Film Studio in 2010 before taking a two-year hiatus.

"There will be classical and alternative music, cinema, theater and visual art, everyone can get what they want," said Vladyslav Troitsky, the festival organizer and head of Dah Theater. While the festival welcomes foreign guests, Troitsky said, the main point is to showcase Ukraine's growing pool of talented artists.

The whole event seems to fit its creator's concept perfectly. The ceremony opened with a reading from "Time for Outrage" by Stephane Hessel, a French diplomat and concentration camp survivor. It was read by Liza, a French doctor who had come to volunteer at the festival. It was followed by a dramatic fire show and a screening of "Earth," a black-and-white silent 1930s movie by outstanding Soviet-Ukrainian film director Oleksandr Dovzhenko to the music of ethno-chaos band Daha-Braha.

Thousands watched the film in the abandoned hall of the old plant. "I watched the original version of 'Earth' of course, but it is so different and amazing with Daha-Braha," Yana Koretska, an economist, whispered to her sister during the screening. "I am

sure music can express emotions better than words."

The sisters say they are diehard fans of GogolFest, but this is the most unusual one. "The place has so much atmosphere and you can even confuse the original factory elements with art objects," said lawyer Alina Koretska.

Art covers the plant's territory. Dressed dummies hang from ceilings in big moving industrial cages. Dozens of installations fill the visual art hall, with their sculptures, pictures, posters, and collages. "Contemporary art is quite controversial, most people who claim they love it don't even understand what it is about," said GogolFest visitor Maria Kotymako, a design student. "But I believe people who come to GogolFest have some range of imagination. The atmosphere here is wonderful," she added.

Pavlo Gudimov, who leads a modern rock band and owns a contemporary art gallery, presented his recent project "Neofolk," as part of a visual art exposition that included works by Ukrainian and foreign artists Oleksandr Babak, Ruslan Tremba, Oleksandr Kadnikov and Iryna Kalenyk.

But it's not all visual art, as the festival also boasts a fascinating art stage with up to 10 performances from different theaters. Dah Theater even created a special play for the event, which its director Troitsky said discusses the country, theater, and attempts to understand what theater means in our life. "The performance will be staged just two times and never ever more," he said.

GogolFest also has a large cinema program, and an extensive musical program whose main theme is John Cage, the American composer. Margaret Leng Tan, a Singapore-born American piano master and legendary Cage follower, gave her first concert in Ukraine, playing a toy piano for several hundred Ukrainian music lovers. She said she was not sure she could make it as GogolFest contacted her just two months before the event.

"It is my first time here, but I am



(Top) A visitor wearing a mask of Ukrainian-Russian writer Nikolai Gogol enjoys the opening ceremony. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

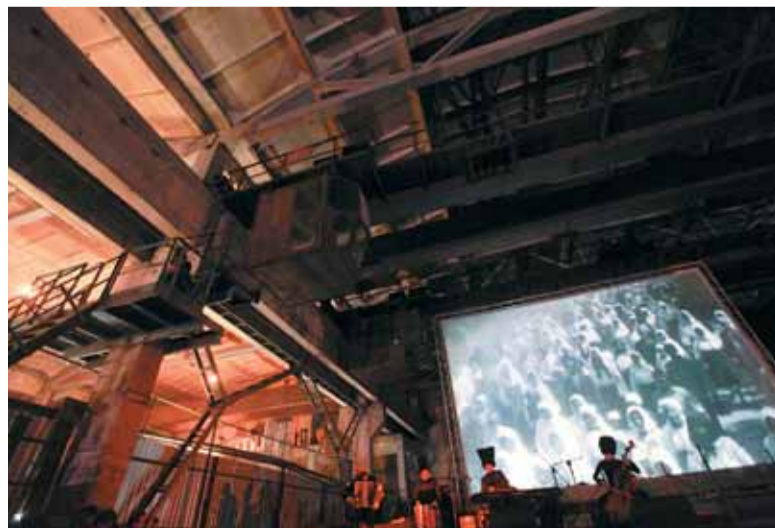
(Above) Margaret Leng Tan, a Singapore-born American pianist is a headliner of the GogolFest music program. (Courtesy)

glad I came," she said after her concert on Sept. 22. "The audience was wonderful, they were so quite even though it is such a big space. And they gave me a standing ovation at the end and wanted me to play more," she said, adding that she didn't expect such a big turnout in Ukraine.

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

GogolFest

Sept. 21-29. Abandoned factory at 11 Inzhenerna St. near Vydubychi metro station (follow the road behind the Furshet shopping center)
For the detailed schedule and prices visit the festival's website <http://www.gogolfest.org.ua>



Daha-Braha, a Ukrainian ethno-chaos band, accompanies the showing of the "Earth" movie in an abandoned factory. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Ekzoland's rare multi-colored chameleon hunts for a grasshopper. The reptile has a fast, darting 15-centimeter long tongue. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



(Top) Natalia Kalymlet, Ekzoland's project coordinator, feeds bread to lemurs. (Above) Ekzoland's parrot Zhako tries to attract the attention of visitors. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Alternatives to Kyiv Zoo

→ 17 twos. There are even two families – giant tree frogs and African pancake tortoises. “They are reproducing which means they are well-kept here,” Kalymbet said. One of the iguanas is expected to lay eggs in a couple of weeks, she added.

About 3,000 people visited Ekzoland in August. One recent visitor was Israel's Pini Ezra. “This place is so nice. Just like everything here in Kyiv,” the visiting tourist said while holding an iguana as friends snapped a photograph.

The animals are kept in premises that closely resemble their natural habitat, according to Kalymbet. Artificial plants placed inside the warrens are perhaps the only thing that offends the eye. “The plants need natural lighting which can't be recreated here. That's why we use artificial ones,” she explained. “We don't want our visitors to come here and feel pity for the animals, like when they do while visiting the Kyiv Zoo. Visitors are to have a pleasurable and restful experience,” Kalymbet said.

other former Soviet republics, but in Ukraine it has no analog.” The majority of the animals kept at Night World are active at night rather than during the daytime. You can expect to see anything from a little piebald shrew a few centimeters in size to giant venomous snakes several meters long. Special black light technology imitates the darkness. Flash lights are sometimes needed to get a good view of the animals. The exhibition is accompanied with sounds recreating voices of the various nocturnal animals. Scientific films are screened to provide more depth on the lives and habits of animals displayed. “It's great. We have been there three times already,” said Mariya Kuchma, who came to the exhibition with her granddaughter. *Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at forina@kyivpost.com*

Ekzoland
 Dreamtown, 3rd floor
 1B Obolonsky Ave.
 Admission - Hr 50 adults, Hr 25 kids free for kids under 3
 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)
 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. (Friday, weekend, holidays)

Feeding animals
 2 p.m. - tortoises and dragons
 4 p.m. - green iguana
 6 p.m. - tamarinds
 8 p.m. - two-head tortoise

Night World
 Natural History Museum
 15 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo St.
 Admission - Hr 40 adults, Hr 25 kids free for kids under 3
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. (closed on Monday, Tuesday)



Ekzoland, on 1B Obolonsky Ave in Dreamtown, and Night World, on 15 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo St., are two family-friendly destinations where children can get close to animals and reptiles.

Enter Night World
 The excitement at Night World kicks off at the very onset. Visitors are handed flashlights upon entrance. “It's the first exhibition of this kind in Ukraine,” said Dmytro Didenko, a zoo technician at Night World exhibition. “There are similar ones in Europe and

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Rally opposing libel law to take place at 10 a.m. Oct. 1

→2 28 parliamentary election. This is the third attempt by lawmakers to criminalize libel since 2008. A number of pro-presidential deputies, including Zhuravsky himself, said they are determined to do so.

"I have decided today to take this issue off in the legal sense, but not in the political sense. I stand by my political positions and convictions: for a long time there has been a need in society to increase responsibility for infringement on the honor and dignity of every person, not just a politician," Zhuravsky said in a statement on the Party of Regions website on Sept. 25.

Many democracies have laws against libel, but they are considered civil and not criminal infractions. A high standard is set for a public figure claiming libel. In America, for instance, public figures must prove that a journalist acted with malice in deliberating spreading information known to be false about a person. If that standard is met in a civil

lawsuit, the punishment is not imprisonment, but rather modest monetary damages and/or public retractions and apologies. In Ukraine, libel lawsuits have been infrequent and adverse judgments have been punished by relatively small fines or public retractions.

Article 19, a London-based free-speech watchdog, says the criminalization of libel is still prevalent in many nations and has a chilling effect on freedom of speech and press. The group has an online map of the world here: http://www.article19.org/defamation/map.html?dataSet=defamation_legislation_2012

In Ukraine, criminal defamation provisions were removed when a new criminal code came into force in 2001, according to Article 19. The group said that Article 125 of the previous code prescribed imprisonment of up to three years for defamation.

Kyiv Post editor Katya Gorchinskaya can be reached at gorchinskaya@kyivpost.com

Tregub: US businesses disillusioned by Ukraine

→4 Without, for instance, solving the VAT (value-added tax) problem for investors domestically, good speeches in the USA will not help."

The short presentations by the Ukrainian delegates were neither impressive nor memorable. All but customs head Kaletnik spoke Russian. Though the average age of the Ukrainian delegation was relatively young – surprisingly enough these were people in their 30s and 40s – nobody spoke English.

They spoke a lot about Ukraine being an emerging economy with great prospects for business development. But their style was cumbersome. These were not globally minded technocrats but rather neo-Soviet bureaucrats. Armed with suitcases of crocodile leather they frequently referenced Yanukovich and his omnipresent leadership – as if nothing could

happen without his blessing and that every victory of Ukraine was his alone. It didn't help, especially given the increasing mistrust to his undemocratic style in Washington and the recent calls for sanctions against Ukrainian officials.

There was textbook talk about reforms, transparent tenders and fighting corruption, but no major initiatives. Stability and predictability are two main characteristics of today's Ukraine, said Klymenko in his presentation.

But when State Department reports warn US businesses against investing in Ukraine because of corruption, business as usual is not enough. Instead, one needs bold initiatives and positive surprises about the steps taken to cut red tape. What Ukraine's Custom Services brought with them was a poor quality and badly writ-

ten leaflet, a press release about the volume of trade between the US and Ukraine.

After the official part, groups of business people working in Ukraine formed around some of the delegates to discuss specific matters. Again Klymenko, whose early speech had already been a keynote of the evening, was the most popular person.

One of the Ukrainian speakers said: "We are responsible not only to Viktor Yanukovich, our president and a guarantor of the Constitution, but also to the Ukrainian people."

Yet it seems the large delegation is coming home with little to show from their trip, both to their president and more importantly to the people of Ukraine.

Olena Tregub is a freelance journalist living in Washington, D.C.

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