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YEARS

Troubling signs for economy

See story on page 10

Hryvnia

Down to **Hr 8.2/\$1**

Three-year low

Central Bank
Reserves

Down to **\$26.8 billion**
in October

8.4 percent drop
in one month

Steel Output

Plunged **15 percent**
in October

compared to same
month in 2011

Fighting For Every Seat



BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
and OKSANA GRYSSENKO

ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM and GRYSSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Two weeks after the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, Ukraine's Central Election Commission is still struggling to finish the vote count and determine the election results by the Nov. 12 deadline.

While the possibility of a repeat vote in several constituencies looks inevitable, it is still unclear which districts exactly will undergo re-runs and when they'll take place.

Half of Ukraine's 450-seat parliament is elected through a closed party list. The other 225 lawmakers are elected in single-mandate constituencies throughout the country. → 17

From left, Oleh Tiahnybok, leader of the nationalist Svoboda (Freedom) Party, United Opposition-Batkivschyna leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms leader Vitali Klitschko take part on Nov. 5 in a rally outside the Central Election Commission in Kyiv to protest election fraud. Opposition politicians have decried numerous violations in the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, but were still deciding their options and positions as of Nov. 8. The CEC and parliament said new elections should be held in five contested single-mandate districts, but many in the opposition are opposing this solution. Meanwhile, Klitschko is seeking a new national election because he alleges falsification took place nationwide. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Censorship scandal at one of Ukraine's top news agencies

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
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Editors at Ukraine's UNIAN news agency say they are being censored and pressured by their superiors to soften news coverage of Ukraine's political leadership, marking the latest controversy in the nation's deteriorating free-speech climate since President Viktor Yanukovich took office in 2010.

Six editors at UNIAN wrote an open protest letter to the agency's top manager Vadym Osadchy, accusing him of allegedly applying pressure to censor and tone down their coverage of Ukraine's leadership and to accept paid-for stories about other Ukrainian politicians ahead of the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections.

The agency's management denies the accusations while Ihor Kolomoysky, the Ukrainian billionaire who owns the agency, did not immediately respond to emailed questions.

Osadchy said that under his supervision the agency aims for the highest journalistic standards of fair coverage and accused the protesting staff of being biased themselves.

"Some employees, maintaining confidence in their right to influence the objectivity of the coverage of news, perceived the attempts to make UNIAN's information products neutral (...) as censorship or practice of speech freedom infringement," Osadchy told Telekritika, the media watchdog news website, in response to the allegations.

UNIAN editors wrote a joint op-ed describing in detail how the agency's managers directed political coverage. If the allegations are true, they reveal bias and selective news coverage at one of Ukrainian top news agencies.

UNIAN's new management arrived in May. Shortly after longtime chief editor Oleksandr Kharchenko was fired for the agency's poor revenue performance.

"After Osadchy's appointment (as UNIAN's general manager), there was a lot of discussion about what not to write about, that there is too much critical coverage," Kharchenko said, following his firing.

In the last two years Washington-based Freedom House human rights watchdog downgraded Ukraine's media



Ihor Kolomoysky

freedom climate in its ranking from "free" to "partly free." During that time, a number of other Ukrainian media have undergone management changes and, as a result, shifted from hard-hitting and balanced news coverage to more entertainment and tabloid-like stories. TVi, known for investigative journalism, has been eliminated from some cable television plans or switched to more expensive premium-subscription plans, cutting their audience.

Moreover, most of the nation's news media outlets are owned by five wealthy men in or close to the government, including Kolomoysky, member of parliament Rinat Akhmetov, Victor Pinchuk, Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky and Economy Minister Petro Poroshenko.

Valentyna Romanenko, one of the UNIAN website editors who co-authored the op-ed alleging censorship, told the Kyiv Post that the misunderstandings with the agency's new management started when they were appointed, but intensified closer to election day.

Viktoria Siumar, head of Kyiv's Institute of Mass Information, said that UNIAN's new management was oriented toward making more profit by the agency by running paid-for-stories.



Osadchy denied the allegation and said that with the arrival of the new management at UNIAN, the agency dropped running such stories.

Last week, six UNIAN editors posted several screen shots of emails and instant messenger conversations with Mykola Kondratenko, head of Internet projects at the agency, who allegedly directly told the editors what to cover and how.

They said that a number of news stories in which Yanukovich, his ruling Party of Regions and Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko come out in a bad light were removed from the website, allegedly under management's directives.

In one of the screenshots, the dialogue on an instant messenger with an editor Kondratenko wrote to "forget about Yanukovich in a negative light at all" and added that "there is hysteria here again - Osadchy got a phone call." In that discussion he also allegedly threatened to fine people who would not obey by this rule.

Kondratenko did not respond to emailed questions.

The protesting staff at UNIAN says there was a ban on stories about the opposition, particularly news regarding some opposition candidates who ran for parliament in single-mandate constituencies in Kyiv.

"They said they wanted to have all opinions in our news stories, but then everyone could have noticed that there is no second opinion and the news (on the UNIAN website) is not balanced,"

said UNIAN's Romanenko.

Osadchy says there are no bans on stories about opposition politicians and denied any pressure from the authorities to done down their coverage.

The agency's management fined two editors Hr 200 (\$25) each for, as they explain, running a news story about an anti-Yanukovich protest that took place near the Presidential Administration on Oct. 26. According to the agency's management, the editors were fined because they violated the procedure of approving the story and its headline with a chief editor before running it and has nothing to do with Yanukovich.

Siumar does not think that UNIAN was pressured by the authorities to soften their coverage of the government and the president. "It was self-censorship by managers or owners who were apparently afraid of (provoking) the anger of the country's political leadership," she explained.

Romanenko says the staff simply "demands to be able to work normally, that is being unbiased" in its news coverage. She also says their superiors are not discussing anything with them right now. "Probably they just want to wait out until the censorship scandal fades away after some time," she added, saying she and her colleagues are not sure what to do if the pressure to be pro-government remains.

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

The U.S. Embassy will hold a sealed bid sale at the Embassy's warehouse at 37A Dovbusha St. on Thursday, November 21, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Items for sale will include used household appliances, furniture, rugs, office furniture, computers, construction materials and miscellaneous equipment. All items are for sale on an "as-is, where-is" basis.

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Editorials

Fraudsters to jail

How long can it take to count votes after an election? In the recent U.S. presidential elections, the results were clear and undisputed just hours after the polls closed. In Ukraine, it has been nearly two weeks and the results are not only unclear, they are heavily disputed.

This is unacceptable. The reasons include corrupt election commission officials who committed crimes such as spoiling ballots. Other violations include abuse of powers by local and national government officials. The nation's rich people have been willing to pay high prices to get their way into parliament. Corrupt judges have issued ridiculous rulings. Crooked candidates bully and bribe their way in.

As a result of this rampant vote tampering, we are now in the middle of a legal and political deadlock over 13 constituencies. The Central Election Commission and parliament ordered a re-vote in five troublesome districts, but the opposition believes their victory is being stolen in the others, too. There is no consensus about what to do – whether to accept repeat elections in five districts or continue demanding a new vote in all 13 contested races. Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko wants a new general election based solely on the proportional system.

Here's where consensus should be found: Catching and punishing those who had a hand in rigging the results of the election. The culprits include riot police who removed ballots on the whim of local officials and judges, who also belong in jail if these allegations are true. Officials who entered the wrong data into the election computer system, sometimes reversing the numbers from paper protocols, should also be tried.

Of course, those who commissioned the crimes and covered up for them should also be on the list. Ukraine's criminal code has article 157, which punishes obstruction of one's electoral rights. Prison terms range from three to 12 years in cases when fraud affected the result of the vote. Article 158 demands prison terms of up to eight years for those tampering with ballots and fudging tabulations. The vote fixers should be prosecuted under those articles to the fullest extent of the law.

After the rigged presidential vote in 2004, which triggered the Orange Revolution, the winners came to power with the slogan: "Bandits to Jail." They failed to deliver and are now paying the price. Former President Viktor Yushchenko is deep in the forest of political irrelevance. Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is now in prison, although unfairly.

It's important to learn from past misdeeds and send the fraudsters to jail this time. Otherwise, the future of democratic elections is imperiled.

A coup-in-waiting

While the opposition is still fighting for contested seats in the future parliament, the current Verkhovna Rada surreptitiously railroaded through a piece of legislation that opens a new way to change the Constitution.

The law on referendum, voted by parliament on Nov. 6, regulates the procedure for approval on key issues for the nation's governance, including changes to the Constitution. In response, two members of the opposition moved to cancel the new law because it violates the Constitution.

The law allows for fundamental decisions to be decided by popular referendum. It also says "the president of Ukraine is obliged to call an all-Ukrainian referendum by public initiative." To do that, three million citizens have to sign a petition in two-thirds of Ukraine's 26 oblasts, with at least 100,000 signatures in each. The parliament is also allowed to call a referendum.

This major piece of legislation comes after the president and his allies realized they cannot get 300 votes in parliament, the constitutional majority required to change the country's supreme document. The work on rewriting changes to the Constitution was initiated by President Viktor Yanukovich in May. Losing popularity and therefore his chances for re-election in 2015, the president is believed to favor a model where the president (or prime minister) is elected by parliament and retains the powers of head of state.

What's more, the law could pave the way for public approval to entering the Russia-led customs union, a Kremlin's goal that would spell the end to Ukraine's European dream. Viktor Medvedchuk, the former head of President Leonid Kuchma's administration with close connections to Putin, has for months advertised the idea of people's power by referendum.

Many countries use popular initiatives to give ordinary citizens greater say over where their country is headed. But for such a system to function, several conditions must be met: the political process must be treated with respect, public debate should be genuine and supported by an independent media and, most importantly, voting should be free and fair.

Ukraine fulfills none of these criteria, thus making the law a tool to establish a tyranny of the majority – and a dubious majority at that. This dangerous law has been approved while most opposition leaders are still deciding what they are going to do about rigged results in a number of single-mandate districts. But this law is a much greater threat and needs to be reversed.



NEWS ITEM: Following allegations that election results were falsified in several single-mandate districts on Oct. 28, the opposition has taken action – and sent out conflicting messages. Oleh Tiahnybok of Svoboda Party, Vitali Klitschko of the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms and Arseniy Yatseniuk of United Opposition-Batkivshchyna staged a rally in front of the Central Election Commission headquarters in Kyiv on Nov. 5. At its peak, the rally drew a crowd of 2,000 supporters. Despite the illusion of unity, the leading trio demonstrated strong divisions about how to proceed. While Yatseniuk seemed intent on forcing the CEC to hold repeat elections in the five districts that had the most problems (which parliament and the CEC eventually agreed to do), Klitschko demanded a new national election. Svoboda Party's Tiahnybok, meanwhile, keeps voicing distrust in Klitschko as a possible opposition ally, questioning his reliability and independence from the government.

Back Story: A fable about how a president finds a worthy legacy



MICHAEL WILLARD
WILLARD@KYIVPOST.COM

It happened on a crisp Saturday, just following Ukraine's 2012 elections. President Viktor Yanukovich was up early, grabbed a steaming cup of coffee, and walked the grounds of his sprawling and plush Mezhyhirya estate.

He suddenly said, to no one in particular, "I don't need this."

The president looked down at the sandy-brown Cocker Spaniel recently given to him by his prime minister. "Sparky, did you say something?"

Sparky tossed back his ears and his big black oval eyes lapped up what he took to be his master's love. But, of course, that dog didn't reply.

"I don't need this," Yanukovich repeated before he could cuff his mouth. Each time the president removed his hand, the words spilled out: "I don't need this."

Not for a single moment did the president think he was losing his mind. Presidents don't go bonkers – other people go bonkers. He was, he surmised, having a metaphysical experience. A religious person might equate it to the light that blinded the biblical Saul of Tarsus as he made his way to Damascus.

After a short while, the internal voice disappeared. But what was the president to make of this bizarre occurrence?

Power being a 24-hour, seven-day experience, Yanukovich

→ **Moral of the story: If a leader does right by the nation, people will lionize him**

called for his driver, and his entire 12-car entourage readied for the short jaunt into the city as on any workday. Then, a strange thing occurred. The president waved off the parade, and said he preferred to drive himself.

Of course, all were shocked, including Igor, his chauffeur, who didn't know whether the boss knew brakes from bananas or a transmission from a tree. They all protested, but to no avail. After all, you don't argue with the president. At least, you don't argue for long.

Word spread quickly around the estate and then-even though it was a weekend-into the warrens of bureaucracy that the president was acting strangely. It was whispered in the hallways that there had been a similar occurrence in the 18th century involving England's King George III.

Once in his office, Yanukovich made two quick telephone calls without the help of an assistant: One was to imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. At first, this proved difficult because some moron said that he wasn't on the approved list of callers. The second call was to roundup his two sons, Alexander and Viktor Jr. → 17

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Advice to opposition: Take seats, organize



KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
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Ukraine is paralyzed as it waits to see whether new parliamentary elections will be held in single-mandate districts where the results were allegedly falsified during the Oct. 28 vote. The nation is waiting to hear a coherent plan of action from the three musketeers of the opposition, Arseniy Yatseniuk, Vitali Klitschko and Oleh Tyahnybok.

We're hoping that the opposition's position on whether to concede to a re-vote in five constituencies, as ordered by the Central Election Commission and parliament, will at last become unified. It seems to be changing depending on the time of day and speaker.

Many voices are calling for the opposition to reject a re-vote in selected majority constituencies. Some claim that the only way to restore democracy is to start from scratch and conduct a new national election with a new law. This is the wrong path to take. Moreover, I think that calling people out to the streets for never-ending protests and starting hunger strikes is harmful.

Against all odds, the opposition performed phenomenally well in the Oct. 28 election, considering mass falsification during the vote count, bullying and pressure, election commissions controlled by the ruling Party of Regions and so on. The three oppositional parties, Batkivshchyna, Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms and Svoboda received 180 seats in the 450-seat Rada.

Considering that the pro-presidential Party of Regions hoped for a constitutional majority of 300 seats in the Verkhovna Rada, and now it is having difficulty assembling even a simple majority, this is a great victory for the people. Refusing to accept seats would be the real treason.

The Party of Regions knows that they are weakened. Hence, the frantic moves in the current Rada to pass key legislation. They have increased the number of people required to create a deputy's group in parliament to coerce newly elected independent candidates to join their faction. They have approved a new law on referendums. They hope to approve the 2013 budget this month before the new parliament convenes. All of this points to the Regions' uncertainty about their power in the new parliament.

Moreover, the opposition's demand to conduct a new national election is pushing the country into shaky legal ground and will bring no qualitative change.

Andreas Gross, head of the observers' delegation to Ukraine of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, was sharp on the prospects of the new election: you cannot elect a new parliament using the old rules and hope for a new result.

The current election law is a serious obstacle toward electing a new parliament in a democratic fashion – and not just because half of the deputies are elected through district races. It's because the law has serious flaws in regulating procedures for



Supporters of oppositional parties during a Nov. 5 rally in front of the Central Election Commission in Kyiv protest alleged falsification of the Oct. 28 parliamentary election. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

districting, appointment of replacement election commissioners, computer transmission of election data, authority of electoral officials and courts and so on.

These shortcomings that helped election fraud did not appear overnight. More than a year before the election law's November 2011 approval, a presidential commission worked out the draft law. The expert community rang alarm bells at the time because they knew where this was going to lead – to fixed elections. Representatives of the National Democratic Institute quit the commission in protest.

At the time, the opposition failed to respond adequately and the press mainly ignored the issue. The fault law was even approved with the help of the opposition. The incumbents played a long and well-planned game, so the opposition ended up in a hole they dug for themselves. The hole will only get deeper if they fail to accept the only compromise that President Viktor Yanukovich seems willing to make – a re-vote in five majority constituencies (or maybe seven).

By failing to accept a re-vote, the opposition will also betray the candidates whose victories were stolen through fraud and the violations in these constituencies. They will betray supporters who fought for every seat with police special units, heads of district commissions and in courts.

Moreover, the opposition's current fight for 13 troublesome constituencies out of 225 single-mandate seats overall is disproportionate to the potential benefit. The effort is misdirected also because – just by ballot stuffing in eastern Ukraine – they lost more seats to the ruling Party of Regions, according to the findings of OPORA, the largest network of observers.

The opposition should learn that the current system of governance cannot be overturned overnight. The opposition is still in disarray. There is no understanding that you can lose some battles, but win the war. They should be starting their work in the Rada and form a united front. They should know that the Party of Regions will have a majority for now, but also realize that it's fragile and temporary, and there is still time to organize before the 2015 presidential election.

The people of Ukraine have already shown that they are not enamored with those in power. It's no secret that the president is unpopular.

The opposition should quietly negotiate future moves and a possible majority with independents and even worthy representatives of the fractured Party of Regions, because this is good politics. They need to agree on a single candidate for the presidential election, and they need to do it early. They need to make sure they don't fall for the scenarios hoped for by the president's strategists, such as the replay of 1999 presidential election, when a weak president ran against a radical bogeyman. At the time, it was the Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko. But this time the polarity might change to the far right.

For many Ukrainians, these compromises look like collaboration. But if this is the case, then newly re-elected President Barack Obama should also be considered a collaborationist. In his victory speech, he talked about making peace and bipartisan cooperation for the future. He talked about compromise. But in Ukraine, this word is equated with betrayal.

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

Hostile election commissioners suggest fraud, incompetence



MARJORIE THORPE

I've been traveling to and have been interested in Ukraine and Ukrainian politics since 2004. I was an observer in Odessa during the October 2010 election. And of course, I am politically active at home in Arizona.

Because of my strong interest in Ukrainian politics, election observation experience, international contacts and my desire to see the people enjoy

the benefits of democratic elections, I established the Foundation for Free Elections. When President Viktor Yanukovich extended his invitation to international monitoring organizations we responded, our observers were subsequently accredited by the Central Election Commission.

I monitored the vote count in Kyiv in precinct 800077 in district 211. The commissioners and particularly the deputy were hostile, aggressive and abusive toward the observers – both domestic and international. They created an atmosphere of intimidation which did not honor the invitation of their president and their behavior was an embarrassment to all decent Ukrainians.

Their absolute disregard for election law and general incompetence was shocking. At one point

when my translator inquired as to why they were not following the law, the commissioners began shouting at the observers.

At the start of the vote count, the commissioners very aggressively demanded that the observers move to an area of the room from which it was nearly impossible to monitor the proceedings and counting processes. To enforce that we stay in the area, the commissioners angrily set up a metal barrier and threatened anyone who crossed it with expulsion. The situation was reminiscent of the Berlin Wall.

Ukrainian election law allows observers to observe the entire process without barriers (including metal ones) and this was one of several blatant violations of Ukrainian law by the election commission at this polling site. → 17



VOX
populi

WITH
OLENA GONCHAROVA

Nov. 7 was the 95th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. Why is the Communist Party gaining popularity and seats in parliament, from 24 to 32?



Margaryta Shurikova,
pensioner
"Our party did great work. Their agitation was the most influential during the election

campaign. Here in Ukraine it will be hard for communists to unite people. In the new parliament, the communists can change little because Ukraine is under the rule of the U.S."



Evheniy Shulga,
pensioner
"Communists now don't fight for the freedom of Ukrainians. They can do nothing

now, because they're underneath the (ruling) Party of Regions. In the Soviet era, communists had great impact. Now such tycoons as (Economy Minister Petro) Poroshenko ruined the economy and destroyed factories. They're rich and we are poor."



Anna Yarmak,
Rabochekrestjanskaja Pravda (Worker-Peasant Truth) correspondent
"It's great poverty in

Ukraine. The death rate is high. People are dying. The pension is at Hr 1,000 (\$125 a month). That's why (Communist Party leader Petro) Symonenko is so popular among us. We remember how good we used to live: everything was very cheap or even free. We need to make a revolution as (Vladimir) Lenin did."



Yasya Anshakova,
unemployed
"People vote for communists because they're tired of the capitalists, so Ukrainians

still believe that casting ballots may change something."



Halyna Savchenko,
pensioner
"The living conditions are bad now. I am a Soviet Union woman. Even Vanga predicted

the restoration of the USSR. I believe in it."

→ On the move

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



VITALIY RADCHENKO has been promoted to the position of Counsel at the Kyiv office of CMS Cameron McKenna law firm. In his new role Vitaliy will continue to coordinate the firm's Energy and Projects practice. Vitaliy specialises in the areas of Oil and Gas, Mineral Resources, Conventional & Renewable Power Generation and Kyoto Protocol Projects. He joined CMS Cameron McKenna from Gide Loyrette Nouel, prior to which he worked for the Kyiv office of Baker & McKenzie.

Vitaliy is ranked by Chambers Europe 2012 as a Band 1 lawyer in Energy and Natural Resources for Ukraine with commentators identifying him as "a standout figure for energy law in Ukraine".

Vitaliy is the Secretary of the Fuel and Energy Committees of the American Chamber of Commerce and an active participant in the EBA. He is also a member of the Cabinet of Ministers' Commission on Environmental Investments, Alternative and Renewable Sources and Green tariffs working group of the National Energy Regulation Commission.



GRAHAM CONLON, an English-qualified Solicitor and Head of our Corporate and M&A practice in Ukraine, has been promoted to Global Co-Head of International Private Equity at CMS Cameron McKenna. Although based in Kyiv, Graham advises on corporate and private equity transactions both in Ukraine and throughout CEE and the Former Soviet Union. He recently led the team advising Advent International on the €188m acquisition of Provimi Pet Food, a transaction involving over seven jurisdictions and over 130 lawyers, and in 2011 he was awarded the Young Dealmaker of the Year prize by mergermarket.



AMC is proud to welcome **DR. MARINA SOKOLOVA** to its Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Dr. Sokolova graduated from the Odessa Ukraine Medical University, completing her internship at Kyiv's Regional Health Center for Mother and Child where she trained in Obstetrics, Pathology, Gynecology, and Post-natal departments. Dr. Sokolova has extensive experience in Ultrasonographic diagnostics, Gynecology Endocrinology, and holds an advanced European

Certificate in Intensive Care and Resuscitation. Dr. Sokolova is fluent in English, Italian, and her native Russian and Ukrainian languages.

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Quest for cheap gas leads to Germany

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine has started buying natural gas from Germany, trying to diversify its energy sources and cut its dependency on costly Russian gas. Since Nov. 1, Ukraine has been receiving 1 million cubic meters of gas every day from German RWE based on a contract that was signed in spring.

Arriving via Germany and Poland, this gas is cheaper than what Ukraine buys directly from Russian gas monopolist Gazprom, according to Ukraine's Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko. He avoided specific numbers but said Ukraine will be getting more from RWE in 2013, news agency Interfax-Ukraine reported on Nov. 7.

"According to my unofficial information, German gas is \$15 cheaper (than Russian gas). Ukraine buys Gazprom's gas for \$430 per million cubic meters, while Germany's comes in for about \$410-415," says Dmytro Marunych, director of the Kyiv-based Energy Studies Institute, a think tank.

Ukraine consumes approximately 50 billion cubic meters every year, about 30 billion of which arrives from Russia, while the rest is produced domestically. Ukraine currently pays one of the highest prices in Europe for Russian gas, a heavy burden for the cash-starved budget.

As a result, the country has been trying to push usage down and get a discount, but any negotiations have broken down over Moscow's demands to enter a Russia-led Customs Union, which would preclude European integration, or transfer partial control over the gas transit system – a key national asset. The two countries' leaders are set to spar again in early-2013. The current gas agreement was signed in 2009 by then-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and President Vladimir Putin – a deal that eventually led to Tymoshenko being jailed for abuse of office.

While Ukraine is likely to rely on Russia for most of its gas in foreseeable future, it also is exploring other options and gas from Germany might be the most realistic one.

Ukraine can receive up to 10 billion of cubic meters each year from Germany



Two employees of the Orlovka gas-compressor station near Izmail in Ukraine's Odesa Oblast. (AFP)

via pipelines in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, said Valeriy Borovyk, head of the New Energy Ukraine Alliance, a research outfit.

Other options are further off. One of them is buying liquefied gas from Azerbaijan, which could supply Ukraine with up to 5 billion cubic meters starting 2013. In order to receive, however, Ukraine needs some \$1.5 billion to build a liquefied gas terminal, which the government hopes will be constructed by 2015.

Another option is Turkmenistan, which until 2006 used to deliver gas to Ukraine. This, however, requires a pipeline under the Caspian Sea to circumvent Russia, which opposes the deal.

But diversifying supplies alone is not enough. The country is also in desperate need of improving effectiveness, both for industry and utility services, experts say. Government hopes implementing efficiency solutions will cut consumption to 30.6 billion by 2031. Currently Ukraine suffers 30-50 percent losses, mostly due to outdated and inefficient communal systems and pipes.

Research by Svyatoslav Pavlyuk, expert at Energy Cities non governmental organization, shows Ukraine loses more than half of the energy used in utilities.

"Losses on home boilers are 30 percent; 20-40 percent more goes up into the air during transportation. Consumers get only 21 out of 100 burned cubic meters of gas," Pavlyuk said.

Meanwhile, chances for a break in negotiations with Russia appeared after Poland's PGNIG oil and gas company reportedly pushed Gazprom to lower its gas price by approximately 16 percent. In 2011, Poland had initiated hearings at the Stockholm Arbitration Court to amend its gas supply contract with Gazprom.

"The news is actually positive for Ukraine's negotiating position vis-à-vis Gazprom as the Russian monopoly previously singled out Naftogaz and PGNIG as two of its counterparties with which it has no common projects and is therefore unwilling to grant any price discounts" investment bank Dragon Capital wrote in a note to investors.

"However, we do not expect Ukraine to follow PGNIG's example by initiating similar court hearings as the domestic authorities seem wary of further alienating Russia and facing retaliatory action in other areas of bilateral trade."

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchyńska can be reached at tuchyńska@kyivpost.com

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World in Ukraine

Editor's Note: World in Ukraine takes a look at Ukraine's bilateral relations with different nations. To sponsor this news feature, please contact the Kyiv Post's sales team at advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788.

Georgia, Ukraine seen as being on divergent paths

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO
IRKLIYENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Aside from the Baltics, Ukraine and Georgia still stand out among the 15 former Soviet republics as the most democratic and Western-oriented.

During the past two decades both countries have at times followed similar paths. Ukraine and Georgia suffered through the authoritarian regimes of Leonid Kuchma and Eduard Shevardnadze, respectively and both responded with revolutions – Ukraine's Orange in 2004 and Georgia's Rose in 2003 – in attempts to secure more democratic and prosperous futures.

However, almost a decade after those peaceful uprisings brought pro-Western leaders to power, the two countries are now moving away from each other. In Ukraine and abroad, sentiment is high that Ukraine's Orange Revolution never delivered what it promised – and now the country is regressing under President Viktor Yanukovich, the villain of the 2004 revolution.

By contrast, Georgia basks in international praise for combating corruption and red tape, making the tiny Caucasus nation of 4.6 million one of the world's most business-friendly under President Mikheil Saakashvili, who nonetheless appears to have lost some of his luster and popularity in his second term.

Yet when it comes to bilateral economic relations between the allies, Ukraine – with a population nearly 10 times that of Georgia – is the dominant player.

"It's a one-way street, from Ukraine to Georgia, unfortunately," says Viktor Kipiani, co-chairman of the Tbilisi-based Georgian-Ukrainian Business Club.

Georgia ranks fifth as a destination for Ukrainian foreign direct investment, with \$33 million, according to the State Statistics Service website. The biggest chunk comes from Privat Group – a multinational conglomerate operating in just about every sector of the economy, from oil and gas to banking and media to sports and the food industry.

Their Georgian portfolio includes PrivatBank Georgia, renamed after the

Georgia's Gudauri ski resort was bought for \$14.5 million by Privat Group, the biggest Ukrainian investor in Georgia. The group also owns Bukovel, the upscale ski resort in western Ukraine. (Courtesy)



acquisition of Tao Bank in 2007 for \$25 million, and the Gudauri ski resort, purchased for \$14.5 million in 2010. Two of Ukraine's richest men – Ihor Kolomoysky and Hennadiy Bogolyubov – are Privat Group's primary owners.

The latest Ukrainian investment inflow is from Furshet, a large supermarket chain. They are planning to bring three supermarkets to Georgia with the first scheduled to open late this year. Having met with Furshet investors, Viktor Kipiani from the Georgian-Ukrainian Business Club says they chose the right time to come in, "because this notion (of supermarkets) had existed for two, three years here, no more."

Kipiani thinks better conditions in Georgia would attract more investment. He said the publicity about Georgia's successes in curbing bureaucracy and corruption raised expectations too high. "Ukrainian businessmen came to Georgia after reading newspaper



Andriy Kaplan, director of DisNa, which distributes Georgian wine and cognac in Ukraine.

articles published in Ukraine," Kipiani said. "But to our regret, on the spot they discovered that it was a Potemkin village."

The reality, Kipiani said, is that progress has been made but not to the extent often described. There is room for improvement, he noted, in strengthening the independence of the judiciary and protecting private property.

Georgian investments in Ukraine mostly amounted to Bank of Georgia's BG Capital, an investment bank, which exited the market a year ago, citing a poor investment outlook.

Kipiani explains why Ukraine is a tough place for Georgians to do business.

"The Ukrainian economy is more structured in terms of niche breakdown and therefore (businesses enter) a market with certain speculative barriers and even unwritten laws, which for a business coming from a four-million

(people) market is much harder to overcome," Kipiani said. "There are much bigger resources here, which Georgian companies do not possess."

Last year, bilateral trade accounted to \$860 million and reached \$460 million already in the first half of 2012, according to Georgian Embassy data. Ukraine drives most of this trade with exports of commodities.

On the Georgian side, the largest company with Georgian links in Ukraine is IDS Group, the exclusive importer of Borjomi, a naturally carbonated mineral water. The history of the popular drink dates back to 1820, when the Borjomi springs were discovered.

But wine is arguably the nation's biggest source of pride. "Georgia is recognized by experts as the cradle of winemaking, (a tradition that) started over 8,000 years ago," says Andriy Kaplan, director of DisNa, the biggest distributor of Georgian wine in



Viktor Kipiani, co-chairman of Georgian-Ukrainian Business Club.

Ukraine. Their brands include Kartuli Vazi and Vardiani wines, Sarajshvili, Eristavi and Iverioni cognacs and Bazaleti sparkling wine.

Geography makes Georgia a perfect place for wine and cognac production, with more than 500 types of grapes growing in different climate zones within the country, Kaplan said. The popularity of Georgian wine in Ukraine has only increased since Soviet times.

"Competition in the Georgian wine segment exceeds competition in many other alcohol drinks segments," noted Kaplan. This year, some 10 million bottles of Georgian wine are expected to be sold in Ukraine. And that suits wine expert Kaplan: "Wine is quite a 'deep' product. Together with its technology and other factors, it reflects the people who make it."

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

Georgia

Territory: 69,700 square kilometers

Population: 4.6 million people as of July 2012

Government type: republic

Head of government: Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili since October 2012

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$24.86 billion in 2011

GDP per capita (PPP): \$5,600 in 2011

Main industries: steel, machine tools, electrical appliances, mining (manganese, copper, and gold), chemicals, wood products and wine.

Ukrainian-Georgian economic relations:

- **Trade:** \$860 billion in 2011

- **Exports from Georgia to Ukraine:** pure ethyl alcohol, water (including natural or artificial mineral waters), wine, ferroalloys and rail locomotives (units).

- **Exports from Ukraine to Georgia:** cigarettes, coke and semi-coke of coal, bars and rods of iron, sunflower-seed oil and construction material of iron or steel.

- **Georgia's investment in Ukraine:** no data available

- **Ukraine's investment in Georgia:** \$33 million as of July 2012. Georgia is Ukraine's fifth largest investment destination.

Source: Georgian Embassy, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, World Factbook

Georgian ambassador: Passing reforms without consensus is impossible

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO
IRKLIYENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Georgia's Ambassador Grigol Katamadze has deep ties with Ukraine. He graduated from the Kyiv Institute of International Relations and previously held many posts with the Georgian Interior Ministry. In 2009, he was appointed as Georgia's ambassador in Kyiv.

In an interview with the Kyiv Post, Katamadze spoke about why Ukraine failed to copy Georgia's success after the 2003 Rose and 2004 Orange revolutions. He also shared his views on recent political developments in Georgia and the planned visit of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to participate in the Kyiv Post's "The Tiger Conference" on Nov. 26-27 at the Fairmont Grand Hotel in Kyiv.

Kyiv Post: Georgian-Ukrainian relations were more active during the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko than under President Viktor Yanukovich. How active are they now?

Grigol Katamadze: Personal relations of leaders always play in favor of bilateral relations. There were a few presidential meetings during the last two and a half years. Those weren't official visits... but the presidents met informally, including in Kyiv. I will cite the Georgian president, who recently said that 'Georgian-Ukrainian relations haven't been more active, than during the last two and a half years since the independence of (both) countries.'

KP: Why did Saakashvili agree to be the keynote speaker at the Kyiv Post conference on Nov. 26-27 and what do you think his message will be?

GK: I think that when the president gave preliminary agreement to participate in the conference, first of all it was due to his great love for your country and his wish to be useful... in solving problems that arise in Ukraine. It's hard for me to say what's the message, in case of the Georgia president's attendance, will be. But I have no doubt it will be interesting.

KP: What prevented Ukraine from passing necessary free-market and democratic reforms to achieve similar growth as in Georgia?

GK: The political forces that won in the 2003 (Georgian presidential elections) weren't limited in its actions. (If) a political decision was made, then it was implemented. Passing reforms without having a common understanding of those reforms by all branches of power is impossible.

From the beginning they (the team of ex-Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko) did not have a majority in parliament. Remember what kind of collision there was between executive and legislative powers, between the president and premier and so on. Therefore under such circumstances it was very hard to pass such painful reforms.

KP: Historically, both Ukraine and Georgia have been in a similar position in relation to their big neighbor Russia. What are the lessons learned that would help the two countries build strategic



Georgia Ambassador to Ukraine Grigol Katamadze (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

partner relations with Russia?

GK: I think we lost an important chance in relations with Russia in the beginning, in the mid-90s, to solve the biggest and most important problem which arose after the collapse of the Soviet Union – the territorial problem of Georgia. And then the problems grew like snowballs. Altogether, I don't know if we could learn lessons from it. But I understand that it is very hard for such a small country as Georgia (to deal with) Russia, (especially) because Georgia makes steps towards integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

KP: Considering Georgia's recent success in various international rankings, why is the popularity of President Saakashvili declining?

GK: One of the reasons why the national movement lost the parli-

mentary elections, despite achieving certain successes, is because there was a whole range of things that were missed, that could have been more effective. For instance...if agriculture had been developed actively and more investment had been attracted to this sector, then I think much more people would actually feel the benefits of changes in the country in their own pockets. Unfortunately that didn't happen. Also some of the worst damage to the government's image was done by broadcasting on Georgian TV channels of what had been happening in the prisons.

KP: What does President Saakashvili plan to do in a year when his second presidential term expires and will Georgia's foreign policy change depending on who's going to be the next



Grigol Katamadze

2009 – Ambassador of Georgia to Ukraine.

February 2008 – International Development Director of the Bank of Georgia (with residence in Ukraine), BG Bank Supervisory Board Member, Wealth Management Counselor to Chairman of Directors Board.

2007-2008 – Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia.

2000-2007 – Ambassador of Georgia to Ukraine (2001-2005 – Non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova and Romania).

1998-2000 – Deputy Defense Minister of Georgia.

1995-1998 – Minister of the Embassy of Georgia to Ukraine.

1993-1994 – Deputy Director of Foreign Economic Department of Foreign Ministry of Georgia.

1985-1993 – Various positions at the Georgian Interior Ministry and Academy of the Interior Ministry of Georgia.

1985 – Graduated from the Kyiv Institute of International Relations of Kyiv Taras Shevchenko State University, International Law faculty.

president?

GK: Georgia's foreign policy and the people's decision to integrate into Europe, Euro-Atlantic structures remain the main goal for the country and its new political majority. It's hard for me to say what will Mikheil Saakashvili do after the (presidential 2013) elections. But I'm personally deeply convinced that he will stay in active politics and bring much benefit for the country.

KP: With the new opposition power winning the parliamentary elections, is there a risk for Georgia rolling back to its past

realities and what else might potentially change?

GK: I don't think it will go back to chaos or electricity being provided by hours or minutes. I don't think it will go back to the past where people stood in lines to get some paper and gave bribes. With the new power, rhetoric towards the Russian Federation might change – attempts to look for compromises with Russia in order to try resolve the situation in the relations. How far will they get, time will show.

KP: How big is the Georgian community in Ukraine? Are there many Ukrainians living in Georgia?

GK: There are no exact statistics. But I think that there are around 30,000 to 40,000 Georgians who live in Ukraine. I've heard from the Ukrainian diaspora in Georgia that around 60,000 Ukrainians live in Georgia. It's one of the biggest ethnic diasporas living in Georgia.

KP: As a Georgian, are you a big fan of wine and what kind do you prefer?

GK: Having tried one time homemade wine, in the village where I was born in western Georgia, not far from Kutaisi, in my grandparent's house, where my uncle had been making white dry wine Rkatsiteli... (I realize that) you won't find that kind of wine anywhere (else). I'll have this taste with me for the rest of my life.

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



Georgian men empty a basket of grapes in Tbilisi. Georgia is considered the cradle of wine-making, dating back to the B.C. times. Wine production traditions remain strong in Georgia, making it a top export. (AFP)

Economic uncertainty leads to heavy-handed policies

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Even as the dust settles from the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, Ukraine's economic challenges remain stubbornly the same: fiscal imbalances, growing pressure on the hryvnia and a global slowdown. But parliament's latest decision – to authorize the mandatory resale of up to half of banks' foreign currency proceeds – shows the strategy hasn't changed, even if the Verkhovna Rada's composition will.

During the run-up to the fall election, Ukraine's business climate was plagued by a toxic mixture of uncertainty and worsening economic conditions. Some took comfort in the modest victory of the pro-presidential Party of Regions, who under President Viktor Yanukovich promised stability.

Recent weeks have seen some uplifting headlines. Ukraine jumped up 15 spots in the World Bank's 2013 Doing Business ranking to 137, driven by improvements in the ease of starting a business, registering property and paying taxes. Likewise, Ukraine's main stock index, the UX, took a break from its month-long freefall, recovering 7.5 percent in three days. Abroad, Ukrainian names also rallied. Five-year credit default spreads – a rough measure of a country's perceived risk – fell to a 13-month low.

But it's premature to call this encouraging news. None of the country's fundamental problems has been addressed. The economy shrank 1.3 percent in the third quarter of 2012,



A woman passes the National Bank of Ukraine in Kyiv. After the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, Ukraine's economic challenges remain stubbornly the same. (Ukrainian photo)

while steel output dropped 15 percent in October compared to last year.

Moreover, pressures on the currency are mounting. Ukrainian citizens have rushed to trade soft hryvnias for hard dollars, bringing down the National Bank of Ukraine's international reserves by \$2.4 billion in October alone. At the end of last month, these reserves stood at \$26.8 billion, the lowest level since December 2009.

"Gross international reserves are likely to continue shrinking through year end, gradually approaching the

safety threshold of three months' worth of future imports of goods and services (\$24-25 billion). This could prompt the authorities to execute exchange rate adjustment and consider changes to the current de facto fixed exchange rate regime," investment bank Troika Dialog wrote in a note to investors.

If a current gradual depreciation strategy is pursued, the hryvnia-to-dollar exchange rate should hit 8.5 by end-2012 from the current 8.2 hryvnias per dollar, experts note.

In a move to provide relief to the hryvnia, parliament on Nov. 6 signed a bill that would authorize the National Bank of Ukraine to require banks to surrender up to half of their foreign currency proceeds for up to six months. The restriction could be extended beyond the six months, claims opposition parliamentarian and former banker Stanyslav Arzhevitin.

If signed by Yanukovich, the forced selloff of foreign currency would bring Ukraine back to the 1998-2005 period, when such heavy-handed controls were in force. Experts have long argued that a more flexible exchange rate would benefit the economy, boosting exports and cutting the current account deficit.



National Bank of Ukraine head Serhiy Arbuzov

In neighboring Poland, a weaker zloty in the first half of 2012 is set to drive the country's highest food exports in history. Meanwhile, Ukrainian leaders mention end-2013 as a likely date for currency regime liberalization.

According to investment bank Dragon Capital, the central bank is likely to start with more modest demands of 20-30 percent selloff. Given Ukraine's

monthly export cash inflows of \$8 billion, this would mean temporary gain of \$1.6-\$2 billion a month.

"The legislation should thus provide for steadier inflows of foreign currency to the interbank foreign currency market and tighten NBU control over these flows. However, if the NBU reaches the point when it can no longer withstand currency pressures, the regulation will hardly prevent abrupt devaluation," the bank wrote in a note to investors.

Meanwhile, the global slowdown is affecting revenue collection and blowing a hole in the budget. As a result, parliament increased the central budget deficit by almost \$1 billion to provide subsidies for regional heating outflows. While this could be popular with the populace, it goes against International Monetary Fund demands to eliminate de facto gas subsidies to households as a condition of renewing a loan program.

Despite the country's need for cash and the benefits for long-term macroeconomic stability, Ukraine's authorities put off any such moves until after the elections. Now that the vote has come and gone, it seems nothing in their economic strategy has changed.

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

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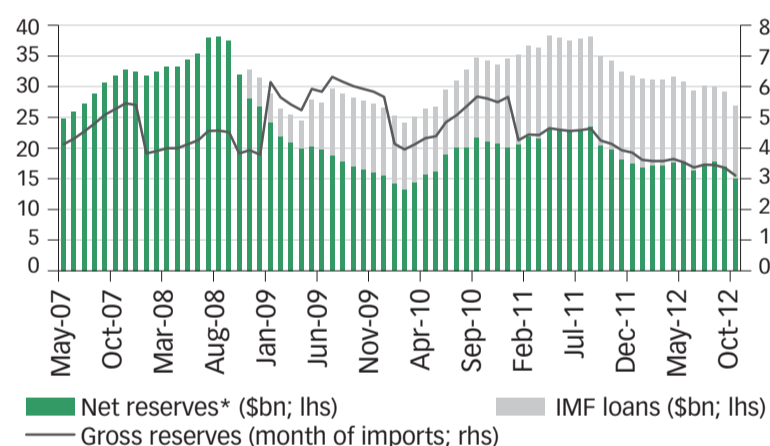
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NBU International Reserves



Note: *net reserves are gross reserves less IMF loans. Source: Dragon Capital

The decline in National Bank of Ukraine's reserves accelerated in October. The policy of maintaining a fixed hryvnia-dollar exchange rate has caused the nation's foreign currency stock to drop \$10 billion since mid-2011. It is now dangerously close to covering only three months of imports.

Kyiv hotel market adds 2,000 new rooms

BY OKSANA FARYNA
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This year will likely go down as one of the best for Kyiv's hotel market, with 19 new hotels slated for construction in the first nine months, compared to two hotels last year, according to a report by Knight Frank, an international real estate consultancy. But if more tourists don't come, the positive trend could soon peter out.

Ranging from two to five stars, the hotels opened January through September brought the capital more than 2,000 new rooms in total, significantly higher than the 372 rooms added in whole of 2011.

➔ **Bigger supply, lower occupancy rates have little effect on prices**

They also brought two international players to the local market: In the first quarter of 2012, Fairmont Raffles Hotels International opened a five-star Fairmont Grand Hotel in Kyiv's riverside Podil area. The next quarter came Wyndham Hotel Group, which opened a three-star Ramada Encore Kyiv on Stolychna

Highway, the city's southern entrance.

One of the main drivers of the trend was the Euro 2012 football championship, co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine this summer. As a result, the number of hotels commissioned in the second quarter of this year rose threefold compared to the first. Since then, com-

missioning has continued although the pace has significantly slowed.

This has been matched by decreased numbers of tourists after Euro 2012, the real estate consultancy's experts noted. The occupancy rate of Kyiv hotels in the third quarter fell off by up to 10 percent.

But a bigger supply of rooms does not seem to have lowered prices. During the survey period, the average price of a standard double room with breakfast increased by four percent to \$460-\$640 per night for a five-star hotel, by 18 percent to \$135-\$400 per night for a four-star hotel and by 21 percent to \$76-\$194 for a three-star hotel.

Yet Knight Frank's business devel-

opment director Yaroslava Chapko believes the current trend is unlikely to last.

"A reducing flow of tourists, as well as increasing competition, will force hotels to show loyalty to clients, reduce prices and offer a variety of bonuses and packages to meet the target occupancy level," Chapko is quoted in the report.

Construction of new hotels in Kyiv continues but commissioning is usually postponed. Only one hotel is expected to open its doors by the end of the year. It is a four-star Radisson Blu Hotel at Bratska street in Podil district.

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

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Going Out Guide

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

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

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

Klitschko vs Wach



World heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko will defend his WBC International heavyweight title against Polish challenger Mariusz Wach on Nov. 10 in Hamburg. "I think this fight is the one boxing fans would really like watch," Klitschko said recently in one of his interviews. The bout will take place at Hamburg's ImTech Arena Stadium. It will be broadcast on Inter channel at 11 p.m. **Klitschko vs Wach. Nov. 10. Inter channel. 11 p.m.**

Nov. 10

Friday, November 9

Classical music

Works of Liszt, Knecht, Reger (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ●
Classics on Fridays. Works of Casella, Widor, Rachmaninoff (piano, flute). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 50 ●

It's Majesty Piano. Tchaikovsky Tribute Concert. Works of Beethoven. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:50 p.m. Hr 22-30 ●
Steve Jobs: The Lost Interview (documentary). Zhovten. 2:25 p.m., 7:50 p.m. Hr 25-35 ●
Da-reun Na-ra-e-suh (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 1 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Amour (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:40 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Clubs

Playboy Fantasies. Seven Music Club. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ●
Vinsent's Easel (party with an artist and absinthe). Bionica. 11 p.m. Hr 30-50 for females, Hr 60-70 for males ●
Skalka Party. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40

for females, Hr 25-50 for males ●
Siddhattha. Mantra. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 200 for males ●

Shows

Valeriy Meladze. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1250 ●
Leningrad. Stereo Plaza. 7 p.m. Hr 250-1500 ●

Miscellaneous

Wine Fest 2012. Kyiv Expo Plaza. 12:01 p.m. Fee to be announced ●
The Day of Ukrainian Writing and Language. Mamayeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 100 (for foreigners or non-ukrainian speaking visitors) ●
Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●
Buddha Days in Ukraine. Ukrainian House. 10 a.m. Hr 30 ●
Classic. Contemporary. Design. M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. Free ●
Dutch Design Bicycle. Domsfera Shopping Mall (101 Stolychne Highway). 10 a.m. Free

Saturday, November 10

Classical music

Lyatoshynsky Classical Music Ensemble Playing Bruckner.



ComART Fest

If you want to see Ukrainian comics there's a good opportunity on Nov. 10 when Kyiv will host its first International Festival of Comic Art. Cartoonists from Ukraine and neighboring countries will present their works in the offbeat ArtPrichal studio, located under the bridge over the Dnipro river in Kyiv's Podil district. Not only comics and drawings can be seen during the event, but you can learn more about the art of drawing from the authors. Various master classes: "How to draw manga," "Space. Frame. Character," "Digital Art," "Create a storyboard for short movies, music videos, etc." are expected. Also you can buy limited editions of comics from Ukrainian authors and play different board games presented by "Mir Igr." **For a detailed schedule of the fest visit <http://comart.com.ua/>**
ComART Fest. Nov 10-25. Master classes start Nov. 10-11 at 10 a.m. ArtPrichal Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska, pier No2. Hr 15

House of Organ Music. 7:30 pm. Hr 30-100 ●

National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine Playing Rost, Vlakh, Shvarts, Sparke, Williams, Mellilo, Reyneke. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ●

Movies

Steve Jobs: The Lost Interview (documentary). Zhovten. 11:15 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 22-35 ●
Da-reun Na-ra-e-suh (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 1 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Amour (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:40 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Clubs

Disco 90s. Disco Radio Hall. 10 p.m. Hr 60 for females, Hr 80 for males ●
Style Party. Xlib. 11 p.m. Hr 50-200 ●
No Panties Party. Bionica. Hr 30-70 ●

Shows

Viktor Korolov. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 140-580 ●
Picnic. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 190-790 ●
IAMX. Crystal Hall. 7 p.m. Hr 500-1000 ●
Celldweller. Xlib Club. 7 p.m. Hr 120 ●

Miscellaneous

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●
ComART Fest (comics festival). ArtPrichal (Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.). 12:01 p.m. Hr 15
Forest Spirits Against Hibernation (game action). Kyivska Rus Park. 10 a.m. Hr 20-60 ●
Buddha Days in Ukraine. Ukrainian House. 10 a.m. Hr 30 ●
Dutch Design Bicycle. Domsfera Shopping Mall (101 Stolychne Highway). 10 a.m. Free

Sunday, November 11

Classical music

Sefarda's Songs. Cinco Singlos Ancient Music Ensemble Playing Ancient Folk Jewish Songs (flute, viola, lute). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90 ●

Movies

Steve Jobs. The Lost Interview (documentary). Zhovten. 11 a.m., 2:25 p.m., 5:50 p.m. Hr 22-35 ●
Da-reun Na-ra-e-suh (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 1 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Amour (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv.

2:40 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Clubs

Back to USSR. Ajour. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 100 for males ●
R'n'B Boom. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 10-30 ●
Technical Freaks. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 15-30 ●

Shows

Arefieva & Kovcheg. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 90-320 ●
Lumen. Stereo Plaza. 6 p.m. Hr 170-250 ●
7rasa. Bochka. 8 p.m. Hr 110-160 ●
Blaze Bayley & Paul Di'Anno. Docker Pub. 8:30 p.m. Hr 200-3000 ●
Aleksei Kozov & ARSENAL. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Hr 150-800 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●
Buddha Days in Ukraine. Ukrainian House. 10 a.m. Hr 30 ●
Dutch Design Bicycle. Domsfera

IAMX to give concert in Kyiv

IAMX, British electronic rock band will give a concert in Kyiv on Nov. 10. Founded in 2004 by British singer Chris Corner this independent solo project has become extremely popular worldwide. The band is best known for its energetic and theatrical performances. Critics say IAMX music spans multiple genres from electronic rock to dance music.
IAMX. Nov. 10. Crystal Hall. Hr 500-1,000 ●

Shopping Mall (101 Stolychne Highway). 10 a.m. Free

Monday, November 12

Classical music

Works of Bach, Boehm, Buxtehude, Telemann (organ, flute, harpsichord). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-70 ●
Its Majesty the Piano. Tchaikovsky Tribute Concert. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:50 p.m., Hr 22-30 ●
Steve Jobs: The Lost Interview (documentary). Zhovten. 2:25 p.m., 5:50 p.m. Hr 25-35 ●
Da-reun Na-ra-e-suh (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 1 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Amour (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:40 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Karnavalnaya Zhara. Docker Club. 9:30 p.m. Free ●
Chill Out (disco rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●
Konstantin Ionesko Quartet (jazz). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●

Mikhail Krymov (bass guitar). Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Farewell Tango (drama). Lesya Ukrainka Theater, new stage. 8 p.m. Hr 100 ●
The Scam in Ukraine, Or 100 Thousands (comedy). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 60 ●

Shows

Garbage. Palats Sportu. 7 p.m. Hr 200-850 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●
Dutch Design Bicycle. Domsfera Shopping Mall (101 Stolychne Highway). 10 a.m. Free

Tuesday, November 13

Classical music

Works of Bach (organ, piano, violoncello). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●
Neo-Viennese Ball. Works of Strauss, Webern, Berg, Schonberg (violin, piano, cello). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90 ●

Shows

Accept. Stereo Plaza. 7 p.m. Hr 200-1200 ●
Jennifer Lopez. Palats Sportu. 7 p.m. Hr 600-7900 ●
Nastya Poleva. Bochka. 8 p.m. Hr 100-200 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●
Dutch Design Bicycle. Domsfera Shopping Mall (101 Stolychne Highway). 10 a.m. Free

Wednesday, November 14

Classical music

Works of Caccini, Albinoni, Bach, Handel (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Movies

Da-reun Na-ra-e-suh (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 1 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Amour (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:40 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●
Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

The Magma (pop rock). Docker Club. 9:30 p.m. Free ●
Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 ●
Yokodo (indie). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●
Jazz Wednesday with Igor Zakus. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Cross Paths (tragic farce). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150 ●
Lying Naked Truth (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●
He Is My Sister (comedy). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-600 ●
Ordinary Story (drama). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ●
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskiy Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●
Dutch Design Bicycle. Domsfera Shopping Mall (101 Stolychne Highway). 10 a.m. Free

Thursday, November 15

Classical music

Works of Frank, Hillman, Messiaen (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ●
Mykola Lysenko 4th International Musical Competition. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Free ●

Movies

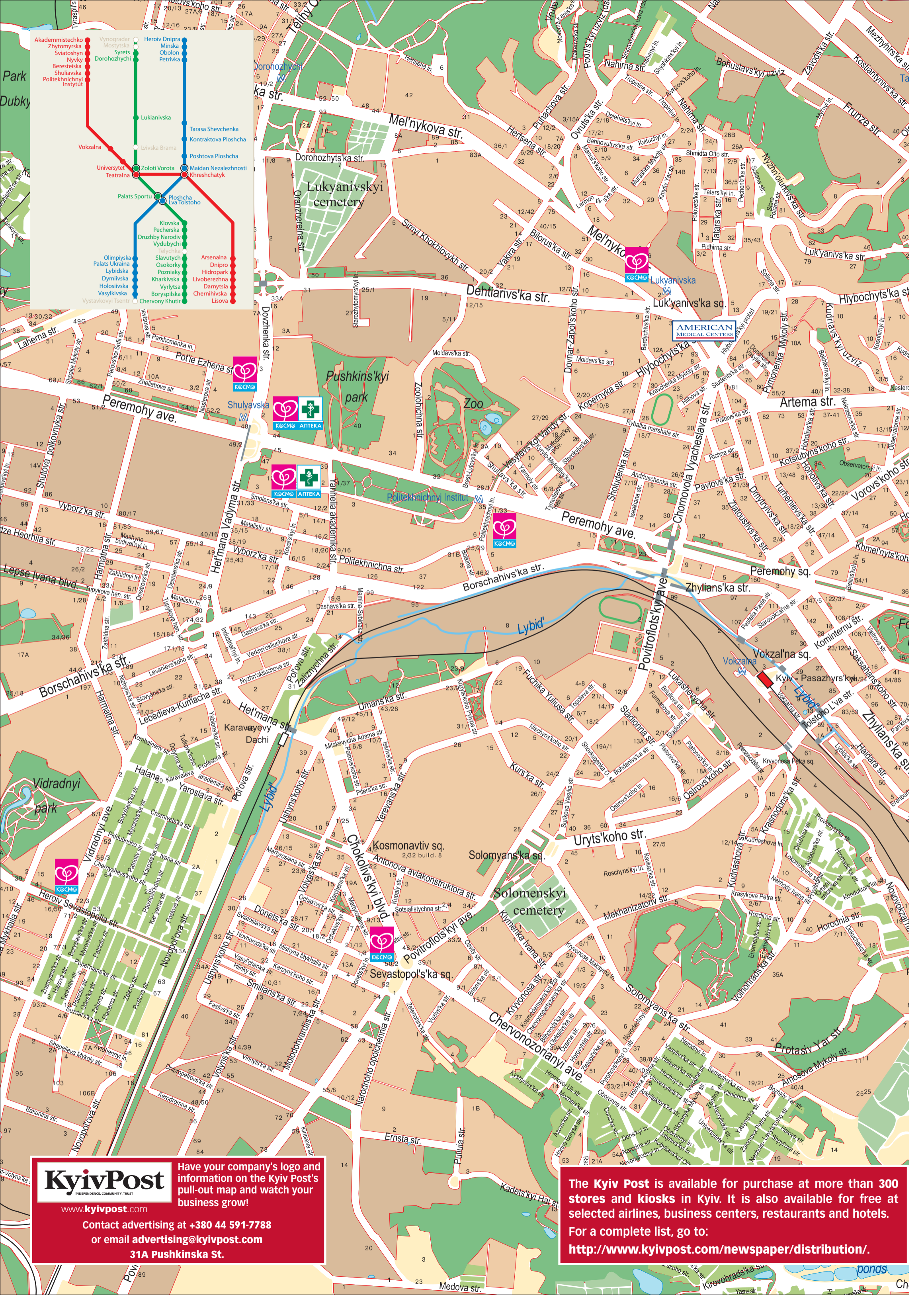
Broken (New British Movie Festival). Kyiv. 7:30 p.m. Hr 40-50 ●
Wuthering Heights (New British Movie Festival) Kyiv. 9:30 p.m. Hr 50 ●
The Piano. Master Klass. 7 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Live music

Mama Mia (italiano disco, rock). Docker Club. 9:30 p.m. Free ●
Crazy Train. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 ●
Mahagon. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

The Imaginary Invalid (premiere, comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200 ●
Spectators Are Not Allowed On Performance! (comedy). Drama &



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Foreign Ministry attacks messengers of bad news

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO
GRYSSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

If you're a Western diplomat working in Ukraine, be warned. Critical statements about Ukraine, even delivered in an official capacity, can result in personal retaliation from the Foreign Ministry. Such sharp reactions have been all too common recently, particularly against foreigners who dared to criticize the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections.

When top international observer Audrey Glover said after the election that "democratic progress appears to have reversed in Ukraine" and Walburga Habsburg Douglas, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe parliamentary delegation head, chimed in with "one should not have to visit a prison to hear from leading political figures," the ministry shot back with its own statement on Nov. 1.

The Foreign Ministry alleged that the officials were letting their personal feelings affect their professional judgment.

"Taking into account the statements of other observers, it becomes clear that the statements by Douglas and Glover are their personal thoughts – groundless and emotional, and not the result of observations of all members of the delegation," the ministry said. "We don't understand why they refer to the visit to (imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia) Tymoshenko in a (statement on the) democracy of the elections," said Oleh Voloshyn, the ministry's director of information policy.

Glover, the head of the election observation mission of the OSCE's election watchdog Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, told the Kyiv Post that the mission fully supports her statements. "Just see the prelimi-



Catherine Ashton, European Union's representative for foreign affairs.

nary statement," she suggested, adding that her personal feelings about accusations of the ministry "don't matter."

Oleksandr Sushko, research director at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, said that the ministry's statement is nothing more than a "manipulation."

"It's clear the written conclusion of the OSCE mission didn't contradict the statements of the observers, which were only clarifying the written document," he said.

Olga Shumylo-Tapiola, a visiting Carnegie Europe scholar in Brussels, said she could not even imagine a Western diplomat making such a statement about a highly reputable international organization. She said Ukraine's undiplomatic statements are more regrettable considering the nation will preside over the OSCE next year, the very organization whose officials are being attacked.

"I don't think it helps the image of Ukraine, which is already bad enough in the West," Shumylo-Tapiola added.



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Gryshchenko

Sushko says these outrageous comments by Ukraine's officials come as a result of pressure. "I don't think it's an improvisation of the foreign ministry or its individual officials," he said.

The ministry has in the past made numerous statements that raised eyebrows or caused indignation in the West. On Oct. 31, it slammed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who backed the OSCE criticism, saying that the "election constituted a step backward for Ukrainian democracy."

"We are sorry that U.S. Secretary Clinton tries to connect the political disagreements she has with Ukrainian authorities regarding ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's case and assessments of elections in Ukraine," the ministry shot back in a statement, edifying that it was "fundamentally wrong" that Clinton didn't mention any positive dynamics of cooperation between the two states.

When the U.S. Senate approved a Sept. 22 resolution on Ukraine, calling on the release of political prisoners and the introduction of sanctions against

those responsible, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry questioned the procedure for approval of this legal act, causing much indignation on Capitol Hill.

Former European Union Ambassador to Ukraine Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira also got a fair share of criticism and even insults from the ministry. He gave several interviews right before leaving his office in mid-summer, criticizing President Viktor Yanukovich for reverting to "vertical power" in Ukraine.

The ministry replied that since Teixeira was serving his last days in office, his views on the political situation should not be taken into account. "By and large, at the moment Mr. Teixeira is no longer the ambassador of the European Union in Ukraine, so his thoughts rather should excite the Republic of Cape Verde (the diplomat's next posting) than citizens and authorities in Ukraine," the ministry's Voloshyn then said.

The ministry also had a public spat with former French Ambassador Jacques Faure, who sharply criticized the authorities for jailing Tymoshenko.

In September 2011, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry made a false statement that France called off their ambassador because of those statements.

"I'm sorry that this kind of false and misleading information has been made up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and spread in the media," Faure then said.

Sushko claims Ukraine's diplomats are starting to resemble their Russian counterparts, "who always use rather brutal language in cases when somebody accuses Russia of violation of human rights."

But Voloshyn, the ministry's spokesman, rejected this criticism. "The reaction of Russian authorities to the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was the following: the resolution is biased and so we are not going to take it into account. Our position is different," he said. "And unlike the Russian MFA, we don't judge elections in the U.S."

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grysenko can be reached at grysenko@kyivpost.com.

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Irish tycoon jailed in Ukraine dispute as Ukrainians face criminal charges

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

The plot has thickened in the fight over the lucrative Ukraine shopping mall in Kyiv between a state-owned Irish bank and that country's once richest man, Sean Quinn Sr. and his family.

A high court in Dublin on Nov. 2 sentenced Quinn Sr. to nine weeks in jail for stripping the assets of Kyiv's Ukraine shopping mall and other foreign properties worth up to \$430 million that once belonged to his family.

The state-owned Irish Bank Resolution Corporation is after the properties, including the \$78 million Ukraine shopping center, as part of a debt recovery plan over the Quinn family.

In June, Quinn Sr., 66, his son Quinn Jr. and nephew, Peter Quinn, were found in contempt of court in Ireland for failing to stop the relocation of multimillion-dollar assets beyond the reach of the bank.

Quinn Jr. and Peter Quinn were subsequently sentenced to three months in jail this summer.

According to the Irish Times, Quinn

Sr. told reporters following the sentence that he will go to jail but intends to appeal the ruling.

The Quinn family members have maintained that they no longer control the disputed assets. However, IBRC has presented evidence in courts that the Quinn family exercised control over some properties, including Ukraine in Kyiv, while under restraining orders.

At the height of his success, Quinn Sr. was Ireland's richest in 2008 with an estimated \$6 billion net worth. He employed thousands, mostly in the previously job-starved areas bordering Northern Ireland. However his and his family's business empire dissipated in the wake of the global financial crisis.

Quinn Sr. filed for bankruptcy in 2011 and owes the bank an estimated total of \$3 billion.

In Ukraine, IBRC has met stiff resistance in courts since April 2011 to install its manager at Ukraine and access the shopping center's estimated \$10 million yearly in rent. The bank said it has exhausted all legal options available to it in Ukraine despite taking the legal battle to the highest levels of government.

The IBRC nominally controls nearly 97 percent shares in the Ukraine shopping mall. However, IBRC has been stalled in numerous litigation battles.

In a Nov. 1 affidavit taken by IBRC senior executive Richard Woodhouse obtained by the Kyiv Post, an allusion was made towards Ukraine's notoriously corrupt legal system.

"IBRC have been involved in extremely complex and detailed litigation in numerous jurisdictions and have been continuously and unlawfully frustrated in obtaining any tangible return on their efforts," the Nov. 1 affidavit reads.

The Kyiv Post has been unable to reach Laryssa Yanez Puga— who worked for the Quinns and still manages Ukraine — for comment via personal visits to the management office at the mall and repeated phone calls — a message left as recently as Oct. 5 with her office went unanswered.

Separately, the asset recovery unit of Russia's Alfa Group was retained by IBRC to go after 11 disputed properties, including Ukraine in Kyiv, according to the Woodhouse affidavit.

Called A1 Group Limited, the company will try to recover properties worth more than \$315 million in Russia and Ukraine.

Alfa Group belongs to three Russian tycoons with links to the Kremlin.

Mikhail Fridman, German Khan and Alexei Kuzmichov, all of whom together are worth an estimated \$33 billion, according to Forbes, are Alfa's three main shareholders.

Khan is a native of Kyiv.

According to Alfa's 2010 audited accounts, the company had \$60 billion in assets making it one of Russia's largest privately-owned conglomerates with interests in natural resources, telecommunications, retail, finance and leisure.

One of Fridman's key partners in Alfa Group, Peter Aven, has known Russian President Vladimir Putin since 1991.

IBRC and A1 will form a joint venture to go after the disputed assets. A1 will bear all the costs of the recovery process, including litigation costs.

They will, however, split the recovery proceeds.

The Russians will also try to recover the estimated \$45 million in rental

income that the properties produced over the past year.

"...any individual or organization will be wary about being in conflict with such an influential player in the market (as A1)," read the affidavit.

A1 spokesperson in Moscow Andrey Kocherov wouldn't answer questions from the Kyiv Post when reached by telephone on Nov. 6.

Meanwhile, the Irish Times reported that two Ukrainians could face jail time in Northern Ireland if they're found guilty of violating a court injunction in their role of alleged asset stripping of Ukraine.

Oleksandr Serpukrylov, an economist, and Dmytro Zaitsev, a lawyer of Makiyivka, Donetsk Oblast, allegedly transferred what IBRC has called fictitious debts surrounding the mall in violation of court orders.

They were questioned in the Northern Ireland High Court on Nov. 6 by video-link to defend contempt of court proceedings over the transfer of a \$45 million claim against Ukraine.

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

Thirteen districts where election fraud is alleged

KYIV POST STAFF

The following is a summary of opposition leaders' allegations of fraud in 13 single-mandate districts, based on their appeal to the Central Election Commission. The appeal was signed by the three main opposition leaders – United Opposition-Batkivshchyna's Arseniy Yatseniuk, the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms' Vitali Klitschko and Svoboda Party leader Oleh Tiahnybok.

In the following five districts, new elections will be held:

Constituency 94, Kyiv Oblast

There are multiple alleged violations in this constituency, where Tetiana Zasukha, a prominent member of the pro-presidential Party of Regions, was running. She filed 28 lawsuits claiming her observers were banned from the vote count. She won all the lawsuits, despite the fact that election commissioners were not allowed to testify. There were physical fights after court hearings. All appeals were rejected by higher courts. The district election commission then canceled results from 27 precincts, involving the votes of about 0,000 residents, and pronounced Zasukha winner. The CEC ordered a new election in this constituency.

Constituency 132, Mykolaiv Oblast

There were multiple alleged violations in this constituency on voting day with how ballots were handled and results counted. On Nov. 1, it was discovered that the ballots were not stored properly and mixed up. A local court ordered the confiscation of original protocols with election results, in contradiction of the law. They were confiscated by a Berkut special police unit, with use of force and teargas. The protocols turned out to be fakes. The CEC ordered a new election in this constituency.

Constituency 194, Cherkasy Oblast

Two days after voting, the computer administrator stole access codes to the voting tabulation computer and disappeared. The Party of Regions filed 15 lawsuits in precincts where the opposition candidate won. On Oct. 31, representatives of the opposition were forced out of office where the votes are counted and tabulated in the district commission, while the commission chief disappeared with originals of vote protocols, which have to be sent to CEC for cross-checking. The CEC ordered a new election in this constituency, despite results showing the opposition candidate winning the election

by more than 12,000 votes. Observers from OPORA civic network consider this decision controversial.

Constituency 197, Cherkasy Oblast

Vote counting was very slow in this constituency. On Oct. 31, 10 members of the district election commission left the room and stalled the tabulation. At intervals, electricity was switched off here, too. Electronic data was entered slowly and with multiple errors. Representatives of opposition on the commission were bullied. On Nov. 5, the pro-government candidate Bohdan Hubskiy was proclaimed the winner. The CEC ordered a new election in this constituency.

Constituency 223, Kyiv

The vote count here was delayed and representatives of the pro-government candidate Viktor Pylypshyn were reported spoiling ballots in the process. Cases of pressure and attempts to bribe some district election commissioners were recorded. Svoboda Party candidate Yuriy Levchenko won by 26 votes here, but the CEC has ordered a new election in this constituency.

In eight other districts, the opposition says it has documented multiple election violations, most of which are criminal offenses under articles 157-158 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. In particular, the following violations are alleged:

Constituency 11, Vinnytsia Oblast

After the district election commission pronounced oppositional candidate Natalya Soleyko winner, five people crept onto the premises of

→ Opposition leaders say election falsification was nationwide, but these 13 districts among worst

the commission and destroyed boxes containing ballots in Soleyko's favor. Representatives of government-backed candidate Oleksandr Dombrovskiy demanded a recount of votes. After the recount, Dombrovskiy emerged as the winner. International observers were banned from the recount.

Constituency 14, Vinnytsia Oblast

The district election commission ordered a recount of votes in the constituency based on false claims of a Party of Regions candidate that the



The Berkut special police unit visits Mykolaiv Oblast district 132 to confiscate original election-result protocols with force and teargas. (job-sbu.org)



Tetiana Zasukha, a pro-presidential Party of Regions candidate for parliament, talks to an assistant in district 94. (investigator.org.ua)



District election commission members in Kyiv's district 223, where cases of pressure and attempted bribery of election commissioners were recorded. (Svitlana Tuchynska)



Ballot boxes were damaged during transportation from the precinct election commissions in Vinnytsia Oblast's district 14. (job-sbu.org)

ballot boxes were damaged during transportation from the precinct election commissions. The ballots cast for the opposition candidate turned out to have been spoiled with a second mark, and were not taken into consideration during the recount. Viktor Zhrebniuk, the pro-government candidate, won as a result.

Constituency 20, Volyn Oblast

On Oct. 31, representatives of Berkut, a special police unit, went to the district election commission and forced out all members of the commission representing the opposition. Oppositional candidate Roman Karpyuk lost by 428 votes.

Constituency 90, Kyiv Oblast

Representatives of the district election commission entered false data into the electronic vote counting system, and falsified paper protocols that record election results. Vitaliy Chudnovskiy, the boyfriend of Party of Regions deputy Yulia Lyovochkina, won the election as a result. Lyovochkina is the sister of Serhiy Lyovochkin, presidential chief of staff.

Constituency 183, Kherson

Oblast

The Odesa Court of Appeals canceled the results of election here, although the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms candidate Andriy Putilov was winning by more than 5,000 votes. Appeals are ongoing, but in case of a recount, the opposition fears ballot spoiling and other tricks.

Constituency 211, Kyiv

The deputy head of the district election commission broke the seals on packaged ballots, which allowed the pro-government candidate to file a lawsuit demanding a recount. The court approved a recount, for which Berkut special police unit was called in and surrounded the workers of the election commission, blocking them from the view of observers. Oppositional candidate Serhiy Teryokhin suffered minor injuries in a fight with Berkut. After a

number of court cases, Teryokhin won the election in this constituency.

Constituency 214, Kyiv

After the initial ballot count, UDAR candidate Viktor Chumak won by more than 5,000 votes. Then the result of the protocol was altered and pro-government candidate Oles Dovhy took the lead. Eventually, the result was corrected by the CEC.

Constituency 216, Kyiv

The pro-government candidate is challenging the result of the vote in this constituency in court, demanding a recount. Opposition candidate Kseniya Lyapina won the election, but her allies fear that the ballot will be spoiled during the recount, as in other constituencies. Her rivals are also demanding the cancellation of results in 16 precincts, which will reverse the election result.

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Azarov against re-vote

→1 Following the CEC's resolution on the impossibility of determining the results in five single mandate constituencies due to alleged fraud, Ukraine's parliament recommended the permanent election body to hold new elections there.

Yet the opposition claims its candidates won in these districts and has taken the CEC to court, trying to convince the body to acknowledge such results and not hold a new vote.

The CEC says they can't decide or schedule any re-vote before parliament amends the election law to specify the grounds for repeat elections, which it says is currently absent in the legislation.

"Now the ball is in the parliament's court. Lawmakers have to amend the existing election legislation and outline grounds for a new election in order to allow us to take a decision on new elections in certain constituencies," Andriy Mahera, deputy head of the CEC, told the Kyiv Post.

He believes the new parliament would still be legitimate with 445 out of 450 new lawmakers taking their oath, but thinks the legislation will be changed.

"The current situation is beyond the legal framework," said Denys Kovryzhenko, a legal adviser at International Foundation for Electoral Systems, an election think tank. In his opinion, the new elections in some constituencies could take place next year at the earliest.

CEC head Volodymyr Shapoval believes that to spearhead the legislative process, parliament may call an emergency parliamentary session. Shapoval says the re-vote in some districts would be possible in March. According to him, scheduling it for March will help finance the election, since next year's budget has yet to be adopted.

But Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said that country's budget lacked the money for repeat elections, which could pose a "direct threat for democracy in Ukraine." "Where is a guarantee that opponents will like the results of the repeat votes? Where is

a guarantee that they won't have a desire (to hold repeat elections) for a third or fourth time?" he said at a Nov. 7 government meeting.

The ruling pro-presidential Party of Regions say they have not discussed the issue yet, but do not rule out the possibility of adopting the needed amendments in the parliament. "But these amendments would have to be adopted in consensus with the opposition, so that we are not blamed for approving legislation allegedly in order to get our candidates elected," said Mykhaylo Chechetov, a Party of Regions lawmaker.

In its resolution adopted earlier this week the CEC outlined five constituencies – in Kyiv Oblast (94), Mykolayiv Oblast (132), Cherkasy Oblast (194, 197), and in the city of Kyiv (223) – where a new vote is needed. Election officials believe it is impossible to determine the vote results, due to alleged tampering with the vote count and vote tabulation.

These are the hottest constituencies where the fiercest battles between government-friendly and opposition candidates took place. Opposition candidates and the Batkivshchyna Party are challenging the CEC's decision in court by arguing that it is possible to determine the vote results based on certain district election commission protocols, and when this is impossible, based on election protocols from precinct election commissions.

Meanwhile, imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko also said she is against holding repeat elections in disputed single-seat constituencies. She called on Ukrainians to not recognize the election results at all, and went on hunger strike on Oct. 29.

According to the opposition's parallel vote count, their candidates won in the disputed constituencies.

"The opposition has protocols with original signatures and stamps, with

credible results. I'm asking the opposition to demand that the vote count on these protocols (be recognized), and do not give a second chance to corrupt officials and forgers to sneer at the people's choice. People have already made their choice in these districts," reads Tymoshenko's statement issued on Nov. 7.

At the same time Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms Party, called for a whole new general election, claiming that falsification occurred in all constituencies throughout the nation. But Klitschko wants a new national election only after the adoption of a new election law that would require all 450 members to be elected nationally though a proportional vote from an open party list.

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

NEWS ITEM: On Nov. 6, the Verkhovna Rada voted to recommend holding repeat elections in the five districts where – during the Oct. 28 national election – fraud and violations in favor of pro-government candidates appeared to be so blatant that the Central Election Commission claims it cannot determine the actual vote results. Immediately after the parliament agreed to a partial re-vote, lawmakers and CEC officials complained that the current election law doesn't address such a possibility. They also complained about a lack of funding and other technical problems to carry out the re-votes. Finally, CEC deputy head Andriy Mahera said not to expect any rerun before March. He called the public not to make a big fuss about it, as the Rada could easily work without these five deputies.



Thorpe: Honest elections are not run in this manner

→5 A small, but interesting incident was when we asked them to introduce themselves and they told us that their identities were "government top secrets" and we didn't need to know. If the commissioners were abiding by Ukrainian laws and proud of their work, why do they hide their identities? This also is contrary to Ukrainian election law.

As they began sorting ballots we told them that we could not see what was going on and they responded that we didn't need to see, but should "shut up" and listen, again they made threats of expulsion for "disturbing" their work. This aggressive behavior is contrary to the open invitation to international observers from Yanukovich and brings shame upon the electoral process.

Article 79.8 of the law states that commissioners shall facilitate the work of election observers; the commissioners at precinct 800077, district 211 however, put great effort into obstruct-

ing our work, which created a great deal of concern over just what it was that they were trying so hard to hide.

Perhaps the most shocking was toward the end when the commission chairwoman kept disappearing behind a closed, locked door with the official election stamp and protocols. The other commissioners reacted very defensively and refused observers' efforts to enter the room. Our repeated requests to view the protocols were ignored – also contrary to Ukrainian law.

The last one I want to mention is the way the commissioners adamantly refused to properly seal the protocols in boxes for transportation to the District Election Commission. This is an egregious violation of Ukrainian law as well.

We brought it to their attention that the boxes were not sealed properly and they told us that they did not have enough of the official seals although I had personally seen and

→ **Corrupt, ignorant or both? Observer chronicles her election night in Kyiv**

photographed the chairwoman carrying four green fasteners in her hand after the first two had been applied to the box containing ballots. I mentioned this and was ignored as they continued applying white tape to the outside of one of the boxes, there was absolutely no attempt to seal other

box in any way whatsoever.

Very shortly after that the chairwoman, deputy and several other commissioners literally grabbed the boxes and ran from the building, jumped into a vehicle and sped off. An observer followed as fast as he could telling them that observers had the right to accompany the transportation of protocols to the district election commission and as the commissioners ran they shouted that we could not come with them and to find our own way if we wanted to go.

People who are honest, reputable, and have nothing to hide do not behave in this way.

In my opinion, at best they were totally ignorant of the concept of democratic elections or, at worse and probably more likely, they were blatantly corrupt, perhaps a mix of both.

Marjorie Thorpe is chairperson and a member of the board of directors for the Foundation for Free Elections.

Willard: A day that changed the fate of Ukraine

→4 "Yulia," the president said. "You're probably guilty as hell of something, but the charge of malfeasance on the gas deal was a bum rap. Today, I am signing a presidential pardon. You'll be free by Monday." He then quickly reminded her that it was November and not April Fools' Day.

He was pleased with himself.

About this time, both his grown boys arrived in his outer office. They were businessmen who some say benefited by having papa as president. As they stood before him, Yanukovich told them with a smile: "Sons, go out and get real jobs. Sasha, you're a dentist for crying out loud. I want this whole 'the family' stigma to disappear."

Over the weeks to come, Ukraine, and indeed the world, saw a very changed president.

After moving out of his palatial estate, Yanukovich rented a very plush but reasonable presidential apartment across from the equally plush Sofiyskiy Fitness Center. While working out, he kept a watchful eye on his political rival, boxer Vitali Klitschko, who was also a member.

But it was on the larger stage that Ukraine finally began to fulfill the promise of independence.

Yanukovich cleaned house and began bringing in young reformers too idealistic to be bribed. He pushed forward the agenda of integrating Ukraine into the European Union. This happened, finally, before anyone thought possible, in 2018.

On NATO, the president thought hard and came to the conclusion that it was better to take part in the organization without being an actual member. This disappointed a lot of Westerners, but others said it was a nod toward Russia and a smart geopolitical move.

Behind the scenes, Yanukovich called in his grandchildren. Gathering them around the fireplace, he said in a soft voice, "I am going to leave you a legacy – a good legacy for you to follow. I am going to leave Ukraine a better place than I found it."

A much loved President Yanukovich had only token opposition in his next run for president, but it was a fair election with the media confidently reporting on all sides.

Postscript: President Viktor Yanukovich lived a very long life. He retired after his second term even though many urged a change in the Constitution so he could have a third term. He refused. In retirement, he often welcomed visitors to his home in Donetsk, where people paid the great man homage.

Upon his death, his birthday each year was declared a holiday. The Defender of the Motherland statue was replaced by the towering Yanukovich Monument of white marble. Some called him the George Washington of Ukraine. He was, indeed, the father of a new Ukraine.

What happened on that crisp Saturday morning remains a mystery. Some said that underneath the rough exterior, the fellow had a good heart, a great vision and always wanted what was best for his country.

Others said it all had to do with that dog, Sparky.

Me, I don't know, I'm just telling the story as I heard it, a long time ago.

Kyiv Post CEO Michael Willard can be reached at willard@kyivpost.com



Rising fashion trend: Ukrainian national symbols

A parade of embroidered shirts (vyshyvankas) on the Independence Day started in Kyiv near the Ukrainian House, Aug. 24. A whole event once again proves the rising trend of Ukrainian national symbols in fashion. (Ukrafoto)

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
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Seeing men in *vyshyvankas* (Ukrainian traditional embroidered shirts) or ladies with blue-and-yellow ribbons in their hair no longer means its Independence Day or that you've landed in the middle of an anti-Russian language protest. Ukrainian national symbols are increasingly becoming a trend in modern Ukrainian fashion.

The country's best known fashion designer Lilia Pustovit, whose latest collection includes many elements of national embroidery, said the trend is

driven more by a need for identity than patriotism. "Now there are much more people with Ukrainian self-identification. It's still not patriotism, but people go abroad and come back more and more patriotic," she said.

It's certainly true for Daria Antsybor, 23, a folklorist who said she wears traditional dresses all the time, but particularly when abroad.

"I think people I met during my volunteer program in France this summer will remember the colors of Ukrainian flag forever," she laughed and said her colleagues joked about her even having shoelaces in national colors.

"I feel comfortable in such clothes and do not worry at all. It suits almost everything," she explained, adding that national symbols should be used correctly according to their meaning, not just fashion.

"For me it is not about fashion," said Kyiv-based system administrator Maksym Krasilnikov, 30. "It is a way to express my inner appearance, just like T-shirts with the picture of a favorite band. A way to show who is who," he said. Krasilnikov said his favorite is a black embroidered shirt, T-shirts with national symbols and of course, the national flag. "I travel a lot and take

our flag everywhere with me. I recently took it to Georgia," he said.

The trend really took off after the Euro 2012 football championship. People wearing embroidered shirts and T-shirts, blue-and-yellow hats, ribbons and bags with national flags in their hands flooded the streets of Ukraine throughout summer 2012. And Ukrainian designers caught the wave. "I prepared my collection of flag-colored skirts during Euro 2012 and it took me no more than 3 days," said Ukrainian designer Alyona Poklonska.

She made the first long skirt of national flag colors for herself, → 19

Food Critic



WITH KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

Tomatoes puts focus on quality ingredients

WITH KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

You think it's nothing special when you walk into Tomatoes, a tiny new eatery on Symon Petliura Street near the main railway station. Clearly decorated on a shoestring, with plain tables and a ventilation system that needs improvement, this new Spanish/Italian restaurant is nevertheless a bit of a hidden gem. It's still very rough and waiting for a polish – but hey, it's only been around for a month.

The Spanish jamons (hams) hanging behind the bar are the first hint the restaurant might be something special. Another one is that, if you come at dinner time, all the tables are reserved.

I ended up coming for two days straight, and inviting a friend of mine on the second day. Knowing that I am an eager cook and tend to invite people home for a meal, she was surprised, but said: "When I looked at the menu, I realized why you invited me here."

Tomatoes has a small menu (by Ukrainian standards), but the selection of dishes is good, and so are the ingredients. If you expect pizza this is not the place to go, but the homemade pasta is one of Kyiv's best.

The chef says it's made out of a mixture of farina and semolina flours, using egg yolks to bind the mixture. One day, we asked for plain boiled spaghetti with butter for a child, which is where you can really taste the difference. As a side remark, not only were the staff accommodating about serving a pasta that was not on the menu, they also charged half price for it because it had no sauce (Hr 34.5).

We tried a salmon and mascarpone pasta in a creamy sauce (Hr 67), and it was very smooth and silky, and the sauce ingredients complimented the flavor and texture of the fettuccine.

The gnocchi with two sauces (ricotta with spinach and beetroot, Hr 49) was delicious. Cooked al dente, it was far better than the pumpkin gnocchi with prawns I had at Pantagruel on the same day, even though it's one of the oldest and most loved restaurants in Kyiv.

While waiting for pasta you can try a cured meats platter (Hr 83). It's expensive for the size of the portion, but it's all genuinely Spanish and tastes great. The salad with spinach and goat cheese (Hr 62) was also good, with a → 19

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Store brand Rito situated not far from the Golden Gate metro station offers clothes with many elements of national embroidery (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Taking pride in identity with fashion tastes

→ **18** just for a football match, but then saw the attention it attracted and thought the idea had potential. Poklonska set up her own ethnic design studio in Kyiv and said the number of clients keeps on growing.

"I have my new shop not far from school and much more parents now come with their children to buy ethnic clothes, rather than rent (them) for a day or two for an event," she claimed. Poklonska said people used to buy a lot as presents, but now "many people choose clothes with ethnic elements they can wear every day and this is a big progress."

For Natalia Nagorska, an IT sector worker, wearing ethnically themed clothes is a way to stand out from the crowd rather than a way to show patriotic feelings, though national spirit is certainly behind the trend.

"I am sure Ukrainian designers should work with such national elements," she said, "Of course first of all the idea will be supported by patriots and nationalists but then the others will follow," she explained.

Nagorska fell in love with the trend in Lviv, where even monuments were dressed in embroidered shirts during the Independence Day celebrations. "It amazed me! So many beautiful things with national symbolic and ethnic elements that you can use every day," she said, "Then my boyfriend gave me a backpack with Ukrainian embroidery for my birthday and now it is my favorite one. And believe me or not, no handbag caused such admiration among my colleagues as this backpack," said Nagorska.

While fashion experts and designers still doubt that Ukrainian national symbols can rival the trendiness of British and American ones, others are optimistic. "I am not sure it can happen very soon, but the tendency is clear," said designer Poklonska. "At least I am working and will be working in that direction," she said.

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

Food Critic: Tomatoes is good, but not fancy

→ **18** placid dressing combined with aromatic cheese, raisins and pine nuts. Lovers of tar-tar (Hr 69) will be happy, too, especially if they ask the chef to leave the tiny croutons out.

The waitress will tell you that meat dishes are good there, and she's right. I hit the jackpot twice by ordering osso buco with mash one day (Hr 93) and veal ribs with cranberry couscous the next (Hr 99). Osso buco, veal shanks slowly braised in a wine sauce, was falling off the bone and was well worth the money. The ribs were also extremely tender and aromatic.

Tomatoes has an open kitchen, which is very unusual for Kyiv. You can see the cooks working elegantly, knowing they are being watched, from behind the glass from the back room where there is only one table.

Ingredients are key for Tomatoes, and there is even a shop operating on the premises that sells locally sourced farmer produce. The farmers and their foods are advertised through leaflets, as well as the Lavkalavka.com site. Prices here do bite, though.

There are a few disappointments in Tomatoes, too. The menu advertises both white and red Sangria, which was not available on two consecutive nights. With cider, the same story. The choice of wine is poor and even the most basic Italian red from the Valpolicella region goes for Hr 175 per bottle. The home-made lemonade (Hr 25 per glass) is very tasty, though. It comes in several varieties, flavored with different herbs, like thyme and estragon.

Another disappointment was the Crema Catalana, or lack of. This signature Spanish dessert is an equivalent of France's creme caramel, but the waitress said it had not been made once since the opening even though it features on the menu. The chocolate fondant (Hr 43), a small pastry with a melting heart, is the choice for dessert lovers. An espresso to wash it down goes for Hr 17.

Our waitress had loose long blonde hair, something that is frowned upon in eateries, and is actually forbidden by Ukraine's strict health regulations. But service was very good, smiles seemed genuine and food and drinks came fast.



Gastro Bar Tomatoes, a tiny new eatery on Symon Petliura Street situated not far from the main railway station, offers a good selection of dishes and ingredients. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Tomatoes might still have a few wrinkles to iron out, but it is certainly one of the tastiest places to eat in Kyiv at the moment. They will certainly see me back - at least while the prices hold.

Gastro Bar Tomatoes
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Dinner for two: Hr 400, approximately
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Ukraine's biggest contemporary art forum opens its doors in Kyiv



A painting called Double Punch depicts world heavyweight boxing champions Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko.

A girl familiarizes herself with one of the showpieces on display at Arsenal.



A woman poses inside a huge installation of tinned fish by Ukrainian contemporary artist Zhanna Kadyrova.

Do you know what serigraphy is? Have you ever seen an artwork made of thousands of colorful plastic skewers? If you have answered "no" to either of these questions, you should consider visiting Mystetsky Arsenal, which is currently hosting Art Kyiv Contemporary, Ukraine's biggest contemporary art forum. The forum is a collaboration of 20 leading art galleries from Ukraine, Austria, Russia, Italy, Germany and France. It will only last till Nov. 18. Worth seeing there is a unique collection of more than 120 serigraphy paintings of French Victor Vasarely. Urainian landscapes by Italian Antonio Meneghetti are also worth stopping by. The author is using a unique technique that he defines as onto-art, a derivative of the Greek onto, which means being. Don't miss a nice selection of black-and-white pictures by world famous photo gurus from the collection of Kyiv's Brucie gallery. The exhibition fills two floors of the Arsenal complex, occupying more than 20,000 square meters, so give yourself plenty of time if you want to see everything on display.

Story by Anastasia Forina, photos by Kostyantyn Chernichkin



Woman enjoys works by Belarussian artist Olexsandr Nekrashevych.



There is some special thrill in a collection of serigraphy paintings of French Victor Vasarely.

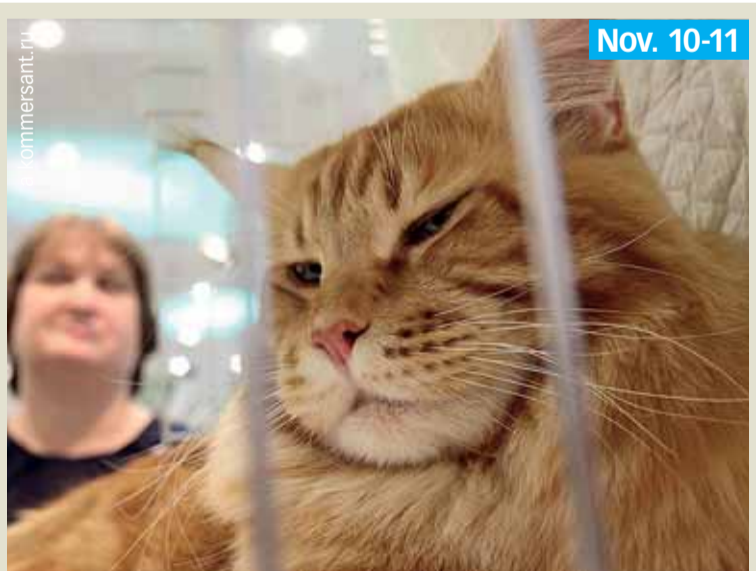
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Kimono. Three centuries of Japanese fashion Nov. 2 – Jan. 15. Kyiv planetarium Weekends Hr 90 adults; Hr 60 for students, pensioners. Weekdays Hr 60 adults; Hr 30 for students, pensioners.



Nov. 10-11

Cats and kittens show

Cats may be the biggest hit of Internet, but they're even more sweet when watched offline. A feline show is the best way to enjoy cats and kittens without being scratched. Another one is taking place on Nov. 10-11. Persian cats and exotic species like Sphinx cats will be featured. Visitors can watch cats being evaluated by jury in several categories, including breed conformity, look and temper. Kittens of age of four months and older will be offered for purchase.

Cat Exhibition. Nov. 10-11. Kyiv Children and Youth Palace. 13 Ivana Mazepy St. 522-8089. www.rolandus.org. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hr 50, Hr 25 for children

A wonderland of menswear

BY OLGA RUDENKO
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A few centuries ago, the only way for a respectable man to get a suit was to have it made to order. Today, it's merely a way of perfecting it – to eliminate folds and creases, and to make sure the suit hugs the figure perfectly.

While it's women who have a reputation for being obsessed about their looks, Kateryna Vozianova, 29, realized long ago that men, too, care about style. In 2009, right after the financial crisis, she took a gamble and opened an atelier to make custom-made suits with a single tailor. Today her Indposhiv employs 16 people and is expanding.

"We desperately need another cutter right now, we're overloaded with orders," says Vozianova, sipping tea in a spacious fitting room inside her shop. "At the moment we have 25 suits being made, that's not to count other things like shirts."

Indposhiv is an acronym for "custom tailoring" in Russian, which is exactly what this workshop does. It focuses exclusively on menswear. Apart from suits, they make coats, blazers and shirts. But their biggest earner – making tailored suits – is also the priciest. Starting at Hr 10,500 clients can purchase perfectly fitting hand-stitched suits. For suits with up to 20 percent of machine stitching, prices start more modestly at Hr 8,500.

To explain the price, Vozianova

shows a button loop. A machine would stitch it perfectly, she says, but all the stitches would be exactly the same size, while it is better to have them almost the same size, not boringly perfect. Plus, she explains, hand-made stitches make the suit more flexible. Thus, a client can lift up their arms without fear of tearing the jacket.

Prices for suits can rise if clients pick expensive fabrics. The most expensive suit in the studio's history cost Hr 28,000, and was made of British wool and had diamond studding.

To place an order, the client first spends 10-15 minutes in privacy with a cutter, who takes measurements and listens to the client's wishes.

"But it is not just about measurements," says Hryhoriy Samodiy, a cutter at Indposhiv. "In that time, I must delicately learn all the disproportions the client has - for example, if one of his shoulders is lower than the other. I'll note that down silently, and the client will never even know."

It takes one month and three fittings to get a suit. The price includes lifetime service from the shop, which means the suit can be dry-cleaned, professionally ironed or even re-sized if the client gains or loses weight. "One of our clients lost about 18 kilograms, and we re-sized his suit," Vozianova says.

Indposhiv has a number of tricks up its sleeve to make their clients feel they are getting special treatment. For example, the interlining of the front

Spotting a good suit

Tips by Kateryna Vozianova, founder of Indposhiv atelier

1. No folds anywhere.
2. Full canvas jacket, with no fusible interlining.
3. Buttons are made of horn.
4. No fake decorative buttonholes on jacket cuffs. Cuff buttons must be functional.

Ukraine's politicians are good guinea pigs when it comes to studying men's suits. Vozianova says President Viktor Yanukovich's expensive Brioni suits appear to be fitted, not custom-made, which makes them look far from perfect. Suits of Ukraine's political dandy, First Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky, are nice, but lately Khoroshkovsky has been wearing non-flattering colors. An example to follow is his colleague, Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Tigipko. His suits, Vozianova says, are definitely custom-made and fit very well.

"He isn't a client of ours, at least not yet," she says, smiling. "But we keep sending him little presents on occasions and hope to make a suit for him once."

part of the jacket is made of horsehair, which is sewn on with tiny stitches. This makes the jacket a lot lighter than the cheaper alternatives that use fusible interlining.

Vozianova says there are about three studios in Kyiv, including hers, that can perform that kind of tailoring.

She may have inherited her strive for perfection from her father, Fedor Vozianov, a well-known designer in Kyiv who has won international recognition. He only specializes in women's clothes, though. His daughter started her own business after a job at a multinational corporation and a stint as a business development manager for her dad's company.

Apart from bespoke hand-made suits, Indposhiv has a cheaper alternative: fitted suits, starting at Hr 6,500. But Vozianova says many of her clients



Kateryna Vozianova shows how bespoke suits' special feature, horsehair interlining, is being made, in her studio. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Tailors at work at Indposhiv studio. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

consider a custom made suit a good investment, and go out of their way to get one.

"In post-crisis time we had some clients for whom the suits they ordered were worth a month's salary, if not more," she says. "For them it was clearly a career investment."

The studio's clients are mostly businessmen and politicians. Maxym Nefyodov, managing director of Icon Private Equity, has five or six suits by Indposhiv and about 30 hand-made shirts, and swears by them.

"Ready-to-wear suits hardly can be compared with custom-made ones," he says. "Plus, shops here don't give much of a selection. And the prices can be shocking. Ready-to-wear suits are supposed to be cheaper than custom-

made, but with shops here that is not the case."

But Nefyodov thinks that so far not so many people in Kyiv are fond of good suits. "Brand name often matters more than real quality," he says.

Vozianova claims she is trying to wean her clients off that bad habit. She says one client asked Indposhiv to use Brioni-branded lining for his suit. The studio refused, and persuaded him to go for real quality.

Indposhiv atelier

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Nov. 9, 11



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This weekend, Palats Sportu will host a group pre-qualification hockey tournament in which Ukraine's national team will compete for a spot to qualify for the right to play in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Ukraine faces Estonia, Poland and Spain. The best team will advance to the qualification round where they'll face Latvia, France and Kazakhstan for a ticket to Sochi.

Nov. 9	Nov. 11
Poland – Spain, 4 p.m.	Estonia – Spain 4 p.m.
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Suspect in Karavan triple murders found dead

BY GRAHAM PHILLIPS

Yaroslav Mazurok, the man suspected in this fall's triple murder at a Kyiv shopping mall, was found dead on Nov. 7 in a Kyiv park, police say.

The body of the accused killer, suspected of fatally shooting three security guards at Karavan mall on Sept. 26, was reportedly discovered by a man walking his dog in the woods near Dorohozhychi. A passport of a man with the same name and birth year was found near his body, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Police said they also found a gun similar to the one used in the mall slaying near the corpse. The man shot himself in an apparent suicide, police believe.

Police now say they will conduct DNA tests to confirm the corpse's identity. However, this may not end the case. The September triple murders put Ukrainian society, unaccustomed to gun killings, on edge.

Mazurok's wife, Lyudmyla, has always maintained his innocence.

The Sept. 26 triple murder at Karavan happened after Mazurok was allegedly caught on camera taking a USB flash drive, and then trying to conceal it as he went through checkout, paying only for groceries. Apprehended and escorted to a back room by security, the man whom the police later identified as Mazurok pulled out a gun and killed three guards. He seriously injured a fourth before the gunman fled on foot.

At the time, the consensus was that it was a tragic case of security guards not taking the proper precautions in approaching the wrong guy. Wanted posters went up featuring the fugitive Mazurok. Speculation about his past – whether he was a criminal, in the military or a boxer – surfaced.

His wife, Lyudmyla Mazurok, contends that a professional hit man was hired by security companies to carry out the Karavan murders. She maintains her husband was the fall guy in a plot to have parliament pass legislation to allow security guards to carry firearms.

Mazurok's wife also disputed news reports that her husband had military training and his employment record.

She has stated in person and through her lawyer, Lavrentiy Kuhaleyshvili, to Ukrainian new media that Mazurok worked as an itinerant plasterer and suffered from arthritis, thus making it difficult for him to carry a gun. Lyudmyla Mazurok also believed the man in the YouTube video shown carrying out the murder was not actually her husband. He was 25-30 years old, while Mazurok was 38.

Lyudmyla Mazurok conceded that her husband had been missing since Sept. 27, apparently he returned home following the shootings with the milk and bread he purchased. She woke up and found her husband's phone on the table, but he was gone.

Graham Phillips is a freelance writer in Kyiv.



Yaroslav Mazurok

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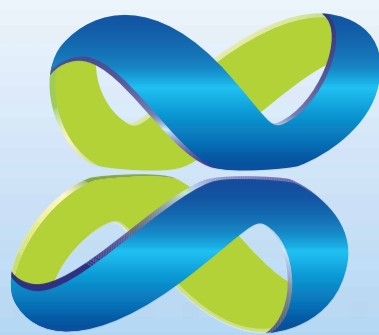
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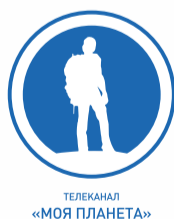


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