

Kolomiets murdered?

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

KYIV. On Nov. 21, the Deputy Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin stated that a criminal case was opened to investigate the death of Mykhailo Kolomiets, the 44 year-old director of the Ukrainian News Information



A problem solver

Photo: V. Falin

Agency, whose body was found on Oct. 30 in a forest in Belarus, near the town of Mlodetchno. On Nov. 11, he was buried by Belarussian officials. According to Interior Minister Yuriy Smirnov, the decision to bury the body came after the unidentified corpse was already placed in a grave. On Nov. 19, Ukrainian Deputy State Secretary Mykhailo Kornienko said that the autopsy revealed no signs of foul play, and thus, must have been a suicide. The case is now open under Article 120 of Ukraine's Criminal Code, which deals with grounds for committing suicide.

The same day, Kolomiets' mother, Olha, asked the PGO to launch a criminal case, examining the cause and date of her son's death. She said it is imperative to utilize the services of a French independent expert from Reporters Without Borders. RWB called on the PGO to take up the case and offered to send a pathologist to help. RWB also asked the PGO to consider contradictions in evidence, and not to rule out the possibility of a contract killing. Belarussian police said they did not find any signs of resisting attack on the body, and therefore, determined that suicide could have been the cause of death. Kolomiets' mother said she does not believe her son committed suicide.

Continued p. 3

Commentary: The new premier

The return of Lazarus

On Nov. 21, the governor of Donetsk was appointed premier, on a vote of 234 in favor in the Verkhovna Rada – only eight voices more than the absolute minimum, despite brave predictions that he would easily muster 250, and an outcome that sent the legislature into hysterical cheers, as though this was the very person everyone had been dreaming of for years for the second-highest post in the land. A politician from the region that seems to have been setting the national agenda for some time now. A governor whose oblast has registered more mining fatalities in the last few years than any similar region in the industrialized world, a region whose growing jobless population has taken the crown from Odesa as the nation's drug-abuse capital with the fastest-growing rate of HIV/AIDS. A Donetsk man whom President Kuchma –himself a Dnipropetrovsk man– appears afraid of. A man who spent time in jail twice before reaching his majority yet has somehow managed to make it seem

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Yanukovich slips in

Photo: V. Falin

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HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

"Kuchma's reception in Prague was cool, but correct."

– Karel Kovanda,
Czech ambassador to NATO

See p. 8

**Happy
Thanksgiving day,
Nov. 28**

FARM BRIEFS

FOREIGN BOOST FOR AG

KYIV. In 2002, foreign investors brought US \$11.852mn to Ukraine's ag sector, a fivefold increase year-on-year, reported the Ag Policy Ministry. Moreover, foreigners invested US \$18.257mn in the food industry, up 190% on 2001. Since 1992, foreign investors have invested US \$922.4mn into the ag sector. This accounts for 20% of the total direct investment into the country's economy, reported DerzhKomStat.

HARVESTED SUGAR BEETS

KYIV. Ag producers finished harvesting sugar beet gathering 13.5mn t, said acting Vice Premier Kozachenko. He said the yield decreased by 2mn t year-on-year.

SUNFLOWER EXPORTS WILT

KYIV. September sunflower export volumes to 141 t for US \$39,000, a decrease of 46.8% compared to September 2001. Compared to August, exports of sunflower increased 261.5%.

SUGAR PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

KYIV. Sugar production will not exceed 1.4mn t in 2002, against 1.65mn t in 2001, reported UkrTsukor Chair Yuriy Bondarenko. He said the deficit would be covered by increased imports. He said the fall in sugar production was caused by low crop capacity of sugar beet in 2002. The domestic demand for sugar totaled 2mn t a year.

AG CAPITAL INVESTMENT

KYIV. In January-September, agro-industrial complex companies received Hr 908.7mn of capital investment. 87% of the funding was attributed to investments in fixed capital. 65% of financing capital comes from firms' own funding - Hr 588.5mn of the total volume. Investment into fixed capital grew 24.2% year-on-year.

GRAIN EXPORTS INCREASE

KYIV. In September, grain exports grew 87.8%, an increase of 838,270 t year-on-year, compared to September 2001. In September, grain exports totaled 1.79345mn t. Compared to August, grain exports increased by 36.6%, or 480,160 t. In January-September, grain exports totaled 7.379mn t for US \$610.54mn, an increase of 261.6% year-on-year.

SUGAR BEET YIELD DOWN

KYIV. As of Nov. 1, the gross sugar beet harvest totaled 12.995mn t, or 15% less year-on-year, the state statistics committee DerzhKomStat informed. Crop yield averaged 20 t per ha. Individual growers have harvested 3.86mn t of beet to date with yields of 21.4 t per ha. Farming enterprises of various forms of ownership harvested 9.1mn t of beets with yields of 19.5 t per ha.



FROM THE GROUND UP

Rayon Survey

Bilotserkivshchyna: growing up

The jokes about Bila Tserkva having more BMWs per capita than any other city of Ukraine have long died. But this enclave 84 km south of Kyiv on the Odesa-St. Petersburg highway continues to make its mark. One of the oldest cities in Ukraine Bila Tserkva is also a rayon or county center in Kyiv oblast. Founded in 1032 by Kniiaz' Yaroslav Mudryi, this city of 181,000 today governs a county with a population of 57,800 that covers 1,300 sq km. 75% of the county is rural, and the remainder are in the city of Uzyn. One of characteristics of the region is that it is greatly diversified. In addition to the city of Uzyn, there are 59 settled areas. 634 km of roads provide internal and inter-regional transport. The Odesa-Sanky-St. Petersburg, Kyiv-Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv-Kharkiv highways all cross its territory. The Pivdenno-zakhidna Zaliznytsia or southwest railway handles the transportation of freight by rail through the region. One of the biggest domestic airports is situated in the city of Uzyn. This short county survey supplements a larger regional survey on Bila Tserka in 2001 [see EE Vol. 8 #38-39 (402 and 403)].

Proximity breeds

Its nearness to the nation's capital means that industry in Bilotserkivshchyna has a sizeable market to sell its wares to. The top local industries are represented by 15 enterprises of different types, mainly engaged in processing food. There are two meat-packing plants - Agrarnyk and Polis- and a dairy plant, Vita Dairy. Vegetables are processed at Bila Tserkva Canning, while liqueurs, spirits and confectioneries are produced at the state-owned Rosych plant. The Uzyn sugar-refining group includes the Uzyn and Ozerna Sugar Refineries.

The county's industrial output in 2001 was worth Hr 137mn, a growth of 105.8% over 2000.

Tasty processing

average annual tonnage	
confectioneries	750,000
soft drinks	200,000
sugar and other	30,000
meat and by-products	8,000
dairy products	3,500
sausages	2,000
bake goods	0,500

The county also has an agro-industrial complex that boasts 53 farm enterprises, among them 21 limited liability companies, 8 agro-industrial co-ops, 4 private lease enterprises, 4 joint-stock companies, 5 state enterprises, a farm garden attached to a diocese, state unity, and soon. Altogether, 60 farms are registered and operate in the region.



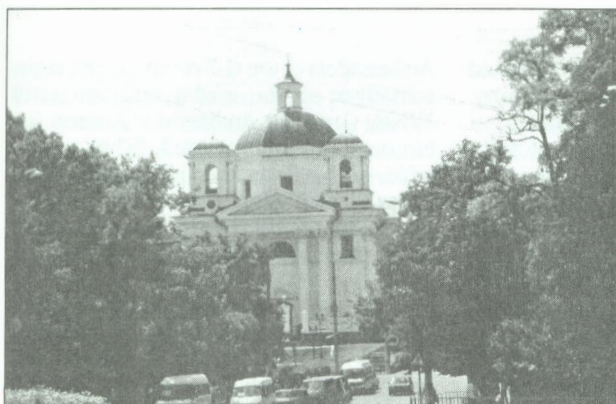
Figures for all areas of farm output are not yet available for 2002, but harvest figures for 2001 gross grain yield in all categories of region's enterprises is 158,200 t with average crop capacity 36.3 c/ha. Gross yield of sugarbeet is 240,000 t, with crop capacity of 265 c/ha.

The region's farms have 30,680 head of cattle. Total milk production in the region in 2001 was almost 40,000 t, however, it is not clear what share of the entire number of cattle is the dairy herd. Official sources report that the milk yield per cow is 3,295 kg on average. During 2001, the district's farms also produced 3,460 t of meat. The growth rate for 2001 over 2000 was 106.8%, and comparative prices value this at Hr 130.6mn.

Keeping busy

The number unemployed people in Bilotserkivshchyna is 1,578. At the end of 2001, the unemployment level was 6.3%.

The county's 33 kindergartens feed 44 public schools, 23 of which provide both primary and secondary education, while 21 only go up until the 9th grade. These schools educate more than 7,000 children. They are serviced by 57 libraries providing reading material. The region has one regional recreation center and 58 village recreation centers. Besides regular stream education, the region has two special sports schools for children and an oblast sports boarding school in the village of Terezyne. One regional recreation center in the city of Uzyn



Social services growing

serves young people, and it also has youth and social services center.

A central county hospital with 195 beds provides medical assistance to the neighboring population, while the Uzyn Rayon Hospital has 75 beds. In addition, there are 49 medical and obstetric dispensaries, 12 divisional hospitals, and out-patient clinics.

During 2001, a number of changes were introduced in the county in order to improve social services for locals. These include setting up a Social Services Center for Pensioners and Single Disabled Individuals, a medical rehab center in the village of Ivanivna, and a specialized social center called Nadia or Hope in the city of Uzyn. A boarding center has been built for those designated vetrans of labor, that is, people who have worked for 35 years or more, in the village of Ozerna, and a boarding school in the village of Drozdy.

Small is beautiful

SMEs contribute their fair share into the local economy, more than Hr 2.2mn to budgets at different levels. In all, the district has 575 registered legal entities and 1,729 private individuals registered as engaged in business activities. There are 57.6 active small enterprises for every 10,000 of population, providing employment to 2,800

people. Small enterprises also contribute to 13% of the gross output of the region. On average, they produce and provide services worth about Hr 25mn a year.

The district's consumer market is served by 154 retail trade firms of different types. In 2001, these retail enterprises—including food services—racked up sales of Hr 65mn, Hr 5mn or 8.3% more than in 2000. Services provided to the district's population were worth Hr 1.34mn in 2001.

Like many other parts of the country, the need for housing has been growing. In 2001, nearly 7,000 sq m of residential space was built, more than half of it, 4,200 sq m, in villages and rural areas. This works out to about 25.9 sq m per resident. The county, with its nearness both to Kyiv and to major transportation links, looks set to continue to grow for the foreseeable future. •

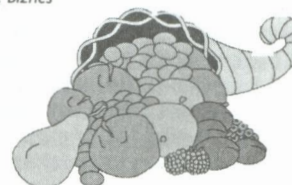
The second part of Back to the future will appear in next week's issue.

AGRICULTURAL PRICE LISTS

November 18

commodity	price
peas	Hr 600/t
peas, DAF	US \$150 /t
buckwheat	Hr 1,020/t
buckwheat, DAF	US \$215/t
potato starch	Hr 2.75-2.90/kg
oatmeal	Hr 790/t
semolina	Hr 1,080/t
millet	Hr 630/t
pearl-barley	Hr 450/t
poppy	Hr 6.00-6.30/kg
macaroni	Hr 1.30/kg
palm oil	Hr 3.8/l
sunflower oil	Hr 3,750/t
flour, high grade	Hr 700-840/t
flour, 1st grade	Hr 650-780/t
rice	Hr 1.69-2.29/kg
sugar	Hr 2,050/t
salt	Hr 150-350/t
butter, Selianske	Hr 6.39/kg
milk, condensed	Hr 5.60/kg
milk, powdered	Hr 5.50/kg
cheese (domestic)	Hr 10.20/kg
beef, 1st grade	Hr 6.70/kg
chicken (domestic)	Hr 7.35/kg
fish, various	Hr 2.50-13/kg
oranges	Hr 3.50/kg
lemons	Hr 5.50/kg
raisin	Hr 3.80/kg

Source: Biznes

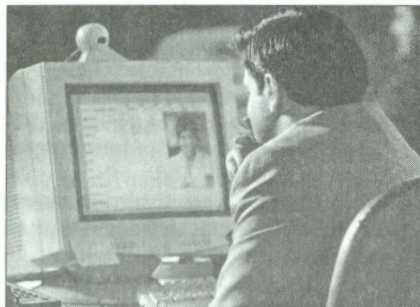


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