

## What the Papers Say, Nov. 7, 2012

November 07, 2012



### Igor Tabakov

#### Kommersant

1. Ivan Safronov et al. report headlined "Military Trade Over" comments on the dismissal of Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov. Newly appointed Minister Sergei Shoygu is expected to carry out a reshuffle in the ministry; pp 1, 3 (2,266 words).
2. Olga Mordyushenko article headlined "Farkhad Akhmedov Hands Over Nortgaz" says Farkhad Akhmedov is selling his 49 percent stake in the Nortgaz company to Novatek controlled by Gennady Timchenko and Leonid Mikhelson; pp 1, 9 (840 words).
3. Article attributed to the paper's political section headlined "Moscow Region Led to Governor Election" says the Kremlin is looking for a candidate to be elected next Moscow region governor. As Sergei Shoygu was appointed new defense minister, the Moscow region governor is to be elected next September on the single voting day; p 2 (1,144 words).
4. Unattributed article polls officials and public figures who comment on Anatoly Serdyukov's dismissal; p 3 (512 words).

5. Maxim Ivanov article headlined "Short Time Left to Wait for Address" says President Vladimir Putin is reportedly working on his address to the Federal Assembly, which is to be delivered later this year; p 4 (497 words).
6. Andrei Kolesnikov article headlined "Olympic Sports" reports on the meeting of the council for sports development chaired by Putin where the Russian team performance at the London Olympics was discussed; p 4 (1,016 words).
7. Ilya Shepelin article headlined "CPRF to Go to Communist Victory on Opposite Lane" says the Moscow Mayor's Office has authorized a Communist march dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution; p 4 (448 words).
8. Alexei Sokovnin article headlined "Prosecutor Insists on His Sentence to Platon Lebedev" says the prosecutor has appealed against the court ruling reducing the sentence to former Menatep bank owner Platon Lebedev by three years; p 5 (499 words).
9. Sergei Strokan article headlined "Behavior Mark Reduced for Party of Regions" says opposition protests against the election results in Ukraine have stripped the Party of Regions of the opportunity for a legitimate majority in the parliament, moreover, they affected the position of President Viktor Yanukovich; p 7 (507 words).
10. Kirill Belyaninov article headlined "Republicans Do Not Give Congress Away" reports on the congressmen election held in the U.S.A. simultaneously with the presidential polls. The author expects U.S. policy toward Russia to change, as new senators will not consider relations with Moscow to be priority; p 7 (594 words).
11. Maxim Yusin article headlined "Libyan Revolution Goes to Export" says that after the Syrian opposition made its sources of financing public, people were surprised to hear that Libya became the main donor of the Syrian rebels; p 7 (426 words).
12. Mikhail Serov et al. report headlined "Poland Succeeds in Getting Discount" says Gazprom has agreed to reduce prices on gas sold to Poland by 16 percent. Warsaw in return has withdrawn its lawsuit against the Russian gas monopoly; p 9 (655 words).
13. Grigory Tumanov article headlined "Entrepreneur Not Allowed to Lose Touch With Masses" says that lawyers of three defendants charged with organizing mass disturbances on Bolotnaya Ploshchad in Moscow have filed a request to reconsider the case of entrepreneur Maxim Luzyanin, the only one who admitted his guilt, as this will violate the rights of other defendants; p 6 (600 words).

## **Nezavisimaya Gazeta**

1. Alexandra Samarina et al. report headlined "President's Personnel Despair" attributed Serdyukov's dismissal to the Kremlin's attempt to stabilize the situation within the ruling elite and to show the public that some measures are being taken; pp 1, 3 (1,653 words).
2. Vladimir Mukhin article headlined "More Checkpoints Set Up in Dagestan" says some police forces will be redeployed from Chechnya to Dagestan where additional checkpoints are being set up; pp 1-2 (670 words).

3. Alexei Gorbachev article headlined "Real Passions of Virtual Parliament" says that opposition activists displeased with the results of the Coordination Council election plan to set up their own organization; pp 1-2 (629 words).
4. Yevgeny Grigoryev article headlined "Euro Zone to Live in Crisis for Another 5 Years" outlines German Chancellor Angela Merkel's view of the euro-zone crisis; pp 1, 8 (606 words).
5. Tatyana Ivzhenko article headlined "Yanukovych Takes Pause" looks at the current situation in Ukraine, where the opposition continues protesting against vote rigging; pp 1, 7 (1,127 words).
6. Yury Roks article headlined "Saakashvili's Comrade in Arms Makes a Surprise" says the return of the former interior minister to Georgia has coincided with a new wave of prison protests; pp 1, 7 (906 words).
7. Editorial headlined "Changing of the Guard in Beijing" says the Chinese Communist Party congress is to shape the country's policy for the next decade and elect the new leader; p 2 (484 words).
8. Ivan Rodin article headlined "Any Statistics to Choose From, But No Order" says shortcomings of the Russian migration policy have resulted in the growing of crime rate in the country; p 3 (775 words).
9. Svetlana Gamova article headlined "Rogozin Goes to Open Way for Russian Consulate in Transdnestr Republic" says Chisinau opposes Russian plans to set up a consulate in the Dniester region seeking independence from Moldova; p 7 (740 words).

## **Vedomosti**

1. Alexei Nikolsky and Natalya Kostenko article headlined "Dismissal Straight Off" says that over half of 19,000 billion rubles (nearly \$613 billion) allocated for the re-equipment of the Russian Armed Forces have been left for new Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu after Anatoly Serdyukov was dismissed; pp 1-2 (976 words).
2. Alexandra Kreknina and Yelizaveta Nikitina article headlined "2,800Bln Rubles to retail trade" says economic experts have calculated that retail chains in Russia will receive additional \$90 billion in revenues in two years as kiosks selling beer and cigarettes will be closed in Russia; pp 1, 10 (579 words).
3. Timofei Dzyadko article headlined "One More Time Gazprom's Partner" gives details of the deal to sell a 49 percent stake in Nortgaz to Novatek for \$1.5 billion; p 1 (472 words).
4. Editorial headlined "Putin Encircled" analyzes the reasons for Anatoly Serdyukov's dismissal and says that the minister was sacked as he had refused to testify against Yevgenia Vasilyeva said to be his close friend; pp 1, 4 (513 words).
5. Polina Khimshashvili and Yekaterina Kravchenko article headlined "2 Americas" says U.S. presidential candidates have equal ratings making the election race really challenging; p 2 (446 words).

6. Another editorial headlined "Stability Phenomenon" compares the Russian government and corruption with the similar trends in other BRIC (Brazil, India and China) countries; p 4 (274 words).

7. Bela Lyauv article headlined "Shoigu's Blitzkrieg" analyzes the results of Sergei Shoigu's work as governor of the Moscow region for six months; p 2 (500 words).

## **Izvestia**

1. Denis Telmanov and Vladimir Voloshin article headlined "Shoigu to Get Rid of Serdyukov's Legacy" expects a reshuffle to take place in the Defense Ministry after Sergei Shoigu was appointed the new minister; pp 1-2 (778 words).

2. Mikhail Rubin article headlined "Kremlin Bans Twitter for Governors" says the presidential administration has instructed regional heads to write politically correct messages in Twitter to avoid scandals; pp 1, 4 (483 words).

3. Konstantin Pukemov article headlined "Industry and Trade Ministry to Allocate 1Bln Rubles for Development of Human Machines" says the Russian government will finance the development of the so-called external skeleton, in other words, robotic skeletons to be used for civilian and military purposes; pp 1, 4 (474 words).

4. Anna Akhmadiyeva article headlined "Serdyukov Toppled by Negative Media Reports" says Russian media used to cover the work of former Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov in a negative way; p 2 (446 words).

5. Konstantin Volkov and Igor Yavlyansky article headlined "Russia Seeking Way Out of Syrian Dead-End" says Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will try to find a way out of the Syrian conflict during his Middle East tour; p 5 (442 words).

6. Svetlana Subbotina article headlined "Prosecutor General's Office Interested in Former Pussy Riot Lawyer" says that the Prosecutor General's Office has reacted to a request from United Russia lawmaker Vladimir Burmatov and has launched a probe into activities of Violetta Volkova, a former lawyer of Yekaterina Samutsevich; p 2 (400 words).

7. Vladimir Dergachev article headlined "Alternative Human Rights Council to Begin Its Work in December" says that the Alternative Human Rights Council set up by human rights activist Alexander Brod will lay emphasis on niche human rights areas and work with regions; p 3 (500 words).

8. Yury Matsarsky article headlined "Florida Voters Afraid of Fraud" says that the outcome of the U.S. presidential election is to be decided by swing states, with Florida being one of them; p 5 (800 words).

9. Maxim Sokolov article headlined "Destiny of Middle Class" says that positions toward Russia of both candidates in the U.S. presidential election are similarly cold; however, their programs regarding the middle class vary; p 9 (600 words).

## **Rossiiskaya Gazeta**

1. Tatyana Zykova article headlined "Attraction of Island" comments on the Russian-Cuban plans to set up a joint airlines company; p 5 (1,034 words).
2. Kira Latukhina article headlined "General — to Armed Forces" says newly appointed Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has spoken about his priorities in the work on the new post; pp 1-2 (1,158 words).
3. Fedor Lukyanov article headlined "Dream President in Accordance With Gogol Recipe" says the U.S. presidential election has split the country into supporters and opponents of the presidential candidates and their policy; p 4 (705 words).
4. Alexander Gasyuk article headlined "Allowance for Elements" says public opinion polls have shown that Barack Obama is going to win the presidential election with a narrow margin; p 8 (647 words).
5. Viktor Feshchenko article headlined "To Stop Fire" says Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has proposed a platform for negotiations to the Syrian opposition; p 8 (427 words).

## **Moskovsky Komsomolets**

1. Olga Bozhyeva et al. report headlined "Minister Sacked, Questioning Remains" reviews the results of Anatoly Serdyukov's work on the post of the defense minister; pp 1, 3 (1,681 words).
2. Mikhail Rostovsky article headlined "Secret Springs of Serdyukov's Case" analyzes the reasons for Anatoly Serdyukov's dismissal; pp 1-2 (895 words).
3. Melor Sturua article headlined "It Is Their Last and Decisive Fight" reports on the last hours of the U.S. presidential election campaign; pp 1, 4 (1,211 words).
4. Anastasia Rodionova article headlined "Opposition to Unite in Moscow Region?" says that the opposition may choose a single candidate for the election of Moscow region governor next year; p 2 (300 words).

## **Novaya Gazeta**

1. Andrei Kolesnikov article headlined "Cooperative Cracks" says that Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov's dismissal has shown that the command structure developed by Vladimir Putin is destroying itself and suffering from a lack of staff; p 7 (406 words).
2. Yulia Polukhina article headlined "I Do Not Plead Guilty" gives details of the testimony by opposition activist Leonid Razvozhayev, who was kidnapped in Ukraine; p 9 (1,333 words).
3. Pavel Felgengauer article headlined "Serdyukov Brought to Account for Everything" says the public punishment of Serdyukov was meant to show people that Putin is still keeping the situation in the government under control; p 8 (695 words).
4. Alexei Polikovsky interview headlined "'Feedback Mechanisms Dried Up and Became

Rusty" with head of the opposition Central Elections Committee Leonid Volkov, who speaks about the opposition Coordination Council, about whether people are interested in politics and about the political situation in the country on the whole; pp 10-11 (2,500 words).

5. Boris Vishnevsky report "Abundance of Hurt Feelings" says that the bill on protecting believers' feelings contradicts at least three articles of the Russian constitution; p 12 (900 words).

6. Roman Anin report "We Were Betrayed!" says that the investigators from the Moscow branch of the Investigative Committee's first directorate for investigation of particularly important cases, who did not want to make politically motivated decisions in criminal cases, are ready to resign following their senior colleague that has already been sacked; pp 2-3 (2,500 words).

7. Unattributed article headlined "Who Will Mistral Sink?" says that there are two causes behind Serdyukov's resignation. The first and official one is the fraud case of the company Oboronservis; the second one is Serdyukov's adultery; p 7 (150 words).

### **RBK Daily**

1. Ivan Petrov report "Emergency Minister" comments on the appointment of former Emergency Situations Minister and Moscow region Governor Sergei Shoigu as defense minister. Shoigu will cleanse the Defense Ministry of Serdyukov's ladies, article says; pp 1-2 (800 words).

2. Anastasia Novikova report "Marriageable Moscow Region" says that Sergei Shoigu's associate will stand in the Moscow region governor election in 2013; p 2 (600 words).

3. Alexander Litoi report "CPRF-TV" says that the Internet channel of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) is expected to be launched in December; p 2 (600 words).

4. Yulia Sinyayeva report "WTO Is Not That Terrible" says that the number of those discontented with the business conditions that have changed after Russia joined the WTO, has almost halved in the country; pp 1, 3 (600 words).

### **Moskovskiye Novosti**

1. Alexandra Beluza report "Called Up" looks at the appointment of Sergei Shoigu as defense minister; p 3 (900 words).

### **Tvoi Den**

1. Tatyana Linkevich report "Picture in oil" looks at Yevgenia Vasilyeva, who is involved in the criminal case relating to fraud in the Defense Ministry's company Oboronservis; p 2 (500 words).

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