

KyivPost

22nd Year

Subscribe to Kyiv Post online

WWW.KYIVPOST.COM

vol. 22, issue 9

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST.

www.kyivpost.com

March 3, 2017

Comrade Trump's Politburo

US President Donald J. Trump is facing greater scrutiny because of associates with unsavory ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin or Kremlin loyalists. Such connections have troubling implications for Ukraine. Among the questions: Does Putin have compromising information with which to blackmail Trump to achieve the Kremlin's policy aims?



Felix Sater
A Russian immigrant with organized crime ties reportedly acted as courier for a Kremlin peace plan for Ukraine.



Jeff Sessions
The U.S. attorney general met with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. twice during the 2016 presidential campaign.



Paul Manafort
The former adviser to ex-President Viktor Yanukovich was removed as Trump campaign manager after he was linked to \$12.7 million in payments.



U.S. President Donald J. Trump.



Michael T. Flynn
The ex-national security adviser got caught lying about his contacts with Russia.



Dmitry Rybolovlev
The Russian billionaire paid \$95 million for a Trump property in Palm Beach, Florida.



Michael D. Cohen
Trump's personal lawyer passed on a pro-Kremlin peace plan to Trump.



Michael Caputo
The former Trump campaign consultant did extensive PR work for Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Wilbur Ross
The U.S. commerce secretary is a former vice chairman of the Bank of Cyprus, a tax haven favored by Russians and many others.



Carter Page
The former Trump foreign policy adviser is under investigation for his business ties to Gazprom.

Story starts on page 10.

Photos by AFP

Inside:

National 2, 7 – 11 | Business 3, 6
Opinion 4, 5 | Lifestyle 12 – 14
Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds 14, 15

Follow the Kyiv Post on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KyivPost, and on Twitter at @KyivPost.

CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 27.45 to \$1

March 2 market rate



4 820131 720013 0 9

The material published in the Kyiv Post may not be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. All material in the Kyiv Post is protected by Ukrainian and international laws. The views expressed in the Kyiv Post are not necessarily the views of the publisher nor does the publisher carry any responsibility for those views.

Газета "Kyiv Post" видається ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа". Щотижневий наклад 9,500 прим. Ціна за домовленістю. Матеріали, надруковані в газеті "Kyiv Post" є власністю видавництва, захищені міжнародним та українським законодавством і не можуть бути відтворені у будь-якій формі без письмового дозволу Видавця. Думки, висловлені у дописах не завжди збігаються з поглядами видавця, який не бере на себе відповідальність за наслідки публікацій.

Засновник ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа"
Головний редактор Брайан Боннер
Відповідальний за випуск Люк Шеньє
Адреса видавця та засновника співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004, вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.
Реєстраційне свідоцтво Кв № 15261-3833ПР від 19.06.09.
Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528
Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк», 02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1, тел.: 559-9147
Замовлення № 13-8040
З приводу розміщення реклами звертайтеся: +380 44 591-77-88
Відповідальність за зміст реклами несе замовник.

Mailing address:

Kyiv Post,
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004

Advertising

tel. +380 44 591-7788
fax +380 44 591-3345
advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff

tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions & Distribution

tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
subscribe@kyivpost.com

Employment Advertising

tel. +380 44 591-3408
fax +380 44 591-3345
advertising@kyivpost.com

Economy relies heavily on Avdiyivka coke plant

BY WILL PONOMARENKO
SAINT.ANGER1992@GMAIL.COM

AVDIYIVKA, Ukraine – Avdiyivka Coke Plant plays a big role in Ukraine's economy. Without it, steel and metals production – two key exports – can't take place and the economy tumbles again.

But the plant, the biggest one of this kind in Europe, and owned by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov's Metinvest company, is in a very dangerous spot – only a few kilometers from Russian-controlled Donetsk.

With Russia's three-year war heating up again, the plant's operations remain in danger. Since the war began, 10 plant employees have been killed and 50 wounded as the plant has been hit by as many as 320 shells.

Moreover, there are dangers on the economic front as well: A month-long blockade of the occupied territories, led by Ukrainian Donbas war veterans and lawmakers, has cut off vital supplies of coking coal to the enterprise, bringing its stocks to worryingly low levels.

Avdiyivka Coke Plant is typical of such struggling enterprises, because it was designed to do business with industries that are now separated by a war front, its director general, Musa Magomedov, explains.

"The blockade activists do not understand this complicated, balanced and very interdependent network of industries here in the Donbas," Magomedov says. "These are highly populist and completely irresponsible actions. It sounds good – 'stop trading with the occupants.' But nobody wants to face the real consequences. Whole industries in the region are collapsing, as vital supply and production chains are broken. And many of these enterprises in the occupied zone are registered in Ukraine, paying taxes to Ukraine,



An employee warms his hands in the Avdiyivka Coke Plant on Feb. 21. Only a few kilometers from Russian-occupied Donetsk, the vital supplier to Ukraine's steel mills is in perpetual danger of being shut down if Russia's war against Ukraine escalates. (Volodymyr Petrov)

and producing huge metal exports for Ukraine."

Trade in blood

Over 95,000 wagons loaded with industrial commodities have been halted by the activists' blockade on three rail lines that cross the front line. The activists are demanding that the government stop what they call "a trade in blood," and accuse the nation's top officials and oligarchs of taking part in corrupt deals with Russian-backed forces even as the nation wages war with them.

The blockade is already having an effect. In the occupied territories, a metal works in Yenakievo and the Krasnodonugol coal mining complex in Krasnodon have already shut

down due to shortages of fuel and raw materials.

The plant is a key element of Ukraine's steel industry, accounting for over 20 percent of the country's coke output. It also produces benzene, coal tar, coal oil ammonium sulphate and coal gas.

It takes the output of the local coal mines and converts it into an input for metals production in Mariupol and Zaporizhia. Coke not only provides a source of fuel to fire blast furnaces, its carbon is a reducing agent and an alloying constituent in steel.

If the plant stops operating, coal mining and steelmaking will face a downturn strong enough have economic effects that will be felt far beyond the Donbas.

Weak hopes

The latest surge of fighting, as with the blockade, has come as a blow to the plant, which was starting to recover slightly from the economic turmoil brought by Russia's war.

"But now, because of the blockade we're working at only up to 50 percent of capacity, which means we're operating at a loss. We're producing only up to 5,000 tons of coke per day. The plant isn't earning money, so as a result we're paying even fewer taxes to Ukraine's state budget."

Up to 20 percent of the coking coal needed by the Avdiyivka plant used to come from the now-occupied zone – in particular from the

more Avdiyivka on page 8

AGS Worldwide Movers
You deserve the best

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MOVING AND STORAGE SPECIALISTS

Let our **43 years' experience** move you!

- Assisting over **70 000 families** to relocate annually!
- Worldwide network of **129 locations** in **86 countries**

AGS UKRAINE
T. +380 445023923 | E. manager-ukraine@agsmovers.com

www.agsmovers.com

INTERDEAN
RELOCATION SERVICES

THINKING RELOCATION?
THINK INTERDEAN.
"We make it easy"

Relocation | Immigration | Moving | Real Estate

Contact Interdean:
T: +38 (044) 576 7370
+38 (044) 384 2773
E: kiev@interdean.com

ISO FAIM FIDI IAM

www.interdean.com

THE KYIV POST'S BUSINESS FOCUS IN THE MARCH 10 EDITION IS ON **AUTOMOBILE BUSINESS IN UKRAINE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **ALD Automotive**

To advertise, contact us at +38 044 591 77 88 or advertising@kyivpost.com

How to break ties? Russia remains top investor in Ukraine even as trade boycotts gain strength

5 weeks into blockade, Ukraine faces dilemma about status of Donbas

BY OLEG SUKHOV
AND DENYS KRASNIKOV
SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM
AND KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

The five-week blockade by Ukrainian activists of trade with Russian-occupied areas of the eastern Donbas is ratcheting up political tensions and may be contributing to an escalation of the war.

The blockade could end in Ukraine ceasing economic ties with the Russian-occupied territories. Other possibilities include the Kremlin stepping up its war or recognizing its Donbas proxies as sovereign entities.

On the domestic front, the blockade may trigger a political crisis if the authorities decide to crack down on the activists. Another option is that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko will reach a compromise on restricting trade with separatist-held areas.

Blockade

Ukrainian activists spearheaded by Samopomich Party lawmaker Semen Semenchenko are blocking railways and roads connecting Ukrainian-held and Russian-occupied areas and preventing the supplies of some products, including coal deliveries to Ukraine.

The activists include war veterans who demand that the government halt all trade with the occupied areas and pass a law that would formalize the status of these areas as "occupied territories."

They also demand that Russian-separatist forces release Ukrainian prisoners of war.

Separatist response

Kremlin-backed forces on March 1 said they had started seizing Ukrainian companies, including those of billionaire oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, in response to the blockade. The separatists said only companies registered in the Russian-puppet entities would be allowed to function.

But Akhmetov's System Capital Management said on March 2 that it would never register in separatist-controlled areas, calling the demands "unacceptable."

The SCM Group claims it has paid Hr 100 billion in taxes to the national budget since Russia's war started, with 10 percent from assets in Russian-held areas. The group has also said that if separatists take control of mills or mines, it would be forced to halt production.

Ukrtelecom fiasco

Monopoly fixed-phone operator Ukrtelecom, owned by Akhmetov, switched off part of its network in Donetsk Oblast after Russian-backed forces seized control of the company's 900-employee Donetsk office on March 1. Some 200,000 people remain affected.

On Feb. 28, Russian-separatist

forces also took over Akhmetov's Donbas Arena stadium in Donetsk, a distribution point for humanitarian aid.

Sergey Palkin, director of Shakhtar Football Club, which is also owned by Akhmetov, says nobody from Akhmetov's side will negotiate with Kremlin-backed separatists. "We won't talk with them, and there's no point in laying down conditions to us," Palkin told the Kyiv Post.

Economic impact

The blockade is already harming the economy on both sides of the war front by disrupting energy supplies and tax payments.

The implications could be even greater.

National Bank of Ukraine Governor Valeria Gontareva said on March 2 that an extended blockade could cut Ukraine's projected gross domestic product growth in half – to as little as a 1.3 percent increase in 2017. Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, meanwhile, said on March 2 that the blockade could trigger "destructive processes in the national economy."

Supporters of the blockade argue, however, that Ukraine should reduce its economic dependence on Russia and re-orient its trade elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Kremlin-backed separatists in the Donbas want tighter links to Russia. Luhansk-based separatists made the ruble their sole official currency starting from March 1, while Donetsk-based separatists had already done so in 2015.

Escalation

Political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko said Russian military escalation or formal recognition of the Donbas separatists may lie ahead. On Feb. 18, Russia recognized the passports issued by its proxies in the Donbas. Fesenko said that the blockade could also disrupt negotiations to carry out the Feb. 11, 2015, Minsk peace agreement.

The blockade has been backed by opposition politicians, including Samopomich Party lawmakers, ex-Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Poroshenko Bloc lawmakers Mustafa Nayyem and Sergii Leshchenko. They have criticized smuggling and alleged rent-seeking schemes in the Donbas run by Akhmetov and allies of Poroshenko, who deny them.

Oleksandr Onyshchenko, a fugitive lawmaker charged with theft, claimed in December that Poroshenko's top ally and lawmaker Ihor Kononenko had been getting \$20 per ton on coal supplies from Russian-occupied Donbas, which Kononenko denies.

"Political tensions have risen because of the blockade," Fesenko said. "This shows how fragile the political situation in the country is."

Vitaly Bala, head of the Situation Modeling Agency, said that Poroshenko should try to reach a compromise with the activists. ■

No. 1 enemy is also No. 1 investor, 3 years into Russia's war on Ukraine

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA,
OLGA RUDENKO
AND ANNA YAKUTENKO
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM,
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM AND
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

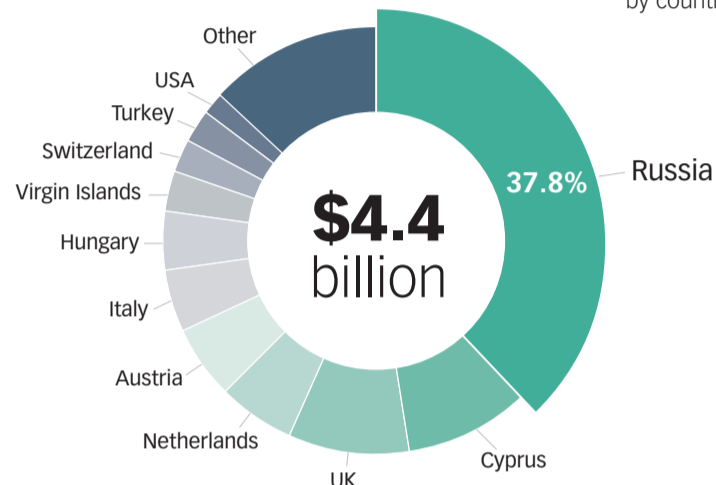
After three years of Russia's war against Ukraine, the two nations still find it impossible to sever economic ties. In fact, Ukraine's No. 1 enemy is also its No. 1 investor.

In 2016, Russia invested \$1.67 billion in Ukraine – 38 percent of the country's total foreign direct investment, according to the data released by the State Statistics Service on March 1.

The second-biggest source of foreign money, Cyprus, pumped in \$427 million, four times less than Russia. But with Cyprus' status as an offshore tax haven, much of that money is simply recycling back to the nation of origin.

In total, Ukraine received \$4.4 billion in direct investment in 2016 – some 17 percent more than the \$3.7 billion in 2015 – but still too paltry to improve its economic

Foreign direct investment into Ukraine in 2016 by country



Without data from Crimea and war zone in eastern Ukraine. Source: Ukrstat.

Three years into Russia's war against Ukraine, Russia remains the runaway investment leader in Ukraine. The United States and Canada, two of Ukraine's best Western allies, are minor investors by comparison.

fortunes much.

The dominance of Russia in foreign investment is a new trend. In the ranking of biggest foreign direct investor countries since

1994, Russia is in fourth place, behind Cyprus, the Netherlands and Germany.

more **Investor** on page 11

Go Further

THE NEW EDGE. IT'S HERE.

EDGE

www.ford.ua

LLC "WINNER IMPORTS UKRAINE, LTD". Identification code 20054535

Editorials

Borders harden

After three years of war, the Russians are hardening their stance towards Ukraine. Without a stronger response from the West and Ukraine's leaders, Ukraine stands to forever lose parts of the eastern Donbas now under Russian-separatist control. The area amounts to 2.5 percent of Ukraine's territory or 15,341 square kilometers.

The Russian side has begun a campaign to nationalize Ukrainian businesses in areas it controls, including the regional capitals of Donetsk and Luhansk, which together had pre-war populations of 1.5 million people.

Ukrainian billionaire Rinat Akhmetov and other Donbas oligarchs, with heavy investments in steel, coal and chemical plants, stand to lose the most. But Akhmetov appears to be striking back.

Akhmetov countered this week in two ways:

On March 2, the owner of fixed-phone monopoly Ukrtelecom switched off part of its network, cutting internet and telephone services for almost 200,000 people, after a separatist takeover of his Donetsk office. The office and its 900 employees had continued working even after Russian-backed forces occupied those territories, because the regulator – the Ukrainian State Centre of Radio Frequencies – told them to keep going. Additionally, Akhmetov's charitable foundation also announced it would stop distributing aid and warned of a humanitarian catastrophe.

The Russian-backed actions come in response to a blockade for the last several weeks of rail lines by Ukrainian nationalists who want to disrupt transport, particularly of coal, from separatist areas to Ukrainian-government controlled ones.

The escalating enmity has also seen Russia agree to recognize "passports" issued by their puppet proxies who insist on calling their territories the "Luhansk People's Republic" and "Donetsk People's Republic." Additionally, the Luhansk areas under Russian control are switching officially to the Russian ruble as currency.

Some argue that Ukrainian citizens living under Russian-occupied territory should be treated no differently than any other citizens, when it comes to public services and pensions. We disagree. Ukraine should not be trading with the enemy or helping to prop up the international lawlessness of the armed occupiers.

The only solution to the problem is to go back to the basics: Russian withdrawal of troops, arms and financial support for their instigated war and a retreat to their internationally recognized borders – meaning withdrawal from the east and Crimea.

Losing Gontareva

Without reservation, Valeria Gontareva was the finest central bank governor in the nation's history. But if reports are true that she wants out by summer, she'd be the first one to admit that the nation hasn't done everything it needs to do to clean up the corrupt banking sector and make sure it stays clean.

Much of the blame for the National Bank of Ukraine's shortcomings, however, also rest with the broken-by-design criminal justice system. This means the fault lies squarely with President Petro Poroshenko, who clings to the authoritarian/Soviet impulse that he as the top elected official decides who goes to jail and who doesn't. He controls the events through his appointment of the general prosecutor, currently the useless Yuriy Lutsenko, and by delaying reform that would rid the nation of its 7,000 useless and corrupt judges.

Gontareva and the central bank have made great strides in closing half the nation's banks, most of them used for insider embezzlement schemes, and for bringing a measure of transparency to ownership and financial statements.

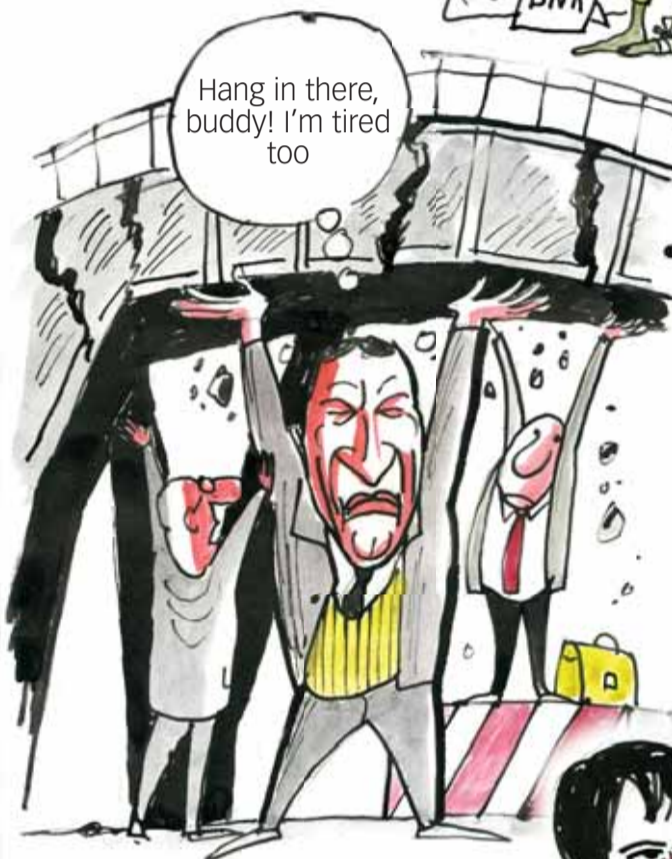
But that's pretty much where the success ends. Those who defaulted on multimillion-loans are still walking the streets of Ukraine (and halls of parliament), protected by political patronage and banking secrecy.

Not a single case of bank fraud has been prosecuted in Ukraine, despite losses that will top \$20 billion – 20 percent of the nation's gross domestic product! – once the losses of billionaire Ihor Kolomoisky's now state-owned PrivatBank are factored in.

The biggest future danger is that Poroshenko will replace Gontareva with another of his loyalist political hacks, who will proceed to reverse the limited progress made by the admirable team that Gontareva has led for the last three years.



NEWS ITEM: At a press conference in February, Ihor Plotnitsky, head of Russian-backed separatists in Luhansk, called on Ukrainians who live in the government-controlled territories to move to Luhansk – among other reasons, for supposedly better healthcare and education.



NEWS ITEM: Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko made headlines when he said that the overpass in Shulyavsky neighborhood in Kyiv that partly collapsed on Feb. 27, did so because "it was tired."



NEWS ITEM: Lawmaker and ex-military pilot Nadiya Savchenko surprised many when on Feb. 24 visited Donetsk, the stronghold of the Russian-backed separatists, to see the Ukrainian captives. Savchenko was captured by separatists in 2014 and spent nearly two years in prison in Russia.



NEWS ITEM: Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko on Feb. 28 accused the Supreme Court of Ukraine of ordering his office to close the corruption investigation against Yuriy Ivaniushchenko, aka Yura Yenakievskiy, a key ally of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich and former lawmaker. Activists argued that Lutsenko's office sabotaged the investigation and its closure couldn't have come as surprise.

KyivPost

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST.

Mohammad Zahoor, Publisher

Luc Chénier, Chief Executive Officer

Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Editors: Euan MacDonald, Olga Rudenko

Staff Writers: Olena Goncharova, Oksana Grytsenko, Isobel Koshiw, Josh Kovensky, Denys Krasnikov, Vlad Lavrov, Veronika Melkozerova, Victoria Petrenko, Will Ponomarenko, Maria Romanenko, Yuliana Romanyshyn, Elena Serdyuk, Oleg Sukhov, Nataliya Trach, Natalie Vikhrov, Anna Yakutenko, Alyona Zhuk

Photo Editor: Pavlo Podufalov

Photographers: Kostyantyn Chernichkin, Volodymyr Petrov, Anastasia Vlasova

Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Social Media Manager: Iryna Savchuk

Commercial Director: Alyona Nevmerzhytska

Special Events Director: Alisa Berezutska

Sales Managers: Yulia Kovalenko, Yulia Krus, Vita Shvets, Elena Symonenko

Designer: Anton Ekle

Subscription Manager: Svitlana Kolesnikova

Office Manager: Olena Koval

Transport Manager: Mykola Andruska

Chief Accountant: Galyna Rogachova

Accountant: Yana Chernik

IT Managers: Oleksiy Bondarchuk, Oleksandr Slipachenko

Graphic Artist: Stella Shabliovska

Digital Strategy: Anton Nedzvedsky

To inquire about distribution of the Kyiv Post, please contact Svitlana Kolesnikova at subscribe@kyivpost.com or by phone at 591-3344

Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper?

The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to Brian Bonner chief editor, at bonner@kyivpost.com. All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.

Reformer of the week

Dmytro Neskromny

Dmytro Neskromny, a deputy head of the Security Service of Ukraine's anti-corruption department, was fired on Feb. 27.

Neskromny participated in the arrest on bribery charges in 2015 of top prosecutors Oleksandr Korniyets and Volodymyr Shapakin – protégés of ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin known as “diamond prosecutors” due to the gems found in Korniyets’ house.

All top officials who participated in the case against the “diamond prosecutors” have been forced out of government or suspended, with most facing criminal cases. These include ex-SBU Deputy Chief Viktor Trepak, former deputy prosecutor generals Davit Sakvarelidze and Vitaly Kasko, and prosecutors Vitaly Opanasenko and Yanis Simonov.

Kyiv’s Holosiivsky Court has been dragging its feet on the Korniyets-Shapakin case for a year and has been accused of sabotaging it. The diamond prosecutors are not under arrest, and their assets have been unfrozen.

Neskromny was fired by SBU Deputy Chief Pavlo Demchyna, who is an ally of President Petro Poroshenko’s grey cardinals Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky and is reportedly being considered as a candidate to head the SBU. Meanwhile, Vasyl Burba, a former SBU official who took part in the crackdown on EuroMaidan protesters in 2014, was appointed by Poroshenko as chief of military intelligence last year and is also allegedly a candidate to become the SBU’s chief.

– Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Oleksandr Tereshchuk

Ex-Kyiv Police Chief Oleksandr Tereshchuk on Feb. 27 won the competition for the job of Odesa Oblast’s first deputy governor.

Tereshchuk headed Volyn Oblast’s police under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich in 2012–2014 and has no right to hold state jobs under the lustration law on the firing of Yanukovich-era officials. He has been criticized for cracking down on protesters in the oblast during the 2013–2014 EuroMaidan Revolution.

He was later appointed chief of Kyiv police and fired in June 2015. But a month later President Petro Poroshenko exempted him from lustration.

The Justice Ministry’s lustration department and the Civic Lustration Committee believe Poroshenko’s decree was illegal because such exemptions can only apply to top military officials, which Poroshenko denies. In late 2015 Tereshchuk was fired again.

Poroshenko has also sabotaged the lustration law by refusing to fire his Deputy Chief of Staff Oleksiy Dniprov, Kirovohrad Oblast Governor Serhiy Kuzmenko, Luhansk Oblast Governor Yuriy Harbuz and the Security Service of Ukraine’s top investigator, Grigory Ostafiychuk, according to the lustration department.

Tereshchuk’s appointment comes as critics dismiss ongoing competitions for top state jobs as sham procedures manipulated by top officials and argue that old corrupt cadres and graft schemes are making a comeback in Odesa after Odesa Oblast’s Governor Mikheil Saakashvili’s resignation last year and the appointment of his successor Maxim Stepanov in January.

– Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH WILL PONOMARENKO



Is it in Ukraine’s best interests to keep up Donbas blockade?



Roman Diordiyach,
charity worker

“We have to stop the war in the Donbas first to resume normal trade. Both sides have to pull

their troops back from the front line and do whatever it takes to ensure there is a stable peace. That is what we must do instead of those blockades. Peace is the only possible option.”



Igor Zhezheyanyan,
university graduate

“On the one hand, the blockade of the occupied Donbass is logical. One

just can’t trade and wage war with someone at the same time. On the other hand, someone definitely has a vested interest in this blockade, and we can’t trust our own authorities.”



Elizaveta Sydelnykova,
student

“Because of this blockade, enterprises are shutting down and thousands of people could lose their jobs.

I think Ukraine must resume trading industrial commodities across the frontline, so the plants can go on working. But nothing more - let the occupant feed and support the people living there.”



Volodymyr Luzhkovsky,
pensioner

“Relations between Ukraine and its occupied zone in the Donbas are so untransparent

that it is very complicated to get a clue about what is going on. But one thing is crystal clear for me - all of us living in this country must stop thinking of building walls and cutting our own territories off - otherwise nobody in the Donbas will want to come back to Ukraine after the war.”



Liudmila Kalan,
painter

“Blockades always inhibit economic development, which is vital for us all. The war won’t go

on forever, and someday Ukraine will get the Donbas back. If we go on blocking those plants, even more people will lose their jobs, and will blame Ukraine for that. We’re deliberately cutting off our greatest industrial center - this is economic suicide for Ukraine.”

Ukraine’s Friend & Foe Of The Week

Editor’s Note: This feature separates Ukraine’s friends from its enemies. The Order of Yaroslav the Wise has been given since 1995 for distinguished service to the nation. It is named after the Kyivan Rus leader from 1019-1054, when the medieval empire reached its zenith. The Order of Lenin was the highest decoration bestowed by the Soviet Union, whose demise Russian President Vladimir Putin mourns. It is named after Vladimir Lenin, whose corpse still rots on the Kremlin’s Red Square, 100 years after the October Revolution he led.



Lindsey Graham

It will take knowledgeable and principled Republicans, who control the American government now, to stop the destructive impulses of U.S. President Donald J. Trump.

Unfortunately, there aren’t enough of them. But one shining light has been U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who time and again has argued for stronger U.S. support of Ukraine.

First this week, Graham called Trump’s budget proposal “dead on arrival.” It would have gutted foreign aid and cut the U.S. State Department budget 37 percent while boosting defense spending an additional \$54 billion (on top of the \$662 billion already spent). The one-year increase sought by Trump is more than the State Department spends and more than gets spent

on foreign aid. In short, considering the Pentagon has covered up \$125 billion in waste in recent years, it’s a disastrous plan. American needs diplomacy and foreign aid as part of its arsenal, not just the heavy-handed “do as we say” or we’ll go to war.

Also, in a town forum broadcast by CNN, Graham -- with another stalwart Ukrainian friend U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona at his side -- said that the U.S. should impose harder sanctions on Russia for interference in the U.S. presidential elections and Ukraine.

“I want the Russians to be sanctioned more for interfering in our election and the last thing Trump should ever envision is relieving sanctions that would reward them for taking Crimea by force because Putin will not stop until somebody makes him stop,” Graham said.

– Brian Bonner



Order of Yaroslav The Wise



Marine Le Pen

Russia interferes in many elections abroad, from the United States to France and elsewhere, so why can’t Ukraine at least take sides?

One of the next elections in Europe with a big stake for Ukraine is the French presidential election on April 23 and, barring a majority victory by any of the candidates, a runoff two weeks later on May 7.

Marine Le Pen, the National Front leader with financial backing from the Kremlin, is favored by polls to make it into the runoff election. This would be a disaster for France, we think, but particularly for Ukraine.

She is another politician who has expressed admiration for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin (what is the fetish so many politicians in democracies have with dictators?) and who supports Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea.

All of this leaves some heavy diplomatic lifting ahead for Ukrainian Ambassador to France Oleg Shamsur and Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, who is quoted as telling 1+1 TV channel that he will

seek a meeting with Le Pen in Paris in May to try to change her mind about Crimea.

Le Pen also thinks Ukraine’s EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted dictator Viktor Yanukovich was a “coup.” She also is critical of NATO and threatens to withdraw France from the eurozone and possibly the European Union.

She is, in short, a disaster. But there are other political storm clouds in Europe.

Far-right, EU-bashing and Ukraine-bashing Geert Wilders has a chance, according to polls, of emerging victorious in the March 15 parliamentary elections in the Netherlands.

It was Wilders who used a non-binding referendum on whether to accept or reject the EU trade deal with Ukraine as a publicity drive for his nationalist and protectionist views.

And if these elections aren’t enough to keep Ukraine fans up at night, the German parliamentary elections are Sept. 24 – with their own Euroskeptic candidates running.

– Brian Bonner



Order of Lenin

CEO Watch

Lifecell's Ersoy identifies obstacles to competition

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA
RAHIMKYIVPOST@GMAIL.COM

Like any good business leader, Burak Ersoy wants to his company to grow. But as the CEO of lifecell, Ukraine's smallest mobile operator in terms of market share, the native of Ankara, Turkey, says his task is made a lot more difficult by a market distorted to benefit his competitors.

A case in point: the auctioning off by Ukraine of 3G licenses in 2015.

Lifecell spent ₴ 3.36 billion (\$103 million) on acquiring what its parent company, Turkcell, describes on its website as "the number one package." The outlay was approximately \$20 million more than that made by either Kyivstar or Vodafone Ukraine (known as MTS until a 2015 rebranding) – the number one and number two firms respectively in the country's mobile telecoms market.

Following the auction, lifecell moved fast to roll out 3G nationwide in a bid to get ahead of the other players. By the middle of 2016, said Ersoy, the company was the market leader in terms of mobile internet speed as well as geographical and population coverage. This forced the other providers to step up their own investments in order to keep pace.

"If we hadn't acted as we did, the coverage and speed across the industry wouldn't be what it is today," Ersoy told the Kyiv Post in an interview. "As a challenger, we did this with some hope; the others then followed us."

But the influx of users switching from competitors failed to materialize. According to Turkcell data, in the fourth quarter of 2015, lifecell could boast of 13.5 million subscribers. By the fourth quarter of 2016 that number had fallen to 12.4 million, a drop of 8.1 percent.

Portability problem

A significant part of the problem, said Ersoy, is Ukraine's lack of mobile number portability, which means users cannot move between networks without also changing their phone number. This disproportionately benefits Kyivstar and Vodafone, both of whom entered the Ukrainian mobile communications market more than a decade before lifecell.

Kyivstar and Vodafone have together "more than 45 million subscribers," Ersoy said. "These subscribers are captive. Between network operators the market is not liberated. As a customer you have your number, but you don't have the right to transfer from one operator to another. People have numbers they've been using for the last twenty years, it's like an address for them now. Even if they're not happy with the service they are receiving, they cannot move."

A standard feature of most cellular communications markets globally, mobile number portability has been on the agenda in Ukraine for a number of years.

It hasn't happened because of habitual delays in passing of the



CEO Burak Ersoy of lifecell speaks during a Feb. 15 interview with the Kyiv Post. The Ankara, Turkey, native says he strives for a level playing field so all mobile network operators can compete fairly on the Ukrainian market. (Volodymyr Petrov)

relevant legislation by lawmakers, suspected of protected vested interests, and legal challenges in tender processes.

Ersoy, meanwhile, suggests that the issue lies with the Ukrainian government and market regulator, which are failing to put the needs of consumers at the heart of policymaking.

"The rights of customers are not what is being followed," he said. "Now those who are strong are being followed. This is very unusual and should be corrected."

Ersoy drew the Kyiv Post's attention to a vote on a draft law on market regulation that was due to have taken place in the Cabinet of Ministers earlier this month, but which was ultimately delayed.

"Somehow they postponed it," said the lifecell CEO. "We have to understand why. It's lobbying, it's conflicts of interest, you might call it anything. For sure it might be very beneficial for some people – but not for the customers."

Customer education

When it comes to making Ukraine's mobile market more valuable and better functioning, Ersoy says consumers – not just the government and regulators – have an important role to play. For too long, he believes, Ukrainians have been settling for whatever is being offered, instead of demanding more and better services from suppliers. In fact, at times, they do not even know what it is they should be asking for.

"The most fatal error for any company is that all the ideas and execu-

tion come from inside to outside," said Ersoy.

"We, as a team, cook, and hope the customers will love and eat what we produce. But actually you have to ask the customers what they want to eat. Here in Ukraine there is another position: even the people do not know what they want to eat."

The CEO says changing this state of affairs is a key part of his personal mission. He likes to spend as much time as possible "out in the field," talking to customers to better understand their tastes and buying habits. The problem of the passive consumer, he believes, is not only confined to mobile communications.

"It happens wherever you see the service business," Ersoy said. "When I see the interaction between the seller and the buyer, the seller is still the king. This is not right. We have to shift it. I'm on it, and the company is on it."

Ersoy takes a similarly active approach in his interactions with the employees at lifecell, who number about 1,000. He says he likes to walk around and be inspired by their ideas, and gain insights from their work.

Still, he admits to being unhappy with productivity levels, and says he is trying to foster a mindset where workers take more responsibility in their areas of expertise.

"What I see is that the culture is too process-oriented," he explained. "People don't care about the results. If the process is going well, then everyone is happy, regardless of time and the quality. We have to give the confidence to people to tell them they can do it. We have to tell them

we will support them. It's a coaching process."

Lifelong learning

Ersoy is now into his second year as CEO at lifecell after a decade of working in his home country at Turkcell.

He said coming to Ukraine made sense as part of his professional philosophy to always seek new opportunities to learn. Although working in Turkey gave him a thorough education in how to operate in markets where business and politics are deeply entwined, the Ukrainian mobile telecoms sector can still offer many lessons.

"I might be a very good cook," he said. "I have the recipe. It might be the best recipe. But the ingredients of the recipe are not the same as those you get used to."

He told the Kyiv Post that one of his biggest challenges is convincing Turkcell of the continued need to invest in Ukraine. That task would undoubtedly be made easier if the rules governing the marketplace – in business and in life – were made the same for all players.

Ersoy says leveling the playing field is his top aim.

"What's going wrong in this country? It's about monopoly of anything," he said. "If you have power – it might be legislative, it might be customer-based, it might be your dominant market position – it should not be abused. What I see is that it's being abused. We need legislation and regulation to liberate the customers' ideas." ■

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

EVERLEGAL has a new partner



Oleksandr Ruzhytskyi

Partner at EVERLEGAL

Everlegal, a law firm from Ukraine's Top 50 law firms' list, is happy to announce about the promotion of Oleksandr Ruzhytskyi, former Counsel, to partnership.

In his new role as a partner, Oleksandr will continue focusing on Dispute Resolution (Litigation & Arbitration, European Court of Human Rights) and Commercial Matters practice areas. Oleksandr has a proven track record in advising foreign and local clients on complex legal issues related to business operations and in successfully representing the clients before courts and arbitral tribunals. He has particularly deep and broad expertise in employment and tax disputes as well as ECHR filings.

Oleksandr received his master of laws degree from Lviv University Law School in 2008 and completed the Human Rights Education for Lawyers program in 2015. Besides trials and business law, Oleksandr is passionate about sports, pro bono work for NGOs and "green" energy.



T. +380 44 337 0016
F. +380 44 337 0018
oleksandr.ruzhytskyi@everlegal.ua

4 Rylsky Lane, Sofiyska square
Kyiv 01001, Ukraine
www.everlegal.ua

The spectacular rise and fall of Ihor Kolomoisky's steel empire

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
AND NATALIE VIKHROV
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM
AND NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM

Few people in Warren, Ohio or Mason County, West Virginia have ever heard of Ihor Kolomoisky. Yet both U.S. cities are home to steel plants that have been run by the Ukrainian oligarch for more than 10 years.

Kolomoisky used the plants as keystones of an attempt to corner the global ferroalloy market, building an empire that extended from the American Midwest to the Australian outback and back to the ferroalloy plants along the Dnipro River.

The buyouts led Kolomoisky's companies to, at one point, control more than 40 percent of the world manganese trade and more than half of the United States' output of silicomanganese – a crucial resource for forging structural steel.

But with the recent fall in global commodities prices and the Ukrainian government intent on reining in oligarchs, Kolomoisky has been put on the retreat.

One of the main holding companies for the Dnipro, Ukraine, native's U.S. factories has declared bankruptcy, while his biggest Australian mining venture, which included operations in Ghana, was sold to Chinese investors in November last year – along with the company's \$400 million debt.

"Kolomoisky has suffered significant losses, but he hasn't lost everything," said Volodymyr Fesenko, head of the PENTA political research center in Kyiv.

Court filings reveal that Kolomoisky was divvying up and fighting over the rusting U.S. steel mills with other

Ukrainian oligarchs – in the same way that they fought over Ukraine's Soviet-built industrial plants in the 1990s and 2000s. One deal, involving Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, bled into the sale of a Warren, Ohio steel mill.

Much of this is revealed through legal filings made by Vadim Shulman, a Kriviy Rih businessman and partner of Kolomoisky, who fell out with him over a deal gone wrong involving Warren, Ohio, and who has filed subpoenas in several U.S. states as apparent warning shots in preparation for a potential later lawsuit. Shulman also sued Kolomoisky directly in the United States, demanding \$3 million in damages before a judge dismissed the case.

Kolomoisky, whose network of companies is called Privat Group, is undergoing financial troubles that echo those of the communities where he ran factories. Many of his assets have now shut down or scaled back production as Privat Group undergoes financial tremors in the wake of the nationalization of PrivatBank, the empire's "core," Fesenko said.

Pat Gallagher of United Steelworkers in Warren, Ohio, said Warren supplied around 200 jobs. "It's a loss to any community when you lose that," he said.

An employee of Felman Production, a West Virginia silicomanganese plant controlled by Kolomoisky, said that the company doesn't receive enough money to operate safely.

Kolomoisky did not comment. Jason Chudoba, a spokesman for his U.S. firms, declined to comment.

American empire

The story of Kolomoisky's American empire begins in the late 1990s.

A view of the Petrovsky Evraz Metallurgical Plant in Dnipro in November 2011. Privat Group acquired an Ohio steel mill in 2001 with the hopes of using its equipment to fill out Petrovsky (Ukrinform)



Shulman, a Kriviy Rih businessman with Jewish roots, had built a coke fuel fiefdom over the course of the decade. In 1999, Shulman told Forbes in a November 2012 interview, he was the main coke supplier for Dnipro's Evraz metallurgic factory, then known as Petrovsky.

Kolomoisky and Shulman went in together to buy a stake in the plant from the government in 2001, after befriending each other on a trip to Israel.

But they faced a problem: Petrovsky was full of dilapidated, Soviet-era equipment, making it hard to run.

The Ukrainian businessmen looked to America's industrial Midwest. At the time, an Ohio steelmaker called CSC had declared bankruptcy after investing \$100 million into its Warren, Ohio plant.

According to a U.S. court filing, the two businessmen, along with Kolomoisky partner Gennadiy Bogolyubov, saw the purchase as a chance to "break the plant down, and transport it to Ukraine where it would be reconstructed and thereafter carry on the steel-making business."

Shulman bought the plant for \$13.5 million in 2001, before he, along with Kolomoisky and Bogolyubov, each invested \$30 million.

Yet years later, Shulman would come to regret the venture. He later alleged in court that he had been cheated out of his stake through a campaign of insider lending that saddled him with tens of millions in debt, while Kolomoisky and Bogolyubov robbed the company.

Silicon ambitions

By the late 2000s, Privat Group had all but consolidated its hold on Ukraine's ferroalloy market, taking total control of the country's manganese supply, as well as that of Georgia.

The businessmen began to look abroad.

In 2008, Privat Group bought one of the world's largest manga-

nese miners, Australia's Consolidated Minerals (Consmim). Between its Australian and Ghana operations, it controlled around 10 percent of the world's manganese ore supply.

Bogolyubov bought the company for \$1.1 billion after defeating former BHP Billiton CEO Brian Gilbertson's Pallinghurst Resources in a 2007 bidding war.

Glenn Stedman, a Queensland shareholder with a then-sizeable Consmim stake, launched a campaign against Pallinghurst's bid, calling on shareholders to hold out for a better offer.

Bogolyubov swooped in with that rival offer through an offshore company called Palmary Enterprises, winning shareholders over by sweetening the deal to \$5 per share.

"It was a hostile takeover but I think Palmary was the most honor-

able (bidder)," Stedman said.

Bogolyubov then set out to expand his share of the global manganese market through OM Holdings, which held five percent of the world supply through its Bootu Creek mine.

In November 2008, Bogolyubov spent a reported \$27 million to buy an 11 percent stake in OM Holdings.

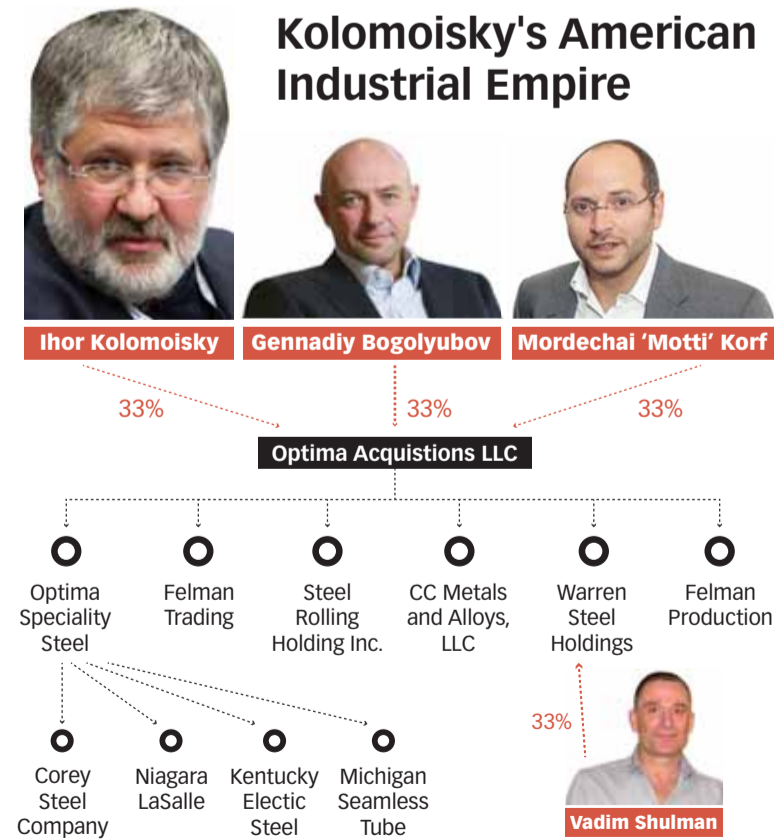
But OM Holdings beat back the takeover attempt. Privat Group sued OM Holdings to force the takeover through a subsidiary called Stratford Sun Limited, but lost that case as well.

OM Holdings executive chairman Low Ngee Tong, in a 2012 interview with The Edge Markets, said the Ukrainian billionaire planned to 'gain significant control over Australia's manganese output' by combining

more Kolomoisky on page 9



OLIGARCH WATCH



Privat Group acquired dozens of assets in the United States starting in 2001, leading to a multi-state steel empire.

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

Vitaliy Kasko joins Vasil Kisil & Partners law firm as a partner



Vitaliy Kasko
Vasil Kisil & Partners,
partner

Kasko@vkp.ua
+38 044 581 77 77
www.vkp.ua

Vitaliy Kasko joins Vasil Kisil & Partners law firm as a partner. Vitaliy will head and develop the White Collar Crime practice to anticipate international and local clients expectations.

Since 2004 Mr. Kasko has been acting adviser to the Council of Europe and other international organizations working on criminal justice and human rights. Since September 2015 he is a Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) and since April 2016 he is a Member of the Board of Transparency International Ukraine. Since 2015 he is a Member of the Constitutional Commission. Until February 2016 Mr. Kasko was Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

If Avdiyivka plant closes, nation's economy suffers

Avdiyivka from page 2

recently shut down Krasnodonugol mining complex, which also belongs to Akhmetov's Metinvest.

"In order to be fully supplied with raw materials, we have been ordering coking coal from Australia, the United States and New Zealand. But foreign supplies take rather a long time to come, and are expensive, and there's not enough coking coal for us from other parts of Ukraine. When we don't get enough raw materials, we decrease our productivity and thus increase our losses," Magomedov adds.

Loss of earnings

Just to break even, as many as 450 of the giant coke plant's 520 coking ovens must be operating, consuming at least 10,000 tons of coal per day. But due to shortages, only 320 ovens are operating now.

The shortages of materials ripple down the industrial chain – the steel plants, lacking enough coke (producing a ton of cast iron requires at least 400 tons of coke) have been forced to cut production of steel and pig iron.

According to the director general, the plant's current stockpiles of raw materials and fuel will be exhausted in only about nine days, and after that the enterprise will have to switch to using expensive natural gas to maintain the temperatures of its coking ovens. If the temperature of the ovens falls below 700 degrees Celsius (their operating temperature is 1,100 degrees), the ovens could suffer irreparable damage when fired up again, and the plant will be impossible to restart.

Once the Avdiyivka coke plant is stopped, the Azovstal and the Ilyich Steel and Iron Works, the two giant metalworks industries in Mariupol, as well as the city's cargo port, would also shut down in days, a senior man-



On Feb. 20, a blockade activist stands on railway wagons loaded with coal from Russian-occupied territories that have been stopped near Bakhmut, Ukraine. (Volodymyr Petrov)

ager at Metinvest, Yuriy Zinchenko, said on Feb. 26. He said up to 120,000 people would lose their jobs in Mariupol alone.

According to Dmytro Solohub, the deputy head of the National Bank of Ukraine, the consequent slump in steel production in the Donbas would cost the country \$2 billion in foreign currency revenues, given that the metallurgical industry still accounts for up to 40 percent of the nation's exports.

Oleksander Kalenkov, the head of Ukraine's biggest steel industry association Ukrmetalyrgprom, is even more pessimistic. During a government meeting hosted by Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman on Feb. 28, he estimated the probable losses at least \$3.5 billion in 2017, calling the blockade effect "a catastrophe".

And there are local effects from the disruption of the industry as well. The production cutbacks mean that the salaries at the plant will

soon be halved for all 4,000 workers. Besides, the city's centralized heating system depends completely on thermal power from the plant. At the height of the fighting, with the plant facing shutdown, Avdiyivka was repeatedly on the brink of being left without heating, even as temperatures plunged to -20 degrees Celsius. Magomedov, who even in his own office always wears red-and-gray work clothes like the other plant workers, says the plant might even

shut down for good if conditions don't improve.

Building a wall

Apart from the blockade on the Ukrainian-controlled side of the front line, the self-proclaimed authorities in the occupied territories are prohibiting Metinvest from repairing all of the electricity wires getting to the coke plant.

"We're now facing two blockades – Ukrainian activists are blocking raw materials, and the separatists are preventing energy supplies," Magomedov says.

"I sometimes wonder if they all are acting in some coordinated plan to suffocate us."

However, Magomedov also lays the blame on the Ukrainian presidential administration and the government. They have not offered a strategy either to develop the country's economy, or come up with specific policies on the Donbas, he says.

"First we need to decide if we really want to bring the occupied Donbas back to Ukraine," Magomedov says. "If we do, we must not abandon the millions of people living there, leaving them without jobs and any hope for a future in Ukraine. The nation has been at war for almost three years – why isn't there a decent law on connections with the occupied zones?"

"Just now this blockade, and the government's reaction to it, makes it look as if we're building a concrete wall segregating our own land from us. We've already lost Crimea, and we're deliberately cutting part of the Donbas off.

"What region will be next to be cut off in the same way?" ■

AMERICAN
MEDICAL CENTERS

How We're Different

No hassle. No stress. See a doctor when and where you want, on your terms.



Doctors you'll recommend

- ✓ European and US physicians and specialists
- ✓ Preventative care and chronic conditions
- ✓ All english-speaking staff



Treating you, differently

- ✓ Same day appointments and home visits
- ✓ More quality time with your doctor
- ✓ 24/7 direct phone and email support



International

- ✓ Direct billing to over 35 insurance groups
- ✓ Certified Visa and Work Permit centers
- ✓ Modern clinics in convenient locations

Kyiv: +38 (044) 490 76 00
Lviv: +38 (032) 253 70 00
Odessa: +38 (048) 701 40 00
Tbilisi: +99 (532) 250 00 20
Batumi: +99 (555) 548 41 46
www.amcenters.com



Kolomoisky's fortunes slip because of insider dealing, bad management of firms

Kolomoisky from page 7

OM with Consmín.

Stedman, who also has a stake in OM Holdings, agreed Privat was trying to corner the country's manganese industry.

After the Australian acquisitions, Privat Group came to control up to 40 percent of the world manganese market, some estimates reported.

Back to Warren

Kolomoisky's ferroalloy business formed a large part of PrivatBank's loan book, taking up around 20 percent – Hr 35 billion (\$1.3 billion) – of the bank's loans, according to Anastasiya Tuyukova, a Dragon Capital banking analyst.

Though it is unclear exactly how much of that money sloshed around Privat Group's U.S. and Australian businesses, court documents show that the organization's U.S. companies lent tens of millions of dollars to each other internally.

According to an audit of Warren Steel reviewed by the Kyiv Post, the company accrued \$60.8 million in related party loans.

Shulman, the former Kolomoisky partner, alleges in court filings that the related party loans were used to rob him.

In 2008, Shulman claims, he was

part of a deal between Kolomoisky and Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, who owns international steelmaker Evraz.

News reports from the time point to the sale of Dnipro's Petrovsky factory as the centerpiece of a purported deal in which Kolomoisky and Shulman were to sell a stake in the plant to Evraz, along with other coking and iron enrichment plants. In exchange, Privat would get a significant, undisclosed stake in Abramovich's conglomerate.

But a disagreement over share payouts reportedly saw Kolomoisky forcibly retain control over Ukraine's southern iron enrichment plant after it was supposed to be transferred to Abramovich, souring the deal.

Legal filings say that Kolomoisky injected \$30 million into Warren Steel in 2008 as part of the deal with Abramovich.

But as the years went on, Shulman claims in the filings, Kolomoisky began to use Warren to loan himself tens of millions of dollars from his other companies.

Shulman, apparently unaware of this, found himself in September 2014 to be holding as much as \$173 million in debt through the company.

Another of Kolomoisky's U.S. companies, Optima Speciality Steel, filed for bankruptcy in December over

\$260 million in unpaid loans, taken out to finance expansion that saw Optima buy out five separate factories across four states.

Kolomoisky and Bogolyubov set up Optima Acquisitions in June 2008 to manage the investments. According to a bankruptcy filing, the company is one third owned by Kolomoisky, Bogolyubov, and a Florida man named Mordechai "Motti" Korf.

Korf, who did not reply to requests for comment, appears to have been linked to Kolomoisky's business in Ukrnafta. Optima Management, a firm run by Korf's brother-in-law and two-thirds owned by Privat Group, is the largest property owner in central Cleveland.

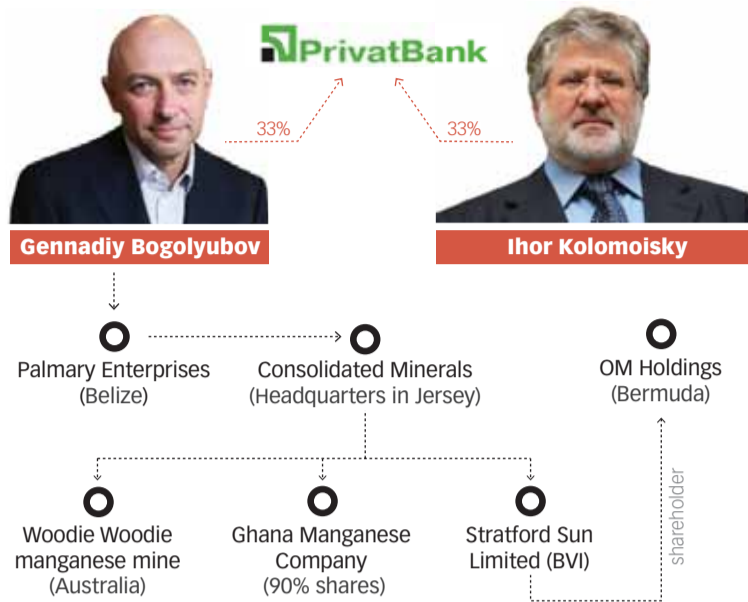
Insider loans

Many of Kolomoisky's companies appear to have been mismanaged.

Workers from Felman Production told the Kyiv Post that injuries at the facility were common, due to a lack of maintenance and management's refusal to supply them with equipment, citing "cost concerns."

Dozens of civil lawsuits were filed in West Virginia federal court alleging malpractice in the company's treatment of workers before the Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined the firm for malfeasance in 2009.

Kolomoisky's Australian Industrial Empire



Australia's Consolidated Minerals gave Gennadiy Bogolyubov control over 10 percent of the world's manganese ore supply. Bogolyubov and Kolomoisky no longer own PrivatBank, after the statedeclared it insolvent with losses of \$6 billion and nationalized it.

The billionaire met with U.S. federal law enforcement while on a one-time visa in 2015, during which he went to basketball games, according to a Facebook post by BPP deputy Serhiy Leshchenko.

Other events in recent months appear to have left Kolomoisky on the defensive.

Warren Steel, deep in debt, closed in early 2016. Woodie Woodie in Australia closed nearly simultaneously, as did one of Kolomoisky's assets in Georgia.

Weeks before PrivatBank was nationalized, Consmín was sold to a Chinese firm at an undisclosed price.

The company had an inside loan balance of \$737.5 million at the time of the most recent financial disclo-

sure, two months before the sale.

Peter O'Connor, an Australian investment analyst, called the sale genius, saying the manganese market was recovering at the time. It's not clear that Privat's nationalization hurt Kolomoisky at all.

Others argue that the bank's web of inside loans has begun to catch up with Kolomoisky.

"Kolomoisky outsmarted himself," said one insider.

But for the oligarch's West Virginia workers, that comes as little comfort.

"It's a day to day question of, 'are we gonna be working tomorrow?'" said a Felman employee.

"Are there gonna be orders for material? Or is it gonna end up being, 'Hey! You're being laid off.'" ■

KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST.

CALENDAR

March 10

BUSINESS FOCUS ON **AUTOMOBILE BUSINESS IN UKRAINE**

March 17

BUSINESS FOCUS ON **MADE IN UKRAINE**

March 25

 **KyivPost**
EMPLOYMENT FAIR

March 31

BUSINESS FOCUS ON
INDUSTRIAL PARKS
IN UKRAINE

KyivPost | **LEGAL**
QUARTERLY

What explains Trump's adoration for Kremlin?

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

U.S. President Donald J. Trump is surrounded by people with close business and political ties to Russia, sparking a scandal in Washington that has dogged his administration. Politicians on both sides of the aisle have called for an independent prosecutor amid talk of impeachment.

Trump's close ties to Russia are of grave concern in Ukraine, which lost its Crimean peninsula to the Kremlin's military invasion in 2014. Kyiv has also been trying to expel Russia and its proxies from the eastern Donbas for three years, in a war that has claimed 10,000 lives. To do so, Ukraine counts on strong support from the West.

The record shows that, as a businessman, Trump did business with Russian oligarchs, while receiving support from an alleged Russian e-mail hack of the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign.

One starting point of Trump's Russia dealings is a \$640 million loan that Trump took out in 2005 to finance the construction of a downtown Chicago condominium and hotel. As \$340 million came due in November 2008, Trump was unable to pay, leading to speculation that he looked to Russia for a bailout.

That same year, his son, Donald Trump Jr., bragged that "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of all our assets."

Many believe that Russian and other oligarchs have targeted New York and Miami real estate, where Trump has major financial interests, to launder money.

The president has denied any connection to Russia. "I have no dealings with Russia," Trump has said repeatedly.

Dmitry Rybolovlev

Dmitry Rybolovlev earned his money by taking over Russia's fertilizer sector, acquiring potash maker Uralkali in 1995. Rybolovlev eventually raised \$1 billion from the firm through a London initial public offering for Uralkali in 2007.



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks on the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the White House on Jan. 28. Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn (seated across from Trump) resigned after it was revealed that he lied about discussing U.S. sanctions with Russian ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak. (AFP)

He started looking to buy luxury properties around the world and hit upon Trump, who was selling a \$125 million mansion in Palm Beach, Florida, called Maison De l'Amitie. Rybolovlev bought the estate for \$95 million in July 2008, breaking a home sales record in the U.S. market.

The windfall couldn't have come at a better time for Trump. In November 2008, Trump needed to pay \$334 million to Deutsche Bank on the \$640 million loan for his Chicago tower.

Kyiv-born Tetiana Bersheda, an attorney for Rybolovlev, is named in Ukrainian press reports as the daughter of former Ukrainian Ambassador to Switzerland Evhen Bersheda. She did not respond to a request for comment.

A spokesman for Rybolovlev dismissed any link, saying that Rybolovlev "has never met Donald

Trump." But on Nov. 3, five days before the U.S. election, Rybolovlev's private Airbus 319 was registered as stopping in Concord, North Carolina, on the same day that Trump was there for a rally.

In 2010, as Bank of Cyprus was expanding because of its ties with Russian clients, Rybolovlev acquired a 9.7 percent stake in September through a British Virgin Islands-registered offshore.

Wilbur Ross

Rybolovlev's involvement with Bank of Cyprus coincided with that of another Trump associate: Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Ross served as the bank's vice chairman starting in 2014, when his eponymous private equity fund WL Ross acquired a majority 18 percent stake.

Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg went in with Ross's firm on the deal, taking a 5.5 percent stake in the bank. Ross was also joined as a vice chairman by Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, a former KGB agent who is reported to have a close relationship to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The bank nearly collapsed in 2013 after making tens of millions in bad loans. The Kremlin is reported to have taken a direct role in bailout negotiations over the Bank of Cyprus in 2013.

Ross reportedly suggested another businessman to lead the bank after its bailout: Josef Ackermann, a Swiss banker who ran Deutsche Bank from 2002 to 2012, during which it allegedly laundered money out of its Moscow branch and lost but eventually regained Trump as a client. After being investigated, it paid out \$630 million in a settlement with U.S. federal law enforcement.

Ross sold his fund in 2006, but

remained its chairman until he joined the U.S. government.

Felix Sater

One former business associate that Trump has repeatedly denied knowing is Felix Sater, a Russian-American businessman who, apart from directing real estate fund Bayrock Group, spent a year in prison in the early 1990s after stabbing an acquaintance in the face with the stem of a margarita glass.

Sater is alleged to have connections to organized crime. After being released from prison, the New York-based businessman participated in a \$40 million stock fraud scheme that wound up in a criminal conviction in 1998. Sater agreed to cooperate with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Asia as part of his guilty plea, leading the government to seal the relevant court records of his conviction.

Sater joined Bayrock as a managing director in 2003 reportedly on the invitation of the firm's founder, Kazakh developer Tefvik Arif.

Arif moved Bayrock's headquarters into Trump Tower in New York City. Bayrock played a role in financing a number of Trump's U.S. projects, including Trump SoHo in New York, and a Florida hotel and skyscraper.

Sater left the firm in 2007 after a New York Times article highlighted his alleged connections to the mob. But his presence has cast a shadow on the firm, with numerous lawsuits alleging fraud filed against the company. One lawsuit, filed by two former employees of Bayrock in 2010, alleged that the company was "covertly mob-owned and operated."

Even Trump recognized the firm's opaque ownership in a 2011

deposition.

"I never really understood who owned Bayrock," Trump said.

Michael Cohen

In 2008, Trump acquired a mixed martial arts promotion company called Affliction Entertainment.

Ilan Berman, senior vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council and a mixed martial arts fan, said that the Russians saw the growth of MMA as an opportunity to translate their strength in wrestling-related sports, like sambo, into cultural power on the world stage.

"When mixed martial arts began to break big on the market, they translated that sambo rank into being prominent MMA fighters, so a lot of these guys were already training in sambo," Berman told the Kyiv Post.

As more people flocked to the sport in the late 2000s, Trump began to invest in Affliction. He installed Michael D. Cohen, his personal lawyer, as a chief executive to manage the firm.

Affliction brought in a Luhansk-born fighter named Fedor Emelianenko, who was managed by a firm called M1 Global. M1 is financed by Sergey Matviyenko, the multi-millionaire son of former St. Petersburg governor and Federation Council Chair Valentina Matviyenko.

Cohen remains Trump's personal lawyer and was allegedly involved in a pro-Kremlin peace agreement involving Ukraine that the president's associates wanted him to consider.

Paul Manafort

Paul Manafort was hired as Trump's



U.S. President Donald J. Trump poses with Mixed Martial Art (MMA) heavyweight fighters Josh Barnett and Russia's Fedor Emelianenko in New York on June 3, 2009. At the time, Trump was funding an MMA company that brought born in Luhansk-Emelianenko to the U.S. (AFP)



Demonstrators protest U.S. President Donald Trump outside Trump International Hotel & Tower in Chicago on Feb. 20. Trump took out a \$640 million loan from Deutsche Bank to finance the building's construction. (AFP)

Ukraine and its supporters in West are alarmed by Russian ties of many of Trump's aides

Trump from page 10

campaign manager in 2016. He also served as an adviser to ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, helping him get elected in 2010.

Manafort is the focus of reports that Trump's campaign coordinated with the Russian government to influence the American election in Trump's favor. Manafort has denied working on behalf of the Kremlin. He has referred to his work for Yanukovich, in Russian exile since leaving power in 2014 on suspicion of mass murder and multibillion-dollar corruption, as trying "to bring Ukraine into Europe."

Manafort came to work for Yanukovich after working for billionaire oligarch Rinat Akhmetov in 2003. He also helped billionaire oligarch Dmytro Firtash, who is in Austria awaiting extradition over charges in Spain and the United States, shop for New York real estate in 2008.

While working for Yanukovich, Manafort got involved in a deal with Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska in Odesa to buy out a local cable provider from a company whose executives were later arrested for separatist activity in 2014. But the deal went awry as \$20 million vanished and Manafort stopped replying to Deripaska, according to court documents.

In June, the so-called "black ledger" of the Party of Regions was leaked, appearing to show millions of dollars in bribe expenses from the now-defunct political party. Manafort's name appeared next to \$12 million on the ledger, leading to his formal departure from the Trump campaign in August.

Michael Caputo

Michael Caputo, an American political consultant, worked for Volodymyr Lytvyn, the former parliament speaker and former chief of staff to ex-President Leonid Kuchma, on his 2007 campaign. Lytvyn's campaign manager, Oleh Sheremet, was mur-

dered in an unsolved case that year.

Caputo worked for the Trump campaign until June, when he was fired for triumphantly tweeting about former Campaign Manager Corey Lewandowski's ouster.

The PR manager started his career in Moscow in the 1990s, working for Russian President Boris Yeltsin as an advisor from 1994 to 1999, before being briefly hired by Gazprom in 2001 to improve Putin and the Russian government's image in the United States.

Caputo said that he has not had any Eastern European clients since early 2015, and added that Sheremet's murder - along with having a Ukrainian wife - had connected him to the country by "family and heart."

Carter Page

During the campaign, Trump named Carter Page as a key foreign policy adviser.

Page, a former U.S. marine intelligence officer, worked for U.S. banker Merrill Lynch in Moscow in the 2000s. During that stint, he reportedly worked on projects involving Gazprom, though on a low level.

After leaving Merrill Lynch in 2008, Page set out to create an investment fund called Global Energy Capital. There, he partnered with Sergei Yatsenko, a former Gazprom executive.

Page, however, appeared to only succeed in becoming a talking head on Russian television, speaking out in support of Putin, Politico reported.

Page told Bloomberg last March that he saw a potential Trump administration as a chance to end sanctions on Russia over its war against Ukraine.

Michael Flynn

Michael Flynn's tenure as national security adviser was cut short on Feb. 13 after a scandal erupted over Flynn calling the Russian ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak multiple times over a 36-hour period. The calls came as former President Barack Obama ejected

Russian diplomats over interference in the U.S. election.

The New York Times reported that Flynn told Kislyak that the Trump administration would improve relations, urging the Kremlin not to respond to Obama.

A New Yorker profile argued that Flynn saw threats from the Middle East as more dangerous than that of Russia, leading him to advocate for a U.S. alliance with Moscow against ISIS and other Islamic radical groups.

In December 2015, Flynn went to Moscow for a dinner celebrating the anniversary of RT's founding. Flynn received an undisclosed fee to speak at the event.

Flynn resigned after it was revealed that he lied to Vice President Michael Pence over his communications with Kislyak.

Jeff Sessions

The Russian ambassador made waves again in recent days, as the Washington Post revealed that Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a former U.S. senator from Alabama, spoke with the Russian ambassador on two separate occasions during the campaign.

One instance took place at a meeting with more than a dozen other ambassadors. But a second meeting was private and took place in Sessions' office.

A Sessions spokeswoman said that he met with Kislyak as part of his duties as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, no other members of the committee has reportedly spoken with the Russian ambassador.

During his confirmation hearing to become attorney general, Sessions denied that he had had any "communications with the Russians."

Sessions is under pressure to nominate an independent special prosecutor to investigate Russian involvement in the U.S. election. "If there's something there that the FBI thinks is criminal in nature, then for sure you need a special prosecutor," said Senator Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, on March 1. ■

Trade blockade deepens political tensions, could trigger Russian escalation of war

Investor from page 3

The news that Russia is Ukraine's biggest foreign investor broke amid yet another escalation of the war in eastern Ukraine that has claimed 10,000 lives and led to the loss of Crimea and 15,000 square kilometers of the Donbas.

Despite the eye-popping news of Russia's striking dominance in Ukraine's foreign investment, there is actually a simple explanation.

Bank money

While the State Statistics Service of Ukraine doesn't say which country invested in which industry, it is safe to say that most of Russia's \$1.67 billion went into the banking sector.

In late 2016, the National Bank of Ukraine allowed Russian banks to recapitalize their Ukrainian subsidiaries by lifting restrictions introduced in 2014, when Russian banks were banned from increasing their assets and deposits in Ukraine.

At least eight Russian-owned banks still operate in Ukraine, including Prominvestbank (VEB), VTB, Sberbank, BM Bank, Alfa Bank, Neos, Forward Bank and VS Bank. Together, they make up 8.8 percent of the Ukrainian banking sector. The National Bank of Ukraine allowed their recapitalization to prevent their insolvency.

At the same time, the regulator said that it wants Russian banks out of Ukraine eventually. Until then, the recapitalization of the Ukrainian subsidiaries of Russian

banks will likely constitute a significant share of Ukraine's foreign investment.

In 2016, Russia's Prominvest bank recapitalized with an additional Hr 20 billion (\$740 million), VTB - Hr 8.9 billion (\$329 million) and Sberbank - Hr 4.3 billion (\$159 million), according to Aleksandr Paraschiy, the head of research at Concorde Capital, a Kyiv-based investment company.

However, Paraschiy said that the recapitalization can't be considered real investment, since no money actually came in.

"There is an amazing situation: de jure they have decreased their debt and increased investments," Paraschiy said. "But de facto nothing really changed. The only positive effect on those banks is that they don't have to pay interest on those debts."

But Paraschiy added that the difficulties faced by Russian banks in Ukraine were mostly caused by the aggressive and risky credit policies that the banks had pursued in the recent past. While Russia's war in Ukraine led to a withdrawal of deposits, unpaid loans hurt the finance even more.

While Russian banks in Ukraine are in slightly better condition now, there are signs that trade between the two countries at war is declining. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said only 8 percent of Ukrainian exports go to Russia. Before the war, it was 36 percent.

Kyiv Post staff writer Veronika Melkozerova contributed to this story. ■

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM INTEGRITES STRENGTHENS ITS TEAM



Vatslav Makarskiy

Oleksiy Sluch

Volodymyr Pavlenko

The new partner Vatslav Makarskiy leads the competition and antitrust practice at INTEGRITES Moscow. He has more than 10 years' experience in competition law, advising on antitrust, corporate and commercial issues as well as regulatory issues.

The new partner Oleksiy Sluch is a recognized expert in the field of dispute resolution. He heads the banking and commercial litigation team. Oleksiy has broad experience in the banking sector, both in Ukraine and internationally.

The new counsel Volodymyr Pavlenko is a well-known expert in the field of dispute resolution. He specializes in insolvency and restructuring. He has extensive experience working with Ukrainian and international companies, acting in disputes including commercial and debt restructuring disputes.

British pop star Sophie Ellis-Bextor is coming to Kyiv on March 6. Check page 14 for details.



Top 5 places to enjoy spring's lovely blooms



WITH VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

'Bitter Harvest' may not be the best movie, but it's important

Canadian-made love story "Bitter Harvest" was hardly among the most anticipated movies worldwide. But it certainly was in Ukraine.

The movie features two young villagers struggling to survive in Ukraine during the Holodomor, the artificial famine created by the Soviet authorities that killed an estimated seven million Ukrainians in 1932–1933.

"Bitter Harvest" was the first attempt of Western filmmakers to bring one of the most tragic pages of Ukrainian history to the big screen.

But don't expect the movie to provide a detailed vision of the Holodomor tragedy. George Mendeluk's movie is more like a dynamic, cartoonish retelling of those events.

That is not to say it is bad: In fact, a movie like this is necessary to bring an underdog nation like Ukraine to the world's mass culture, as I will explain.

Many movies have been made about the Holodomor since Ukraine gained independence in 1991, and the Soviet authorities weren't there to silence discussion of the topic anymore. Only after the fall of the Soviet Union did it become known that there was a horrifying act of genocide in Soviet Ukraine in 1932–1933 – and how actual history so starkly diverged from the official Stalinist explanation of "a bad grain harvest" that caused famine among millions of people in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Now we know that the Holodomor was the mass murderer Stalin's way of crushing a possible rebellion among Ukrainian agrarians.

From Oles Yanchuk's violent drama about cannibalism "Golod-33" in 1991, to Oles Sanin's epic tale of a blind Kobzar "The Guide" in 2014, Holodomor movies have all had one thing in common – a scary and depressing atmosphere of the grief and distress of people who are forced to give everything, including their lives, to the insatiable Soviet machine.

"Bitter Harvest" is a different kind of movie. It positions itself as a historically accurate drama. But those coming to the theater expecting to see a powerful story



Visitors of Fomin Botanical Garden take pictures with magnolia trees in Kyiv on April 26. The early varieties of magnolias start blooming in April. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Snowdrops will soon start their bloom, marking the end of another gloomy winter and the coming of spring. In anticipation, the Kyiv Post has selected the best places to visit in order to enjoy the beauty of spring flowers in Ukraine.

Ichnia National Park

Ichnia National Park in Chernihiv Oblast is especially beautiful in spring, when snowdrops and squills (*Scilla bifolia*) cover its 10,000 hectares like a blue-and-white carpet. These tender flowers are an endangered species in Ukraine, so it's forbidden to pick them.

The reserve is worth visiting not

just in March. Various flowers come into blossom at different times over spring. The park is home to 52 rare species, including anemone, grass of Parnassus, lesser butterfly orchids, verantrum, and many others.

Ichnia National Park. Ichnya, Chernihiv Oblast (164 kilometers northeast of Kyiv). 43 Lisova St. Open daily 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Guided tours cost Hr 10 per person. Visit in March or April to see the snowdrops.

Danube Reserve

Ukraine's marshlands become a riot of color as bog plants, attractive for their bright shades and unusual forms, put on their springtime show. One of the best displays can be seen at the Danube Biosphere Reserve in Odesa Oblast. The 50,000-hectare

reserve is rich with rare species of water plants like floating water nut, *Nymphoides peltata*, wild orchids (*Anacamptis palustris*), summer snowflake, Bessarabian clove pink (*Dianthus bessarabicus*), water lilies, yellow water lily (*Nuphar lutea*), and many others.

The reserve is also a good spot for birdwatching: It boasts 263 bird species living in marshlands and water meadows, such as pink pelicans, the glossy ibis, yellow heron.

Danube Biosphere Reserve. Vylkove, Odesa Oblast (670 kilometers south of Kyiv). 132A Tatarbunarskoho Povstannya St. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hr 20 for adults, Hr 10 for children. The best time to visit is June and July.

Askania-Nova Reserve

In spring, visitors to the Askania-Nova biosphere reserve will be especially delighted by the beauty of the Ukrainian steppe. Every year at the end of April the reserve's 33,000 hectares, Europe's last virgin steppe area, is blanketed in a silvery bloom – feather grass blossoms. The springtime steppe is mesmerizing – the long and fluffy blossoms of the feather grass twist in the wind and look like foamy sea waves.

Askania-Nova is also famous for its 170 hectares dendropark area, where more than 170 plant species live. Tourists can enjoy the blossoms of lilacs, *Cercis Canadensis*, *Catalpa* and many other trees and bushes there.

Askania-Nova biosphere reserve.

more **Flowers** on page 13

Want to advertise in Lifestyle?

Please call (+38) 044 591-7788 or mail advertising@kyivpost.com

KyivPost

more **Film** on page 13

Film Critic: Filmmaker deserves credit for tackling still-painful tragedy of Holodomor



Yuri (Max Irons) and Natalka (Samantha Barks) pose for a "Bitter Harvest" movie poster. (Courtesy)

Film from page 12

of love, honor and rebellion will be disappointed.

Disney style

"Bitter Harvest" is the story of a sensitive young artist, Yuri, who rebels against the Soviet system as he, his fiancée Natalka, and their families are forced to fight for their very lives.

However, the Soviets in the movie remind one more of the sultan's guards from the 1992 Disney cartoon "Aladdin" – chaotic and grinning minions who can do whatever they want, with the approval of the almighty Stalin.

Volodymyr Viatrovych, the director of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, described the movie as a "graphic novel," – a comic book.

"This movie provides you with the dynamic and vivid image that can get people who haven't heard about the Holodomor interested in that topic. It is the West's first step towards experiencing our past, and the scary and strange word of the Holodomor," Viatrovych said.

I agree. Although "Bitter Harvest" was slammed by the critics, got 9 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, and with its \$20 million budget made just \$200,000 on its first weekend, I still advise everyone to go and see it.

Good actors in a bad play

Unlike Ukrainian movies about the Holodomor, "Bitter Harvest" uses a tried-and-true formula for success in the West – well-known, good-looking Anglophone actors in leading roles, some love scenes, a lot of action and explosions, and dynamic and colorful fighting scenes.

I was pleased to see Hollywood heavyweights, like Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" star Barry Pepper, and Terence Stamp, a star of more than 60 Hollywood movies, portraying brave Ukrainian warriors Yaroslav (Yuri's father) and Ivan (Yuri's grandfather).

British actor Max Irons plays the protagonist, Yuri, a young villager with artistic skills, who turns into an avenger after Soviet soldiers, led by their evil commander Sergei (Tammer Hassan), seize his village of Smila and try to force locals to

join the "kolkhoz," – a state-run collective farms.

However, the actors didn't shine brightly. I can't blame them: The script was mediocre and made the characters seem flat and inconsistent.

The Soviets are one-dimensionally portrayed as ugly monsters that kill for pleasure. The movie's Stalin lives in a luxury apartment where he orders his minions to kill the rebellious Ukrainians. He looks like a typical Bond villain, rather than the chilling psychopath that decades of historical research has revealed him to have been.

Good old action

The movie's action scenes reminded me of the good old 1990s, when nobody counted bullets.

In one of the scenes, the protagonist, Yuri, makes his horse jump gracefully over a wagon full of Soviets – in slow motion, of course – and he then throws a Molotov cocktail into the wagon. There is a massive blast, but Yuri is unharmed. Neither is the horse.

That said, I still liked "Bitter Harvest" despite its flaws.

For Ukrainians, the Holodomor is a painful topic to discuss. As a result, Ukrainian filmmakers shoot Holodomor movies that are tragic pronouncements, too dark or complicated for a mass (and foreign) audience to properly comprehend.

This is precisely why I liked Mendeluk's movie.

It attempts to put a beautiful Ukrainian rebel holding a gun and fighting for freedom on the same stage as Hollywood underdogs like Django from "Django Unchained" (2012). It mates Ukraine's history with mass culture – to the benefit of both.

And at the same time it tells a story that has long gone untold. It will be told again, in better movies than "Bitter Harvest."

But for now, this movie gets the job done. ■

"Bitter Harvest" is in wide release in most of the theaters in Kyiv. The screenings are in Ukrainian.

Zhovten (26 Kostyantynivska St.). 2:55 p.m. 7 p.m. Hr 60-80

Oscar (Gulliver Mall, 1A Sportyvna Square). 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 9:20 p.m. Hr 50-120

Spring comes alive in these flower fields

Flowers from page 12

Askania-Nova, Kherson Oblast (695 kilometers south of Kyiv). 15 Parkova St. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April 1 until Nov. 10. Hr 55 for adults, Hr 40 for children. The best time to visit is from late April until June.

Tulip fields

In spring, the Kropyvnytsky Dendropark resembles the fields of the Netherlands – the park has a vast plantation of tulips that occupies nearly a hectare. The flowers will astonish with their various colors and sizes – more than hundred tulip varieties, with white, red, pink, yellow and even green hues. The range of tulip sizes is also impressive – the smallest grow to only 10 centimeters, while the tallest can be nearly 30 centimeters high. The park is especially proud of its Christmas Sweet tulip variety – an elegant flower with white blooms and a distinct pink hue on its petals.

Kropyvnytsky Dendropark. Kropyvnytsky (301 kilometers south of Kyiv). 28 Yevhena Telnova Ave. Open daily 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. Entrance is free. The best time to visit is from April to May.

Kyiv's magnolias

When they come into bloom, the large white and pale pink flowers of the magnolia tree attract thousands to Kyiv's two botanical gardens.

The first magnolia trees were planted in Kyiv botanical gardens in 1996, and now the gardens boast 10 varieties of magnolia trees. The early-blossoming varieties of magnolias start flowering in mid-April, while the late-blossoming ones stay in bloom until the end of May.

Hryshko National Botanical Garden. Kyiv (1 Tymiryazevska St.). Open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Hr 30 for adults, Hr 10 for children. To see magnolias, visit in mid-April or early May.

Fomina Botanical Garden. Kyiv (1 Peltiury St.). Open daily. Free ■

THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL IN KYIV

FULLY AUTHORISED TO TEACH ALL THREE IB PROGRAMMES SINCE 2000

7A, VICTORA ZABILY STR, KYIV, UKRAINE
044 377 5292, WWW.PSI.KIEV.UA

TODAY PSI - TOMORROW A WORLD UNIVERSITY

THE NEW ENROLMENT SEASON 2017-2018 HAS STARTED. APPLY NOW

UNIVERSUM CLINIC

- Medical assistance 7 days a week
- Doctor's consultations at home & at the office
- Medical care for both children and adults
- English-speaking staff
- Convenient downtown location
- Coordination and direct billing with all of the largest international insurance firms

We're honored
to be
at your service

4 Volodymyra Vynnychenka St., Kyiv
www.uniclinic.com.ua
Tel : +38 (044) 599-54-05



Love. Contemporary exhibition

Fifteen couples will offer their views on love to visitors at Kyiv History Museum. An installation of a heart, made by special guest Roman Zhuk, will be placed on the first floor. The "Love. Contemporary exhibition" will feature art, graphics, photography and videos.

March 2 – April 2

Love. Contemporary exhibition. March 2 – April. 2. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Kyiv History Museum (7 Hmelnytskoho St.), Hr 40

'Jackie' comes alive

Jackie is a biographical drama film about Jacqueline Kennedy, the wife of President John F. Kennedy, the U.S. president assassinated in 1963. She is played by Natalie Portman.



"Jackie." March 10. 7 p.m. "Ukraine" cinema (5 Horodetskoho St.) Hr 70-80



Vsi Svoi Market

This week's Vsi Svoi market will present clothes, shoes and accessories. Three floors of Ukrainian-produced goods will provide plenty of choice for those looking to revamp their wardrobe for spring.

Vsi Svoi Market. March 11-12. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Vsi Svoi (12 Desyatynna St.) Free

March 11-12

Compiled by Maria Romanenko

Sophie Ellis-Bextor

Sophie Ellis-Bextor is a British singer who rose to prominence with her hit "Groovejet," featuring DJ Spiller. Since then, Ellis-Bextor has released six studio albums including the most recent one – Familia. In Kyiv, the British singer will perform songs from her new album along with old hits like "Heartbreak Make Me a Dancer" and "Catch you."

Sophie Ellis-Bextor. March 6. 8 p.m. Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.). Hr 890-2,000



March 6

Closer jazz. Theo Bleckmann 'Elegy'

Jazz singer and composer Theo Bleckmann has received numerous awards, including a Grammy nomination for the "Best Classical Crossover Album" in 2010. Some may also recognize Bleckmann as the voice of aliens in the film "Men in Black." On March 5, Bleckmann and four other musicians will present his new album "Elegy."



March 5

Close jazz. Theo Bleckmann "Elegy." March 5. 8 p.m. Closer (31 Nyzhniourkivska St.) Hr 400-500

Museum of News

This exhibition to celebrate 20 years of news program TSN has ten halls with interactive zones offering visitors the chance to try being TV hosts, and view part of an engine of the giant An-225 "Mriya" aircraft and Ruslana's Eurovision award. A study of 100 of the most important events in independent Ukraine, compiled by 30 experts, will also be presented.

"Museum of News." March 2-26. 6:30 p.m. Tue-Sun 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Mystetskiy Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.). Hr 60.



March 2-26

Employment



U.S. EMBASSY, OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION UKRAINE, IS LOOKING TO FILL MULTIPLE TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER POSITIONS

Basic Function of Position:

Position are located in the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) and serve as designated translators/interpreters for U.S. Ministry of Defense Advisors (MoDAs) assigned to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense (MOD) in Kyiv. Employees serve as primary translators/interpreters from English into Ukrainian and/or Russian and vice versa. Employees regularly review and edit printed material created by ODC, MoDAs and other MoD representatives. The documents translated may include official correspondence, technical manuals, laws, government regulations, legal documents, financial reports, etc. Employees also serves as interpreters (English/Ukrainian/Russian) for MoDA's and other ODC staff in high-level meetings or one-on-one engagements. Incumbents will provide interpreting services in various settings: conferences, seminars, lectures, VIP office calls, social functions, press conferences, receptions, media programs, etc. Employees assists ODC staff and MoDA's in routine office administrative tasks, such as making phone calls, drafting correspondence, researching information, coordinating meetings with the host government officials and taking telephone messages. Position holders are responsible for maintaining translation records, files and databases in accordance with U.S. Department of State regulations and ODC policies. Employees are supervised by the ODC Chief and/or assigned Ministry of Defense Advisor.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Translation/Interpreting, English linguistics, English philology or closely related field.
- Minimum of two years of work experience in Ukrainian/Russian-English and English – Ukrainian/Russian translation;
- Level IV (fluent) in English, Ukrainian and Russian;
- Position holder needs to possess a broad knowledge of a wide range of specialized vocabulary (e.g., economic, political, protocol, legal, military, etc.) to participate in any conversation, meeting, or conference with fluency and precision. An employee will need to develop and master strong knowledge of diplomatic terminology in Ukrainian, Russian, and English.

Application deadline: March 17, 2017

How to Apply: The compensation is set at 17, 900\$ (gross per year) plus benefits package. Full version of the vacancy announcement and the U.S. Mission application for employment form (DS-174) are available at our site: <http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/job-opportunities.html>. Interested applicants should fill out the application form in English and email it to: KyivHR@state.gov or fax it to: 521-5155.



U.S. EMBASSY IS LOOKING TO FILL THE POSITION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST (ADDICTION)

Basic Function of Position:

Under supervision of the Regional Substance Abuse Treatment Attaché, the Incumbent serves as the Public Health Specialist on addictions in Ukraine and Central Asia Region implemented by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The incumbent is responsible for developing, organizing, implementing, coordinating, and supervising activities supported by SAMHSA-UA Region in collaboration with Offices of USAID and CDC along with Host Country Counterparts and the region, NGOs and/or universities. The incumbent provides technical assistance, oversight, and management support.

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree in one of the following disciplines: Public Health, Health Policy, Health Management, Behavioral Sciences, Public Administration or a Medical Doctor (MD) diploma is required;
- Minimum of three years of experience with governmental and/or non-governmental institutions in implementation of public health projects in the field of chronic diseases related, but not limited to substance use disorders and/or infectious diseases;
- Level IV (fluency in in speaking/reading/writing) in English;
- Level IV (fluency in in speaking/reading/writing) in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Familiarity with HIV/AIDS and drug use situation and programs, knowledge of health systems within the region. Demonstrated skills in program management, monitoring and evaluation. Translation skills (oral and written), research, analytical, and presentation skills to deliver information within scientific community are also required.

Application deadline: 17 March, 2017

How to Apply: The compensation is set at 29, 500\$ (gross per year) plus benefits package. Full version of the vacancy announcement and the U.S. Mission application for employment form (DS-174) are available at our site: <http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/job-opportunities.html>. Interested applicants should fill out the application form in English and email it to: KyivHR@state.gov or fax it to: 521-5155.



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM)

provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts – to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine:

- **HRM Expert (2 positions) for the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine** – will be responsible for developing and drafting regulations necessary to build modern and strong HRM function within SCMU.
- **Communication Expert for the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralization** – will provide communication support to activities of the POSD ensuring proper media coverage and public expectancy.
- **Administrative Officer for the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralization** – will perform a range of administrative tasks to ensure an organization runs efficiently.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit website: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies>



PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ukraine

Announcement # 001

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Program Management Assistant (PMA) position is located in the Office of Democracy and Governance (ODG) of the USAID Regional Mission to Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus (the Mission). ODG is one of three Kyiv-based technical offices in the Mission. ODG manages USAID activities in democracy, governance and human rights in Ukraine, including support to independent media, civil society, elections, political processes, parliamentary strengthening, local governance, human rights, rule of law, anti-corruption, and counter-trafficking in persons. Activities within these areas are guided by two ODG technical teams, each led by a Deputy Director under the leadership of the ODG Director. More information about USAID/Ukraine and the Office of Democracy and Governance is available at: <http://ukraine.usaid.gov/>

The PMA will work in the Office of Democracy and Governance in Kyiv under the supervision of the Office Director or his/her designee. The principle role of the PMA is to support the Mission's democracy, human rights and governance programs with technical program management assistance. This includes serving as Alternate Agreement Officer Representative (AOR)/Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for designated ODG activities, and providing program management assistance to AORs/CORs across ODG. The PMA assists in essential program management functions, including activity monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting. The PMA will assist with ODG technical assessments, project designs, and activity designs.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Education: This position requires at least a university degree (B.A. or B.S.). A degree in public administration, political science, law, economics, education, or a related field is desired.

B. Prior Work Experience: This position requires at least three years of progressively responsible experience in development assistance or program management, with at least one year of relevant project/activity management experience. Previous experience is desirable with leading international development institutions, government, international NGOs, embassies, or private-sector entities. Other experience related to USAID assistance is highly desirable.

C. Language Proficiency: Level IV (fluent) English ability for reading, speaking and writing is required; proficiency in Ukrainian and Russian is also required at a Level IV (fluent) for reading, speaking, and writing. To address this required qualification, the applicant must list both English and host country language(s) proficiency requirements by proficiency level (I through V), and skill specialization (speak/read/write) in the pertinent section of the application documents.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: March 3, 2017, by e-mail attachment only to Human Resources Office at KyivHR@state.gov; Include vacancy number and position title in the subject line of your email. The full package includes: CV, cover letter and DS-174 (<https://www.usaid.gov/forms/ds-174/pdf>) See the full version of this Announcement at:

<https://www.usaid.gov/ukraine/work-with-us/careers/documents/1863/usaidukraine-job-announcement-program-management-assistant>



The Fulbright Program in Ukraine is seeking a Full-time Program Assistant/Outreach Coordinator

Responsibilities include:

- Attend roundtables, donor coordination meetings; serve as liaison with NGOs and government agencies
- Assist with outreach activities, gather information for newsletters, press releases, etc.
- Support Fulbright events by collaborating with Program Officers
- Maintain office supplies of coffee, tea, office paper and stationary

Qualifications include:

- Fluency in Ukrainian and English
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Computer skills in MS Office applications including Word, Excel and Outlook
- Ability to multi-task and work effectively under pressure of deadlines

Please send cover letter and CV to: apasenko@iie.org
The closing date is **March 17**. No phone calls, please.



Building Capacity and Opportunities for Change

Agriteam Canada Consulting Ltd., an International consulting company is seeking candidates to fill the following positions on International Technical Assistance Project funded by the Government of Canada

- Sector Lead/Legal Expert**
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist**

The closing date for applications is March 10, 2017

Please, submit your CV and Cover letter to vitalnai@agriteam.ca

For more detailed information about applying procedure, please visit our web-site: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies>

KyivPost

CITY OF ODESA CONSULTANT

Kyiv Post is dedicated to cover and deliver the best national and international news to as many readers across Ukraine and the world.

We are looking for a self-starting energetic person in the city of **Odesa** to represent us for the following responsibilities:

- Grow the distribution of the newspaper to new locations
- Quality control with regional partners for the purpose of advertising sales and cooperation of events

Candidate should be fluent in English and Ukrainian.

A car would be a plus but not mandatory.

Send your CV's to advertising@kyivpost.com



Senior Technical Advisors and DCOP, Ukraine Trade and Competitiveness Activity

Crown Agents USA (CA-USA) is an international development company that provides technical assistance service and support to US Government agencies and international organizations such as US Agency for International Development (USAID). CA-USA is seeking Senior Technical Advisors and a Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for an anticipated USAID-funded Trade and Competitiveness (TAC) Activity located in Ukraine. All positions will support the larger project goals of TAC is to encourage startup businesses and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), increase domestic market competition, and support the competitiveness of Ukrainian firms in international markets. All positions subject to successful project award.

Anticipated Positions:

DCOP: Coordinate with the Chief of Party to provide technical direction and implementation oversight for activity implementation. **Qualifications:** Advanced degree with 7+ years of trade facilitation experience; previous, relevant work completed in the CIS region; USAID experience; fluency in English is required and Ukrainian or Russian is preferred.

Senior Technical Advisors: Promotion Advisor, Business Climate Enabling Advisor, and Trade Facilitation Advisor: Lead the technical direction and manage advisory services in corresponding area of focus. **Qualifications:** 7+ years of experience with previous work completed in Central Asia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the CIS region, BA/BS degree or higher in trade and customs management; Prior USAID experience; experience in potential areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, trade facilitation, WTO, EU trade requirements and/or competitiveness; fluency in Ukrainian/Russian preferred.

To apply:

For the DCOP position, apply directly through this link: <https://chj.tbe.taleo.net/chj06/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=CROWNAGENTSUSA&cws=37&rid=3200>. For the technical advisor positions, apply directly through this link: <https://chj.tbe.taleo.net/chj06/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=CROWNAGENTSUSA&cws=37&rid=3201>. In the cover letter field, state the desired position title. Please submit all application documents in English.

Both positions with application instructions are on our website: <http://www.crownagents.com/en-us/jobs>

MINI RESUME

Director, Managing Director, CEO

Successful management professional is looking for the top management position in Ukraine or abroad.

- Ukrainian, Male, 48 years old
- MBA, fluent English, Ukrainian and Russian
- 20 years top management experience at international companies (services, telecom, IT, high-tech, B2B)
- exceptional Sales management experience

Contact: message2alex@yahoo.com

MINI RESUME

Digital Marketing Director

based in Switzerland, looking for a leadership position in Kiev. Extensive international experience in Boston, Moscow, Zurich. Responsible for key decision making in digital marketing strategy for a global company, the world leader in international education. Native: English (native), Russian (fluent), Ukrainian (intermediate).

ktychenko@gmail.com



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM)

provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts – to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine:

- Sector Lead (4 positions) for the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralization (POSD)** – responsible for defining the scope of sectoral (4 sectors) reform and development of the action plans and performance indicators to assess achievement of the relevant sectoral reform objectives.
- Team Lead with extensive HR experience for the National Agency of Ukraine for finding, tracing and management of assets derived from corruption and other crimes (ARMA)** – will provide support launching the ARMA and creation a functioning Human Resource Management system of the ARMA.
- Legal Expert for the National Agency of Ukraine for finding, tracing and management of assets derived from corruption and other crimes (ARMA)** – will provide legislation drafting support to ARMA's full scale launch.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site:

<http://edge.in.ua/vacancies>

CLASSIFIEDS

Bit of happiness.
Lyudmila
Balance of body & soul.
24 types of massages
Tel: +38097-551-58-47
www.massages.kyiv.ua

Work permits
RESIDENCE PERMITS
Business set up
+380-44-237-72-76
www.accounting.ua

Best online dating service
Register for free.
Find your ideal partner.
We allow video chat
at no additional cost.
www.elitematch4u.com

UKRAINIAN MARRIAGE AGENCY
True matchmaking
+38 (073) 081 50 37
+38 (095) 142 25 93
Skype: Kyiv.uma@gmail.com
www.ukrmarriage.com

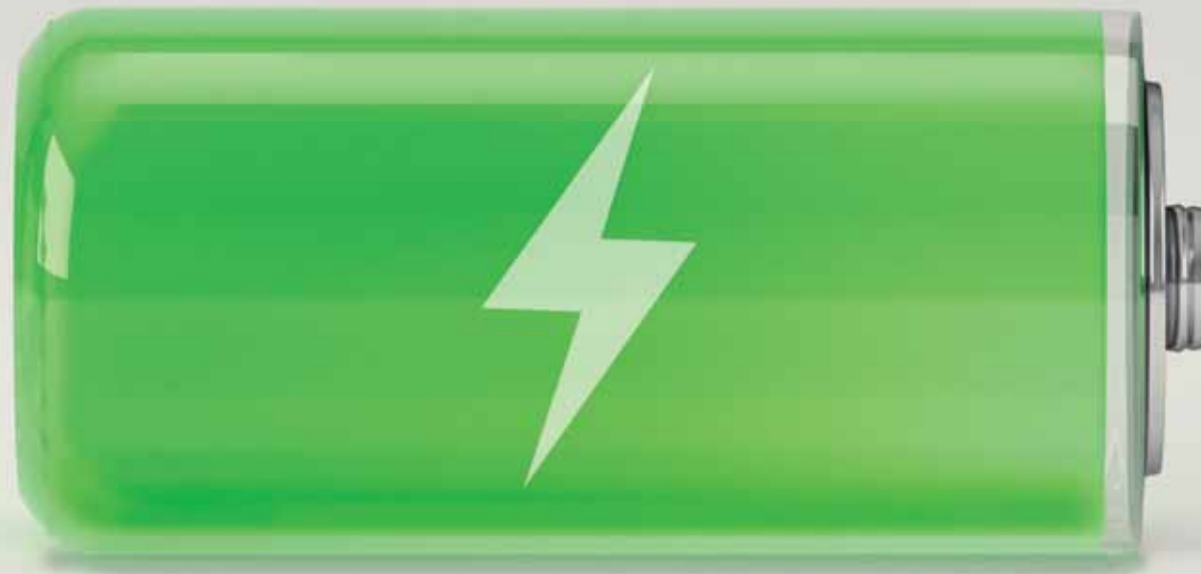
Marriage Agency
We can help you
meet your love.
+38 (067) 408-20-20
Skype: Katrin8505
www.ukraine4date.net

Dolmetscher / Übersetzer
Deutsch / Ukrainisch / Russisch
Deutschsprachige
Stadtführungen in Kiev
+380 50 740 80 60
jusilv@ukr.net
www.dolmetscher.in.ua

Adorable chocolate mini
dachshund is looking
for an owner. Please contact
+38 063 484 00 04.
Caution: prepare yourself
for an awesome, fun and
fascinating life.

Massage Tanya
tel/viber +38 (067) 929 - 65 - 63
estetikatela.com.ua

BOOST YOUR COMPANY WITH NEW ENERGY



**Contact us to book your space.
Number of stands is limited!**

March 25, 10 am - 4 pm
Olympic Stadium
(Champions Hall)

+38 044 591 34 08
advertising@kyivpost.com



KyivPost
EMPLOYMENT FAIR
employment.kyivpost.com

Participants

Think Ahead 					
					
					
					
			Beverage partner 	Food partner 	Exclusive HR Partner 
					Career Partner 