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Ukraine Advances After Heavy Fighting



BY CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER AND OKSANA GRYTSENKO
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DONETSK, Ukraine – While most eyes of the world were focused on the July 17 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 that killed 298 people, Ukraine's government forces continued assaults that regained territory from Russian-backed separatist fighters. Using everything from small arms and mortars to heavy artillery and airstrikes, they have managed to retake some key cities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, home to 15 percent of Ukraine's population, forcing the insurgents to retreat to provincial capitals and their outskirts. **3**

A Ukrainian soldier flashes the "V for victory" sign as a convoy of Ukrainian armoured personnel carriers passes through the eastern Ukrainian city of Konstantinovka in Donetsk Oblast on July 21. The Ukrainian military is on the offensive against Russian-backed guerrillas and have liberated many cities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts once controlled by the separatists. However, the provincial capitals of Donetsk and Luhansk are still controlled by the insurgents. Meanwhile, the European Union is still considering tougher sanctions against Russia, which is not backing off its war. (AFP)

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Severodonetsk residents recall occupiers' brutality

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO
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SEVERODONETSK, Ukraine – When three Russian-backed separatists with Kalashnikovs turned up at Yuliy Krasiuk's shop last month, he told them he didn't want their protection. "There's no-one I need protecting from except for you guys," he recalls telling them.

He was right. The gunmen got angry with his response and plundered Krasiuk's shop of used consumer electronics. They took his car and detained him for two days until his wife paid nearly \$2,000 for his release.

Now, Krasiuk is celebrating after Ukrainian soldiers on July 22 liberated the Luhansk Oblast city of 110,000 residents. His story is being repeated across eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, as Ukraine's army frees one city after another from occupation by armed Kremlin-backed guerillas and Russian mercenaries.

The big prizes – control of the provincial capitals of Donetsk and Luhansk – are left for the Ukrainian government to take amid reports of fierce fighting this week.

While some in the liberated cities supported the Russian-backed guerillas most say they suffered extortion, violence and intolerance.

When Ukrainian soldiers arrived here at a jail, they found four prisoners and two fresh corpses. All were locals, according to Oleksandr Zaporozhtsev, deputy police chief of Severodonetsk. He also said that the separatists took dozens of hostages while retreating.

Russian-backed forces took control of the city in late May. Their strength reached up to 1,000 armed people and included Russians as well as representatives of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic.

For their main headquarters, the separatists seized a nine-story building of the state-run Institute of Azot Industry, where some 400 fighters, including mercenaries reportedly from the Dagestan Province of Russia, settled.

They left mines, orange-and-black St. George ribbons that symbolize their pro-Russian orientation, a trampled



Residents of Severodonetsk, an industrial city of 110,000 people in Luhansk Oblast, are mostly happy that the Ukrainian army on July 22 ousted Kremlin-backed separatists who controlled the city since May. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Ukrainian flag, and leaflets from the Moscow-based Orthodox Foundation collecting money for the needs of New Russia – the Kremlin's description of southeastern Ukraine.

Their leader was Pavel Dremov, who ruled Severodonetsk and directed a paramilitary Russian Cossack group. He is a former bricklayer from Stakhanov. They ruled ruthlessly, persecuting local drug deals and beating those convicted of looting.

But the reign of terror soon hit ordinary people also.

Krasiuk recalled a farmer who was captured at a checkpoint as he was taking milk and strawberries to sell at the local market. He was falsely accused of helping the Right Sector, a militant nationalist group. Krasiuk said that he and the farmer were imprisoned together and heard the farmer scream from torture. He doesn't know what became of the fellow prisoner.

"I doubt that man stayed alive," he said.

Four representatives of the Organization for Security and Coope-

ration in Europe were captured in Severodonetsk on May 29 and kept for nearly a month by separatists led by Nikolai Kozitsyn.

On July 10, a number of houses in Severodonetsk, including a big hotel complex, were damaged by shelling. While the separatists blamed the Ukrainian army, locals believe the separatists orchestrated the attacks to win the favor of local residents. Just a few minutes after the shelling, for instance, insurgents showed up, accompanied by Russian journalists who quickly reported that the Ukrainian army was shelling residential areas.

But the worst shelling came from July 18-22, when six people were killed and dozens wounded. Just like in previous takeovers, the Ukrainian troops applied Grad multiple rocket launchers, but denied using them on civilian targets. Overall, however, Severodonetsk did not experience big fights as separatists retreated south.

Oleksiy Svetikov, a local journalist and activist, believes that billionaire Dmytro Firtash, owner of city's biggest

Azot chemical plant, helped convince – or pay – the separatists to leave.

But days later, many residents are still hiding in school basements because they fear shelling, which can still be heard from several miles away from the fierce fighting that is under way in Lysychansk.

A few people gathered on July 23 at Severodonetsk's main square, where a statue of Vladimir Lenin has a Ukrainian flag for a scarf.

When spotting a group of three Berkut riot police officers from Kirovograd, who were patrolling the city to make sure there were no more Kremlin-backed separatists left in the city, many people approached to thank them and bring them some food. Seeing them Krasiuk, the businessman, ran up to them and started shaking their hands, furiously and friendly.

"You can't imagine how happy I am to see you guys here," he said.

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

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Ukraine's battlefield gains come with many deaths

→1 The military is closer than ever to fully encircling the rebels. But the wins have come at a steep cost. Hundreds of civilians have been killed since the government launched its anti-terrorist operation in mid-April.

In the past week alone, there have been dozens more casualties as well as heavy damage to residential buildings and infrastructure. The military also lost two more warplanes this week, shot down at an altitude of 5,200 meters by what Kyiv authorities say were rockets fired from Russian territory. Brought down near Savur-Mohyla and Dmytrivka, their shooting-down brought the total number of aircraft downed or damaged since the start of the conflict to nearly 20.

Kremlin-backed guerillas also continue to control a strategic border crossing near Izvarye in Luhansk Oblast, which they use to transport weapons and reinforcements from Russia into Ukraine, according to Kyiv and Western intelligence sources.

Gains in Donetsk Oblast

In the past week, government forces have continued to bombard rebel positions in the village of Marinka on the southwestern edge of Donetsk. Volleys of Grad rockets fired from the direction of Ukrainian positions less than 10 miles away have mostly missed their targets, instead hitting residential homes and killing at least four civilians there on July 12.

The military also managed to retake control over Netailove, Pervomaiske and Karlivka, a flash point town west of Donetsk that has a strategic bridge. And they have pushed up from the south near Amvrosiivka toward Snizhne to protect a military line at a border crossing through which rebels have repeatedly tried to punch a hole.

It's there, around a rebel-held hillside topped with a monument called Savur-Mohyla, that some of the fiercest fighting has unfolded over the past week. Shelling from both sides continued round the clock, and volleys of Grad fire is regularly heard from miles



A Russian-backed separatist stands next to bodies of Ukrainian crew members of a destroyed tank in the northern outskirts of Donetsk on July 22. (AFP)

away. Plumes of black smoke are a regular sight. And Ukraine's air force had repeatedly struck the rebel position by air, until July 23, when rockets downed two Ukrainian Su-25 fighter jets.

In rebel-held Horlivka, where commander Igor "Demon" Bezler operates, fighting has raged for the past several days. The military has hit the outskirts of town with airstrikes, while firing artillery by ground toward rebel positions inside the city limits. The fighting was the fiercest on July 24, with clashes all around the city. Residents were seen fleeing en masse by car and bus, their back seats and arms full of all the possessions they could gather. And a bridge was blown up inside the city, blocking one of the entrances and exits.

Gains in Luhansk Oblast

In Luhansk Oblast on July 22, Ukraine's troops laid siege to rebels in Severodonetsk, liberated nearby Popasna and forced the majority of

separatist fighters to flee neighboring Lysychansk.

These cities for months were rebel strongholds led by Aleksey Mozgovoy and his fighters, which chose the spooky name the "Ghost Battalion" for their ability to operate covertly.

The group, comprised of many Russian nationals as well as locals, possessed a sufficient arsenal of guns and managed to control significant parts of Luhansk Oblast over the last months.

Ukraine's troops have attempted to purge them from Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, in particular, but struggled to do gain ground until last week. The cities are comprised of some 300,000 residents together.

But when President Petro Poroshenko restarted the government's anti-terrorist operations after a 10-day ceasefire at the end of June, the army has gradually and systematically tightened its grip on the area once held by Mozgovoy's group. As a result, many of his men fled. Only those who

directly disobeyed orders to retreat stayed behind. On July 24, they violently clashed with Ukrainian forces in Lysychansk. It was unclear by press time whether there were casualties.

The army spent days in fierce fights to free Severodonetsk. The rebels blew up a bridge connecting this city with Rubizhne to prevent the military from advancing. After reclaiming Severodonetsk, Ukrainian forces liberated four hostages who had spent more than a month in captivity, according to Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council.

Moreover, several rebels were captured when they tried to break through the encirclement there, Lysenko said.

Mozgovoy, a former Ukrainian folk singer from the city of Svatovo who switched allegiances and joined the ranks of the separatists, became one of their leaders. He is believed to be responsible for ordering the capture of government and law enforcement officers in Luhansk in early April.

But his stature quickly declined. After arguing with Valery Bolotov, the self-styled separatist head in Luhansk, Mozgovoy aligned more closely with rebel commander and self-proclaimed defense minister of the Donetsk separatists Igor Girkin. Also known as Igor Strelkov, the Russian citizen led rebels in the former stronghold of Sloviansk, where he carried out trials conducted by military tribunals that sentenced at least three people to death by firing squad.

Now Mozgovoy is reportedly digging in with the rest of his battalion near the city of Pervomaisk, Luhansk Oblast, and preparing for his last stand with the military.

Border remains open

Despite the significant gains, Ukraine's military have not been able to close the Russian border completely, and alleges that its positions are shelled by artillery from Russian territory. NATO continues to see evidence of weapons being moved into Ukraine from Russia since the downing of a Malaysian airliner in eastern Ukraine last week, a NATO military officer said on July 23. So long as a corridor remains open for reinforcements and munitions, the rebels will likely continue to fight.

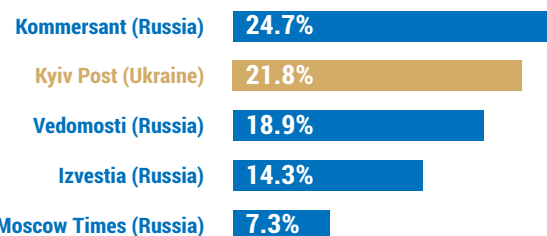
"We have noted an increase in the amount of weapons being transferred from Russia to Ukraine in the last several weeks. We continue to see evidence of the movement of weapons into Ukraine from Russia since the downing of (Malaysia Airlines flight) MH17, which is a cause for concern," said the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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* — according to a survey by Moscow-based AGT Communications Agency carried out over the six month period to May 21.

Editorials

EU hypocrites

In the European Union's world of self-interest and hypocrisy, it's OK for Britain, Germany and France to train and arm Vladimir Putin's rogue state, which is waging war against Ukraine. But it's not OK for the West to arm Ukraine, whose soldiers are fighting valiantly and dying on a daily basis to defend their nation from invasion.

This week's tales in EU hypocrisy were shameless doozies. A report by British members of parliament found that the U.K. is honoring more than 250 export licenses of lethal weapons and war supplies to Russia, contracts worth nearly \$250 million.

British manufacturers and brokers were allowed to keep supplying Russia with "weapons sights, sniper rifles, bomb-proof suits, unmanned aerial vehicles, military helicopter components and cryptographic equipment," writes Tim Stanley in the London Telegraph. A shipment of surface-to-air missile components was destined for the Brazilian navy that has permission to dock in Russian ports, the Department for Business said, according to UK journalists.

Elsewhere, Germany's spineless politicians let German defense firm Rheinmetall build a combat simulation training center in Mulino, Russia capable of training 30,000 Russian combat troops per year. The contract was worth \$140 million.

"It's unfortunate that German companies were directly supporting and training Russia's military even during the attacks against Ukraine," one senior Senate aide told The Daily Beast in April. "The U.S. government should call on our NATO allies to suspend all military connections with Russia at this point, until the Russians leave Ukraine, including Crimea."

The U.S. government did call for a suspension of military ties with Russia, but the Europeans aren't listening – especially France President Francois Hollande, who is justifying his nation's sale of the Mistral attack warship to Russia by saying there is no EU arms embargo in place. Instead of wimping and weaseling out, France should show moral courage by pushing the EU to impose tough sanctions against Russia's energy, finance and military sectors.

The question before the July 17 shoot-down Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was how many Ukrainians have to be killed before the West will act? We still have not found the answer yet because, even as Ukraine's death toll has soared to nearly 1,000 civilians and soldiers since Russia's Feb. 27 invasion of Crimea and war in eastern Ukraine, the West has done little but issue statements of deep concern and toothless threats. Stronger action also is slow in coming after the murders of nearly 300 innocent lives aboard MH17. The question is now amended: How many people does Putin's war have to kill before the West confronts his threat to world peace?

It's no longer out of the question that the weapons and training that the three EU giants have lavished on the nuclear-armed dictator could be used against them and their citizens one day.

If the EU continues to let money and cowardice trump its supposed democratic values, the 28-nation bloc could find itself going in the same year from winning the favor of most Ukrainians to losing it. The West's weakness is even more baffling considering that it is extending billions of dollars in loans and millions of dollars in aid to Ukraine. The money will go to waste if there's no peace. The sums will be inadequate to fix the damage that Russia is inflicting regularly by killing people, shooting down nearly a dozen planes and helicopters and blowing up infrastructure.

More Ukrainians realize that they can only depend on themselves and that the nation will have to mobilize and militarize quickly and massively after the West abandoned the 1994 Budapest Memorandum guarantees to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Kyiv surrendering its nuclear arsenal. Sadly, Ukraine is still waiting for leaders to emerge in the West.

Simple thieves

If inhumane and undignified treatment of the dead wasn't enough, there have been persistent reports that Russia-led guerrillas fighting in Ukraine's east have pilfered the cell phones, wallets, jewelry and other valuables from the separatist-held crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17. This would not be surprising, since it is most likely that the Kremlin-backed leaders shot down the airliner in the first place. If they don't care for the sanctity of human life, why would they care whose possessions they steal?

The Russians leading the militants are just aping the barbarism of their supreme leader, Moscow's Vladimir Putin, who stole an entire peninsula from Ukraine at gunpoint. Citing a government report, The Moscow Times reports that, with Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula, the nation gained 467 health spas, 232 hotels, 92 children's health camps and 517 kilometers of beach. This is only the start of how Russia will try to enrich itself at Ukraine's expense, especially if optimistic scenarios for Black Sea energy deposits turn out to be true.

The world can't jail Russia or Putin, but it can stop doing business with them. Tough sanctions are the way.



NEWS ITEM: Russia's military Feb. 27 military invasion and subsequent annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula was supposed to be the European Union's wake-up call to answer Vladimir Putin's aggression. So was Russia's war against Ukraine in the eastern oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk. But not only has the EU failed to formulate a strong response, many of its members want to continue selling arms and doing business as usual with Russia. Now after Russian separatist leaders armed, trained and financed by the Kremlin are believed to have shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 on July 17, killing 298 people, the EU appears to still be sleeping in response to Russia's threat to global peace.



NEWS ITEM: Russian President Francois Hollande, one of the wimpiest in an impressive collection of European Union wimps, shamelessly defended the sale of the first of two Mistral warships to Russia by complaining that the EU had not yet adopted an embargo on military sales to Russia. Delivery of a second Mistral warship, in a two-ship deal valued at \$1.7 billion, is set for 2016. France is even going the extra step by training 400 Russian soldiers. Each Mistral is designed to carry up to 30 helicopters, 60 armored vehicles, 13 tanks and 700 soldiers – enough to inflict great damage on Ukraine.



NEWS ITEM: A week ago Russian and Ukrainian media shared news about an alleged fight between Russian and Ukrainian tourists that took place in one of the hotels in Turkey after one side started making offensive comments. While it couldn't be confirmed that the fight happened, it is possible scenario, as Turkey is a summer tourism destination popular among Ukrainians and Russians.

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Stevan Dojcinovic, an investigative reporter for the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and the Center for Investigative Journalism in Serbia, lectures outside a guest house on the luxury Mezhyhirya estate where deposed President Viktor Yanukovich lived. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Mezhyhirya still a symbol of Ukraine



VLAD LAVROV
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For more than four years, overthrown President Viktor Yanukovich's billion-dollar Mezhyhirya estate has been the symbol of everything that's been wrong with Ukraine. It was one of the most tightly guarded places in the country. It is a 140-hectare residence with a murky ownership structure and billions' worth of extravagant purchases, likely to have been made at the taxpayers' cost.

I happened to be among the first visitors of Mezhyhirya on Feb. 22, just hours after Yanukovich fled the country. Walking among the throngs of my countrymen who arrived to the scene after the disgraced president's escape felt like a victory. But it was merely a fragile breather before the dramatic events in Crimea and the Donbas began to unfold.

For many people, including myself, the fate of the former presidential estate, is symbolic of what will happen to Ukraine as well. In a way, the country faces a choice between transparency and shadiness, integrity or resorting to old corrupt schemes, giving the society an opportunity to act, or re-launching the same crony capitalism economy that has been the trademark of the country.

Since February, the legal status of the residence has been in limbo. After a political resolution on nationalization passed by the parliament on Feb. 22, no concrete steps have been taken to upgrade its legal status, despite the fact that the Cabinet was mandated to take further decisions.

It does not mean that the estate was in a mess, but no thanks to the government. Activists of Automaidan, a mobile offshoot of EuroMaidan Revolution, took care of the residence from the moment it was abandoned by Yanukovich's loyal

→ The fate of Yanukovich's estate will say a lot about nation's future

guard. They did a reasonable job at preventing mass looting, and maintaining it in good shape.

In fact, the place quickly turned into a public park that has become a favorite weekend spot for the Kyivans and a popular tourist destination.

Activists started the sale of tickets – dubbed “charity contributions,” as there's no legal entity to collect the proceeds – ranging from Hr 20 (general admission for adults) to Hr 200 for a guided tour to Honka, Yanukovich's newest and most luxurious mansion. Given its popularity, the estate is now capable of financing most of its operating expenses. With a comprehensive business plan in place, the place is likely to be self-sustainable, according to Denys Tarakhkotelyk, the commandant of Mezhyhirya who has led the initiative.

But things have not been all rosy in the past few weeks. First the prosecutor general issued a controversial order that the estate was evidence in a criminal case against Ukraine's former president, and thus needs to be vacated, frozen and sealed.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Ihor Shvayka came up with an initiative to appoint a state company under his watch to run the estate. This way, Shvayka argued, he could attempt to keep the place still open to the public.

This scenario poses several major risks. Government-controlled companies are not exactly an epitome of transparency and efficiency. But even assuming that this case would be different, allowing a

state-run enterprise to take control over Mezhyhirya without a prior inventory is – if not a license to steal – a temptation that would be hard to resist.

As if to give those doubts more flesh, the local health authority periodically makes attempts to close the residence, citing potential danger to visitors coming from poor upkeep of the animals.

If Mezhyhirya is taken over by a state enterprise in a non-transparent manner, it would not be surprising to see that the entire residence or some parts of it closed to public, and even taken over by some government official. In fact, it can even be gradually privatized again.

But Ukraine's government still has a chance to resolve the issue in the best – and very public – way possible by turning it into a public park run by a non-government institution formed out of activists on the spot, other non-government organizations and local community or other vested parties.

This way, none of the sides would have the majority of votes in the new entity. This public board would be in charge of budgeting decisions and appointing the executives running the facility on day-to-day basis, while ownership of the land and all the assets would still be retained by the state.

Crucially, prior to entering any such arrangement, the place has to undergo a thorough audit with the complete list of all the assets has to be made public.

By doing it this way, virtually at no cost to the taxpayers, the government will turn one of the dirtiest pages in Ukraine's history into a success story of returning of the most notorious assets of Ukraine's former ruler back to the public in a literal sense. Last but not the least, it will make its appeals to Western governments to confiscate and return assets of the president and his close circle back to Ukraine a lot more convincing.

Vlad Lavrov is a Kyiv Post staff writer and a member of YanukovichLeaks projects, investigating and publishing the documents found at the Mezhyhirya residence. He is also a part of the initiative to develop a legal mechanism of transferring the estate under public control.

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WITH MARYNA LYSYTSIA
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What is your attitude to the hypocrisy of the West regarding Russia's war against Ukraine?



Svyatoslav Polomany,
entrepreneur
“I wouldn't call that duplicity. All politicians, regardless of whether it's Europe, the USA, Russia or Ukraine, are cynical. Despite the fact that Vladimir Putin and Russia are the aggressors, Europe is concerned existing economic relations.”



Viktoria Verbat,
on maternity leave
“I think, to some extent that's what we actually deserve. I understand

Europe. It's our government who should think and act. I think that our politicians are the true hypocrites in fact. It looks like they have a political impotence.”



Leonid Volkovynsky,
street musician
“It's all about the money. Europe has strong economic ties with Russia.

I also think that Russia might have bribed the European politicians with their gas and oil money. The only sanctions that might be effective would be abandoning Russian gas, fuel and any business ties.”



Rosita Sairan,
event manager
“Nobody will help us if we do not act on our own. Our servicemen are defending

Ukraine while the politicians are observing from the sidelines. This is our motherland. Europe and others first of all act in terms of the economy - whether it's profitable or not. It's fine to expect the assistance, but the most important is not to give up ourselves.”



Tetiana Volokhova,
programmer
“It's important that Europe will open the eyes and see the situation. There should be cohesion and consistency

of words and actions. Today France is selling mirlans to Russia, but says they are against the war and aggression. There's a confrontation between economic benefits and values.”

Ukraine-based wood firm extends reach to Canada

BY IANA KORETSKA
KORETSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Active Energy Group, a Ukraine-based supplier of wood chip and timber products traded on London's Alternative Investment Market, on July 15 started a landmark forestry joint venture with three indigenous aboriginal groups in Alberta.

The business has the exclusive right to commercialize more than 100,000 hectares of mature forests belonging to Metis Settlements, descendants of European fur traders and aboriginal peoples.

The Métis Settlements and Active Energy Group will each hold a 45 percent equity interest in the project, which will be incorporated in Canada and headquartered in Kelowna, British Columbia, with the remaining equity to be held by Ronald M. Derrickson. He and Active Energy CEO Richard Spinks of England met in Ukraine in 2008 when they were both involved in agriculture.

Active Energy Group will commit to commercialize the forestry assets in exchange for its equity stake. According to the firm's statement, the forests are primarily composed of mature standing aspen and poplar hardwood and spruce, pine and fir softwood species. The joint venture will be allowed to enter into subleases with third parties for approximately 200 years to help the "long-term economic development for the Metis peoples, in collaboration with international investors and commercial partners," the statement says.

In addition to exporting wood chips culled from 70 Ukrainian forestries used for biomass power generation, Active Energy also manufactures medium-density fireboard. It has operations in Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Spain and Montenegro. In



Active Energy Group, a producer of wood chips for biomass power generation that is headquartered in Ukraine, but traded in London, formed a joint venture in Canada to commercialize more than 100,000 hectares of forests. British citizen Richard Spinks is the company's chief executive officer, but its ultimate owners are unknown. (active-energy.com)

2013 it reported sales of more than \$8 million in 2013, according to its annual report. But in 2012, a mere \$240,000 in sales were reported.

"We are still growing. We have made some moves over the last years to diversify our business, signing the deal with Canada is one of the steps," said Richard Spinks, CEO of Active Energy.

Volumes are also increasing, according to Spinks. Last quarter the company processed 25,000 tons of wood and has plans to produce 35,000 tons in the next quarter.

"We are growing quite nicely in

Ukraine, obviously it is difficult for us because of the problems we have in Ukraine at the moment. But we...are not running away, we invested," says Spinks.

In April, the company relocated wood processing plants from two deep-water ports in Mykolaiv Oblast to the Borivage dockside facility at Yuzhny Port on the Black Sea coast near Odesa. The move was explained by having lower logistical costs and better access to Montenegro and Spain. Active Energy has a processing and logistics agreement in Montenegro and

supply agreements with Spain's two largest forestry operators.

Active Energy has contracts for the purchase of wood with 70 Ukrainian forestries, added Spinks, employs 33 people.

Who owns the company isn't as clear as its financial figures and operations. Spinks declined to say who actually owns Active Energy. According to its annual report, its largest shareholders are Gravendonck Private Foundation (Holland) with 30.5 percent, Eastwood SA (Luxembourg) with 12.22 percent, Windstar Investment SA (Panama)

with 11.38 percent, Brahma Finance Limited (Monaco) with 3.89 percent, and Otkritie Securities Ltd (U.K.) with 3.4 percent

Incorporation information of the shareholders was provided by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner.

One shareholder, Otkritie, is Russia's largest independent financial group by assets, which exceed \$51 billion. Otkritie's major shareholders currently include Vadim Belyaev of IFD Kapital Group, Ruben Aganbegyan of ICT Group, LUKOIL-GARANT Private Pension Fund, Alexander Mamut, and Sergey Gordeev, according to company information.

This is not the first time a company with which Spinks is involved has business ties with Russian investors. Both Spinks and Derrickson worked in agriculture in Ukraine. The Englishman headed Landcom International and in 2007 raised \$111 million on London's AIM exchange, plus an additional \$20 million in 2008. But in December 2011, Swedish agricultural company Alpcot Agro with assets in Russia acquired Landkom for only \$17.7 million. Financial analysts negatively assessed the deal for Landkom's shareholders.

Canadian Derrickson invested nearly \$15 million in two majority-owned agricultural businesses in Dnipropetrovsk. He had built a 20,000-ton capacity grain elevator, among other capital improvements, but in 2013 his assets were frozen as part of legal proceedings. In an earlier interview with the Kyiv Post, Derrickson accused his former partners of defrauding him. He is in the process of recovering his agricultural assets in Ukrainian courts.

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Key blue-chip companies owned by Ukraine still not up for sale

BY IANA KORETSKA
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The Ukrainian government on July 17 finally approved a list of 164 companies that it hopes to privatize this year and earn \$1.25 billion for state coffers.

The biggest ones include a power generator and regional power distribution companies, and nitrogen fertilizer producer Odesa Portside Plant, which controls the sea port and ammonia pipeline from Russia across Ukraine.

But the most interesting companies are missing, including the biggest oil company, Ukrnafta, controlled by Ihor Kolomoisky's so-called Privat Group. Turboatom, the exclusive Ukrainian turbine equipment producer in which Konstantin Grigorishin is a minority shareholder is also not up for sale. Two titanium mining and processing assets – Sumykhimprom and Zaporizhzhya Titanium-Magnesium Plant – are also off the list. The former is managed by Dmytro Firtash's former top executive, Igor Lazakovich. The latter is part of Firtash's titanium business. As the only producer of titanium sponge in Europe, ZTMP on July 21 announced

that it started producing value-added products such as, ingots, slabs, and alloys, following the introduction of advanced technologies at the plant.

Despite the State Property Fund's expectation of making \$1.25 billion on privatization, Dragon Capital senior analyst Desniss Sakva thinks the government's forecasts are too optimistic. "It is hardly realistic for the government to sell such a wide range of assets within a half year, not only due to the ongoing military operation in the East and its impact on the domestic investment climate but also due to the sheer volume of underlying paperwork," it said in a note to investors.

But Vasyl Yurchyshyn, director of economic programs for the Razumkov Center, said that privatization could be successful in Ukraine because assets are cheap. "If the competition will be open and rules are clear, then we can talk about significant revenue," he said.

The privatization list is long because the nation urgently needs money. But sales amid the instabilities of war could prove problematic.

"Free money does not appear tomorrow or the day after," Yurchyshyn



A live stream shows Nortima LTD representative Roman Jugan (middle) and first deputy chairman of the board of Directors of PrivatBank Timur Novikov (left) during an auction of Odesa Portside Plant sale in 2009. (UNIAN)

added. "Now we should talk about the attraction of an effective owner, and privatization in this context is perhaps the best option. So I have no doubt that this should be done now."

Second try for Odesa Portside Plant

This is the second attempt to privatize Odesa Portside Plant. In the sum-

mer of 2009, the plant was sold for only \$625 million – the state expected \$1 billion – to Ihor Kolomoisky's Current State Property Fund chief Dmytro Parfenenko head the government body when Kolomoisky tried buying the plant in 2009. Then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko stopped the privatization. But this year, Kolomoisky looks

to have good odds, although Firtash's DF Group may also bid. Market experts don't want to predict who will win.

Centrenerg

The state's 78 percent stake in power generating company Centrenerg has been on the privatization list since 2010. Among potential buyers who showed interest were Russian investors from President Vladimir Putin's inner circle – "Inter RAO UES" and Gazprom. Ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's son, Oleksandr Yanukovich, has also been involved, especially in 2012-2013. He was the main supplier of coal to Centrenerg during those years. A pool of foreign investors are also eyeing the prized asset, experts told the Kyiv Post.

Billionaire Rinat Akhmetov may be interested also. Akhmetov's DTEK is one of the key players in the electricity generation market of Ukraine, so much so that the Antimonopoly Committee may not permit him to buy the company. Kolomoisky could also be a bidder, according to a recent interview he gave to Channel 5.

Kyiv Post staff writer Iana Koretska can be reached at koretska@kyivpost.com.



A reflection of an airliner is seen through the glass on May 28, 2012 in terminal D at Boryspil International Airport. With aviation regulators banning flights in war-torn eastern Ukraine, the industry is hurting as people are more afraid to fly to their destinations. (UNIAN)

MH17 shoot-down, fear of flying hurts airline industry in Ukraine

BY EVAN OSTRYZNIUK
OSTRYZNIUK@KYIVPOST.COM

As if Ukraine has not suffered enough economically from revolution and war, the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH 17 on July 17 will dent yet more commerce.

The international airline industry's reaction to the loss of the Boeing 777 in hostile territory was swift. The Ukrainian air traffic control agency immediately informed its European counterpart, Eurocontrol, that it had closed air space over eastern Ukraine, including Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, where armed Kremlin-backed guerrillas and Russian mercenaries continue waging war. At the same time, a number of international airlines announced that they were either diverting flights away from Ukrainian airspace altogether or even cancelling flights to Ukrainian destinations.

Less popular or low-margin routes might be among the first long-term casualties of the new fear of flying. Already since the beginning of the year Ukrainian travelers have seen the cost of air travel rise in near proportion to the 40 percent devaluation of the hryvnia, so this new threat could tip the cost-benefit of flying. The additional costs of avoiding the anti-terrorist operation zone would be passed on to the consumer, upping ticket prices, says deputy director of the sales department of tickets.ua Victor Wojciechowski.

Flights heading south towards the Persian Gulf are now a rare thing, as no less than four air carriers that service the Ukraine-United Arab Emirates routes declared that they will not fly to Ukraine until further notice. The Russian carrier Aeroflot, meanwhile, is a little braver, cancelling routes with Dnipropetrovsk for a month and Odesa for a week, but keeping its direct flights to Kyiv, the company announced.

These route cancellations are having a domino effect in the foreign tourism industry. The wholesale loss of flights to the popular United Arab Emirates means tour cancellations.

The use of Ukraine as a transit country for long-haul flights, called en-route navigation charges, and airports fees will suffer in the short term. Of course, Donetsk airport has been closed to all

Airlines that have suspended flights over Ukraine to international destinations

Lufthansa
Turkish Airlines
Air France
Transaero
Aeroflot
Korean Air
Finnair
Norwegian
SAS



Airlines that have cancelled some or all flights to Ukraine

Air Arabia (all)
Flydubai (all)
Emirates Airline (all)
Loukost (all)
Aeroflot
Austrian Airlines
Pegasus Airlines

Source: listed airlines

civilian air traffic since the onset of hostilities in March.

Eurocontrol determines the fees with a complicated formula that uses aircraft weight and distance traveled, and they vary from country to country, but the charge is thousands of dollars per flight. The Ukrainian Aviation Service did not respond to a Kyiv Post request for total losses.

And then there are the airport charges for planes and passengers alike.

Boryspil International Airport in Kyiv, by far the nation's busiest and priciest airport, for example, charges \$10.50 per 1 ton of maximum take-off weight (MTOW) and \$17.00 per passenger for servicing. Considering the most common passenger jet to fly in and out of Ukraine is the Boeing 737 with an MTOW of 70 tons and passenger capacity of up to 200 plus crew, the loss comes to tens of thousands of dollars per flight.

Oleksandr Kryvonis, CEO of KRIS Group, which owns one of the largest consolidators in Germany says: "A lot of passengers from Europe and America for many years will bypass Ukraine, and Russia, let alone third countries."

The reduction of routes should further concentrate market share amongst those airlines that remain. Ukraine is already poorly served with air carrier options after Aerosvit went bankrupt last year, leaving just Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) as a major

carrier. "Passengers have been flying less — they just do not have the money, and so the market had fallen by about 30 percent before the crash," says Serhiy Fomenko, executive vice president of marketing at Ukraine International Airlines. He added that the bowing out of the Arabian carriers should be a boon for UIA, since it is the exclusive carrier for the route Kyiv-Dubai.

Altogether this will lead to an increase in transportation costs, which should affect the rates for consumers, says tickets.ua's Wojciechowski. However, airlines will incur additional losses on tickets that were sold prior to the expected price rise. However, assessment of potential losses depends on individual airlines, including passenger traffic, state and fleet optimization, cost of leasing, as well as other factors.

Hotels in Ukraine outside the war zone should not suffer badly, since the summer is a slow time for the business and the industry has already been hard hit by the combination of EuroMaidan Revolution and war. None of the hotels that the Kyiv Post contacted would admit to any decline in bookings. General manager of Opera Hotel in Kyiv, David Mohren, says that he has not noticed any change in room reservations. "We are still suffering from what is happening in the east," Mohren says.

Kyiv Post business journalist Evan Ostryzniuk can be reached at ostryzniuk@kyivpost.com.

Yatsenyuk resigns as parliament elections likely to be held in fall

BY KYIV POST

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and his government resigned on July 24 after the collapse of the ruling coalition in parliament, paving the way to early parliamentary elections this fall.

A vote this fall is favored by many Ukrainians who ushered in the EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted Viktor Yanukovich, but left many of the disgraced ex-president's followers and Communists in the Verkhovna Rada.

Parliament registered a bill that set early elections to the legislature for Sept. 28, but they aren't expected to take place until the last Sunday in October.

Volodymyr Groysman, the former mayor of Vinnytsia, is expected to become acting prime minister.

Parliament will most likely be disbanded by the president soon.

The early election process was set in motion after two parties, Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform and the right-wing Svoboda, announced their formal departure from the ruling coalition. It was followed by the same statement by a group of independent lawmakers.

According to legislation, the president can disband parliament if a new coalition fails to form in the next 30 days. This development is unlikely, however, because it would mean that Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party would have to forge an alliance with the deeply unpopular former ruling Party of Regions as well as the Communists, who are facing a ban in the legislature.

The current parliament, which was elected in 2012, has mostly been dysfunctional, failing to agree on major policy issues.

On July 24, it failed to vote for a number of key laws presented by Yatsenyuk, some of which were requirements by the International Monetary Fund from which Ukraine secured a \$17 billion bailout package. In a dramatic speech, Yatsenyuk partly blamed his resignation on the parliament's failure to vote.

"The fact is that today you failed to vote for the laws, and I have nothing (with which) to pay wages of policemen, doctors, teachers; nothing to buy a rifle with, nothing to fuel an armored personnel carrier with. Today you failed to take a decision to fill the gas storages to allow us to live through the winter; to at last free ourselves from dependence on Russian gas," he told the parliament.

The prime minister said he sees no other way out but to resign. "When the coalition breaks down, the prime minister either has to resign or start consultations on forming a new coalition," he said. Talks involving the Party of Regions and Communists is something "I am not going to do."

What will next parliament look like?

In fact, the government has taken a number of major steps to ban the Communist Party altogether. Earlier this month, Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko filed a lawsuit based on what he referred to as "massive evidence" of the Communist Party's financing of and helping terrorists in the east of Ukraine in the middle of the war. The first hearing of the case took place on July 24. There are also

308 criminal cases pending against Communist Party members, another senior government official said.

Communist leader Petro Symonenko insisted that the government was simply cracking down on the opposition, and vowed to take part in the upcoming elections "in any case." They are likely to be set for Oct. 26, according to Andriy Mahera, deputy head of the Central Election Commission.

But the Communists, like the once monstrous Party of Regions, might not even make it into parliament, according to the latest polls. According to a June 28-July 10 poll by Rating Group, Petro Poroshenko's Solidarity party would get 23 percent of the vote, strengthening his grip on power.

The second most popular party is that of Oleh Lyashko, a charismatic populist who leads the Radical Party. It would receive 13 percent of the vote. Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna would get 11 percent, while Klitschko's UDAR — 7 percent of support.

It's still unclear what law will govern the next election and whether there will be a downward adjustment in the number of seats from the current 450, following the annexation of Crimea by Russia and an ongoing war in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. There are also major objections to the current mixed election system, when half the seats are filled through a proportional system, and the rest — via single-mandate elections.

Political upheaval comes as Kyiv appeals for military aid

The political developments come amid growing appeals by Kyiv for international military assistance.

On July 24, Deputy Defense Minister Ihor Kabanenko held a meeting with U.S. military officials in which he appealed for military support for Ukraine's army, according to a statement on the ministry's website.

"The current situation testifies to clear Russian interference in Ukraine and its military support to terrorist groups active in Ukraine's eastern regions... Right now, Ukraine's armed forces need international support more than ever before," Kabanenko told David Baldwin, commander of the California National Guard, a federally funded military force in the U.S.

On July 21, Ukraine's finance minister revealed recently that the government's military operation was costing the state \$130 million a month.

A bill foreseeing the expansion of U.S. military and technical aid to Ukraine was passed by Congress on July 17, but the document is still awaiting final approval from the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, according to Interfax.

Volodymyr Groysman will become acting prime minister after Arseniy Yatsenyuk resigns.



Children, activists and scientists killed in Ukraine's summer skies

The Netherlands

Tessa van der Sande, 27, a member of Amnesty International. "She was heading to Indonesia with her parents and brother," Bohdan Ovcharuk, a spokesman for Amnesty International Ukraine, posted on his facebook page.

Pim de Kuijer, 32, AIDS campaigner and a former European Commission diplomat. He actively supported the EuroMaidan Revolution, according to his friend Oleksandra Ustinova.

Joep Lange, 59, and partner **Jacqueline van Tongeren**, 64, a former AIDS nurse and communication manager at the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development.

Lucie van Mens, AIDS activist. She was on her way to an AIDS conference in Melbourne.

Jenny Loh and **Shun Po Fan**, hostess and head chef at Rotterdam's popular Asian Glories restaurant. **Karlijn Keijzer**, 25, doctoral student in the Department of Chemistry in at Indiana University Bloomington. "Karlijn was a bright, talented doctoral student, a diligent researcher and a dear friend to all of us who worked with her in our research group," said her adviser Mu-Hyun Baik. She was on a plane with her boyfriend **Laurens van der Graaff**, 32, a teacher of Dutch origin.

Willem Witteveen, a Labor senator and law professor at Tilburg University, was killed with his wife, **Lidwien Heerkes**, and their daughter, **Marit Witteveen**.

Wayan Sujana, 24, was on his way home to Bali after a four-week tour of Europe.

At Minkema College in the Dutch town of Woerden, pupils mourned the loss of siblings **Robert-Jan** and **Frederique van Zijkveld** – 18 and 19, respectively – and their friend **Robin Hemerijk**. The three were on their way to Kuala Lumpur for a holiday after graduating from high school.

John Allen, was on the flight with his wife **Sandra** and sons **Christopher**, **Julian** and **Ian**. He worked for the international law firm NautaDutilh, which described him as a "kind, down-to-earth and humorous man and many of us have also lost a friend. He will be dearly missed."

Jeroen Wals from Neerkant, his wife **Nicole Wals** and their children **Jinte**, 15, **Amel**, 12, **Brett**, 17, and **Solenn**, 9 were on the plane.

Charles Smallenburg, a long-time volunteer at the small soccer club Altius, his wife **Therese Smallenburg**, their daughter **Carljin** and son **Werther** were heading to Malaysia for summer break.

Johnny Paulissen, 47, was on the plane with his Indonesian wife **Yuli Hastini**, 44, son **Martin**, 5, and daughter **Sri**, 3. They were heading to Solo, Indonesia, to visit Yuli's relatives.

Oscar Kotte, his wife **Miranda**



Ukrainian soldiers carry a coffin with the remains of a victim of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crash to a military plane during a ceremony at the airport in Kharkiv on July 23. (Ukrainian News)

Kotte and their son **Remco**, 6 were on the plane.

Johannes van den Hende, 45, of Dutch origin and his Malaysian wife **Shaliza Dewa** with their children **Piers**, 15, **Marnix**, 12, and **Margaux**, 8, were returning to their home in Australia after a holiday. They were travelling on foreign passports and had moved to Victoria, Australia to start a new life.

Remco Trugg, 40 along with his wife **Yvonne Trugg**, 40 was killed in the plane. Their children **Tess**, 10 and **Liv**, 7, were also among the victims.

Leon Wels and his wife, **Cornelia Wels**, both 39, and their 10-year old son **Sem.Emile van Muijlwijk**, 45, worked as a logistics manager in Singapore. He was on a plane with his Indonesian wife **Vickiline Kardia** and daughter **Adinda**.

Robert Van Keulen, his wife **Caroline Van Keulen** and two sons – **Allard**, 16, and **Jeroen**, 15, were heading to Borneo with a stopover in Kuala Lumpur.

Peter Essers, his wife **Jollette Nuesink**, and two children – **Emma**, 20, and **Valentijn**, 17, were heading to Borneo.

Cor Schilder, 33, who works at a local landfill and **Neeltje Tol**, who owned a flower shop, 30, were going on vacation.

Martine de Schutter, manager of **Bridging the Gaps**, an international HIV program on health and rights for LGBT people, sex workers and people who use drugs. "Martine was strongly committed to keeping AIDS on the agenda of the European Union, and to putting it on the agenda in Eastern

Europe," says the official website.

Malaysia

Tambi Jiee, his wife **Ariza Ghazalee**, 47, and their children **Mohd Afif**, 19, **Mohd Afzal**, 17, **Marsha Azmeena**, 15, and **Mohd Afruz**, 13, were returning to Malaysia after three years in Kazakhstan.

Paul Goes, 38, a director of a Dutch company operating in Malaysia was on the plane with his wife **Shuba Jaya**, 38, a popular actress and entrepreneur with their little daughter **Kaela**. She and her husband had gone to the Netherlands so that Kaela's grandparents could see their new granddaughter.

Md Ali Md Salim, a 30-year-old psychology student who was flying home for the holidays.

Australia (28 citizens)

Ithamar Avnon, 27, a Dutch national living in Windsor, who had been visiting family in Amsterdam and attended a wedding in Israel and was on his way back to Australia to resume his business studies at Melbourne's Swinburne University.

Nick Norris, 68 and his three grandchildren – **Mo**, 12, **Evie**, 10, and **Otis**, eight, had been on a two-week holiday to visit relatives in Amsterdam.

Parents of two Why Keong Lee,

60, and wife **Mona Cheng Sim Lee**. They were on a European holiday and planned to have stopped in Malaysia to visit family on their way home.

Maree and Albert Rizk, parents of two children, lived in the Sunbury area. There were reportedly on their way to Australia after a month-long vacation in Europe.

Gerry and Mary Menke: A Mallecoota couple recognized for spearheading Australia's abalone industries.

Elaine Teoh and boyfriend **Emiel Mahler**: A young Melbourne couple who were travelling to Kuala Lumpur for a wedding.

Marco Grippeling, 48, Melbourne security consultant. He was on holiday with his wife but had returned on a separate flight home.

Liam Davison, 56, was an award-winning novelist and his wife **Francesca** 54, school teacher, taught English, history and other humanities subjects for 28 years at Toorak College on the Mornington Peninsula, Australia. The couple leaves two children.

Philomene Tiernan, 77, taught at Catholic girls' School of the Sacred Heart, at Kincoppal Rose Bay in Sydney's east.

Jack O'Brien, 25, soccer enthusiast, was heading to play for Winston Hills

Soccer Club in Sydney after his 7-week vacation throughout Europe.

Emma Bell, a teacher, was returning from holiday to start the new school term at Maningrida community.

Helena Sidelik, 50, was in Amsterdam for a friend's wedding and three-week holiday.

Carol Clancy, retired teacher, had been on a trip to Europe to celebrate her husband's retirement. She died with her husband, **Michael Clancy**, on board of MH17.

Victor Oreshkin, member of the ministry at Lidcombe's Slavic Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Australia.

Indonesia

Jane Adi Soetjpto, 73, Indonesian of Dutch descent, was returning to Jakarta after visiting her relatives in the Netherlands.

Sri Siti Amirah, 83, step-grandmother of the Malaysian Prime Minister, was coming back to Malaysia for a holiday, after visiting her son in Amsterdam.

Hadiono Gunawan, an employee of Malaysia Airlines, was traveling with his Filipino wife, **Irene**, and their two children, **Daryl**, 15, and **Sherry**, 20, for a vacation in the Philippines to attend an annual family reunion there.

Yodricunda Theistiasih with her Dutch husband **Arnoud Huizen** and two-year daughter **Yelena** were on their way home to Bali

Ketut Wiartini, worked at Dutch restaurant, was on her way to visit her child.

Vickline Kurniati Kardia – no information.

Selain Supartini, 39, a housemaid in The Hague, was traveling home to celebrate Idul Fitri in her home town.

Hendry, the only son in a family, was planning to return home after two weeks in the Netherlands to attend his sister's wedding in September.

Charles Tamtelahitu, 63, brother of Humpuss Intermoda Transportasi president, was coming back home for his mother's funeral.

Gerda Leliana Lahendra, 80, was reportedly coming back home after visiting her siblings in the Netherlands.

Wayan Sujana, 24, was coming back to Bali after attending his colleague's wedding in the Netherlands.

United Kingdom

Ben Pocock, from the Bristol area, was a student at Loughborough →9



Most of the victims aboard the Boeing 777-200 Malaysia Airlines MH17 on July 17 were from the Netherlands in the Amsterdam-Kuala Lumpur flight.



→ **8** University and was on his way to spend six months in Australia. His family said: "He was a gifted academic, talented athlete but more importantly a warm, caring, fun-loving son and brother who had an extremely bright future ahead of him."

Andrew Hoare, 59, and his Dutch wife **Estella**, 51, who lived in Luxembourg, with their sons

Friso and Jasper, ages 12 and 14.

Richard Mayne, 20, student, was also on flight MH17. The head teacher of his former school said Mayne, from Leicestershire, had a "great thirst for life and he wanted to make the world a better place."

Cameron Dalziel, 43, a helicopter rescue pilot and father of two children, was traveling on a British passport. Dalziel, who is believed to be South African, had moved to Malaysia last October.

Robert Ayley, 28, was flying to New Zealand. He leaves his wife **Charlene** and two boys, **Seth**, 4 and **Taylor**, 2.

John Alder, 60, and **Liam Sweeney**, 28, were on their way to watch Newcastle on their pre-season tour in New Zealand.

Glenn Thomas, 49, a media officer for the World Health Organization in Geneva, was heading to an AIDS conference in Australia.

Stephen Anderson, 44, former Royal Air Force rescue coordinator. He leaves a wife and a daughter.

Belgium

Benoit Chardome, 51, from New Zealand.

Jan Noreilde, 51, his wife **Annemieke Hakse**, 47, and their 12-year son **Steven** were heading to Bali.

Liliane Derden, 50, who worked for the National Health & Medical Research Council, was on her way back to Australia after visiting her siblings in Belgium.

Dutch-U.S. citizenship

Quinn Schansman, 19, student. "Thoughts and prayers go out to all families of Malaysia flight victims, including the family of Quinn Lucas Schansman, a dual Dutch-U.S. citizen," Jen Psaki, the spokesperson for the U.S. state department tweeted on July 18.

Canada

Andrei Anghel, 24, was studying medicine in Romania, was on his way to Bali with his German girlfriend **Olga Ioppa**, 23 for a vacation.

Germany

Ina Kroon lived with her husband **Henk Kroon** in the Netherlands. They were going on vacation.

Gabriele Lauschet, 48, the kindergarten teacher was flying to her home in Australia after visiting her mother in Aachen.

Fatima Dyczynsk, 24, space scientist. Dyczynsk was on her way to Perth, Australia, where her parents were waiting for her.

Crew members of MH17:

Shazana Salleh, 31, flight attendant.

Wan Amran Bin Wan Hussin, 50 captain

Eugene Choo Jin Leong, 45 captain
Ahmad Hakimi Bin Hanapi, 29, vice captain.

Muhamad Firdaus Bin Abdul Rahim, 27, vice captain

Mohd Ghafar Bin Abu Bakar, 54.

Dora Shamila Binti Kassim, 47.

Azrina Binti Yakob, 41.

Lee Hui Pin, 42.

Mastura Binti Mustafa, 40.

Chong Yee Pheng, 40.

Shaikh Mohd Noor Bin Mahmood, 44.

Sanjid Singh Sandhu, 41, swapped flights with a colleague and boarded Malaysian flight MH17

Hamfazlin Sham Binti Mohamed Arifin, 42.

Nur Shazana Binti Mohamed Salleh, 31.

Angeline Premila Rajandaran, 30.



KEYS to the map

- 1 **Hotel Evropyevsky**
149 Dmytrivna str.
- 2 **Intercontinental Kyiv**
29 Yelyka Zhytomyska str.
- 3 **Kidder Restaurant**
8th km Boryspil Road.
In 5 minutes from the Boryspil airport
- 4 **Massimo Restaurant**
15 Saksahanskoho str.
- 5 **Queen Bakery**
102 Saksahanskoho str.
- 6 **Sanskriti**
7D Lesi Ukrainki Boulevard (A-section)
- 7 **SOFYISKIY**
Sofyiskiy fitness center
6 Ryvskiy Ln.



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Putin's attacks on Ukraine continue from Russian side

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

The United States said on July 24 that Russia was firing artillery across the border into Ukraine to target Ukrainian military positions.

"We have new evidence that the Russians intend to deliver heavier and more powerful multiple rocket launchers to the separatist forces in Ukraine, and have evidence that Russia is firing artillery from within Russia to attack Ukrainian military positions," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said.

Russian military aggression towards Ukraine has persisted since Kremlin-backed guerrillas shot down a commercial airliner on July 17, killing all 298 people on board, including more than 80 children.

While the tragic event has all but deprived Russia of deniability over its involvement in the eastern Ukraine war that has claimed nearly 1,000 lives, Russia has regularly been shelling Ukrainian positions from its side of the border, according to Kyiv authorities.

According to the counter-terrorism communications center, Russia fired at eight Ukrainian positions on July 22-24. Artillery fire and multiple-rocket launchers on July 24 twice shelled a checkpoint near the town of Ilinka from Russia. The same night, Ukrainian positions near Kamyshne, Berezovo, Amvrosievka and the Luhansk Airport were shelled by Grad rockets, stated Anti-Terrorism Operation spokesperson Vladyslav Seleznyov.

"Positions and checkpoints of anti-terrorist forces continue to be fired upon, including from the territory of the Russian Federation," said Seleznyov. "The guerillas are trying to hold parts of the Ukrainian state's borders."

In a post on VKontakte, a Russian social media site, alleged Russian soldier Vadim Grigoriev boasts of "shelling Ukraine all night," from Rostov Oblast, which included pictures of artillery cannons and munitions.

Kyiv claims that Russia has already shot down three Su-25 jets with projectiles from Russia. On the eve of the Malaysian airliner shoot-down, Kyiv says a Russian MiG-29 shot down one of its jets from Russian airspace. On July 23, National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said two more Su jets were shot down at an altitude of 5,200 meters by rockets fired from Russia.

Additionally, the Ukrainian Border Guard Service stated that on July 22-July 23 Russia fired three times on its positions near Amvrosiyivka, Herasimovka and the Uspenka border crossing with artillery batteries and Grad rockets.

The U.S. mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe expressed disappointment on July 24 when the Russian representative to the body only allowed a small group of international observers to two small checkpoints along its border, each a few hundred meters wide along a land border of nearly 2,000 kilometers in length.

"Let us be perfectly clear—this will

not provide any real accounting of Russia's massive flows of illegal arms, funding, and personnel," Ambassador Daniel Baer stated. "Nor will this fig leaf provide an assurance to those mourning the tragedy of flight MH17 that Russia is doing anything to stop its illegal flow of arms and other support to separatists in eastern Ukraine."

Russia continues to violate Ukraine's airspace, the Border Guard Service added. Four times on the evening of July 22 Russian military helicopters and drones flew into Ukraine by as deep as 500 meters.

There is allegedly a military staging area in Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast. Supplies include T-64 tanks, Grad multiple-rocket launchers, various armored personnel carriers equipped with cannons, Buk advanced radar-guided surface-to-air systems, shoulder-fired rocket launchers as well as sniper rifles, mines, grenades and automatic weapons.

The National Security and Defense Council's Lysenko also said on July 24 that a field camp of Russian armed forces has been set up not far from the state border in Bryansk Oblast. Lysenko also said that 10 kilometers from the border with northern Ukraine, Russia continued to equip camouflaged firing positions of infantry fighting vehicles.

He also said that in the border areas near Kharkiv Oblast, "Russian military had deployed five armored personnel carriers, three tanks and other military equipment," reported Interfax Ukraine. "According to the latest information,

Dangerous eastern Ukrainian skies

A timeline of events shows how more advanced weapons have been used since April to shoot down Ukrainian military aircraft

DATE	AIRCRAFT TARGETED	WHERE	WEAPONS INVOLVED
April 22	Spotter/transport plane	Sloviansk	Gunfire
April 25	Spotter/transport plane, helicopter	Kramatorsk	Gunfire
May 2	Two Mi-24 attack helicopter shot down; one Mi-8 transport helicopter damaged	Sloviansk	Shoulder-fired missile
May 5	Mi-24 helicopter shot down	Sloviansk	Gunfire
May 29	Helicopter (11 soldiers and a general killed)	Sloviansk	Unknown
June 5	Helicopter	Sloviansk	Gunfire
June 6	An-30 reconnaissance plane (5 crew members killed)	Sloviansk	Unknown
June 14	Il-76 transport plane shot down (40 soldiers and 9 crew members killed)	Luhansk	Anti-aircraft gun
June 24	Mi-8 shot down (9 killed)	Sloviansk	Shoulder-fired missile
July 1	Fighter jet	Savur-Mohyla	Anti-aircraft gun
July 2	Su-24 jet is hit, returns to base	Antracit	Surface-to-air missile
July 14	An-26 transport plane shot down	Izvarino	Surface-to-air missile
July 16	Two fighter jets	Amvrosiyivka	Surface-to-air missile; MiG 29 jet in Russian airspace
July 17	Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 (298 dead)	Hrabove/Torez	Surface-to-air missile
July 23	Two Su-25 jets shot down	Savur-Mohyla, Dmytrivka	Unknown, but projectiles shot from Russia

Source: Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine

here are about 500 Russian servicemen in the camp, and their number is constantly growing," Lysenko said, cited by Interfax Ukraine.

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EuroMaidan documentary hits big screen in Kyiv theaters

A new documentary by widely known Ukrainian director Serhiy Loznytysya was an unplanned creation. When the EuroMaidan Revolution began on Nov. 21, he put aside his other projects and shot "Maidan," a film about the protest.

The movie, presented at Cannes International Film Festival and now screening in Kyiv, gives insight into the protests and takes the audience to almost every corner of Maidan. The film is a mosaic of around 90 long shots. One impression is that the director was putting his camera in random places.

"Maidan" shows both the peaceful and violent stages of the protest. In interviews, Loznytysya confessed that he divided the documentary in four parts: a prologue, a feast, a battle and an epilogue. He also said that the "forming of the Ukrainian nation" is meant to be the protagonist of the movie.

The film gives no comments, doesn't judge or glorify. In fact, the director and his team step aside, letting the viewer come to their own conclusions.

However, some of the key moments of the EuroMaidan Revolution were left out. Strangely, the movie doesn't feature any of the former government's attempts to clear Maidan by force. The Berkut riot police officers, known for their violent attacks on demonstrators, come across as oppressed by the crowd.

"Maidan" is filled with music. It starts with the national anthem of Ukraine and ends with requiem music. Throughout the film, the national anthem is performed several times in different ways. Among other songs is the popular protest song, "Chervona Ruta," a Christmas carol, religious hymns and songs that mock former President Viktor Yanukovich ("Vitya, Ciao!").

The documentary is featured in the programs of some 30 film festivals around the world, including the Cannes International Film Festival and the Odessa International Film Festival. In Kyiv, "Maidan" runs in a number of theaters. Check the schedule at www.kino-teatr.ua.

Kyiv Post staff writer Iryna Savchuk can be reached at violetumbrella@gmail.com

Maidan (documentary)
Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.): 3:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
Hr 30-65
Zhovten
(26 Kostyantynivska St.) 7 p.m.
Hr 25-70



Socialite Nataliya Yusupova (Vetvytska) has given up the party life to volunteer to help injured Ukrainian soldiers in Kyiv's main military hospital. Yusupova sits on a bench in the hallway with Ukrainian army officer Oleh Berezovsky, who lost his both hands fighting against Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. (Pavlo Podufalov)

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Sitting on a shabby bench in a bleak hospital hallway, a beautiful woman with a mop of dark curly hair looks like a creature from a different world – until a nurse asks her if she can buy a shovel that the hospital needs.

The woman smiles and promises to buy at least two shovels.

"I'm becoming something like a janitor here. They come to me with whatever they need," she says. "Last time I

bought 10 trash cans."

Nataliya Yusupova, a socialite close to the family of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, has abandoned the Kyiv party scene for now to take care of Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Russia's war against the nation in the east.

Yusupova, previously known as Vetvytska, became popular after starring in "Rich People Cry Too," a reality show on Ukrainian 1+1 TV station. She was a regular at celebrity events and parties. But that's all in the past. She

hasn't been to a party in six months, she said.

"Parties are taboo now," Yusupova says.

Some months ago, Yusupova saw a post on Facebook calling on people to buy medicine for the hundreds of wounded soldiers staying in a Kyiv hospital. And so she did.

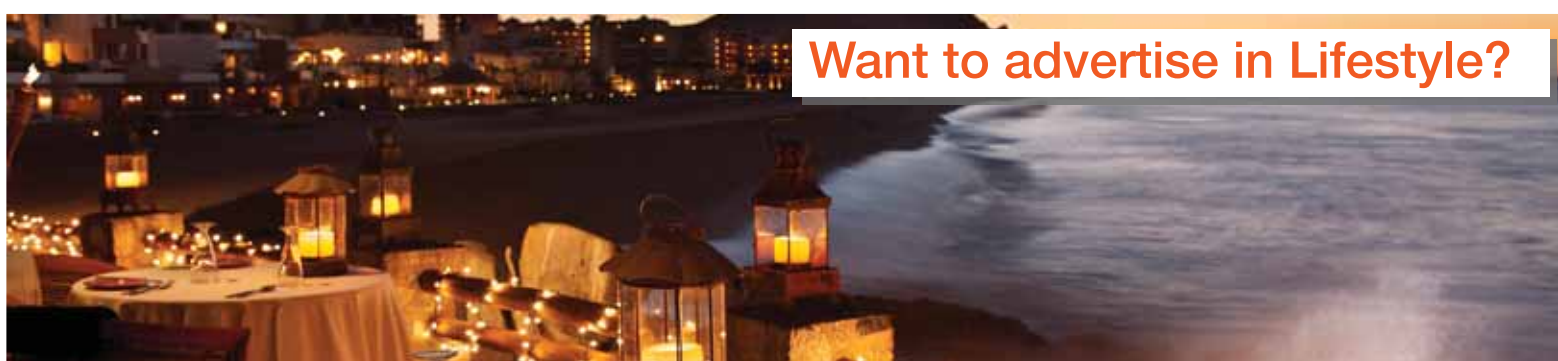
"I took some pictures there and then posted them on my page and suddenly what seemed like all my 16,000 friends and followers started asking me to help bringing their money to the hospital or

to arrange some delivery they could pay for," she explains.

Since then, the celebrity diva has become a guardian angel for the struggling hospital. She's been posting photos of wounded soldiers online and telling their touching stories to encourage people to donate money for their treatment.

Yusupova has been evidently spending a lot of her own money, too. She lives from renting out a range of expensive real estate in the city of Dnipropetrovsk and is famous → 13

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Get exercise, watch movies, help ecology in cycle cinema

BY MARYNA LYSYTSIA
M.LYSYTSIA@GMAIL.COM

This summer environmentalists have got a new amusement – an eco-friendly cycle-in cinema launched in the park near VDNH, or Ukrainian Expo Center.

The rules of the outdoor cinema are simple - if you want to watch the film, be ready to pedal. The guests are expected to hook their bicycles to the generator and power the performance by pedaling it.

In this way, the theater is completely independent from the power socket and runs on the alternative source of energy.

Cycle-in cinema is a new notion for Ukraine, and a rather fresh one for the world. The first ever movie theater that ran on cycling-produced energy opened in 2007 in the United Kingdom. Since then it's getting more popular and new cycle-in cinemas open all over the world, attracting ecologically aware visitors and promoting the value of electricity and the joys of cycling.

Oleksandr Stanishkevsky, a sound editor and cycling enthusiast, tried out the new cinema on July 15. He hooked up his bicycle to the generator and powered up the screening of the "In Transition" documentary for 30 viewers. Stanishkevsky enjoyed the experience and said that pedaling and watching a movie at the same time made him "feel like Julius Caesar," who was able to do many things simultaneously. "The idea of the project is to pro-



Oleksandr Stanishkevsky pedals his bike, producing energy for movie screening in Kyiv's VDNH Park on July 15. (Pavlo Podufalov)

mote healthy lifestyle, veganism, taking care of the planet, animals and our own health," says Serhiy Yefimov, a member of Morkva Club, a group of environment enthusiasts who launched the cycle-in cinema.

The cinema is open on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Admission is free and guests without a bike are also welcome.

The screened movies stick to envi-

ronmental and other social themes, including movies like "Time to Save the World," "Eco-cow" and "The New Life of the Old Bag." Yefimov says the team prefers movies that promote an eco-conscious lifestyle.

The Morkva Club partners with Open Air Foundation KinoProstoNeba that promotes outdoor cinemas and provides film screening equipment free

Cycle-in Theater

VDNH Park

Tuesday, Thursday nights at 9 p.m.

Some movies are screened in English with Ukrainian subtitles.

www.facebook.com/morkvaclub

→ Cycle-in theaters are getting more popular; Kyiv's first one is open now in VDNH Park

projector consumes only 60 watts. The excess energy can be used for charging visitors' phones and wireless speakers used in the screening. The generator's capacity is enough to charge 21 iPhones 5S simultaneously.

Yulia Glebova came to the July 15 screening and found it enjoyable.

"I like ecology and have already been to a couple of eco-themed film festivals. But producing energy on your own brings it to the level of self-sustainability," she said, impressed.

Another visitor, Lilia Pechura, history student, came out of curiosity.

"I have never seen a thing like this before and I am just curious how it works. As for the films, they are pushing us to healthy lifestyle and conscious energy usage, but you need to be really passionate about the eco-movement to watch some of them."

The outdoor cycle-in cinema will work at the VDNH Park (Ukrainian Expo Center) until the end of October.

Wealthy socialite devotes her time, money to assist injured soldiers

→ 12 for her love for Valentino dresses.

"I've just bought 10 iPads for them, boys need some fun here," she says with a charming smile.

But it is actually a smile and kind chit-chat that can help even more than money does, the woman says.

"I always try to come here beautiful and in a good mood," Yusupova says, with the firm conviction that a beautiful woman can raise a man's spirit. That much is obvious as a young man comes out of a hospital room, with bright eyes at the sight of Yusupova. "Here you are," he says as his eyes brighten and kisses her on the cheek.

The man is 24-year-old officer Oleh Berezovskyi. He lost both hands in fighting but manages to stay cheerful. He and Yusupova quickly made friends.

"She always brings tasty things and lifts my mood. Time here passes much

more quickly when there is someone to talk to," Berezovskyi says.

Yusupova has seen a lot of terrible wounds and heard a lot of horrifying stories here, but tries not to cry in the presence of soldiers. "They see enough grief. Some of them have seen hundreds of their comrades die in front of them. So I decided to bring only joy," she says.

She cannot stay away from the hospital.

"Once I had coffee with one of the volunteers in town and then I suddenly felt guilty for being there and not with our boys," she says. "So we went to the hospital at 7 p.m. and spent three hours there."

Yusupova says she got to do a lot of things she would never imagine herself doing some six months ago.

When she is not feeding soldiers or helping the disabled, she works on getting the hospital much-needed

infrastructure improvements. The poor condition of the walkways in the hospital courtyard prompted her to pay for new concrete walks.

"It was just impossible to roll wheelchairs on them," she says. "But my dream is to put asphalt here on the whole hospital territory."

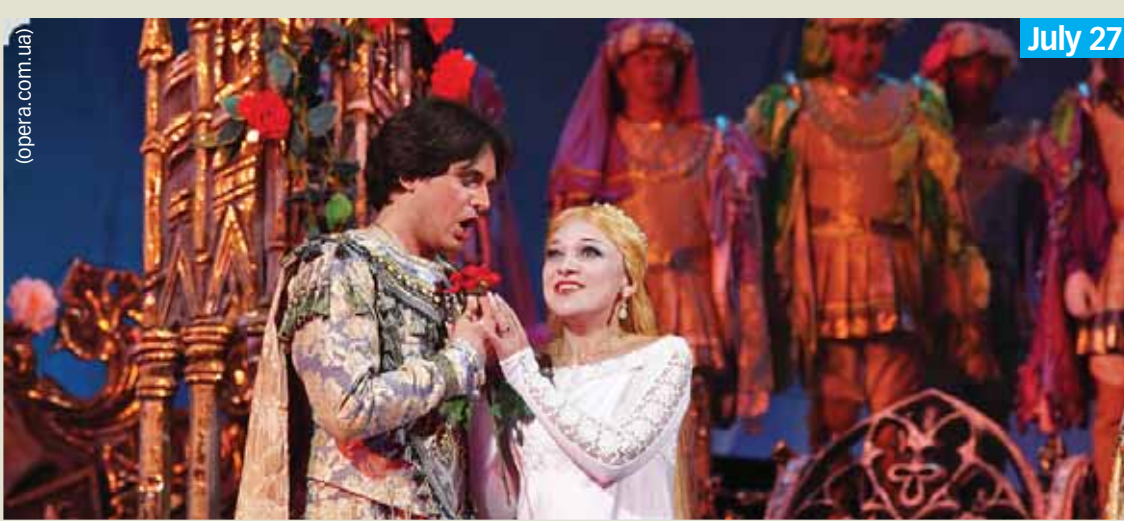
Her volunteering is planned days in advance - cooking, visiting and arranging concerts. Yusupova says she has almost no free time now, but is happy to put herself to use and is surprised that everyone is not doing this for their nation.

"After those TV shows, people think that I do nothing but party," she says. "There is a time for parties and buying expensive gifts for one's beloved self. And there is a time for helping people. And that time is now."

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



Nataliya Yusupova poses for a glamour photo shot with a male model. Before she turned to volunteering and raising money to support injured Ukrainian troops, Yusupova often wore red evening dresses. (Courtesy)



July 27

Theatrical season ends

A two-day gala concert at the National Opera House will mark the end of the 146th theatrical season in Ukraine. Excerpts from some of the most popular operas will be clumped into one performance. It will feature some of the theater's best opera singers intoning to symphonic orchestra music.

Opera Gala Concert. July 27. 7 p.m. National Opera House (50 Volodymyrska St.). Hr 10-200

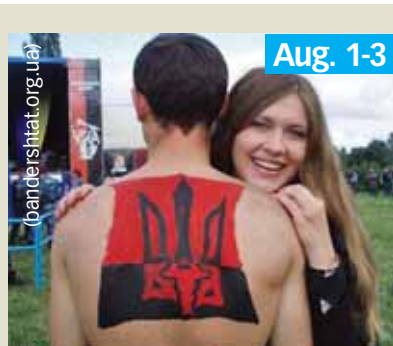


July 25

Mandry

Founded in 1997, Mandry has represented Ukraine at numerous festivals all over Europe and is considered to be the voice of Ukraine at these places. Their songs are a combination of many music styles, particularly reggae, rock, blues and sometimes romance. The band's frontman describes the group's music as electro-ethnic-folk, a mixture of pure art and pop-culture, inspiration and rationalism. The audience will hear songs from the band's upcoming album.

Mandry. July 25. 8 p.m. Caribbean Club (4 Symona Petliury St.). Hr 150-300



Aug. 1-3

Bandershtat 2014: Reloaded

Annual festival themed after Ukraine's resistance movement of early 20th century "Bandershtat 2014: Reloaded" will be gathering patriots from all around Ukraine and abroad for eighth time in a park in the western city of Lutsk, Volyn region on Aug. 1-3. The festival features literature and musical stages, public meetings with journalists, political activists, artists and businessmen, as well as a folk art fair and a battle performance. Musicwise, this year's performers are Motorola, Komu Vnyz and Skryabin. To get to Lutsk, take the daily train or bus from Kyiv, which leaves every hour from the central train station.

Bandershtat Festival. Aug. 1-3. Lutsk, Volyn Oblast. Hr 100-1,400



July 25

Good Weather Camp

Good Weather Camp is a regular event meant for people who love combining art with outdoor activities. On July 25 campers will be treated to a lecture about the images of nature in music, delivered by composer and pianist Vitaly Vyshynsky. Guests are asked to bring yoga mats with them.

Good Weather Camp. July 25. 7 p.m. 21 Pushkinska St. Free



July 27

Poltava Vorskla vs. Dynamo Kyiv

Dynamo Kyiv will host Poltava Vorskla in its Premier League season opener. Finishing fourth last season – its worst result since the fall of the Soviet Union – Dynamo is now guided by Serhiy Rebrov who took over in April when Oleh Blokhin was fired.

Olympic Stadium. July 27, 7 p.m. Hr 10-100 (general admission); Hr 130-180 (business segment) at the Olympic Stadium box office 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. near Olympyskyi metro station. For more information call 279-5272



Aug. 2

Night of French cinema

The playbill features four movies to be screen in French, with Ukrainian subtitles: "Tenderness" (comedy), "Joking Aside" (action), "Another Woman's Life" (comedy), "Maniac" (thriller). This is the third time that Kinopanorama will host the French movie screening.

Night of French Cinema. Aug. 2. 10:30 p.m., Kinopanorama (19 Shota Rustaveli St.). Hr 100

Life of Water

Chinese works of art that reflect the influence of water in oriental culture are presented at this exhibition. Art lovers are invited to explore works from the 18th-20th centuries. The exhibition provides a close look at China through the display of Chinese modern and ancient history and culture.

Life of Water (exhibition). Through Aug. 31. Wed. – Sun. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko Museum (17 Tereshchenkivska St.). Hr 25



Aug. 31

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USAID is recruiting an eligible American citizen, Resident Hire, with a valid work permit in Ukraine for a two-year contract. Due to the importance and cross-cutting nature of duties, the incumbent of E-Governance Development Advisor position resides in the Office of the Director and reports to the Deputy Mission Director. As necessary or as requested, the incumbent may be embedded within a host government ministry or office. The position is classified as GS 14. The incumbent is responsible to advise on, design and manage a large, diverse, and complex set of programs that are being implemented in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova with quite different operating environments.

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- identifying and engaging relevant international and local stakeholders in promoting and introducing (expanding) e-governance and inclusive education in the region.
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- representing the Mission in e-governance development assistance coordination discussions with international organizations.

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C. Language Proficiency: Level IV (fluent) English proficiency is required; Level II Ukrainian or Russian proficiency is desirable.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 6, 2014 at 6:00 PM Kyiv time, by e-mail attachment only to KyivVacancies@usaid.gov

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The incumbent should have good knowledge of the current healthcare system and health service delivery models in Ukraine, specifically in the area of HIV/AIDS and TB. Experience with budgets formulations, cost optimization methods and efficient mechanisms in use of financial and human resources in healthcare, will be important. Knowledge of other programs in the area of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine, including Global Fund, WB, USAID and EU funded projects is an advantage.

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