

KyivPost
25 YEARS OF UKRAINE'S
INDEPENDENCE
in partnership with
eleks®

On Aug. 19, the Kyiv Post will publish a special edition to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.

BECOME A PARTNER:

To advertise, contact us at +38-044-591-7788 or advertising@kyivpost.com

KyivPost

21st
Year

Subscribe
to Kyiv Post
online.

WWW.KYIVPOST.COM

vol. 21, issue 33

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST.

www.kyivpost.com

August 12, 2016

Olympic Glory



As of Aug. 11, Ukraine still had no gold medals in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. But the nation's top athletes won three medals and turned in other spectacular performances in the Brazilian games. Top: Ukraine's Elina Svitolina defeated America's Serena Williams during their singles tennis match on Aug. 9. Left: Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish win the silver medal in the 10-meter air rifle competition on Aug. 8. Center: Ukraine's Olga Kharlan on Aug. 8 celebrates her bronze medal in the women's individual sabre fencing event. Right: Ukraine's Oleg Verniaiev wins the silver medal in the men's individual all-around final of artistic gymnastics on Aug. 10. (UNIAN, AFP)

Putin goes on verbal attack against Ukraine, raising fears of war escalation

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Aug. 11 put Ukraine's armed forces on high alert and "full combat readiness" near Russian-occupied Crimea and the war zone in the Donbas.

The reaction came in response to Russia's escalation of its three-year war against Ukraine in recent weeks, with the Kremlin on Aug. 10 alleging that "Ukrainian saboteurs" had been arrested before they could carry out terroristic acts on Ukraine's occupied peninsula. Russia claimed that two of its soldiers were killed in the confrontation.

more **Crimea** on page **2**

Russia ratchets up fighting in embattled Donbas region

BY CHRISTOPHER MILLER

© Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

MARYINKA, Ukraine – Framed by a tiny cutout in the fortified bunker, this particular piece of no-man's land is tinted a blood-reddish orange by the setting summer sun.

It's hot as hell, and it's about to get hotter. When the sun goes down, the guns start blazing. And all that separates the men at their triggers is a grassy patch of land the size of a soccer field that is heavily mined. If you're a Ukrainian soldier here, you don't need binoculars to observe the enemy – you just look in his direction.

It starts with a single shot from

more **Maryinka** on page **8**

Inside:

National **2, 3, 8, 9** | Business **6, 7**
Opinion **4, 5, 10** | Lifestyle **11 – 16**
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 24.9 to \$1

Aug. 11 market rate



4 820131 720013 3 3

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-7788 subscribe@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

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 11,000 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

Відповідальна 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

звертайтесь: +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 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345

advertising@kyivpost.com

Ukraine denies Putin charges; Kremlin accused of kidnapping

Crimea from page 1

Ukrainian authorities dismissed the claims as fabrications while Russian President Vladimir Putin provided no evidence to back up his claims. "Our special forces prevented terrorist attacks organized by Ukrainian Defense Ministry – the situation is pretty disturbing," Putin said during a news conference in Moscow.

Putin also went on to denigrate Ukraine's leaders, calling them corrupt, illegitimate and uninterested in peace. The Kremlin leader said that it's pointless to continue the four-way talks among Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine – the Normandy format – under current circumstances.

"In such an environment it is useless, I think, to take part in the Normandy format negotiations planned to be held in China in September," he said.

Russia's Federal Security Service claimed on its official website on Aug. 10 to have prevented several terrorist attacks planned by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's Intelligence Department. It said the attacks were intended to destabilize the situation in Crimea ahead of the elections to Russia's State Duma in September.

The Ukrainian special forces, according to the FSB, were planning to attack important infrastructure objects on the peninsula.

"I want to address to our U.S. and European partners. It is obvious now that Kyiv authorities no longer want to negotiate. They have chosen terror instead," Putin said. "The recent assassination attempt on the head of Luhansk People's Republic Ihor Plotnitskiy is also considered a terror attack. And now the intrusion attempt in Crimea. As you know, two Russian officers were killed. And we won't ignore this. We will take some additional security steps."



Russian President Vladimir Putin, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak (L) and head of the Federal Road Agency Roman Starovoit, points at a map while inspecting the site where a bridge will be build across the Kerch Strait to link Russia with the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula on March 18. (AFP)

Provocations

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry dismissed the claims as more provocations by the Kremlin.

"With this move, the Kremlin is trying to excuse its annexation of Crimea and its further acts of aggression against Ukraine," read an official statement published on the Foreign Ministry's website on Aug. 10. "Ukraine vigorously condemns terrorism, and is deeply concerned by the increasing Russian military presence concentrated in Crimea, the Donbas and along the Russian-Ukrainian border. The situation is highly dangerous not only for Ukraine's security, but for the security of the whole region."

The Foreign Ministry said it was appealing to the international community not to allow Russian to launch a new round of aggression against Ukraine.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry also denied that its Intelligence Department had been involved in any incidents in Crimea, stating that the Russian FSB's claims were an attempt to scare Crimean citizens and distract their attention from the fact that the peninsula is turning into a military base.

Ukrainian 'spies'

In its report, the FSB claimed a group of Ukrainian saboteurs had been arrested near the north Crimean town of Armyansk near mainland Ukraine. During the arrest, one FSB officer was shot dead, the FSB claimed. It also claimed it had found 20 improvised bombs made by the group.

The FSB said Ukrainian forces had made another attempt to cross into Crimea on Aug. 8, during which a Russian army officer had been shot dead. It said several Russian and Ukrainian citizens had been arrested and that a "Ukrainian Defense Ministry spy network" had been neutralized.

The FSB also said it had detained Ukrainian citizen Yevgen Panov from Zaporizhzhya Oblast, a former volunteer fighter for Ukraine in the Donbas, whom it said was the organizer of the spy network.

The FSB showed footage of Panov, who was handcuffed and appeared to have cuts and bruises on his face. The FSB said Panov had "already given statements of confession."



Yevgen Panov

Counter claims

Meanwhile, Igor Kotelianets, Panov's brother, wrote on Facebook on Aug. 10 that Panov had been kidnapped by the Russian security services in Zaporizhzhya Oblast and illegally taken to Crimea.

"There's no other way he could get there," wrote Kotelianets.

In an interview with the Ukrainian news outlet censor.net, Kotelianets said his brother and his wife lived in the city of Energodar in Zaporizhzhya Oblast. On Aug. 6, Panov left home to meet with friends, after which he was planning to go to Zaporizhzhya military hospital for a rehabilitation course.

"He was dismissed from the army in September 2015, so he couldn't be the organizer of any military opera-

tions," said Kotelianets. "For a year he was working as a driver at a nuclear power plant and helping the army as a volunteer. He was helping war veterans adapt to civilian life."

According to Kotelianets, Panov called his wife on Aug. 7 to say everything was fine and that he would be home on Aug. 8, but after that he disappeared. On Aug. 10 his relatives saw on the news that Panov was under arrest in Crimea.

The Ukrainian police say they have already started an investigation into Panov's kidnapping.

The FSB said that after the alleged incidents, Russia "had been forced to move special army forces to the border of Crimea and Ukraine in order to strengthen the border guards."

However, there were widespread reports in social media prior to at least one of the alleged border incidents that large amounts of Russian military hardware was being moved around Crimea.

Closed borders

The present tension had been building for days. A couple of days before Putin's sensational claims the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service reported closing all three Russian checkpoints on the border with Crimea.

Oleh Slobodyan, the spokesperson of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, on Aug. 9 wrote on Facebook that Russian border guards at the checkpoints near the border towns of Chaplynka and Chongar were only letting Russians and Crimean citizens with Russian passports cross into Crimea. No one was being allowed to leave the peninsula, Slobodyan said.

Slobodyan also said Ukraine's Border Guards had observed a lot of activity by Russian military forces near the border.



Worldwide movers,
you deserve the best



International Moving & Storage

AGS, for moving with peace of mind

AGS UKRAINE
Tel. : +380 44 502 39 23
manager-kyiv@agsmovers.com
www.agsmovers.com

**Safe, secure international
and local removals,
storage and archiving**



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: kyiv@interdean.com



www.interdean.com

Trepak: Top officials obstruct nation's anti-corruption drive

BY OLEG SUKHOV
SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

In a normal country with strong rule of law, Viktor Trepak would be a hero.

Instead, Trepak's work cost him his job after powerful corrupt vested interests fought back with a vengeance, prompting him to resign. He is now a professor at the Security Service of Ukraine's (SBU) academy who is facing a criminal investigation on suspicion of divulging state secrets.

Last year, as acting head of the SBU's anti-corruption department, he took part in the arrest of two top prosecutors in a highly publicized bribery case. Earlier this year, after he left the post, he exposed a \$2 billion bribery network run by ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's allies.

As usual, President Petro Poroshenko's spokesman Sviatoslav Tsegolko did not respond to a request for comment, while Olena Hitlianska, an SBU spokeswoman, said that Trepak resigned on his own accord and was not forced out.

Trepak, 46, of Lviv, is just one of a growing number of victims of how the nation's anti-corruption drive is being obstructed by Ukraine's top leaders.

"The decisionmakers understand clearly that, if existing anti-corruption tools are used to the fullest, the top leadership will fall apart," Trepak said in an interview with the Kyiv Post.

Such anti-corruption measures as electronic property declarations and new investigative bureaus are "being carried out by the authorities only under heavy pressure from civil society and the international community," Trepak said. "It's very simple – the authorities' political will is being blocked by their fear of being held to account."

Diamond prosecutors

Trepak started working as first deputy chief of the security service and head of its anti-corruption depart-

ment in July 2015. Prior to that, he had been sent by the SBU to the front to defend Ukraine against Russia's invasion.

"When I became head of the anti-corruption department, I gave a clear signal: the Security Service of Ukraine will end all shadowy, corrupt and other dubious schemes," he said. "But then I first heard that very influential people were unhappy with me. Subsequently, this played a role in my fate."

In July 2015, Trepak and deputy prosecutors general Vitaly Kasko and Davit Sakvarelidze arrested top prosecutors Oleksandr Korniyets and Volodymyr Shapakin on suspicion of bribery. They are known as the "diamond prosecutors" because of gems found in Korniyets' house.

The case is currently being heard in court.

"The case of the diamond prosecutors is a landmark one, because it revealed a hydra of corruption at the highest level of the law enforcement system, with links to the political leadership," Trepak said. "Hence such violent resistance."

He said Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, a Poroshenko loyalist, had pressured him to stop helping the investigation.

"I would describe his role as that of main defense lawyer... At one of our meetings Shokin, who was unhappy with my position on the case, told me openly: 'I will put you in jail!'" Trepak said. "His resistance to the investigation of this case was violent. The leadership of the Prosecutor General's Office was tearing into investigators and prosecutors over this case."

Forms of pressure

Almost everyone responsible for the case against Korniyets and Shapakin has faced pressure.

Kasko was forced out in February, while Sakvarelidze was fired in March. Their subordinates were either fired or suspended by Shokin and former acting Prosecutor General Yuriy Sevrak.



Oleksandr Korniyets, an ex-deputy chief prosecutor of Kyiv Oblast charged with bribery, at a hearing held by Kyiv's Holosiivsky district court on March 7. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Incumbent Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko has reinstated some of them, but they will be suspended again as part of a reorganization of the General Inspection Service, Inna Gryshchenko, a spokeswoman for Sakvarelidze, told the Kyiv Post. The service's work was paralyzed after Sakvarelidze's dismissal because its head, Maxim Melnychenko, a Shokin loyalist, "is not interested in cleansing the system," she said.

Trepak said that his successor on the job, Pavlo Demchyna, was planning to fire the security service employees who helped to prosecute Korniyets and Shapakin.

The Prosecutor General's Office has also opened criminal cases against Trepak and his subordinates, accusing them of divulging state secrets. It has also opened cases against Sakvarelidze and Kasko, as well as their subordinates.

Trepak said that there was a risk of the "diamond prosecutors" case collapsing in court due to pressure by the authorities.

"We have to understand that certain people are successfully taking the court system under their control, partially under the guise of judicial reform," he said. "The case of the diamond prosecutors is in their sphere of interests."

Poroshenko has been accused of trying to increase his control of the judiciary through the ongoing judicial reform, while his political allies, lawmakers Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky, have been accused of continually interfering into the law enforcement system. They deny the accusations.

Trepak wrote on Facebook on Aug. 10 that Poroshenko had an "excessive desire to accumulate unconstitutional powers and increase them by changing the Constitution."

Quitting the SBU

In the end, Trepak's stance on the diamond prosecutors led to his

resignation.

He said Poroshenko had proposed that he step down as head of the anti-corruption department and take a government job of equal importance but with different functions – not necessarily at the Security Service of Ukraine.

"There were no grounds for such a reshuffle," he said. "First, no work-related complaints were made against me, and second, behind me was a team that hoped a genuine fight against corruption would begin at last after the Revolution of Dignity... I rejected all those proposals. As an officer, I understand the notions of honor and duty."

Trepak submitted his resignation in November, saying he could no longer work because all anti-corruption efforts were being blocked by Shokin.

Poroshenko approved his resignation in April and Trepak retired from the security service in July.

Grey cardinals

Trepak was replaced in his job by his former deputy Pavlo Demchyna, an ally of Kononenko and Hranovsky.

Trepak said that Kononenko and Hranovsky played a role in prompting his resignation.

"They were talking to my first deputy, Demchyna," he said. "I constantly felt they desired to expand his powers. I even had to talk to them about his attempts to interfere in areas for which he was not responsible, including anti-smuggling efforts. I told them that I wouldn't allow this."

He added that the Yanukovich-era institution of "smotryashchie" – a Russian term for politicians' placeholders responsible for specific corruption schemes – was currently being actively revived.

Analysts speculate that Demchyna has become the power behind the throne at the security service, and is running it instead of its formal chief, Vasyl Hrytsak.

"This process may lead to key decisions at the security service being made not by its head but by another person or people," Trepak said. "Then the intelligence agency will turn from a security service into a factor of insecurity."

Critics expect Demchyna's anti-corruption department to become something similar to the anti-corruption department at the Prosecutor General's Office headed by Volodymyr Hutsulyak and Dmytro Sus, former subordinates of Shapakin.

The department is accused of fabricating political cases on behalf of Kononenko and Hranovsky, including those against Sakvarelidze and Kasko, and thus protecting the diamond prosecutors.

Demchyna has also protected Korniyets and Shapakin by helping to prosecute investigators who went after them, according to Kasko.

Joint projects

After his resignation, Trepak continued his anti-corruption fight in May by submitting to the National Anti-Corruption Bureau documents that he said prove Yanukovich's Party of Regions paid bribes worth about \$2 billion.

Under Yanukovich, Trepak had problems similar to his current ones: he had a conflict with Oleksandr Yakymenko, then head of the security service. Yakymenko fired him from the position of the internal security unit's head and even tried to oust him completely from the security service, though this attempt failed.

"I've already talked about the existence of close ties between representatives of the Yanukovich regime and the current government," Trepak told the Kyiv Post. "These ties stem from the fact that the former and current authorities have a similar view of power being a means of enrichment, and have joint business and political projects." ■



Viktor Trepak, ex-first deputy head of the Security Service of Ukraine and chief of its anti-corruption unit, says he was forced out after taking on top-level corruption. (UNIAN)

Editorials

Toughen up, West

It is increasingly hard to understand why the civilized world puts up with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a threat to global security, rule of law and peace. Nobody is calling for a war against him, but the civilized world can and should do more to isolate and sanction the menacing midget.

Nerves are frayed in Ukraine following the Kremlin's ratcheting up of tension over the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula, culminating in an unsupported accusation by Putin that Ukraine had "resorted to the practice of terror."

There are worrisome signs that Russia might be planning a further invasion of Ukrainian territory: Fighting and casualties are on the rise in the eastern Donbas, in a war that's already claimed 10,000 lives and displaced more than 1.5 million people. Trainloads of military equipment were spotted moving towards Crimea from Russia's Rostov Oblast, and more were reported in the border zone; border checkpoints on the de facto border between Ukraine and occupied Crimea were closed by both sides; and reports started circulating on the Russian-language internet of some sort of deadly incident in the area. These were quickly picked up and amplified by Russia's FSB security service.

But no evidence for such an incident has been forthcoming, apart from the arrest by Russia of what appeared to be a hapless Ukrainian truck driver in the wrong place at the wrong time.

This flaring in tension over Crimea is of great concern, with Ukraine putting its armed forces on high alert. But invading Ukraine over the narrow Perekop Isthmus would be a risky operation, even for superior Russian forces.

More likely, this is another case of Putin playing mind games, testing reactions from Ukraine and the world. This is the perfect time for such a test, with Western leaders distracted by internal problems or elections, the Olympics and vacations.

The dismal response from the West to Putin's flagrant violations of international law -- not just in Ukraine -- must come to an end.

However, judging from the West feeble responses to the war in Syria and the failed coup against Turkey -- Western leaders are not prepared to do anything meaningful to contain Putin. His threat to pull out of the Normandy-format talks on Ukraine also raises the alarming possibility that Putin has given up on diplomacy or seeks an end-run around Ukraine with direct talks only with the West.

Ukraine remains on the defensive since the catastrophic battlefield losses that triggered the failed Minsk I and Minsk II peace agreements on unfavorable terms. Despite the valiant efforts of soldiers and civilians, there is no reason to believe Ukraine could fare well against a full-scale Russian assault.

Putin's threats, his delegitimizing of Ukraine's government by again claiming it came to power in a "coup" and his other endless threats demand a long overdue and much tougher response from the West.

Clearly the modest sanctions and frequent condemnation of Putin has not changed his behavior in the last three years. In fact, when confronted with such timidity, he becomes emboldened by the West's weakness and threatens to intensify his drive to destroy Ukrainian statehood and Western institutions.

Sheremet's murder

The July 20 assassination of Russian citizen Pavel Sheremet, a native of Belarus who had been working in Ukraine for the last five years, seems to be slipping off the public radar. It's a bad sign. Ukraine's authorities are still investigating, but seem to be over their head with this case as they are with so many other complicated ones. A team of Ukrainian journalists is conducting its own investigation and the Kyiv Post wishes them well in helping to identify who is responsible for the car bombing.

But with each passing day that no suspects are identified or arrested, a little more hope is lost. While only three weeks have gone by, Ukraine's authorities have no track record of solving high-profile murders.

The circumstances of Sheremet's murder, combined with Russian President Vladimir Putin's Aug. 10 vitriolic attacks on Ukraine and escalation of war (see story on page 1), increase our suspicion that the Kremlin used Sheremet as a pawn to help whip up even more anti-Ukrainian fervor among Russians. The Aug. 6 attempted assassination of Kremlin-backed separatist leader Igor Plotnitsky could have served the same purpose.

We hope solid evidence and hard facts will soon end all speculation.



NEWS ITEM: Copies of the latest Harry Potter book by J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" have been seized by Russian customs so that they can be checked for signs of extremism, Nataliya Chuprova, the manager of Moscow, a Russian bookstore, has told the Russian newspaper Izvestia. The checks by the anti-terrorism unit at customs will delay the delivery of the books for a month.

NEWS ITEM: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made several slips of a tongue in his speech on Aug. 8, referring to the part of Luhansk under the control of Russian-backed armed groups as the "Laos Republic. Lavrov also mispronounced the name of the Luhansk separatist leader, Igor Plotnitsky. Next, Lavrov referred to the Luhansk separatists' territory as "the Luhansk People's Democratic Republic," rather than just the "Luhansk People's Republic."

NEWS ITEM: Released pilot Nadiya Savchenko said she wants to participate in negotiations with separatists on the exchange of prisoners. While speaking at a rally in Kyiv on Aug. 8, Savchenko said that her sister Vira suggests involving women in the negotiations -- TV host and wife of Viktor Medvechuk Oksana Marchenko, and President Petro Poroshenko's wife Maryna.

NEWS ITEM: Relations between Russia and Turkey have been strained since both countries got involved in the war in Syria. They reached a low point after the Turkish military shot down a Russian warplane on the border with Syria in November. But the recent meeting in St. Petersburg between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Erdogan shows relations might be warming again, despite the two leaders' harsh past rhetoric. "Turkish-Russian relations have started moving in a positive direction," Erdogan said on Aug. 9, Russian news agency RBK reports.

KyivPost

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

Mohammad Zahoor, Publisher

Luc Chénier, Chief Executive Officer

Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Editors: Euan MacDonald, Allison Quinn, Olga Rudenko

Staff Writers: Olena Goncharova, Oksana Grytsenko, Isobel Koshiw, Josh Kovensky, Denys Krasnikov, Vlad Lavrov, Veronika Melkozerova, Yuliana Romanyshyn, Olena Savchuk, Daryna Shevchenko, Oleg Sukhov, Oksana Torhan, Nataliya Trach,

Anna Yakutenko, Alyona Zhuk

Photo Editor: Pavlo Podufalov

Photographers: Kostyantyn Chernichkin, Volodymyr Petrov, Anastasia Vlasova

Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Directors of Digital Strategy & Monetization: Roman Kolgushev, Olga Dorovskyykh

Social Media Manager: Iryna Savchuk

Commercial Director: Alyona Nevmerzhytska

Sales Managers: Yulia Kovalenko, Yulia Krus,

Oksana Pereferii, Vita Shvets, Elena Symonenko,

Subscription Manager: Svitlana Kolesnikova

Transport Manager: Mykola Andrusha

Project managers: Victoria Barbaniuk,

Evelina Ibrayimova

Chief Accountant: Galyna Rogachova

Accountant: Yana Chernik

IT Manager: Oleksiy Bondarchuk

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

Mykhailo Zhernakov

Mykhailo Zhernakov, a judicial expert at the Reanimation Package of Reforms think tank, has promoted efforts to reform Ukraine's corrupt court system and exposed flaws in judicial legislation.

In an Aug. 6 op-ed in the Dzerkalo Tyzhnya newspaper, he wrote that the new Supreme Court expected to be formed under the recent judicial reform laws could be completely dominated by President Petro Poroshenko.

"I'd like to understand at last: Are we creating a new Supreme Court of Ukraine or – again – the Supreme Court of the president of Ukraine?" he wrote.

He warned that the judicial reform laws did not specify any concrete competitive procedures for selecting new judges of the Supreme Court.

The High Qualification Commission, which will be responsible for the competition, has not shown a desire to clean up the judiciary and is subject to presidential influence, Zhernakov said.

Moreover, court chairmen appointed by ex-President Viktor Yanukovich are expected to hold sway over the judiciary for years to come because "it's easier for the president to find a common language with the previous regime's judges" than with new, honest ones, he argued.

– Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Mykola Chaus

Mykola Chaus, a judge of Kyiv's Dnipro district court, was caught by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau with a \$150,000 bribe on Aug. 9.

However, Chaus cannot be arrested until parliament strips him of his immunity from prosecution.

Chaus has been repeatedly accused of having ties to lawmaker Oleksandr Hranovsky, one of President Petro Poroshenko's grey cardinals. Meanwhile, Dmytro Sus, a prosecutor reportedly linked to Hranovsky and Poroshenko's key ally Ihor Kononenko, raided the bureau last week, accusing it of illegal wiretapping.

A commission for firing judges has concluded that Chaus issued unlawful rulings against EuroMaidan protesters, but the High Council of Justice has refused to fire him, which critics see as a payoff for his political loyalty.

Last December Chaus issued an arrest warrant for Gennady Korban, a political opponent of Poroshenko, in a kidnapping and embezzlement case. Lawyers say there were numerous procedural violations in Korban's arrest.

In April Chaus removed from the wanted list Yuri Ivanyushchenko, an ally of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich charged with embezzlement, prompting accusations of corruption.

– Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH MARIIA ULIANOVSKA

What is the Ukrainian dream?



Nikolay Khomenko
pensioner

"The greatest Ukrainian dream would be to finally live a normal life. Or at least

achieve the same standard of living that people have in the rest of Europe. We need to get rid of the oligarchs and give power to the ordinary people. For 25 years now we've kept stepping on the same rake, first with one revolution, and then with another."



Polina Bilenko
artist

"I think it's important for the government to do its best to stop people from emigrating,

and to enrich the country's culture and economy. We dream of Ukrainian cities being as clean as other European ones. People should start taking responsibility for their own wellbeing, and inspire each other to action."



Lilia Hrytsenko
mother of two children

"My Ukrainian dream is to live happily in a normal, civilized society, without war, in

Europe or in the United States. I don't want to end up like my pauper parents, who are unable to provide themselves with decent retirement, while the government fails to support them."



Alexandra Dyachenko
pensioner, university teacher

"We dream of peace, for the war to end and for Ukrainians to become patriots of their country. Generally, my dream is for Ukraine to be a unified country."



Anna Savelieva
musician

"My dream is for Ukrainians to finally become independent – in all senses. For the people to be as free as we were known to be, throughout our history."



Nikolay Alekseev
priest

"The Ukrainian dream? Well, that's to live the American dream!"

Will Putin escalate his war against Ukraine?



ANDERS ASLUND

Editor's Note: The following op-ed was originally published by the Atlantic Council and is reprinted with the author's permission.

Observers have greatly feared that Russia's President Vladimir Putin would start a small regional war this August. Russia has moved up its State Duma elections to Sept. 18. Although only Putin's parties are allowed to win, he has a predilection for "small and victorious wars" to mobilize his people.

In 1999, the second war in Chechnya preceded his rise to president.

In August 2008, Russia attacked Georgia.

In February 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, a move that was greatly popular in Russia.

Its war in Syria has been an unmitigated success.

For the last two years, Russia's economy has been in recession, giving Putin all the more reason to mobilize his compatriots around a small war.

August is the best time for Moscow's military action because Western decision-makers are on holidays. The Berlin Wall was initiated in August 1961, the invasion of Czechoslovakia occurred in August 1968, and the Moscow coup took place in August 1991.

The parallels with the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war are striking. That conflict started with the Olympic games in Beijing. The United States president was a lame duck amid the presidential election campaign. Russia was pursuing a large-scale military exercise called Caucasus 2008 in the Northern Caucasus. The Kremlin blamed Georgia for an implausible attack.

A war in August has seemed quite likely for domestic reasons, but where? In the last week, it has become clear that Ukraine will be the target. Major Russian troop movements with hundreds of tanks and heavy artillery to the Donbas and Crimea were reported during the weekend. They were part of a big Russian military exercise named Caucasus 2016.

On Aug. 6, the Russian puppet leader of the Luhansk People's Republic, Igor Plotnitsky, was severely wounded by a car bomb in Russian-occupied Luhansk. Ukrainian intelligence blamed



A Ukrainian soldier guards the army position in Donetsk Oblast on July 15. (UNIAN)



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) shakes hands with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Konstantinovsky Palace outside Saint Petersburg on Aug. 9. (AFP)

internal power struggles in Luhansk, while Russia blamed Ukrainian intelligence.

During Aug. 6-7, Russian troops amassed in northern Crimea. Roadblocks were set up and the three checkpoints connecting the region to the rest of Ukraine were closed. Vague Russian reports

complained about some Ukrainian incursion. President Petro Poroshenko called the Ukrainian troops on high alert.

Then Putin focused on diplomacy. On Aug. 8, he held a meeting with his Security Council in Moscow with only half of the 12 permanent members present, suggesting urgency. Immediately afterwards, Putin went to Baku, where he met with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and Iran's President Hassan Rouhani. On Aug. 9, he hosted Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan in St. Petersburg.

On Aug. 10, the Federal Security Service (FSB) and Putin made dramatic statements. The FSB, the KGB's successor, published a statement on its website claiming that it had averted terrorist attacks prepared by Ukraine's special forces against critical infrastructure in Crimea. The alleged aim of the action was to "destabilize the social and political situation during the federal and regional elections."

According to the statement, on Aug. 6-7, a group of terrorists were detected and one FSB employee died in a firefight. Several Ukrainian and Russian citizens were detained with twenty homemade bombs. During the night of August

more Aslund on page 10

Obscure Dutch firm bests 2 rivals for giant gas field

BY DUNCAN HILL
and JOSH KOVENSKY

A recently founded Dutch company is on the road to winning a tender to explore Ukraine's largest shale gas field, after the firm's proposal was chosen as the best among a group of bidders.

But the move has ignited some controversy: The company, Yuzgaz BV, has not yet disclosed its investors, feeding speculation that people affiliated with the country's history of corrupt gas deals could be somehow involved.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers will need to approve the choice before Yuzgaz becomes a partner with Nadra Ukrainy in the exploration of the nearly 8,000 square kilometer Yuzivska gas field in eastern Ukraine.

Royal Dutch Shell won a contract to develop the field with Nadra in 2012, but withdrew in September 2015, citing the war and the steep drop in global oil prices.

The man behind Yuzgaz is former European Bank of Reconstruction and Development Ukraine country director Jaroslaw Kinakh, who controls Yuzgaz through the Luxembourg-based investment fund Emerstone Capital Partners. Kinakh has declined to name which investors have put up capital for the development project, though he has insisted that the investors are neither Russian nor Ukrainian.

Shell's exit came as a blow to Ukraine's attempt to have foreign companies that are less connected to the country's web of corrupt interests develop its gas deposits. Finding a replacement was never going to be straightforward — especially since so much is at stake.

The agreement grants rights to the gas field for 50 years.



Jaroslaw Kinakh

Non-transparency

Under the terms of the agreement, after Shell walked away, Nadra Yuzivska - and parent company Nadra Ukraine - did not actually need to put the agreement out to tender at all.

"(But) the project was too big and too important to Ukraine... so we chose to go to tender... (as) we didn't want to start off on a bad foot," said Victor Nazarkevych, the CEO of Nadra Yuzivska.

But starting off on a "bad foot" is exactly what has happened.

Critics claim there was a complete lack of transparency in the tender competition.

"There was no official information available regarding the members

of the competition committee, the tender conditions, or requirements for participants in the competition," said lawmaker Nataliya Katser-Buchkovska, the chairman of the parliamentary subcommittee that energy investment and sustainable energy.

Last fall, Nadra Yuzivska notified select press, key embassies and the European Business Association about the tender. It also sent a letter to the American Chamber of Commerce, which was then headed by Graham Tiley, the then-head of Shell Ukraine.

Nazarkevych believes that it was in Nadra Yuzivska's interests to get as many bids as possible. The deadline was extended four times to accommodate the needs of more than one potential bidder.

But, according to Alastair McBain, CEO of Arawak Energy, an unsuccessful bidder in the tender, they weren't enough time.

"It took Shell several years to put their bid together..." McBain said. "We wrote to Nadra Yuzivska twice asking for a (further) extension, but much to our surprise and dismay, this was not granted. We made it clear that we would not have the time to put in a substantive bid as a consequence."

McBain was told that additional extensions were not granted because members of parliament involved in the process wished to have everything wrapped up before the summer holiday.

Lack of oversight

Once the contest was closed, the selection process became less transparent. A committee was established to evaluate the bids, but the process for selecting committee members seems to have lacked checks and balances.

Back in 2012, the Interagency Commission on Organization of Signing and Execution of Production Sharing Agreements was created to manage the state's interests in the PSA. Led by the office of the first vice prime minister, it included senior figures from key government ministries as well as six parliament deputies.

Although the individuals on the committee changed in the aftermath of EuroMaidan, it has continued to oversee the agreement.

It was this committee that had the final say on whether to put the bid out to tender and it was also this committee that decided who would be on the committee to evaluate the bids.

But here, the interagency committee selected from among its own ranks: the evaluation committee was essentially a slimmed-down version of the production sharing agreement committee.

Public benefit?

The evaluation committee received the three bids and, according to sources present at the meeting, quickly and unanimously agreed on the Yuzgas bid.

The Kyiv Post is familiar with the content of the various bids and it



A Shell oil drill stands in Kharkiv Oblast in 2012. Shell pulled out of a project to develop Ukraine's largest oil field in 2015, opening up a bidding war. (UNIAN)

is immediately apparent why the Yuzgas bid triumphed: It is significantly greater in size and scope than the other two bids.

In particular, the incentives promised to the state and to Nadra Yuzivska are significantly higher in the Yuzgas bid.

At the time this meeting took place in July, Nadra Yuzivska was 90 percent owned by the state company Nadra Ukrainy and 10 percent owned by SPK Geoservice, an opaque company with alleged ties to the family of ousted former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

SPK Geoservice sold its share in Nadra Yuzivska soon after the bid winner was announced. The Kyiv Post understands that SPK Geoservice was removed so as not to give the perception of impropriety. Sources say that it only received the \$500,000 it put in as part of its settlement, but we have been unable to verify this.

This means that the benefits offered by Yuzgas - namely an incremental \$40 million in exchange for a 90 percent share, as well as other bonus payouts and social investments - should all come to the state in one way or another.

Lack of experience

Yuzgas offered significantly more than its two rivals under each criteria of the bid. It offered a greater investment over the riskiest first five year phase, it offered the most seis-

mic studies (joint first with another bid), and it also offered higher "first gas" and "first production" bonuses.

The Yuzgas bid comes with guarantees from its parent companies, but they themselves were also only registered this year.

It is hard to find much financial information about any of these companies. But even if Yuzgas and Emerstone Energy do not have the capital for the promised investment on hand at the moment, they may be able to raise it once they are in receipt of a signed production sharing agreement to a vast gas field.

However, unlike the other two bidders, Yuzgas has no experience in hydrocarbon extraction.

Arawak, which submitted its bid under a wholly-owned affiliate company named Balkash, has considerable experience in hydrocarbon extraction. It is producing oil and gas in the United States, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and in Ukraine - where it holds a 50 percent stake in GeoAlliance. Arawak is in turn wholly owned by a large private energy and commodities company, Vitol.

The third bidder is Burisma, a scandal-tainted energy firm founded in 2002 by Ukrainian businessman Mykola Zlochevsky, the former ecology minister suspected of corruption - accusations he has long denied. Furthermore, U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden's son, Hunter, is on Burisma Holding's board of

directors.

Yuzgas's bid pointed to a memorandum of understanding with oil-and-gas-services giant Schlumberger, likely for a services contract and technical operations support.

Big responsibility

Alternative bids were quite small for such a large field. "Our bid was extremely modest," admitted Arawak Energy's McBain.

The difficulty is that the production sharing agreement and the huge gas field is better suited to a much larger organization like Shell.

"The PSA structure lends itself to large international companies investing in mega projects in countries with high degrees of risk and regulatory uncertainty," said McBain. "It is a way of carving out much of the risk by having a special arrangement for production sharing in lieu of most taxes."

But Shell is not interested in returning, Shell spokesperson Yuliya Pikhnovska told the Kyiv Post.

"Given the current situation with the oil price slump, there are no plans for new exploration projects in Ukraine in the foreseeable future," Pikhnovska said.

And it's not only Shell -- there is little international interest in Ukrainian hydrocarbons, said Robert Bensch, senior managing partner at Pelicourt LLC, an organization specializing in Ukraine energy investments.

"If you have money it's better to invest elsewhere," Bensch said.

Dividing the field

So the choice could be between waiting for conditions to improve or pressing ahead with an imperfect bid.

The current geopolitical conditions make the idea of waiting less than popular, however. Katser-Buchkovska said that the field could provide up to 20 billion cubic meters of gas, making it "crucial in today's situation."

One option would split the field into smaller parcels, making it simpler for medium-sized bidders.

But Nazarkevych dismisses that suggestion. According to him, the field requires horizontal drilling and fracking, which makes it harder to guarantee property rights.

McBain disagrees, "In principle, I don't see any reason why the land couldn't be split up - it is a huge exploration project." But he added that the PSA approach would no longer really apply, which is why breaking it up does not make sense for the various stakeholders.

Now the onus is on Yuzgas to prove that it can fulfill its promises and handle hydrocarbon extraction on this scale: that's if it gets final approval from the government, which has 90 days to approve the its selection.

But since most of the evaluation committee will be involved in granting final approval, the final decision should not be a great surprise.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mariia Ulianovska contributed to this story. ■

This week's business roundup

BY JOSH KOVENSKY,
YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
AND ISOBEL KOSHIW
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM, ROMANYSHYN@
KYIVPOST.COM, KOSHIW@KYIVPOST.COM

Bank deposits increase among Ukrainians

Dragon Capital says that July was a good month for Ukraine's embattled banks. Ukrainians increased their total deposits by almost 2 percent, raising the amount of hryvnia in personal deposits in the banking system by Hr 3.5 billion (\$140 million), suggesting that some of the loss in trust sparked by the dozens of insolvent banks may be beginning to abate. Corporate accounting also got a lift, with an influx of Hr 3 billion (\$120 million) from companies. Dragon Capital also said that bank offerings of interest rates on household deposits went down to 15.7 percent, with "the central bank pre-announcing further rate cuts conditional on the IMF program going back on track," the investment bank wrote.

Interpipe sells pipes worth Hr 565 million

Ukrainian steel pipe and wheel manufacturer Interpipe sold half a billion hryvnias' worth (\$23 million) of pipes to Ukraine's state-owned gas extraction company, Ukrgazvidobuvannya. That's



Workers install rails on a bridge across the Dnipro River in Kyiv. State railway monopoly Ukrzaliznytsia plans to sign a contract with the Iranian Ministry of Infrastructure to build 300 kilometers of railway in Iran. For that, Ukrzaliznytsia plans to send 100 construction workers. (UNIAN)

according to Prozorro, the new online procurement system for state institutions, the use of which for state procurement became obligatory as of Aug. 1.

Ukrkazvidobuvannya, a daughter company of Naftogaz Ukraine, the state-owned oil and gas company, is the biggest gas extractor in the country. It extracts around 75 percent of the country's gas.

Interpipe, owned by Victor Pinchuk, has seen a slump in demand due to low global steel and oil prices. Pipe

production at the Interpipe Niko Trub factory, for instance, witnessed a 29 percent drop in production compared with the same period in 2015, according to the company's operations reports from January to March. Likewise, Interpipe Novomoskovsky Trubnyi Zavod's production fell by 24 percent.

Price set for Kharkiv electricity utility

The Ukrainian government set the price for the auction of a majority stake in Kharkiv's regional electric utility at \$73 million this week. The privatization of a 65 percent stake of one of the country's largest power distributors comes amid a wider attempt by the government to sell off key assets, mostly in the energy area, as they are seen to be a drain on the state budget and source of corruption. Since the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution, not a single sale has gone through without attempts being made by the country's oligarchs to block them. The Kharkiv sale is part of a larger attempt at privatizing the country's regional energy utilities — an effort that, if successful, could earn revenues of up to \$250 million, according to Dragon Capital analyst Denis Sakva. "The company is more likely to be privatized by one of local business groups active in the power sector," Sakva added in a research note.

Westinghouse to build nuclear fuel plant

Westinghouse manufacturing company is increasing its supplies of nuclear fuel and plans to build a nuclear fuel plant in Ukraine. This will reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russia, Energy and Coal Industry Minister Ihor Nasalyk said on Aug. 4.

Before Ukraine started buying nuclear fuel from Westinghouse in 2015, Russia supplied around 95 percent of the fuel for the four nuclear power plants operating in Ukraine. Since February, Westinghouse supplies a third of the fuel and plans to increase that share.

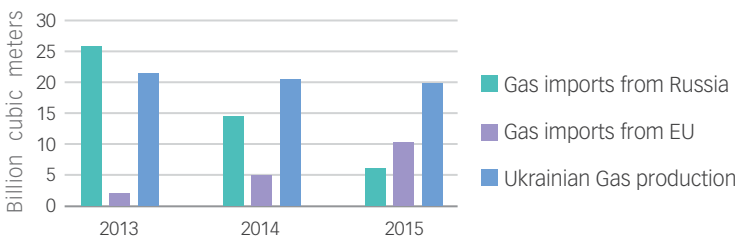
According to the minister, the construction will be financed with \$260 million loan from a U.S. bank, while the rest will be covered by tariff revenues from state energy generating company Energoatom.

Ukrzaliznytsia to build railway in Iran

State railway monopoly

NATURAL GAS IMPORTS TO UKRAINE, BY COUNTRY

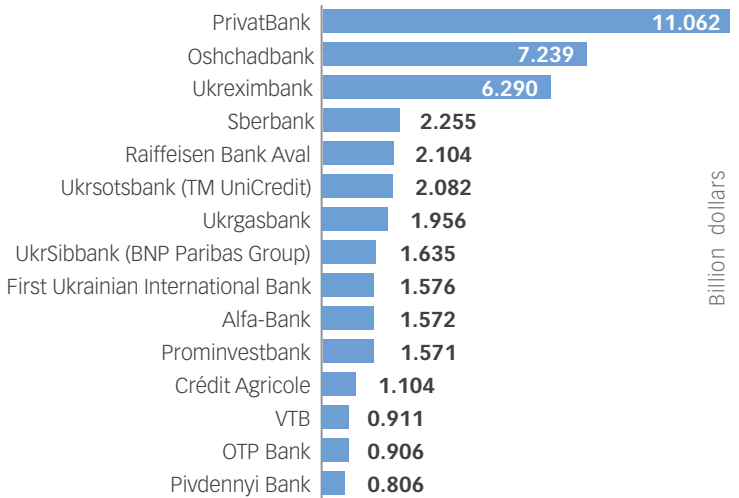
Since Russia's war against Ukraine began, gas imports from Russia decreased, while gas imports from the EU increased.



15 LARGEST COMMERCIAL BANKS, TOTAL ASSETS

As of April

July data shows that Ukrainians are beginning to regain faith in their banks, increasing deposits by almost 2 percent.



By Stella Shabliovska, Kyiv Post | Sources: Naftogaz, National Bank of Ukraine

Ukraine's banking sector is dominated by the Ihor Kolomoisky-owned PrivatBank, followed by state-owned Oshchadbank and Ukreximbank.

Ukrzaliznytsia plans to sign a contract with the Iranian Infrastructure Ministry to build a railway in Iran. Ukrzaliznytsia plans to engage 100 workers to build around 300 kilometers of track.

According to Ukrzaliznytsia CEO Wojciech Balczun, such cooperation will bring in income, as well as establish a reputation for Ukrzaliznytsia as a company that has ambitious plans to develop international transport

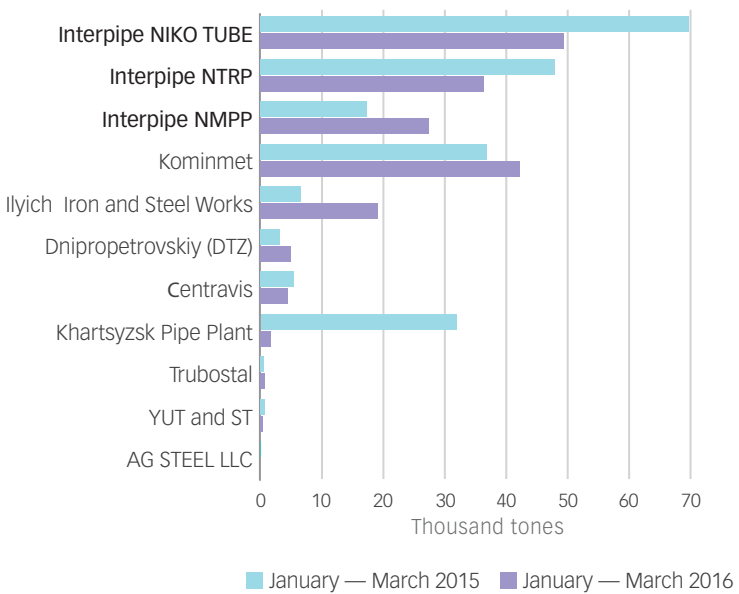
corridors.

Today, Iran is constructing around 5,000 kilometers of new railway and plans to expand this by another 4,000 kilometers. "We expect to get our share of this market," Balczun said on Aug. 9. "For (Ukrzaliznytsia), it is essential to take an active part in building a caravan route between the East and West on Iranian territory."

UKRAINIAN PIPE COMPANIES PRODUCTION RATES

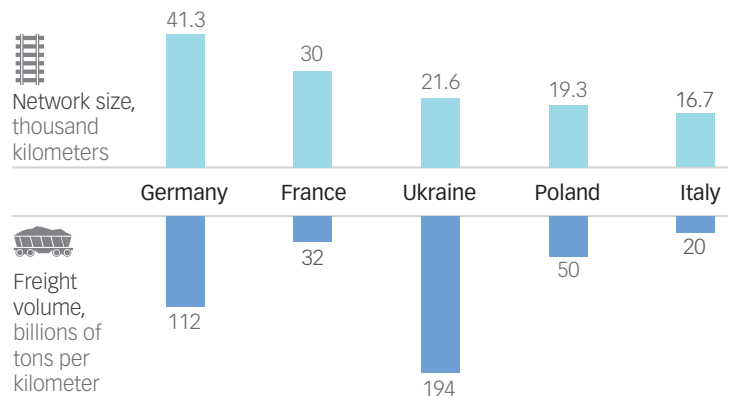
The first quarter of 2015 vs. 2016

Ukrainian pipe manufacturers saw a drop in production in the first quarter of 2016 compared to 2015, due to the fall in global steel and oil prices and consequent decrease in demand from the Russian market.



RAILWAY FREIGHT VOLUME AND NETWORK SIZE

The state railway monopoly Ukrzaliznytsia remains one of the biggest companies in Europe in terms of freight turnover. Over the first six months of 2016, UZ made Hr 1.5 billion net profit and transported 162.6 million tons of cargo (1 percent less than the first six months of 2015).



By Stella Shabliovska, Kyiv Post | Sources: Interfax Ukraine, Ukrzaliznytsia.

Meridian International School

Sample the pleasures of a better education!

As you research the best school for your children, you can learn a great deal of from other people. But, ultimately, there is only one opinion that matters — your own. That's why we'd like to invite you to come see for yourself why Meridian International School is like to no other learning environment anywhere.

www.mischool.com.ua
www.sadokmeridian.com.ua
044 434 88 80

KINDERGARTEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SECONDARY SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL

- Highly qualified foreign and local teaching staff
- Small classes and personalized attention
- Breakfast, lunch, a wide range of snacks
- Transport service from every district of Kyiv

Ukrainian soldiers prepare for return to full-scale war

Maryinka from page 1

a Kalashnikov: Ziip. Then another: Ziip. And three more: Ziip. Ziip. Ziip. Each shot whizzes dangerously closer. In the time it takes to boil an egg, the situation escalates as the rifles are joined by .50-caliber machine guns, mortars, and rocket-propelled grenades that explode with hollow thuds against the earth or cottages where the soldiers eat and sleep, showering everything with shrapnel. Within an hour, shells from howitzers and tanks – and eventually surface-to-surface Grad missiles, whose name is Russian for “hail” – begin pummeling the scarred steppe.

Reload. Fire. Repeat

The “disco,” as the soldiers and the few residents left in this forsaken town call it, is in full effect. The relative calm that dawn brings seems a lifetime away. All are at the mercy of the darkness.

This is eastern Ukraine 28 months after the start of a conflict that once seemed unthinkable, and a year and a half after the signing of a second cease-fire deal, known as Minsk II, that was supposed to bring lasting peace to this war-torn edge of Europe and reintegrate it with the rest of Ukraine.

But the armistice is unraveling fast as fighting between Ukrainian government forces and Russia-backed separatists has escalated to levels not seen since more furious phases of the conflict in the Donbas – where the separatists hold parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts – in 2014 and 2015. Casualties, both civilian and military, are mounting.

The number of civilian casualties recorded by the United Nations nearly doubled in June to 69, including 12 deaths, and rose again in July, when eight civilians were killed and 65 wounded.

“The escalation of hostilities and the accompanying civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine over the last two months are very worrying,” United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein said on Aug. 3. “Civilians are once again having to flee to improvised bomb shelters in their basements, sometimes overnight, with increasing frequency – the price of the cease-fire violations is too high for the women, men, and children in eastern Ukraine.”

The UN said that 57 percent of those casualties were the result of “mortar fire, cannons, howitzers, and tanks” – weapons banned under the Minsk deal.

When combatants and civilians are included, the toll of deaths documented by the UN Human Rights Office since the outbreak of war in April 2014 had reached 9,553 by July 31.

But the UN says the real number of casualties may be higher, and the International Crisis Group said in a July report that “there is little doubt that the death toll is significantly higher than either side admits.”

The UN has urged all sides to

A Ukrainian border guard looks at a shooting target with an overlay of a portrait of Russian President Vladimir Putin during a training exercise of the Donetsk Border Guard near Mariupol on Aug. 9. (UNIAN)



respect the cease-fire provisions, to remove combatants and weapons from civilian areas, and to scrupulously implement the Minsk agreements – successive cease-fire and settlement deals signed in September 2014 and February 2015.

But there are signs of both sides going back to a war footing: Kyiv is on high alert and has deployed special-forces units and battle-hardened battalions to the front, while Russia has reportedly amassed large amounts of military hardware in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula it seized from Ukraine in March 2014.

Two women examine their destroyed flat after fighting between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian government troops in the town of Yasinovataya in the eastern Donetsk Oblast on Aug. 1.

Two women examine their destroyed flat after fighting between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian government troops in the town of Yasinovataya in the eastern Donetsk Oblast on Aug. 1.

After the leader of separatists in the Luhansk Oblast, Igor Plotnitsky, was injured in an apparent assassination attempt on Aug. 6, separatists were ordered to be on full combat readiness.

Peace deal In jeopardy

“The Minsk agreements have met their end,” Vyacheslav Vlasenko, a commander of government forces who is known as “the Owl,” told RFE/RL. Soldiers in his Donbas Ukraine unit, a volunteer battalion that split off and was brought under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces, nodded in agreement.

They are preparing for what they

see as an imminent return to full-scale war – something that is seen as a distinct possibility on both sides of the “demarcation line” in the Donbas.

“The situation remains tense, and at any moment it could break out and escalate into full-fledged clashes,” Denis Pushilin, the leader of separatists in the Donetsk Oblast, warned last week.

Puffing on a cigarette inside his Maryinka operating base, the raspy-voiced Vlasenko leaned over a situation map marked with blue and black ink and traces his finger over the locations where fighting is the heaviest – these days, pretty much everywhere along the narrow frontier that separates his men from the Russia-backed fighters. In Maryinka, it is especially heavy near the bases of two old coal-mine slag heaps nicknamed “crocodile” and “tits” because of their shapes.

To highlight the recent escalation of violence, Vlasenko slid a casualty list for the past 49 days beneath a flickering lamp. It listed: 112 fire-fights; 45 wounded soldiers, including 19 from shrapnel and three from bullets; 18 troops with contusions; two with traumatic amputations; two with bone fractures; and one crushed to death by debris.

For the Ukrainian Army, July was the deadliest month since August 2015. At least 42 servicemen were killed and 181 wounded, according to statistics provided by Andriy Lysenko, military spokesman for President Petro Poroshenko’s administration.

Some days the casualties were particularly bad. On July 19, Ukraine reported seven soldiers had been killed and 14 injured. On July 24, the

military said six more died in clashes. On August 6, three servicemen died and four were wounded.

On the Internet, the Ukrainian military’s daily situation map is lit up by explosion markers up and down the snaking 500-kilometer contact line, indicating pitched battles.

On the ground, unarmed monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe say both sides are violating the cease-fire on a regular basis. The group’s non-partisan, no-nonsense reports have shown that a steady increase in fighting began in June, with the number of cease-fire violations rising from dozens to hundreds daily and the use of heavy weapons on the front lines becoming more frequent.

The reports also paint a picture of a growing hostility toward members of the OSCE’s Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine on the part of government troops and separatist fighters. In a July 30 report, the OSCE described members being surrounded by Donetsk separatist fighters who trained their rifles at them while one “made a ‘cut throat’ sign” and took photographs of their vehicles and the drivers. On Aug. 2, a fighter in an unmarked uniform at a known Ukrainian military position chambered a round into his submachine gun, flicked off its safety, put his finger on the trigger, and aimed it at a monitor.

The OSCE mission has faced threats before, and has even had its members kidnapped. It has also faced criticism from both warring sides for not doing more.

The monitors acknowledge substantial limits to the effectiveness of their mission: They do not operate

at night, meaning that much of the fighting is heard but not seen, and it is all but impossible to determine whether Russian soldiers and arms are crossing into Ukraine because they only have a mandate to observe at two border crossings.

At this point in the conflict, Vlasenko said, the OSCE was “useless.”

A deadly ‘game’

Before the war, Maryinka – a city of nearly 10,000 people more than 650 kilometers southeast of Kyiv – was a sleepy, rural collection of cottages. It lies just 28 kilometers west of Donetsk, the regional capital that is now a separatist stronghold. People like Alina Kosse, 58, raised their children and tended their gardens here, most living modest but unruffled lives.

“It was so peaceful and everyone was friendly,” Kosse said while cooking a pot of borscht and a cabbage-wrapped meat-and-rice mixture to feed to Ukrainian soldiers passing through on their way to their forward positions.

For the past two years, Maryinka has been caught in the war’s cross-fire. The first heavy battles were fought here in July 2014, and the separatists controlled the town before the Ukrainian Army managed to regain its footing.

Much of the heart of the town was destroyed in the fighting.

The front line cuts right up against Maryinka’s northern edge. On the other side is separatist-held Donetsk’s Petrovskiy district.

Neighbors whose homes are a

more Maryinka on page 9

Ukrainian soldiers want to retake occupied Donbas

Maryinka from page 8

few minutes' walk apart haven't seen each other in more than two years: It can take as long as a transcontinental flight to cross a heavily guarded makeshift frontier bristling with fighters, checkpoints, tank traps, and land mines.

And the war remains so fluid here that sometimes it's hard to know which road belongs to whom. Possession of them can change daily, and one wrong turn can land you in enemy territory.

There is one road in Maryinka that nobody dares to tread. Dubbed the "road of death" and "snipers' alley," it dips and winds into a shallow valley overlooked by separatist positions perched atop slag heaps and on the upper stories of a line of buildings, making it easy to gun down anyone or anything that tries to pass.

Natasha, a friend of Kosse's who came over for a chat and a bite to eat, said the separatist snipers do not discriminate. "They assume whoever uses that road is a combatant, so they shoot to kill everything," she said. "It's like a game for them, to shoot at us like we're rats."

Fight and sacrifice

Among some in Ukraine's government and many on the front line, the spike in fighting has fed a growing desire — driven by anxiety about what Russia's military might do next, frustration over the failure of the Minsk deal to end the conflict, and anger at the mounting battlefield deaths — to wrest back control of separatist-held territory by force rather than diplomacy.

"My soul hurts for each of the lives of our soldiers sacrificed for

Ukraine," Viktor Muzhenko, the commander of Ukraine's armed forces, said after seven soldiers were killed on July 19. "There will be an adequate response."

Oleksandr Turchynov, chief of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said the same day that if the situation continued to deteriorate he would consider imposing martial law.

President Poroshenko has since poured cold water on the idea, warning that international financial backers would freeze much-needed assistance for Ukraine — which is struggling with economic troubles in addition to the war in the east and the aftermath of Russia's armed takeover of Crimea. But not since the conflict began in spring 2014 has the issue of martial law and greater security measures been so seriously discussed.

"This war is a bulls**t," one soldier, who asked that his name not be used because he did not want his commander to view him as insubordinate, said in English.

Switching to Russian, he said: "The Ukrainian Army is stronger than it was [at the start of the war], and we are ready to die if it is necessary. I say, let's make this sacrifice for our country, for its future."

Kyiv appears to be listening, at least with one ear.

In June, it put its strongest volunteer fighting battalions on a war footing, sending them back to the front lines to repulse separatist attacks.

Among them — and deployed for the first time since its inception a year ago — was Ukraine's 10th Brigade, which is comprised of a few thousand highly skilled soldiers from three units: Donbas Ukraine, the Aidar Battalion, and the 8th

Battalion. All are positioned around Donetsk.

While they haven't made a big collective move, dozens of Ukrainian soldiers I spoke with said their commanders had been more aggressive than in recent months.

The Russia factor

Inside the Donbas Ukraine post, a fly buzzed by the flickering light before getting stuck in dangling fly paper, a soldier with a boyish face and a Cossack-style Mohawk haircut scanned live cameras trained on separatist positions. Lighting up another cigarette, Vlasenko explained that he had been a more permissive commander as of late.

"If it's just small arms, like rifles, we don't shoot back [at the separatists]," he said. "But if it's rockets or something heavier, we respond with our own artillery. Or when I see that they are shooting at the homes of noncombatants, then I give the order to shoot at them. When they have killed or wounded one of our guys, I give the command to open fire with everything we've got."

Vlasenko added that his soldiers were allowed, in some cases, to take the first shot. "When we see them bring new equipment to the front, like they brought a tank yesterday, we open fire" to prevent them from using it, he said.

"We are not ruled by a desire to kill everyone standing on the other side of the line. Our aim is to stabilize the situation in Maryinka," he continued. But like the troops he commands, he is growing exasperated by the daily skirmishes that don't bring the end of the war any closer.

"Show [the journalists] our recent work," Vlasenko said to the soldier with the Mohawk, who switched



A banner in the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk reads "No armed mission of OSCE!" It hangs next to a statue of Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin during a rally against the presence of the Organization for Security and Cooperation monitors. (AFP)

from the live feed to a video shot on July 16 that shows Ukrainian artillery pounding what is said to be separatist positions.

When he closes his eyes, Vlasenko said, he daydreams about being given the order for all 69,000 Ukrainian troops Kyiv says are currently in the eastern war zone to push east to Donetsk and Luhansk — and beyond. "I would like to see a parade of Ukrainian troops marching on Red Square," he says in deadpan tone.

Only then, he said, could Ukraine live in peace and he go back to what he was doing before the war: "lying on the sofa."

Dreams of Red Square aside, a major deterrent to any notion of a new Ukrainian offensive in the Donbas is the possibility that it would spur President Vladimir Putin's Russia — which Kyiv and NATO say has poured money, soldiers, and weapons into Ukraine during the conflict and has a large force stationed just across — to intervene with devastating effect.

Even without provocation from Kyiv, there are concerns in Ukraine that Russia could be gearing up for a new offensive. Crimean Tatar activists reported on August 7 that armed checkpoints were being hastily erected on the annexed peninsula and large concentrations of Russian hardware massed in northern Crimea, near mainland Ukraine. On the same day, Ukraine's border-guard service said that Russian authorities had blocked all entry to Crimea by road for several hours.

Ukraine got a deadly taste of what Russia's forces could do in the Donetsk region town of Ilovaysk in August 2014, when hundreds of Ukrainian troops were massacred after being surrounded, and again in February 2015 in Debaltsevo, on a key highway between Donetsk and Luhansk. The battles dealt devastating blows to the Ukrainian military, in terms of human lives and morale, and bolstered the confidence of the Russia-backed separatists.

Russia and the separatists, meanwhile, may have their own motives for escalating the fighting now — and their own reasons not to take it too far. In 2014, there were strong signs

that Putin hoped to take control of a huge swath of southern Ukraine from the Donbas to Crimea and the Black Sea port city of Odesa — an area that Russian leaders began to call Novorossia, or "New Russia" — but that plan unraveled after it failed to catch on beyond Donetsk and Luhansk.

For Moscow today, disincentives for a major new offensive by the Russia-backed separatists include the prospect of stepped-up Western sanctions, fears of overstretching the military, and the ire Putin would face across much of the world if he ignited a full-scale war in Europe. Many analysts say that for now, at least, the Kremlin wants to use the conflict it helped whip up in the Donbas to destabilize Ukraine, bleed its economy, and keep it from getting too close to NATO and the European Union.

'Just give the order'

While Vlasenko holds the line in Maryinka and awaits orders, some are taking it upon themselves to push, ever so slowly, forward.

About 25 kilometers south of Maryinka, in sprawling field of wild grass outside the village of Solodke, the Aidar Battalion is now dug in just 300 meters from separatist positions after making a rare forward push eastward 1 kilometer in May.

They paid a steep price for the advance, as separatists pounded them with mortars and heavy artillery, destroying several vehicles and other equipment, as well as the warehouse that stored them. Commanders say they also lost soldiers in the push and in battles since, but they will not disclose how many for fear of appearing weak to their enemy.

A muscular middle-aged fighter who goes by the nom de guerre Musician — a reference not to proficiency with an instrument but to his use of a grenade launcher beneath the barrel of his rifle — said that those sacrifices would not be in vain, and that he and his comrades were eager to retake the separatist-held section of the Donbas by force.

"Just give the order," he said. ■



A Russian Orthodox priest blesses the sculpture nicknamed the "polite people" during its unveiling on June in Simferopol. (AFP)

Aslund: Will Kremlin finally get land bridge to Crimea?

Aslund from page 5

8, special forces from Ukraine's Defense Ministry carried out two more attempts to break through with terrorist groups. After an intensive firefight, one Russian soldier died.

So far, Russia has not presented any evidence, and this part of Crimea has been closed to visitors. Ukrainian commentators suggest that the Russians problem might have been deserters.

This official statement has been followed by officially orchestrated "leaks" from law enforcement through government media. One alleged that the saboteurs aimed at blowing up the large factory Crimean Titanium; another implied that they intended to bomb a carload of Crimean leaders on the road from Simferopol to Yalta.

Instantly, all of Ukraine's defense institutions denied it in the sharpest terms, evidently attentive and ready. They stated that nothing had happened and that the FSB statement was an attempt to justify the Russian military's aggression on the temporarily occupied territory. National Security and Defense Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov called the statement "hysterical and mendacious" and added that "this provocative FSB nonsense is party of the hybrid war that Russia pursues against our country."

Scariest was Putin's uncompromising statement that "Ukraine is choosing terror" and that Kyiv was

trying to provoke a conflict with Moscow. He added that "these are very worrying reports. Indeed, our intelligence services prevented a sabotage and reconnaissance group from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry from infiltrating Crimean territory. In this situation, a Normandy format meeting would not make much sense right now." The Normandy group that oversees the Minsk process was supposed to meet at the upcoming G-20 meeting in China on Sept. 4-5.

Putin continued: "We will do everything we can, of course, to ensure security at infrastructure facilities and protect people, and we will take additional security measures, serious additional measures, technical and others."

Poroshenko responded that Putin had "fantasized terror acts" to threaten Ukraine. It was Russia, he said, that was generously financing terrorism in Ukraine.

Putin appears to have chosen the time and place. He has done the necessary diplomatic footwork. His military has marched up. He has fabricated a casus belli that resembles the Gleiwitz incident in 1939 that preceded Nazi Germany's attack on Poland. Given where the Russian troops are located, the Kremlin might want to seize the long-discussed land bridge from Mariupol to Crimea after it has failed to build a bridge over the Kerch Strait.

Anders Aslund is a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. ■

Putin blames Ukraine's leaders as corrupt, engaged in terror

Crimea from page 2

"We observed Mi-8 military helicopters six times overnight. And somebody tried to illuminate the positions of Ukrainian servicemen with a searchlight," wrote Slobodyan.

But by Aug. 11 all of the checkpoints on the border had reopened.

Political analyst Taras Berezovets, writing on Facebook on Aug. 9, compared the alleged incident in Crimea to one in 1999, when the FSB was allegedly caught planting a bomb in a residential building in Ryazan. The incident occurred just before Putin was elected president, and launched the Second Chechen War in Russia.

U. S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt wrote on Twitter on Aug. 11 that the U.S. government had seen nothing so far to corroborate Russian allegations of a "Crimea incursion," and that Ukraine has strongly denied the claims.

"Russia has a record of frequently levying false accusations at Ukraine to deflect attention from its own illegal actions," Pyatt wrote.

Putin goes on attack

Putin, who has long denigrated the idea that Ukraine is a separate nation, reverted to one of his favorite themes on Aug. 10: That Ukraine's authorities are illegitimate



Russian Navy sailors march during the celebration of a Russia's Navy Day in Sevastopol on July 31. (AFP)

because of the popular EuroMaidan Revolution that prompted Kremlin-backed President Viktor Yanukovich to flee power on Feb. 22, 2014.

Putin said Ukraine's "attempt to provoke a burst of violence, to provoke conflict—it's nothing but a wish to divert the attention of the public of the country away from those who have seized power in Kyiv, who continue to hold it, and who continue to rob their own people, so as to further lengthen

the hold on power, and to create conditions for the further plunder of its citizens. But this is a futile attempt. This is a very dangerous game.

"Of course, we will do everything to ensure the safety of infrastructure, and of our citizens," Putin said. He used similar remarks to justify Russia's military invasion of Crimea in 2014 and incursions into the Russian-controlled eastern Donbas region of Ukraine. ■

DREAM JOB?

Your Name Here
MARKETING ROCK STAR

+38 044 591 33 44
careers.kyivpost.com

FIND IT AT



Kyiv Post

EMPLOYMENT FAIR

ORGANIZER:

KyivPost

GENERAL PARTNER:

ControlPay



September 24, 10 am - 4 pm



DEC Place | 23B Lesi Ukrainky Blvd.

PARTICIPANTS:

ControlPay

EY Building a better working world

SPORT LIFE СЕТЬ ФУТБЕС КЛУБОВ

JABIL

LC Waikiki Everyone deserves to dress well



BRAIN SOURCE INTERNATIONAL

W1 Торговий дім "Віктор Плюс"

hexa

RABOTA PLUS ТЕРИТОРІЯ ВАШОГО УСПІХУ
www.rabotaplus.ua



City Life

WITH ANASTASIA YAROVA

Artek children's camp relocates to Kyiv suburb

Financially, Ukraine's losses from Russia's military takeover of the Crimean peninsula are calculated in the billions of dollars – from lost natural resources to ruptured economic bonds.

But emotional losses are also high.

One of them is the Artek children's camp, which was located for 91 years in Crimea near Gurzuf on the peninsula's south coast. As one of the most famous children's camps in the Soviet era, it was of immense cultural value to Ukraine.

But while Russia has stolen the camp's physical infrastructure, the idea and philosophy of the camp have been saved – and now resides in a former sanatorium in Pushcha-Vodytsya, a leafy suburb of the Ukrainian capital.

And this summer, for the first time since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, the relocated Artek camp opened its doors to more than 300 children from all over Ukraine.

Old philosophy stays

Viktor Knush, the camp's deputy general director, says that the old Artek camp site in Crimea has regressed to the old traditions of the former communist Artek camp.

That camp, which first opened in 1925, was one of the main bases of the Pioneers – the Soviet Communist Party's youth organization. The camp's spectacular coastal location right next to Ayu-Dag Mountain, known informally as Bear Mountain due to its shape, made it a favorite location, and during the Soviet era a vacation at the Artek camp was seen as a prestigious reward for every Soviet child.

Leonid Brezhnev, Nikita Khrushchev, Ho Chi Minh, Indira Gandhi and first man in space Yuri Gagarin – all were special guests at the old Artek camp. The camp was also visited in 1983 by Samantha Smith, a girl from the United States who wrote a letter that prompted Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to invite her to the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Despite the camp's old location being stolen by the Kremlin, Artek Director Serhiy Kapustin says he and his team are trying to maintain the spirit of the world-famous Ukrainian camp, and its mission of bringing up decent and responsible citizens

Trukhaniv: An island of nature in center of Kyiv



Holidaymakers take part in a range of water activities at the X-Park amusement park in Druzhby Narodiv Park, in the north part of Trukhaniv Island, on Aug 6. (Anastasia Vlasova)

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Dozens of cyclists ride along the smooth, pine-tree scented path running through the forest. They emerge from the woods to a noisy, sandy beach, where other holidaymakers dance to music or water ski under the brilliant summer sun.

Greece? Croatia? Ukraine's Black Sea coast, perhaps?

No, this is a typical weekend scene in the heart of Kyiv, on the city's lush, sand-trimmed Trukhaniv Island.

Trukhaniv Island is easily found

on the map of Kyiv – it is by far the largest island in this neck of the Dnipro River, boasting 430 hectares of pristine nature in the heart of Ukraine's crowded capital. Only the partially constructed Podilsky Bridge is a concrete reminder that there is a city of millions all around this spot of unspoiled nature. Even some 200 or so people illegally live on the island, squatting in former Soviet resort cabins.

Forgotten treasure

But until 2013, Trukhaniv Island was neglected by Kyiv's authorities. Then

in 2014, the city gave the go-ahead to more development. Since then the island has started to take off as a recreational spot.

The South Coast of Kyiv Beach Club, one of the most popular new sites, opened on Trukhaniv Island in 2015. Rostyslav Rusakov, the co-founder of the club, told the Kyiv Post that Trukhaniv Island had been a pretty wild place before, and only had some cheap fast food stands near the Park Bridge to cater for visitors.

"We moved to the island from Mala Opera art space together with

our faithful public – mostly young Kyivans. It was an ambitious step, but I'm glad that people liked the idea of a day-and-night club on the beach," Rusakov said.

And Rusakov said he was glad that the South Coast of Kyiv was also blazing a trail for other new businesses to Trukhaniv Island.

"Every year something new appears on the island. This year the Tree House café opened next to us," said Rusakov.

According to him, as soon as Kyiv

more **Trukhaniv** on page 13

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-7788 subscribe@kyivpost.com



Opticians in the very center of Kyiv near "Maidan Nezalezhnosti"



OPTICIANS
for adults and children

- ophthalmologist consultation
- wide variety of glasses for eyesight correction, lenses
- sunglasses and accessories at a range of price

We speak English and Arabic.

Taras Shevchenko lane 7/1, +380 50 134 93 66, +380 97 902 46 20

Want to advertise in Lifestyle?



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

KyivPost
independence community trust

more **Artek** on page 16

Two Ukrainian women are among world's strongest

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Olga Lyashchuk carefully covers her arms in weight-lifting powder, checks a special sports corset that prevents back injuries and then grabs a log-lift bar – a piece of metal weight-lifting equipment about a meter-and-a-half long, about 30 centimeters in diameter and 85 kilograms in weight.

Slipping her hands into the notches cut in the thick metal bar, which have hand grips built into them, she heaves the heavy log above her head, and then lowers it to the level of her hips. She repeats the lift another five times.

That's not a particularly heavy weight for Lyashchuk, who lifted a barbell weighing close to 240 kilograms (almost three times more

hour intensive work out in a large Soviet-style gym at the fire station in Obolon district in north-western Kyiv. They spend almost two hours running and warming-up before switching to strength exercises, including lifting barbells and logs.

Tests of strength

Lyashchuk won her first world strongwoman championship in Finland in 2014, gaining the title of one of the strongest woman on Earth. The contest involved various strength disciplines for women, and the sport features a range of up to 50 exercises that vary at each contest: from powerlifting to log lifts, lifting an iron ball weighing more than 90 kilograms, carrying heavy bags of stones or sand for long distances, and even pulling cars, buses or locomotives.



Ukrainian strong woman and Guinness record holder Olga Lyashchuk cracks a watermelon between her thighs during the presentation of the book "National Registry of Records of Ukraine 2016" in Kyiv on March 21. (Konstantin Chernichkin)

than her own weight of 85 kilograms) at the Seni Strength and Combat Expo 2016 strongman competition in London last month. That feat made her European deadlift champion for 2016.

Three times a week Lyashchuk, 31, and Lidia Gunko, 22, two Ukrainian strongwomen, team up for a four-

At the gym, Gunko, a silver-medal winner at the London competition in July, takes from her bag the special clothes and equipment the athletes wear before lifting heavy objects: wristbands to protect the hands, a corset and special belt that support the back, and a one-piece sports suit two sizes smaller than her usual



Lidia Gunko, one of Ukraine's strongest women, lifts an 85-kilograms piece of weight-lifting equipment during a training session at a gym in Kyiv on Aug 4. (Volodymyr Petrov)

size – it exerts pressure on the body and makes it easier to build up the power needed to make a lift or move objects.

"But you need two people to get you inside the sport suit," Lyashchuk says with a smile, and adds that she and Gunko usually help each other to put their suits on, as does their trainer, Mykhailo Geraskevych.

The special clothes help prevent injuries to internal organs and bones, as Lyashchuk and Gunko lift objects that are more than two times their own weight.

"Despite how it looks, I think being a strongwoman is one of the safest sports," Gunko says. "If you have warmed-up well and exercise with intelligence, the risk of getting an injury is less than in other sports."

Pain barrier

Before taking up strongwoman competitions, Donetsk-born Lyashchuk participated in several other kinds of sports: she started her career in her school track and field athletics team, then switched to pole vaulting for the next ten years and became Ukraine's junior champion. In 2008, Lyashchuk moved in Kyiv to pursue a Master's degree in sports biomechanics. After her graduation, Lyashchuk took up rugby and ended up in Ukraine's national team. Four years later, in 2014, she quit rugby and started strength training with Geraskevych.

A few months after that Geraskevych months discovered Gunko, who was at that time a top rower, and created a small strongwoman team. Geraskevych now trains two more

people along with Lyashchuk and Gunko, who came from other kinds of sports, such as swimming.

"Strongman is very different from other kinds of sports just for one reason: there's no other sport where you feel so much pain completing an exercise," Geraskevych explains.

"People who take up strong (short name for strongwomen and strongmen) have a different mindset, because they have to overcome the barrier caused by pain."

Addicted to sport

However, neither Lyashchuk nor Gunko are going to let pain put them off their sport – at least until they will win the Arnold Strongman Classic, the annual U.S. strength competition founded by former bodybuilder, actor and politician Arnold Schwarzenegger and bodybuilding promoter Jim Lorimer, Lyashchuk says.

The top prize is \$50,000, Lyashchuk says, adding that she dreams of buying her own place in Kyiv, to which her parents could move from the war-torn east. Her parents still live in Donetsk because of her father's health problems.

When not training, Lyashchuk works in a sports club and time from time stars in various entertainment shows. She also became widely known outside Ukraine when a video of her crushing several watermelons with her muscular thighs live on UK television went viral on the web.

"There are people who are addicted to food or to alcohol. I'm simply addicted to sport," Gunko says after the training session is over, her eyes now made up with silvery eyeshadow – both athletes like to wear stylish make-up and dresses when they are out of the gym.

"Even if we do strongwoman sports, we're still girls," Gunko adds with a smile. ■



New life in this world

Left: A zookeeper holds one of five lion cubs on Aug. 11 at the Twelve Months Zoo in Demydiv village, some 40 kilometers northwest of Kyiv. Top: Five male lion cubs were born in the zoo about two months ago to African lions Ivanna and Ludvig. (UNIAN)

Lots to do on Trukhaniv Island without even leaving the city

Trukhaniv from page 11

authorities discovered how much people loved the island, they started upgrading it, building good roads and fencing off the beach so that cars couldn't just drive onto it.

Two police squads on bicycles patrol the territory. Cars can get onto the island only through a special checkpoint near the left-bank side of Kyiv's Moscow Bridge. And there is a speed limit of only 20 kilometers per hour on the island.

Trukhaniv Island can also be reached by foot from the right bank over the Park Bridge (formerly called the Pedestrian Bridge), which is about a half kilometer down river from Poshtova Square in Kyiv's riverside Podil district.

Rusakov said he has visited 90 countries but never seen a place like Trukhaniv Island in any other capital.

"It is almost like a national park 15 minutes away from the city center. I hope the city council have finally realized what a treasure we have in Kyiv," said Rusakov.

Lots to do

Every weekend, dozens of cyclists sweep along the smooth new roads and woodland trails of Trukhaniv Island, while beach lovers dance, listen to the music or just sunbathe on the beach for free. Those with more money and time to spend can visit the Trukhaniv Ostriv private resort for Hr 150-200 per person for a day.

More active visitors go to the Breakwater club – which has a café where the one can enjoy a meal for

Hr 50-300 or learn how to waterski or wakeboard for Hr 450.

The X-Rhino club, located on the northern part of the island, in Dryzhby Narodiv Park just north of the Moscow Bridge offers quadbike rental for Hr 400 an hour. There are also several cycle rental shops, which have bicycles available for a reasonable Hr 70 per hour, while renting a canoe costs Hr 150 per hour.

The X-Park amusement park, part of the same complex has mini golf (Hr 40 per hour), paddle boats and canoe hire (Hr 90), trampolines (Hr 50), and lots more.

The Horse Riding Club, near Park Bridge, offers horse riding lessons for Hr 200.

Islanders

Kyiv City Council oversees several municipal enterprises that service and maintain Trukhaniv Island. Pleso Company, for instance, is supposed to clean the Dnipro River and the 20 meter-wide beach territory all around the island, the river, and the other lakes and water bodies in metropolitan Kyiv. The inland part of the territory is responsibility of Kyiv's Dniprovskiy District council.

The Amenity Department of Kyiv council told the Kyiv Post that the city planned in the near future to create a special commission to check all the inhabitants of Trukhaniv Island have permission to live and build there.

There are people who call the island home – but they live there illegally and so their exact numbers aren't known. According to locals,

Children and staff from Trukhaniv Sich Cossack camp, located on Trukhaniv Island, row the oars of an ancient Cossack boat, called a baydak, on the Dnipro River on Aug 5. (Anastasia Vlasova)



about 200 people live on the island all year round.

Rusakov described Trukhaniv Island as a world with its own rules. He said that the islanders, mostly traders who own the small cafes, along with the owners of the various private resorts, have set up a type of self-administration.

Cossack camp

Some EuroMaidan Revolution activists from 4th Cossack Sotnya have already become part of that administration. Two years ago these activists moved to Trukhaniv Island from the Maidan protest camp and organized a free camp on the island for kids from all over Ukraine.

While the activists live on the island for free, they have cleaned up 60 hectares of the territory, and in return were allocated 40 hectares of territory for their "Trukhanivska Sich" Cossack camp, where activists teach

children the traditional skills of the Ukrainian Cossacks: archery, horse riding, cooking Kulish, a Cossack porridge, and sailing a baydak – a traditional type of Cossack boat.

The commander of the Cossack camp, Mykola Bondar, a middle-aged man with Cossack-style haircut and long mustache, told the Kyiv Post that it's not just kids but also adults who take training courses at the Trukhanivska Sich camp: journalists and volunteers take a frontline first aid course there before travelling to the war in the east, he said.

The Cossack said that the camp was financed by several volunteers' organizations. However, he refused to name them, saying only that they were volunteers who help the Ukrainian army in the east.

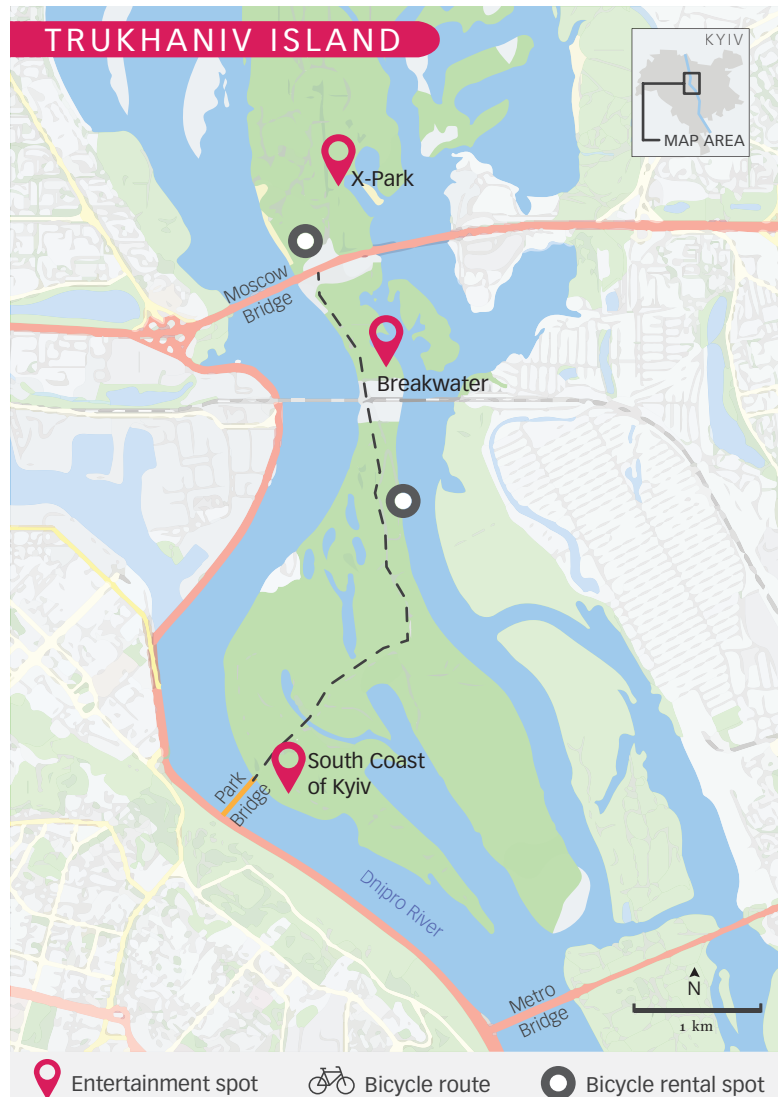
"Now we have fewer kids, mostly from Lysychansk (a city in Luhansk Oblast 763 kilometers east of Kyiv). Parents usually bring more children

here for the weekend. Once we had 300 children from all over Ukraine," said Bondar.

Home comforts are few in the camp. The children live in big tents without electricity, cook their own meals in giant kettles over open fires, clean the camp by hand, and take care of the camp's horses – Ovatsia (Applause), Arab and Atoshka – all of which were rescued from the war zone in the Donbas.

Asked about the life on the island, Bondar said that it could be much better if the authorities took a more active position in controlling its development.

"At the moment I don't see it as a massive success," he said. "The potential of the island is huge; there are places here that could become the training bases for the Olympic team. Instead, people are opening more and more clubs and cafes with loud music. That's too damaging for the ecosystem." ■



Trukhaniv Island is a 430-hectare natural playground in the heart of Kyiv on the Dnipro River.

THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL IN KYIV

FULLY AUTHORISED TO TEACH ALL THREE IB PROGRAMMES SINCE 2000

7A, VICTORIA ZABILY STR, KYIV, UKRAINE
+38044 377 5292, WWW.PSI.KIEV.UA

TODAY PSI -

TOMORROW UNIVERSITY OFFERS FROM YALE (USA), CAMBRIDGE (UK), COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY (USA), CARDIFF METROPOLITAN (UK), CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON (UK).

THE NEW ENROLMENT SEASON 2016-2017 IS OPEN, APPLY NOW

Aug. 18 – Sept. 4

Photo exhibition

The personal photo exhibition of Ukrainian artist Yevgenia Belorusets illustrates the everyday life and work of Donbas coal miners residing near the war front in separatist-controlled areas. The series of photographs were taken in 2014 -2016 during the war against Russian-backed separatists in the Ukrainian cities of Debaltseve, Lysychansk, Popasna and others.

"Victories of Losers" photo exhibition.
Aug. 18 – Sept. 4. Tues. – Sun. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Taras Shevchenko National Museum (12 Taras Shevchenko blvd.) Hr 10 – 20



(Yevgenia Belorusets)

Aug. 8 – 26

Orchestra music festival

The National Philharmonic of Ukraine invites classical music lovers to its Summer Music Rays festival. The concert program includes the most-loved pieces by Sergei Rachmaninov, Tomaso Albinoni, Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and others.

"Summer Music Rays" orchestra music festival. Aug. 8 – 26. 7 p.m. National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrsky Uzviz St.) Hr 70 – 250.



(V. Matyushenko/facebook)

Aug. 21



(AFP)

Colors beach festival

This festival is a combination of the Indian Holi festival of colors and a beach party. Guests are offered to powder each other with colors, splash others with water, enjoy swimming in a pool and dance to music.

"Summer Music Color Fest" festival. Aug. 21. 2 p.m. Hydropark (intersection of Sportyvna and Zaliznodorozhna streets). Free

Football match

The capital's Dynamo Kyiv football club will play against Lutsk's Volyn in the fifth round of the Pari-Match Championship League for the 2016–2017 seasons.

"Dynamo – Volyn" football match. Aug. 20. 7:30 p.m. NSC Olimpiysky (55 Velyka Vasylkivska). Hr 35 – 400



Aug. 20

(FC Volyn)

Aug. 17



(Courtesy)

'Suicide Squad' action movie

This film, by U.S. film director and screenwriter David Ayer, tells the story of a secret government agency that recruits imprisoned criminals to execute dangerous missions and save the world from dire threats. Panned by the critics, but loved by comic book fans, the movie stars U.S. actors Will Smith and Jared Leto, and is screened in English.

Suicide Squad. Aug. 17. 8:50 p.m. Zhovten cinema (26 Konstytynivska St.) Hr 70 – 90.

Compiled by Nataliya Trach

THE BEST WAY
to reach the largest group
of English-speaking
Ukrainians



is to advertise in the
KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

Call the advertising
department at 591 7788
or e-mail:
advertising@kyivpost.com

The East Europe Foundation is looking for candidates:
Administrative Assistant and **Program Associate** (full-time positions) for **USAID LEV Program** which aims to improve business climate and strengthen SMEs sector in Ukraine.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Main Duties:

- managing document workflow of USAID LEV Program office;
- communication with external partners;
- events & logistics management;
- assisting in preparation of reports and occasional analysis;
- managing office needs.

Key qualifications and skills:

- experience in events & logistics management;
- experience of work at/with economic development projects;
- strong representation, negotiation and interpersonal skills;
- University Degree;
- fluent English and Ukrainian (verbal and written);
- ability to respond flexibly in a dynamic environment within limited time frames.

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Main Duties:

- assists Program activity on a daily basis, participates in organization and preparation of Program- related meetings and keeps/shares with partners records and follow-up notes;
- supports effective line of communication with the Program's partners and clients, including through social networks;
- collects project-related activity data and indicators, maintains respective database, prepares Program-related documents and ensures information flow;
- assists in preparing monthly, quarterly, and yearly Program plans and reports.

Key qualifications and skills:

- minimum of five years of relevant experience and the ability to take independent decisions within the scope of responsibility, experience of work in donor-funded project environment;
- practical knowledge of office administration, basic finance, and experience of organizing travel and workshops;
- fluent English, Ukrainian and Russian (oral and written)
- Bachelor Degree in Economics, Business Administration, Management or equivalent;
- comfortable with virtual communication – through email, Skype, social networks, and the Internet;
- experience with Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel and Power point), additional experience with database or websites

Please send CV to resumes@eef.org.ua. Deadline for submission: **September 1, 2016.**

State job title in subject line of email. No phone inquiries, please.



CHEMONICS

Chemonics International Inc., an international development consulting firm, is seeking senior experts in energy regulation, energy markets, and clean energy for USAID's anticipated Ukraine Competitive Energy Markets (U-CEM) project. The purpose of this project is to improve the investment enabling environment, increase energy efficiency and diversification through improved policy and regulation, develop competitive energy markets and investment opportunities, and promote unconventional and renewable energy sources.

CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE EXPERTISE IN SOME OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Designing and implementing integrated energy sector advisory projects in the areas of energy reform, energy market development, clean energy, including large-scale renewable projects
- Private sector engagement and investment
- Transmission
- Distribution
- Transaction support
- Engineering
- Project financing
- Renewable and clean energy
- Energy efficiency
- Privatization of energy companies and assets
- Enabling environment and regulatory support
- Public-private partnerships

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in energy, engineering, public policy, law, business, finance, economics, or a related subject area required; advanced degree preferred
- At least seven (7) years of work experience in the energy sector (public and/or private sector)
- At least five (5) years of experience working on donor-funded projects; experience with USAID preferred
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluency in Ukrainian and/or Russian required; fluency in English required

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Please send a CV and a brief cover letter in English in the email body to ukraineCEMrecruit@chemonics.com. Please submit one application per candidate, and include the name of the position in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 26, 2016 at 6 P.M. Kyiv Time
Chemonics is an equal opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, or protected veteran status, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.


Contract title: Supply and installation of Office Furniture and Equipment
Publication reference: EuropeAid/138309/IH/SUP/UA (EUAM-16-95)

EUAM Ukraine intends to award a supply contract for supply of office furniture and equipment in Ukraine. The tender dossier is available from the website of EUAM Ukraine: <http://euam-ukraine.eu> and also from the EuropeAid website:

<http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>. The deadline for submission of tenders is 12 September 2016 at 17:00h Kiev time.

Possible additional information or clarifications/questions shall be published on the EuropeAid website:

<http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and on the website of EUAM Ukraine: <http://euam-ukraine.eu>.


**EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION
TO UKRAINE**

The Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine is currently seeking to recruit for two positions of:

- **Secretary**

For further information about this and other current vacancies at the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine please consult the website:

http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/vacancies/index_en.htm


**NATO REPRESENTATION TO UKRAINE
NATO Liaison Office**
Executive Assistant to the Head of Representation/Director NLO
1. BACKGROUND

The NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine (NLO) was established in 1999 to facilitate political and military co-operation between the Alliance and Ukraine. In recognition of the growing importance of the NATO-Ukraine partnership the NATO Representation to Ukraine (NRU) was established in March 2016. The NRU is composed of the NLO and the NATO Information and Documentation Centre (NIDC), and is headed by the Director of the NLO.

The Executive Assistant will be responsible for providing high-level administrative and organizational support to the Head of the NRU/Director of the NLO (H/NRU). This is a challenging opportunity for a highly motivated professional to make a substantive contribution to NATO-Ukraine co-operation, and gain valuable experience in the fast-paced international environment of a growing diplomatic mission.

2. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Assistant to the H/NRU works under the direction of, and reports directly to, the H/NRU. He/she is expected to:

- Co-ordinate H/NRU's schedule of engagements; arrange meetings; meet and welcome guests; prepare office rooms and conference rooms for meetings; prepare and participate in (staff) meetings in various formats and draft minutes/reports as required; maintain updated contact/CV data bases, electronic and paper files/folders;
- Draft routine correspondence in English and Ukrainian; provide minor translation/interpretation tasks as required; organise and track incoming, outgoing and internal correspondence; monitor and suggest improvements to NRU information sharing procedures;
- support NLO/NRU's analysis and reporting activities by carrying out research, attending events and co-ordinating inputs; compile materials for H/NRU meetings/missions in co-ordination with other NRU and NATO HQ staff members;
- Organise H/NRU's missions (booking tickets, accommodation, etc) and prepare mission authorization requests and liquidations; in co-ordination with the Administrative team support hospitality functions hosted by H/NRU; perform other duties as required.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS
Education and work experience

- Completed higher education at an institution of recognized standing;
- Minimum 3 years of experience in an international diplomatic environment; solid knowledge of diplomatic protocol; knowledge of NATO structure and policies and of NATO's co-operation with Ukraine;
- Fluency in English, Ukrainian (working languages); proficiency in two or more foreign languages would be a distinct advantage; advanced IT skills.

Other

- Proven ability to work in a fast-paced and demanding environment, to multi-task and prioritise work to meet tight deadlines, and to work irregular hours (including evenings, weekends) when required; self-motivation and high resistance to stress;
- Attention to detail; tact and proven ability to interact with high-level officials; reliability, integrity, confidentiality; ability to establish and maintain good relations with people of different professional, national, religious and cultural backgrounds.

4. CONTRACT AND REMUNERATION PACKAGE

- The successful candidate will be offered a locally engaged staff contract for an initial duration of 1 year (renewable) after successful completion of a three-month probation period;
- A competitive salary will be offered to the successful candidate;
- Other benefits include a generous health and accident insurance package, and 30 days of paid leave per year in addition to official holidays.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Interested qualified candidates are invited to apply by email to admin@nroukraine.org enclosing the following materials (in English):

- A Curriculum Vitae/Resume (max. two pages);
- A short personal statement (max. one page);
- One or more letters of reference, preferably from a previous or current employer.

Please submit your application by 13.00 on Monday 12 September 2016.

Earlier applications are strongly encouraged. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. This vacancy is open to citizens of Ukraine.


The Kyiv Post is looking for a person to lead its newsroom digital efforts in the digital age.

The successful candidate must have a background in journalism or media, preferably with experience in online convergent newsrooms. Knowledge of Google Analytics is a must; experience with creating and editing information graphics, knowledge of data journalism, HTML + CSS, Javascript programming, MySQL is a big plus; experience in project management and a portfolio of interactive projects is also required.

The person will:

- oversee all editorial digital production alongside our editors;
- the work of the social media manager; and
- all communication with website developers, designers and infographics specialists;
- Develop strategies for the production and distribution of digital editorial projects of various size, personally work on various parts of those projects (graphics, coding, data mining, etc.); and
- work closely with the commercial digital department under the unified digital strategy, hitting target business goals.

Please send your CV, motivation letter and works samples to digital@kyivpost.com

bit.ly/2aMtn4i

Best bargain!

Advertising
in the Classifieds section
+380 44 591 33 44
or advertising@kyivpost.com


WORLD BANK GROUP
IFC International Finance Corporation

Stakeholders and Outreach Expert (STC)

IFC is looking to recruit a short-term expert (STC) for outreach and public awareness work. The STC will work with Europe and Central Asia Agri-Finance Project manager and team to implement outreach and public awareness activities on the national and regional levels to promote financial tools, services and activities among the stakeholders. The Consultant will also be responsible for the monitoring of project results and drafting semi-annual project progress reports.

Please follow the link to get more details on the assignment and to apply for the position (Selection #: 1226304) <https://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org/wbgec/index.html>
Deadline for applications – August 22, 2016.

MULTIPLE POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Global Communities is seeking qualified and experienced personnel for the five-year USAID-funded Decentralization Offering Better Results and Efficiency (DOBRE) project.

This project will strengthen local governments in newly consolidated communities to effectively manage resources and services that respond to community priorities and improve citizen engagement and oversight in local governance.

Open positions are available:

www.kyivpost.com/payment/vacancy/460/

Full job descriptions can be found at

www.globalcommunities.org/careers

Classifieds

Place your
TEXT
for Hr 484

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

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

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

Place your
TEXT
for Hr 132

Agricultural complex for sale

Offered For Sale Agricultural Complex currently owned through a limited company Yan Plus is located in Schors Region of Chernihiv District, Ukraine. This modern complex is situated on six thousand seven hundred hectares of private land serviced by owns agricultural equipment, a dairy farm with a milking station, and an elevator with grain storage facilities of 34 thousand tones capacity arranged to facilitate loading onto rail and road transport.

Tel: +38 067 225 3085

+44 796 488 6571

**Subscribe
to Kyiv Post
online.
Only \$60 a year.**

WWW.KYIVPOST.COM

Artek international children's camp relocates to Kyiv suburb

Artek from page 11

not only of Ukraine, but of the entire world.

Appeal to the world

By the end of this summer, Knush expects up to 1,000 children to have stayed at the camp. The Ukrainian government has purchased 90 per cent of the tour packages to the camp, allocating more than Hr 20 million (\$800,000) from the Ministry of Social Policy's budget for this purpose.

Artek will remain open year-round. This winter the camp plans to invite children from more than 50 countries to an event entitled "Let's Change the World for the Better." At the event, children from various countries will draw up an appeal to the international community regarding problems that concern them. The document is to be recognized by the United Nations as an official appeal by the children of the world to world leaders and the heads of international organization.

The camp has already received distinguished visitors, including Ukrainian First Lady Maryna Poroshenko, who came to see the camp's new location on June 24.

"It's very symbolic that the first



A boy rests on a beanbag during the opening ceremony of the Artek Children's Camp on June 24. (Volodymyr Petrov)

session of the camp is starting its work under the name 'Under the flag of Dignity,' the first lady said. "Like every one of us, an artektivets (a camp attendee) is a child who profess such values as peace, friendship, tolerance, patriotism and

human dignity."

Russian nationalism

Meanwhile, Kremlin propaganda depicts the former Artek camp in Crimea as a place that welcomes young people from Ukraine who

have suffered due to Russia's war against the Donbas. A section on the Russian camp's website called "Artek-Mercy," appeals to benefactors to donate money to support children's trips to Crimea, where the children will be able to over-

come "the fear, pain, stress, and loss" caused by the war.

Visitors to the Russian camp will take part in activities and festivals dedicated to Russia (one of the summer sessions this year is entitled "My Destiny - Russia"), undergoing a change of purpose from fostering international ties to encouraging Russian nationalism.

Russia's theft of the camp's property in Crimea has been decried by the Ukrainian authorities, although there is little the government can do about it for now.

Kyiv's Obolon District Court ordered the arrest of the Artek camp's property in Crimea and Sevastopol on May 6. The Russian-installed Prime Minister of the Republic of Crimea, Sergey Aksyonov, was accused by the court of illegally seizing the Artek camp's property and transferring it to Russian ownership.

Nevertheless, while Crimea remains under Russian occupation, there is little chance of the court's ruling being respected and Artek returning to its old home.

In the meantime, the relocated camp's management hopes to expand, accept more visitors and open satellite camps in various oblasts of Ukraine. ■

KyivPost 25 YEARS OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

A special edition celebrates Ukraine's 25th birthday!

On Aug. 19, the Kyiv Post will join Ukraine in celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day on Aug. 24. The newspaper will feature the nation's most successful people and accomplishments.

In partnership with

eleks®

Join the celebration!

Let us know your ideas on the nation's most successful entrepreneurs, contributions and achievements in history, innovations, writing, sports and other categories.

Find more at promotion.kyivpost.com/iday

To advertise, contact us at +38-044-591-7788 or advertising@kyivpost.com

