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vol. 21, issue 39

**INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST.**

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**September 23, 2016**

## Babyn Yar A Commemoration



Birds fly on Sept. 21 above the Menorah Monument dedicated to the 100,000 people, mostly Jews, murdered by occupying Nazi German soldiers at the Babyn Yar ravine in Kyiv. Nearly 34,000 Jews were killed in a two-day period alone on Sept. 28-29, 1941. A series of events to mark the 75th anniversary is being organized by Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, a nongovernmental organization that promotes deeper relations between Ukrainians of Jewish and Christian faiths. The schedule of public events is on page 10. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Welcome to  
Crimea: Beautiful,  
expensive and in  
love with Putin

BY NATALIE VIKHROV  
NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM

**YALTA, Crimea** - An elderly man gestures at a 500-ruble bill (\$7.70) in a woman's hand as he takes a seat on a bus in Yalta, in Russian-occupied Crimea.

"You'd better put that money away," he tells her.

"What money?" she scoffs in return. "It may as well be rags."

Russia's ruble, now the currency on the Russian-occupied Ukrainian peninsula, plummeted in value since 2014. That happened because of the sharp fall in the price of oil - one of Russia's main exports - and Western sanctions imposed in response to the Kremlin's military invasion and illegal annexation

more **Yalta** on page **8**

Crimean Muslims face persecution  
by Russia on occupied Crimean  
peninsula. See story on page 8

Hundreds of  
fans turn out  
to welcome  
Paralympic  
team home

BY NATALIYA TRACH  
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine's Paralympic team made a triumphant return to the country on Sept. 22, with several hundred people packing the arrivals hall of Kyiv's Boryspil International Airport late on a rainy night to welcome their heroes home.

The crowd had good reason to celebrate: The Ukrainian Paralympic team had, at the closing of the games

more **Triumph** on page **6**

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**Hr 26.1 to \$1**

Sept. 22 market rate



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Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 [news@kyivpost.com](mailto:news@kyivpost.com)



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Засновник ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа"

Головний редактор Брайан Боннер

Відповідальний за випуск

Люк Шеньє

Адреса видавця та засновника

співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004,

вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.

Реєстраційне свідоцтво

Кв № 15261-3833ПР від 19.06.09.

Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528

Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк»,

02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1,

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#### Mailing address:

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

#### Advertising

tel. +380 44 591-7788  
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[advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)

#### Editorial staff

tel. +380 44 591-3344  
fax +380 44 591-3345

[news@kyivpost.com](mailto:news@kyivpost.com)

#### Subscriptions & Distribution

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# Will Ukraine recover its stolen billions?

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA  
R.RAHEMTULLA1@GMAIL.COM

Ukraine is looking to next year's Global Asset Recovery Forum as a major opportunity to make progress in reclaiming up to \$40 billion it says was stolen from the state when former President Viktor Yanukovich was in office.

So far, Ukraine has recovered next to nothing since Yanukovich fled power on Feb. 22, 2014.

The accounts of Yanukovich and a number of his associates are currently frozen under European Union sanctions. But experts say if Ukrainian investigators do not move more quickly to substantiate their accusations, Yanukovich and others could be removed from the 28-nation bloc's blacklist.

## Stronger cooperation

The Global Asset Recovery Forum is a joint American-British project, set to be held in spring in Washington, D.C.

It was announced in May by the United Kingdom's then-Prime Minister David Cameron. The initiative, with support from the United Nations and World Bank, specifically seeks to help Ukraine, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Tunisia recover money embezzled by corrupt officials.

In a press release, the U.K. government said the forum will "strengthen cooperation between the countries that have had assets stolen and the countries where those assets are hidden, and help ensure law enforcement on both sides drive forward vital work to return illicit funds."

Concrete details on what will be offered to Ukraine at the meeting remain sparse, but experts agree it represents an important chance for the country to win more Western assistance in its quest to bring former officials to justice.



From left, then- British Prime Minister David Cameron looks on as Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko shakes hands with U.S. President Barack Obama after during the NATO Summit in the Polish National Stadium in Warsaw on July 9. While Obama leaves public office next year, the United States still says it plans to host an asset recovery conference to help Ukraine recover billions of dollars stolen by corrupt officials. (AFP)



## 5<sup>th</sup> TIGER CONFERENCE

The 5th annual Kyiv Post Tiger Conference is Nov. 29 at the Hilton Kyiv Hotel. One expert panel is "Financing The Future." The discussion will focus on banking-sector reforms and recovery of stolen assets.

According to the latest estimates compiled by the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice, during the four years of Yanukovich's presidency, from February 2010 to February 2014, between \$20 billion and \$30 billion went missing from state funds. However, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko says the figure is \$40 billion.

Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko told lawmakers on Sept. 15 the thefts could be seen "from direct evidence" as well as from irregularities which appeared at the beginning of 2014, when money recorded in the state budget and on the books of local authorities "was, in fact, not there."

But according to observers, if international partners are to get more involved in the effort to return stolen funds, Ukraine must show that it is serious about bringing suspects to trial.

"There are very good people at the Prosecutor General's Office who know how to investigate and could do the job properly, if they would be allowed to," said Daria Kaleniuk, executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center in Kyiv. "At the very top level of the Prosecutor General's Office, there are officials who are not interested in getting these cases into court and prosecuting the 'big fish' of the former regime."

## Trust deficit

This lack of will to bring past office-holders to court is exacerbating the

deficit of trust that has long characterized relations between Ukrainian prosecutors and their Western counterparts.

The independence of Ukrainian investigative officials has before now come into question, as has the credibility of the justice system as a whole. As a result, even if Ukrainian courts convict the fugitive Yanukovich and his exiled associates, it is far from certain that these convictions will be accepted in Brussels and Washington, D.C.

But there is a big precedent for collaboration.

Pavlo Lazarenko, a former prime minister, is wanted in Ukraine on charges of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from the state. He fled to the United States in 1999 and almost immediately became embroiled in legal proceedings. In 2000, he was convicted by a U.S. court of money laundering and, between 2009 and 2012, served his sentence in federal prison.

But U.S. officials are still working to seize assets they believe he has hidden offshore, and a court case to recover that money is not expected to go to trial before 2018. Ukraine, meanwhile, has yet to receive any of the money Lazarenko is accused of embezzling, and there are no assurances that it ever will.

## Anti-graft measures

Still, such examples of cross-border investigations are the exception rather than the rule. For many critics, rich countries are as much a part of the problem as they are of the solution. They point to financial centers like London and Frankfurt, where stories are rife of banks and estate agents ready to ask too few questions about the sources of funds.

The Global Forum for Asset Recovery appears to be part of the response to these accusations. At the same meeting earlier this year where that summit was announced,

the UK also said it would introduce a number of new anti-graft measures, including requiring foreign companies to reveal their ultimate beneficial owners before they can purchase property.

Such steps are essential, according to experts, if countries like Ukraine are to have any chance of retaking cash believed to have been stolen by corrupt officials. At next year's Global Forum, it is hoped more similar initiatives will be announced and international cooperation will be stepped up to close loopholes exploited by embezzlers.

"If our officials in Ukraine acquire money illegally, if there were sufficient checks in place abroad, in other jurisdictions, that money will stay in Ukraine," says Yevhen Cherniakh, a senior analyst at NGO Transparency International.

## Need for progress

In the case of Yanukovich, as long as asset freezes remain in place there is still a chance of recovering money before it is moved outside the EU. But lawyers for the former president say they intend to continue challenging the sanctions.

They have some grounds to believe they will be successful, hav-

more **Forum** on page 7



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# 31 top companies seeking workers at Employment Fair at 10 a.m. on Sept. 24

BY ALYONA ZHUK  
ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM

The Kyiv Post Employment Fair on Sept. 24 will bring together 31 companies searching for employees and at least 650 job seekers, based on pre-event registration.

Participants will not only get a chance to start a new career, but will also meet experts who will share knowledge on how to build one successfully.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko will give opening remarks at the Employment Fair.

Kateryna Mashchenko, head of an expert-analytical center of one for HeadHunter, Ukraine's biggest job-seeking online platform and an Employment Fair partner, believes the event will be useful for both companies and applicants.

Job seekers will be given tips on how to design their CV, write a cover letter and nail a job interview. For businesses, the Employment Fair is an event that helps build a brand of a caring employer, according to Mashchenko.

According to Luc Chenier, CEO of the Kyiv Post and one of the speakers at the Employment Fair, the last few years have been rather challenging economically for the country. But the economy is rebounding.

"So many companies are actually coming in, and we sold out in record time, even before the end of August, which shows that the economy is bouncing back and people are ready to hire," Chenier said.

PwC, one of the Big Four accounting and auditing firms, is one of the companies that will be looking for new employees at the Employment Fair. The company has job openings in audit, advisory, tax and legal and administrative spheres.

Yevheniya Brusova, recruitment specialist with the PwC, said the com-

pany could hire both "students/graduates and experienced candidates."

"We believe the Kyiv Post Employment Fair is a good chance to talk to our potential candidates, tell them more about PwC and answer their questions," she said.

The list of participating companies also includes Hyatt, Porsche Ukraine LLC, KPMG, L'Oréal Ukraine, AIT, Henkel, LC Waikiki, TCM Group Ukraine and Roland Berger.

Apart from talking to the representatives of the companies that signed up for the Employment Fair, attendants will have an opportunity to listen to the useful and inspirational lectures.

Anna Petrova, a founder of StartUp Ukraine, will talk about skills and way of thinking one should have to reach a success. In her speech "From a dream to self-made," she will also explain why it is so important to dream.

Uber's CEO Arkadiy Vershebeniuk will explain why a person should apply to a company with a mission that suits him.

Among other speakers are: Business Development Director of ControlPay Pieter Kinds, Oleksandr Akimenko, founder of Platfor.ma, Kyiv Post's CEO Luc Chenier, Anastasia Deeva, an advisor of the Interior Minister of Ukraine, and Roman Rubchenko, a founder of Youkraine.org.

Control Pay, a company that is the event's major sponsor for the second time in a row, plans to hire the best applicant right away, and to give an iPadPro to the new employee. The company will also arrange a lottery with fitness trackers, power banks and umbrellas as prizes.

The Employment Fair will take place at DEC Place at 23B Lesi Ukrainky Blvd. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entry fee is Hr 25. ■



The Kyiv Post Employment Fair takes place on Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DEC Place, 23B Lesi Ukrainky Boulevard.

## US Presidential Election Campaign Comes To Kyiv!



Democratic Party nominee  
**Hillary Clinton**



Republican Party nominee  
**Donald Trump**

**U.S.**

**Reno Domenico**  
New Jersey  
"The Garden State"  
Democrats Abroad in Ukraine



**Jonathan Roseland**  
Colorado  
"The Centennial State"  
Non-partisan website developer



**Sept. 26  
8 p.m.**

The debate is co-sponsored by the Kyiv Post and Hromadske TV, which will livestream the event at <http://en.hromadske.ua/>

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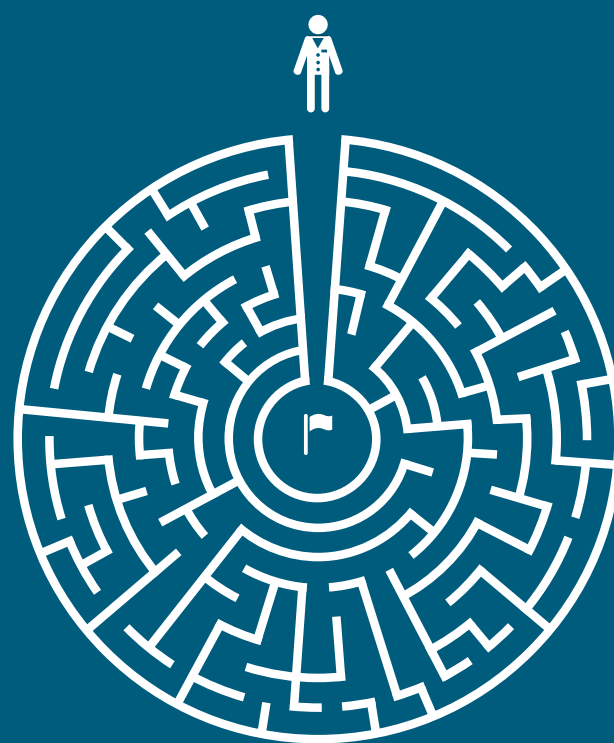
The debate will be moderated by  
**Brian Bonner**  
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## Editorials

## Encouraging words

It's heartening that Ukraine is still high enough on the American agenda for U.S. President Barack Obama to highlight the conflict in his final address as commander-in-chief to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 20.

Ukraine also rated high enough for U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden and Democratic Party presidential nominee Hillary Clinton with President Petro Poroshenko. Tellingly, Republican candidate Donald Trump – a fan of Russian President Vladimir Putin – never found the time for Poroshenko.

But with the access came much-needed tough love. For Ukraine to retain support from the West, its corrupt elites need to change and start fighting corruption. We will repeat until everyone gets the message: Corruption weakens the state, not reporting on corruption.

On its way to becoming a European democracy, Ukraine must win two wars: The one against Russia's invasion and the domestic one against corruption. It's not enough to win only one of them.

Biden gave a hint of the message he delivered in private to Poroshenko. "I've been the guy on the back of Ukrainians – which was a thoroughly corrupt system when they came in – making the case that, 'You have to understand: everybody's willing to blame the victim, and you better straighten up and fly right,'" Biden told the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on Sept. 21, according to a Reuters news service report.

Sadly, there is no indication that Poroshenko or Ukraine's top echelon of government gets the message. That much was evident during the Sept. 15-17 Yalta European Strategy Conference. It was clear then that the members of Ukraine's elite who appeared at the Victor Pinchuk event – including Poroshenko, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, former chief of state Boris Lozhkin, deputy head of the Presidential Administration Dmytro Shymkiv and others – still don't understand the urgency and necessity of fighting corruption. They dump it all on Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, who in four months on the job has proven he's unqualified and incompetent. A Poroshenko Bloc member of parliament, Olga Bielkova, is so out of touch she doesn't see the correlation between fighting corruption and economic growth.

Groysman didn't even try to defend the lack of progress. The same question has been asked for two years by BBC HardTalk host Stephen Sackur, who moderates panels at the forum: Can you name one big fish that has been brought to justice? Last year, then-Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk couldn't name one. Neither could his successor, Groysman, this year. Groysman admitted that Ukraine can't catch big fish with its small, thin rod of a criminal justice system.

It was fascinating but sad to watch the elite foreigners bring such doses of tough reality to Ukraine's elite. CNN news show host Fareed Zakaria said Ukraine's leaders need to wake up to the fact that, while the world is awash in capital, most of that wealth is bypassing Ukraine because it remains uncompetitive.

Sackur ended the conference by saying that Ukraine is in big trouble because it is not combatting corruption or confronting the reality of an oligarch president afraid to change the old ways. So true. Poroshenko keeps governing as if he is fearful of another revolution. But he also doesn't want to launch any real war on corruption that would threaten to put fellow oligarchs in jail or their business empires at risk. That's why we have an uneasy stalemate, with popular discontent rising as the president hides behind soldiers and pliable and buyable prosecutors and judges. This can't end well.

## Toxic elites

Sit down and shut up. That's what we wanted to say this week to Serhiy Lyovochkin, the former chief of staff to President Viktor Yanukovich, and Yuriy Lutsenko, the prosecutor general since May.

Lyovochkin, part-owner of Inter TV with exiled billionaire oligarch Dmytro Firtash, tried to paint himself as a defender of free speech in a recent op-ed in Politico. That's akin to a robber preaching against stealing. In a rule-of-law nation, Lyovochkin would be on trial as an accessory to Yanukovich's crimes. Firtash, who is fighting US allegations of corruption, would have his assets seized for the \$500 million he owes the government in unpaid refinancing loans for his failed Nadra Bank.

Lutsenko, meanwhile, needs to retire his leaky glass routine in which he punches holes in a plastic cup and fills it with water to show how the state budget loses money to corrupt schemes. He should get busy prosecuting lawbreakers or resign.



**NEWS ITEM:** Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's United Russia got 76 percent of the seats – a constitutional majority – in the Sept. 18 parliamentary election, while other parties loyal to Putin received the rest of the seats. The turnout was the lowest in Russia's modern history at 47.8 percent. Critics have published evidence of massive vote rigging, and the election is also illegal because it was held in Ukraine's Kremlin-annexed Crimea.



**NEWS ITEM:** While speaking at Yalta European Strategy annual meeting on Sept. 17, Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko made holes into a plastic glass and poured water in it as a metaphor for Ukrainian budget losing money from corrupt schemes. The glass stunt was the only memorable part of Lutsenko's otherwise weak speech. Read about the best and worst of the YES conference starting on page 5.



**NEWS ITEM:** The Economy Ministry attempted to take over Ukrtransgaz, now part of state-owned Naftogaz gas and oil enterprise, changing its ownership on Sept. 7. It rolled back after international market watchdogs and creditors voiced concerns, saying the government's decision jeopardizes further financial help for Ukraine, including \$300 million and \$500 million loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank.



**NEWS ITEM:** Lawmaker Serhiy Lyovochkin published an op-ed in Politico complaining about authorities oppressing media in Ukraine, offering an example of a recent attack on Inter, a TV station he co-owns. Ironically, Lyovochkin used to serve as chief of staff for the disgraced ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, and his TV station is known for controversial editorial policy that shows signs of censorship.

**NEWS ITEM:** Adviser to the interior minister, ex-head of the State Emergency Service Zoryan Shkiryak was caught on video throwing a cigarette butt into dry grass at a firefighting training in Kyiv earlier in September.

# KyivPost

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## Reformer of the week

## Anastasia Krasnosilka

Anastasia Krasnosilka, an expert at the Anti-Corruption Action Center, said on Sept. 19 that the authorities were dragging their feet on creating a special anti-corruption court.

The court is unlikely to be created soon, and there is a risk that it will not be independent, she said. To ensure its independence, Krasnosilka suggested that foreigners appoint part of the commission that will select its judges.

Meanwhile, the Chesno anti-corruption watchdog and the Reanimation Package of Reforms said earlier this week that the Verkhovna Rada – mostly the Poroshenko Bloc – was blocking the firing of more than 700 controversial judges who served under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, as well as the appointment of a High Council of Justice member trusted by society. The Verkhovna Rada is likely to miss the Sept. 23 deadline for voting on these issues.

The issue of the courts' independence from Poroshenko was also spotlighted on Sept. 22, when the Prosecutor General's Office said that Pavlo Grechivsky, a member of the High Council of Justice, was suspected of extorting a \$500,000 bribe. Grechivsky is reportedly an ally of the president's grey cardinals Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky.

Grechivsky denies the accusations.

– Oleg Sukhov



## Anti-reformer of the week

## Nina Yuzhanina

Nina Yuzhanina, the head of the Verkhovna Rada's taxation committee and a member of President Petro Poroshenko's faction in parliament, has sponsored a bill that would provide a blanket amnesty for corrupt officials.

Under the bill, any citizen, including officials, would be able to escape prosecution for ill-gotten wealth by declaring their assets and paying a 5 percent tax on them.

Yuzhanina is reportedly a candidate to head the State Fiscal Service. She has provided accounting services to Poroshenko's firms and worked at one of them, but has repeatedly refused to comment to the Kyiv Post on whether this constituted a conflict of interest.

In another effort to sabotage electronic asset declarations for officials, the Cabinet is preparing a bill that would severely restrict public access to declarations, Vitaly Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board, said on Sept. 21.

Tetiana Donets, a People's Front party lawmaker, has also sponsored a bill that would restrict public access and exempt officials from declaring some items.

Technical problems on the electronic declarations site continued as of Sept. 22, which could lead to the impossibility of punishing corrupt officials for submitting false information.

– Oleg Sukhov



To nominate someone as reformer or anti-reformer of the week, write to [news@kyivpost.com](mailto:news@kyivpost.com)

# Best and worst of 2016 Yalta European Strategy

*Editor's Note: The following assessment is from Kyiv Post journalists who attended the 13th annual Yalta European Strategy in Kyiv, held Sept. 15-17, and sponsored by Ukrainian billionaire oligarch Victor Pinchuk.*

## Winners

**David Rubenstein,**  
The Carlyle Group CEO

"The greatest single place to invest in the world is the United States because of the rule of law, transparency, quality of managers, quality of financing, etc.

Nothing is comparable to it... (Ukraine) has an image issue in the West. Most people in the United States don't really know much about Ukraine. They see it as a country that might be in the middle of a war... They don't really realize the opportunities here... It's going to take five or 10 years... I do think Ukraine has some great opportunities."

*Editor's Note: Rubenstein, one of the world's most successful investors, is also one of the most philanthropic – pledging to give away most of his wealth while he's still alive.*

**Stephen Sackur**  
BBC Hard Talk host

"I am going to put Ukraine in crisis. I will tell you why. I asked people to raise their hands if they had any faith in the current government's commitments to cleaning up

government and delivering on the anti-corruption and reform agenda. You know how many people raised their hands? Two! Two! This country and I would be tempted to use an F-word, but I'm not going to. This country feels to me, right now, in pretty deep trouble. You've got some good stories to tell. We saw the videos and you're turning your economy around to a certain extent. But your politics is still deeply dysfunctional. Everybody here has talked about commitment to anti-corruption, the commitment to clean up this country. The bottom line is, your country's president is of

the oligarch generation and until you address the basic facts that were presented to you by Mikheil Saakashvili, who is free to talk because he's an outsider, I think you've got a big problem. I will tell you one guy who knows you've got big problems – that's Vladimir Putin. Factor everything else everybody has said about Putin and his desire to stamp his authority across this region and I would say, you've still got a crisis on your hands."

*Editor's Note: Sackur earned his fee from oligarch Victor Pinchuk with these closing remarks alone. He cut through the fog of illusions many in Ukraine have about the problems that continue holding back the country.*

**Marieluise Beck,**  
member of German Bundestag

"I want to say that people from the outside who really try to support Ukraine on its way to reforms, we have the difficulty of rumors and not getting

transparency. You mentioned there has been a change with Naftogaz and then you go out in the hall and you hear the rumor that this has been transferred to the Ministry of Economy directly. It seems that this is good for Mr. (Dmytro) Firtash. We know the name (Igor) Kolomoisky... Is there a game around Donbas, Mr. (Rinat) Akhmetov, and which role is he playing? This makes it difficult for us to take a strong stand to support the country if there is such a big hidden agenda and hidden power. When you might see a prime minister who might be wanting to be honest but he can't because his space to move is so limited."

*Editor's Note: Beck asked very insightful questions and, with this remark, gave ample warning to Ukraine about why its leaders might have fewer friends and lesser support in the future.*

**Fareed Zakaria**  
Host of CNN's GPS program

"The large countries tend to do this, you always look at your past, and you point to the fact that compared with five years



Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman speaks to participants of Ukrainian billionaire Victor Pinchuk's Yalta European Strategy conference on Sept. 17 in Kyiv's Mystetsky Arsenal (Courtesy of Yalta European Strategy)

ago, so many regulations have been taken away. Compared to 10 years ago, so much progress has been made. But maybe part of the key is that capital isn't looking at your past, it's looking at you in comparison to other countries. Capital doesn't care how good of a job you did over the last 10 years. It doesn't care that Ukraine is better than it was five years ago. What capital is asking is: I can put my money in Ukraine or Russia or Turkey or India. By that logic, there is a very simple metric, which is the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. Ukraine is 83rd on that ranking. If you look, you're worse than Azerbaijan, you're worse than Turkey, you're worse than Russia – Russia is 53. In general, that should be the metric, which is how do you compare with other countries? Because ultimately you're in competition not with your past, but with other countries' futures."

*Editor's Note: Zakaria also earned his fee from Pinchuk with these and other remarks. An international perspective pays off – capitalists will put their money where they get the greatest return and whether they feel their money is safe. That is not Ukraine, by all objective measures.*

**Mikheil Saakashvili,**  
Odessa Oblast governor

"When you talk about Ukrainian elite, I think more or less all of them are children of (ex-Ukrainian) President (Leonid)

Kuchma. Ukraine is at war with Russia, but the Ukrainian elite very much shares the values of the Russian elite and has very little in common with the European or American. They live the same lifestyle. They live on rent from commodities. How Ukrainian government is run – it's like a joint-stock society: Big oligarchs have their stocks. They appoint their CEO who is the prime minister or president, depends on who has more power at the moment, they have council of directors, who are ministers, they have supervisory council, which can be MPs or shadowy figures. That's how the country is run. They might be even abroad, wanted by law enforcement, but they still might be running this sector or that



# Ukrainian Paralympic team triumphantly returns home

Triumph from page 1

in Rio de Janeiro a few days earlier, achieved its best result ever, coming third among the 170 participating countries.

The 172 participants of the Ukrainian team brought home 117 medals, including 41 golds, 37 silvers, and 39 bronzes. They also set several world records.

During the 10 days of the Paralympic Games, the Ukrainian team was several times ranked in second place in the team standings, but by the end they had been overtaken by the British team. The Chinese team came first.

Valeriy Sushkevych, the president of the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine, said the high personal motivation of the Ukrainian athletes was one of the main reasons for their success.

Ukrainian Paralympian Nataliya Kosmina, who won the gold in table tennis in Rio, agreed. She said it had taken her eight years to achieve her goal.

"Long years of tennis training and intense physical training helped me become the person I am today," Kosmina said, adding that after a short rest she will start preparing for the next Paralympic Games, in Tokyo in 2020. "I will do my best to ensure that our national anthem plays as often as possible (at the Tokyo Games)."

## Secret of success

Invasport, a sports training system for people with disabilities that is unique to Ukraine, allows people with vision, hearing, musculoskeletal and mental disabilities to train in a range of sports. Today more than 50,000 adults and more than 20,000 children with disabilities attend various physical training and rehabilitation groups all over Ukraine.

It is in these groups that the



A man kisses a Ukrainian Paralympic athlete at the Kyiv Boryspil airport early in the morning on Sept. 22. Several hundred people came to the airport to greet the Ukrainian Paralympic team returning home from Rio where they won 117 medals. (Volodymyr Petrov)

skills of Ukraine's future Paralympics champions are being honed.

Serhiy Kalayda, the head of the Poltava sports school for children with disabilities and the swimming coach of Ukrainian Paralympics team, has been working in the Poltava sports school since 1993, and trained many Paralympic champions. One of them is Ievgenii Bogodaiko, 22, who won one gold, one silver

and seven bronze medals and beat the world 100 meters breaststroke record in Rio. Kalayda started training Bogodaiko 11 years ago.

"From his behavior in water, from his ability to learn quickly and work hard, it was clear at once that Bohodayko would be a champion," Kalayda said.

Kalayda predicted that at least five kids that he is coaching now at the

Poltava sports school would become Paralympic champions in the future.

Ukrainian Paralympic athletes have always tried to show they are worth every penny the government spends on them, says Sushkevych.

Ukraine started participating in the Paralympic games in Atlanta in 1996 winning seven medals – one gold, four silvers and two bronzes.

In the 2000 Paralympic games in Sydney, Australia, Ukrainian Paralympic athletes won 37 medals. Before this year's record performance, the Ukrainian national Paralympic team twice finished in fourth place – in Beijing in 2004, and in London 2012, winning 74 and 84 medals respectively.

Besides winning over a 100 medals in Rio, the Ukrainian athletes set 22 world and 54 European records and 32 Paralympics records in swimming, track and field, and power lifting.

"Reporters from the United States, Europe, Japan and Brazil were chasing us for interviews," Sushkevych says. "Ukraine has become one of the leaders in world Paralympic sports."

Sushkevych says that no one in Rio expected the Ukrainian team to perform so well, especially since their country is at war.

To some extent the skepticism was justified. After Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, Ukraine's Paralympic team lost its main training base in Crimea's Yevpatoriya. Also, because of Russia's military

aggression in the east of Ukraine, the government increased the defense budget, leaving less money for funding sports.

"We could have achieved better results if it wasn't for the war, the lack of financing, and the loss of the Yevpatoriya training base," Sushkevych said.

## Unfair treatment

Ukraine's Paralympic champions will receive from the government \$40,000 for each gold medal, \$26,000 for a silver and \$18,000 for a bronze, while Ukrainian Olympic champions received \$125,000 for a gold, \$85,000 for a silver and \$55,000 for a bronze.

Sushkevych says that both coaches and athletes believe the difference in cash rewards for able-bodied and disabled athletes is unfair.

"In Ukraine, a person with a disability first has to overcome various social and financial problems, and then go on to achieve a top international result," Sushkevych says. "I really want the authorities to look at the Paralympic champions simply as people with disabilities, who survive on meager benefits, for whom secondary education in ordinary schools is often inaccessible, and for whom it's difficult to get a job or move around in Ukrainian cities."

Ihor Zhdanov, the sports minister, has promised that by 2018 the state cash rewards for Paralympic medalists will be the same as the ones that are given to Olympic champions. ■



Ukraine's Ievgenii Bogodaiko competes in the Men's 200-meter Individual Medley at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium during the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Sept. 13. (AFP)



# Weekly business roundup

BY NATALIE VIKHROV,  
JOSH KOVENSKY AND  
YULIANA ROMANYSHYN  
NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM,  
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM,  
ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM

## Odesa Portside Plant in danger of bankruptcy?

If the Odesa Portside Plant is not put up for sale this fall, it will go bankrupt, State Property Fund Chief Ihor Bilous warned on Sept. 19.

"If the plant is not put up for sale this fall, then under these general conditions it will simply become bankrupt," Bilous wrote in a Facebook post. "That's why we understand that it's necessary to announce its auctioning, and lower the starting price."

In the post, Bilous said that it would be difficult to sell the state-owned ammonia producer given that commodity prices were at historic lows.

"(Ammonia-producing) plants have stopped working in China and Australia," he wrote. "When you have high gas prices and lower prices for fertilizer, operating will generate significant losses."

In a separate announcement, Bilous also said that the next sale price for the Odesa Portside Plant would be \$150 million, a whopping drop of nearly \$300 million from the \$527 million price tag set for a July privatization attempt that failed to attract any bids for purchase.

That attempt foundered amid a \$193 million gas debt claimed by Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash and an ongoing court case from Ihor Kolomoisky, another oligarch who claims that a 2009 privatization of the plant should give him control of the facility.

## Reuters: Metro AG, Auchan work in Crimea

German retail giant Metro AG and French Auchan are continuing to operate in Crimea despite international sanctions, the Reuters news agency reported. Products are being



A worker walks around the Odesa Portside Plant in Yuzhny of Odesa Oblast. State Property Fund Chief Ihor Bilous has warned that if the plant is not sold soon, it could go bankrupt. (Volodymyr Petrov)

shipped there from Russia even though businesses in the peninsula have been subject to European Union sanctions since July 2014.

The goods arrive via a ferry that serves the Crimean port of Kerch, which is operating under sanctions. The list of sanctions covers the ports of Kerch and Sevastopol, as well as the State Marine Transportation company "Kerch Ferry," which is based in Crimea.

Legal experts said the transfer of goods to Crimea may fall into a gray area due to a quirk in the sanctions regime. That's because it is often difficult to define the relationship between parent companies and sub-contractors, Reuters reported.

Representatives of both retailers said that they are not violating sanctions, as the stores are operated by their Russian subsidiaries, which are not subject to EU sanctions.

## Firtash moves to sell Parus business center

Ukrainian gas oligarch Dmytro Firtash is moving to sell his share in the Parus skyscraper in downtown Kyiv, according to a report in Ukrainian magazine Novoye Vremya. The Parus business center was built in 2008.

After the tower's completion, Firtash bought a 50 percent stake in the building for \$300 million. The oligarch is now moving to sell his

stake through his company Group DF.

Group DF Managing Director Boris Krasnyansky said that "such an option is being reviewed, but I would not want to go into detail before the process is completed."

Novoye Vremya estimated the value of the deal as potentially up to \$50 million, though no price has yet been agreed upon, as the building has yet to be put up for sale.

Krasnyansky did not reply to a request for comment from the Kyiv Post.

The attempted sale comes at a tricky time for Firtash, who is in Vienna appealing a U.S. extradition request over foreign bribery charges.

Ukraine's gas sector, which comprises the lion's share of Firtash's business, is also under serious pressure to cleanse itself of the kind of corruption that has allegedly fed Firtash's businesses in the past.

At the same time, there is speculation in Ukraine's business community that Firtash is angling to take control of the Odesa Portside Plant through the state privatization process, which owes Group DF nearly \$200 million in debts. Such a deal would require a considerable amount of liquidity, given the terms of the state privatization effort.

## US OKs \$1 billion more in guarantees to Ukraine

Ukraine will receive another \$1 billion in loan guarantees from the United States, President Petro Poroshenko announced on Facebook on Sept. 21 during his visit to the United States to attend the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The move is expected to boost investor confidence in Ukraine, which has flagged amid stalled reforms and economic difficulties.

Poroshenko met with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the United Nations Assembly in New York, where they discussed Ukraine's reforms progress.

Biden congratulated Poroshenko on completing the International Monetary Fund review and stated that all policy steps have been taken for the U.S. to go ahead with Ukraine's third US sovereign loan guarantee of up to \$1 billion, according to a U.S. government press release.

Biden, however, stressed that Ukraine needed to speed up reforms in its energy and justice sectors and as well as the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

The IMF approved a \$1 billion to Ukraine on Sept. 14, which was expected to help pave the way for another \$1 billion loan guarantee from the United States. ■

## Global Asset Recovery Forum could be key to returning billions stolen by Yanukovych

Forum from page 2

ing recently won a judgment from the European Court of Justice (ECJ) which stated the inclusion of their client on the bloc's blacklist from March 2014 to March 2015 was unjustified because it was based on a lack of evidence. Yanukovych is set to remain on the asset-freeze list until March 2017, however, as European governments have already agreed to extend the measures against him.

But in order for those sanctions to stay in place, Ukraine is likely to need to show progress in its investigations. This means opening up to cooperation with money laundering experts from abroad, something which prosecutors have so far been unable, or unwilling, to do.

Some would like to see the West take a harder line and perhaps even

use aid money as an incentive. "Our international donors the IMF and the EU should ask the Ukrainian government to push forward investigations into asset recovery," says Yevhen. "We ask for international assistance but we do nothing to get our money from abroad."

## Hope for change

For many, the truth is that recovering anything from Yanukovych and his associates will remain impossible while the Prosecutor General's Office remains in charge of the cases. Worse still, from the point of view of anti-corruption activists, is that if the former president wins further judgments at the ECJ, there is a chance he could one day successfully sue Ukraine for damages.

If there is hope for change, it comes in the form of the National

Anti-Corruption Bureau, a new agency operational for barely one year. Its relative youth means it still has a chance to prove to the West that it is a credible and trustworthy institution. That may be of little consequence as far as past offenders are concerned, but does provide for the possibility of establishing the rule of law going forward.

"I have hope that the new agencies like the National Anti-corruption Bureau will be able to prosecute properly, to collect evidence to prove the illicit origin of funds," says Kaleniuk of the Anti-corruption Action Center.

"This is unlikely to happen regarding the former regime cases being investigated by the Prosecutor General's Office, but it might happen with cases involving current officials." ■



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# Russia says Crimean tourism on rebound, but people don't agree

Yalta from page 1

of Crimea, coupled with its war against eastern Ukraine.

The ruble – diving from the 30s per dollar to the mid-60s, where it has settled now – is not expected to recover against the dollar anytime soon. And Crimeans are now paying the price, literally.

Even outside the tourist hotspots – where a bottle of soda can cost 70 rubles (Hr 28, or about \$1.10) – 500 rubles doesn't go far.

In today's Yalta, 500 rubles barely covers the cost of a block of cheese and a kilo of pears.

Life under Russia is a struggle, says Yalta resident Tatiana, who refused to give her last name. She is a young mother walking to the shops with her daughter and her friend.

"When we were under Ukraine, the average wage was Hr 2,000 (\$250, at the pre-crisis exchange rate) ... We could have lived for a month on Hr 2,000," she says.

"Now, if we take the minimum wage – 9,500 rubles (\$145) – special-

ly if you have a child, it's very little money."

But like many other Crimeans, Tatiana doesn't blame Russia's autocratic ruler, President Vladimir Putin, for the dramatic fall in living standards on the peninsula since Russia's armed takeover.

"We love Putin, we're happy that we're in Russia now," she says.

Prior to its annexation, more than 5.8 million tourists vacationed in Crimea, according to the peninsula's former Ukrainian Minister of Resorts and Tourism Alexander Liev.

The ministry, which switched hands after the annexation, reported a sharp fall in tourism in 2014, with only 3.8 million visiting the peninsula that year.

But according to the Russian-controlled ministry, the number of tourists grew to 4.59 million in 2015, and with 4.2 million tourists visiting the peninsula from January to August alone this year, it expects to see 6 million holidaymakers in Crimea in 2016.

The peninsula's tourist season



An advertisement for aquapark Atlantida, which states "Welcome to Yalta," hangs off an abandoned building in Yalta, Crimea. (Natalie Vikhrov)



Locals and tourists enjoy the festivities on the Yalta seafront in Crimea on Sept. 10. (Natalie Vikhrov)

wraps up in autumn, but on this warm September Saturday, both locals and holidaymakers are eager to take advantage of Yalta's gradually darkening summer evenings.

The city's seafront is buzzing with music and chatter.

But winter is coming, and locals are already preparing for the seasonal lull in the tourism industry. Dmitri Ilin sells fruit and nuts in front of Yalta's famous Massandra Winery in the summer to supplement his monthly pension of 10,500 rubles, or about \$160.

"Summer feeds the winter," he says.

"The figs are 200 rubles a kilo, try one."

A day's takings run between 1,500 and 2,000 rubles, or \$23-30, but Ilin says that allows him and his wife to get by.

"These figs allow us to eat proper meals, to buy the things we want," he says.

"Everything is expensive here. We pay about 4,000 rubles (\$60) a month for household bills – electricity, water, gas. How can we live on just the pension?"

But he is quick to point out that his financial situation was no better under Ukraine – to which he is vehemently against returning.

"Look at what's happening there. There's fighting in the Donbas, the buildings are on fire – did you see on television how they burned (Ukrainian TV station) Inter?" he asks. "I would rather live on bread alone... but I will never return to Ukraine."

Crimea's allegiance to Russia and Putin manifests itself across the peninsula, from the street art to souvenirs.

Soviet Union paraphernalia is not a rare item in gift shops and kiosks.

Red t-shirts with gold letters "СССР" – the Cyrillic abbreviation for the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – are on sale at a popular strip of souvenir kiosks.

"#Ours" declares a brightly colored mural of Putin's face pictured next to a fighter jet leaving a contrail of the colors of the Russian flag, on a wall near the Yalta port.

Putin, it seems, is omnipresent.

His face stares out of posters and murals across the peninsula –

an ongoing reminder that, for now, Crimea is "theirs" – Russia's.

"Crimea has always been renowned as an all-union (Soviet) health resort. We will of course be developing this," read the words of the Russian president on a 30-foot-tall billboard.

But it's unlikely that Crimea will see an influx of tourists from anywhere other than Russia anytime soon, local realtor Kristina Kolich believes.

Kolich, who offers tourists accommodation on arrival, says the ratio between Ukrainian and Russian tourists has tipped sharply.

While before the annexation most of the holidaymakers coming to Crimea were Ukrainian, today they make up a tiny percentage of the peninsula's tourists. Most summer visitors to Crimea now are Russians.

And while they may be plentiful, Kolich says the new Russian tourists spend much less than Ukrainians.

"The Russians come here now, and they're poor," she says.

Last year a tourism campaign for Crimea touted the peninsula as an inexpensive getaway.

And Kolich says in a way, that's true.

She says that although the price of food is high, the cost of holiday accommodation has remained low.

"While three, four years ago I made around \$150-\$200 a day, today making \$200 a month is a big deal," she says.

"I'm renting out a room these days for 1,000 rubles (\$15.45) and an apartment for around 1,500 rubles (\$23.18) a night.

"Tourism is our livelihood, but it's dying here." ■



People take a photo with a sculpture representing a heavily armed Russian soldier, erected to celebrate the peninsula's 2014 annexation from Ukraine, in central Simferopol, on Sept. 10. (AFP)



# Russian repression deepens with arrests on Ukraine's stolen Crimean peninsula

BY NATALIE VIKHROV  
NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM

**SIMFEROPOL, Crimea** — Anna Bogacheva picks up her newborn daughter, rocking the baby as she starts to make a fuss in the quiet Simferopol restaurant. It's a simple joy her father has yet to experience.

Vadim Siruk has been jailed in a Simferopol detention center since February on suspicion of involvement with Hizb ut-Tahrir, an Islam organization deemed as "terrorist" by Russia.

Siruk has only seen three-week old Hanifa once, fleetingly on the way to a hearing on Sept. 6, when Simferopol's district court extended his detention, along with that of five others (on Sept. 5 and 6) on similar charges, for another three months.

"When my husband was brought to the hearing, they led him from the police van to the courtroom building — it was about a meter and a half, maybe two meters walk," Bogacheva said.

"That was how long he was able to look at her."

Siruk was one of 14 Crimean Muslims detained on charges of links to Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Crimean Muslims have been among a number of groups — including Crimean Tatars, journalists and activists — persecuted since Russia illegally annexed the peninsula in 2014, in what has been deemed as a war on extremism and propaganda by Russia and an attack on human rights by the West.

Bogacheva was less than three months pregnant with their second child on Feb. 11, when in the early hours of the morning members of Russia's Federal Security Service, known as the FSB, raided the family's Yalta home without any warning and took her husband into custody.

They transferred him to Simferopol that evening and after a hearing the following day Siruk was placed in the city's detention center.

Siruk's case was not an isolated incident, not even that day.

On Feb. 11 and 12, 11 other Crimean Muslims were detained alongside Siruk on similar charges.

Eight of those detained between the two days were released.

Enver Bekirov, Muslim Aliyev, and Emir-Husein Kuku remained in custody alongside Siruk.

The arrests started less than a year following Russia's annexation of Crimea, with authorities escalating their pursuit of local Muslims in the past year.

The first wave of arrests came in early 2015, when four Crimean Tatars were detained in Sevastopol on charges of involvement with Hizb ut-Tahrir.

The latest series of arrests was carried out in May this year.

The FSB did not respond to Kyiv Post's request for comment by deadline.

On Sept. 7, the day after the Simferopol district court extended Siruk's detention, North Caucasus District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don handed down its first sentences in the series of cases to the four men detained in 2015.

Ruslan Zeitullayev was sentenced



From left: Ferat Saifullayev, Rustem Vaitov, Nuri Primov and Ruslan Zeitullayev at the sentencing hearing at North Caucasus District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don, Russia on Sept. 7. (Fedor Larin)

to seven years in prison for allegedly organizing a terrorist group while Ferat Saifullayev, Rustem Vaitov and Yuriy Primov were sentenced to five for involvement in a terrorist group.

Bogacheva said the case against her husband was built on a single recording of political talk.

"There is a recording, an audio recording as far as I understand, in which apparently these four people were sitting together somewhere and discussing politics, and as part of that what Hizb ut-Tahrir were doing."

"That was all, but that was apparently enough."

Hizb ut-Tahrir is an international Islamic organization which considers itself peaceful and is legal in Ukraine and most Western countries but was outlawed by the Russian Supreme Court in 2003 in a covert hearing that human rights groups and the organization itself were unaware of for an entire year, after which it was too late to appeal the decision.

Furthermore, Emil Kurbedinov, a Crimean lawyer representing Siruk as well as several other detained Muslims, said there was also no evidence that any of the men were even involved in the organization.

Kurbedinov said in addition to the recording the only other evidence presented against the men is a witness, whose details are being withheld.

According to Kurbedinov these are among a series of unlawful proceedings carried out by Russian authorities in relation to these cases, among others.

"We think there are many breaches of human rights, starting with the actual arrests and the conditions of detention," he said.

"(Simferopol's detention center) is unsanitary, there are fleas and cockroaches and it's filled at double its capacity."

Siruk and three others arrested in February have been in detention for seven months and following September's hearings, are set to remain there at least until December 8.

According to Russian law a person cannot be detained without a sentence for longer than six months — in special circumstances for more than a year.

"That is the law but unfortunately the law in these matters has not been upheld," Kurbedinov said.

"If the law worked properly, these cases would have fallen apart. But because this serves political purposes, the matter is still ongoing."

Kurbedinov said they will be appealing the matter in a European court and hopes that international influences will have an effect on the final outcome of these cases.

The arrests have been widely touted as Russia's continuing persecution of Crimean Tatars — many of whom have condemned its annexation of the peninsula — with all but one of the 14 men at least part Tatar.

Siruk is the one exception.

The 27-year-old has no Tatar parents and converted to Islam in adulthood, as did his wife.

Human rights activists and even Siruk's lawyer have been speculating the reason for the discrepancy for some time now.

Kurbedinov theorised

his arrest may have been a warning of sorts, aimed at deterring others from converting to Islam.

Meanwhile Halya Coynash, a member of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, previously suggested Siruk's arrest may have been a deliberate attempt at taking the focus away from Russia's persecution of Tatars.

Tamila Tasheva, co-founder and coordinator of Crimea SOS,

Anna Bogacheva, wife of detained Crimean Muslim Vadim Siruk, holds their baby in a Simferopol restaurant. (Natalie Vikhrov)

says it's possible that Siruk's arrest could be Russia's way of showing that they weren't just targeting Tatars and instead battling extremism.

But, she added, the situation also needed to be examined within the wider context of religious repression that began after Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Tasheva said before the occupation more than 2000 different religious organisations — a 1000 of them Muslim — were active in Crimea.

"Since 2014, there were a few periods of re-registration and the last period ended in January 2016," she said.

"As of January 2016, a little more than 200 groups have been granted reregistration."

May marked the last series of Muslim arrests in Crimea but Tasheva said Russian authorities have continued to raid homes of Crimean Muslims.

She believes the Russian authorities have refrained from going to the extremity of making further arrests due to the international focus on prominent Crimean Tatar activist Ilmi Umerov, who was arrested on terrorist charges and admitted to a psychiatric hospital against his will in August.

He was released from the hospital on Sept. 7 after mounting pressure from international bodies as well as a Twitter campaign.

With Russian elections held in Crimea for the first time on Sept. 18, Tasheva also surmised that the authorities were currently preoccupied and trying to steer clear of bad press.

"They just (didn't) want to draw attention to these actions in the lead up to the elections," she said.

"In time, I'm more than certain that they'll resume matters more actively." ■

KyivPost

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People attend a commemoration ceremony for Nazi victims near a World War II monument in Babyn Yar in Kyiv on April 10, 2015. (UNIAN)



## Events in Kyiv to commemorate Babyn Yar Sept. 24-29

Most events will take place in Ukrainyskyi Dim/Ukrainian Center on 2 Khreshchatyk St. on European Square. The Babyn Yar Project is a commemoration by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter in cooperation with others, including World Jewish Congress. The Kyiv Post is a media partner. Babyn Yar is a ravine in Kyiv where, on Sept. 28-29, 1941, Nazi Germany occupiers shot to death 34,000 Kyivan Jews. During the next two years of German occupation, an estimated 100,000 victims were killed at Babyn Yar. More than two-thirds were Jews.

### Sept. 24—Saturday

**20:00 – 21:30** Film: “Holocaust: The Eastern Front” (Israel, 2016). Discussion with Boris Maftsir, director (Israel) and Dr. Igor Shchupak (Ukraine) in Ukrainian.

### Sept. 25—Sunday

**20:00 – 21:30** Film: “Shimon’s Return” (USA, 2014). Moderators: Professor Shimon Redlich (Israel) and Dr. Igor Shchupak (Ukraine).

### Sept. 26—Monday

**9:30 – 9:50** Public Symposium Opening.  
**10:00 – 10:15** Prologue: “Babyn Yar.” Orchestral work by Dmytro Kytsenko, Kyiv Camerata National Ensemble, Valerii Matiukhin, conductor  
**10:15 – 10:25** Remarks by Adrian Karatnycky (USA) and Professor Paul Robert Magocsi (Canada).  
**10:25 – 10:45** Greetings from Presidential Administration, ministries, diplomatic corps.  
**10:45 – 12:15** Address: “Babyn Yar and the Holocaust: Remembering the Future,” Professor Timothy Snyder (USA); Moderators: Professor Guido Hausmann (Germany); Professor Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ukraine); in English with Ukrainian translation.  
**12:15** Break  
Exhibit openings: “Babyn Yar,” triptych (1947) by Vasyl Ovchynnykov; National Art Museum of Ukraine; “Babyn Yar: Symbol of the Holocaust and Other Tragedies in Ukraine,” Ukrainian Museum of World War II History: “Holocaust through the Eyes of Children,” Tkuma Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies  
**13:45 – 15:15** Panel Discussion: “The Holocaust in International Law and Academic Research”  
Panelists: Professor Philippe de Lara (France) Professor Norman Naimark (USA) Dr. Anatoly Podolsky (Ukraine)  
Moderators: Myroslav Marynovych (Ukraine) Professor Maksym Hon (Ukraine)  
**15:15 – 15:30** Break.  
**15:30 – 17:00** Panel Discussion: “Babyn Yar: Symbol of the Holocaust and Other Tragedies”  
Panelists: Professor Karel Berkhoff (The Netherlands) Dr. Kiril Feferman (Israel) Dr. Vitalii Nakhmanovych (Ukraine)  
Moderators: Professor Wolf Moskovich (Israel) Dr. Igor Shchupak (Ukraine)

**17:00 – 17:15** Break.

**17:15 – 18:45** Panel Discussion: “Babyn Yar: Paradigms of Memory”  
Panelists:

Dr. Toomas Hiio (Estonia).  
Dr. Andreas Umland (Germany).  
Dr. Volodymyr Viatrovych (Ukraine).  
Moderators:  
Dr. Vladyslav Hrynevych (Ukraine).  
Professor Alla Kiridon (Ukraine).  
**18:45 – 19:00** Break.

**19:00 – 20:00** Theatrical Performance. Valiza (The Suitcase), by Malgozata Sikorska-Mishchuk Performed by Nash Teatr (Kyiv)—Nazarii Paniv, director Student actors: Dana Broshkova, Filip Diedkovskiy, Krystyna Korniiuchuk, and Vlad Lysak, Kyiv National University of Culture and the Arts.

### Sept. 27—Tuesday

**9:30 – 11:00** Public Symposium  
Panel Discussion: “Babyn Yar in Personal Accounts”  
Panelists: Professor Gelinada Grinchenko (Ukraine).  
Dr. Oleksandr Lysenko (Ukraine).  
Anna Lenchovska (Ukraine).  
Moderators: Professor Guido Hausmann (Germany) Professor Shimon Redlich (Israel).  
**11:00 – 11:15** Break.  
**11:15 – 12:45** Panel Discussion: “Babyn Yar in Literary Representations.”  
Panelists: Larysa Denysenko (Ukraine) Dr. Oleksii Kuznetsov (Russia) Professor Iryna Zakharchuk (Ukraine)  
Moderators: Dr. Kiril Feferman (Israel) Professor Frank Golczewski (Germany)  
**12:45 – 14:15** Break.  
**14:15 – 15:45** Panel Discussion: “Babyn Yar in Cinema, Music, and the Arts.”  
Panelists: Dr. Inessa Dvuzhlyna (Belarus) Dr. Boris Maftsir (Israel) Valerii Teteriatnyk (Ukraine)  
Moderators: Professor Karel Berkhoff (Netherlands) Andrii Kulikov (Ukraine)  
**15:45 – 16:00** Break.  
**16:00 – 17:30** Book Launch: Babyn Yar: History and Memory (Kyiv: Dukh i Litera, 2016).  
Conversation with the authors and publisher.  
Leonid Finberg (Ukraine)

Moderators:

Dr. Vladyslav Hrynevych (Ukraine).  
Professor Paul Robert Magocsi (Canada).

**18:00 – 19:30** Film: “Shoes” (Ukraine—USA, 2015)  
Conversation with author: Konstantin Fam (USA)  
Moderator: Dr. Igor Shchupak (Ukraine)

### Sept. 28—Wednesday

**Babyn Yar Memorial Space—Necropolis International Landscape Design Competition**

**9:00 – 9:20** Introductory Remarks Dr. Vitalii Nakhmanovych (Ukraine).  
**9:20 – 10:00** Documentary Film: “Babyn Yar in Search of Memory.” (Volodymyr Cheppel, director, Ukraine, 2016).  
**10:00 – 10:20** Remarks by: Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, National Union of Architects of Ukraine, Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, Department for Urban Planning and Architecture; City of Kyiv State Administration.  
**10:20 – 11:00** Remarks by Representatives of the Jury. Olivier Philippe, International Union of Architects (France). Serhiy Tselovalnyk, Chief Architect of Kyiv, 2010-2015 (Ukraine).  
**11:00 – 12:00** Presentation of the Winning Project Designs.  
Second place: Miloš Kosec, Nejc Lebar, Maja Valentic (Slovenia).  
Second place: Glenn Pouliquen (France).  
Third place: Peter Miles, Miriam Gusevich (USA).  
**12:00 – 12:40** Conversation with competition winners.  
**12:40 – 13:00** Closing remarks: Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, Ukrainian Jewish Encounter.  
**13:00 – 14:30** Break.  
**14:30 – 15:45** Address: “Genocide in World History.” Professor Norman Naimark (USA), presentation in English.  
Moderator: Adrian Karatnycky (USA)

### Sept. 29—Thursday

**9:00 – 10:15** Address: “Modern War and Modern Culture in Ukraine: A Poet’s Perspective” Serhiy Zhadan (Ukraine).  
Moderator: Dr. Lyudmila Hrynevych (Ukraine) in Ukrainian.



# Ally of Kononenko, Hranovsky accused of taking \$500,000 bribe

BY OLEG SUKHOV  
SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

The Prosecutor General’s Office suspects Pavlo Grechivsky, a member of the High Council of Justice, of extorting a \$500,000 bribe to influence a court decision, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko wrote on Facebook late on Sept. 21.

Grechivsky, who denied the accusations on Sept. 22, is reportedly an ally of President Petro Poroshenko’s grey cardinals, Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky, and former People’s Front lawmaker Mykola Martynenko. Hranovsky has denied being acquainted with Grechivsky.

Both Grechivsky and Kononenko used to be members of former Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky’s faction in the capital’s city council.

Kononenko and Hranovsky have been repeatedly accused of illegally interfering in the law enforcement system, although they deny this.

Lutsenko said that prosecutors had detained a Justice Ministry official who acted as an intermediary and had accepted a \$150,000 installment of the bribe. Lutsenko also said on Sept. 22 that some of Grechivsky’s property, including a high-end Maybach car, had been seized.

However, the Anti-Corruption Action Center said on Sept. 22 that the case might collapse in court because the Prosecutor General’s Office has no jurisdiction over such corruption cases. They can only be pursued by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Lutsenko’s spokeswoman Larysa Sargan did not reply to a request for comment.

The High Council of Justice on Sept. 22 said that it had no authority to suspend or fire Grechivsky, and that he would likely have to take a vacation. The council said it would consider recommending Grechivsky’s dismissal if the Prosecutor General’s Office provided more evidence for his alleged crime.

Grechivsky can only be dismissed by the Congress of Lawyers, which delegated him to the High Council of Justice, Oksana Lysenko, a spokesman for the High Council of Justice, told the Kyiv Post.



Pavlo Grechivsky, a member of the High Council of Justice, denies extorting \$500,000. (vru.gov.ua)

Grechivsky used to co-own 7.5 hectares of land with Artur Yemelyanov, a judge of the Supreme Economic Court, and was suspected by prosecutors of illegally privatizing it, according to a Radio Liberty investigation published last year.

Yemelyanov, who still works as a judge of the court, has been accused of large-scale corruption and corporate raiding, and his wife has 13 million Swiss francs on accounts in Liechtenstein. He denies all accusations of graft.

Another blow to Kononenko and Hranovsky came as the National Anti-Corruption Bureau said on Sept. 22 it had arrested an investigator of a prosecutorial department accused of fabricating political cases on behalf of the lawmakers. The investigator is suspected of stealing fuel vouchers from a village council, the bureau said.

Meanwhile, the department’s head, Volodymyr Hutsulyak, said on Sept. 22 that three of its employees, including Dmytro Sus, had been suspended during an investigation into accusations that they had tortured employees of the anti-graft bureau in August. The prosecutors denied the accusations, saying that the bureau’s special force unit beat them up.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau on Aug. 9 accused another alleged ally of Hranovsky, Mykola Chaus, of taking a \$150,000 bribe. Chaus subsequently fled to Russian-annexed Crimea. ■



## Poroshenko meets Clinton

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton (L) and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko speak during a meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel on Sept. 19 in New York. (AFP)

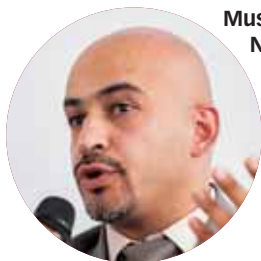


# YES speakers: Corruption, oligarchy deter investment

YES from page 5

sector of the economy. The way how it works is Mr. (Finance Minister Oleksandr) Danyliuk, who is a very reform-minded guy, he has the head of tax police, who is also sitting in this hall. Danyliuk can formally fire him at any moment. But the head of tax police was put there by some shadow figure in parliament who nobody has seen, who is one of the wealthiest guys in the country. If Mr. Danyliuk fires his subordinate Mr. Nasirov, then Mr. Nasirov can fire the entire government with no problem. As a result they are all sitting in one hall and continuing the stalemate...How do you break through this? You bring in a new generation."

*Editor's Note: Saakashvili has diagnosed the problem correctly as well as the cure – new elections bringing in a new elite that is not beholden to the oligarchs. No wonder Saakashvili, given to emotional outbursts, is facing a smear campaign.*



**Mustafa Nayyem,**  
member of  
Verkhovna  
Rada, Bloc  
of President  
Petro  
Poroshenko

"To make this glass not empty, it is not about parliament... We should start from not sitting with oligarchs in the president's cabinet, with you Mr. Lutsenko and interior minister, prosecutor general and secretary of National Council of Security and Defense...When we are talking about holes in this glass, one of them is energy. What did we do with the energy monopoly of Mr. (Rinat) Akhmetov for two years? Do we have some rules for them? Let's put legislation about an independent regulator. Who stopped that? The Bloc of President Petro Poroshenko, People's Front...In the back office, you are sitting with those guys, dealing...We are not satisfied with the efficiency and transparency of this government and the president also...this government doesn't have the will to fight corruption...they (elites) have media, money and they have all these law enforcement agencies and they are fighting us. What do we have? Transparency, freedom of speech and accountability...I don't know who will win, but I know who will lose. The country will lose..."

*Editor's Note: Nayyem correctly called out Lutsenko as being part of the problem – and part of the elite – rather than part of the solution.*



## Losers

**Olga Bielkova,**  
member of  
Verkhovna  
Rada, Bloc  
of President  
Petro  
Poroshenko

"Do you know any country in the world which would create development by putting people in jail, by prosecuting people for corruption? Because I don't. Do more advice on economic development rather than putting people in prison."

*Editor's Note: Bielkova made perhaps the most ridiculous and unfounded comment of the conference. There is a direct correlation between rule of law and prosperity. Allowing impunity for corruption got Ukraine to the place it is now: The poorest big country in Europe. Good rules and laws are useless without enforcement.*



**Yuriy Lutsenko,**  
prosecutor  
general

"I became prosecutor general at the time the office was the embodiment of evil. Getting to the trial the untouchable members of the parliament and the oligarchs is the most important problem in Ukraine because it holds back the competition. They are preserving the economy, they are conserving the policy. I don't think the most important in my job is to calculate the number of arrested and imprisoned individuals. Ukraine needs water. Our budget is empty. The salary of an ordinary teacher is \$150 a month. The budget has been robbed by the previous government and it is not being replenished because of the corruption and oligarch monopolies now...this budget has a hole in it, it leaks...My task is, once we find these leaking holes, to have them plugged."

*Editor's Note: It's time to put a hook in Lutsenko's leaky glass routine. This person clearly doesn't understand the job of a prosecutor, he's clearly unqualified, and he's clearly a political hack of President Petro Poroshenko. Oligarchs, murderers, and financial fraudsters are laughing all the way to their offshore bank accounts.*



**Pierre Lelouche,**  
member  
of French  
Assemblée  
Nationale

"If you want to fix the Middle East, you've got to fix it with the help of Russia. I have a problem with America right now. I do not need a new Cold War in Europe. How do we get out of this box in Ukraine? Do we wait for the Ukrainian political class to come up with the necessary legislation to get Minsk implemented? The only way you're going to keep Russians at bay is to succeed with the economic and political reforms. You have to take yourself by the hand and fix it. What Russia did is unforgettable and unforgivable (in Crimea). The reality is that in Washington, Paris,

London and elsewhere, nobody is going to do the 1853 war in Ukraine again."

*Editor's Note: It's hard to imagine a politician other than Donald Trump getting so many things dead wrong. Russia is stirring up problems in the Middle East, not fixing them. The Russians have not lived up to any of their Minsk peace agreements, not Ukraine. The only point he got right is that Ukraine needs to get its own house in order by reducing corruption and creating rule of law.*



**Roman Nasirov,**  
head of  
Ukraine's  
State Fiscal  
Service

"We've been dealing over the past year and a half not just with corruption, but with organized crime. Crime which has existed for many years, which was with the previous regime...where we have a problem today is so-called petty cash corruption. An officer who earns \$100 a month is at high risk of being bribed, and at a high risk that he will accept a small bribe to feed his family."

*Editor's Note: The disingenuousness of Nasirov's comments is outmatched only by the extent to which they distract from the kind of corruption that is destroying Ukraine and keeps the vast majority of its population in grinding poverty: grand corruption sanctioned by top officials who treat Nasirov's fiscal police as their personal muscle as opposed to state revenue collectors.*



**Kevin Spacey,**  
actor

"A few years ago, Victor (Pinchuk) got Cirque de Soleil to perform at his birthday party. What you might not know is that afterwards, Cirque de Soleil invited Victor to join their troupe. Because he received no formal acrobatic training, but he's still able to balance a billion-dollar empire, dozens of philanthropic and diplomatic projects, all the while juggling a wife and four kids. Now Victor, if you could just learn how to do all that on a unicycle, I'm sure they would love you to play in Vegas...I don't make these moral equations about what I'm doing."

*Editor's Note: Kevin Spacey, whose character Frank Underwood from House of Cards is known for murdering an enterprising journalist who threatened to get in the way of his political ambitions, happily spoke at Pinchuk's invitation, a man who happens to have lived out that fantasy. Ukrainska Pravda co-founder Georgiy Gongadze was murdered 16 years to the day before Spacey's speech in a murder plot in which Pinchuk's father-in-law, former*

President Leonid Kuchma, remains the prime suspect. Spacey's speech, besides complimenting Pinchuk at the start and leaving time for an equally complimentary Q&A session after, was a canned boilerplate story that he's repeated many times before. With an estimated net worth of \$80 million and worldwide fame, it's surprising that Kevin Spacey needs to charge by the hour. But the actor's speech on Sept. 15 revealed his willingness to prostitute himself in real life, too, without "moral equations."



**Volodymyr Groysman,**  
prime min-  
ister of  
Ukraine

"Criticism is our national sports. One hasn't even started his job yet, but they are criticising him already. The government has enough reform-oriented people that can make a change – that's exactly what we are doing. The decisions that the government is taking today are absolutely transparent. All the state bodies that have to fight corruption are doing it today. They are professional and independent enough."

*Editor's Note: Groysman didn't lack eloquence and boldness in his speech. What he lacked were facts to back his statements. He spoke in very general words, failing to name any concrete achievements or even plans of his Cabinet. The timing was against him: On the day before the speech, it became known that the Economy Ministry took over Uktransgaz, one of the key enterprises of the state-owned Naftogaz.*

After harsh criticism, the ministry rolled back its decision. But when Groysman was asked about it during a Q&A session after his speech, he answered vaguely, saying that he will do what is best for Ukraine – a banality which seems to be his favorite type of statement.



**Leonid Kuchma,**  
president of  
Ukraine in  
1994-2005

"I want to talk about goats. Do you still remember what a goat is? A Belgian entrepreneur has a goat farm in Lvivska Oblast. He's asking, 'How can I survive with my goats when the banks give loans with an interest rate of 23 percent?' Let's think about the development of our businesses. There is none. We forgot about it. Even under 'good' (ex-President) Viktor Yushchenko, who loved the West so much, there wasn't a single joint Ukrainian-Western business project. Under 'bad' me, GDP grew by an average 8.4 (percent) every year, for the last five years of my rule."

*Editor's Note: Embarrassment was in the air as Kuchma delivered his out-of-place, illogical remarks during a panel on foreign investments and a new economy. His major point was: Ukraine should stop caring about foreign capital and do its own thing, whatever that is. His other point was: Kuchma was Ukraine's greatest ruler. Both were met with polite nods and scant applause.*

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Want a bite of this khachapuri? Then a Georgian picnic on Sept. 24-25 is the place to be. See details on page 13. Other entertainment events at [www.kyivpost.com/lifestyle](http://www.kyivpost.com/lifestyle).

## Meet Oleksandr Usyk, rising boxing legend



Ukrainian cruiserweight boxer Oleksandr Usyk holds a Ukrainian flag after defeating Krzysztof Glowacki and winning a WBO champion belt on Sept. 17 in Gdansk, Poland. It was the 10th fight for the 29-year-old boxer who only turned professional in 2013. (K2/Piotr Duszczky)

BY MARIA ROMANENKO  
MRO@UKR.NET

The stereotypical boxer is an aggressive and somewhat dim-witted tough guy, but Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk breaks the preconceived mold.

Meeting at a cosy restaurant opposite the National Opera in Kyiv – a place he likes for its cultural vibe – Usyk immediately comes across as calm, collected, and strikingly erudite.

The boxer has just returned from Gdansk, Poland where on Sept. 17

he defeated previously unbeaten Polish boxer Krzysztof Glowacki in a 12-round unanimous decision, which established Usyk as the new WBO cruiserweight world champion.

“We aimed high (with Glowacki) for just my 10th fight,” says the boxer confidently, but with no sign of smugness.

“But from my very first professional fight, my team and I have set targets that are not easy.”

At the age of 29, Oleksandr Usyk has fought 10 professional fights, winning all of them, and around 300

amateur fights.

He has been a national celebrity since performing a celebratory Ukrainian gopak dance after winning a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics. His Cossack hairstyle, worn during and after the Olympics, and his overt patriotism won him a special place in many Ukrainian hearts.

### Way to success

But that success didn't come easily. Crimea-born Usyk started boxing at the age of 15 when his father

suggested he try out the sport. The future champion already did some wrestling and hand-to-hand combat training, so it seemed a logical next move.

But after Usyk lost his very first fight, he started thinking that boxing might not be his thing. His trainer told him not to treat it as a failure, but try again instead. His father and his friends also supported him.

“So I carried on and on. And

more **Usyk** on page 13

## Music Critic

WITH MARIA ROMANENKO  
MRO@UKR.NET

## Ruslana goes wild in the Carpathians

She's Ukraine's most famous female solo artist, having gained international success after winning the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest with the song “Wild Dances,” which earned a record-high (at the time) number of points.

But these days Ruslana is spending time not on stage, but in western Ukraine, climbing 1,200-1,800-meter high mountains, sampling dairy produce made from sheep milk, (which she calls “a natural bio-stimulant”), swimming in waterfalls, petting horses, and making sheep wool blankets from scratch using a technique that is said to exist only in the village of Yavoriv, in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast.

The singer is not on some sort of unusual holiday, but has embarked on a yearlong expedition to the Carpathian Mountains. Ruslana is recording vocals for her upcoming new album, but also trying to call the nation's attention to this stunning region, which is sadly at risk of degradation.

### New album

Ruslana dubs her new music project “metamusik,” or “music that has extraordinary properties.” She has already recorded the instrumental part of the album in Kyiv, but the vocals are all to be recorded in the mountains, to give them unique acoustic properties. The singer has a portable recording studio, which she and her team carry to different locations in the Carpathian region.

“I think we are probably the first people to set up a portable studio at a height of 1,464 meters,” says Ruslana in one of her posts on Facebook (she later made a recording even higher up, at 1,500 meters).

The other locations Ruslana has used to record her songs are the 27-meter deep Dovbush caves, which had such a high humidity that the moisture risked damaging her electronic equipment, and next to a man-made stone statue of a mother goddess called Ternoshorska Lada, which could be up to 40,000 years old.

The singer has also recorded herself in a gorge so narrow that she had to ditch most of her recording equipment and just use a microphone (but the

more **Ruslana** on page 13

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Ukrainian pop star Ruslana Lyzhychko records the vocals for her next album in the Carpathian Mountains. (Ruslana Lyzhychko/Facebook)

## Ruslana taking outdoor vocals recording to new highs in western Ukraine

Ruslana from page 12

narrowness actually magnified the sound like no amplifier or speaker system could, she says).

Occasionally the singer is interrupted by nature: she has been caught in thunderstorms and even attacked by bats. And she once had to stop a recording session because a gaggle of tourists became overexcited about seeing the star in the flesh.

### Environmental mission

Ruslana is joining efforts with local and foreign ethnographers, historians, ecologists, and biologists to fight the illegal destruction of Ukraine's highland environment. She shares heart-breaking photos and videos of the damage that has already been done - the fresh bare patches in the forests where the trees have been illegally felled.

"Even from a distance it looks like barbarism - disfigured and crippled mountains... If we continue to cut down the Carpathian forests like we're doing today, in 10 years the Carpathians will cease to exist as a health resort," the singer warns.

Ruslana is no stranger to environmentalism. Along with her husband

Oleksandr Ksenofontov, she bought a three-floor house in 2009 that the couple has since equipped with a solar electric system. The singer regards protecting the environment as her mission.

### Attracting tourists

Ruslana says she wants to create a "new vision of the Carpathians" and "to share this vision with the public."

She encourages Ukrainians to travel around their country, and if they do, to go to the Carpathians, take off their headphones and listen to "the music of nature." The singer also continuously emphasizes the healing powers of nature in the Carpathians, claiming that even when she feels ill, after spending an entire day on top of the mountains, exposed to nature once more, her symptoms magically disappear.

"One can only become truly stronger by merging with nature," she says.

Her numerous videos bear her out: Ruslana's make-up-free, gleaming face radiates happiness and energy. Her feet are bare at all times: "After a while feet get used to the surroundings, and are unaffected by rocks and spiky plants," she says.

She is truly still wild. ■

## New WBO champion Usyk opens up about family and training

Usyk from page 12

things started working out," Usyk said.

Another difficult moment in his career came when, during the World Championship finale in Baku, he was fighting an Azerbaijani boxer - and an extremely partisan crowd of spectators.

That, and other experiences, has helped Usyk develop a thick skin. He says he's now used to criticism and people trying to give him a hard time - which still happens. A couple of months ago the boxer was slammed in the Ukrainian media for responding "Crimea is Crimea" to a question whether Crimea was Russian or Ukrainian - for many patriotic Ukrainians he went from a hero into an enemy overnight.

"You know, it does hurt a little," says the champion, "but people just feel hurt and lied to in general, so (such reactions) are probably a form of defense for them. In the end, being a patriot doesn't mean hating everybody other than your country."

"It's easy to love humanity, but we need to learn to love our neighbors."

### Training

It's only been a few days since Usyk won the WBO, so he is still on a well-deserved break, but the boxer says he is itching to get back into training in the end of September. His favorite place to train is Bukovel, a ski resort in western Ukraine. Usyk loves the facilities there, along with the breathtaking mountain and forest landscapes.

When the boxer is preparing for a fight, his typical training day begins at 6 a.m. with an 8-10.5-kilometer run. The next training session normally takes place at midday - either weight lifting or a cardio workout. The main training happens in the



Oleksandr Usyk sits for an interview with the Kyiv Post on Sept. 20 in Kyiv, only two days after winning a World Boxing Organization title in Poland. (Volodymyr Petrov)

evening, comprising punch bag or punching mitt workouts.

After 3-4 weeks of intensive three-times-a-day workouts, the sparring begins. The boxer's training sessions then start at 10 a.m. or later, with sparring training done closer to the usual fight time (around 8 p.m.), so that the body gets used to working at night.

After a fight, good nutrition, vitamins, massages, sauna and other procedures help Usyk recover.

### Family

Midway through our conversation the boxer talks of his family's recent move from his hometown - Simferopol in Crimea - to Kyiv. His older son can now come to his training sessions to watch him, and his daughter Liza comes too sometimes.

"When they're closer to me I feel more content, and my soul is fulfilled," Usyk says.

Usyk and his wife Yekaterina have three children, the youngest one

being just eight-month-old, but the boxer says he would like to have two more. His three-year-old son Kyrlo is too young to understand what his father's job is, but likes to play with Usyk's boxing equipment. A six-year-old Liza watches all his fights and supports him.

When Usyk got a foot injury in March which forced him to cancel his fight with Stephen Simmons, Liza video called him and demanded authoritatively to see his foot.

Usyk's favorite pastime is walking with his family in Shevchenko Park in Kyiv, and visiting theaters and the dolphinarium together.

Usyk likes to read educational, religious and psychology literature. He speaks highly of the legendary boxer Muhammad Ali, whom he always admired - and not just for his sporting achievements, he says.

"A boxer becomes great not through fighting technique or records," Usyk says, "but through what they say and what they do." ■



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Pechersk School International, Kyiv, students averaged 34 points on the International Baccalaureate Diploma examinations, which is well above the world average of all IB Schools. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2016 on these very successful results.



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Sept. 23



(Jan Blomqvist/facebook)

## Jan Blomqvist (electro pop)

German electro-pop performer Jan Blomqvist will call in at the Ukrainian capital during his world tour and present his new album "Remote Control." The Berlin-based musician started his career in 2011. Since then he has performed more than 300 shows all over the world.

**Jan Blomqvist. Sept. 23. 8 p.m. Atlas (37–41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.). Hr 500 – 1,500**

Sept. 22- Oct. 3



(manhattanshort.com)

## Manhattan Film Festival

Every fall the Manhattan Short Film Festival selects and screens 10 of the best short films from all over the world. This year, audiences in Ukraine will have the chance to see movies from France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, Germany and the United States.

**Manhattan Short Film Festival. Sept. 22 – Oct. 3. 7 p.m. Kinopanorama (19 Shota Rustaveli St.). Hr 120 – 150**

Sept. 24



(totemdancegroup.com.ua)

## Dance show at Gogolfest

Ukraine's Totem Dance Group will present a contemporary dance performance entitled "Black Box," created by Spanish choreographer Chevi Muraday. The show will be a part of the Gogolfest annual contemporary art festival.

**Black Box (dance show). Sept. 24. 7 p.m. Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.). Hr 150**

## Salsa party

Ukrainian band Discolados will present its "Funky Hot Salsa" program. The musicians position themselves as the first salsa band in Ukraine. Discolados debuted on the global stage on air on Hard Salsa Radio in New York City with their first original single, "Resaca."

**Salsa Party. Sept. 24. 7 p.m. Caribbean Club (4 Symona Petlyury St.). Hr 120 – 360**

Sept. 24



(caribbean.club.com.ua)

Sept. 24



(Barland/facebook)

## Bartenders' competition

Bartenders from the best bars and clubs in Rome, Kyiv, Paris, Athens, Prague and Tel Aviv will present the newest cocktails to competition audiences in Kyiv during the Barland festival.

**Barland. Sept. 24. 4 p.m. Olympiyskiy Stadium (55 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). Hr 150**

Sept. 24-25



(Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

## Georgian Picnic

A two-day Great Georgian Picnic is to take place in the Hryshko National Botanical Garden. Guests will be offered food made by chefs from 12 regions of Georgia. Winemakers will also demonstrate the process of creating Cahetian wine, one of the most popular Georgian wine types.

**Great Georgian Picnic. Sept. 24-25. 11 a.m. Hryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiryazevska St.). Hr 30**



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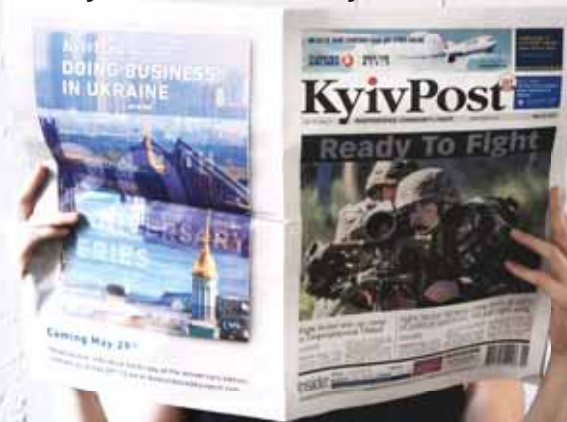
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