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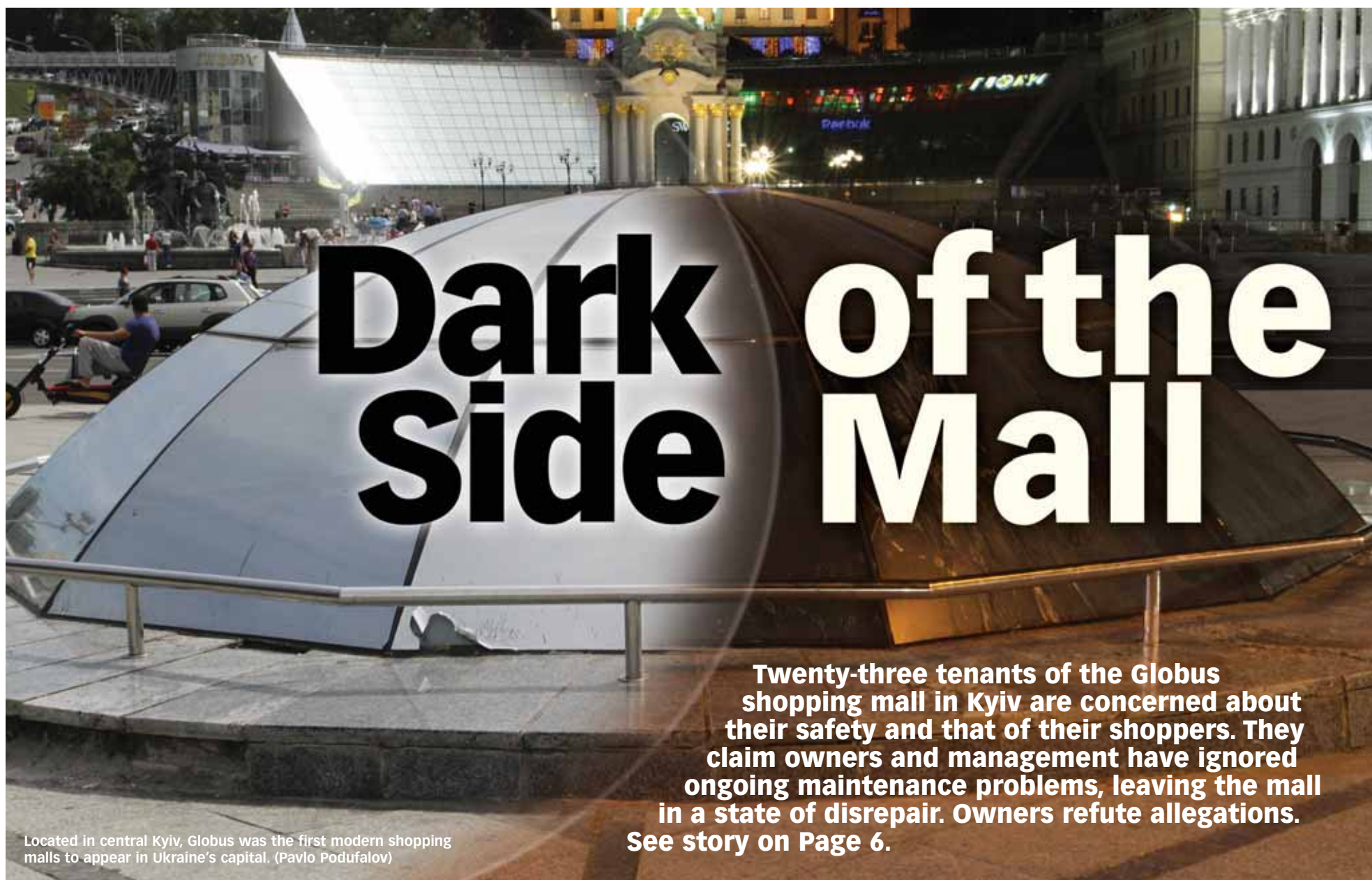


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August 2, 2013



Dark Side of the Mall

Twenty-three tenants of the Globus shopping mall in Kyiv are concerned about their safety and that of their shoppers. They claim owners and management have ignored ongoing maintenance problems, leaving the mall in a state of disrepair. Owners refute allegations. See story on Page 6.

Located in central Kyiv, Globus was the first modern shopping malls to appear in Ukraine's capital. (Pavlo Podufalov)

Activists demand end to cruel entertainment at animals' expense

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

The video of an exhausted brown bear used as bait in a hunting dog competition in April near Vinnytsia in central Ukraine has shocked animal activists and become a nightmare for Royal Canin, the France-based global pet food producer found to have sponsored the event.

To save itself from international boycott the company had to publicly apologize, promise to investigate the

activity of its Ukrainian office and pledge to help the local bait bears. The Ukrainian Kennel Union on July 24 also ordered a stop to the use of brown bears in the contests.

But environmentalists say this scandalous case is only the tip of the iceberg, as dozens of wild animals are still being tortured and used as entertainment in dolphinariums, restaurants, travelling zoos and an array of other places.

"The animals are being used for business, barefaced and cruel," said

Tamara Tarnavska, a long-standing animal campaigner, adding that it is commonly done with the knowledge of the authorities and negligence of ordinary people.

Dozens of activists gathered on July 26 near Kyiv's Nemo dolphinarium to demand that the "chlorinated prison for dolphins" close its doors. Activists claim that tap water containing chlorine, which is used in the pools for dolphinariums, irritates the eyes and skin of the dolphins. They also say that feeding the dol- →9

Infant death, organ removal in Mykolaiv sparks investigation

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER
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Mykolaiv residents Janti Rajab and his wife Anna Rajab should be enjoying their first summer with their newborn baby girl. Instead, the couple is embroiled in a fight with doctors and management at Mykolaiv Prenatal Hospital No. 2, who they say are responsible for the wrongful death of their child during birth on May 28 and removal of her organs immediately

after without their consent.

Mykolaiv police have opened an investigation into the matter, Janti Rajab, 26, a real estate agent who splits time between Mykolaiv and Dubai, told the Kyiv Post. Local news website NO Crime reported the Mykolaiv Regional State Administration's health department launched a commission to look into the incident, but its findings were not made public by press time. If police charge doctors with medical malpractice leading to the infant's death, →8

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Ukraine on pace for record grain harvest in decade

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH

Ukrainian farmers have as of July 29 harvested nearly 27 million tons of grain representing a 21 percent year-on-year increase on 9 million hectares of land, Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital said in a note to investors. The figures imply an average yield of 2.95 tons per hectare, or a 22 percent rise over the same period last year.

Dragon Capital reported that the volume included 19.6 million tons of wheat, 6.2 million tons of barley and 2.1 million tons of rapeseed.

The Agriculture Ministry forecasts that 57-59 million tons of grain will



be harvested this year, up 22-26 percent over last year, and the highest volume in a decade, Dragon Capital said.

"We are currently more conservative on the 2013 harvest outlook in view of the very dry weather currently being observed in central and southern Ukraine, expecting production of 55.1 million tons (+26% y-o-y). At the same time, we think grain exports in the 2013/14 marketing year could hit 28.6 million tons (+19% y-o-y), above the Agriculture Ministry's forecast, including 17.7 million tons of corn (+20% y-o-y), 8.2 million tons of wheat (+20% y-o-y) and 2.7 million tons of barley (+15% y-o-y)," said Dragon.

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- News Blog: FEMEN activists, journalist arrested during Kyivan Rus celebrations
- Beached dolphin dies of abuse in Crimea
- 10 facts about Kyivan Rus
- Volodymyr's Baptism of Kyivan Rus: Ukraine's European choice then and now
- Mirror: Dereck Chisora in Ibiza nightclub brawl with Wladimir Klitschko after confronting the world champion
- Yanukovych denies ties to Crimean mansion
- Shady Crimean company is lead exporter to Belize
- Russia's Putin courts Ukraine ahead of planned EU deals
- Dnipropetrovsk, city with a Soviet soul

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- Experts: Putin's visit to Ukraine has not produced the desired effect
- Yanukovych constructing Crimean mansion, investigation finds
- Dnipropetrovsk, city with a Soviet soul
- Activists call on authorities to stop torture of bears used as bait in dog trainings
- Femen members attacked ahead of and during Kyivan Rus Baptism celebrations
- Bryhynets says Himmler's bunker put on list for recognition as Ukrainian monument
- Yanukovych denies ties to Crimean mansion
- Tymoshenko calls on society to unite Ukrainian Orthodoxy



This new, massive mansion is currently under construction atop a cliffside in southern Crimea and is claimed to belong to Ukrainian president. (Tetyana Chornovol)

Yanukovych constructing Crimean mansion, investigation finds

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych is building a new, massive mansion for himself atop a cliffside in southern Crimea formerly owned by the state, news website Ukrainska Pravda has reported.

According to a recent investigation by the news website, major construction is underway on the Ayia Cape estate, the progress of which can be seen in numerous photographs captured by Tetyana Chornovol, a journalist who has investigated Yanukovych's properties since 2010.

In a response to Kyiv Post request, the press service of the President's administration denied the allegations and said that Ukrainska Pravda "presented false facts."

"Viktor Yanukovych and members of his family have no connections with the construction mentioned, with the land plot, or to the firms that own the plot," reads the comment.

The land atop which the new house is being built was home to a sanatorium for employees of a state-owned road repair company prior to summer 2007, reports show. However, in

2007, all the assets of the sanatorium, including the 3.5 hectare park around it, were sold by the state for just Hr 6.3 million, while Viktor Yanukovych was serving as prime minister. The property went to little known Crimean company Arkhur-Krym, itself owned by Ukrkyivresurs.

Journalists have tied Ukrkyivresurs to the president and his family. For instance, Ukrkyivresurs owns the so-called Tea House in the town of Crimean town of Massandra often used by the president. The company also legally employs workers of Yanukovych's Mezhyhirya mansion north of Kyiv and owns helicopters and a plane used by the president.

The firm also supplied construction material and furniture for Mezhyhirya. Moreover, Ukrkyivresurs is registered in a building in the town of Brovary that is owned by Andriy Kravets, a presidential administration worker.

Former head of Ukrkyivresurs Mykhailo Dobnev was also the head of Vesprom company, which owns the yacht used by the president's elder son, billionaire businessman Oleksandr.

The Kyiv Post's Business Focus in its **Aug. 16** edition will be on:

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Journalists to leave Forbes in protest over new owner

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
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Two journalists announced on Aug. 1 that they will leave Forbes Ukraine after a new chief editor was introduced to the staff, following a change in ownership of the business publication.

On Aug. 1, deputy editor of Forbes.ua and the magazine's top investigative journalist both issued statements saying they plan to resign.

"This was not an easy decision... I gave two years of my life to this project which has been an unforgettable, amazing adventure, more than a job and a line in the CV," wrote investigative journalist Sevgil Musaieva on her Facebook page.

She added that she considers it unethical to work for a magazine owned by a man whom she spent more than six months investigating.

The 27-year-old owner of VETEK energy holding Serhiy Kurchenko announced on June 20 that he had purchased UMH Group, the Forbes licensee and one of the country's biggest media holdings, whose assets also include Focus, Vogue, and Korrespondent magazines. The deal will come into effect in early 2014.

Kurchenko has made headlines recently for his unexpected entry into Ukraine's highly politicized gas sector through VETEK, which is in talks to become an importer of Russian gas, a privilege only shared by state giant



In addition to other businesses, Kurchenko owns one of Ukraine's top football clubs, Metalist Kharkiv. In this photo he poses with the silver medal Metalist received in the Ukrainian football championship on July 27. (UNIAN)

Naftohaz, billionaire oligarch Dmytro Firtash's Ostchem and Metinvest, which is owned by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, according to the Interfax news agency.

"I specialize in (investigating) oil and gas. And this is one of the main businesses of Serhiy Kurchenko," Musaieva said. She added that after her investi-

gative piece on Kurchenko was published, called "The gas king of all Ukraine, or who is Mr. Kurchenko?" she and her editor Oleksandr Akymenko came "under pressure" from the magazine's management.

"I think it is wrong when owners of the magazine (Forbes) license say that we could have manipulated facts or

become victims of someone's business interests," Musaieva said.

Deputy editor of Forbes.ua Oleksandr Akymenko said that "the purchase of Forbes Ukraine by a person with the last name of Kurchenko is my personal tragedy as well."

"The deal took away the core value of Forbes – its honesty. One cannot

look into the eyes of readers when they have that shadow looming over him. Moreover, it contradicts the substance of the magazine – after all, this is a magazine about entrepreneurship, not about wild capitalism," Akymenko wrote on his Facebook page.

Previously Forbes Ukraine chief editor Vladimir Fedorin wrote in an article that he would quit his post as of Oct. 1, despite having a valid contract until December. He also wrote he suspected the sale of UMH was made to silence journalists ahead of the upcoming presidential elections in 2015 and to burnish the new owner's reputation.

Mikhail Kotov, a Russian citizen and former chief editor of Gazeta.ru news site, was named to take over as a chief editor on July 29.

Fedorin's accusations were brushed aside in a June 21 statement by Forbes Media Senior Executive Miguel Forbes, who said the purchase would "open new opportunities for Forbes Ukraine."

In past months Forbes Ukraine published numerous hard-hitting reports, notably on public tenders won by President Viktor Yanukovich's oldest son, Oleksandr, as well as numerous investigations into the gas and energy sector.

Focus magazine estimated that Serhiy Kurchenko is worth "at least \$650 million," placing him 30th on the list of Ukraine's 200 Richest.

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Spanish footballer Cristobal awarded €600,000 in contract dispute with FC Karpaty

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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The dispute resolution chamber of Ukraine's soccer governing body on July 17 awarded FC Karpaty midfielder Cristobal Marquez Crespo €600,000 in compensation over a contract dispute with his former club, notably regarding his compensation package.

The Football Federation of Ukraine also terminated the 29-year-old Spanish footballer's contract with FC Karpaty and granted him free agent status, announced Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners, the law firm representing him.

FFU found that the Karpaty soccer club was in breach of contract for the July 2012-June 2013 soccer season.

A FC Karpaty representative said the soccer club isn't immediately commenting on the football federation's ruling.

The decision can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In January 2012 Karpaty loaned him to Spanish club Elche CF for one year.

Another high-profile case of unpaid salaries ended in November 2012 when FIFA, the world's soccer governing body fined Tavria Simferopol \$100,000 over an employment dispute with Nigerian Abdulwaheed Afolabi.

A survey of Ukrainian soccer players



Former Karpaty Lviv Spanish midfielder Cristobal Marquez battles for control of the ball against Obolon Kyiv's goalkeeper Vitaliy Rieva on Sept. 17, 2011 in Lviv. (UNIAN)

conducted by FIFPro, a global organization representing professional footballers, in February 2012 found that 15.5 percent had experienced delays in the payment of their salaries, while 7.6 percent had been approached to consider match-fixing. This implies, that on average, almost two of the 22 players

on the field will have been offered the chance to fix a game's result.

"A player who has to wait for his money has a greater chance of being approached to manipulate a match," the FIFPro report reads.

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Editorials

Uncivilized by choice

When Russian President Vladimir Putin argued in Kyiv last weekend that Ukraine should not leave the Russian-Orthodox civilization, he was speaking out of fear that Ukraine would sign the Association Agreement with the European Union this November, implement the necessary reforms, and anchor itself to the Western world. Such a scenario may seem overly optimistic, but it is also true that in recent years Ukraine's authorities have done much to reduce dependence on Russia, remain aloof of any integration projects, and keep the nation's still biggest trading partner at a safe distance.

All of this is worrying to Russia, which still sees Ukraine as a valuable economic prize, and the symbolic heartland of the Kremlin's new ideological project, the Russian World, which aims to tie the core Eastern Slavic lands in a union based on language, culture and a shared Orthodox faith. In terms of economy, Putin might be right – trade with Russia is down 18 percent this year, mainly on lower fuel imports to Ukraine. But in terms of political culture, or "civilization," he can sleep easy: Ukraine is sliding ever further down the path of lawlessness and abuse of human rights that characterize today's Russia.

On the same day the Russian dignitaries were visiting Kyiv, activists from radical feminist group Femen and a photographer accompanying them were roughed up by police and detained on charges of petty hooliganism and disobeying law enforcement officials, respectively. They were tried the next morning, once Kyiv's distinguished guests had left, and received a minor fine. This was not the only case involving Femen: Anna Hutsol, the group's leader, was beaten twice the same day and had her laptop and dog stolen; a male Femen activist was brutally beaten only days earlier, resulting in a broken jaw and missing teeth.

Which group stands behind these particular attacks no longer matters – the lack of progress on the murder of Volodymyr Honcharenko, an environmental activist, near Dnipropetrovsk is telling – it's enough to look at the victims to see where the country is headed. Even worse, it is now the activists that are being persecuted: through fines, ludicrous criminal investigations, or forced psychiatric treatment.

Despite all this, Ukraine remains much softer than Russia, where youthful protest groups like Pussy Riot face hard prison sentences and journalists face severe beatings for their investigative work – the same work in Russia can lead to their disappearance, or even death. Ukrainian nationalist groups, unlike their Russian peers, only managed to push for an anti-discrimination bill to be shelved – not get "homosexual propaganda" banned. But the direction is pretty clear. Putin should be so proud.

Usual cruelty

Ukraine's headlines have recently been filled with cases of animal neglect and outright abuse: bears being used to bait dogs, dolphins and sharks dying on beaches as tourists look on, exotic animals suffering to provide a cheesy photo opportunity. When seen from a distance, they highlight not just a society that fails to properly implement the numerous laws meant to protect our furry friends – it is one where cruel indifference is the norm, and sometimes a source of amusement.

Searching for the animal abuse cases from the period since independence, you will only find 17 court sentences in the State Registry of Court Decisions. Ukrainian legislation punishes animal cruelty with six months of prison or a fee up to Hr 850, more if the minors were present at the crime scene. In a country with an average salary of Hr 3,380 that restriction seems to be deterrent enough, but in reality, it's not.

In some cases, the abuse of animals is terrible, but still has some perverted logic behind it. Such was the case of a married couple in Poltava, which killed and ate 15 cats in 2008, arguing they had no money for food. Guard dogs, meant to provide security, are often killed during burglaries. Terrible as they are, these cases at least have an explanation.

But what cannot be excused or explained is the gratuitous abuse of animals, or indifference to evident suffering. Yet this is exactly what the recent cases have shown.

You don't have to dig through court records to see the animal cruelty. Ukrainians live surrounded by it. Animal abuse is on the country's beaches and boulevards that are filled with photographers offering a picture with a monkey or some kind of reptile. It's in the backstage of every circus, where lions and wolves are held in cages the size of a toilet stall in a Soviet khrushchovka apartment. It's in the parks of Kyiv where "doghunters" leave poisoned meat for both pets and stray dogs to die in pain.

A harsh and violent history has left many immune to the suffering of other people, let alone animals. But a society's values, and the compassion shared between its members, depend on how it treats the lowest of its members. The lack of empathy and respect for animals, sadly, explains a lot about the way that people are treated, too.



NEWS ITEM: Russian President Vladimir Putin caught a 21-kilogram pike when fishing in the Tuva Republic in Russia on July 20. According to Putin's spokesperson, it took him 30 minutes to drag the giant fish out of water. After pictures of Putin holding a large fish went viral online, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko decided he would not be bested, telling reporters on July 31 that he once caught a 57-kilogram catfish when fishing in the river Pripyat in southern Belarus. The hulking Viktor Yanukovich, the largest of the three presidents, has not made any such claims, and is not known for such shows of manliness. He is currently vacationing in Crimea, where yet another giant mansion is allegedly being built for him.

Ukraine's lost trade war



ILДАР GAZIZULLIN

Starting a war is never a good idea, but it's particularly foolish if you know you are going to lose it. Ukraine's initiative to protect its car producers has angered its major trading partners. This step could eventually backfire, leading to zero or even negative economic results for the country. Furthermore, the benefits to the protected car industry are likely to be short lived.

In early 2013 Ukraine increased car import duties, which World Trade Organization members have decried as being unjustified and implemented with procedural violations. Ukraine is now facing sanctions from the European Union, Japan, Russia, South Korea and Turkey in retaliation. Turkey has already imposed duties on Ukraine's walnut exports.

There are two possible outcomes. First, Ukraine would "trade" protection of its car sector for worse terms of trade for a number of exporting sectors. This would likely adversely impact the food industry (food products are sensitive export items that importing countries specifically like to target). It is very possible that the damage exporters would face from those sanctions could end up being higher than benefits to the car producers. And yes, domestic consumers are those who pay the price for more expensive imports.

The second outcome is that Ukraine would withdraw from its decision to increase the duties. Against this is the car industry, which enjoys a strong lobby and has support across all political parties. However, if Ukraine signs the free trade agreement with the EU in November (along with the Association Agreement), such special treatment of the domestic car producers would have to stop.

So, does the car industry deserve the political and economic price Ukraine might have to pay? It is true that the sector has been hit hard by the economic crisis: car production declined by 25 percent in 2012 and by about 50 percent in the first half of 2013. But, contrary to what the government claims, the car industry is hardly economically significant: in fact, its share in total industrial output and

employment is less than 1 percent. Of course, the government is to fight for each job, you have to ask yourself why jobs in the car sector are more important than those, say, in the food sector. One could argue that Ukraine's major car companies should not get any government attention at all, as they have little chances in competing with major car producers, be it globally or domestically.

Now if the business environment improves, the domestic car industry does have prospects. It could attract investments, integrate into the European supply chain and the country could see growth of intra-industry trade. International investors have long been eying Ukraine to start producing car components, given the country's proximity to major car plants in the EU. However, after unexpected policy changes in the early 2000s (among other things, tax privileges were abolished), those few investors who came to the country have since left.

Eventually, it is sound domestic policy and good business environment that enable a country to compete internationally. It goes without saying that it is better to attract private investments to create new jobs and generate trade flows rather than waste public money protecting uncompetitive industries. Yet, there is always a place for effective state aid policy, which does not distort competition and is not favoring specific companies. Ukraine state aid policy is not effective at the moment, but it better be if the country wants to shield regions and employees hit by economic recession (which is still ongoing) and not be hit by trade sanctions.

Ukraine should change its strategy in pursuing economic interests in the WTO: instead of blocking imports, Kyiv should promote its exports. Though the WTO is indeed notorious for its inefficiency, it remains the best platform for small countries to settle trade disputes. This is something that Kyiv should not neglect, given persistent protectionist policies in other countries, particularly recurring problems that Ukrainian products face in Russia and Customs Union. Unfortunately, the country has already taken a number of steps that have damaged its image in the organization: Reuters, the news agency, has quoted diplomats calling Ukraine's behavior in the WTO over the past few years as "aggressive and eccentric." Ukraine desperately needs to win back the support of WTO members to make sure it is not left alone on the battlefield in the future.

Ildar Gazizullin is the director of the economic policy and business program at the Kyiv-based Institute for Public Policy.

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Dmytro Pavlychenko (left), 49, and his son Serhiy Pavlychenko, 20, acknowledge supporters during an Aug. 1 Kyiv Appellate Court ruling that upheld their conviction of murdering a judge on March 21, 2011. (UNIAN)

Judicial perversion



MARK RACHKEVYCH

A shameless perversion of justice is the only way to describe the Aug. 1 Kyiv Appellate Court ruling that upheld the conviction of a father and son for murdering a judge, who presided over many property development dispute cases, in 2011.

The father, Dmytro Pavlychenko, and his son, Serhiy Pavlychenko, still could appeal the tragic ruling, but given Ukraine's dismal acquittal rates that have averaged 0.23 percent in 2005-2012 (far lower than the average 10.5 percent acquittal rate in 1935-1945 during Stalin's totalitarian rule, according to respected journalist Mustafa Nayem's research), the odds for exoneration are severely against them.

The initial Oct. 2, 2012 ruling sentenced Dmytro, who was in his late 40s at the time of Judge Serhiy Zubkov's murder, to life in prison. His son, who was only 18, received 13 years. The authorities, including Anatoliy Mohyliov, the interior minister at the time, said the case was well-documented and well-investigated, and said the right people were convicted.

But yesterday's ruling came after new evidence was presented to the court and followed the disclosure in January of confidential case file materials by an alleged whistleblower from the prosecutor's office that suggested the Pavlychenkos were not guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt."

I personally wrote about and examined the case file materials, and consulted with lawyers, including the defense team's legal counsel, who unambiguously said the materials provided enough inconsistencies and contradictions with the official version of events that the criminal case would have been thrown out of any courtroom that makes decisions without "passion or prejudice."

Not in Ukraine where the courts dish out justice as often as Haley's Comet is visible to the naked eye from Earth.

The whistleblower explained his reason for making the case materials available in a drop box in an e-mailed message to the Kyiv Post "on behalf of all prosecutors who still have a conscience left," adding that he cannot "look at such a disgrace with what is being done in the name of the public prosecutor's office in the courts anymore."

The anonymous alleged prosecutor wrote that "when the (murder) case is thrown together so insolently and thoughtlessly, then it's clear to even the inexperienced (law enforcer) that (the case) received approval from very high up."

The official version of the 42-year-old judge's murder says the motive was revenge. Zubkov had evicted the Pavlychenko family from their centrally located Kyiv home in a December 2010 ruling in favor of Gooioord BV, a Dutch property developer.

Investigators said Dmytro, a small-scale businessman, recruited his son, a teenager and member of the Dynamo Kyiv soccer team fan club, to help carry out the murder. They said the father and son waited for the judge to return home on March 21 when they killed him in the elevator and left him on the landing near his apartment entrance.

Three days later on March 24, police announced they had the suspects in custody in a display of swift investigative work. It appears they investigated the other property dispute cases over which the judge had presided, including those that ruled in the public's, not the private developer's, favor in just three days.

Authorities said they placed the son, Serhiy, at the crime scene because he had left his blood-soaked gym shoes and jogging pants on the first floor of the residential building when fleeing.

But the case file shows a picture of one of the gym shoes without blood, and whose sole print doesn't match the one found at the crime scene on the 7th floor where the judge was murdered.

The leaked information also indicates that a police dog followed the sole print in the opposite direction that police say Serhiy had fled. The route the police dog took leads to a second sole print, identical to the one on the 7th floor murder scene, which doesn't match the found gym shoe.

Authorities say Serhiy put the judge's trousers and shoes on after the murder; even the though the judge had died of numerous knife and gunshot wounds, suggesting his clothes also had blood on them.

In court appearances, Serhiy said the murder confession he initially gave was given under extreme duress. Authorities refuted this in court despite documented cases of police torture by human rights groups.

The leaked information also contains material that authorities believed there was a third person at the crime scene, but which was omitted in their official version.

Also, authorities say they found a wheelchair on the first floor of the residential building where Zubkov lived that was left there by Dmytro after the murder — apparently he used the wheelchair to enter the building disguised. They say Dmytro's fingerprints matched those found on the wheelchair.

Yet, according to the case file, authorities first found four usable fingerprints on the wheelchair. But when Dmytro was detained on March 24, investigators ordered a repeat forensic study of the wheelchair.

This time, they sent fingerprint markings on adhesive tape for analysis, not the actual wheelchair, suggesting the prints could have been retrieved anywhere. Moreover, authorities sent five fingerprints for a repeat analysis while only four usable prints were found on the wheelchair.

I would like to ask the presiding judge of Aug. 1 Viacheslav Dziubyn: "how do four finger usable prints produce five? The same way that 2+2=5 in George Orwell's 1984?"

Mark Rachkevych is a Kyiv Post editor.

VOX
populi

WITH
ANNA SHAMANSKA



Considering the latest cases involving animal abuse, what measures do you think should be taken to prevent such incidents, and by whom?



Serhiy Semenov,
courier

I believe that it is our government's fault. They have to take strong actions against

those who abuse animals. If it's their first offense, they should be fined. Then they should be taken to court.



Katya Zorina,
student

Ukraine needs to have organizations such as Greenpeace. If (such organiza-

tions) already are here, they don't do their job well enough. They should keep a close eye on territories densely populated with animals.



Mykhaylo Lades,
student

People themselves should take action and pressure officials and various organiza-

tions to take action. So far (our government and organizations) just eat the money we receive from Europe.



Volodymyr Kolesnikov,
pensioner

First of all, you have to be a human being, love animals and nature. You have to treat them with

an open heart and pure intentions. Those who don't should be severely punished. We have (environmental activists), organizations for animal protection and the society (that can encourage such punishments are carried out).



Tetiana Shyratkyina,
food consultant

If we treat our children and elderly so poorly, how can we demand

a nicer treatment of animals? The people themselves should take action. I don't believe the government and their programs can work efficiently.

Owners claim compliance with all regulatory norms

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

One by one at 11: a.m., Aug. 1, the shops at Kyiv's Globus shopping mall lowered their security gates and turned out the lights. The nineteen tenants who closed for one hour during normal working hours said they had no other choice because the mall's management and owners have for months ignored their concerns over what they call the building's deteriorating structural condition, which is becoming a safety hazard.

Leonard Sebastian, group managing and legal director of London & Regional Properties, which owns Globus, assured that the shopping mall "is in good repair and is safe."

Yet a joint act obtained by the Kyiv

History of Globus shopping mall

On May 26, 2002, the underground Globus shopping mall opened its doors on Independence Square. It was built by property developers Oleksandr Melamud and Garik Korohodsky through offshore-registered Delight Ltd. It has an area of 35,000 square meters, 18,500 square meters of which is leasable retail space. It has 159 tenants. The number of visitors to the mall has dropped from 32.7 million in 2007 to 26.3 million in 2012. In the first five months of 2013 the number of visitors fell 7 percent, compared to the same period in 2012, to 10.5 million. London & Regional Properties purchased the corporate rights to Globus in 2007 for a reported \$200 million. Founded in 1987, LRP is based in London and owned by brothers Ian and Richard Livingstone. The Irish Times has referred to them as "reclusive." LRP has a global property portfolio worth nearly £5 billion. In 2012, the Livingstone brothers paid themselves a £124 million dividend after selling off swaths of overseas assets.



Shops at Globus shopping mall in Kyiv closed for one hour on Aug. 1 to protest its owners' lack of response to their calls to fix the deteriorating structure. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Post that 23 Globus tenants signed and stamped on July 10, and which was witnessed by local law firm BKB, calls for major repairs of the entire structure's waterproofing and insurance. It asks that: "Globus conforms to current legislation, building and sanitary-and-epidemiological norms... for the purpose of protecting the safety interests of shoppers and employees of

our enterprises, as well as to secure the investments of our stores."

The act noted that the invited shopping center's owners and leasers did not attend the official recording of the document. This measure was preceded by individual letters sent earlier in July and late June by tenants, including Adidas Group, Carlo Pazolini, Karen Miller, Carnaby and others, requesting

that ongoing building and maintenance problems be addressed.

"Adidas-Ukraine has experienced numerous floods due to leakage in the ceiling and communication systems... which as a result damaged Adidas-Ukraine property and also decreased the number of visitors to the store," reads a July 3 Adidas Group letter to Globus.

The same letter requested that a Globus representative attend the July 10 gathering of tenants to discuss various building and maintenance issues.

A July 3 letter from T. J. Retail that runs the Carnaby shoe store calls the state of Globus "dissatisfactory," and complains of "constant water leaks that have formed puddles that do not conform to operational and

→7



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Humidity, mold and vermin make site unfit for use, tenants say

→ **6** sanitary-and-epidemiological norms."

Sebastian of LRP insists the shopping center is "fully compliant at all times with the authorities, regulations, and law."

He implicated Olena Morris, the mall's head of development until July 23, as the instigator of the Aug. 1 tenant protest. "Olena Morris exacerbated the issue, I met with tenants on July 29-30, I'm ready to address their issues, but there's a perpetrator," he wrote.

Morris, in turn, told the Kyiv Post that since 2007, when she started working at Globus, "no major capital expenditures have been made to address the mall's structural problems."

Sebastian furthermore said that before LRP purchased the shopping mall in 2007, the group had due diligence done on Globus and "we were comfortable, nothing came up in due diligence, we've been spending money to keep Globus in a state of condition in good repair as we're required to do."

When asked how often the building is technically assessed, Sebastian said thorough inspections are conducted annually, and that one is being conducted "at the moment." He added that a technical director is employed on staff.

"There's no element of truth to what the tenants are saying, you'll always have water penetration in subterranean levels (such as Globus), we're dealing with these issues, drainage issues, and monitor the situation regularly."

However, Sebastian admitted that water is coming through one of the domes attached to Globus on Independence Square, but the "problem is being rectified, we don't shy away from our responsibility, we're good people and have been fully compliant, we want to see happy tenants."

Other tenants complain of "excessive humidity and moisture" that lead to the build-up of mold and mildew.

Universal, the company that operates the Ajour brand of women's lin-

gerie on July 1 complained that "the conduct of commercial activity in Globus is made considerably difficult by the sharp, repulsive scent (most likely coming from the sewage system) and humidity stemming from constant water leakage."

On June 6, Tommy Hilfiger filed an "act of damaged goods" with Globus claiming that 11 pairs of shoes worth some \$2,400 were "damaged from fungus and (subsequent) deformation due to excessive moisture and humidity. Pictures attached to the claim, obtained by the Kyiv Post, showed boxes of black leather shoes shriveled up.

Grandi Firme sent three damaged goods claims totaling \$21,500 in January and February, all "because of ceiling water leakage."

An examination of official letters of complaints and inquiries sent by Globus tenants to the mall's management office show frustration over not receiving responses. Tenants also express confusion over who is actually in charge and for what they are responsible.

A July 18 letter from MD-Group, one of the mall's biggest tenants that sells goods under the brands Walker, Tommy Hilfiger, G-STAR RAW, ACCESSORIZE, and OGGI, voices concern that global real estate adviser DTZ, "as the representative of the leaser," does not have "authorization with no listed coordinates."

The letter continues: "We surprisingly discovered that the leaser Globus (through Delight (registered offshore)) is a non-resident that periodically visits Ukraine. We assume that the company DTZ is a consultant or representative albeit without a mandate from Globus, and that respective company officials and/or authorized representatives of Delight and/or Globus are non-residents of Ukraine."

The letter concluded by raising the issue that DTZ does not have contractual relations with MD-Group, and that the group also "does not require consultation from DTZ as an unauthorized agent."

DTZ did not respond to Kyiv Post requests for comment.

Letters from Carlo Pazolini, Solo Pizza, and Tally Weijl, dated July 2, July 17 and July 2, respectively, all complain about not receiving responses to earlier letters to Globus.

In particular, Solo Pizza complains of not receiving a response to a letter written in May, and informs Sebastian of LRP that from June 1 to July 31 it will not pay rent and refuses to rent storage space "because of its absolute unsuitability for use (violation of sanitary norms, including the presence of large rats)."

The reason for constant water leakages and excessive humidity appears to be caused by faulty building waterproofing that needs to be replaced, according to a 2006 assessment of Globus conducted by the government-run Construction Research Institute within the Ministry of Regional Development, Building and Utilities.

In its report CRI states that the "problems can be comprehensively resolved only by installing new, reliable external waterproofing using modern, certified (building) materials, (and at the same time) by dismantling the current covering and removing soil at no less than 0.5 meters in depth."

By 2009, when LRP was in posses-



Opened in May 2002 as Kyiv's first modern shopping center, Globus is situated underneath Independence Square where tenants complain of constant water leakage that seeps through ceilings damaging goods, property and equipment, coupled with excessive amounts mold-forming humidity. (Pavlo Podufalov)

sion of Globus, there was no evidence that major construction work had been done on the premises. A letter from the State Architectural and Building Control Inspectorate of Kyiv responding to an inquiry submitted by member of parliament Vasyl Hrytsak, and the deputy prosecutor of Kyiv, states that as of Sept. 7, 2009 during an inspection of Globus, "there were no indication whatsoever found of any kind of construction works being carried out."

Then on Oct. 14, 2010, a Kyiv district judgment ordered the Kyiv prosecutor's office to conduct an inspection of

Globus based on the 2006 assessment by CRI. The Kyiv prosecutor was to inform the court within a month of the outcome of its inspection.

When asked about the outcome, the Kyiv prosecutor told the Kyiv Post that it "doesn't have documented proof that the court ruling made it to the Kyiv prosecutor." However, based on the Kyiv Post's inquiry, the Kyiv prosecutor said on July 31 that it ordered CRI to conduct an inspection of the shopping mall.

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Unsolved acid attack at Globus

On Oct. 12, 2010, an unidentified assailant splashed concentrated sulfuric acid on the face of Olena Morris, the head of business development at Globus, in the management office of the mall. She received third degree burns on over 10 percent of her body. The same day she was medically evacuated to a Swiss clinic where she underwent 11 operations worth some \$250,000. She said she still needs to undergo five additional medical procedures.

Dismissed from Globus on July 23, Morris told the Kyiv Post she has no personal enemies and believes the attack is connected to Ian Church, the former country manager of Ukraine for London & Regional Properties. She said that a week before the attack Church advised her to hire a personal body guard. She declined the offer and said she was puzzled by it.

Church, who holds dual British and Polish citizenship, did not respond to e-mailed requests for comment. He is believed to reside in Poland. The Ministry of Internal Affairs told the Kyiv Post that Church doesn't figure in any existing criminal cases and has not been convicted in Ukraine.

Morris said that on Oct. 12, a man phoned the office of Globus and asked for her. Dressed in overalls, a man asked for Morris in particular before attacking her. Her husband, William Morris, said the security camera near where Morris was located wasn't working at the time.

After the attack, Church gave Morris \$150,000 for medical treatment as a personal gesture. Ian Livingstone, the co-owner of LRP, told William Morris in an e-mailed message dated Oct. 11, 2011 that "I haven't been involved in the situation as I don't believe that it's related to business. I understand that Ian Church has been helping on a personal basis."

However, Leonard Sebastian, group managing and legal director of LRP, refuted this version.

He said that LRP had paid out the \$150,000 for Olena Morris's medical treatment.

"We did this (paid money) immediately even though she asked for a loan," Sebastian told the Kyiv Post. "The incident has nothing to do with us, we paid for everything, not Ian Church, we can show bank statements proving that money came from LRP, we have medical bills; it was a gesture of goodwill."

Law enforcement authorities initially classified the criminal case as "hooliganism," but later upgraded it to "grievous bodily harm."

The case is still open and is being investigated by the investigation department of the Kyiv police.



Olena Morris, the head of business development at Globus, underwent numerous surgeries after she was splashed with sulfuric acid at the management office inside the shopping center on Oct. 12, 2010. (Courtesy)



Ukraine dubbed 'unsafe' for asylum-seekers, refugees

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
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Ukraine is not safe for refugees, and European countries should not return asylum-seekers to Ukraine, as it cannot be considered as a safe third country.

Such are the conclusions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in a report on the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees in Ukraine, presented in Geneva on July 26 and in Kyiv on July 30.

The results also go against a 2007 European Union-Ukraine readmission agreement, which stated that asylum seekers or refugees detained in the EU, who arrived illegally from Ukraine, are to be sent back to Eastern European country.

"Despite significant progress in recent years, Ukraine's asylum system still requires fundamental improvements: it does not offer sufficient protection against (resettlement), and does not provide asylum-seekers the opportunity to have their asylum claims considered in an efficient and fair procedure. Therefore, Ukraine should not be considered as a safe third country and UNHCR further urges States not

to return asylum-seekers to Ukraine on this basis," reads the summary of the report.

Citizens of former Soviet Union countries "have particularly low chances of obtaining refugee status in Ukraine," it continues. This certainly seems to be the case: of the 775 persons from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation who applied for international protection in Ukraine in 2010-2012, just three received the protected status.

Statistics shows that Ukraine granted protection to Russian citizens from 2005 to 2010, during Viktor Yushchenko's presidency.

However, since 2010, when Viktor Yanukovich became president, only two Russians have received the status out of 107 applicants. Meanwhile, Russians are the second largest group who receive refugee status in the EU, after Afghans.

Most of those who apply for refugee status in Ukraine are wanted in Russia for staging or participating in protests. In 2013, Ukraine turned down four Russian opposition activists – all participants of the so-called Bolotnaya Square case, which was opened on

the basis of alleged mass rioting and violence against police during the anti-government protest in Moscow on May 6, 2012. All four filed a court appeal.

The UNHCR says these cases "raise concerns about whether decision-making in these cases is fair, objective and non-discriminatory."

The State Migration Service does not comment on particular cases, but the head of its asylum department, Natalia Naumenko, says applicants are turned down because they "did not produce sufficient information confirming that their return to the country of origin would endanger them."

"Nobody is putting pressure on the State Migration Service. There is no pressure from the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Foreign Ministry," says Deputy Head of the State Migration Service Vasyl Grytsak.

Because of the large number of refusals, the UNHCR is trying to resettle people turned down by Ukraine in other countries. According to Oldrich Andrysek, the regional UNHCR representative, in 2013 10 people were resettled from Ukraine in France, four

in Canada, four in Austria, two in the U.S. and one in Sweden, as "Ukraine is rejecting people who, we believe, have very strong refugee cases."

The UNHCR urges Ukraine to change its system as it "reiterates it cannot constantly replace government and resettle people to the third countries, where international law is respected."

"Being a middle income country in Europe, Ukraine has about 2,500 recognized refugees and annually receives approximately 1,500 asylum applications. This is a very modest number in comparison to many regions bordering countries with ongoing conflict like Afghanistan, Syria or Somalia," said UNHCR spokesperson Melissa Fleming at a press briefing in Geneva on July 26.

Grytsak agrees that much more needs to be done. He says the service is working on simplifying the paperwork, a big problem for many asylum-seekers and refugees who often have no document confirming their identity. Those who were turned down by the State Migration Service and are in the process of appealing usually have no papers for years.

"Recently I have learned of a case when a man in Odesa lived with no documents for 7 years. These people cannot work, cannot open a bank account, cannot marry, cannot go to a hospital – they have no documentation," says Andrysek.

Despite the need for fundamental change of the system, the report also marks some recent progress, such as the adoption of the Law on Refugees and progress on refugee's access to education and medical services. Ukraine is also praised for the 2012 introduction of complementary protection, an international term used to describe a category of protection for people who are not refugees as defined in the Refugees Convention, but who cannot be sent back to the country of origin due to the risk that they would face.

In 2012 Ukraine granted complementary protection to 41 people from Somalia, 17 from Afghanistan, 16 from Syria, two from Palestine and eight from Iraq.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchyńska can be reached at tuchyńska@kyivpost.com.

Doctors treat pregnant Mykolaiv woman with cruel indifference

→1 they could face up to five years in prison.

There are also concerns regarding the hasty removal of the infant's organs without the family's approval. Mykolaiv morgues have in recent years deceived family members into signing consent forms to recover usable parts, including tissue, from the corpses of their deceased loved ones, in order to feed a multimillion dollar international trade, a 2012 joint investigation between the Kyiv Post and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project uncovered.

Mykolaiv Regional State Administration health department head Svitlana Hotina, who is overseeing the commission investigating the infant's death, is also in charge of legitimate organ removals for transplant programs.

Janti Rajab said he was not told why his daughter's organs were removed, or how they will be used.

The Mykolaiv Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Health and doctors at Mykolaiv Prenatal Hospital No. 2 did not respond to the Kyiv Post's requests for comment.

The couple's nightmare began late on May 27, when Anna Rajab, 22, was admitted to the hospital following contractions. Soon after her arrival around 10 p.m., she began experiencing severe abdominal pains – more than contractions – according to a written statement provided by her to the Kyiv Post.

Days earlier an ultrasound had shown the umbilical cord of the couple's unborn daughter to be wrapped twice around her neck, news that worried Anna Rajab. With that and the pain in mind, she asked medical staff to conduct a Cesarean section.

Her request was met with cruel indifference, but not before medical staff diagnosed her with preeclampsia, a serious medical condition characterized by a significant rise in blood pressure. According to the Mayo Clinic, a respected American not-for-profit medical clinic, the condition can lead to serious, possibly fatal, complications for both the mother and child if left untreated.

"In response (to my request for a C-section) we kept on hearing rejections (from doctors), who said that I am young and would not need a scar on my stomach – it is not pretty," she said.

Anna Rajab shared her concern with the doctor on duty that night, Darya Herman. "I was told (by Dr. Herman) to go to sleep and not to make up contractions, because the machine in the room didn't show that I was (having contractions)," she said.

She approached Dr. Herman again around midnight asking for help and to be transferred to the nearby maternity hospital. "She refused... and she called my pain 'false labor' and asked me with a sneer 'Why do you cry? Nothing is supposed to hurt.'"

At 5 a.m. Anna Rajab's mother tried to transport her to the maternity hospital, but doctors did not allow the transfer. At 7 a.m. She was given a pill to induce labor, which she said increased the pain. Still, hospital officials did not move to operate on her. Finally, at 9:15 a.m. an emergency vehicle transported her to the maternity hospital, where the child was delivered stillborn.

According to the initial medical report, the cause of death was intrauterine hypoxia, meaning the fetus was asphyxiated prior to or during birth.



Doctors at a Mykolaiv medical center work to recover tissue from the body of a person who had consented to the removal of their organs. (Courtesy)

But Janti Rajab said that after he filed a police report weeks later, medical examiners changed the official cause of death to an infection of toxoplasma gondii, a parasitic organism common in felines that can also infect humans. The only way the fetus could have contracted the organism would be through the mother, but results of laboratory tests conducted on Anna Rajab and obtained by the Kyiv Post show her to be negative.

The couple believe administrators at the hospital, fearing they'd be found responsible for the stillbirth, doctored the medical records.

"When we spoke to (the medical staff at the hospital) about this infection, they had no idea what it is," Janti Rajab said.

Dr. Lyudmila Melnik, an obstetrician and gynecologist at the American

Medical Center in Kyiv, said it is not uncommon for fetuses to have nuchal cords – umbilical cords wrapped around the fetal neck.

"About 25 percent of all deliveries involve a baby with (a nuchal cord). It does not mean that the baby has something wrong or has incurred something else during delivery," Melnik explained, adding that in such cases births can "require special assistance."

With many stillbirths the cause of death can be hard to nail down, according to Dr. Richard Styles, medical director at the American Medical Center. "Infants do die in the process of labor, and it's difficult sometimes to know exactly why," he said.

Giving birth in Ukraine today is safer than it used to be, according to Styles. "Ukraine has made huge advances in reducing perinatal mortality. It's com-

parable here now to newer member countries of the European Union."

Ukraine has halved its infant mortality rate since independence, but still averages 8.24 deaths per 1,000 live births, placing it 155th out of 224 countries, according to CIA World Factbook statistics.

Anna Rajab's case is not an isolated incident. Less than a month later, a similar case was brought to light when another full-term infant died during birth in the town of Veselinovo, Mykolaiv Oblast, NO Crime reported on July 27.

According to the newspaper, the unidentified mother and her unborn baby were in good health upon arriving to an area hospital at 1 a.m. Hours later the baby would be born dead. Following the doctors' pronouncement, the infant was immediately taken to the morgue without the mother being allowed to hold it, the family of the mother told local media.

Criminal proceedings have also been opened in this case, according to a deputy chief at the Veselinovo Police Department.

For now, the Rajab's have not hired a lawyer. "We don't have the money right now – it is too expensive and can take years (to fight) in court," Janti Rajab said. The two hope that by pursuing it through the police justice will prevail. Should they attempt to have another child, the couple said, they will make sure the birth takes place outside Ukraine.

Kyiv Post editor Christopher J. Miller can be reached at miller@kyivpost.com, or on Twitter at @ChristopherJM. Kyiv Post intern Anna Shamanska contributed to this story.

Environmentalists: Authorities often ignore animal abuses, sometimes assist them

→ **1**phins frozen fish is bad for their health, constant shows exhaust them and limited space doesn't allow them to communicate – cutting their hard lives very short.

"While under normal conditions a dolphin lives up to 25-30 years, in a dolphinarium it lives only 2.5 to five years maximum," said zoologist Oleksiy Vasyliuk, deputy head of National Ecological Center of Ukraine.

Currently Ukraine has around 20 dolphinariums with about 80 dolphins, environmentalists say, adding that new ones open every year despite a global movement to shutter them.

Vasyliuk believes most of the dolphins kept in Ukrainian dolphinariums were captured in local seas and so they are kept illegally there. Ukrainian legislation recognizes dolphins as an endangered species and bans fishing for and using of them for commercial purposes.

With other animals, the situation is also dire. A swan with a broken wing, a pelican with a broken beak, a bear with an eye disease – this is what workers of the Kharkiv Zoo have dealt with since July 19, after around 100 animals kept in traveling zoos were found in the woods near the city and moved there. Exhausted and underfed, most of them were slowly dying in tiny cages.

"When we found the traveling zoo we saw a donkey head lying in the dogs' cage with worms crawling over it," said Oleksiy Hryhoryev, head of the Kharkiv Zoo, as quoted by local media.

One more inhumane business is the use of exotic animals by street



A photographer offers vacationers to pose for pictures with an iguana on a beach near the city of Zaliznyi Port in southern Ukraine's Kherson Oblast on July 15, 2013. (Anastasia Vlasova)

photographers, which, despite being illegal, flourishes in most tourist hubs, especially in summer. Popular with photographers right now are owls, monkeys and snakes, Vasyliuk said. "These animals are dying fast and the photographers have to substitute them with new ones."

In many cases state authorities are

aware of the animal torture, environmentalists say. The Ministry of Nature said that they had received numerous reports of animal cruelty, including the bear baiting events, and quickly passed them on to Ukraine's State Ecological Inspection.

This inspection, which is tasked with protecting wild animals from cruel treatment, claims they know about

bear baiting and the mistreatment of dolphins, as well as other animals in traveling zoos, but they can do nothing except acknowledge the cases of animal abuse and then send the findings to the courts. "The State Ecological Inspection doesn't have rights to confiscate the animals," acting head of the agency Igor Koshelev told the Kyiv Post

in response to written request.

The law against cruelty to animals prescribes that people found guilty in animal abuse face a fine of up to Hr 3,400 (\$418) and two years in prison. But Tarnavska, who co-wrote the progressive law, said it doesn't work. In more than seven years since it was passed, she recalls only one person being convicted under this article, for torturing and killing dogs.

Ecologists say that in some cases state bodies have even been found to assist animal abusers. Tarnavska remembers a case when a wolf, kept caged in a Kyiv restaurant, had been confiscated in February due to efforts of animal protection groups and placed in the custody of the State Ecological Inspection. The wolf was later "lost" by the inspection, she says, and reappeared in the same restaurant cage.

Much like the authorities, ordinary people often show indifference to animals' suffering. On July 24 a dolphin washed ashore in Crimea died after workers of a local hotel placed a trash bag over its head and tied it to a tractor. On July 30 a shark that had washed ashore near a Crimean resort died after vacationers spent nearly an hour posing for photographs with it.

Still, Vasyliuk said that there have been numerous cases in which animals were saved because of the efforts of ordinary citizens. "Many positive changes have come from efforts of people who were not indifferent," he said.

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

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED BILLIONS TO ONE, BUT MOST BACTERIA ARE ON OUR SIDE



From the beginning of recorded time, men and women have sought to retain their youth. The documented quest runs from the writings by Herodotus through the stories of magical waters prominent among the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, who spoke of the restorative powers of the water in the mythical land of Bimini. Locating the legendary Fountain of Youth was the focus of Spaniard Juan Ponce de Leon's fabled exploration of Florida in 1513 as well.

What none of the explorers realized was that each of us carry a fountain of youth inside us, explains Olga Kukhar, health affairs manager for Danone Ukraine. Kukhar says that the lacto- and bifido- bacterium that is naturally found in mammals' intestines helps build our immunity and may be a significant key to maintaining youthful appearance and vitality.

"Over millions of years, bacteria have mastered almost all the ecological niches," she says. "To succeed, they needed to develop the unusual ability to eat light oil, to live in the Arctic cold and in boiling water. They can even collect pieces of their genome and synthesize hundreds of thousands of other genomes."

Despite the prevalence of anti-bacterial cleansers and concern about harmful germs, bacteria

populated the earth long before Homo sapiens stood upright and probably will be here long after man has walked off into the sunset. Kukhar notes that bacteria are the ultimate survivors, because they have the ability to adapt to new environments and changing conditions.

And, despite popular belief, bacteria are important to life on our planet, Kukhar says, adding that it is important to realize that we're made up of human cells, but also carry an interesting assortment of bacterial, fungal and viral life forms.

Studies show that bacteria play a key role in the development of our immune response from birth.

"Where there are no bacteria, there is no immunity," she says.

Consuming yogurt containing live active healthy bacteria supports healthy intestinal colonies of the bacteria and develops a healthy 'microbial landscape.' The next step for healthy bacteria is to build connections with new immune cells on the intestinal wall, helping them to change from 'naive cells' to 'natural killer' or 'defender' cells.

"It's like a school for cells, organized as an internal army," Kukhar says.

"We're far from alone in our own skin, and that's a good thing!" Kukhar says. "The numbers are impressive: Each person is host to 17,000 times more bacteria than there are people on the planet. Most of the bacteria we carry with us are benign,

and many, like lacto- and bifido- bacterium, are actually necessary to maintain a healthy body. They even are able to synthesize lactic acid, vitamins and vital amino acids when we need them. Aging, stress, and antibiotics, can kill our bacteria. So, if you lose your bacterial army, you need reinforcements. Those are the healthy bacteria contained in yogurt. This army is not small: there are 10 billion such bacteria in a 100-gram serving.

She says that we aren't guaranteed to always have a perfect blend of bacteria, though.

"It depends a lot on genetic factors and on what we eat," she said. "Some diets are better than others. The best situation is to eat a nutritionally balanced diet.

Beyond that, Nobel Prize-winning biologist Ilya Illuch Mechnikov, who was born in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, said a century ago that we can safeguard our youth with yogurts containing the live bacteria we need.

Recent studies demonstrated that yogurt can improve your diet, aid lactose digestion, lower bad cholesterol and support weight management. It is very important to understand that the bacteria in yogurt can even magically improve the nutrition value of milk.

"Good health is better than gold." Kukhar maintains. "A healthy person is literally worth his weight in healthy bacteria!"



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Celebrating harvest at Pyrohovo

It is harvesting time at the Pyrohovo outdoor museum near Kyiv. The museum will host an ethnic festival for those who want to dive into ancient Ukrainian traditions of harvesting crops and celebrating the harvest. Guests of the festival will be able to try out traditional Ukrainian harvesting tools while singing traditional songs fit for the occasion and engage in ritual dances. One can also take part in master classes on making ethnic clothes. For those tired of harvesting and dancing, Pyrohovo will offer grilled meals and all kinds of drinks, from uzvar (compote) to medovukha (Ukrainian honey vodka).

Harvesting Festival. Pyrohovo Open-air Folk Museum (Pyrohovo village, Kyiv Oblast). Aug. 2-4. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Hr 5-30



Touring Kyiv's courtyards

For those who are sick of Kyiv's main avenues and famous monuments there is a new way to explore Kyiv. A three-hour long walking tour will take native Kyivans and city guests to the most charming corners of the capital, small old courtyards and beautiful abandoned houses. The tour organizers claim that participants will learn how to walk through Kyiv almost completely avoiding streets and walking just through the courtyards.

Kyiv Courtyards Tour. Gathering at University Metro Station. Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (7 p.m.); Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (4 p.m.). Hr 60



Kyiv Supreme Open Air

If the words "records digging" mean something to you, and names Funky Gomez and Chinmachine don't sound like some teenager's online nicknames, you might be the appropriate audience for the Supreme Open Air, an 11-hour long party to be held on Aug. 3 on the bank of Dnipro. The festival that aims to please electronic music lovers will start on 5 p.m. and last till 6 a.m. the next day. Guests will be able to purchase vinyl records from both vinyl shops and collectors. Also, local DJs will participate in scratch competitions. A turntables workshop will take place, too, as well as a small market with clothes offered by Kyiv shops Toshoshop, Funk&Furious and RPNK. The event will end in an ultimate DJs session held by Scream (South DJs), DJ Andrew, A. Tigan & Sensoul, Raytoku and Igorskee.

Kyiv Supreme Open Air. ArtPrichal (Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St., dock No.2). Aug. 3. 5 p.m. - 6 a.m. Free

Compiled by Daryna Shevchenko and Masha Dumanska

Interactive Lavra Transformation Festival

The Lavra Art Gallery will hold a two-month long interactive project beginning Aug. 3. The gallery calls it "the transformation of gallery space," which consists of a series of master classes and other events that aim to



extend the range of usual activities at the Lavra Gallery and give visitors a more interesting experience. On Aug. 3 the gallery will host a street food festival and a design market where everyone can participate in the creation of bags, decorative pillows, candies and other items. Visitors also will be able to purchase vintage clothes, watch films and talk with members of Kyiv's cycling community. On top of this, everyone is invited to participate in redecorating the gallery space using the provided materials.

Lavra Transformation Festival. Lavra Art Gallery. Aug. 3 – Sept. 26. Hr 20



The History of Orthodox Traditions

The greatest icons of 10 centuries of Christianity from the lands that comprise modern Ukraine are on display in Kyiv's Ukrainian House. The exhibition, devoted to the 1,025th anniversary of the Baptism of Kyivan Rus, opened on July 25. The collection of icons includes 150 images of saints from the 10th to 20th centuries who influenced orthodox traditions of Slavic nations. The fine art is supported by information about each exhibit, such as the location of the saint's relics.

10 Centuries of Orthodox Christianity. The History of Kyivan Rus in the Images of its Saints. July 25 – Aug. 6. Ukrainian House (2 Khreshchatyk St.). 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Free

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Crafty artisanal jewelers of Ukraine

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

When shopping for something special from Ukraine, it's easy to get lost in the sea of identical Russian dolls, low quality embroidered shirts and salo-shaped refrigerator magnets. One alternative is the hand-made jewelry created by local designers who work with silver, gold and precious stones. The Kyiv Post picked three of the most interesting options, representing different styles and traditions.

A jeweler works on a piece of jewelry in a Paris workshop on Jan. 14, 2010. The price for an artisanal jewelry piece from Ukrainian jewelers can vary from \$30 to \$20,000 depending on materials used and the complexity of the work. (AFP)



Andriy Komarov,
jeweler

Even though Andriy Komarov got his degree in metal arts at the Lviv Academy of Art, he was not always drawn to jewelry. "I mostly concentrated on etching, stamping – mostly blacksmithing, working with base and ferrous metals," he explains. The switch came after he made his first jewelry piece following graduation in 2010: earrings

Material: Silver and natural stones
Jewelry: rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings
Price range: \$30-\$2,000
Where to buy: Argento Servo – VKontakte group (www.vk.com/club27891392)

for his girlfriend. He wanted to make something himself, so a friend taught him the filigree technique he now uses. "I made one earring and my friend made the other," he laughs.

Komarov now takes around two dozen orders per month and his clientele keeps growing. He mostly works with silver and natural stones, and doesn't copy famous brands.

He willingly explains the influence each stone has on a person. Komarov says most clients simply order a ring or other jewelry piece, choose the size and type of stone, and leave everything else up to him. "My work is not about following the trends, but about setting them," he says.



An agate semi-precious stone pendant framed in silver by Andriy Komarov.

\$55

Oleh Protsenko,
jeweler

Oleh Protsenko has the talent for making jewelry in his blood. "My dad was a jeweler, he learned jewelry on his own, later my older brother became a jeweler and finally me," he says. He added that a necessary condition to become a good jeweler is a drive to never stop learning.

Protsenko mostly works with gold, as silver is too cheap. "The time and efforts you put into the work are similar to gold but the final product is much cheaper." He mostly makes copies of branded jewelry, with the size of a client's budget determining how close they get to the real thing. "I would want to create something unique, this is my dream, but I simply don't have time for creativity now," he says.

His long list of orders is driven by word of mouth. "In jewelry making it is all about the chain effect – the amount of orders today is double the orders of yesterday," he explains. Models of his work can be found on his VKontakte page, managed by his wife Victoria. But don't expect actual photos, as the jeweler explains with a laugh: "Customers don't really want their 'Cartier' jewelry to be on my VKontakte page."



Material: gold, platinum, natural and synthetic stones
Jewelry: rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings
Price range: \$50-\$20,000
Where to buy: www.vk.com/id51743770 - Oleh Protsenko VKontakte page



A copy of a popular Tiffany ring is made of gold by Oleh Protsenko.

\$500

Nataliya Lushnikova,
jeweler

Nataliya Lushnikova wouldn't call herself a jeweler, though she uses the term as a simple way to describe the work she does with her self-invented technique of weaving gold and silver threads. The other material Lushnikova uses are diamonds, which she buys at auctions. The whole process is very time-consuming.

"I spent nine months on one pair of earrings," she says, adding that earrings usually take one to three months. "I make only earrings, necklaces and bracelets. I can't make rings – the material isn't strong enough."

She provides a lifetime guarantee with her jewelry, but notes the woven jewelry usually lasts three to five decades.

Lushnikova has two degrees in finance and linguistics and entered the jewelry business only a two years ago after a long search for the perfect earrings pushed her to make them herself. Engrossed by the work, she now mostly makes large pieces and uses Karaité themes in her design.

Middle size, faceted agate earrings decorated with pearls, golden threads and gold-plated beads.



\$800

Material: gold and silver threads, natural precious stones
Jewelry: necklaces, bracelets, earring
Price range: \$150-\$1,500
Where to buy: www.taliajewellery.com

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Decades-old outdoor workout facility attracts hundreds to Hydropark

→ **12** works on her six-pack and does exercises for hips and legs.

Fresh air is not the only reason people come to kachalka. Regular gyms in Kyiv offer annual membership for Hr 2,000 to 5,000 (\$250-530). Kachalka, however, is free of charge. But it also offers no protection from the weather, or amenities.

For 28-year-old Iryna Leskiv, the main flaw is the lack of normal shower. Visitors use a beach shower with cold water, but it's only available in the summer. Leskiv leaves her apartment in Poznyaki and makes the whole trip to kachalka four times a week. She has been coming here for more than a year now.

"I had some weight problems after giving birth to my daughter, but I couldn't afford a real gym," Leskiv explains.

Even though her main reason for choosing Hydropark was financial, the woman says she really enjoys the surrounding nature and fresh air at



A man helps his workout partner at kachalka, an outdoor gym in Hydropark in Kyiv on June 20, 2013. (Anastasia Vlasova)

kachalka.

Eight-year-old Yuliya easily finds her way among sweaty men onto the machines. She first came to kachalka with her father three years ago, and claims she has learned much since then.

"I really like sport but I don't want to be a professional athlete," Yuliya

says heartily. "I like physical training lessons at school and I want to be strong. I will be."

Yuliya unwillingly avows that her father is now stronger than her, but she aims to outdo him.

Kyiv Post intern Galyna Chernikova can be reached at gchernikova12@gmail.com.



Czech chef serves up time-honored cuisine

→ **12** Republic. Under his supervision, the restaurant offers a wide variety of traditional Czech dishes. All of them are served in a peculiar Czech manner – on large wooden breadboards and with tin tableware.

The truly hungry customers should go for a roasted pork knee served with pickled cabbage (Hr 239). The dish should be plenty for two. Those in Kozlovica for a quick bite should give a try to a traditional Czech potato soup with mushrooms served in a bowl of bread Bramborachka (Hr 38). The restaurant also serves a variety of traditional dumplings and sausages.

The Kyiv Post tasted the latter. The platter of assorted sausages (Hr 365) had a variety of seven types of sausages with plenty to eat for four people. Some of the sausages, however, may not be appealing to everyone. Vatslavskya, for example, is a blood and liver sausage.

Kozlovica, however, is great news

for business lunch lovers. Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. it offers two lunch specials. A light lunch includes a salad or soup, a main dish, a side dish and a drink for Hr 45. A full lunch includes both the salad and soup, along with everything else, and will cost you Hr 53. Every fifth full lunch is free. Also, every beer ordered "to go" will be given to you with a 10 percent discount.

Kozlovica has everything a good Czech restaurant and beer pub has – tasty food, delicious draft beer and a pleasant atmosphere. The only thing that's missing is the low Czech prices.

Kyiv Post intern Anna Shamanska can be reached at shamanska@kyivpost.com.

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Job ID: 13-6664; Kyiv, Ukraine

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Key Qualifications Include:

Degree in medicine, pharmacy, or other public health related discipline. At least four (4) years progressively responsible experience in pharmaceutical management and/or public health. At least two (2) years relevant experience in Pharmacovigilance and regulatory affairs and/or in improving rational use and pharmaceutical services for HIV/AIDS and TB medicines. Familiarity with public health, TB, and HIV/AIDS programming, data collection, analysis and presentation. Experience working with the MOH and national level organizations. Fluency in spoken and written English and Ukrainian preferred; knowledge of Russian is helpful.

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Last year, the Kyiv Post and East Europe Foundation hosted the first Tiger Conference.

It was a resounding success and catapulted Kyiv Post Conferences into the forefront of public conferences in Ukraine. It was followed in May by a well-attended Food Safety Conference.

Tiger Conference II will come just after the nation's fate is decided at the European Union's Vilnius summit, and just before the important OSCE ministerial conference hosted in Kyiv.

We expect public officials from as far away as Brazil and Indonesia to attend the conference, participate in panels, and provide keynote addresses. Additionally, leading officials from Great Britain, Poland, the Czech Republic have been invited, as well as ranking members of the Ukraine government.

You will not want to miss this conference which will again pose the question: ***Will the sleeping tiger awaken?***

The Tiger Conference II. Put it in your calendar.

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