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August 26, 2016

## Ukraine Celebrates 25 Years Of Independence

# Enjoying The Ride At 25

Wounded soldier talks about price of Ukraine's independence

BY NATALIE VIKHROV  
[NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM)

When Ukraine won its independence 25 years ago, it was with overwhelming support from the Ukrainian parliament and public.

"We got independence at no cost," said Anatoli Horbenko, a volunteer in the Donbas Battalion. "But now we're fighting for this independence."

It's a fight that has cost Horbenko both his legs and landed him in Kyiv's Main Military Hospital, where he and many other soldiers marked Ukraine's 25th anniversary of independence with a traditional meal of shashlyk, cooked by volunteers.

Horbenko joined the Donbas

more **Soldier** on page **17**

Athletes blame lack of state support for low Olympic medal totals in Rio games

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO  
[YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM)

Ukraine's results in Rio de Janeiro were less glorious than in past Summer Olympics.

The games closed on Aug. 21 with Ukraine finishing in 31st place among the 205 participating countries. Ukrainian athletes won 11 medals, two of them gold, five silver and four bronze.

The record seems impressive until put in context: At each of the previous Summer Olympics since its independence, Ukrainians won twice as many medals. Ukraine's team was the smallest ever – only 205 athletes

more **Olympic** on page **8**



An ex-soldier drives a scooter on Khreshchatyk Street in Kyiv during Independence Day celebrations on Aug. 24. The ex-soldier participated in the "March of Unbowed," a rally held by former soldiers, army volunteers, families of soldiers and relatives of some of the 100 protesters killed during the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove President Viktor Yanukovich from power in 2014. (Ukrinform)

Special coverage of Ukraine's Aug. 24 Independence Day celebrations is on page 5 and pages 9-18

**Inside:**

National **2, 3, 8 – 19** | Business **6**  
Opinion **4, 5, 7** | Lifestyle **20 – 22**  
Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds **23**

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Judges of the Constitutional Court got \$6 million in 2010 from the Party of Regions, led by then-President Viktor Yanukovich, according to a source who saw confiscated ledgers that are now in the possession of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. The court did not reply to a request for comment. (Ukrafoto)

# New sordid details emerge from Yanukovich's ledger

BY OLEG SUKHOV  
SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

More disclosures from the off-the-book ledgers of fugitive ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions show investigators have plenty to work on.

The entries reveal the vast extent to which the Yanukovich administration abused power by buying off

nationalist groups, judges, election commissions and media.

The Kyiv Post reviewed copies of parts of Party of Regions' ledgers that were given to the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine by Viktor Trepak, an ex-deputy head of the Security Service of Ukraine.

Many of the people named in the ledgers, including Paul Manafort — a former Yanukovich adviser and former campaign chairman for U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump — deny receiving cash payments. He was earmarked for \$12.7 million in the documents.

The Kyiv Post, however, just saw small fragments of a vast alleged bribery operation that included some \$2 billion in payouts from 2007-2012.

Here are some of the findings shown to the Kyiv Post:

## Buying judges

Judges of the Constitutional Court received \$6 million from the Party of Regions when the court on April 6, 2010 issued a ruling according to which lawmakers could switch from opposition parties to the Party of Regions, a source who has seen the ledgers told the Kyiv Post. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

There are also three entries on a \$500,000 payment, an \$800,000 one and a \$120,000 one allocated for "K.S." on April 8, 2010, the date when the Constitutional Court ruling was officially published, though it is not clear whether K.S. stands for "Constitutional Court"



TV host Larry King is shown in 2012. According to Party of Regions ledgers in the possession of Ukrainian investigators, King received \$225,000 ahead of his 2011 softball interview with then-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov of the then-ruling party. (AFP)

("Konstitutsionny Sud" in Russian).

The judges' presence in the ledgers was also confirmed by Trepak in May.

Taras Chornovil, an ex-lawmaker from the Party of Regions, told the Kyiv Post that the party also likely bribed the Constitutional Court in September 2010 when it increased the president's constitutional powers.

The Constitutional Court judges are currently being investigated by the Prosecutor General's Office for their alleged role in Yanukovich's usurpation of power. The court did not reply to a request for comment.

A "Y.A. Dyukov" got \$150,000 on Nov. 10, 2009 for "Rybakov, courts" — an apparent reference to lawmaker Ihor Rybakov, according to the ledgers seen by the Kyiv Post.

The ledgers also show the Party of Regions' regular spending on rallies. The party has been accused of routinely paying protesters to participate in demonstrations.

## Rigging elections

The documents expose the Party of Regions' efforts to buy the loyalty of election commissions.

An "S.M. Kuzyonny" got \$280 on Nov. 10, 2009 for a shredder to destroy documents at the Central Election Commission and \$247 for "document destruction" on July 10, 2012, the ledgers seen by the Kyiv Post show.

The leak shows that Kalyuzhny was given \$45,000 for the Central

more Yanukovich on page 19

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Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko looks out from behind bars in November 2011. Manafort coordinated a US law firm investigation to legitimize Tymoshenko's prosecution. (UNIAN)

## Memo: Manafort worked on report that justified Tymoshenko imprisonment

BY JOSH KOVENSKY  
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

Paul Manafort, who quit this summer as U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign manager after the National Anti-Corruption Bureau disclosed \$12.7 million in payments from ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, had a hand trying to make ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's trial and imprisonment look legitimate.

Manafort, while working for Yanukovich, commented on a report by U.S. law firm Skadden Arps in 2012, before it was released publicly, undermining the former administration's attempts to portray the investigation as "independent." Specifically, a memo found in the house of ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka tied Manafort to the effort to persuade the West that Tymoshenko, Yanukovich's rival, was not a political prisoner and deserved her conviction for abuse of power in 2011. She was imprisoned until Yanukovich fled power on Feb. 22, 2014.

Manafort and Skadden did not reply to requests for comment.

The Ukrainian government under Yanukovich hired Skadden Arps to conduct an investigation into whether the prosecution of Tymoshenko met Western standards of fairness. The report, released in December 2012, cleared the Ukrainian government of wrongdoing in violating Tymoshenko's right to a fair trial.

Attorney Gregory Craig - Barack Obama's first White House counsel - led the investigation on an official retainer of \$95,000 (\$3,735), according to Serhiy Vlasenko, Tymoshenko's lawyer and a Batkivshchyna Party member of parliament.

The Ukrainian government has

since opened a criminal case into former Justice Minister Oleksandr Lavrynovych over his hiring of Skadden, with prosecutors alleging that Lavrynovych laundered \$1 million out of the Ukrainian state budget in order to pay the law firm's legal fees.

A document cache found in the mansion of Pshonka is logged as evidence in the Lavrynovych investigation.

The Kyiv Post reviewed one memo from the cache. The document says that Craig was to send a draft of the report to Manafort for him to provide commentary. Another document, provided to the Kyiv Post and published by The New York Times in 2014, is a memo from Craig to Manafort asking him to help the Skadden team acquire documents from the Prosecutor General's Office.

Craig did not reply to a request for comment. An attorney for Lavrynovych also did not reply to a request for comment.

The results of the investigation were met with incredulity by many in the West, including US Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland.

### Dnipro to Potomac

Manafort made numerous visits to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine in the runup to the 2006 parliamentary elections, along with colleagues Catherine Barnes and Phillip Griffin, according to a series of diplomatic cables released by Wikileaks.

The cables show Manafort going on the offensive to warn U.S. officials about his concerns that the upcoming elections would be unfair. According to the cables, Manafort also implied that U.S. officials used the 2004 Orange Revolution to

steal that election from Yanukovich.

"Manafort warned that...there could be negative consequences in the eyes of people who saw the 'West made certain demands on the one hand when one group was in power but reacted differently, or stayed silent, when another group was in power,'" one cable, dated March 10, 2006, reads.

Assisting Manafort was Konstantin Kilimnik, a former Russian intelligence officer who worked at the International Republican Institute's Moscow office, Politico reported. Kilimnik did not reply questions on whether he had worked for Russian intelligence.

Kilimnik left IRI in the mid-2000s and joined Manafort's team in Kyiv. According to Politico, Kilimnik began to spend more time in Kyiv, hanging out at the city's elite Hyatt Regency Hotel and moving into a mansion with its own pool.

Following the elections, which saw Yanukovich become prime minister for the second time, Manafort arranged a trip for his client to Washington. For Yanukovich, the trip was an opportunity to rebrand himself as a candidate palatable to the West. Manafort arranged the excursion, bringing oligarch Serhiy Lyovochkin along with him.

Serhiy Kudelia, a Radio Liberty correspondent in D.C. at the time, said that Manafort and Lyovochkin were sitting "shoulder to shoulder" at one meeting attended by Yanukovich and journalists. Kudelia said that the visit left an impression in Washington that Yanukovich was someone with whom the West could do business.

"As long as you could persuade him to get things done, things may work out," Kudelia said, describing the impression made at the time. ■

## Ambassador: Turkey will stay strong in NATO, strong on Ukraine

BY BRIAN BONNER  
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

Much has changed in Turkey, Ukraine's southern Black Sea neighbor with 75 million people, since the failed July 15 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

But, in an interview with the Kyiv Post this month, Turkey's Ambassador to Ukraine Yonet C. Tezel wanted to emphasize what remains the same.

### No change in course

Tezel said that, contrary to widespread speculation, Erdogan's visit to see Russian President Vladimir Putin on Aug. 9 did not signify that Turkey's foreign policy "is changing course" by making an abrupt pro-Moscow shift.

He said Erdogan's aim was simply to resume dialogue that was broken after Turkey on Nov. 24 shot down a Russian warplane that strayed into Turkish airspace from Syria, where Moscow is propping up the regime of Bashar al-Assad, despite repeated warnings. Russia slapped on trade and travel sanctions against Turkey in retaliation, sending bilateral relations into a deep freeze.

The lack of contact helped no one, Tezel said. Since the thaw, Russian tourism has resumed to Turkey -- accounting for three million visitors annually -- and other trade ties appear set to return to a more normal footing.

"During the seven months that Turkey had this very problematic time with Russia, we were not anymore on speaking terms," Tezel said. "And during these seven months, Turkey became the only NATO ally not to be speaking with Russia. That was an abnormality. It was wasn't good for regional events or international issues."

Does the resumed dialogue mean that Turkey will drop its opposition to Russia's seizure of Ukraine's peninsula or end its criticism of Russia's aggression in eastern Ukraine?

### Crimea is part of Ukraine

"Of course not. Turkey will not recognize Crimea (as part of Russia). Of course not," Tezel said. "Conditions have not changed, so Turkish policy will not change. If you want to know about Turkish policy, look at the NATO documents."

NATO, whose 28 members include Turkey, has called on Russia to abide by a cease-fire, withdraw troops and weapons, return eastern border control to Ukraine and allow full access by international monitors. NATO -- and Turkey -- call on Russia to abide by the conditions of the Minsk peace agreements to end the war that has killed 10,000 people since 2014.

"Turkey's position and the position of NATO and allies and others is: We stand firm against Russian actions which are not in line with international law, not in line with peace and stability, but at the same time keep a dialogue," Tezel said. "We still have differences over Ukraine, Crimea and Syria and other regional issues."

As for Turkey's policy towards Ukraine, the ambassador said that nothing has changed and nothing will change because "it is in Turkey's interest that Ukraine is independent, sovereign, that Ukraine is united and that its territorial integrity is preserved."

In fact, one of the recent bright spots in Turkish-Ukrainian relations is the 46 percent increase in the number of Ukrainians who visited Turkey in the first six months of the year. In a normal year, about 750,000 Ukrainians vacation in Turkey.

"Turkish-Ukraine relations have their own rationale," Tezel said. "They do get affected by events. The main directions were determined before the (Nov. 24) jet event."

Turkey, however, will not support economic sanctions against Russia for several reasons, Tezel said, including the fact that some of its neighbors are frequently subject to sanctions -- including Syria, Iraq and Iran. Joining

more Turkey on page 7



Turkish Ambassador to Ukraine Yonet C. Tezel speaks with the Kyiv Post on Aug. 10 in his office in Kyiv. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Editorials

# Ukraine at 25

Ukraine celebrated its silver jubilee on Aug. 24. It was both spectacular and sad.

It was the third celebration of independence that took place amid the war raging in eastern Donbas and therefore had a special meaning to it.

The annual argument broke out about the appropriateness of a military parade in the country at war. We stand with the backers of the parade as a demonstration of the respect and support to the military defending the country against Russia. That said, we warn against defining the country's greatness with its military power.

A sad and angering note was added when the parade brought together the soldiers and the Donbas war veterans face to face with the camp of the country's top officials. Standing on the podium for the important guests, armored in Zegna, the ministers and lawmakers were looking at the parading military like Roman emperors at gladiators.

Of course, it's not an entirely fair comparison: The gladiators got killed for the emperors' amusement, Ukrainian soldiers get killed while defending the country – but only for the officials to rob it blind.

The point is, the officials have inexcusably let down the military. While soldiers – more than 2,500 – were getting killed in the muddy trenches of Donbas, winning time for the country to change, people in high offices were sabotaging the reforms, keeping a blind eye to corruption and ordering slander campaigns against journalists.

The parade brought together the two sorts of Ukrainians: the people who put the nation's interests above their own, and the people who put their own interests above everything.

At the end of the day, it is the outcome of the fight between these two forces that will define the next 25 years for Ukraine.

# Saboteur-in-chief

President Petro Poroshenko and other top officials have desperately tried to delay and emasculate electronic property and asset declarations for officials since the law on them was adopted in October 2014.

The latest sabotage attempt came earlier this month, when a state agency controlled by Poroshenko and Oleksandr Turchynov, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, refused to certify the declaration system. Another state agency, also controlled by Poroshenko and Turchynov, launched the uncertified system, making sure that officials stay unpunished.

The Yevropeiska Pravda newspaper on Aug. 15 published an editorial urging the West not to cancel visas and not to disburse aid until the authorities properly launch the declarations. A troll army soon embarked on a witch hunt against the newspaper. We stand with Yevropeiska Pravda, which has proven to be right. On Aug. 17, Poroshenko bowed to Western pressure and ordered his subordinates to certify and properly launch the declaration system by Sept. 1.

Yet there is no guarantee that Poroshenko and Turchynov will not derail the launch again. They are afraid that the declarations will expose their corrupt cronies.

Poroshenko and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov have also deceived the West by blocking prosecutorial and police reform. Poroshenko's loyal Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko has proved to be a disaster and is perpetuating corrupt schemes. He failed to fire controversial protégés of the president's grey cardinals, Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky, despite evidence of abuse. Kononenko and Hranovsky are boosting their clout and taking over the court system under the guise of judicial reform.

The president has also failed to fire State Fiscal Service head Roman Nasirov, whom critics – including subordinates – see as a symbol of Ukrainian corruption.

The West should not believe in Poroshenko's empty promises. Rather than punish multibillion-dollar corruption and those responsible, the Poroshenko administration is still trying to fool the West into thinking he's a reformer. Rather than dismantle crony capitalism, he is reinforcing it by ensuring that no strong law enforcement agencies emerge to compete with existing corrupt ones.

The West, fortunately, looks to have caught on. The International Monetary Fund rightly refuses to keep lending to undeserved recipients.

We've said it before and we'll say it again: It's Poroshenko's refusal to tackle corruption that is weakening the state, not the attempts by journalists, civil society activists and others to expose this corruption.



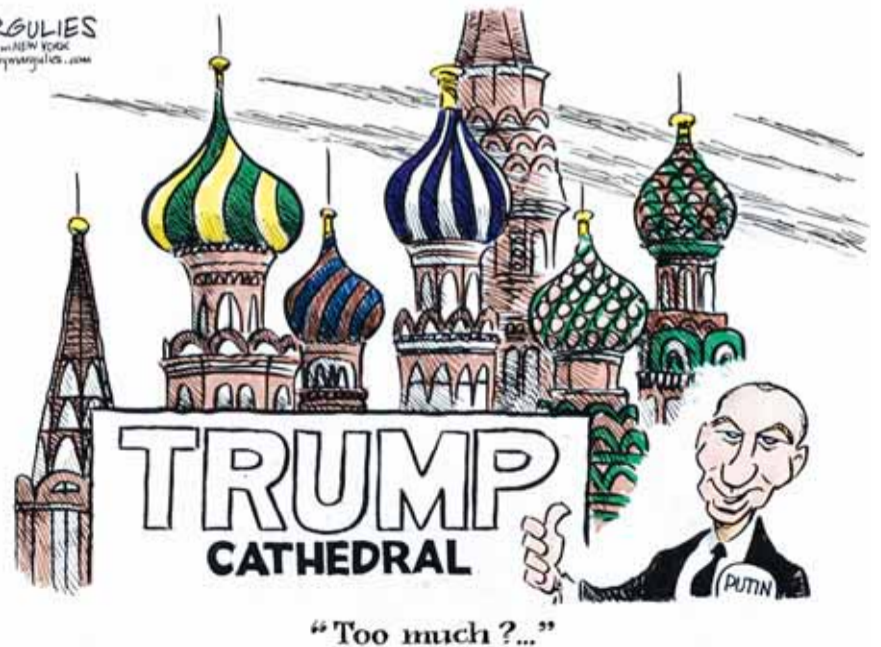
NEWS ITEM: On Aug. 15 the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine released testimony by its employees according to which they were tortured by prosecutors linked to President Petro Poroshenko's grey cardinal, lawmaker Oleksandr Hranovsky. Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko first failed to react for five days and then said both sides could be guilty, ignoring demands to suspend or fire the prosecutors



NEWS ITEM: On Aug. 19 a separatist group that occupies Luhansk city claimed to hold an international forum. But the only official representatives of other countries came from Russia and the unrecognized South Ossetia.

MARGULIES  
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Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump have made no secret of their admiration for each other. But Putin's overt support is helping to sink Trump in the polls, as Americans have a distaste for the Kremlin dictator. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has led all national polls since July and may be headed for a landslide victory on Nov. 8.



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## Reformer of the week

## Sasha Drik

Sasha Drik, head of the Declarations Under Control civic watchdog, has fought against the sabotage of electronic asset and income declarations for officials – a key condition for canceling visas with the European Union and Western financial aid.

Over the past week, she has exposed what she says is an effort by lawmakers Anton Gerashchenko and Ivan Vinnyk to discredit and block electronic declarations.

Gerashchenko of the People's Front party and Vinnyk of the Bloc of President Petro Poroshenko claimed on Aug. 19 that the declaration system had been hacked, which allegedly proves that the authorities' decision not to certify it had been justified. However, the agency later said that no hacking had taken place, and unidentified people had uploaded a fake declaration using an electronic key given to them by a state company.

Drik and other civic activists say that the stunt was a crime and call for punishing those responsible.

Drik, who is also head of the Civic Lustration Committee, has promoted efforts to fire top officials of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's regime under the 2014 lustration law. Poroshenko and other top officials have routinely sabotaged the law.

– Oleg Sukhov



## Anti-reformer of the week

## Natalia Korchak

Natalia Korchak, head of the National Agency for Preventing Corruption, has been accused of derailing the launch of electronic asset and income declarations for officials – a major anti-graft tool.

The State Service for Government Communications on Aug. 12 refused to certify the electronic declaration system, arguing that it did not comply with technical requirements. The service was then accused of sabotaging the system, and Korchak, a protégé of People's Front heavyweight Oleksandr Turchynov, effectively backed its decision. Then Korchak's agency made a controversial decision to launch the uncertified system on Aug. 15. As a result, punishing officials for lying in declarations became impossible, since evidence from the uncertified system will be inadmissible by the courts. The move allowed officials to hide and legalize their corrupt wealth.

As the scandal escalated, the National Agency for Preventing Corruption on Aug. 18 postponed the launch until Sept. 1. The system is expected to be certified by the State Service for Government Communications by then.

Rouslan Riaboshapka, a reformist official at the agency, said in June that Korchak was delaying the launch of declarations, recruiting staff in a non-transparent manner and choosing the worst candidates with the lowest scores.

– Oleg Sukhov



## What do you think Ukraine will be like in 25 years?



**Serhiy Ulianov,**  
soldier  
"Most importantly, I hope that people will see this land as the one where

their children will live, and take responsibility for things that are going on, instead of waiting for someone to make their life better."



**Vasyl Myrza,**  
accountant  
"I hope the level of life in Ukraine will be higher in 25 years, and that people will get fair wages for

their jobs."



**Pavlo Babiy,**  
retiree  
"I dream that our country will be at the same level with our neighbors, Slovakia and Poland,

for example. When 25 years ago Ukraine gained independence, we thought it would become rich and European right away. But it turned out to be a long and painful process."



**Elena Shablo,**  
teacher  
"I would like to see Ukraine prosperous and independent, but the current pace of reforms makes me

doubt this will be the case. I hope that we will be a powerful country with a strong economy and military, and that we will all be proud of it."



**Volodymyr Solobko,**  
financier  
"I see Ukraine as an independent country where people are united around the same goal. I

hope we will revive the same spirit of unity that we had during the times of (semi-autonomous polity of Cossacks in the 16th–18th centuries) Zaporizhian Sich."



**Volodymyr Kucherenko,**  
soldier  
"I hope to see Ukraine united and without war. I believe that we can achieve that in 25 years from

now."

# Russia resurrects Soviet repression in Crimea



HALYA COYNASH

A quarter-century after the coup which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has returned to the punitive psychiatry, politically motivated trials of dissidents, rights violations and virulent propaganda of Soviet times.

Nowhere is this seen more dramatically than in Ukrainian Crimea, invaded and annexed in early 2014.

## Ilmi Umerov

Ilmi Umerov, deputy head of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis, a representative assembly, was on Aug. 18 forcibly taken from the cardiac unit where he was under observation to Psychiatric Hospital No. 1 in Simferopol. He is to be held there against his will for 28 days. His medication was taken away from him and initially even his lawyer was not allowed to see him, though visits have now been allowed.

His health is a matter of the gravest concern, with his daughter reporting on Aug. 24 that his blood pressure, blood sugar level and other readings are all disturbing. Umerov is diabetic and the clinic staff are ignoring pleas from family to at least enable him to have meals three times a day. The current situation where there is a 17-hour gap between his evening meal and breakfast / lunch is dangerous in his condition.

There are literally no grounds for the court order forcing the assessment since Umerov is facing prosecution for saying what all democratic countries have stated repeatedly since Russia invaded Crimea in February 2014, and then continued its military aggression in eastern Ukraine: Russia must be forced to leave Crimea and Donbas.

It is for saying this in a TV interview that Umerov has been charged with "public calls to action aimed at violating Russian territorial integrity," which could result in a five-year prison sentence. It is correspondingly for those words that the 59-year-old Umerov, who is in ill health, is being forced to undergo 'tests' while effectively imprisoned in a psychiatric clinic.

## Ahktem Chygoz

The trial is continuing of Crimean Tatar Mejlis



Leader of Crimean Tatars and President's Commissioner for Crimean Tatars' Affairs Mustafa Jemilev looks at the pictures of the Crimean Tatars and pro-Ukrainian citizens, who were killed in Crimea since Russia occupied the peninsula, at an exhibition in Kyiv on July 28. (Volodymyr Petrov)

deputy head Akhtem Chygoz, as well as of five other Crimean Tatars.

All are charged in connection with a pre-annexation demonstration on Feb. 26, 2014, over which Russia can have no jurisdiction. The prosecution is, in fact, in violation of Russia's own criminal code, yet Chygoz, Ali Asanov and Mustafa Degermendzhy have been in custody for well over a year and face long prison sentences.

There are no real charges. Even if the prosecution were legally possible, Chygoz is accused of 'organizing mass riots', although all video evidence shows him and other Mejlis leaders working throughout the demonstration to calm protesters. The others are accused of "involvement," with no clear indication of what this is supposed to mean.

The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) invited "witnesses" to come forward even if they had no proof of injuries, and thus assembled a number of pro-Russian demonstrators who can still not testify to anything, but that they allegedly got a bruise or two. In declaring Chygoz, Asanov and Degermendzhy political prisoners, the Memorial Human Rights Centre pointed to all the above, and stated that the testimony of most of

these alleged 'witnesses' was more than suspect.

Since then, the occupation regime has split the trials, without any justification, and is preventing the defendants from attending their own 'trials' in person.

The fact that the lawyers cannot consult with their clients directly is probably designed to drag the trials out indefinitely, with three men, one of whom is the father of four small children thus imprisoned without trial.

## More trials

Four Crimean Muslims are on trial in Rostov, Russia, and 10 others are in effectively indefinite custody in Crimea. All are charged with involvement in a pan-Islamist movement called Hizb ut-Tahrir, which is legal in Ukraine and virtually all countries. Russia has declared it a 'terrorist' organization without providing any justification, yet has for 13 years been sentencing Russian Muslims to huge sentences.

It has now brought this lawless practice to Crimea. There are strong grounds for believing

more Coynash on page 7

# Weekly business update

BY NATALIE VIKHROV, ISOBEL KOSHIW AND JOSH KOVENSKY

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## More strains between Odesa customs, Kyiv

The fight continues between Yulia Marushevka, the head of Odesa Oblast's customs service, and her boss Roman Nasirov, the head of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine. The pair have been at odds since Marushevka was appointed by Odesa Governor Mikheil Saakashvili in October 2015 to end corruption in Odesa customs operations. Marushevka says her reforms are being repeatedly thwarted by Kyiv.

One major argument has been over the introduction of a new information technology system to make customs clearance more systematized in pricing and accountability. The current system allows people to change declarations and results retroactively, according to Marushevka. The United Nations gave Odesa a modern international customs system,

known as ASYCUDA for free. Kyiv is now saying that the introduction of the system could be a security risk. Marushevka has also yet to find Hr 17 billion needed to implement it.

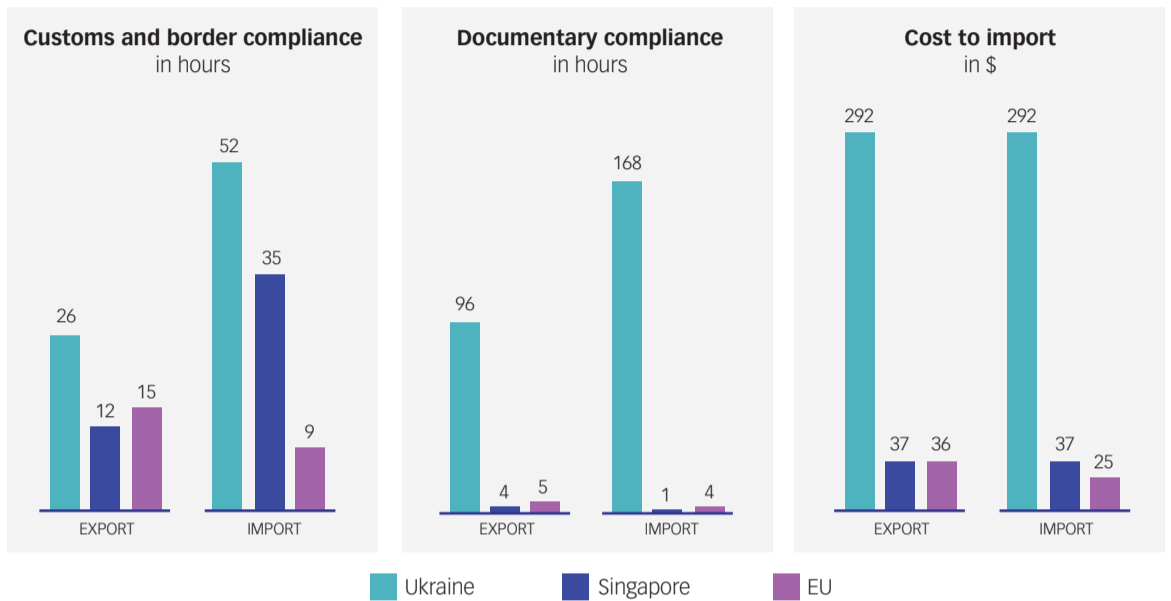
In July, Marushevka announced she was taking Nasirov to court, alleging he is behind non-transparent hiring. He also refuses to approve her chosen candidate, Roman Bakhovskyy, who is resigned to work as deputy head of the pilot project. Higher level appointments require Kyiv's approval. Marushevka also claims Nasirov is blocking disciplinary proceedings against customs officials suspected of corruption.

Nasirov has continued to appoint his people to the Hryhorivka and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy customs points, Marushevka wrote on Facebook on Aug. 23. She says that a court date is set for Sept. 28 and she expects the judge to annul Nasirov's appointments.

So far, Marushevka's team has managed to reduce time spent on registration of containers from four hours to an hour or less by favoring companies with good reputations and those from European Union

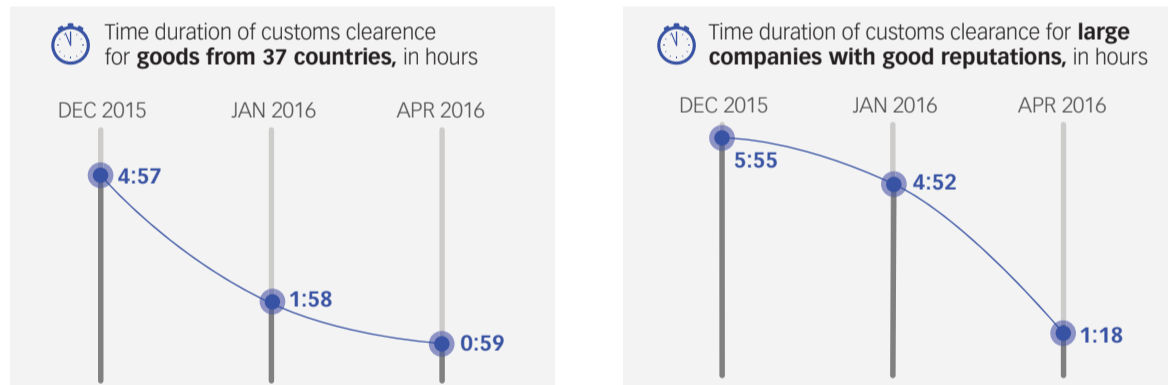
## LOSSES INCURRED AT UKRAINE'S CUSTOMS

The losses business incur in Ukrainian customs compared to the custom regimes of Singapore and the European Union. Currently, Ukraine is trailing behind others in the world, making it an unattractive destination for trade and transit. The notoriously corrupt Odesa customs was selected for a pilot project of reform in 2015 which is still in process.



## TIME OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IN ODESA

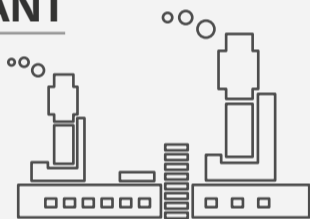
From December 2015 to April 2016, Odesa customs managed to reduce the clearance time by 80 percent for goods coming from specified 37 countries and 78 percent for large companies with very good reputations. This is a result of their so-called good faith-based approach. These goods are able to get through the new corridor system quicker because they have the right documentation and originate from countries where there are strict export and import controls.



By Stella Shablivska, Kyiv Post | Sources: Doing Business in 2016, State Fiscal Service of Ukraine.

## ODESA PORTSIDE PLANT

After an unsuccessful July attempt at privatizing the state-owned Odesa Portside Plant that saw the ammonia producer attract no bidders, the State Property Fund announced a second auction round at a discount.



July sale price **\$527 million**

Bilous\* promised a 30% price cut for the second round **\$368.9 million**

Actual price announced this week **\$400-450 million**



\* Igor Bilous heads the State Property Fund of Ukraine

Source: State Property Fund of Ukraine. By Stella Shablivska, Iryna Movchan, Kyiv Post. Photo by Pavlo Podufalov.

countries where controls are more rigorous.

## State Property Fund cuts price of Odesa plant

State Property Fund Chief Ihor Bilous announced that the Ukrainian government wants to sell a 99.6 percent stake in the Odesa Portside Plant by November from \$400 to \$450 million.

Bilous's remarks come about a month after the state fund failed to find a single bidder for the Black Sea ammonia producer, with foreign investors complaining that the \$527 million price tag was too high. An ongoing legal challenge from oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, when paired with a \$190 million debt claim from billionaire Dmytro Firtash, also did nothing to help.

The reduced price falls short of the 30 percent discount Bilous said he was considering immediately after the failed sale. Selling the factory - which employs around 3,800 workers and produced 1.1 million tons of ammonia in 2015 - has been a priority for the Ukrainian government.

In a research note, Empire State Capital called Bilous' announcement "a desperate step toward saving the fund's privatization plan for the current year." Analysts at the investment firm added that other external factors, like Russia's recent ramping

## PROPOSED ALCOHOL PRICE INCREASES

2015 prices: Hr 27  
Proposed prices: **Hr 33**

The Finance Ministry says increasing the minimum price of alcohol will better reflect the cost of its production and sale.



\*of 100 percent alcohol

By Stella Shablivska, Kyiv Post | Source: Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

up of the war as well as a pause in International Monetary Fund lending reduce the chances that a foreign investor will come in and make such a large purchase. Alexander Paraschiy of Concorde Capital noted that the budget anticipates Hr 17 billion (\$670 million) in privatization profits for 2016, but that there doesn't seem to be "a desire of top officials to fulfill these plans."

## Finance Ministry wants alcohol price hike

The Ministry of Finance is proposing to raise the minimum price of alcohol. According to the ministry, the current minimum prices do not reflect the cost of production and sale of alcoholic drinks. The ministry

believes that the price increase will also help reduce sales of illegally produced, low-quality alcohol that is damaging to health.

"The proposed minimal prices are actually in line with the average price currently present at the market representing legal producers, wholesale and retail companies," states the ministry website.

Under the draft plan, the wholesale minimum price of vodka, per liter of 100 percent alcohol, would be set at Hr 218.32 while the retail price would rise to Hr 340.57.

The retail price for three star cognac, per liter of 100 percent alcohol, would rise to Hr 524.5 while a 0.7 liter bottle of wine would be retailed at a minimum of Hr 33. ■



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This picture taken five kilometers from the Turkish-Syrian border on Aug. 25 shows a Turkish army soldier next to tanks. (AFP)

# Turkey's ambassador: Crimean annexation will never be accepted

Turkey from page 3

in the sanctions "hurts us too," he said. In any case, he said, much of Turkey's trade with Russia involves importing natural gas.

## The July 15 coup

A faction of Turkey's armed forces attempted to seize power in a coup on July 15, but people rallied to Erdogan's defense. More than 25 people were killed before the coup was put down and, Tezel said, Erdogan escaped a team of assassins by only 15 minutes. Since then, tens of thousands of people were detained – up to 80,000, according to some media reports – as investigators try to build criminal cases against those who instigated the coup attempt or participated in it.

Turkey says it has compelling and indisputable evidence that the uprising was organized by the Gülen movement, which is led by Fethullah Gülen, who has sought exile in the United States, where he has been living in the state of Pennsylvania since 1999.

Gülen has denied involvement and said he leads a non-violent Islamic movement, but Turkey considers his group to be terrorists and is seeking his extradition from the United States to stand trial in Turkey.

But the Gülen movement is active in 150 countries, with 1,300 schools across the world (including in Ukraine). It also has a bank and a newspaper. While followers present themselves as moderates, Tezel said, Turkish investigators have uncov-

ered a wealth of evidence showing that the followers planned to infiltrate Turkey's government and seize power with force.

In that context, America's harboring of Gülen has strained relations with its NATO ally. "There are people in Turkey who are not happy with how they think the U.S. is treating this issue," Tezel said.

Many in Turkey, in fact, believe the United States was behind the coup, but Tezel does not. He also said there is no evidence of American participation and that he believes such a step would run counter to U.S. interests in maintaining Turkey's stability.

Many in Turkey, however, were also stunned by the chilly Western reaction to the coup attempt.

Rather than rallying to Erdogan's defense, many nations were slow in expressing support for the embattled Turkish government. The explanation lies in Western attitudes towards Erdogan, who is increasingly seen as an autocratic leader who is violating human rights and suppressing democracy. Some think he's using the coup attempt to justify a harsher crackdown on critics.

The ability of Turkey to adhere to democratic standards and judicial fairness as it prosecutes suspects will be watched for months to come.

Tezel said that the standoffish response by some of Turkey's allies was a mistake because the coup leaders, had they prevailed, would have created a repressive regime that would have posed a threat to Western interests. He said that

Turkish citizens, including opposition parties, were protecting their democracy by thwarting the coup and coming out by the millions to rally in support of Erdogan.

Events since the Aug. 10 interview have proven Tezel right.

Erdogan on Aug. 20 reassured Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that Turkey will not recognize Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea.

The NATO member also showed its willingness to contribute to anti-terrorism operations with strikes in neighboring Syria on Aug. 24 to overtake an Islamic State stronghold. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden also went to Turkey on Aug. 24 and met with Erdogan in a bid to defuse tensions over the Turkish president's demands that the U.S. extradite Gülen.

Timothy Ash, an analyst for Nomura International, recently completed a trip to Turkey in which he concluded that the failed coup "seems to have brought the nation together, offering the prospect of a step back from polarization and new cooperation between the Erdogan administration and the opposition across a range of issues such as constitutional reform, and economic reform amongst others."

Ash also said he doesn't "buy the line that Turkish NATO membership is under threat, or its Western orientation, which still remains the key anchor - Turkey is not going to pivot to Russia..."

If Tezel and Ash are correct, Ukrainians will be relieved. ■

## Coynash: Soviet-style repression returns as Russia stamps out dissent in Crimea

Coynash from page 5

that in at least some of the cases, men have been arrested for their human rights activists and generally their civic position. In the case of rights defender Emir-Huseyn Kuku, he may have been arrested after an attempt to abduct him went wrong.

### Sentsov, other activists

Renowned Crimean filmmaker Oleg Sentsov, civic activist Oleksandr Kolchenko and Oleksiy Chirniy remain in Russia captivity serving long sentences for a supposed 'terrorist plot' in May 2014. They and Gennady Afanasyev, who was recently released, opposed Russia's invasion of Crimea.

Sentsov and Kolchenko are serving huge sentences – 20 and 10 years, respectively, for their courage in refusing to provide the 'confessions' required.

### Kostenko, Kolomiyets

Two former Euromaidan activists Oleksandr Kostenko and Andriy Kolomiyets were literally tried and convicted by Crimean "courts" under occupation on absurd and inherently unprovable charges relating to Euromaidan in Kyiv before Russia's invasion of Crimea.

The message is chillingly clear: any Ukrainian should think very carefully about visiting Crimea (or Russia, where Kolomiyets was arrested).

### Ervin Ibragimov

Most of the victims have been Crimean Tatar. Ervin Ibragimov, a 30-year-old Crimean Tatar activist and member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, was abducted on May 24, 2016 and has not been seen since. The behaviour of the de facto authorities was suspicious, while the attempts to deny his and other abductions by the de facto prose-

cutor and certain French MP collaborators an absolute disgrace.

The majority of Crimean Tatars, the main indigenous people of Crimea opposed Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea. It is they who have suffered most since Russia's invasion. That repression can only increase after the outlawing in April this year of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis.

### West remains passive

As in Soviet times, those that the regime cannot crush, it removes.

Mustafa Dzhemiliev, 72, was just 6 months old when Stalin ordered the deportation of the entire Crimean Tatar people. He spent 15 years in the Soviet labour camps for upholding human rights and the right of the Crimean Tatars to return home. He has been banned from entering Crimea for five years, as has the head of the Mejlis, Refat Chubarov.

Russia has moved to stifle all free press in occupied Crimea and is actively blocking internet sites from Ukraine. While Russia's propaganda drive worldwide is different and much more insidious than the old Soviet style, in occupied Crimea the old version is actively promoted, including during visits by Putin's favourite motorbike gang – the Night Wolves, one of the biggest recipients of state grants in Russia. It requires stamina, but the video of a concert in occupied Sevastopol a week ago should be viewed in its frightening Soviet entirety.

If it can be asserted that Russians allowed a former KGB officer to turn their country around, the situation in Crimea is different. Russia first invaded and occupied a part of Ukraine, and is now dragging it back into the worst Soviet days, with the West still simply watching passively.

*Halya Coynash is a member of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group.* ■

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# Ukraine's Olympic medal totals lowest ever since independence

Olympic from page 1

competing in 27 sports. Previously, Ukraine used to bring teams of 230 to 254 athletes.

Critics, among them Ukrainian Olympians themselves, say that the state's neglect of sports is to blame.

The 2016 Summer Olympics will go down in history as one of the worst organized competitions in decades. Held amid economic crisis and political instability in Brazil, the games were marked by news of sports venues malfunctioning and athletes' claims of being mugged.

## Precious victories

The U.S. landed first place at the Olympics by winning 116 medals, followed by the United Kingdom and China. But while Ukraine's result was far from the winning trio, it had 11 medals of its own.

Canoeist Yuriy Cheban and gymnast Oleg Verniaiev brought Ukraine its two gold medals.

Verniaiev, Ukrainian Greco-Roman wrestler Zhan Beleniuk, shooter Serhiy Kulish, pentathlonist Pavlo Tymoshchenko and four-member fencing team brought Ukraine its five silver medals.

Ukraine's sabre fencer Olga Kharlan, high jumper Bohdan

Bondarenko, canoeists Dmytro Ianchuk and Taras Mishchuk, and artistic gymnast Ganna Rizatdinova won a bronze medal each.

## Money matters

Silver medalist, Greco-Roman wrestler Beleniuk, 25, says that the Ukrainian authorities don't pay attention to athletes.

"The people in power care only about enriching themselves, not about athletes or results," Beleniuk told the Kyiv Post. "Until it changes, we'll be seeing the results like this year's."

The professional athletes are severely underfunded in Ukraine, argues Beleniuk, who has been receiving around \$500 (Hr 12,500) monthly from the state.

"This is not the money that some entry-level wrestler gets. It takes people 15-16 years to achieve this level," says Beleniuk, who won the World Championship in 2015.

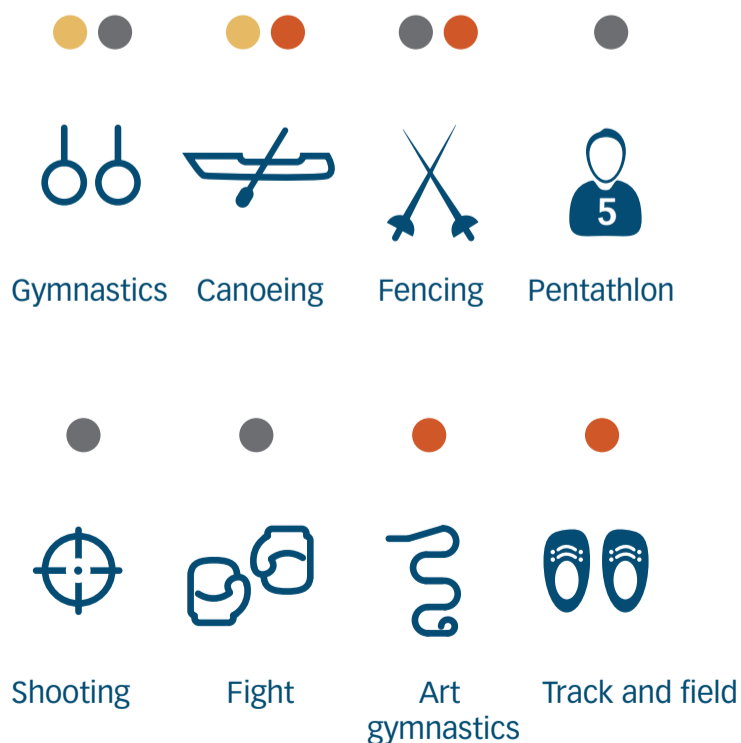
Beleniuk says that he could be earning the same money at an office job, instead of taking up a professional sport that requires lots of efforts and harms one's health. Moreover, as the athlete's career is a short one, he needs to accumulate money for a living.

Beleniuk says that the Olympics



Ukraine's Ganna Rizatdinova (L) reacts next to her coach after competing in the individual all-around final event of the rhythmic gymnastics event at Olympic Arena during the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 20. (AFP)

## In Rio Games, Ukraine snaps up 11 medals



By Ira Movchan | Kyiv Post

Six of Ukraine's 11 medals at the 2016 Summer Olympics came in three events: gymnastics, canoeing and fencing.

## Ukraine's medals at Summer Olympic Games

1996	Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta (U.S.)	23 medals
2000	Summer Olympic Games in Sydney (Australia)	23 medals
2004	Summer Olympic Games in Athens (Greece)	22 medals
2008	Summer Olympic Games in Beijing (China)	27 medals
2012	Summer Olympic Games in London (U.K.)	18 medals
2014	Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)	11 medals

are the only point in the athletes' career when the state rewards them fairly.

The state-paid money prizes come as great contrast to the meager scholarships. A gold Olympic medal brings a \$125,000 reward, a silver medal pays \$80,000, while a bronze is \$55,000, according to Ukrainian Sports Minister Ihor Zhdanov. There will be additional rewards from the Ukrainian Olympic Committee, ranging from \$4,700 to \$12,000.

The competing countries have different approaches to encouraging its Olympians. Singapore gives the most generous money prizes to its athletes - \$745,000 for a gold medal, while the governments of the U.K., Norway, and Switzerland don't give individual money rewards, but direct the money to the sports clubs.

Ukraine, however, is generous only to the Olympians. The winners of the world championships get around \$2,000 as a reward from the state. Such was the case for Beleniuk and gymnast Rizatdinova.

Verniaiev, who won a gold medal at the parallel bars and a silver one in all-around competition, agrees that Ukraine's results reflect the failure of authorities to create favorable conditions for athletes. He said that the gymnasts in particular need

proper equipment and at least one separate gym for those who train for the Olympics.

"While we are in the spotlight we try to push to get as much as we can from (the state)," Verniaiev told the Kyiv Post on the autograph session on Aug. 25.

## True patriots

Low funding already forced some athletes to relocate abroad.

As many as 135 Ukrainian professional athletes changed citizenship since independence for various rea-

sons, including the financial, Minister of Youth and Sports Ihor Zhdanov to Channel 112 on May 24. Twenty athletes changed Ukrainian citizenship to Russian after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, including javelin thrower Vera Rebyrk and windsurfer Maksym Oberemko.

"Some athletes leave Ukraine because in other countries they are paid well and accomplished," gymnast Rizatdinova told the Kyiv Post by phone on Aug. 25, after returning from the Olympics.

Rizatdinova also said she was very disappointed that the public was so preoccupied with the results and didn't appreciate the 11 medals that Ukraine won - a result that she calls a huge achievement.

"I want to ask Ukrainian people to appreciate our athletes because they are doing sports not to make money," she said. "Those athletes who compete for Ukraine are the true patriots." ■



Ukraine's Oleg Verniaiev competes in the men's parallel bars event final of the artistic gymnastics at Olympic Arena during the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 16. (AFP)



## 25 UKRAINIANS WHO ARE STARS

Every nation needs celebrities, role models and heroes. Ukraine has plenty of them

10

## CELEBRATIONS AROUND WORLD

Up to 10 million people living outside Ukraine claim Ukrainian ancestry. They marked the 25th Independence Day as well

12

## NO PLACE FOR WIMPS HERE

Nobody said making money in Ukraine is easy. But these businesses light the way

13

## GRANDMA'S VYSHYVANKA

Kyiv Post staff writer Olena Goncharva brings a piece of Ukraine with her when she goes abroad.

14

## TALE OF TWO SYMBOLS

The history of Ukraine's two most identifiable symbols: flag and trident

15

## DEMOCRACY'S FRONT LINE

Longtime expatriate businessman Paul Niland says Ukraine is where the action is – which is why he stays

16



Two girls wave Ukraine's flag as they enjoy the Independence Day parade in Kyiv on Aug. 24. (Volodymyr Petrov)

# 25 star Ukrainians

BY ALYONA ZHUK  
ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM

There's more to being a celebrity than just fame and fortune.

Aside from doing their jobs well, celebrities play an important role in all societies, Ukraine's included. They inspire and unite people. Heroes, famous athletes, actors, artists and scientists often are the nation's role models, says Dariya Orlova, who has a Ph.D. in mass communications.

People identify themselves with the celebrities – with athletes, for instance, as they represent Ukraine at the international level. "Besides, for many, celebrities are like real-life fictional characters, whose lives are interesting to follow," Orlova says.

Iryna Bekeshkina, a leading Ukrainian sociologist, cited a famous quote by Soviet poet Vladimir Mayakovsky: "Listen! If stars are lit, it means there is someone who needs it, it means someone wants them to be."

"If there were no stars," she told the Kyiv Post, "the sky would remain dark."

The Kyiv Post has picked out 25 prominent living Ukrainians based on editorial judgment and suggestions by a range of experts. We did not include soldiers fighting at the front, even though all of them have a special place as stars and heroes in society.

In alphabetical order, here are 25 of the most prominent Ukrainians:

## Yurii Andrukhovych, 56,



is a Ukrainian writer, poet and translator. He is one of the co-founders of the literary performance group Bu-Ba-Bu, presenting a carnival-like interpretation of events in Ukraine.



## Leonid Kadeniuk, 65,

is Ukraine's first astronaut. He was a member of international crew on the U.S. space shuttle Columbia in 1997.

## Olga Kharlan, 25,



is a Ukrainian sabre fencer. She has been world champion twice, and European champion five times. Kharlan has also won three bronze medals at the Olympic games.

## Serhiy Bubka, 52,



was a Ukrainian pole-vaulter who won an Olympic gold medal in 1988 and also won several Europe and world championships. He set 35 world records. Bubka was the first pole-vaulter to vault a height of over six meters. Bubka heads the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.

## Alexander Glyadyelov, 60,



is a Polish-born photographer who has been living in Ukraine since 1974. He has received several international awards for his work. His photography has been used by Doctors Without Borders, the World Health Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, UNAIDS and UNICEF.

## Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, 89,



is one of the world's top economists. He is also the president of his own charity fund.

## Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko,



40 and 45, are Ukrainian boxing brothers who both became heavy-weight world champions. Vitali, who has retired from boxing, is also the mayor of Kyiv.

## Yana Klochkova, 34,

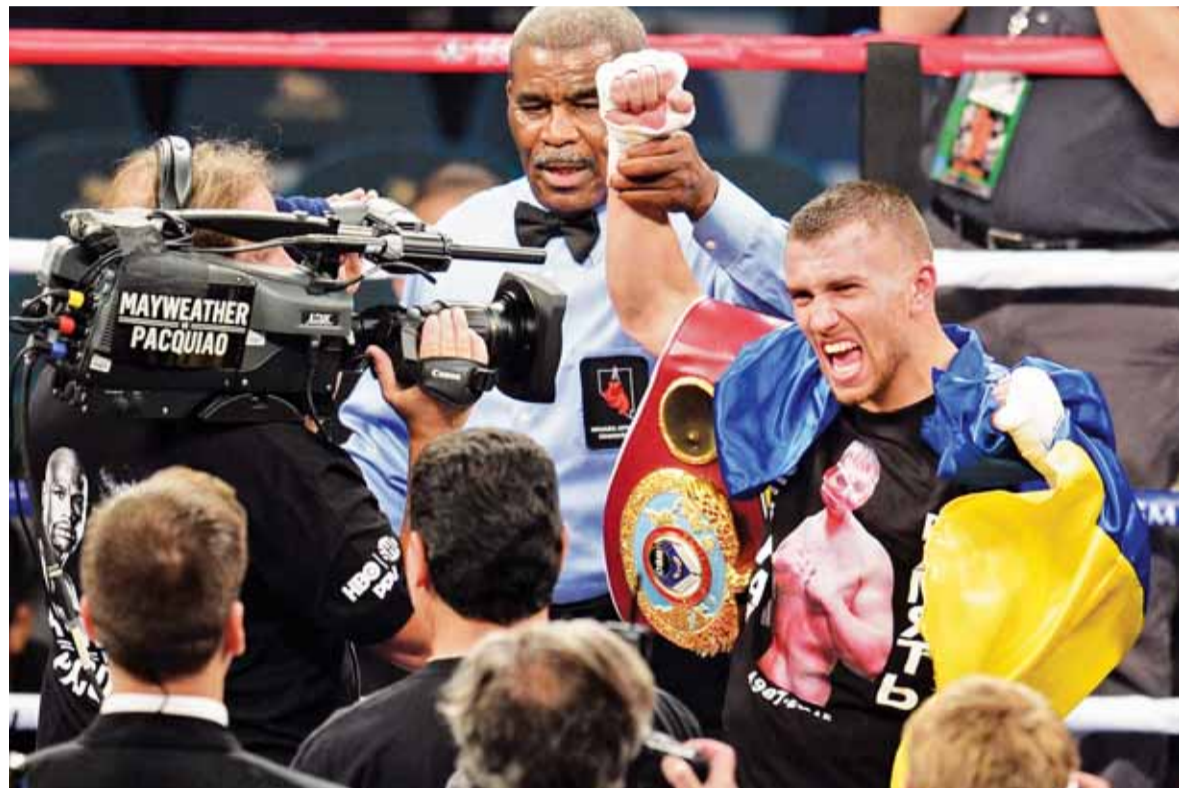


is a Ukrainian swimmer, won four Olympic gold medals. She set 50 Ukrainian records in various swimming strokes, one world record, and one European one.

## Lina Kostenko, 86,



is a Ukrainian poet and writer. During Soviet times, she took part in the dissident movement, known as the Sixtiers. They were an



World featherweight boxing champion Vasyl Lomachenko of Ukraine celebrates his ninth round knockout victory over Gamalier Rodriguez of Puerto Rico on May 2, 2015 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. (AFP)

internal social-cultural opposition to the state totalitarian regime.



## Olya Kudinenko, 28,

is the founder of the Tabletochki Foundation, which supports children with cancer. In the more than four years since its launch, Tabletochki Foundation has raised more than Hr 58 million (\$2.3 million) for child cancer sufferers.



## Sergii Leshchenko, 35,

is a member of parliament with the Bloc of President Petro Poroshenko and also a top investigative journalist.



## Vasyl Lomachenko, 28,

is a Ukrainian boxer who has twice become an Olympic champion. The prestigious boxing magazine The Ring

this year included Lomachenko to its top 10 list of the world's best boxers. Besides winning gold medals at the Olympics, Lomachenko has twice been world champion, and once European champion. Lomachenko was born in Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi in Odesa Oblast. When his parents got him home from the hospital, the first thing his father did was put boxing gloves on Lomachenko's hands, a boxer's autobiography on his website



## Ruslana Lyzhychko, 43,

is a Ukrainian singer better known simply as Ruslana. She was one of the prominent voices of the 2004 Orange Revolution, as well as of the EuroMaidan Revolution in 2013-2014. Ruslana won the Eurovision song contest in 2004.



## Denis Matvienko, 37,

is a Ukrainian ballet dancer, who now works in the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.



## Nina Matviyenko, 68,

is a Ukrainian folk singer, a former lead singer in famous Veryovka National Academic Choir and now sings with the Kyivska Kamerata folk band.



## Ivan Marchuk, 80,

is a Ukrainian artist. A member of the Ukrainian underground movement in 1960s, his work was banned in the Soviet Union. He spent 11 years in voluntarily exile

overseas, and returned in the early 2000s.



## Mustafa Nayyem, 35,

is a Ukrainian lawmaker with the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko. He is a former investigative journalist whose social media posts helped trigger the EuroMaidan Revolution in 2013.



## Borys Paton, 97,

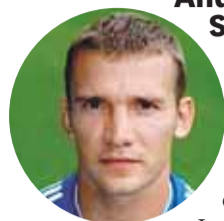
is a Ukrainian scientist specialized in welding, metallurgy and technology of materials and materials science. He

has served as head of Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences since 1962. He is the son of the Kyiv-based bridge construction expert Evgeniy Paton. Borys Paton followed his father's path into science and technology. After graduating from Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Borys Paton started working in the Electric Welding Institute, established by and named after his father. After his father's death in 1953, Borys Paton was appointed the institute's head.



## Lilia Podkopayeva, 38,

is a former Ukrainian artistic gymnast who won two gold medals -- in the all-around and floor exercise competition in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.


**Andriy Shevchenko, 39,**

is a Ukrainian football player. He played for the Kyiv football club Dynamo, Italy's Milan and England's Chelsea. He won the European Footballer of the Year award in 2004.


**Myroslav Skoryk, 78,**

is a Ukrainian musician, composer and musicologist. His music made it to the repertoire of Ukrainian and foreign artists. Skoryk is an art director of the National Opera of Ukraine. Born in Lviv in 1938, after 10 years his entire family was exiled to Russian Siberia, where Skoryk studied piano. After returning home in 1955, he chose music as a career. Skoryk has been taught in the Kyiv conservatory, and in the Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine. He wrote music for several films, including the famous movie "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors," directed by Sergii Parajanov. He also created operas, ballets and pop songs. His music combines Carpathian folk melodies and jazz rhythms. Skoryk won the prestigious Shevchenko Prize and holds the title People's Artist of Ukraine.



Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, frontman of Okean Elzy musical band, performs in Kyiv on June 6. (Ukrafoto)

**Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy, 41,**


is a Ukrainian film director. His movie "The Tribe" was the first Ukrainian film to be commercially screened in the United States. It also won a prize at the European Film Awards as the European dis-

covery of the year. Born in Kyiv, Slaboshpytskiy graduated from the filmmaking department of the Kyiv State University of Film and Television, majoring in feature film directing. He has worked at various Ukrainian and Russian film studios. He also worked as a scriptwriter for TV films. His short films have been presented at numerous international film festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival and the Portuguese Algarve festival.


**Vladislav Troitskiy, 51,**

is a Ukrainian theater actor and director. He established the Dakh Center of Contemporary Arts, and created the DakhaBrakha ethnic band and the Dakh Daughters music project. Troitskiy is also one of the organizers


**Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, 41,**

is a Ukrainian musician, and the leader of rock band Okean Elzy. Vakarchuk is known for his civic activism. He also served as a lawmaker for about a year.


**Serhiy Zhadan, 41,**

is one of the most popular poets in independent Ukraine. His prose has been translated into dozens of languages. Zhadan is also a prominent civic activist. ■



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# Ukrainians around world celebrate 25th birthday

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA  
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It wasn't just people in Ukraine who were celebrating this year's silver jubilee Ukrainian Independence Day: Ukrainian émigrés around the world also marked the 25th anniversary of the creation of the modern Ukrainian state.

According to Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, Russia is home to the largest population of Ukrainians living outside the country's borders, with officially 1.9 million Ukrainian residents there — though the number could be as high as 10 million if people who identify as ethnically Ukrainian and refugees from the war-torn east of Ukraine are included.

The next largest émigré populations are in Canada, which has 1.2 million people of Ukrainian descent, and in the United States, where there are officially 900,000, but where there could be up to 1.5 million, taking into account undocumented immigrants.

There are also large Ukrainian communities in Argentina, Brazil, France, Romania, Portugal, Poland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, and Belgium, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry says. The total number of official émigrés is more than 10 million.

## Ukrainian spirit and soul

Ukrainian emigrant Luda Anastasievsky, an English teacher living in Minneapolis in the United States, told the Kyiv Post that this year Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, in recognition of the achievements of Ukrainians resident in the United States, had proclaimed Aug. 24 Ukrainian Independence Day in Minnesota.

"I celebrated it at the Ukrainian Community Picnic," said Anastasievsky.

The celebration will continue at the Ukrainian-American Community Center with an annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival that was postponed till Sept. 18.

Anastasievsky said that the guests of the festival will be treated to

a performance of the Cheremosh Ukrainian folk dance ensemble, visit a cultural exhibit entitled "The Ukrainian Photographers of the Twin Cities," listen to the popular local Ukrainian Village Band, and enjoy a concert.

"The festival's Ukrainian atmosphere, with its smells and tastes of kovbasa (sausage), varenyky, and bright colors of Vyshyvankas (Ukrainian national embroidered shirt), is unforgettable," said Anastasievsky.

Tonya Levchuk, a Ukrainian IT specialist and activist living in Austin, said that Ukrainians in her city were going to rent premises to celebrate Independence Day.

"I know that various celebrations were expected in Dallas, Huston. And Ukrainians from San Antonio joined our celebration in Austin," said Levchuk.

"Every year more and more people come to our celebrations. They bring dishes of Ukrainian cuisine and wear Vyshyvanka embroidered shirts. The patriotism of people living here amazes me," she added.

In Argentina, the Ukrainian community is the second largest one after the Italian one. More than 300,000 Ukrainians of five generations live in cities and villages across Argentina, according to Maria Cristina Zinko, the vice president of a Ukrainian community organization in the country.

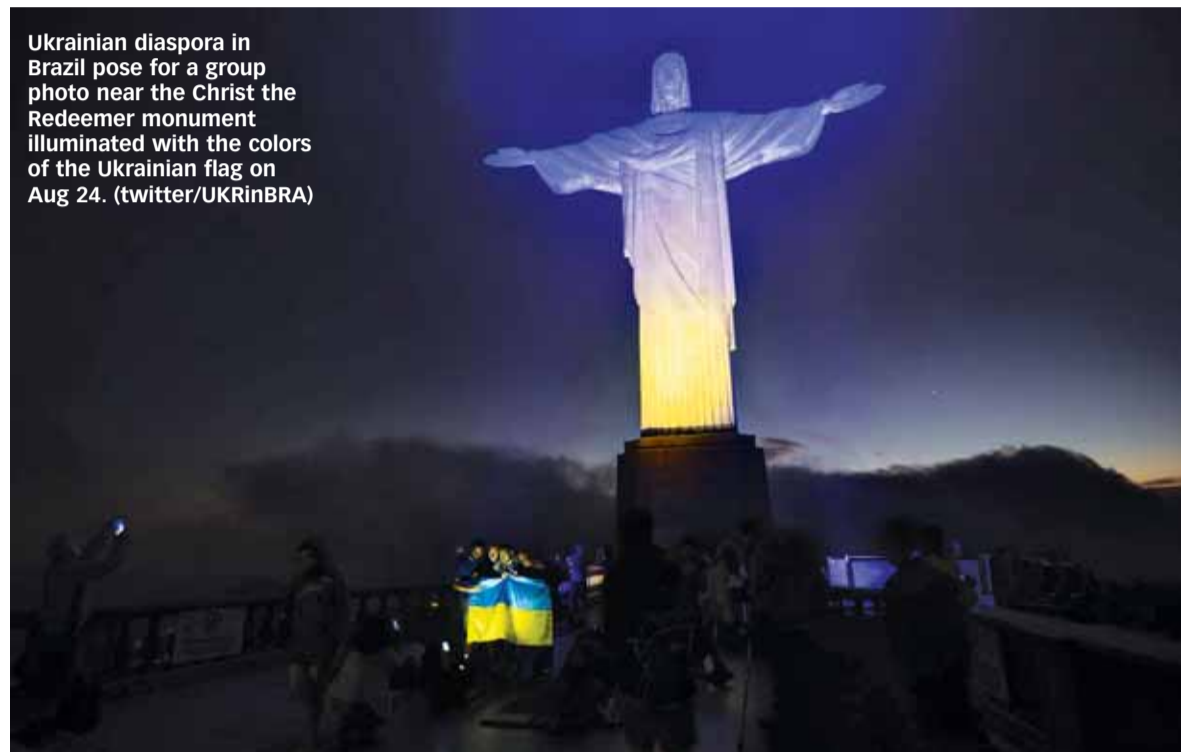
Zinko said that the celebrations in Buenos Aires and some provinces of Argentina would start with religious ceremonies.

"We will begin with laying flowers in front of the monument to Jose de Saint Martin, the national hero of Argentina. Then there will be festive church services in many Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic churches," said Zinko told the Kyiv Post on Aug. 16.

After the religious ceremonies, Ukrainians in Argentina were to enjoy festive cocktail parties and watch a concert of Ukrainian music, Zinko said.

But unlike in Minnesota, the Argentinian government isn't providing support to the Ukrainian dias-

pora to prepare for the Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations. Meanwhile, in Canada, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported on its website that this year expats in Canada would start celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day earlier. On Aug. 20, the Toronto Branch of the congress hosted a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence and commemorated three additional historical milestones for the Ukrainian Canadian community: The 160th Anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko, the 125th Anniversary of the first Ukrainian settlements in Canada, and the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.



port to prepare for the Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations.

"Given the very troubling situation in Ukraine, this year more than any other, we need your assistance in spreading the word and showing the strength of our community," read a message from the congress published in July.

There was a full program of celebrations: a VIP reception and official ceremonies were followed by a concert.

The event included a Ukrainian food court, a traditional "Yarmarok" fair, as well as a mini Flea Market. There were also games in the "Children's Corner," a soccer tournament, volleyball and chess tournaments to round out the activities.

## Motherland' grief unites

U.S.-Ukrainian Levchuk said that compared to other cities in the United States, there are not so many Ukrainians living in Austin. But before the EuroMaidan Revolution and war in the Donbas, she had no idea that hundreds of other Ukrainians were also living in Texas.

"Ukrainians meet once a month. We call our meetings the Monthly Social. We talk, celebrate all the big national holidays together and we also gather to cheer for Ukraine during various international sport

competitions," said Levchuk.

Together with fellow Ukrainians Iryna Pylypenko and Elina Lerman, Levchuk founded a charity fund called Save Lives Together in 2014. Since then they have raised about \$2 million and other aid, which they have sent to Ukraine.

In Minneapolis, activists of the non-profit 503(C) 3 volunteer organization Maidan Minnesota have organized charity concerts and other events to raise money for medi-



Tonya Levchuk, a Ukrainian living in Austin, Texas, poses for a photo, holding the plate with a name of her volunteer fund "SaveLivesTogether" during her visit to Kyiv. (Courtesy)

cal and humanitarian support for soldiers, internally displaced people, orphans, and families of fallen Ukrainian soldiers. In less than two years, the Maidan has raised over \$90,000 in aid to Ukraine.

"To raise the local awareness about the plight of Ukraine, Maidan Minnesota activists organize rallies, lectures, cultural exhibits and movie screenings, and initiate grassroots advocacy campaigns," said Anastasievsky.

## Long-distance ties

Although most Ukrainian expats in other countries are very patriotic, and show support and love for Ukraine, not many are in a hurry to return to their homeland.

Anastasievsky came to the United States in 1990, right before the collapse of the Soviet Union, to work and study. Currently she does not plan to live in Ukraine, for family reasons.

"But I'd love to live in Ukraine at some later point," she said. "Ukraine is very beautiful, it has wonderful people, a rich culture, and a lot of potential."

Levchuk, who moved to United States 10 years ago after graduating from university, now has a good job and work colleagues she loves in the United States. But she still frequently thinks about moving back to Ukraine.

"All my family lives there, I miss them so much. I even had plans to come to Ukraine and live there for six months, but my plans fell through," said Levchuk.

Levchuk said that she has no plans to come back to Ukraine in the near future. She said she wanted to see positive changes in the Ukrainian government first.

She also complained about corruption still being widespread in Ukraine: "It's so insulting to see that sometimes the humanitarian aid we collect and send to Ukraine from abroad can be found being sold in shops," said Levchuk.

"We in the US don't print the money. A lot of people here share all they have to help their nation. But some people in Ukraine are making money on that. That's not fair!" she added.

But Levchuk said that when she first visited Ukraine after the start of the war in Donbas, she also met lots of good and honest people. It is for their sake that she, as many other members of the large Ukrainian diaspora around the world, will continue to help Ukraine — no matter what. ■



Ukrainian kids set the balloons in the air during the Independence Day celebrations in Philadelphia. (twitter/UKRinNewYork)

# Top businesses in Ukraine find way to thrive despite obstacles in way

BY OLENA SAVCHUK  
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For 25 years of independence, Ukraine has bumped along the bottom of business climate rating lists. Despite that, a lot of companies have managed to succeed in the challenging business climate, growing from small enterprises into national businesses.

One such entity is the Fozzy Group, the biggest retail chain in Ukraine with 522 supermarkets at the start of 2016. It recorded Hr 46.5 billion (\$1.9 billion) in annual turnover last year.

Its founder, Volodymyr Kostelman, earned his first capital in the turbulent early 1990s by selling imported tea, coffee and chocolate. In 1997, he opened his first Fozzy Cash & Carry supermarket in Kyiv, which developed into today's vast retail chain with its own production centers and import business. The company ended 2015 with a Hr 297 million (\$11.8 million) net profit, compared to a profit of Hr 847,000 (\$33,000) a year before.

Ukraine's rich soils have meant that agriculture remains a strong, though underdeveloped part of the economy. Several big agricultural companies have emerged since 1991.

Nibulon, for instance, is Ukraine's leading grain trader, based in southern Mykolaiv Oblast. In the 2015/2016 marketing year, the company exported 4.66 million tons of grain, or 12 percent of Ukraine's total grain exports.

The company traces its history

back to Ukrainian independence, when it was co-founded by Oleksiy Vadaturskiy, along with two firms from Hungary and Britain, in 1991.

Nibulon succeeded because it had the will to do so, 69-year-old Vadaturskiy, who remains the company's CEO, told the Kyiv Post.

Nibulon's chief complaint is that the government has not done anything to create favorable investment conditions. The authorities are preoccupied with International Monetary Fund loans or staving off default, while businesses are left alone to solve their problems, such as a lack of access to credit.



Irina Mirochnik, president of UKRPLASTIC.

"Today, only business and Ukraine itself can solve this problem," Vadaturskiy said. "The state should pay attention to business, help it solve the immediate issues so it can really invest in the Ukrainian

economy."

Another big agricultural company is Mironivsky Hliboproduct (MHP), Ukraine's leading poultry producer. The company's profit was \$366 million in 2015. MHP operates a complete production cycle, from incubating eggs, rearing chicks, slaughtering mature birds and processing.

It was founded in 1998 by Yuriy Kosyuk, the fifth richest person in the country, according to Forbes magazine. Kosyuk entered big business as a grain trader, but decided to switch to poultry after visiting some chicken meat factories in the United States, Brazil and Europe in 1999.

"I understood that Ukraine didn't have to import poultry, it should export it," Kosyuk said in an interview with Forbes. "We have all of the ingredients for competitive production: fodder, energy, and a cheap labor force."

Such home-grown ingredients also went into the success of Obolon, Ukraine's largest domestic brewer. While it has been a success, it ended last year recorded a \$13 million loss. Experts link the company's poor financial results to a drop in consumer buying power and higher excise taxes.

The Kyiv-based plant started production on the eve of the Moscow Summer Olympics in 1980 to satisfy the demand for a European-quality beer. After Ukraine gained independence, Obolon's ability to experiment helped it stay on the market.

One of Obolon's most successful ideas came from the brewery's former general director and cur-



A worker processes poultry at Myronivsky Hliboproduct's Vinnytsia Chicken Plant. Many smaller businesses in Ukraine struggle to get a place in the country's pecking order. (Ukrafoto)

rent president, Oleksandr Slobodyan, while on a plane in 1993. As he sat mixing a gin and tonic, he had an idea: why not produce pre-mixed bottled drinks? The resulting Rum and Cola, Gin and Tonic and Brandy and Cola products have been on the shelves of Ukraine's stores ever since.

But it's not just domestic food and drinks firms that have managed to do well in independent Ukraine: a subsidiary of Swiss giant Nestlé was among the first foreign companies to bring products with exotic names like NESCAFÉ, Nesquik, Maggi, and Nuts to Ukrainian supermarket shelves. Nestlé started operations in Ukraine in December 1994, and after only two years it became one of the most profitable branches of the Nestlé family worldwide.

Now Nestlé Ukraine produces fast moving consumer goods like sauces, coffee, drinks, sweets and instant foods. In such a competitive market, it is critical to adapt to changes in consumer demand and purchasing power, says Ansgar Bornemann of Nestlé Ukraine and Moldova. "This is especially true if we look at the last two to three years, during which we've seen tremendous economic turbulence and price increases due to the devaluation of the hryvnia," Bornemann told the Kyiv Post.

Another way for companies like Nestlé to succeed is to support suppliers and retailers, Bornemann said. It is critical "to develop and provide them with tools and support on how to market our products in a way that grows their own business."

Bornemann said Darwin's theory of evolution is also true for business – it's not the biggest or strongest that always wins, but the ones most able to adapt to change.

And change comes no faster than in the technology business, the cellular phone business in particular. Kyivstar, the largest homegrown mobile operator with 25.4 million clients in Ukraine, has adapted well.

The company's history started in 1994, a year after the mobile telecommunications officially arrived in

Ukraine. The first call in the Kyivstar mobile network was made in 1997.

"I think the macroeconomic situation, despite its overall importance, was not the key factor in Kyivstar's becoming the leader on the market," Petro Chernyshov, the president of Kyivstar, told the KyivPost. Rather, he said, Kyivstar "loves its clients." The company processes 46,000 calls per day to its customer helpline. Over 4,000 employees work to provide clients with reliable connections, access to new technologies and knowledge of company products, Chernyshov said.

Lastly, every Ukrainian will have used the products of flexible packaging producer, UKRPLASTIC. In the early 1990s, the enterprise was on the verge of bankruptcy, but it has since managed to develop into one of the top 30 global manufacturers of flexible packaging.

True, the current economic crisis in the country has damaged the company's finances. UKRPLASTIC suffered a net loss of almost a half a billion hryvnias in 2014. But in 2015, UKRPLASTIC managed to halve its loss to Hr 261 million (\$10.4 million) compared to the previous year.

The enterprise has set up full cycle production of high-tech, environmentally friendly packaging for the food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetic industries.

UKRPLASTIC works where printing, chemistry and the food industry overlap. Much of its success is a result of introducing cutting-edge achievements in all of those spheres, as well as developing close relationships with suppliers, according to Irina Mirochnik, the president of UKRPLASTIC.

"I consider our position in the environmental sphere as undoubtedly one of our greatest achievements," Mirochnik told the Kyiv Post. "25 years ago we were the first to abandon the manufacturing of products that are harmful to people, and we have consistently introduced higher environmental standards at all levels of our business." ■



A Nibulon transshipment grain and oil seed terminal in Mykolaiv. (Ukrafoto)

# Ukraine: Land of wounds and victories



OLENA  
GONCHAROVA

I always have hard time packing, but getting ready to embark on a six-month trip to the United States to work for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was especially difficult. I had one suitcase and tons of things I thought I might need, but there was something I would never think of leaving behind – my vyshyvanka.

In the past, when Ukrainians had to leave their country – whether emigrating or going off to war – they would always take a piece of soil with them as a connection to their beloved land. Today, it would be difficult to smuggle even a tiny piece of Ukrainian land through customs, and we all have smartphones with pictures of the places we love. But we still look for something symbolic to keep while we're miles from home.

## Grandma's vyshyvanka

For me, it's my grandma's embroidered shirt, which always reminds me of western Ukraine, where she grew up, worked and where one night in the late 1940s she – together with her husband – were deported to Siberia by the Soviet government simply for being Ukrainian. My grandparents always hoped there would be an independent and strong Ukraine, but sadly my grandma never lived to see it.

She died years before I was born in 1991 – in a new country that my ancestors had been fighting for centuries.

When I think about Ukraine, it's all about wounds and victories.

Many of those wounds are still raw, as Ukraine has constantly been a battleground for rival empires. Later came the heart-wrenching defeat of Ukraine's national movement in the 20th century, the Soviet-orchestrated famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in the early 1930s, and then the collapse of the



A girl weaves a camouflage net on Mykhaylivska Square on Aug. 24 in Kyiv to celebrate Independence Day. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Soviet Union, which allowed the country to become independent, but with a kleptocratic neighbor that didn't hesitate to stab it in the back in early 2014.

Despite all the hardships, Ukraine has proved to all its ill-wishers that it can survive: through the economic turmoil during the first years of independence and two revolutions, followed by the war against Russia.

## Strength from blood

My country became stronger with the blood of every soldier that was killed in the Donbas over the course of the last two years. At a time

when Crimean Tatars are being abducted and tortured in Russian-occupied Crimea, Ukrainian lawmakers have finally been pushing through much-needed legislation to transform a corrupt country into a self-reliant state. It's not always an easy task, and many in my country's elite still try to resist. But we're moving forward – a clear sign that we're no longer in Russia's political orbit.

While in the United States, I was constantly asked to tell people about Ukraine. Sometimes I felt like a myth buster.

"Kyiv is a pro-Russian city, right?"  
"Why do you say there's a war with Russia?"

"Forgive my ignorance, is Kyiv located in Crimea?"

"Are there actually any tanks in eastern Ukraine?"

Lots of people still call my country "the Ukraine," don't understand why I freak out every time I see my home city's name spelled as "Kiev" and truly believe that the war against Russia is a "civil war."

## Ignorance persists

Those could be little things, but they end up creating a snowballing impression of ... total ignorance.

This is partly the fault of Ukraine for not creating an image of the country that is more than just nuclear disasters and cheap beer.

We also hosted the European soccer championship in 2012 and made the world's most environmentally friendly space rocket, the Zenith 3SL. Nevertheless, for many, we are still "the Ukraine," burdened by a Soviet

past when the country was "the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic." And while the United States is "the home of the brave" and Canada is "strong and free," Ukraine (in the best-case scenario) is a country "that is close to Russia."

There are many things Ukrainians would like to learn from their U.S. counterparts – being more open and initiative-driven, not to stress out every time a stranger asks a question in English (or any other language), and to smile more. I admit that it's hard to do that last thing, when the country is suffering from Russian aggression, which started with the Kremlin's Crimean land grab.

## What is a Ukrainian?

But right now there's a chance to show the world what it means to be Ukrainian.

Being Ukrainian means to know your country's history and are proud of it, while not portraying it in a kitschy way. We don't wear flower crowns and baggy Cossack-style pants on a regular basis, even though it's a part of our history we will always cherish. We have multi-brand stores and like shopping. We are not awed by IKEA, even though we still don't have one. Ukrainians do wear traditional clothes and embroidered shirts on national holidays: it's a way to remember where we came from.

We don't spend all the time on the farm, tending chickens and pigs, even though Ukraine is known as an agricultural country. And we don't eat salo for breakfast.

We do have information technolo-

gy specialists, world-class doctors, and athletes that have already won eight medals at the Rio Olympics, including two gold. Ukrainian roots can be found in PayPal and WhatsApp and the Ukrainian-developed app Lookery, which was acquired by U.S. company Snapchat in 2015. (Recently one person asked me whether we have air conditioning in the office.)

## We are not Russians

We are not Russians, even though we live next to them. Our traditions and history were intertwined for centuries, and the Russian language was a prerequisite for admission to high education and well-paying jobs in the Soviet Union. Years have passed, and my grandparents would be delighted to know that today Ukrainian is the official language, even though we know Russian and can speak it fluently.

Ukrainian and Russian might sound similar to a foreigner, but it was never "the same language." Historians argued that Ukrainian has survived more than 100 prohibitions over 400 years, only to witness Russian President Vladimir Putin claiming to protect those speaking Russian in Ukraine in early 2014.

The war has once again showed us that being Ukrainian means having to take arms if there's a danger of losing our land. In the years to come, I hope my wounded nation will once again gain victory over its enemies, and let everyone in the world know what it means to be, in the words of our national anthem, a Cossack nation. ■



People attend the military parade to celebrate 25 years of Ukraine's independence on Aug. 24. (Volodymyr Petrov)

# The story behind 2 top Ukrainian symbols: National flag and trident

BY NATALIYA TRACH  
 TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Modern Ukraine gained its two most prominent national emblems, the trident and the blue-and-yellow national flag, in the early 1990s.

But the history of these symbols goes a good deal further back than that – to the very beginnings of the first cultures known to have settled the lands that are today part of modern Ukraine.

“For everybody who knew the history of Ukraine, it was clear that they should be a blue-yellow flag and a trident,” Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine’s first president, told the Kyiv Post in an interview. “It was not easy to have these symbols approved by the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine’s parliament). But I think that the trident and blue-and-yellow flag will stay with us forever.”

## Flag’s origin

A golden lion on a blue background appeared on the emblem and flag of the Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia, a medieval state located largely on the territory of western Ukraine, during the 12th to 14th centuries.

Later on, the colors blue and yellow became connected with the national liberation movement in Halychyna, the region in western Ukraine that was part of Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1772 to 1918.

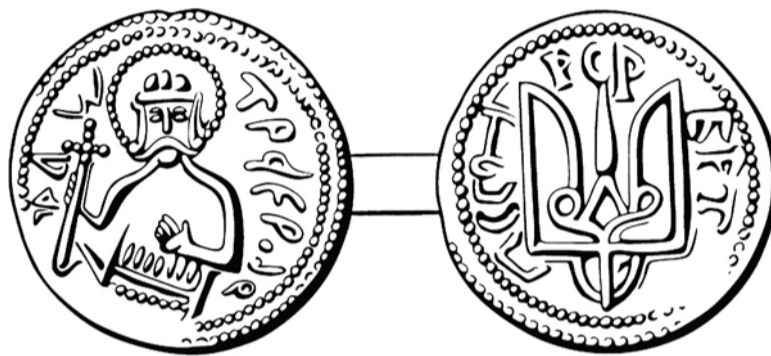
On May 2, 1848, the General Ukrainian Rada, the first representative body of Ukrainians in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, approved the blue-and-yellow flag and the emblem of a golden lion on a blue background as symbols of Ukrainians residing in Halychyna.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the blue and yellow symbolism spread to territory that was then part of the Russian empire. “Although the Ukrainian national movements in the Russian empire were weak and harshly suppressed, there is evidence that, after the failed revolution in 1905, the blue-and-yellow flag was used by Ukrainians living in Kyiv and Poltava,” says heraldic specialist Andriy Hrechlyo.

From 1917 to 1921, the blue-and-yellow flag was the state flag of the then independent Ukrainian state.

“Prior to 1918, both flag versions of the blue-and-yellow flag – one with the blue on top, and the other with the yellow on top – were used in Ukraine. But in January 1918, Ukraine’s parliament approved the blue-and-yellow version of the flag and no further discussion on the sequence of the colors arose,” says Ivan Hrechlyo, one of the designers of the modern Ukrainian national emblem.

It was only after the break-up of



A silver coin used in the medieval Kyivan Rus era of Prince Volodymyr shows a trident symbol. (Courtesy)

the Soviet Union that the Ukrainian blue-and-yellow flag came back into use again as the state flag. Ukraine’s parliament approved the blue-yellow flag as the national symbol of Ukraine on Jan. 28, 1992, almost six months after Ukraine declared independence.

One of the most popular interpretations of the colors of the Ukrainian flags is that the blue color represents the sky, while the yellow represents a wheat field.

## Trident’s origin

The trident is a very ancient sacred symbol, and was commonly used in ancient times in India, Mesopotamia and Europe. The three-pronged spear is the symbol of Poseidon, the ancient Greek god of the sea. But it is also known as the weapon of Shiva – one of the three main deities in Hinduism.

Officially approved as Ukraine’s

national emblem in early 1990s, the trident has been closely connected with Ukrainian history for centuries.

The first trident symbols found by archeologists on the territory of modern Ukraine were used by the Trypillian Neolithic culture in the period from 5,000 to 3,000 years B.C.

In the 10th century, Prince Volodymyr the Great of the Kyiv Rus minted a trident symbol on gold and silver coins, as well as on bricks and adornments. “It was not a heraldic sign back then but it was definitely an emblematic sign that was associated with the prince’s family,” says Hrechlyo.

The most popular version says the three-pronged spear might symbolize the three-dimensional world, while other theories claim it is a symbol of a falcon, which was later interpreted as a symbol of the Christian Trinity of the God the Father, the Son and



A worker installs the Ukrainian trident on the spire of the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv on Oct. 29. (UNIAN)

the Holy Spirit.

The modern emblem directly appeals to the historical heredity of Ukraine and the state of Kyivan Rus, says Hrechlyo.

The Verkhovna Rada officially approved the trident as a national emblem of Ukraine on Feb. 19, 1992.

## Symbols need respect

Although the two symbols have widespread acceptance today, their adoption by parliament proved difficult.

Communist lawmakers were still in the majority in Ukraine’s parliament in the early 1990s, and they were reluctant to accept the nationalists’ blue-and-yellow flag and a trident as state symbols. Kravchuk as president

threatened to dismiss the parliament during the political battles over the adoption of the trident, but in the end 231 lawmakers in the 450-seat parliament voted in favor.

“All of my tasks, first as speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, then as a president of Ukraine, consisted of trying to find compromises and persuading people (to approve the national emblem). It wasn’t easy, but it looks like I succeeded,” Kravchuk says.

“National symbols need to be respected. Unfortunately, nowadays we see that some regions and some political parties do not show much respect for the Ukrainian flag and trident, but I believe that this is temporary. I believe that new generations will respect our symbols.” ■



People hold a 25-meter flag of Ukraine to celebrate National Flag Day at the Potemkin Stairs in Odesa on Aug. 23. (UNIAN)

# Ukraine on front lines of global democratic fight



PAUL  
NILAND

As Ukraine celebrates 25 years as an independent nation, it's worth taking a look at the differences between Ukraine and the other states that gained independence as the Soviet Union so spectacularly collapsed.

With the exceptions of the Baltic nations, who quickly adopted transparent governance models 25 years ago after regaining the independence since the Soviet annexation of their countries at the start of World War II, the most striking commonality of other ex-Soviet states is that they are ruled by dynasties. The only way to establish a political dynasty is the suppression of the basics of democracy, free speech, alternative political choices, and so on.

## Post-Soviet dynasties

From Alexander Lukashenko in Belarus to Nursultan Nazarbayev in Kazakhstan, and of course Vladimir Putin in Russia, these are all leaders who have created a one-party state and denied freedoms of others to compete against them. Of course, the same thing was supposed to happen in Ukraine. An autocratic, but Moscow subservient, dynasty was slated to be Ukraine's system, too.

The hand picked head of the dynasty for Ukraine was, of course, none other than Victor Yanukovich, but this dynasty took more than one attempt to realise and took two people power revolutions to end.

## Foiling Yanukovich

The first attempt to get Yanukovich installed as Ukraine's head of state was in the run up to the presidential election of 2004, the method was cruel but simple, and nothing new (Link: <https://t.co/3a4vW9A6ui>) for Russian state craft. In 2004, Yanukovich had a viable challenger, Victor Yushenko. So, the dynasty creation plan meant an attempt to murder him by poisoning. The per-



Protesters clash with police outside the Cabinet of Ministers on Hrushevsky Street in Kyiv on Nov. 24, 2013, during the EuroMaidan Revolution. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

petrators of that unsolved crime are now believed to be in Russia.

When the poisoning failed to kill Yanukovich's challenger, the next effort to install Yanukovich was crude ballot box fraud. Here is where the directions of Ukraine and the other post-Soviet states begins to differ greatly. The reaction to this attempt to steal power was the Orange Revolution.

## Manafort's help

But at this Russia was not done. The following attempt to get their man in power consisted in the now infamous game of pass-the-Paul Manafort; from Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska, to Ukrainian oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, to President-in-Waiting Yanukovich. Manafort first helped Yanukovich's Russophile Party of Regions gain a large enough share in the 2006 parliamentary elections for Yanukovich to stake a claim for a second stint as prime minister.

It's worth noting, not least by

the present political leadership in Ukraine, that it was Yushchenko's own failure to deliver significant reforms that also played a part in this: you have been warned.

With Manafort's help, Yanukovich had returned from the political wilderness, and whereas he had been disgraced by the events that led up to and caused the Orange Revolution, he now held one of the highest posts in the country, again. Of course, at that point Manafort cannot be accused of doing anything illegal, the morality of representing a man like Yanukovich is another matter, but Manafort had worked for other unsavoury characters in the past (Link: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/04/13/top-trump-aide-led-the-torturers-lobby.html>) and clearly way past any trivial consideration of morality

## Controlling media

Where Manafort may have crossed a line was in the use of Deripaska's cash to gain control of strategic media outlets in Odesa on behalf of the Party of Regions (link: <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2016-07-20/trump-s-manager-is-a-master-of-post-soviet-business>) and then later by allegedly channeling \$2.2 million to lobby firms in Washington (Link: <http://big-story.ap.org/article/c01989a47ee-5421593ba1b301ec07813/ap-sources-manafort-tied-undisclosed-foreign-lobbying>) as payment for spinning the reasons for the imprisonment of political rival Yulia Tymoshenko, among other things - things that require registration and declaration in the United States as actions on behalf of a foreign government. (Link: <http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/trump-advisers-waged-covert-influence-campaign>)

## Yanukovich's return

A smooth - so it seemed at the time - political operator in charge of pretending his client was anything but the twice convicted criminal and head of a disgustingly corrupt system, Yanukovich went on to win the presidential election in 2010 and became Ukraine's head of state. At this point, Ukrainians didn't object, but as we came to understand later there is a vast difference between a legitimate election result and a legitimate right to continue to rule. (Link: <http://www.kyivpost.com/opinion/op-ed/define-legitimate-402807.html>)

The reasons for and catalyst of the Revolution of Dignity, or EuroMaidan Revolution, are documented and accepted as truth by all but a handful of misinformed persons.

But events since the revolution are worthy of the most attention now.

## Ukraine as test case

The challenges that Ukraine faced were not unique. The exact same conditions exist today in the aforementioned countries where dynasties dominate the political scene. The problems are vast corruption, especially in the personal appropriation of funds that should belong to the state(s) that come from the murky gas and oil businesses of the region. The corruption extends to every sphere of life, from a lazy and abusive police force, to rigged state tenders (Link: <http://www.rferl.org/content/putin-insiders-state-contracts-forbes-ranking/27576535.html>) to a court system creating wealthy judges who rule based on financial motivation or political pressure rather than on sound legal arguments.

The world needs to recognize that Ukraine is not part of some basket-case system where these prob-

lems are ubiquitous and never ending. Because it is Ukraine that is actually forging the way in working out how to deal with the region wide problems that are the hallmark of the post-Soviet space. The future of the entire region - therefore the lives of more than 280 million people - is at stake.

Whether Ukraine succeeds or fails is about more than Ukraine. The people of Ukraine are not pawns in a game between East and West. They are the principal actors in a battle between old and new.

## Destroying corruption

The old ways - rampant corruption and the denial of democratic rights - is what is being fought over in today's Ukraine. The people of Ukraine have been leading the fight against that system for over two years, through great hardships and sorrow, as civil society drives the political classes and forces them to continue reforms that curb corrupt practices.

The success of Maidan was sealed with the blood of Ukrainian people, young and old, who refused to allow their lives to be dominated by arrogant thieves.

The real reason why certain people (or, regimes) find it necessary to distort the reality of Ukraine is that they are afraid, because the methodology for a full reboot of the post-Soviet system is being created in Ukraine now. Solutions to regional specific problems, such as ending the corrupt relationships between governments and oligarchies, and severing the ties between organised crime and law enforcement, are being tested and refined in Ukraine.

## Examples of progress

We have obvious examples of progress in these areas. The state gas company now works transparently. It's no longer the creator of billion-dollar fortunes for a connected few. Gas is purchased without intermediaries via open tender. We have a new professional police force, albeit one that struggles to work with laws that require updating. And we have a new government tender system called ProZorro, which is estimated to have saved the state Hr 13 billion hryvnias in the last year.

The most significant battle ahead is reforming the judiciary, one of the key facilitators of corruption.

When we look at who is trying to stop democratic development (and obviously thwart anti-corruption initiatives at the same time), we see why the world should support Ukraine's experiment in every way, including advice and guidance, including increased sanctions against those who continue to wage war in and against Ukraine.

For all the faults and the mistakes being made, Ukrainians are on the front lines of a globally important battle. Ukrainians deserves respect and support as they lead the way to improving the lives of all people living in the former Soviet Union. ■



Soviet dissident and Ukrainian lawmaker Levko Lukyanenko speaks to people on the square of the October Revolution (now Independence Square) in Kyiv on Aug. 24, 1991, following the proclamation of Ukraine as an independent state. (UNIAN)





# Recovering soldier: 'I'm a patriot...I'm fighting till the end'

Top left: Volunteers cook a barbecue outside the military hospital as a treat for the soldiers who could not attend the celebrations at the Independence Square in Kyiv.

Top: Anatoli Horbenko, a volunteer in the Donbas battalion undergoing treatment at Kyiv's military hospital, speaks with Natalia Kozyna, a volunteer at the hospital, during a barbecue for injured military on Independence Day, Aug. 24. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Soldier from page 1

Battalion in 2014 as a volunteer after Russian-backed insurgents stormed Mariupol and seized the southeastern city's administrative buildings.

"I lived in Mariupol and I saw all that from the inside, I saw who those people were," he said. "They cheered for Russia and for (Russian President Vladimir) Putin. I knew I could never accept that."

On the morning of June 16, Horbenko was leading a group in Maryinka - the next thing he knew was his legs had been ripped off by a blast.

He was the only one in the group to sustain a serious injury.

But for the 37-year-old, it is the price for independence and dignity.

"I knew I would have been embarrassed to look my daughter in the eyes if I didn't do anything," he said. "But I know that I did what I could. You need to fight for independence - all countries fight for independence."

The war in Donbas, which began in April of 2014, has claimed more than 9000 casualties with the number growing each day.

Russia has escalated its war against eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, with two more Ukrainian soldiers reportedly killed in the past week, adding to the 2,500 Ukrainian soldiers killed in the two years of war. Overall, more than 10,000 people have been killed since the fighting started in 2014.

Amid the escalating tension between Ukraine and Russia, celebrations in honor of the 25th anniversary of independence were held across Kyiv, with a military parade along the Khreschatyk Street attended by thousands.

Many patients at the military hospital were unable to make their way



Friends of a Ukrainian soldier who lost his leg when stepping on a land mine near Olenivka in Donetsk Oblast, celebrate Independence Day with him by taking him for a walk outside the military hospital. (Anastasia Vlasova)

into the city.

One of them was Vadym Ivakhnenko, a soldier treated in the hospital for a leg injury. He watched the patriotic festivities on television instead. In his six-bed hospital room, Ukraine's coat of arms, the trident, and children's drawings, given to the soldiers, hang on the walls while plates of freshly cooked meat and

vegetables sit on the small table.

The barbecue was put on thanks to a group of volunteers and funded with the proceeds of a painting sale from Kyiv artist Olesya Tverdokhlib.

Outside, a choir of volunteers serenaded the soldiers with folklore songs in honor of the country's public holiday.

Having served in the military

for 23 years - nearly since the start of Ukraine's independence - Ivakhnenko said the outcome of war will determine his outlook on Ukraine as an independent country.

"If we don't win this war, Ukraine will be a little independent in parts," he said. "The Kyiv Oblast will remain, Lviv Oblast, but they'll take (parts of Ukraine). They took Crimea,

Donetsk, Luhansk ...but we're sitting here independent."

But Ivakhnenko said while the fight has a long way to go, there has been a raft of positive changes within the military.

"I'm happy that the military now is more or less treated well," he said. "The uniforms are shoddy but at least we're getting them ... before, the soldiers bought their own uniforms."

Ivakhnenko said from 2009 to 2015 he had to purchase his own uniform.

"There was practically no funding for the army and what was funded was stolen by those same military officials," he said.

A resigned frustration with the corruption in the Ukrainian Army lingers within the military.

Another patient of the hospital, Andriy, a serviceman who refused to reveal his last name in fear of repercussions in the military, said that he served for five months without pay while his superiors pocketed his paychecks.

"The government gives brigades money and the brigades cuts us off," he said. "They use morons like me to pocket extra cash. It's business, nothing personal."

Sustaining a number of injuries since 2015, including trauma to the spine and ears, Andriy is currently waiting on clearance from the military medical commission of the armed forces to return to the front line.

The commission may discharge him, but despite frustration with the corruption in the military he is hoping to be back on the frontline, fighting for Ukraine's independence.

"Why go back? Because I'm a patriot," he said. "I'm fighting till the end." ■



### A lovely reason for a parade



Ex-presidents Viktor Yushchenko, Leonid Kuchma and Leonid Kravchuk watch the military parade on Aug. 24 (1). People watch the Independence Day parade (2, 3). A couple walks Khreshchatyk Street wrapped in Ukraine's flag (4). Military vehicles drive Khreshchatyk Street as the parade begins (5). Tactical ballistic missile complexes Tochka-U drive Khreshchatyk Street during the Independence Day parade (6). A unit commander (R) pays honor to the flag handed by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko during the Independence Day parade (7). Children participate in the Vyshyvanka Run, an annual race taking place on Independence Day (8). A Ukrainian tank is parked on Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Street in central Kyiv during the rehearsal of the Independence Day parade on Aug. 22 (9). (Volodymyr Petrov, Anastasiya Radkova, Ukrafoto)

# Ledger shows bribes went to judges, election officials

Yanukovich from page 2

Election Commission on April 27, 2011. According to ledgers published by the Ukrainska Pravda newspaper in May, the Party of Regions also allocated \$2.93 million for the Central Election Commission in 2012.

Mykhailo Okhendovsky, who is currently the chairman of the Central Election Commission, received \$1,525 for a business trip. He has denied the accusations.

A "P.O. Hutsal" got \$4,200 on Dec. 14, 2009 for the International



Valid Arfush, a EuroNews executive

Observers project – apparently for election observers loyal to the Party of Regions.

## Parties' loyalty

The payments lend credence to speculation that Yanukovich used nationalist groups to attack and discredit his opponents.

A "D.A. Shentsev" got \$30,000 on July 11, 2009 for a "congress and conference" of the UNA-UNSO nationalist group. UNA-UNSO's leader Konstantyn Vinnytsky said he could not comment because the party had other leaders then.

Ledgers published by Ukrainska Pravda on Aug. 19 also show that Vitaly Kalyuzhny, an ex-lawmaker from the Party of Regions, received \$200,000 for election commission members representing the Svoboda nationalist party on Nov. 4, 2010. Svoboda has denied the accusations.

Meanwhile, ledgers leaked by Ukrainska Pravda in May show that members of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party and ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party were also allegedly paid by the Party of Regions. They have denied involvement.



Oleh Tyahnybok leads the Svoboda nationalist party, which received \$200,000 from the Party of Regions, according to the off-the-book ledgers. The party denies the accusations. (UNIAN)

## Bribing journalists

Another way Yanukovich's regime consolidated its power was by buying

the loyalty of mass media.

Valid Arfush, head of EuroNews in the Commonwealth of Independent States, received \$10,000 on Sept. 17, 2009 for an article about Yanukovich and a \$9,530 refund on Oct. 25, 2009 for a "visit by a French delegate," according to the documents seen by the Kyiv Post. Arfush did not reply to a request for comment.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's former spokesman Serhiy Zavorotny was given \$5,000 on Sept. 20, 2010 for "an article in Ukr. Pr" – an apparent reference to the Ukrainska Pravda online newspaper; the leak shows. Zavorotny told the Kyiv Post he could neither deny nor confirm the authenticity of the ledgers.

Television journalist Larry King also appeared on the list, with a note marking that he took \$225,000 in October 2011, according to the ledgers published by Ukrainska Pravda on Aug. 19. The payment was made ahead of King's flattering interview with Azarov.

The anti-corruption bureau has confirmed the authenticity of the Larry King entry, while King's broadcasters Ora TV and RT America, a Kremlin propaganda outlet, did not reply to a request for comment.

## Loyal NGOs

Yanukovich also strengthened his power by financing non-profit organizations that claimed to be independent. Ina Kirsch, head of the European Center for a Modern Ukraine, got \$36,792 from the Party of Regions on July 11, 2012, according to last week's leak. Kirsch did not reply to a request for comment.

The Associated Press reported on Aug. 17 that Manafort and Rick Gates, another Trump aide, had helped to channel \$2.2 million from the European Center for a Modern Ukraine to U.S. lobbying firms.

Meanwhile, Kirsch appeared in



Ina Kirsch, head of a Belgian nongovernmental organization, got \$36,792 from the Party of Regions, according to the ledgers.

Ukraine television channel footage of clashes on Institutka Street in Kyiv on Feb. 20, 2014, when dozens of EuroMaidan protesters were killed.

## Apparatchiks

Another group mentioned in the documents is prominent Party of Regions apparatchiks.

Ex-Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara received \$39,328 on April 29, 2011 for business trips to the U.S. and China, according to the ledgers seen by the Kyiv Post. He did not reply to a request for comment.

Oleg Rafalsky, a deputy chief of staff under Yanukovich, got \$20,438 on Oct. 14, 2009 to pay wages to party officials, while Kalyuzhny received \$500,000 on April 8, 2010 for lawmaker Inna Bohoslovka, the documents show. Rafalsky and Bohoslovka could not be reached for comment. Oligarch Konstantyn Grigorishin is also mentioned in the ledgers seen by the Kyiv Post. In an entry whose meaning is not entirely clear, Kalyuzhny got \$10,000 for "expenses on admission dated Nov. 2, 2009 Grigorishin K.I." on Nov. 9, 2009. Grigorishin's spokeswoman said she could not comment. ■

## Some entries in the Party of Regions' secret ledgers of \$2 billion payments

Name	Amount	Reaction	Significance
U.S. television host Larry King	\$225,000	Did not respond	Allegedly got the money for a flattering interview with ex-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov; the entry highlights the extent to which ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's regime tried to buy media loyalty
U.S. political consultant Paul Manafort	\$12.7 million	Denied involvement	Exposed Yanukovich's expensive and elaborate efforts to use foreign consultants to recast his image from thug to democrat.
Ina Kirsch, head of the European Center for a Modern Ukraine	\$36,792	Did not respond	Exposed Yanukovich's efforts to whitewash his image in the West through a Belgian nongovernmental organization and U.S. lobbying firms
Svoboda nationalist party	\$200,000	Denied involvement	Exposed Yanukovich's co-optation of nationalist parties. Svoboda was among the opposition parties ostensibly in support of the EuroMaidan Revolution that toppled the ex-president in 2014. Voters, however, have mostly rejected Svoboda as a political force in post-revolution elections. If true, the payments could explain why the first post-revolution prosecutor, Oleh Makhnitsky, made no progress in prosecuting Yanukovich-era corruption.
UNA-UNSO nationalist party	\$30,000	Could not comment	
Ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party	\$2.32 million	Denied involvement	Exposed ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's alleged assistance in getting Yanukovich elected in 2010 over his rival, ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.
Mykhailo Apostol, ex-lawmaker from ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party	\$1.4 million	Did not respond	Exposed the extent to which Yanukovich attempted to co-opt ostensibly opposition parties.
Communist Party	\$32,300	Denied involvement	Payments reinforced suspicions that the Communist Party, which no longer has members in parliament, was never an independent political force.
Central Election Commission	\$2.98 million	Did not respond	Exposed the Yanukovich-era Party of Regions' efforts to manipulate or rig elections
Mykhailo Okhendovsky, chairman of the Central Election Commission	\$1,525	Denied involvement	
Judges of the Constitutional Court	\$6 million	Did not respond	Exposed Yanukovich's efforts to increase his powers through the Constitutional Court
Ex-Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara	\$39,328	Did not respond	

The Party of Regions' ledgers reveal its efforts to buy the loyalty of media, judges, election officials, parties and non-governmental organizations. Critics see them as evidence for usurpation of power by the party.



## Outdoor pools in Kyiv

### City Life

WITH VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA  
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM



Kyivans attend a pool at the VDNH exhibition center on June 27. The pool opened this summer as one of the renovations taking place at the Soviet-time exhibition center and park. (Anastasia Vlasova)

BY MARIIA ULIANOVSKA

It's been a long hot summer in Kyiv, and it's not over yet: High temperatures are forecast for the first week of September, too.

If the yellow tinged waters of the Dnipro are not appealing, there are a variety of outdoor pools in Kyiv with fresh, clear water that make for a great option for a one-day getaway to beat the summer heat.

#### Pier 39 (VDNH)

This outdoor pool recently opened as part of the massive renovation of the VDNH exhibition center. It's already a firm favorite with Kyivans, due to its moderate prices and good quality service. Pier 39 is also a perfect fam-

ily choice – there's a kids' pool next to the 25-meter adult one. For the whole summer already, this place has operated in a city-beach format - with outdoor swimming pools, a volleyball court, and a bar and cafeteria where visitors can find healthy fast food options.

*Cost: Hr 150 per day*  
VDNH KyivExpoCenter, 1 Glushkova Ave., 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon - Sun, tel: +38068-352-6455

#### Yunist

The best known outdoor pool in Kyiv, Yunist is in the city's Pechersk district. It is open all year long for both professional athletes and the general public. It offers various water-based fitness activities, togeth-

er with a gym and sauna. During the summer visitors can also rent a sun lounger to relax in the sun after a swim. The pool water is kept clean by an ionization system, without the use of chlorine. However, the pool closes from 2:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. daily for cleaning.

*Cost: Hr 65 per 45 minutes Mon - Fri, Hr 75 per 45 minutes Sat - Sun.*  
7 Bastionna St., 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m. - 10 p.m. Mon - Sat, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun, tel. +38044-285-2122

#### Otradny Sport Complex

This is the oldest outdoor pool in the city, and has been serving Kyivans since 1964. But don't be put off by its age – the pool has been renovated to modern standards, and has six

25-meter lanes. The pool is a particular favorite with athletes, as it is never crowded, works all year round, and has alongside a gym, tennis courts, sports massage service and a sauna. Nevertheless, this isn't the best choice for just spending a lazy day by the poolside, as the recreation zone at Otradny is rather meager, with no sun loungers and no bar. It's also rather remote from the center, being located in the south-west of the city near Kyiv Zhulyany Airport.

*Cost: Hr 80 per hour, season tickets available for Hr 1,000.*  
1 Bakunina St., 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mon - Sun, tel. +38044-332-1771

more Pools on page 21

### TV shows from Ukraine can make it abroad

With every new television season, the producers invent new shows to keep the viewers glued to the screen.

Ukrainian producers are no exception. While many shows on the Ukrainian TV are the licensed adaptations of foreign shows, the Ukrainians are also inventing new formats that get sold abroad to Europe and Asia.

Over a dozen of Ukrainian TV shows were sold for broadcasters abroad to adapt and show. The main buyer is Russia, while at the same time Ukraine has put restrictions on the Russian-made TV shows that can screen in Ukraine, banning any series that promote Russian military or law enforcers.

Some Ukrainian shows were sold to Japan, China, Germany, France and the U.S., among other countries.

#### Sniff of success

In August, Japanese broadcasting company NHK started shooting a detective drama "The Sniffer," an adaptation of a Ukrainian series with the same name produced in 2013 by Film.UA studio and aired on ICTV.

In the show, Sniffer is a Special Investigations Bureau part-time detective who solves crimes using his supernatural power – a supersensitive sense of smell. This ability was one of the reasons why the Japanese broadcaster was interested, according to Atsushi Ochi, head of drama department at NHK.

"We are confident viewers of Japan will like the series even more when we add the traditional Japanese hue to the plot," Ochi told the Kyiv Post.

NHK expects to sell the Japanese version of "The Sniffer" to other Asian broadcasters. That is the first time NHK took up the adaptation of a foreign drama.

But it isn't the first success for "The Sniffer." The Ukrainian hit show was sold to France's TF1 channel in 2014 and to Russia in 2013. The rights for showing the Ukrainian version were sold to 60 countries.

The Ukrainian creators of the show explain the success with the global trend for detective dramas.

"Also, we managed to visualize the smell," Film.UA studio spokesperson Polina Tolmacheva says proudly.

more TV on page 21

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# Plenty of pools for escaping summer heat

Pools from page 20

## Sky Family Park

For a little more than just the chance to swim, try the Sky Family Park, next to Sky Mall at the eastern end of the Moscow Bridge. This place is equipped with an open pool, trampolines, 9D cinema, boat rental and water sport activities. There's also a food court, bar and recreation zones for all-day relaxation. For this reason, expect to find it packed during leisure hours on warm days. And beware: additional fees are charged for the use of sun loungers and padded stools – Hr 100 and Hr 50 respectively.

Cost: Hr 150-170  
2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.,  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon-Sun, tel.:  
+38095-283-6555

## More Family Club

This place advertises itself as having a seawater swimming pool. In fact, the water hasn't been piped in from the sea – its spring water with sea salt added to it, although this does make it chemically very close to real sea water. Another bonus is that the water in the pool is in constant circulation to keep it clean. The poolside area has sun loungers, private alcoves, a children's pool and a kids' play area. A good range of food and beverages is available from the club's restaurant and summer bar. The pool administration encourages visitors to buy tickets in advance due to limited capacity. A ticket includes access to the pool, sun loungers,

towels, a parking place and a kids' entertainment service.

Cost: Hr 150 Mon - Fri, Hr 250 Sat - Sun

5 Druzhbi Narodiv Park, beside Vita Park Borysfen Hotel, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., tel. +38067-324-4352

## Hydropark

For those more tempted by a pool-party experience, the best place to go is to a club in Hydropark, or on Trukhaniv Island or Dolobetsky Island, where there are a variety of beach and pool clubs with bars and DJ entertainment. One of the best of these is Olmecca Plage, which is on the sandy west beach of Dolobetsky Island, (north of Hydropark, across the Venetian Bridge.) Apart from its swimming pools, kids' zone, volleyball courts and massage rooms, the club boasts a picturesque view of the right bank of the Dnipro River.

Cost: Hr 300 (price includes access to pool, towel and a sun lounger)

Hydropark, across Venetian Bridge, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mon - Sun, tel.: +38044-232-2244

Next to Olmecca you can find another beach club - **Bora Bora**, which offers visitors shady alcoves in which to relax, surrounded by genuine palm trees and a sandy beach. Apart from its pool, this place is also known for its vibrant nightlife.

Cost: Hr 100

Hydropark, across Venetian Bridge, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mon - Sun, tel.: +38067-353-3454 ■



A baby sleeps in a pram by the pool at VDNH exhibition center on June 27. (Anastasia Vlasova)



Detective Sniffer demonstrates his supernatural sense of smell in one of the episodes of the Ukrainian TV show "The Sniffer." (Courtesy)

# City Life: TV shows find their audiences abroad

TV from page 20

## Reality for export

Ukrainian TV channels have been adapting big foreign shows since 2008. The most successful ones were "X Factor," "Ukraine's Got Talent" and "The Voice."

But lately, the roles are switching. Ukrainian networks have been creating more and more of original TV show formats and license them to foreign broadcasters.

In the Ukrainian reality show "Khata na Tata" ("Daddy in Charge"), the mother of the family goes on vacation for a week leaving all the household duties to the father. The

show highlights the condescending attitude that the participating men have towards the home duties of their wives.

"Daddy in Charge" was sold to Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. The local adaptation premiered in Lithuania in spring and was a success – the broadcaster now looks to buy the rights to adapt the second season of the show.

Another international success was "Go dance!" or "Maidance", a 2012 show where teams of 12 Ukrainian cities competed in a mass dance battle on Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Kyiv central square. It was sold to France, Norway, China, US and

Russia.

Behind both shows is StarLightMedia, a media group that produces shows for several Ukrainian channels. Its spokesperson Olga Vaganova says that the group will be trying to license out every original show they make in the future.

At the same time, for the past year Ukrainian TV channels are focused on struggling to replace the now-banned Russian TV series and coping with the economic crisis, so the creation of the new formats was put on hold.

"But it doesn't mean we don't have ideas," says Vaganova. ■



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Sept. 2

### Miss Ukraine 2016

The national finale of the annual beauty pageant Miss Ukraine 2016 will be held in Kyiv's Zhovtnevy Palace on Sept. 2. The winners will represent Ukraine at the Miss World, Miss Earth, and Miss International beauty pageants.

**Miss Ukraine 2016. Sept. 2. 7 p.m. October Palace (1 Instytutska St.). Hr 200 – 1,250**



Aug. 26-27

### Electronic music nights

The two-day outdoor night party at Platforma Art Factory will gather various electronic bands from Ukraine and other countries at one place. Among headliners Ukrainian electronic music bands The Maneken, TYOMA, Christian Burns. The ticket gives a one-time access to the concert zone a day.

**Belye Nochi (outdoor music party). Aug. 26-27. 8 p.m. Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.). Hr 200 per day**

### Pur:Pur (pop)

Sept. 9

Kharkiv-based pop band Pur:Pur will perform the acoustic versions of their hits in the Caribbean Club on Sept. 9. The band got in the spotlight after making it to the finale of this year's national selection for Eurovision Song Contest.

**Pur:Pur (pop). Sept. 9. 8 p.m. Caribbean Club (4 Symona Petlyury St.) Hr 120 – 650**



(Olena Fedorchenko)

Sept. 2 – 4



(Courtesy)

### Street Food Festival

The next installment of this regular festival at Platforma Art Factory will offer Mexican tacos, Brazilian tapioca and tortillas de maiz from Cuba, along with Brazilian coffee, matte tea and wine. The visitors will be entertained by the Latino music performed by Ukrainian band Svitlo Concert and watch popular TV series from the region.

**Street Food Festival. Sept. 2 – 4. Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) Hr 50-70**

Aug. 29



(Mlad Karashchuk/facebook)

### Jazz on the Roof

Ukrainian jazz singer Vlad Karashchuk and his ensemble will perform jazz hits by Ihor Zakus and covers of Jamiroquai, British funk and acid jazz band formed in 1992.

**Jazz on the Roof. Aug. 29. 8 p.m. Roof (37-41 Artema St.) Hr 150-350**

Aug. 23



(The Herbaliser/facebook)

### The Herbaliser (jazz, hip-hop)

A British band The Herbaliser will perform their hits, a mixture of jazz and hip-hop. Herbaliser was founded by Jake Wherry and Oliver Lawrence Trattles known as Ollie Teeba in early 1990s.

**The Herbaliser. Aug. 23. 7 p.m. Mystetsky Arsenal (12 Lavrska St.) Hr 400-850**



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The tender documentation can be received from 29th August 2016 until 23rd September 2016, during workdays from 09:00 to 17:00 at PUI office. The offers must be submitted on before 23rd September 2016 17:00.



## Kyiv Post is looking for an office manager to join the team.

We are looking for a positive and highly motivated person who is willing to learn and take on significant responsibilities.

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- administrative and project support to the entire Kyiv Post team;
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[krus@kyivpost.com](mailto:krus@kyivpost.com)



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

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

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### Editor-in-Chief Ukraine Today Website



#### Job Description:

- Managing the newsroom, including editors, correspondents, video-editors, web-designers, and supporting the team
- Building and maintaining a strong network of regional authors (CEE)
- Creating and implementing information strategies around different topics
- Presenting Ukraine Today at public events

#### Education/Skills:

- MA in Arts
- Five-year experience in media
- Achievements in managing web-projects
- Excellent communication, analytical and organization skills
- Strong adherence to journalistic standards

If you are interested in this job and want to join the selection process, please send your CV to [job@1plus1.tv](mailto:job@1plus1.tv)

### Copywriter Ukraine Today Website



#### Job description:

- Editing and proofreading articles for spelling, grammar and coherence
- Creating eye-catching headlines
- Compiling, rewriting and tailoring stories taken from other sources
- Partnering with our UX, Site Production and Marketing teams to transform business strategy into creative solutions

#### Education/experience:

- English – native speaker, fluent Ukrainian/Russian would be an advantage
- Bachelor's Degree in English, journalism, communications
- At least two-year experience in copywriting within a similar position
- Attention to minor details
- Both technical and creative/editorial copywriting skills
- Strong organization and time management skills; ability to stick to deadlines

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