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# Thugs For Hire

**BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA AND ARTEM BABAK**  
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They are easy to spot at various protests, rallies and raider attacks: young, athletic men dressed in sports clothes who stick together in groups and often prefer fists to words in confrontations they themselves provoke.

Most often these young men manage to preserve their anonymity, as do their handlers. But the May 18 assaults of

two journalists revealed some of their identities. They were tracked to other rallies, raising suspicions that the men may be professional fighters, available for hire by political parties.

Pictures of the latest incident taken by one of the attacked journalists went viral last weekend. Media and activists dug deep into photo archives on social media and news websites to look for traces of the attackers and discovered that these athletic young men were no strangers to rallies and other controversial events, →10

An opposition rally on May 18 came to blows after an attack on journalists by young sportsmen — a common sight at rallies and raids throughout the country. (Vladislav Sodel/Kommersant-Ukraine)

## Food safety is a key issue for Ukraine's economy

**BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI, ANASTASIA FORINA**  
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Will agribusiness make or break Ukraine's economic future? The answer of many participants of the Kyiv Post's Food Safety Conference on May 22 was that it depends on whether the country can boost standards to become a global exporter, or end up struggling to ensure the health of its own population.

Strategists argue that what energy was for the 20th century, food will be in the 21st. Nowhere does this strike as close to home as in Ukraine. For the past twenty years, much of the nation's agenda has been set by the energy sector, especially gas imports from Russia. In the future, argues Andreas Lier, CEO of chemical giant BASF Ukraine, the country's economic and overall development will be determined by food.

"Ukraine has 33 million hectares of arable land that is one third of China's lands. China has 1.2 billion and Ukraine has 45 million people and it has the largest area of agro land in Europe. It could in fact be the breadbasket of the world," Lier says.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Ukraine has the potential to become the world's sixth biggest wheat exporter by 2021 and →2



Vitali Klitschko delivers a keynote address at the conference

# Ukraine two-times on MiG jets sale

**BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA & MARK RACHKEVYCH**  
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Croatia's 2010 plans to overhaul its fighter jet fleet involved the purchase of eight MiG-21 jets from Ukraine as a bidder. The only problem is that those jets seem to have already been contracted to Yemen.

In December 2011 Croatia sent a delegation to Odesa to inspect the jets, which noticed basic Yemeni tags on them, but initially thought nothing of it. Since then, however, five of the 10 Croatian bid assessment committee members have been dismissed because of the scandal. Repercussions in Ukraine have yet to appear.

After the 2011 visit, and pursuant to negotiations, Ukraine wrote a letter obtained by the Kyiv Post that appears to contain false MiG ownership information. Dated Dec. 19, 2011, and addressed to the Croatian Ministry of Defense, Ukrspecexport — the state-owned military product and ser- →6

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# Better standards needed to unlock food potential

→ **1** is already a regular on the corn exports podium. But Ukraine's problem, Lier explains, is excessive concentration on producing raw commodities – wheat, rape and corn – while value-added products such as meat or dairy are sidelined.

"Some 20 years ago when Ukraine became independent, the country was populated by 19 million pigs, now there are eight million and that's just the middle of the value chain," Lier says.

Also, to make the most of its opportunities, Ukraine has no choice but to improve standards and safety. In its most recent sector development report, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development identified the dairy sector as one of four areas in which Ukraine holds a key competitive advantage.

The problem, according to the OECD, is quality. Of the three grades of milk quality in the European Union, Ukraine does not even meet the lowest. According to Fredrick Aherne, a non-executive director at Warsaw Stock Exchange-listed dairy producer Milkiland, this is one of the reasons why Polish cheese is now invading Ukraine's shelves with better quality, and often at cheaper prices.

It takes some ten liters of milk to produce the equivalent of a liter of cheese, Aherne explained, but all of this depends on the fat and protein



From left: Fredrick Aherne (Milkiland), Eleonora Dupouy (FAO), Anastasiya Zrazhevskaya and Yana Mechaeva (McDonalds) And Jean-Jacques Herve (Credit Agricole). (Anastasia Vlasova)

content, which in turn depend on standards. In Ukraine, where three-quarters of milk production comes from small-scale farmers, often with just a handful of cows, keeping those standards high and testing for them is

neither easy, nor cheap.

Buying quality raw ingredients and controlling them properly means a premium of 15-20 percent compared to the competition, says Roman Romanchuk, general manager of Asian food chain

Sushiya. "We explained this to clients, and they said they understood, but still went for the cheaper version," he says.

Most experts agree that a lack of understanding of food standards is a major obstacle in Ukraine. According to Alla Grygorenko, head of department of public health of the ministry of healthcare of Ukraine, several bills on food safety are being prepared now. One of them is dedicated to informing consumers about the quality of the products.

Another determines the procedure of registration of advanced products in Ukraine, Grygorenko added. Perhaps even more importantly, these are now being made in consultation with business, not just over its head.

"We have switched from sole determination of safety and quality criteria to a dialog (with business representatives). All regulations are now discussed before they are → **3**



Czech Agriculture Minister Petr Bendl. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Sergey Trifonov from Milkiland and Nataliya Mykolska from Sayenko Kharenko law firm. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

## A year after European football championship, corruption cases linger

BY KATERYNA KAPLIUK

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Almost a year after Ukraine co-hosted the European football championship with Poland, the nation is still coughing up some of the after-effects of lavish spending for the tournament – especially the many cases of corruption associated with procurement.

The multi-million dollar stadiums were often at the center of media attention during the preparation phase. And they still are now, only for investigators and judges. There are certainly lessons to be learned, especially since Ukraine is preparing for the 2015 Eurobasket championship and getting ready to bid for the right to host the 2022 Winter Olympics.

In one case a state technological safety official was allegedly bribed and allowed unsuitable fire doors to be installed at the Olympic Stadium in Kyiv that hosted the finals, attended by more than 70,000 spectators.

The general prosecutor's office dis-

covered the inspector allegedly received Hr 350,000 for signing all the approvals, Ekonomichna Pravda website reported. Journalists had earlier discovered that expensive fire doors were installed using flammable construction foam. That means that in the case of a major fire, the doors could simply collapse.

The online newspaper reported that the bribe was allegedly paid by trade company Vist, a subcontractor. If the state officer is found guilty, he might get a prison term of 8 to 12 years, with confiscation of his property. Vist managers, however, only feature as witnesses in this case.

Vist top managers could not be reached for this story. The company's secretary told the Kyiv Post she wasn't aware of the situation.

Vist, the subcontractor, signed a contract with AK Engineering, the general contractor for the Olympic Stadium, which was handpicked after the then-deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov took charge in 2010 of the nation's Euro 2012 agency.

In the course of two years, the company received hundreds of millions of hryvnias from the state budget to finance the ever-growing construction costs. This led some media to suggest AK Engineering had ties with Kolesnikov, which he vigorously denied. The total amount paid for the stadium went up from the original estimate of Hr 1.37 billion to a whopping Hr 4.6 billion.

Experts said at the time that up to 40 percent of the budget was lost to corruption. This, in part, happened because all procurement operations related to Euro-2012 were freed from competitive procedures.

Speaking at a recent conference in Kyiv, director for Freedom House's Eurasian Program Susan Corke said the loss of a third part of the funds allocated for the construction of Ukrainian Euro-2012 stadiums was "one of the clearest examples of corruption."

"Quite often people know that if they have no money for bribes, they will

be unable to ensure defense. Public procurement is often aimed at stuffing the pockets of government officials," she said.

One of the classical cases of non-transparent use of budget happened during the purchase of seats for the stadium. AK Engineering procured them through a chain of little-known companies. One of them, Spetspostach, was accused by Cherkasy region tax police of tax evasion to the tune of Hr 3.8 million in value added tax. Another player in this chain, Vailis LLC, was named by a Cherkasy court as "displaying signs of a fictitious company."

AK Engineering's director Volodymyr Artiukh also features in corruption cases. In June 2012, he confessed to being involved in embezzling Hr 24 million during the renovation of Rodovid Bank in 2009, later bailed out by the state. Artiukh remained free and now is trying to improve his company's reputation.

Kyiv Post staff writer Kateryna Kapliuk can be reached at kapliuk@kyivpost.com.

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From left: Olga Kukhar (Danone), Alla Grygorenko (Healthcare Ministry), Mykola Myrkevych (Association of Farmers and Private Landowners), Valentyn Bezrukyi (TEST research center), Lidiya Didukh (Nestle), Andreas Lier (BASF Ukraine) and Jakub Parusinski (Kyiv Post). (Anastasia Vlasova)



Oleskandra Kuzhel from the State Committee on Entrepreneurship, Regulatory and Antimonopoly Policy delivered a keynote address. (Anastasia Vlasova)

## Business, state need to cooperate on regulation

→ **2** approved," Grygorenko said.

But business argues that the government isn't always helping — setting maximum prices for key goods and burdening firms with regulations that add administrative work, but don't ensure quality.

According to Aherne, who previously worked at Nestle in engineering and production management, the onus of responsibility should be on companies that have the most at stake anyway.

"Good marketing can sell the first batch, but the quality of production sells the second and third batch," he said. "If you don't have trust, you don't have a business. So it's immaterial for me if the state is guaranteeing safety."

Others note that market forces of competition are not enough to rely on when it comes to people's health. For one, not every company has an international reputation to defend, or the knowledge and resources to make sure its products meet standards.

The recent poisoning and hospitalization of 17 people, including five children, in Mykoliav this month, shows

that what Ukraine needs is not millions of investment or complex new technologies, but respect for basic principles of food safety, said Yuri Zvazenko, a food safety specialist at the International Financial Corporation agribusiness advisory project.

Meanwhile, the patchwork implementation of "hazard and analysis and critical control points," an internationally used food safety system, speaks for itself. In recent years the number of compliant companies in Ukraine grew from 70 to 700, but with 17,000 producers country-wide, Zvazenko said, much more work has to be done.

No matter whether the burden of ensuring food safety should fall on the public or private sector, all the players say they understand the importance of this task. Aherne says he picked up the best mantra during his time at Nestle: "Remember that everything you make — someone will put in their mouth."

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## Editorials

## Big Brother reflex

The Soviet Union is alive and well in Ukraine. In particular, its Big Brother need to control, the reflex to crush and the longing for power that knows no limits. Many of this week's events displayed these totalitarian features, but there are two that really stand out, and can have extremely negative consequences for the nation, both in the short- and long-term.

One incident was Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's gut reflex to strip some ten journalists of their Cabinet accreditation for staging a silent protest during a meeting of ministers this week. Journalists demanded action from the government to fully and promptly investigate the recent beating of their two colleagues during a May 18 rally.

The protesting reporters pinned their messages to their backs, and turned around so that the ministers could read them – and that's the whole crime. Azarov became infuriated and banned the unruly reporters, only to reverse his decision the next day under public pressure. Media experts said the reporters broke no code of conduct rules in the Cabinet since they did not obstruct the work of officials, guards and staff. So Azarov's reaction once again betrays his manual, old-school management style, not to mention his lack of understanding of a number of freedoms guaranteed to any Ukrainian by the Constitution, most notable the freedom of expression.

But even more alarming than Azarov's reaction was the Dniprovsky district court decision in Kyiv on May 21. The court ruled to fine a website owner Hr 14 million for commentaries on its online forum. The website and forum was set up by a community of residents who were attempting to fight a large-scale construction project next to their homes. The developer, who sued the website, claimed moral and financial damages from lost sales that allegedly resulted from comments on the forum.

Until now, the Internet has remained the most open, free and accessible platform for expression in Ukraine. Some of the most influential media – notably *Ukrainska Pravda* – only exist online. With this dangerous precedent, their very existence will now be under threat.

## Fly the flag

Ukraine's LGBT community, already one of the most vulnerable social groups in the country, took more than a few hits these past two weeks. First, parliament suspended indefinitely on May 16 a vote on a bill that would prevent employers from discriminating against individuals based on their sexual orientation. It could have been a big win for them as well as another step toward addressing the EU's outlined reforms on Ukraine's long path toward European integration.

Then Kyiv's city administration on May 22, in an all-too-familiar move, banned a Kyiv Pride event set for May 25 that had been planned by LGBT rights groups for months in advance, citing rising opposition to the March of Equality by religious and right-wing groups, including the Svoboda party, which threatened violence if the event was allowed to go on as planned.

To add insult to injury, those groups rallied in front of parliament and Kyiv city hall chanting hate slogans, cheering on a priest that likened homosexuals to rabid dogs.

The same happened last year when a planned Kyiv Pride march had to be cancelled in the face of violent threat posed by groups of the extreme-right youth.

"This shameful decision does a disservice to the city of Kyiv," said Max Tucker, Ukraine campaigner at Amnesty International. "Instead of allowing all of its residents to join in the celebration of culture, the city authorities are picking and choosing who is allowed to take part. This discrimination must not be tolerated."

According to Amnesty International, the march's organizers were notified about the court hearing that eventually ruled in the administration's favor at 9 a.m. on May 23, only two hours before it was due to begin. They also were denied legal representation.

So not only were organizers deprived of their right to freedom of assembly, there were also denied the opportunity to a fair hearing in court.

One bright spot came when the British Embassy flew a Pride flag on May 17 to support the Ukrainian LGBT community and commemorate International Day against Homophobia. It's a shame more Western embassies didn't join.

The Kyiv city administration should not only allow Kyiv Pride to take place on May 25 as planned, it should show that it's taking steps toward European principles, and ensure to the best of its ability the safety of participants and do away with the convenient excuse that it can't – especially after Ihor Mikhalko, head of Kyiv's police press service, told Kyiv Pride organizers the police are ready to protect the March of Equality participants and have the manpower and skills to do so.



**NEWS ITEM:** Journalist from Channel 5 Olha Snitsarchuk was beaten up by a group of unknown people during a May 18 rally in Kyiv. The beating caused an outrage in Ukraine and condemnation from the international community, as well as a number of journalistic protests. In a video address released two days after the incident, chief suspect Vadym Titushko insisted that he was trying to protect the journalist, despite numerous pieces of video and photo evidence that he was one of the attackers.

# First meaningful laws fighting corruption pass



OLEKSII KHMARA

Ukraine's parliament has finally approved changes to anti-corruption legislation: in a cross-party move, 373 lawmakers supported the bill on May 14. The most important thing now is that the law starts to work.

### What the law is about

The newly adopted law has a number of strong points. One of the very important ones is that the unified register of people who have committed corruption offenses becomes open to the public. Previously, the Ministry of Justice used its traditional excuse to brush off any prying eye by insisting that the register contains personal data, which was not available for free public use.

Moreover, the new law states that income and asset declarations by public officials have to be made available fully on the Internet. And the low threshold of expenses officials incur and have to declare was reduced to Hr 150,000, or almost two-fold.

Thirdly, the law introduces mandatory anti-corruption expertise be given to all decisions taken by the authorities. In parliament, the relevant committee for fighting corruption will be obliged to conduct this expertise of all proposed bills.

Currently, this procedure is only required to be conducted by the Ministry of Justice, and is only limited to bills filed by the Cabinet of Ministers. To get around this requirement, all corrupt schemes were introduced to bill submitted by members of parliament.

Another novelty is there will be a new mechanism to control public officials' income declarations. Unfortunately,

→ The most important now is for the law to start working  
– Oleksii Khmara

it's going to be very weak to start with. Special departments to prevent and identify cases of corruption will be created within certain government bodies.

Within their scope of powers, they will be able to inspect officials for conflicts of interests, as well as check information in officials' income declarations. Until now, nobody has followed up on information that appeared in income declarations.

### What's missing?

The big question now is whether this law is enough. The answer is, unfortunately, no. Among the problems that have not been addressed are three very important ones.

First of all, financial supervision over declarations will be entrusted to internal control departments, which are actually dependent on the authorities. They neither have the knowledge, nor resources to exercise this control, especially in terms of checking foreign assets of public officials. Besides, it is very likely that only the declarations of officials who are out of favor will be checked.

Secondly, there is no liability foreseen for provid- →7

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# Tough choices ahead for Vitali Klitschko



TARAS  
BEREZOVETS

At the May 18 Rise Ukraine rally, the nation's three joint opposition forces supported a single candidate for president in 2015. Batkivshchyna, the Ukrainian Alliance for Democratic Reform and Svoboda picked imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Tymoshenko as their leader.

However, it's highly unlikely that Viktor Yanukovich will free his main political rival any time soon, and the opposition will have to consider an additional option: Batkivshchyna leader Arseniy Yatseniuk or UDAR's Vitali Klitschko.

The day after the Kyiv rally, market researcher GfK Ukraine released findings from a poll conducted in April that shows Klitschko would get a more than convincing victory if he runs against Yanukovich. According to this research, both of them would get 16 percent of votes in the first round, but Klitschko would get 38 percent against Yanukovich's 19 percent in the second round.

At the same time, it's too early for Klitschko to uncork the champagne bottle. This is a serious achievement for a politician whose party has just made it to parliament for the first time. But his real problems are only about to start.

As soon as public opinion picks him to be the main rival of Yanukovich, he should expect the propaganda machine of the powers-that-be to attack him the same way it recently did Yatseniuk and Oleh Tiahnybok, Svoboda's chief.

One of the reasons for Klitschko's success is that until now he has managed to keep quiet on some of the hottest issues, such as the debate around the status of the Russian language, NATO membership, and so on.

Also, the electorate has ascribed to him alone all the achievements of the rest of the opposition combined, not

Leaders of the opposition, Svoboda's Oleh Tyahnybok, Batkivshchyna's Arseniy Yatseniuk and UDAR's Vitali Klitschko join hands during an anti-government rally in Kyiv on May 18. (Konstantyn Chernichkin)



in the least thanks to the "warm bath" he was given by the state and oligarch-owned TV channels. At the same time, Yatseniuk and Tyahnybok have been under fire from those very media for a long time.

This would not be the first time when a presidential hopeful has such a honeymoon with his electorate, and in fact there are examples of the kinds of honeymoons he should try to avoid. Before the last presidential campaign, as the Front of Change leader, Yatseniuk grew in steeply in popularity.

By August-September of 2009 his rating peaked at 14 percent, and then, as a result of disappointing mistakes in his own campaign, combined with counter-spin from opponents, his rating dropped by half to just 7 percent.

To draw more analogies with the 2010 presidential election, it's worth looking at Serhiy Tigipko, who polls predicted would do well in the second round of the election. But he failed to get into the second round, showing once again how volatile the electorate can be.

On the positive side for Klitschko, nobody from his parliamentary faction

has thus far defected to the pro-government faction, unlike in Batkivshchyna. This has partially due to the support of presidential Chief-of-Staff Serhiy Lyovochkin, who has a number of proteges in UDAR.

The authorities have little interest in drowning Klitschko's party at the moment. If the presidential team fails to help the "convenient" Tyahnybok get into the second round, Klitschko can be considered by the president's advisers as a more accommodating opponent able to strike an agreement with Yanukovich.

Tigipko's phenomenon in the last election indicates that Klitschko's main problem still lies ahead: getting into the second round as one of the two top candidates. He should not be fooled by today's numbers. On the eve of the October 2012 parliamentary election, sociologists said he could count on 22-25 percent of the vote, but his party only received 15 percent.

The reason behind it is Klitschko's amorphous core electorate. He has proved this point in 2008, when in the mayoral election he was overtaken by

Leonid Chernovetskiy and Oleksandr Turchynov.

Today, Klitschko is refraining from answering the question whether he will take part in the Kyiv mayoral election this year. A dominating opinion prevails among UDAR leaders that mayorship in Kyiv, complete with its housing and transport problems, would doom the presidential ambitions of Klitschko.

On the other hand, local UDAR offices clearly have some experience playing to the tune of their opponents from the authorities. Representatives of Svoboda and Batkivshchyna complained after the 2012 election that UDAR's decision to not call off their losing candidates in some of the majority constituencies, cost the opposition some 15 seats in parliament. On the other hand, in most of the six races where UDAR members were clear leaders, both Svoboda and Batkivshchyna pulled out their candidates.

Klitschko's stubborn refusal to cooperate with the rest of the opposition camp (which is nurtured by the authorities) can create serious problems for him in the near term. It will be increasingly difficult to believe in his oppositional stance if he continues to cooperate with the Party of Regions.

It's interesting to note that Tigipko's Strong Ukraine party walked a similar path recently. It started off as an alternative to the Party of Regions, and achieved impressive results in many southern and eastern regions.

By now, Strong Ukraine has ceased to exist, and Tigipko, once a promising politician who criticized the Party of Regions, has long taken the image of a pro-government politician.

Klitschko will have a chance to repeat Tigipko's fate. That's why it's of utmost importance for the opposition to show unity in their ranks and promote a real, high-rate candidate for the presidential election. This is especially important since the government is planning to amend the presidential election law to hold it in a first past the post one-round race.

This is why Klitschko should realistically assess his chances and test his candidacy if he plans to stay in Ukrainian politics for the long run. By doing so, he will also prove that this career is more than just a type of business activity.

Taras Berezhovets is the director of Berta Communications, a company that specializes in personal and strategic consulting.



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ANASTASIA FORINA

**At the Kyiv Post's May 22 Food Safety Conference we asked experts whether improving safety and standards should be done through state regulation or lifting barriers for business**



**Eleonora Dupouy,**  
food safety officer, UN Food and Agriculture Organization  
"I am confident the state should regulate and

protect consumers... The market can decide on quality but not on safety. Safety should be under supervision and monitoring of government."



**Oleh Nivievsky,**  
expert at Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting  
"The state's presence in this sector is

too big. Our standards are outdated. The state should delegate the control over food safety to producers and then just verify if they are executing it."



**Serhiy Osavolyuk,**  
head of IFC Investment Climate for Agribusiness Advisory Project  
"The state has to control the

safety, including the consumer's awareness about the ingredients a product is made of. But it shouldn't end up checking every step. Businesses should be responsible for safety maintenance and the state has to check from time to time."



**Fredrick Aherne,**  
non-executive director at Milkiland  
"Market forces are key. Ukraine is already over-regulated... The issue is

the policing. If the state goes to the shelf, takes the products and tests them, and publishes the results, then consumers can get some confidence."

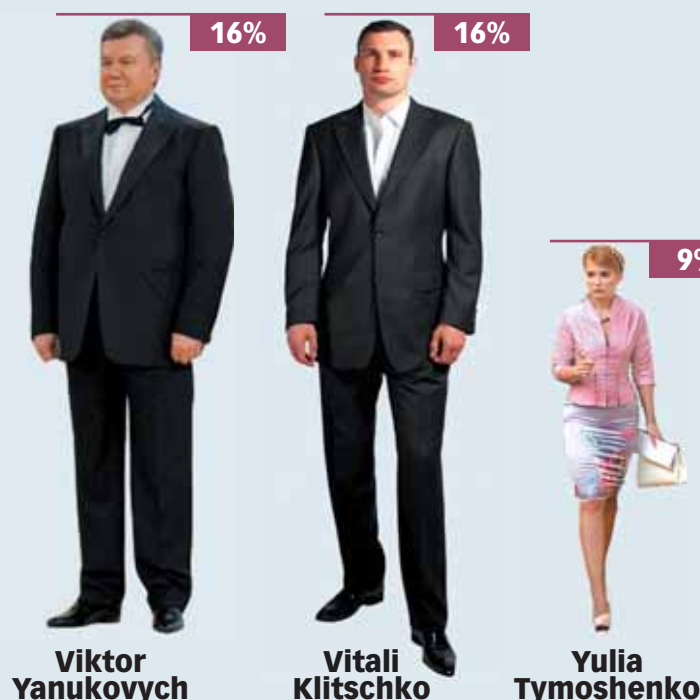


**Valentyn Bezrukyi,**  
president at independent research center Test  
"It shouldn't be done by state or businesses alone..."

According to (EU legislation), the state determines the rules, producers are responsible for quality and safety, which are controlled by non-governmental organizations."

## Who will be the next president?

Results of the first-round vote



Results of the second-round vote



Based on a representative national poll of 1,000 respondents conducted by GfK Ukraine on April 3-23. The margin of error does not exceed 3.1 percent.



# Croatia, Yemen both eyed purchase of Ukrainian jets

→ **1** vice trader – said those eight planes were on the balance sheet of Odesaviaremservis, a state-owned enterprise under Ukraine's Defense Ministry.

The letter also stated: "Ukrspcelexport confirms that once the contract is signed with and end-user certificates are received from the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Croatia, all necessary permits will be secured from the State Service of Export Control of Ukraine."

Signed by Ukrspcelexport General Director Dmytro Perehudov, the letter furthermore had an annex attached from Odesaviaremservis that stated the eight MiG-21 jets had been originally purchased from Swiss-registered Scimitar Systems SA and transported on Jan. 1, 2003 based on customs declarations.

The problem is that Scimitar was established on Aug. 21, 2003, eight months after the MiGs were allegedly procured, according to the company's public deed and articles of incorporation, obtained by the Kyiv Post. Moreover, Scimitar isn't registered for armament sales, only to sell civil aviation.

The deal came as a surprise to Yemen, which on May 6, 2005 contracted to purchase 28 MiG jets from Ukrinmash, a subsidiary of Ukrspcelexport, and had received all but eight of them – those that had the same plane and engine manufacturing numbers and years as those offered to Croatia.

Yemen's then-Air Force and Air Defense Commander Staff Major General Pilot Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmer even wrote the Croats a letter obtained by the Kyiv Post, informing them of this on March 4, 2012.

"Recently we agreed with Ukrinmash on delivery of the remaining (8) eight Aircraft, and now we are in process of their delivery," reads the Yemeni letter.

The letter included a list of the 28 MiG jets complete with plane and engine manufacturing numbers and years.

When the Kyiv Post called the num-



During this June 1, 2012 meeting in Zagreb, Ukraine Ambassador to Croatia Oleksandr Levchenko (right, middle) allegedly assured Lieutenant General Drago Lovric (left, top), Commander of the Croatian Army that Ukraine was the legitimate owner of eight MiG-21 jets that it offered to sell Croatia – he was accompanied by Colonel Petro Bobyr (right, top), military attache to Croatia, and Ivica Josipovic (right, bottom), Ukrspcelexport representative in Croatia. (Courtesy)

ber listed on the letterhead of the Yemeni correspondence on May 17, an air force officer who said he wasn't allowed to speak to the press confirmed that Yemen is in "the negotiation phase of having the eight remaining MiGs delivered."

He said Yemen ran into financial troubles in 2011, but confirmed the country was to receive the last eight MiGs of the order contracted with Ukrinmash.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's foreign ministry acknowledged a contract for the sale of MiGs to Yemen, but claimed ownership was never transferred since Yemen didn't fulfill its contractual obli-

gations and the eight planes "never have been owned by the Yemeni Air Force and Air Defense and continue to be owned by the Odesa Aviation Plant."

Ukrspcelexport gave a similar response to the Kyiv Post.

The foreign ministry furthermore said Ukraine and Yemen on Oct. 15, 2012, signed documents that canceled the 2005 contract's validity and decided to reconcile their financial transactions. But this was months after Ukrspcelexport submitted a bid to the Croats, hosted a delegation to inspect the planes in Odesa, and sent them an allegedly false ownership document.

Meanwhile, according to the for-

eign ministry statement, the planes remained unsold and were offered to various countries, including Croatia. These offers, however, seem to have been made before the contract was canceled.

A Croatian defense ministry official, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the press, said Ukraine Ambassador to Croatia Oleksandr Levchenko on June 1, 2012, met with Croatian Army Commander Lieutenant General Drago Lovric to assure him the eight MiGs belong to Ukraine.

A picture of the meeting is posted on the Armed Forces of Croatia website.

Levchenko is seen accompanied by Ivica Josipovic, Ukrspcelexport's representative in Croatia, and by Colonel Petro Bobyr, Ukraine's military attache in Croatia.

The Croatian defense ministry official also told the Kyiv Post that Levchenko "broke with protocol and offered some sort of statement that those (eight MiG-21) airplanes belong to Ukraine."

Yet 20 days later on June 21, 2012, Ukrinmash sent a letter obtained by the Kyiv Post to the new Yemeni air force and air defense commander asking him for "additional guarantees... concerning the legitimacy of End User Certificates for delivery of (the remaining eight) MiG-21... aircraft with extension of their validity, as they were signed in 2005 by Mr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmer, former Commander of the AF & Ad of the Republic of Yemen."

To defend Ukraine's bid to assist Croatia, Levchenko authored an explanation to Croatia Zasita (Defense) magazine posted online on April 12.

Ukraine's Ambassador Levchenko wrote that as the owner of the MiG jets, Odesaviaremservis "prepared them for export, (hence the Yemenese identifications)." Yet he failed to observe that Yemen had a sales contract with Ukrinmash not with Odesaviaremservis.

And when asked by the Croatian magazine, the Ukrainian ambassador also didn't say what kind of document he presented to the Croatian army commander during their June 1, 2012 meeting.

The story gained momentum after Croatian paper Jutarni List (Morning Times) reported on March 7, 2012, that Ukrspcelexport had provided Croatia with suspicious ownership papers for the eight jets, eventually leading to the dismissal of the defense ministry officials later in the year.

Kyiv Post editor Mark Rachkevych and staff writer Svitlana Tuchynska can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com and tuchynska@kyivpost.com, respectively.

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# Anti-corruption bills mark first of many needed steps

→ **4** ing untruthful information in a declaration. Therefore, officials will continue to lie.

Thirdly, the issue of civic anti-corruption expertise isn't regulated by this law. Yet our analysis shows that 70 percent of corruption cases in new bills are dug up by civic activists and journalists.

However, the new law creates neither a system for civic anti-corruption expertise, nor procedures for implementing results of such expertise undertaken independently.

## What is the public's role?

Adoption of this law is a true achievement of civil society. Throughout the year, Transparency International Ukraine and the Coalition in Support of the Open Government Partnership have been working hard to promote the idea among parliament members. They have actually written the text of the bill in cooperation with the deputies.

The European Union and other international partners have pressured the Verkhovna Rada to vote for this bill. Chestno, a civic campaign for personal voting in parliament, checked that deputies pressed the voting buttons personally.

Now President Viktor Yanukovich has to take his turn – he can either sign the law or send it back to parliament with his own remarks. It is important to ensure that we get this signature from the president.

→ **Open books, civic oversight to follow**

## What's next?

We are now moving into the phase of forcing the authorities to make the law work.

The authorities have to dedicate special sections on their agencies' websites for income declarations.

The Ministry of Justice has to give open access to the register of corruption offenders. The parliament's anti-corruption committee should create an efficient civic expert council, which will produce anti-corruption expertise.

The National Agency for Civic Service should develop regulations on revealing conflicts of interests and organizing financial control over declarations.

And civic activists should make use of all the new opportunities. We have even more work to do than before the law had been adopted.

*Oleksii Khmara is the Executive Director of Transparency International Ukraine.*

# Crimean Tatars want Russian consul expelled over offensive remarks

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO  
GRYSSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Around two hundred Crimean Tatars called for the expulsion of Russian Consul Vladimir Andreyev in Simferopol after he made what they called offensive remarks toward them in a historical reference to events dating to World War II.

The protesters carried posters that read, "Andreyev is Stalin's best friend" and "Andreyev – out of Crimea," and waved the national flags of Crimean Tatars. They called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to recall the consul, and on Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich to make Andreyev persona non grata.

On May 21, Andreyev gave an interview to a local television station during which he called the Crimean Tatars "traitors" and criticized them for recently releasing the first Crimean Tatar movie Khaitarma, which tells the story of the Stalin-era deportation of Crimean Tatars to Central Asia. The Soviet authorities in 1944 maintained that deportations came in retaliation for collaboration with Nazis during World War II.

"The theme of collaboration and complicity with the invaders should always be present" when talking about deportation of Crimean Tatars, Andreyev was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

Earlier Andreyev also called on World War II veterans to ignore the premiere of the movie on May 17 in Simferopol. For Crimean Tatars, May 18 is the official mourning day for remembering the victims of deportation, and



Hundreds of Crimean Tatars rally by the building of the Russian consulate in Simferopol, Crimea, on May 23, demanding to expel Consul Vladimir Andreyev for offensive remarks on TV. (UNIAN)

is considered the most painful page in their history.

Crimean historians say that by 1956 almost half of Crimean Tatars (46.2 percent) died of harsh living conditions in a foreign land. It wasn't until 1989, when the Soviet policy relaxed, that Crimean Tatars were allowed to go back to their native land.

Rafat Chubarov, deputy head of Medzhlis, the ruling body of the Crimean Tatar people, called Andreyev "a person who wants to go back to the past."

"All the people here feel respect for Russia, but they can't understand, why Russian authorities keep fascists as their diplomatic representatives," Chubarov said during the protest.

Ukrainian authorities in Kyiv were also outraged.

On May 22, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Viktor Likhachov, senior advisor at the Russian embassy, to explain the official Russian position on the matter, and inform the Ukrainian government what their Russian counterparts planned to do about the diplomat.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also admitted the consul's "lack of tact" in its comments to Interfax, but did not elaborate on the potential consequences for the loose-tongued consul.

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

Advertisement

## CHILDREN CAN TEACH PARENTS ABOUT VALUE OF DAIRY

In Ukraine, a country rich in grains and cereals, the diet historically has been heavily reliant upon breads and other grain- and flour-based goods, from baked and fried pies to boiled or fried pelmeni. This has created a serious health problem for the nation's adults, who consume too much bread and too little dairy. In an average week, Ukrainians consume four meals a day and consume 11 different products (excluding water and alcoholic drinks), but only one or two of them are dairy.

Less than a quarter of adults consumed the three dairy products a day that nutritionists recommend, and one in 20 didn't use any dairy at all. Children under 14 fared little better, eating five times a day that included 13 different products, but just one or two of them were dairy products.

*"Surveys show that the Ukrainian diet is made up of heavy carbohydrates, with 30% of our daily food intake coming from breads (17%), cereals (6%), cookies (4%), and dough (3%)," says nutritionist Oleg Shvets. "On the other hand, dairy is just 17% of the average daily diet, and meat less than 12%. Long term, these are not healthy proportions. Breads are easy to find and they are filling, but our bodies need more than carbohydrates. They need the balance that comes from consuming*

*more eggs, meat, fish and especially dairy," Shvets noted.*

"Danone has really embraced the idea of encouraging Ukrainians to consume three portions of dairy foods every day," says Tiago Santos, Danone's marketing director. "We're leading an industry effort focused on improving health and extending lives by simply increasing consumption of milk, cheese, yogurts and other dairy products to three portions a day."

*"Something as simple as drinking milk or eating yogurt with meals can make a huge difference in bone density and fight the effects of osteoporosis, which can really cripple otherwise healthy, hard-working people." Ukrainians tend to have several small meals throughout the day, which is good, Shvets reiterated.*

Santos added that dairy producers, government, health professionals and consumer groups are working to spread the "three portions a day" message. "We could easily extend lives, and make them healthier, more pain free lives," he said, "The solution is simple, natural and delicious."

Santos said that dairy has traditionally played an important part in the Ukrainian diet. "People love

dairy products," he said. *"In fact, we found that 97 percent of people have consumed a dairy product in the last three days. We merely need to make dairy a regular habit."*

*"Parents can learn something from their kids," Shvets said. "Until age six, children consume a lot of dairy, and parents support this because we know that products like milk and cheese are good for them. By age 15, though, we start to 'forget' how vital dairy products are. This is a serious problem for teens, who need the nutritional support that dairy gives to bone growth. We know and love dairy products. We just need to consume more of it, making it a regular part of every meal. It's one of the foods that can truly have a positive impact on health and nutrition."*

Surveys show that the most popular dairy products, milk and kefir, are consumed on average three times a week by 80% of Ukrainians. Drinkable yogurts come in close behind, enjoyed by 40% of the population, albeit only twice a week.

"There are so many options within the dairy category that there is really no excuse not to increase dairy consumption," Santos adds. "Milk, kefir, cheese, yogurt – even specially developed products for infants and children – there truly is something for everyone."







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June 1-2

## International Kyiv Motor Show

Kyiv's 21st International Motor Show will start on May 29, but will only allow journalists and invited guests during the first three days. The show will be open to the general public on June 1-2. Many prominent car producers are expected to showcase their latest models. KIA, Mercedes, Hyundai, Opel and others will participate. Ukrainian and Russian car producers will fill the showroom as well. **Kyiv Motor Show SIA 2013. June 1-2. International Exhibition Center (15 Brovarskiy Ave.). Hr 35**



May 25-26

(AFP)

## Kyiv Day celebrations

Kyiv will host a wide variety of entertaining events on the coming weekend as the city will celebrate its 1,531st birthday. A display of oil paintings by artists from all over Ukraine will be held on Andriyivsky Uzviz on May 25 and 26. And a show of trucks and cars made of flowers await revelers at Spivochko Pole.

Ukrainian pop stars Iryna Bilyk, Natalia Mohylevska, Katya Buzhynska and others will perform their best hits on Maydan Nezalezhnosti at 5:30 p.m. on May 25. A classical music concert will be held on Sofiyska Ploshcha at 7 p.m.

The traditional Jog under the Chestnuts will take place at 10: a.m. on May 26 – five-kilometer charity marathon held each year. Marathon runners will start on Maydan Nezalezhnosti and make their way through the capital's central streets.

**Kyiv Day celebrations. May 25-26. Concerts are free of charge. Exhibition at Spivochko Pole is Hr 25. Participation in the 5K run under chestnuts is Hr 50**

## Major Chinese exhibit at Pinchuk Art Centre

A unique display of 30 works of three generations of Chinese artists is featured at Pinchuk Art Centre. Named simply "China China," it aims to show the tension between collective and personal thinking, and its impact on modern society.

"China China is a new look at an art space which underwent substantial transformation in recent decades," says Eckhardt Schneider, general director of Pinchuk Art Centre. "The former practice of following Western traditions has passed into history. The artists of this space both young and old are now using modern creative techniques, and have developed individual views, which represent Chinese history and global art processes of the nation," he explains.

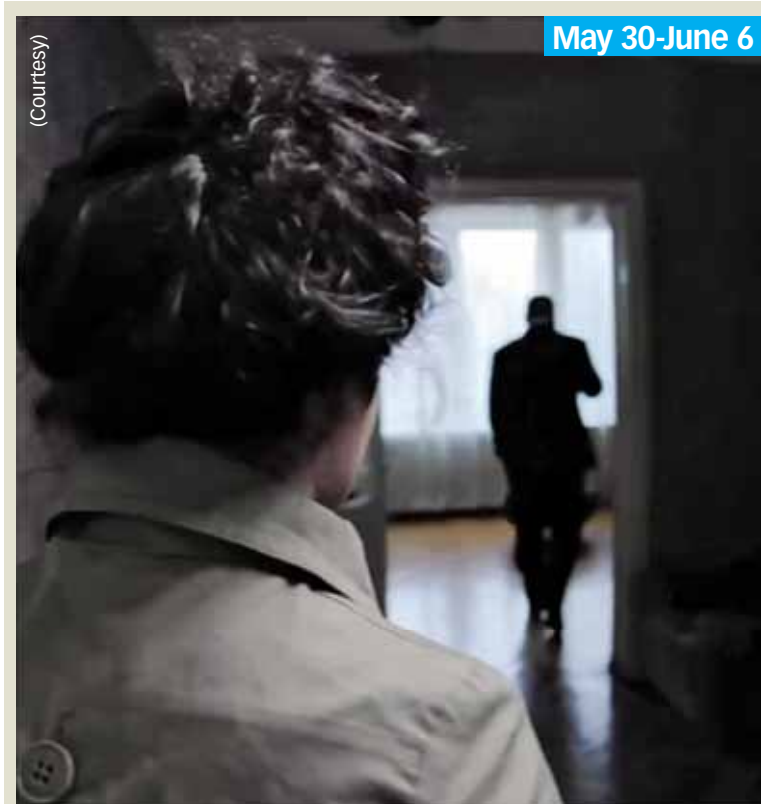
Two installations made of 1,200 bikes and 100 trunks by Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, as well as the one by deceased Chen Zhen, featuring home appliances and furniture covered with clay chaotically scattered across the room, are among the brightest and most impressive showpieces of the new exhibition that will run through Oct. 6.

**China China. Through Oct. 6. Pinchuk Art Centre (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska/Baseyna St.). 12 a.m. – 9 p.m. Free (closed on Monday)**



Through Oct. 6

(Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



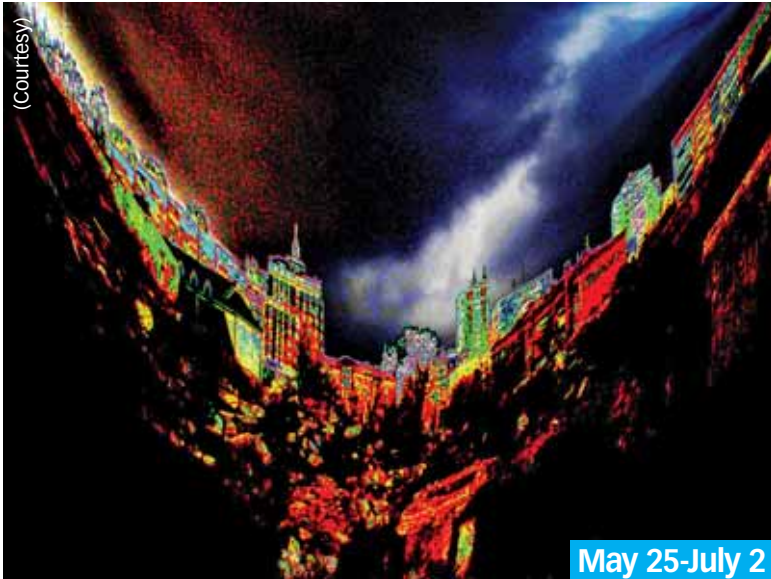
May 30-June 6

## Ukrainian shorts

The best short films released in 2012 by Ukrainian artists will be screened at Kyiv cinema between May 30 and June 6.

The lineup includes Lessons of Ukrainian by Ruslan Batytsky, Road by Maksym Ksenda, Independence Day by Antonina Noyabriova, Beard by Dmytro Sukholitkyi-Sobchuk, Hamburg by Volodymyr Tykhyi, Dialogue by Oneself by Yulia Raiventer, and Between Twelve and Midnight by Denys Spolitak.

**Ukrainian shorts. May 30 – June 5. Kyiv cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Fee to be announced**



May 25-July 2

## Visual Culture Festival

Photo and video projects from around the world will be brought under one roof at the Visual Culture Festival on May 24.

The exhibition program features documentary and portrait photos by photographers from 20 countries, including Poland, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Canada, Sweden, Belarus, and Ukraine. Visitors will also be treated to a collection of video installations and experimental movies from Britain, France, Poland, Russia, Estonia, Italy, the U.S. and Ukraine. That's not all. A series of lectures and discussions on modern visual culture will be held.

The Lavra Gallery will host most of the exhibitions and discussions, all of which are free to the public. For more information go to [www.photocult.com.ua](http://www.photocult.com.ua)

**Visual Culture Festival. Lavra Gallery (1 Lavrska St.). May 25-July 2. Free**

## America's Got Talent star comes to Kyiv



May 25

Lindsey Stirling, who participated in the fifth season of America's Got Talent show, will perform in the Green Theatre club on May 25. Stirling plays violin and is famous for playing genres that are unusual for this instrument, including country and hip hop music. This will be Stirling's maiden performance in Kyiv. Here performance on America's Got Talent was called "electrifying" by the jury.

**Lindsey Stirling. May 25. Green Theatre (2 Park Alley). 7 p.m. Hr 320-550**



# Goons bust rallies, hassle companies

→ **1** including raider attacks on residential properties.

One of them was identified as Vadim Titushko from Bila Tserkva in Kyiv Oblast. In a video posted on Youtube on May 20, Titushko confessed that he was hired for Hr 250 to guard a rally, but he insisted it was the opposition who did it. His confession contradicts multiples pieces of photographic and video evidence that tracked him back to the Party of Regions rally, which he was clearly guarding on May 18 – just hours before two journalists were beaten.

Titushko is a trained, competitive free fighter. Various media reported that he was seen training in a Bila Tserkva fight club owned by a Party of Regions member. But during the May 21 parliamentary hearing about the incident, an opposition member alleged that Titushko trained in a gym affiliated with one of Interior Ministry's subdivisions, and Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko did not deny it, insisting instead that it shouldn't matter where a person trains.

The three men who seemed to accompany Titushko on May 18 were later identified as Arsen Kapansky, Vasyl Boyko and Yaroslav Brynza. Every one of them has been spotted at similar events. Kapansky was pictured taking part in the forceful seizure of a centrally located house that belongs to a retired teacher, among other events.

Boyko and Brynza were identified on photographs spraying tear gas at protesters during a December forceful takeover of Hostynnyi Dvir, a landmark building in Kyiv's Podil district. Dmytro Khrystyuk, president of the League of

Mixed Martial Arts of Ukraine says that it is "no secret" that athletes are hired by various political parties.

"I know that different political parties hire (fighters). But, most of all, it is pro-governmental ruling parties, because they work via local authorities who can influence local businessmen. So, they ask businessmen to pay for hiring such enforcers," Khrystyuk told Radio Svoboda on May 21. "Often enforcers are hired by party managers themselves. The enforcers are given specific tasks of what is expected of them and then buses to the spot of the rally or another event."

Khrystyuk added that the many athletes who shun such contracts were outraged by the incident. "And I mean outraged. Even parents worry, because they do not want coaches to raise their children to be such athletes," he says.

Perhaps the most prominent Ukrainian athlete, leader of Ukrainian Alliance for Democratic Reform (UDAR) and boxing champion Vitali Klitschko this week condemned the practice of hiring thugs for political events. He called on all fellow athletes to "not become a mindless tool of scoundrels who are hiding behind you and using you."

Titushko's former free fight coach from Bila Tserkva, Volodymyr Yakymenko, says that he could not believe that his former trainee took part in such a conflict. "Usually former athletes enter military academies and law enforcement," says Yakymenko. *Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Turchynska can be reached at turchynska@kyivpost.com and Kyiv Post intern Artem Babak at deaflynx@gmail.com.*

## From fists to prime minister's fits – a week in pictures

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA

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This week was dominated by the fallout of the May 18 rallies in Kyiv and beating of two journalists by hired enforcers. Followed media protests, cover-ups, a parliamentary hearing and the stripping of cabinet accreditations of journalists by an angry Prime Minister Mykola Azarov

### May 18, 12 a.m.

An estimated 15,000 people gather for an oppositional Rise, Ukraine! rally in Kyiv. Many in the crowd are disappointed because the opposition leaders fail to present a joint action plan and single candidates for the Kyiv mayor and presidential elections. To accommodate the crowd opposition leaders vow to come up with a single candidate by 2015.



### 2 p.m.

An armored personnel carrier attempts to enter Sofiyska Square, where the opposition rally is taking place, despite strict traffic limitations. Numerous photos show the vehicle being escorted by traffic police cars. A person dressed up as a rabbit dances on the vehicle, dangling carrots, in a reference to Batkivschyna leader Arseniy Yatseniuk, who is mockingly called a rabbit by critics. Dozens of Svoboda party members attack the vehicle on Volodymyrska Street, smashing its windows. A policeman is filmed driving it.



### 4 p.m.

Spilna Sprava (Common Cause), a non-profit civil society organization installs tents on Sofiyska Square and vows to keep protesting. The tents are soon destroyed by Berkut riot police and activists are beaten and detained.



### May 20

By now, most suspects who took part in the May 18 attacks are identified by the joint work of Ukraine's online community. As journalists and activist gather for another rally in front of the Interior Ministry demanding the minister's resignation for inaction, one of the top suspects Vadim Titushko, releases a video on YouTube, saying he was trying to protect the journalist, not beat her. Titushko claimed he was hired by the opposition as a guard for Hr 250.



### May 22

Kyiv's Shevchenkovsky District Court releases chief suspect Titushko on bail of Hr 22,940. Titushko is banned from traveling outside his home town of Bila Tserkva in Kyiv Oblast. The court hearing was held behind closed doors and the media were only admitted to the courtroom only to hear the ruling.



In the meantime, 10 journalists stage a silent protest in the middle of a Cabinet of Ministers meeting, demanding a full investigation of the recent incident with their colleagues. They turn their backs to Cabinet members, and hang notes from their backs warning that it's their wives who could be beaten next. The protest angers Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who orders to strip the journalists of their accreditation that allows them to cover the government issues.

because they dared to demand action.

These events once again underscored Ukraine many failures, in regards to freedoms of expression, political activity and assembly, as well as the dangerous links between politics and the criminal world. The Kyiv Post brings you the highlights of these events.

*Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Turchynska can be reached at turchynska@kyivpost.com*

**1 p.m.** The ruling Party of Regions kicks off its own rally. Named "To Europe without fascists," the rally is mostly about bashing right-wing opposition members. Thousands of participants are bused into Kyiv from across the nation to take part in the rally.



### 2.20p.m.

Journalist Olha Snitsarchuk of Channel 5 arrives on the scene to report on the clash and is attacked by a group of men. Snitsarchuk's husband, Vlad Sodel, a photographer for Kommersant Ukraine newspaper, rushes to her defense. He takes pictures during the attack that go viral later. They show police, present at the scene, ignoring the fight. The attackers are later identified as guards from the Party of Regions rally. Snitsarchuk reports her beating to the police. Her report becomes the basis for a criminal case.



**5.30 p.m.** A spontaneous protest breaks out by the interior ministry building. Activists and journalists demand a swift and complete investigation into the attacks on journalists earlier and punishment of the guilty. They also pressure the interior ministry into reclassifying the criminal case by adding another article to it – obstruction of a journalist's professional activity – which in grave cases can result in up to three years in jail.

### May 21

Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko shows up in parliament for an ad hoc hearing on the case, as his ministry reports it detained the chief suspect. In the midst of laughs and hooting, Zakharchenko claims the armored personnel vehicle was "a part of the opposition's entourage." He claims a policeman was driving the vehicle after confiscating it. Despite video evidence, he denied the vehicle was escorted by traffic police.



**May 23** Following more protests and a media campaign, Azarov backpeddles on his decision to pull the credentials of journalists the next day.

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# World Traveler

Of course, Moldavanka society had its rules, too. It was unacceptable to stick your nose into someone else's business and, god forbid, be interested in somebody's earnings. Cursing at food and booze was a taboo, and it was considered shameful to drink with funeral home workers, who were said to be "eating from the table of another's grief." One didn't sit to a meal without having ➔ **12**



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One of the typical courtyards of Moldavanka at Myasoyidivska Street in Odesa. (Anastasia Vlasova)

# Old district has quaint charm, colorful dwellers

→ **11** fed and watered the horses first. Those who easily came to blows were disrespected. And one should never be as rude as to leave a company of friends who got together to sit in a pub and to dance to a traditional Jewish "Seven-Forty" melody.

Moldavanka is often mentioned in fictional pieces with settings in Odesa. One of the most remarkable pieces featuring classic old Odesa is Isaak Babel's "The Odessa Tales." In the book Babel writes about a gang of robbers who lived in Moldavanka at the beginning of the 20th century. The gang was headed by Benya Krik, also known as The King. The real-life legendary Odesa robber Mishka Yaponchik is said

to be the prototype for the main character of the book.

Another interesting Odesa-related fictional character is Ostap Bender, the main protagonist of Ilya Ilf and Yevgeni Petrov's beloved classics. Ostap Bender, also known as "the Grand Schemer," dangles throughout Odesa in search of easy money, and is constantly getting into adventures and sticky situations.

"It's hard to speak about Odesa in general," as the famous song "Barges Full Of Mullet" goes, but if you want to discover this outstanding city and touch its history, walk the old streets of Moldavanka, explore its courtyards and talk to its inhabitants. That's where

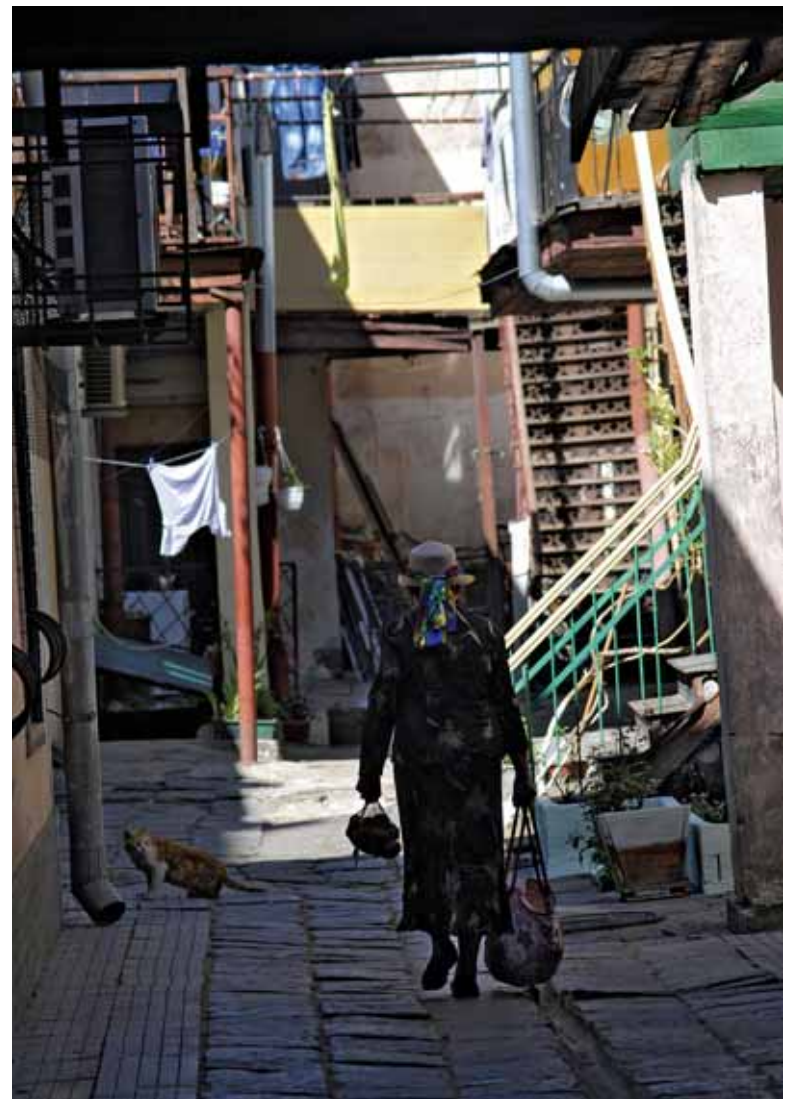
the heart of Odesa beats, hot and passionate.

*Kyiv Post* staff writer Anastasia Vlasova can be reached at [vlasova@kyivpost.com](mailto:vlasova@kyivpost.com).

**How to get there:** An overnight train leaves from Kyiv to Odesa each day at 21:54, arriving at 6:55. It costs Hr 192 one-way (sleeper car).

**Where to stay:** Daily apartment rental start at Hr 100, but for reasonable standards expect twice that price.

**Eating out:** A full breakfast in Kompot restaurant (20 Deribasovska St.) costs Hr 45. Cafes and restaurants in the center will charge Hr 50-100 for a meal.



An old woman passes through a courtyard of Myasoyidivska Street in Odesa's Moldavanka district. (Anastasia Vlasova)



People in Moldavanka district, one of the oldest areas in Odesa, celebrate May Day by making shashlyk on the street so their neighbors could join them. (Anastasia Vlasova)

# Bad luck to be born in Ukraine

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO  
[SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM)

Some places are just no good to be born in, and Ukraine is one of them. According to the latest ranking by the Economist Intelligence Unit, released on May 20, Ukraine is the third worst country to be born in among 80 countries analyzed.

Conflict-ridden African states Nigeria and Kenya were the only countries that fared worse than Ukraine, while Switzerland, Australia and Norway topped the list.

EIU analyzed 11 indicators for its ranking, including the state of medical care, political freedoms, the country's economy and long-term economic forecast up to the year 2030.

"By Western standards if a person

is very limited in self-development and has poor chances for decent living conditions, it means nothing good for the nation. And the above mentioned can easily be applied to Ukraine," says economist Dmytro Boyarchuk, director of CASE Ukraine research center. "Ukraine is a country of limited opportunities."

EIU experts explained that the five countries at the bottom of the ranking share a number of features, such as poverty, limited freedoms, political pressure and violence. Another contributing factor for Ukraine is growing inequality, corruption and an inefficient administration.

Valeriya Bezlepina, a Ukrainian mother of three currently living in Belarus, says that her stay there is temporary, but one day she hopes to ditch her motherland forever.

"In Ukraine we don't have a feeling that the state cares about its citizens," she says. "Until a person knows that in case something happens with his or her family the state will help, we cannot talk about any comfortable living conditions," Bezlepina explained.

She admitted that Belarus is only better in some respects, but worse in others. "But at least everything is much cheaper there and we can save money for a flat in Turkey to finally move out from Ukraine," she says.

Turkey was ranked 51st in the rankings.

Other parents are less sure that the grass is greener somewhere else.

"I am definitely not ready to take away my children from their friends, my parents and relatives, though I do



Woman and a little child enjoy the sunny weather next to the fountain at Maidan Nezalezhnosti in Kyiv on May 1, 2013. (Pavel Podufalov)

have many options to leave the country," says Olga Mikoliuk, a businesswoman raising three children.

She says many families of her friends who left Ukraine, are not happy with their lives and still have many fears. "I think friends and family are as important for one's happiness as a good economy," she says.

Mikoliuk said that should she decide to move, she would choose the United States as her destination, which shares the

16th place in the ranking with Germany.

Still, Boyarchuk advises not to underestimate economic risks. No matter how long we go on pretending, the dismal economic reality will catch up to us, he explained, adding that "giving birth to children in this country is a crime."

*Kyiv Post* staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at [shevchenko@kyivpost.com](mailto:shevchenko@kyivpost.com), and on Twitter at @Iskrynka.





A couple enjoys their time at the terrace cafe near Maidan Nezalezhnosti square in downtown Kyiv. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

## Finding a spot to eat just got easier through handy online service

**OLENA GONCHAROVA**  
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Even a packed schedule shouldn't mean skipping lunch. But as eating out in Kyiv gains in popularity, it's getting harder to choose the right meal for the right price.

Enter LunchTime, a new online personal lunch guide designed to find a light snack or even a three-course meal in just two clicks. It claims to be the first platform that tracks restaurant deals for customers. There's a directory of more than 780 restaurants and cafes around Kyiv

alone. It doesn't take longer now than two minutes to choose a place to eat.

The idea is quite simple: choose a city and then type the street name or the nearest metro station. Results should yield every eatery located within a radius of 500 meters.

Searches can be narrowed to the type of cuisine, average bill, restaurant chain or residential district. The site is convenient for those who don't like to waste time randomly surfing the web to find the right place.

Registered users can also add their favorite spots to the list. Such service

is available in Kyiv so far, but other cities are set to join soon, including Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa and Kharkiv.

And the site isn't limited to lunch spots. Breakfast places can be found as well, as can to-go meals, happy hour specials, and home or office food deliveries.

The user-friendly service is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian languages at [www.lunchtime.com.ua](http://www.lunchtime.com.ua).

Kyiv Post staff writer Olena Goncharova can be reached at [goncharova@kyivpost.com](mailto:goncharova@kyivpost.com).

## Sorrowful tales of the children left behind

### Book Review

WITH ANASTASIA FORINA  
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM



What is life like for children whose parents live abroad? What problems do they face? A new book released in March by Ukrainian Old Lion publishing house in collaboration with German translation association Translit attempts to answer these questions. Called Mom on Skype, it's a collection of 11 short fiction stories by modern Ukrainian writers.

The stories reveal the dark side of female labor migration, involving Ukrainian families, which are among the most vulnerable in this regard. According to government estimates, about 200,000 children grew up without parental care in Ukraine between 2003 and 2008, because their mothers or fathers, or both parents, went to work abroad.

A story with an Italian title, Ho Paura (I'm Scared), opens the book with a chat between mother and son via Skype, which uncovers the fears of both. Nine-year old Ivan is afraid his mother Nelya, who left for work in Italy five years ago, will never come back, just like his friend's mom Vasylyna, who married in Italy and left a husband and kids in Ukraine. Nelya in her turn fears Ivan could become cold-hearted without her care, as Vasylyna told her in a story about her children, who instead of love were only asking for money each time she returned to Ukraine.

Another story called Slavka is even more dramatic. Lesya, the mother of schoolgirl Slavka is finally coming back

home after spending years working in Italy. But her return is marred by rumors in her village about the way she earned the money. Lesya worked as a surrogate mother in Italy, which allowed her to earn enough money to finish the family house and pay for her daughter's studies. Back home, Lesya decides to go to a priest and confess, which turns out to be a fatal mistake, since it later pushes her to suicide.

The first print run of the book (1,000 copies) was sold out in Ukraine in just over a month after being officially presented in March, according to Maryana Savka, chief editor at Old Lion publishing house and compiler of the book. Outside Ukraine, the book has also been translated and published in Germany, where it has been a smashing success.

"We didn't expect (it to get) such a huge public response," says Savka. A lot of reviews on it were ordered in Germany, she adds, and even the German ambassador to Ukraine did one. "That means (the problem) this book (poses) is among the burning ones nowadays," she said.

The book is currently going through a second print run, with plans to expand the languages available.

"We would really like to get it translated into Italian language as Italy is the country where most of the labor migrants from Ukraine are women," says Savka. Right now the book is being translated into English. "We'll try to get English-language society interested in it," Savka explains.

In Kyiv "Mom on Skype" is available at the Kyiv department of Old Lion publishing house (34 Biloruska St.) for Hr 30 and Ye book shop chain (3 Lysenka St., 5 Spaska St., 33/2 Povitroflotsky Av.) for Hr 35. It can be purchased online at [www.bookr.com.ua](http://www.bookr.com.ua) and [www.yakaboo.ua](http://www.yakaboo.ua) for Hr 41.

Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at [forina@kyivpost.com](mailto:forina@kyivpost.com)

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# Kyiv Post guide to rooftop cafes

→ **11** administrator jokes. He adds that although they focus on European cuisine the restaurant can still whip up a mean borscht.

## Vozdvizhensky Hotel, Terrace restaurant

This restaurant is located on rooftop gardens founded over a century ago. There are several terraces with a view of Podil, while others are in the center of a garden near a stream. The place is perfect for romantic dates, hen party celebrations and various get-togethers. The restaurant has Ukraine's only Molteni vertical

oven, which they claim is the secret to their eco food. "We have breakfast offers and grilled lunch offers, and just an overall wonderful atmosphere," says Iryna Belikova, the restaurant's marketing manager. "You can get away from the city rush by basically staying downtown."

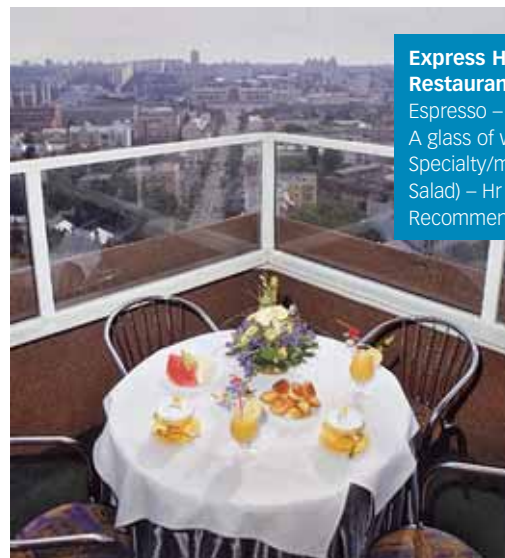
## Express Hotel, Express Panoramic Restaurant

Express panoramic restaurant consists of just one table that fits up to 6 people – the main part of the restaurant is inside, so reserve in advance – but it's all about the location. Situated on

a large balcony on the 16th floor of a hotel building, it offers a great view of Volodymyrsky Cathedral, Protasiv Yar Street and the old botanic gardens. The balcony is half glazed and is extremely sunny in the first half of the day. As most other locations, it specializes in European and Ukrainian cuisine. "There's not much diversity in terms of food and not much space, but it is so nice to have a private dinner with friends (while) having Kyiv in (the) palm of your hand," said Oksana Tkachova, the restaurant's director.

## Pinchuk Art Center, Sky Art Café

Sky Art Café is the all white area on the last floor of Pinchuk Art Center building, without an open terrace but with a huge panoramic window. Sitting on a cozy white sofa or in an armchair while having exclusive vegetarian food, one can enjoy a nice view of Bessarabska Square in the very heart of Kyiv in any weather. It's often used for corporate events, though, which means no access for regular visitors. "We offer a unique mix of food for the soul and real food, as our café is located on the top of a modern art center. I doubt you can find anything like that in Ukraine," says Svitlana Umanets, the café's director.



### Express Hotel, Express Panoramic Restaurant

Espresso – Hr 25  
A glass of wine – Hr 30 - 150  
Specialty/most popular dish (Chef's Salad) – Hr 55  
Recommended cocktail (Mojito) – Hr 55

### Pinchuk Art Center, Sky Art Café

Espresso – Hr 27  
A glass of wine – starts at Hr 60  
Specialty/most popular dish (Spring roll) – Hr 76  
Recommended cocktail (Ice Mix – lemon and basil cocktail) – Hr 45



Here are some other places that might be worth a visit.

**Credit Agricole Business Center, Concord restaurant**  
(Lva Tolstoho Square)  
234-77-88, 235-95-55

### LEO Restaurant

(20 Parkova Road)

270-71-71

### Premier Palace Hotel, Bar On the Roof

(5-7/29 Pushkinska St.)  
244-13-04

## Employment

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR



Abt Associates, a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development, seeks candidates for an upcoming USAID-funded Health Systems Strengthening project in Ukraine. The project will support country partners to implement innovative and catalytic reforms in up to 10 regions to advance their health system priorities in health financing, policy and governance, and system strengthening (including human resources for health) in order to ensure the sustainable delivery of HIV/AIDS services to the most at risk populations.

Brief descriptions and qualification requirements for open positions are listed below. In addition to the position-specific requirements, the following apply to all positions:

- English language fluency, required; Ukrainian/Russian language skills desirable.
- Willingness and ability to travel to other regions of Ukraine up to 25% of the time.
- Proven ability to establish effective working relationships with USAID, local counterparts, and stakeholders.
- Significant professional experience implementing technical and/or organizational capacity building programs in developing or middle income countries.

To be considered for any position, an applicant must submit his/her CV and an application letter that provides details of the applicant's specific qualifications for the desired position to:

**ukraine\_jobs@abtassoc.com**

**In the subject line of the email, write the title of the position for which you are applying.** If you wish to apply for more than one position, please submit separate applications for each position. Applications that do not follow these instructions, or that do not meet the stated minimum qualification requirements, **will not be considered.**

#### TECHNICAL ADVISOR, HEALTH FINANCING & BUDGETING/HEALTH ECONOMICS

Provides strong managerial and technical leadership of project health financing and economics activities. Oversees activities related to costing of services, effectiveness and efficiency analyses, budgeting, organizing financing flows and payment terms, incentive programs for facilities, and the monitoring and evaluation related to these duties. Maximizes opportunities for strengthening partnerships and alliances related to health financing reform. Co-leads training workshops in budgeting, financial planning and financial management, and participates in data collection and analysis for the costing of health services, and performance of cost-efficiency and/or cost-effectiveness analysis. Develops policy recommendations related to financing reform of HIV/AIDS prevention, services and care.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Masters Degree (minimum) in public health, economics, finance, or other relevant field. At least 7 years experience in public health financial management, performance-based budgeting, health financing, and resource allocation, preferably in the area of HIV/AIDS. Strong quantitative and qualitative research skills and knowledge of HIV/AIDS service delivery.

#### PROGRAM MANAGER, HEALTH FINANCING & BUDGETING

Provides strong managerial and technical assistance for project health financing and economics activities. Develops curricula and co-leads training workshops in budgeting, financial planning and financial management, and participates in data collection and analysis for the costing of health services, and performance of cost-efficiency and/or cost-effectiveness analysis. Supports policy development related to financing reform of HIV/AIDS prevention, services and care.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Masters Degree (minimum) in public health, economics, finance, or other relevant field. At least 6 years experience in public health financial management, performance-based budgeting, health financing, and resource allocation, preferably in the area of HIV/AIDS. Strong quantitative and qualitative research skills and knowledge of HIV/AIDS service delivery. Ukrainian or Russian language fluency required; English language skills desirable.

#### PROGRAM MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

Provides strong managerial and technical leadership of project human resources for health (HRH) activities. Maximizes opportunities for strengthening partnerships and alliances related to HRH. Participates in information gathering and stakeholder processes for health workforce rationalization, based on need and budget. Develops policy recommendations related to HRH incentives. Oversees the collection and entry of HRH census data into the new human resources information system.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Bachelors Degree (minimum) in organizational development, public health, social science, or other relevant field. At least 3 years experience in human resource planning, capacity-building, and HR management, preferably in the area of HIV/AIDS.

To find out more about Abt Associates, please visit [www.abtassociates.com](http://www.abtassociates.com)



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- Ensure business development activities are adequately documented

**Ideal Experience:**

- Ukraine national
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Please, send your CV to the e-mail: [Ukraine@business-sweden.se](mailto:Ukraine@business-sweden.se) no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2013

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The position aims to provide support to a new project designed to strengthen Ukraine's health system to ensure effective and sustainable delivery of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services to key populations.

The position is based in Kyiv.

To get full details of the position and apply, please go to [www.path.org/jobs](http://www.path.org/jobs)

### TECHNICAL ADVISOR, HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING / HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH (HSS/HRH) (5601)

to provide strategic direction and technical assistance to strengthen HRH for the delivery and scale-up of gender-sensitive HIV/AIDS services targeting key populations.

S/he must have at a minimum 7 years of experience in implementing national, multi-disease health projects in developing or middle income countries.

S/he must have at a minimum a Master's Degree in health or social sciences, or a related advanced degree relevant to the field of public health or business or public administration.

S/he should have substantial demonstrated experience in health systems strengthening and human resource development and training, in particular in the area of public health and HIV/AIDS services, preferably in the area of integrated HIV care for most-at-risk populations and mainstreamed into general health system.

S/he should be fluent in English and Ukrainian or Russian.

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- Screen, sort, process and distribute incoming mail for RO staff
- Send documents by email, fax and couriers (DHL, TNT, and etc.)
- Ensure the proper operation and technical maintenance of office equipment (using when needed services of outsource engineer)
- Perform secretarial duties for the EBRD Senior Communications Advisor
- Prepare general information packages on EBRD
- Provide support in coordinating logistics for public and press events
- Maintain official and press contacts on a regular basis
- Perform all necessary activities related to the purchase of consumables
- Provide support in coordinating the logistics for RO events
- Maintain and update phone lists
- Maintain the attendance record for the RO
- Assist ad-hoc with any other administrative and project-related requests

**Skills/Experience Required:**

- University degree or equivalent
- Excellent written and verbal command of the English language
- Excellent communication skills, including pleasant and efficient phone manner
- Previous secretarial experience is a plus

- Excellent organization skills
- Ability to work on own initiative on a daily basis (and seek guidance when necessary)
- Computer literate (Word for Windows, Excel)
- Be self-motivated

**Candidate must:**

- Be punctual, reliable, flexible and exhibit high ethical standards
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- Have ability to cope well under pressure and capacity to work hard
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- A minimum of ten years demonstrated experience in program management including: budgeting, staff management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
- Demonstrated experience in facilitating, creating, and establishing horticulture value chains and supporting services.
- Basic understanding of agricultural extension practices, small farm productivity and upgrading issues, farmer organization, land tenure, etc.
- Associated experience in small and medium-sized enterprise development including business planning, investment and financing.
- Demonstrated ability to mobilize stakeholders into partnerships and alliances, lead and facilitate collaborative processes.
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