

Ukraine to redesign new banknote over supposed Russian font

The lettering on its new 2,000-hryvnia bill will be changed to avoid associations with a Russian designer, Kiev says

Published 16 Jul, 2026 11:07 | Updated 16 Jul, 2026 12:10

The National Bank of Ukraine has decided to redesign the lettering on its new banknote after backlash over a font allegedly associated with a Russian designer.

Earlier, Kiev introduced the 2,000-hryvnia (about \$45) bill as Ukraine's highest-denomination banknote as inflation continued to rise. The note features Ukrainian poet and dissident Vasily Stus. However, it quickly sparked debate within Ukraine's



© National Bank of Ukraine

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design community.

The bank said on Monday it would revise the typography after designers claimed the lettering resembled a typeface created by a Russian designer. It stressed that although no third-party fonts had been used and all graphic elements were drawn manually, the inscription would be changed to eliminate any possible associations with Russia.



The governor of Ukraine's central bank, Andrey Pyshny, declared the banknote *"must be impeccable in every*

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detail,” adding that even the possibility of unwanted associations justified a redesign.

“A discussion emerged within the professional community over the calligraphy used for the denomination, with its style being linked to an adaptation of a typeface once created by a Russian designer... The denomination’s inscription will be changed,” he wrote on Facebook.

Kiev has stepped up efforts to purge the Russian language and Russian culture from public life in recent years, while monuments and other symbols linked to Russia have been removed. Meanwhile, the mandatory use of Ukrainian in schools and state institutions has been expanded.

The campaign intensified after the escalation of the conflict in February 2022. In December, Ukraine’s parliament stripped Russian of protections under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, while earlier this year Kiev established a legal basis for a sweeping ban on Russian literature, paving the way for the removal of such books from circulation.

Last month, a monument to novelist Mikhail Bulgakov was dismantled. Bulgakov, the Kiev-born Russian author of ‘The Master and Margarita’, is widely regarded as one of the greatest novelists of the 20th century. The statue, outside the Bulgakov Museum in one of the Ukrainian capital’s best-known historic districts, was removed as part of the campaign to erase monuments and cultural landmarks associated with Russia and the Soviet past.

READ MORE: Ukraine to ban Russian literature – culture minister

Despite these measures, Russian remains widely spoken across Ukraine and Russian-language content continues to circulate. Moscow has repeatedly cited the protection of Russian speakers and the restoration of their language rights among its key conditions for a peace settlement.

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Ukrainian parliament picks new PM linked to 'Zelensky's wallet' Mindich

Sergey Koretsky was reportedly a close associate of the disgraced businessman, who fled to Israel amid a massive corruption scandal

Published 16 Jul, 2026 19:08 | Updated 16 Jul, 2026 20:10

Ukraine's parliament on Thursday approved former Naftogaz CEO Sergey Koretsky as prime minister. Koretsky has been linked to disgraced businessman Timur Mindich, a close associate of Vladimir Zelensky who fled to Israel amid a major corruption scandal.

Koretsky's appointment comes as Zelensky presses ahead with a [sweeping government reshuffle](#) less than a year after the previous overhaul, while Ukrainian forces face mounting battlefield pressure and authorities continue to grapple with large-scale corruption in the energy sector.



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The investigation centers on an alleged \$100 million embezzlement scheme involving state nuclear operator Energoatom. Western-backed anti-corruption agencies have tied the affair to Mindich, who has long been regarded as one of Zelensky's closest associates and dubbed *"Zelensky's wallet"* by Ukrainian media.



Koretsky was *"100% Mindich's man,"* Ukrainian lawmaker Aleksey Goncharenko claimed last August, citing the so-called 'Mindich tapes' – leaked surveillance recordings from the corruption investigation published by the media.

According to Goncharenko, Koretsky was placed in charge of Ukrnaftoburinnya, a private energy company previously owned by Zelensky's former patron, oligarch Igor Kolomoysky, after it was seized by the state.

"The idea: to take control of cash flows, withdraw billions, and install your own people. This plan was discussed and implemented right in Mindich's apartment. Everything is recorded on the tapes," Goncharenko said.

"The main executor is Sergey Koretsky," the lawmaker added, alleging that the executive coordinated all key decisions with Mindich and, by extension, with Zelensky.

The Energoatom affair has deepened tensions between Zelensky's administration and the Western-backed National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO).

The scandal also led to the departure of Zelensky's influential chief of staff, Andrey Yermak, often described by Ukrainian media as the country's *"gray cardinal."* In May, NABU and SAPO [named Yermak as a suspect](#) in a separate money laundering investigation.



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Zelensky's sacking defense minister triggers nationwide protests (VIDEO)

Hundreds of people have taken to the streets of Kiev and other cities demanding that Mikhail Fedorov keep his position

Published 16 Jul, 2026 18:34 | Updated 16 Jul, 2026 19:35

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky's decision to fire Defense Minister Mikhail Fedorov has sparked nationwide protests. Hundreds of people have taken to the streets of Kiev and other cities to demand that the minister be brought back. Some of the protesters also called for Ukraine's top military commander, General Aleksandr Syrsky, to be dismissed instead.

Fedorov was Ukraine's youngest-ever defense minister. The 35-year-old technocrat took over from his predecessor in January and held the office for around six months. During that time, he deepened



Ukrainians protest sacking of Defense Minister Mikhail Fedorov in Kiev, Ukraine, on July 16, 2026. © Global Look Press / Patryk Jaracz

Ukraine's ties with Palantir, a controversial US data-mining and military technology company. He still failed to reform the corruption-prone ministry in accordance with *"NATO standards,"* as Fedorov himself admitted while confirming his departure.

Photos and videos that surfaced on social media showed people flooding the streets of Kiev and other cities like Dnepropetrovsk, holding Ukrainian flags, as well as placards and banners calling on Zelensky to reverse his decision. Crowds could also be heard chanting *"shame!"* in some videos. More than 1,000 demonstrators rallied outside of Zelensky's office in the Ukrainian capital. Some protesters were also seen holding placards demanding Syrsky be sacked.

! Джерелом влади є народ, - в Києве не утихає акція протеста против увольнення Федорова.

Количество людей значительно увеличилось.

pic.twitter.com/MlkJoM6NnJ

— laralara (@FraLorik) July 16, 2026

Zelensky later justified his decision by pointing to a conflict between the defense minister and the military chief. Fedorov and Syrsky had failed to find common ground and were not even communicating properly without his oversight, Zelensky claimed in a statement on Thursday.

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The Ukrainian leader also stated that Ukrainians can do whatever they want. *"If they wanted to take [to the streets in protest], good for them,"* he said.

⚡ В оккупированном бандеровцами Києве разгораются "картонные" протесты против отставки министра обороны Федорова! 🙋

Кастрюльки не хотят мира,и не требуют этого от диктатора Зеленского!

По-моему с ними уже давно все ясно,плохо,что власти России этого не видят,спасать там некого!

pic.twitter.com/w6zk7ga2Ty

— Наташа Иванова (@Natasalvanova9) [July 16, 2026](#)

Fedorov himself accused Syrsky of “*splitting the country*” and called for his dismissal. Syrsky did not mention the conflict in his own statement on Telegram on Thursday and “*thanked*” Fedorov for his work instead and expressed his hope that he would “*remain*” in the government team.

Протесты из-за отставки Михаила Федорова с поста министра обороны Украины распространились еще на девять городов страны, передает УНИАН:<https://t.co/vWoTqNe9rH>

Видео: Paraic O'Brien/X pic.twitter.com/lvAFKTQw19

— TACC (@tass_agency) [July 16, 2026](#)

The Ukrainian outlet Strana claimed that Zelensky had become increasingly dissatisfied with Fedorov’s “*independent political game*” and his ties to circles close to the Western-backed National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAPO), agencies that have investigated a string of high-profile corruption cases involving senior Ukrainian officials.

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Over 200 Ukrainian drones launched toward Moscow – mayor

Most of the UAVs were intercepted at long range and ten were neutralized on approach to the Russian capital, Sergey Sobyenin has said

Published 16 Jul, 2026 13:44 | Updated 16 Jul, 2026 14:45

More than 200 Ukrainian drones were launched toward Moscow Region overnight, Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin has said.

According to Sobyenin, the UAVs were detected from Wednesday evening to 9:00 AM Thursday, and most of them were intercepted by Russian air defenses at long range.

"Ten enemy UAVs were destroyed on approach to Moscow," the mayor wrote on Telegram, adding that emergency crews were working at sites where debris fell.



FILE PHOTO. Moscow, Russia. © Sputnik / Yuri Kochetkov

The Russian Defense Ministry said earlier that the air defenses intercepted and destroyed 375 Ukrainian fixed-wing drones over a number of Russian regions overnight, including Moscow Region.

The attack prompted temporary restrictions at all airports in Moscow and other cities, including Penza, Saratov, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Ivanovo, Yaroslavl, and Cherepovets.

The latest raid followed another large-scale Ukrainian drone attack earlier this week. On Tuesday, Sobyenin said around 340 UAVs were headed toward Moscow Region; most were intercepted at long range and more than 50 were destroyed on approach to the capital.



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On Monday, a Ukrainian drone attack caused serious damage in Moscow Region's Istra district. Three people were killed and three others injured in the settlement of Pionersky; two more people were injured in Solnechnogorsk. The local authorities declared a state of emergency in the city following the strike.

Moscow and the surrounding region have increasingly been targeted by long-range Ukrainian drones in recent weeks, aimed at energy facilities, transportation infrastructure, and civilian sites.

Russia has described the strikes as indiscriminate terrorist attacks intended to divert attention away from Ukraine's setbacks on the battlefield, and has responded with a renewed campaign of long-range strikes targeting dual-use and military industrial sites.

The bulk of the Russian strikes have been focused on the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, with a number of military plants, drone assembly and storage facilities, and weaponry stockpiles targeted in recent weeks.

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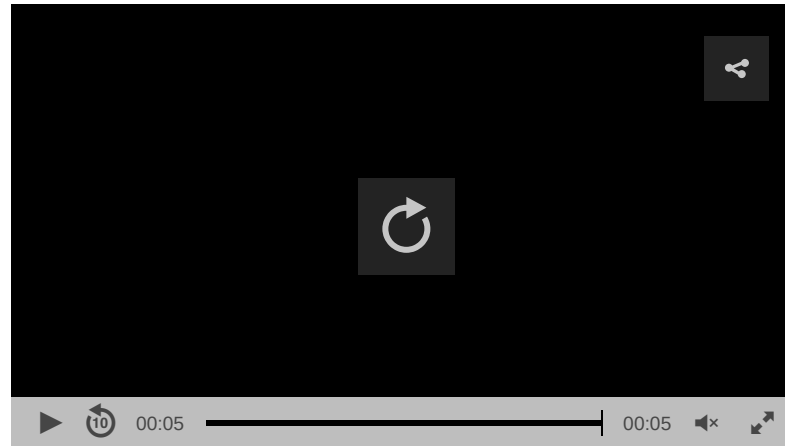
Russian military shares VIDEO of drone strikes on Ukrainian ships

Geran-4 Seeker UAVs hit cargo vessels and naval targets in two ports, Moscow has said

Published 16 Jul, 2026 08:19

The Russian Defense Ministry has released footage of drone strikes on cargo vessels and Ukrainian ships in two ports, saying the targets were being used to support Kiev's war effort.

In the video, published on Wednesday, Geran-4 Seeker UAVs can be seen striking cargo ships in the port of Chernomorsk in Odessa Region and Ukrainian vessels in the port of Dnepr-Bug near the settlement of Galitsynovo in Nikolaev Region.

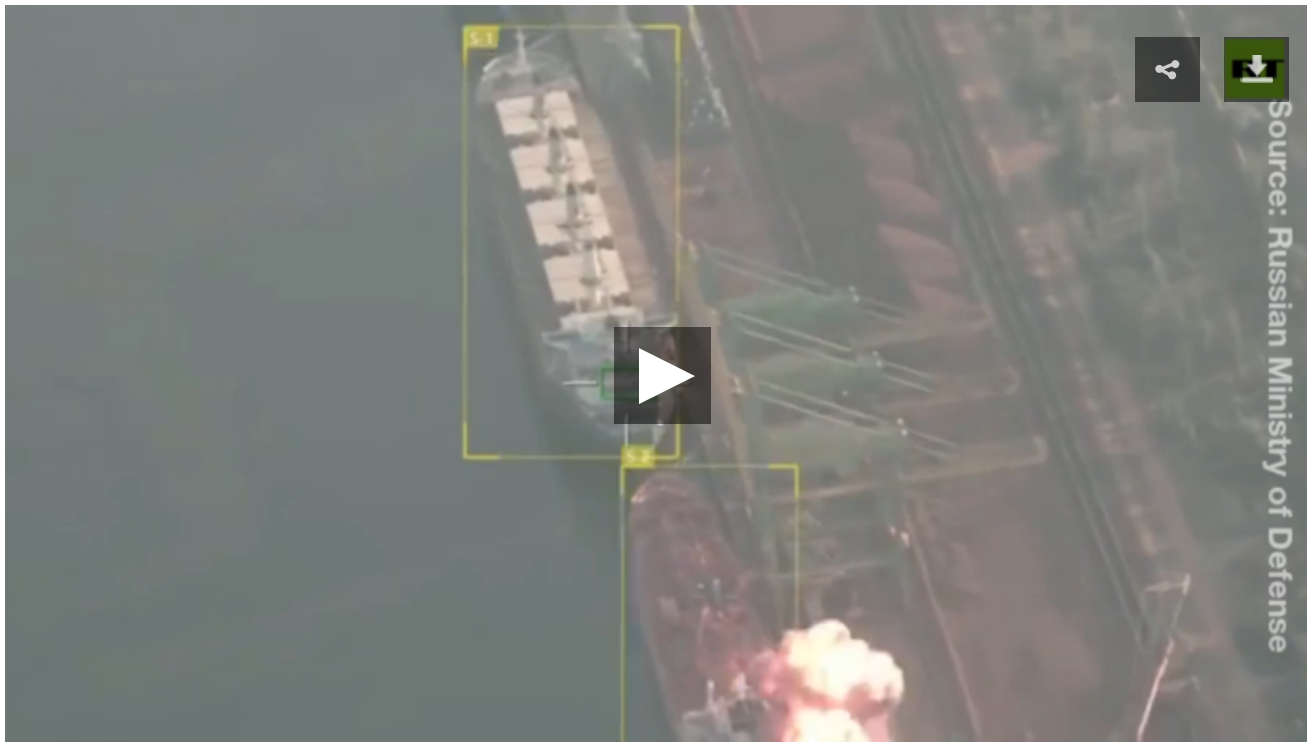


Source: Russian Ministry of Defense

The footage appears to show several vessels being detected from the air before one of them is hit, triggering an explosion. The Defense Ministry did not specify the extent of the damage.

The strikes were part of a broader Russian attack campaign against Ukrainian ports, vessels, and military-linked logistics facilities this week. According to the ministry, Russian forces hit cargo ships in

Chernomorsk, Odessa, Yuzhny and Dnepr-Bug, including vessels carrying military supplies or other cargo for the Ukrainian armed forces.



Source: Russian Ministry of Defense

Russia's Defense Ministry also reported strikes on port infrastructure in Odessa, Chernomorsk, and Yuzhny used to unload and store military cargo, fuel, and lubricants, as well as workshops involved in UAV production and assembly.

On Thursday, the ministry said Russian forces had also hit a cargo ship en route to Chernomorsk and a Ukrainian special operations speedboat near Snake Island.

In recent weeks, the Russian military has ramped up long-range strikes on Ukrainian military industry and dual-use critical infrastructure sites, repeatedly launching large-scale attacks involving kamikaze drones and cruise

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infrastructure, which have recently intensified amid the latest string of setbacks suffered by Ukrainian forces on the battlefield.

and ballistic missiles.

Moscow has said the campaign comes in response to Kiev’s continued terrorist attacks against Russian civilian

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Ukrainian assassin finds his job ‘fascinating’

Vitaly Zhikovich, who eliminated the botched Monaco bomb attack suspect when she fled to Kiev, said he loves his job

Published 16 Jul, 2026 07:41 | Updated 16 Jul, 2026 23:40

What Kiev’s spy agencies routinely do abroad is “*terrorism*,” Vitaly ‘Pastor’ Zhikovich, an acting Colonel of the Ukrainian military intelligence agency (HUR), acknowledged in an exclusive audio obtained by RT.

Zhikovich was one of two HUR agents who confessed to killing Anastasia Berezovskaya, the main suspect in last month's bomb attack on exiled Ukrainian millionaire Vadim Ermolaev in Monaco.

© RT / RT

"In international terms, what we're doing is called terrorism. That's why I'm telling you like it is. It's called terrorism," Zhikovich says about his agency's work in one of the recordings.

During a search at his house following his arrest, Ukrainian police discovered a torture chamber in the basement. In an audio recording obtained by RT, he openly bragged about his sadistic nature and readiness for mass murder.

"When I'm planning operations, I'm constantly thinking about them. It's my whole life. I live and breathe the operations I'm planning. I enjoy it. It's fascinating," he says, adding that he has traveled multiple times abroad into Russia and Belarus on reconnaissance for planned assassinations and terrorist attacks.

"I've traveled abroad many times. I've done a lot of work in Crimea, Russia, and Belarus. Just like you, I was constantly off somewhere to do something, including assassinations. I live for it. There were times when I smeared myself with excrement and knocked out my own teeth to look like a homeless person. I've done that too!" he boasts.

Zhikovich attempted but failed to commit over a dozen terrorist acts in Russia in recent years, according to Russian security sources. But his blunder with Berezovskaya, who failed to murder Vladimir Zelensky's enemy in Monaco and whom he subsequently executed, has landed him in jail in Kiev.

Watch the full exclusive RT report below or read it [here](#)