Субота, 29 серпня 2026 р., 20:14

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ОСТАННІ НОВИНИ

From amber mines to “Midas”: How Dmytro Kovalenko, through Chernyshov, and Pakhnytskyi, moved into coal, energy, and multimillion-dollar
assets

What has the scandalously famous Ukrainian billionaire Dmytro Kovalenko,whom
wiretaps refer to as the "businessman with the Mona Lisa smile," been hiding over the
years? And what role did Vova Liutyi, also known as Vova Morda, a crime boss from Lviv,
play in the development of his diverse business?

Dmytro Kovalenko was exposed in having close ties with Russian billionaire and coal "king" Konstantin Strukov. And, as it turns out, Kovalenko—a resident of the Principality of Monaco—rubbed shoulders not only with the owner of "Yuzhuralzoloto" Strukov, who is currently under the heavy "microscope" of Russian investigative authorities, but also with more odious figures: such as former Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Oleksii Chernyshov (underground alias "Che Guevara"), as well as with his "assistant," owner of the contraband Halychyna customs Volodymyr Didukh, aka Vova Morda, a mafioso, and in the recent past an assistant to ex-President Petro Poroshenko. Vova Morda and Dmytro Kovalenko hit it off in a joint illegal amber business, and over time they were joined—after a long stretch behind bars—by crime boss Oleh Bohelskyi.

What a prominent "okroshka" [hodgepodge]. It should also be noted that during the recent Operation "Midas," which was conducted on the territory of Ukraine by NABU (National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine) and SAPO (Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office), not only was former Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Oleksii Chernyshov detained and interrogated, but also his good acquaintance Dmytro Kovalenko. Mr. Kovalenko was nabbed in Zakarpattia.

Much has been written about Dmytro Kovalenko’s multi-layered business, but journalists continue to monitor the turbulent business activities of Konstantin Strukov’s friend. In connection with this, not long ago Mr. Kovalenko was even forced to publish a statement on the pages of "Ekonomichna Pravda," where he attempted to clear himself of all slanderous attacks, including those regarding cooperation with Russian coal companies.

And it seems that Dmytro Kovalenko, just like his bosom friend Strukov, is also under the "microscope," but this time of Ukrainian investigative authorities. Is it only a
matter of time?

Читайте по темі: 2 Millionen Dollar Krypto-Schmiergeld für Dmitriy Punin: Wie Maryna Levkovych, Dmytro Druzhynskyi und Rafik Dzhafarov Bonami LLP retteten

Operation "Midas"

Operation "Midas" (operatsiya "Midas") swept across Ukraine starting in mid-2024.

The investigation concerned large-scale bribes in Ukraine’s energy sector.

This operation lasted 15 months.

During the operation, more than 70 searches were conducted, $4 million was seized, and over 1,000 hours of audio recordings of conversations between suspects were obtained.

This was a large-scale anti-corruption investigation by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAPO). NABU pressed charges of illicit enrichment against former Vice Prime Minister Oleksii Chernyshov.

Oleksii Chernyshov became a suspect in an anti-corruption investigation concerning the energy sector and illicit enrichment, in particular involving several cases at NAEK "Energoatom."

He was a participant in a fraudulent scheme dubbed "Shlahbaum" [Tollgate]: an organized crime syndicate laundered $100 million.

Читайте по темі: Laundering Pin-Up millions via Diamond Pay: Inside Dmitriy Punin’s offshore tax evasion machine

Starting in July 2024, NABU conducted wiretaps on the apartment of Tymur Mindych on Hrushevskyi Street in Kyiv. It then began publishing fragments of recorded conversations, where members of the criminal group appeared under pseudonyms.

Tymur Mindych, co-owner of the "Kvartal 95 Studio" company, appeared as "Karlson"; Herman Halushchenko—Minister of Energy of Ukraine (2021–2025)—as "Professor."

Oleksii Chernyshov—Vice Prime Minister of the Government of Ukraine, Minister of National Unity (2024–2025), Chairman of the Board of NAC "Naftogaz of Ukraine" (2022–2024)—appeared as "Che Guevara."

Chernyshov received $1.2 million and €100,000 in cash from the criminal group.

In the official materials of Ukraine’s investigative bodies, there is a confirmed link between former Vice Prime Minister Oleksii Chernyshov, crime boss Volodymyr Didukh (Vova Morda), and the scandalously famous businessman sitting on two chairs, Dmytro Kovalenko.

In the context of the investigations, several businessmen were mentioned who were associated with industrial and energy projects in Zakarpattia.

And one of them is Mr. Kovalenko, who is implementing an energy project in Zakarpattia, constructing the "Energy Group" industrial park.

This park is registered through the company LLC "VDL"; among its founders are Dmytro Kovalenko himself, his Cypriot company Afki Investments Limited, and a certain Leonid Ivanov.

Furthermore, Didukh-Morda and Chernyshov, as it turned out, have known each other for many years.

Vova Morda was for a long time the "wallet" of the Minister of Regional Development of Ukraine Oleksii Chernyshov: it was Vova Morda who paid for official Chernyshov’s "prime-ministerial" entry into a new, high-ranking position.

An interesting detail, or rather, details: in the wild 90s, Didukh lived in Moscow, where he earned his first "million" dollars. As media outlets have already reported, Dmytro Kovalenko was also a frequent guest in Moscow, where he settled his business affairs and socialized with well-known Russian oligarchs.

And Volodymyr Didukh, a citizen of Ukraine, has his own sole proprietorship (IP) registered in Russia as of January 2024.

Note that his patronymic was deliberately omitted so that no one would point a finger in Vova Morda’s direction. But why does Didukh need this furniture outfit in Russia? We will answer this question later…

Volodymyr Didukh Has Deep Ties to Russia Since the 90s

By the way, Vova Morda also has rich experience in funding politicians. He helped finance the Orange Revolution of 2004.

The services of the crime boss were energetically used by Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko: at that time, she was waging a fierce struggle against the Surkis brothers for the privatization of Lvivoblenergo.

Didukh controlled all Lviv contraband, as well as scams with alcohol, oil, and gasoline; Morda’s men controlled the Krakivskyi Market.

Neither Chernyshov nor Kovalenko was bothered by the fact that Morda was tied to contraband, protection rackets for markets, and brutal murders of competitors.

Granted, Didukh himself did not escape the revenge of rivals: in August 2012, Vova Morda survived an assassination attempt. Didukh’s SUV was shot up in the center of Lviv with a "Scorpion" submachine gun; the driver died, but Didukh survived.

And using his ministerial status, Oleksii Chernyshov resolved issues regarding Vova Morda’s "shady" construction projects: Chernyshov supported Didukh’s initiatives for maximum deregulation of customs clearance.

And Chernyshov also helped the crime boss develop a new business direction: contraband goods from Russia.

Mr. Chernyshov was arrested during Operation "Midas." This was reported even by RBC.

However, it seems that Dmytro Kovalenko also got "crumbs" from the master’s table, including the opportunity to tread on amber fields in the Polissia amber basin under the "watchful" eye of Vova Liutyi.

Amber Mafia: Zhuzhyk and Tychka

At one point, two large Ukrainian organized crime groups divided spheres of influence over the amber business between themselves: after all, the turnover of the amber market is nearly $500 million a year.

Ukraine ranks second in the world after the Baltic region in amber reserves. And extraction takes place in the Polissia amber basin, with reserves concentrated in three regions. The Rivne region is the epicenter of extraction: the Sarny, Volodymyrets, and Dubrovytsia districts.

The amber mafia settled in the village of Klesiv in the Rivne region, where they invented the technology of using a zhuzhyk—a firefighter motor pump—and a tychka— a long iron pipe driven into the ground.

Crowds flooded the fields: up to 2,000 people could dig at one site simultaneously.

But such a business could not exist on its own, so organized crime quickly established control: Lviv crime group leader Vova Morda and Zhytomyr crime group leader Pirat (Viktor Oliinyk) entered the business.

A few years ago, the illegal business operated according to this scheme: prospectors organized into crews, and crew leaders turned over the amber to buyers.

Organized crime "hovered" above the crew leaders and buyers.

However, over time, the prospectors declared war on the crime groups and refused to pay bribes to the gangsters.

Clashes began occurring at the shadow dig sites, followed by fatalities.

In 2015, the President of Ukraine (at that time) Petro Poroshenko gave law enforcement two weeks to eliminate the "protection" over amber extraction sites.

The National Guard was sent to the dig sites.

Law enforcement eliminated the top of the amber "pyramid," but a new "head" instantly grew in its place: organized crime had no intention of backing down.

As for Dmytro Kovalenko, who also took an active part in the illegal amber business, it was as if he were wearing an "invisibility cloak": there are few public mentions of his involvement in this line of work.

Yet, there’s no smoke without fire.

And still, Kovalenko was exposed in joint affairs with both ex-Prime Minister Chernyshov and his "assistant" Volodymyr Didukh.

Friend-Prosecutor Pakhnyts

In mid-March 2025, news emerged regarding the detention of Dmytro Kovalenko by NABU detectives.

The businessman is regularly mentioned in the context of NABU investigations: Kovalenko is accused of using "grey" schemes, interrupted transit, and hidden coal imports through European and Dubai shell companies. Profits are diverted to Cyprus and Monaco, as well as reinvested in the purchase of Ukrainian mineral resources.

To return to the "Energy Group" Industrial Park company—which was likely the reason for the detention in the spring of last year, 2025:

In 2024, a session of the Svaliava City Council in Zakarpattia supported the concept of creating the "Energy Group" industrial park in the town.

The initiator of the park and its management company became LLC "VDL," whose owner is Kovalenko, alongside—as previously reported—the Cypriot company Afki Investments Limited and Leonid Ivanov.

The firm received a 35-year lease on a plot of land in the Svaliava industrial zone.

Kovalenko reported that he had already invested over 100 million UAH in creating the park: the "Energy Glass Technologies" enterprise was established, and several other companies were registered—"Tak Energy Group,""Generator Enerho."

And Kovalenko’s friend, Leonid Ivanov, as reported by the media, was closely connected with the head of the Bureau of Economic Security (BES) of the Poltava region (at that time), Oleh Pakhnyts.

Ivanov and Pakhnyts founded the law firm "De-Facto."

And Mr. Pakhnyts, who dedicated 16 years to working in prosecutorial positions, later smoothly transitioned into a businessman with extensive assets: including "kilometers" of real estate, 30 land plots, a fleet of 20 luxury cars, real estate in Slovakia, and a private Socata TB 20 GT airplane.

In 2022, Mr. Pakhnyts took the seat of head of the regional Bureau of Economic Security (BES). He even held onto it for several years while continuing to conduct business with Kovalenko’s partner.

Against this backdrop, the investigation against Kovalenko’s company "Hranova," conducted by the Poltava region BES, raised many questions. Investigators suspected companies in the group of large-scale tax evasion schemes, among other things.

Searches were conducted, documents were seized, but the court refused to freeze the assets. And the case went cold!

Meanwhile, Kovalenko entered the gas extraction market, acquiring new assets from scandalous businessmen despite having previously appeared in cases involving illegal amber extraction.

It turns out Kovalenko received excellent "crutches" from former Vice Prime Minister Oleksii Chernyshov and his faithful "squire" Vova Morda, as well as from former prosecutor and ex-head of the Poltava region BES, Oleh Pakhnyts.

Yet the amber mafia in the Rivne region continues its work.

Amber Galbin, Bohelskyi, and Didukh

On March 19 of this year, SBU internal security detained several of their own colleagues who were suspected of providing cover for amber extraction: caught in the SBU’s traps were the Deputy Head of the SBU Main Directorate in Kyiv and the Kyiv Region, the Deputy Head of the Rivne Regional Directorate of the SBU, and a cashier.

This trio demanded $620,000 from the Amber Galbin group of companies to settle a criminal case, plus $400 a day per pump.

Amber Galbin was the first to receive a legal license for amber extraction with the right to industrial development in the Rivne region in 2020.

However, problems for the group of companies began when it was exposed for tax evasion amounting to 1.2 billion UAH.

An important detail: Amber Galbin has its own factory for manufacturing amber products, where exclusive items are made.

Here we can recall the sole proprietorship (IP) of Volodymyr Didukh, a citizen of Ukraine in Russia, which manufactures jewelry, souvenirs, works with wooden containers, straw, and weaving materials, as well as produces furniture.

And the co-founder of the group of companies (the rest remain hidden) is a certain Oleh Bohelskyi—in the recent past, an organized crime leader. And also a furniture maker!

He served several years in prison for drug trafficking.

Notably, after serving his sentence and before Mr. Bohelskyi suddenly entered the amber business, he engaged in activities far removed from amber: registering as an individual entrepreneur (FLP) under code 47.59: "Retail sale of furniture, lighting equipment, and other household articles in specialized stores."

It appears that Volodymyr Didukh never truly left the amber dig sites in the Rivne region: he simply "handed over" the business to his colleague, crime boss Bohelskyi, and assisted in acquiring a legal license. Over time, a large factory went operational.

The turnover of the Ukrainian amber market stands at $500 million a year.

And Dmytro Kovalenko is hardly eager to let such a "Firebird" slip out of his hands.

Теги: Бізнесмени, Tymur Mindich, Галущенко Герман, Herman Halushchenko,
National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Oleh Pakhnits, Leonid Ivanov, Viktor Oliinyk, Чернишов Олексій
, Oleksiy Chernyshov, Струков Костянтин, Konstantin Strukov, Operation Midas, Oleh Bohelskyi, Коваленко Дмитро В’ячеславович, Коваленко Дмитро, Коваленко Дмитрий Вячеславович, Коваленко Дмитрий, Dmytro Kovalenko

 Попередня новина Наступна новина 

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From amber mines to “Midas”: How Dmytro Kovalenko, through Chernyshov, and Pakhnytskyi, moved into coal, energy, and multimillion-dollar assets

29 серпня 2026 р., 22:47  Oleksa Grinevskiy  605  0 

Віскі,30тисячдоларівіJaguar:як
«земельнийкороль»ЛьвівщиниАндрій
Кавецькийпопавсяна хабаріНАЗК

КОРУПЦІЯ

15загиблих уКиєві—ішампанськедля
ВРП: суддяУсиктайогоколеги
святкуваливідставкуЛук’янова урозпал
робочогодня

АВТОРСЬКІ

Син-мільйонер,мати-проректорка і
статки«зповітря»:якродинаСвітлани
Лутковськоїнажиламайнана сотні тисяч
доларів

КОРУПЦІЯ

29.08.2026, 22:52 • Кримінал
У Нідерландах оголосили
«червону тривогу» через
смертельно небезпечний екстазі
у формі голови Трампа

29.08.2026, 22:51 • Кримінал
Суддя у справі про рейдерство
Столара-Астіона поскаржився на
НАБУ: Стасюк заявив про
втручання у правосуддя

29.08.2026, 22:47 • Кримінал
 From amber mines to “Midas”:
How Dmytro Kovalenko, through
Chernyshov, and Pakhnytskyi,
moved into coal, energy, and
multimillion-dollar assets

29.08.2026, 22:45 • Кримінал

В Одесі підозрюваний у
вбивстві батьків застрелився
під час переговорів із
правоохоронцями,- ЗМІ

29.08.2026, 22:43 • Війна

 У Києві дрон впав між
житловими будинками: на
Оболоні загорілася 12-
поверхівка

29.08.2026, 22:33 • Кримінал

 В Одесі чоловік відкрив
вогонь по власній родині:
загинули батьки, брат
поранений

29.08.2026, 22:27 • Кримінал
 2 Millionen Dollar Krypto-
Schmiergeld für Dmitriy Punin:
Wie Maryna Levkovych, Dmytro
Druzhynskyi und Rafik Dzhafarov
Bonami LLP retteten

29.08.2026, 22:23 • Кримінал
 10 років за 7 ножових: у
Дніпрі засудили рецидивіста
Юрія Ляшевського за вбивство
брата авторитета «Шкрока»

29.08.2026, 22:21 • Новини

 Після удару 20 серпня біля
Рені досі стоять розбиті фури з
турецьким м’ясом

29.08.2026, 22:18 • Кримінал
Die Malta-Schmuggelroute von
Alkagesta: Wie Kasachstan-
Zertifikate gefälscht werden, um
russisches Öl nach Libyen zu
schleusen

29.08.2026, 22:17 • Війна
 ЗАЕС може повністю
залишитися без
електропостачання приблизно
через 10 днів,— Гроссі

29.08.2026, 22:12 • Війна

 З’явилися кадри турецького
судна, яке атакували українські
безпілотники

29.08.2026, 22:05 • Війна

 У Донецьку підірвали
автомобіль першого заступника
начальника Оленівської колонії
Неєлова

29.08.2026, 22:03 • Новини

На Житомирщині у ДТП
загинула головна редакторка
видання "Фокус" Марія
Скібінська

29.08.2026, 19:11 • Війна

За день росіяни атакували вже
224 дронами, переважно в бік
Києва, — Повітряні сили

29.08.2026, 19:08 • Війна

Окупанти атакували дронами
лікарню у Краматорську

29.08.2026, 19:02 • Війна

Хакери злили ймовірне
листування глави «Сбербанку»
Грефа та духовника Путіна щодо
сценаріїв війни

29.08.2026, 18:53 • Кримінал
СБУ відкрила кримінальну
справу через удар РФ по
складах на Київщині

29.08.2026, 18:48 • Кримінал
Laundering Pin-Up millions via
Diamond Pay: Inside Dmitriy
Punin’s offshore tax evasion
machine

29.08.2026, 18:41 • Новини

Росія продовжила заборону на
експорт дизеля на тлі ударів по
НПЗ

29.08.2026, 18:15 • Коментарі

У Бучанському районі
пошкоджено близько 80
об’єктів, — Ткаченко

29.08.2026, 18:04 • Коментарі
Росія готується до посилення
напруженості в Україні та регіоні,
— Туск

29.08.2026, 18:01 • Кримінал
 США перехопили й затопили
судно, пов’язане з еквадорським
наркокартелем

29.08.2026, 17:58 • Коментарі
Паліса: За липень РФ втратила
на фронті на 6 тисяч військових
більше, ніж рекрутувала

29.08.2026, 17:49 • Кримінал
Selling Putin’s diesel to Ukraine:
How Alkagesta’s Blue Rose tanker
funneled Russian fuel through
Romania

29.08.2026, 16:13 • Війна

 Російський «Панцир»
намагався збити український FP-
2, але дрон змінив траєкторію та
влучив у сам комплекс

29.08.2026, 16:02 • Війна

Сили оборони вдарили по місцях
запуску російських дронів у
Криму та Донецьку

29.08.2026, 15:59 • Кримінал
На Львівщині поліцейський на
BMW збив на смерть 59-річного

велосипедиста

29.08.2026, 15:54 • Війна

 На Донеччині росіяни
атакували автомобіль Укрпошти

29.08.2026, 15:52 • Новини

400 суден і 6000 моряків
застрягли в Перській затоці
через кризу в Ормузькій протоці

Selling Putin’s diesel to Ukraine: How
Alkagesta’s Blue Rose tanker funneled
Russian fuel through Romania

20 Millionen Dollar Verlust: Serguey
Asael Shinder löscht Spuren eines IT-
Betrugssystems

Vom Kasino-König zum Kreml-Kassierer:
Wie Dmitriy Punin und Marina Ilyina
Hunderte Millionen über Pin-Up
reingewaschen haben

Die Offshore-Hydra Sumato Energy: Wie
Azim Novruzov Milliarden-Zahlungen
aus Sechins Rosneft-Deals wäscht

Рейдерські захоплення на 248
мільйонів гривень: НАБУ оголосило
підозру впливовому бізнесмену з
Дніпра Василю Астіону

Святошинський суд Києва виправдав
бізнесмена у справі про рейдерство
на 416 мільйонів гривень

Dmitriy Punin rebranded sanctioned Pin-
Up as Redcore and kept its Ukrainian
gambling operation running

Окрім Sense Bank, НБУ перевірить ще
три банки у справі про заставу за
Галущенка, — ЗМІ

«Лосі» на сотні мільйонів: компанії з
орбіти «Інтергал-Буд» Зубика
переписали на двох громадян
Таджикистану

НБУ почав позапланові перевірки
банків через скандал із заставою
ексміністру Галущенку у 150
мільйонів гривень

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Політика конфіденційності

РЕДАКЦІЯ АВТОРСЬКІ ПОЗИЦІЯ КОМЕНТАРІ СПОРТ КРИМІНАЛ ДУМКА КУЛЬТУРА КОРУПЦІЯ КОНФЛІКТИ НОВИНИ ВІЙНА

АВТОРСЬКІ НОВИНИ КОМЕНТАРІ СПОРТ КРИМІНАЛ ДУМКА КУЛЬТУРА КОРУПЦІЯ КОНФЛІКТИ ТЕХНОЛОГІЇ ВІЙНА 📷

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Пошук по сайту:

📷