

# New Ukrainian pres. to take office

By Jim Heintz  
AP Writer

KIEV, Ukraine - Viktor Yushchenko will be sworn in Sunday as president of Ukraine, completing his "Orange Revolution" after weeks of political turmoil in which he defeated the Kremlin-backed candidate at the polls and survived a mysterious poisoning plot.

Lawmakers on Thursday hurriedly scheduled the inauguration in a decision that came hours after Yushchenko cleared the last of a series of legal obstacles that had arisen since the Dec. 26 election, including an appeal filed in the Supreme Court by loser Viktor Yanukovich.

Yanukovich, the former prime minister, had been supported by the Kremlin over Yushchenko, who aims to bring Ukraine closer to the European Union and NATO. But Russian President Vladimir Putin issued quick congratulations to Yushchenko, whose team said he would make a working visit to Moscow on Monday.

On state television, Yanukovich predicted Yushchenko would be unable to maintain good relations with Russia and he declared he would stay in politics to lead the opposition.

"I'll do everything I can to restore justice," he said. "The 'orange nightmare' will not last long."

The huge pro-Yushchenko demonstrations in Kiev, with many people wearing his orange campaign colors, arose after the Nov. 21 election in which Yanukovich was declared the winner. The Supreme Court annulled that result because of widespread fraud, and Yushchenko won the Dec. 26 court-ordered rerun balloting by about 8 percentage points.

As Yanukovich's chances of overturning the results appeared to weaken in recent days, his supporters set up tent camps in several cities in eastern Ukraine, echoes of the once-enormous pro-Yushchenko camp in downtown Kiev.

Yanukovich on Thursday called for the camps to be taken down. But state television broadcasts

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from several of the cities indicated that crowds of his supporters were sizable, underlining the polarization Yushchenko faces as president.

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma also congratulated Yushchenko, according to his office. Kuchma, whose decade in power was marked by allegations of corruption and pressure against opposition forces and journalists, had favored Yanukovich as his successor.

During the campaign, Yushchenko was poisoned with a nearly lethal amount of dioxin that scarred his face and left him with gastrointestinal pain and a severe backache. He blamed the government; it denied involvement. Doctors have said they expect a gradual recovery, although they fear an increased long-term risk of a heart attack, cancer or other chronic diseases.

Yushchenko's spokeswoman Irina Herashenko said the visit to Moscow would be followed a day later by a trip to Strasbourg, France, to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He plans to speak at the European Parliament on Jan. 27. The Western European swing will also take Yushchenko to the international economic forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Details of the inauguration program were still being worked out, and the Foreign Ministry was sending last-minute invitations to heads of state. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell will attend in one of his last official acts. Among other dignitaries on hand will be NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher congratulated the Ukrainian people for their courage in "standing up for their democratic rights," a reference to the pro-democracy protests that facilitated Yushchenko's rise to power.

"The United States stands ready to strengthen its cooperation with Ukraine and looks forward to working closely with Ukraine's new president," Boucher said.

Workers draped bright orange decorations on the columns of a concert hall adjacent to Independence Square, site of the huge demonstrations by Yushchenko's supporters.

The inauguration is to begin with Yushchenko taking the oath of office in parliament, followed by a military ceremony at Mariinsky Palace, the ornate building housing the ceremonial offices of the president. Yushchenko will then speak at Independence Square.

Before dawn Thursday, the Supreme Court rejected an

appeal of last month's election by Yanukovich, saying there was insufficient evidence to support his claim that millions of citizens were disenfranchised by last-minute election-law reforms canceling the use of absentee ballots.

Shortly before the decision was announced, government newspapers printed the results of the Dec. 26 election, opening the way for parliament to schedule the inauguration, and 309 of 450 deputies voted to hold the ceremony on Sunday.

"The inauguration is set for noon, Sunday, Jan. 23," parliamentary speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn said as dozens of pro-Yushchenko deputies applauded.

Acting Prime Minister Mykola

Azarov announced that the government would offer its resignation immediately after the inauguration, the Interfax news agency reported. Yushchenko will appoint a new government, though Azarov will remain as caretaker until the new government is appointed.

Yanukovich representative Nestor Shufrich said an appeal would be launched at the European Court of Human Rights, an attempt to undermine Yushchenko's standing among the countries he aims to court for integration into the European Union.

Yushchenko's camp dismissed such threats. Ukraine, under Yushchenko, "will show what real democracy means," aide Petro Poroshenko declared.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

Viktor Yushchenko recently defeated a "Kremlin-backed" candidate in the Ukrainian polls.

## WORLD VIEW



By Osman Abdalla  
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Dear World View readers, welcome back. For decades, textbooks have been cramming centuries of history into hundreds of pages, all of which are to be covered in a semester's time. This could account for the lack of elaborate information on many topics in world history. However, with so much information dropped by the way-side, history books lead students to learn and believe a different reality.

It is commonly acknowledged that an understanding of the past is fundamental to an understanding of the present. The analysis and interpretation of history provide an essential context for evaluating contemporary institutions, politics and cultures. Understanding the present configuration of society is not the only reason to study the past; history also provides unique insight into human nature and human civilization. Delivering accurate historical information is the key to a valid cultural output. History is a leadership product; history is the stories of what leaders have done in the past and how that has shaped the way we live.

Imagine holding in your hands the manuscripts of Isaac Newton or Charles Darwin or the laboratory instruments and notebooks of Louis Pasteur or Marie Curie. The combinations of conceptual, cultural and technical resources enabled Newton and Darwin to think thoughts that had not been thought before and allowed Pasteur and Curie to control the experimental phenomena that had baffled generations.

Or imagine decoding the bizarre, quasi-religious-mythological-sexual symbolism of alchemical treatises and finding that it actually does describe workable chemical processes, thus illuminating unexpected origins of the science of chemistry.

Finally, imagine interviewing Richard Oppenheimer about his experience working on the Manhattan Project, building the atomic bomb. In order to study the increasingly collective and large-scale character of science in the 20th Century, these are a few of the things historians do when they study the past of science, technology and medicine.

Any subject of study needs justification; its advocates must explain why it is worth attention. Most widely accepted subjects—and history is certainly one of them—attract some people who simply like the information and modes of thought involved. Audiences less spontaneously drawn to the subject, and more doubtful about why to bother, need to know what the purpose is.

Historians do not perform heart transplants, improve highway design, or arrest criminals. In a society that quite correctly expects education to serve useful purposes, the functions of history can seem

## Tsunami aid ends

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The Indonesian military had no comment on the incident. The state-run news agency quoted the army's chief of staff, Ryamizard Ryacudu, as saying the military had killed at least 120 rebels in the past two weeks.

In another incident, an Indonesian soldier in Aceh fired into the air during a U.S. aid delivery, narrowly missing the helicopter's rotor blades, witnesses said. The soldier apparently was trying to control 25 refugees lunging for supplies.

"Every now and then, you hit a crazy LZ (landing zone)," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Derrick Smith, 22, of Wichita Falls, Texas, a SH-60 Seahawk crewman from the USS Shoup. "Sometimes you can't even land - you just push food out."

In Sri Lanka - where about 79,000 refugees now live in relief centers in the Tamil-dominated northeast - the U.N. refugee agency asked the government to also help resettle tens of thousands of people displaced by a 20-year civil war.

And at a U.N. conference in Kobe, Japan, wealthy nations pledged about \$8 million for a network of detection buoys in the Indian Ocean to warn coastal residents of future tsunamis. The pledges are enough to cover costs for the first year.

Salvano Briceno, director of the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, said a basic warning system could be operational within 18 months. Experts have said such a system could have saved thou-

sands of lives Dec. 26.

A Pacific system already in place eventually could extend to the Mediterranean, Caribbean and other seas, U.S. officials say.

Associated Press writers Mike Corder in Jakarta and Lely Djuhari and Brian Murphy in Banda Aceh, Indonesia; Jasant Singh in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Dilip Ganguly in Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Kenji Hall in Kobe, Japan, contributed to this report.

### TSUNAMI RELIEF:

**American Red Cross**  
<http://www.redcross.org/donate/donate.html>

**Clothes off our Back**  
<http://www.clothesoffourback.org>

**Disaster Emergency Committee Tsunami Earthquake Appeal**  
<http://www.dec.org.uk>

**Give2Asia**  
<http://www.give2asia.org>

**Habitat for Humanity**  
<http://www.habitat.org>

**Quarters from Kids Tsunami Relief**  
<http://www.quarters-fromkids.org>

**UNICEF**  
<http://www.unicef.org>

**United Nations World Food Programme**  
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