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INTERNATIONAL

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Aleksey Bibikov

Darya Poleshchuk, teacher of English and Polish at secondary school №2 in Shchuchin

Teaching is a great mission

Teacher's Day was celebrated in Belarus on Sunday. More than 111,000 teachers work around the country, so this celebration is rightfully considered to be nationwide. Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated all education workers on their professional holiday. "Your work is a great mission. Time sets global tasks for schools," reads the congratulations message. "The content of education and teaching technologies are being improved. However, the role of the teacher's personality, their professional skills, lifestyle and deeds remain the main condition for the success of the entire educational process."

"Your love for children and your subject, your personal example of a careful attitude towards traditions and national values, your strong civic position bring up real patriots who love their native land," stressed Aleksandr Lukashenko.



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Constitution for the people

The President discussed with the members of the Constitutional Commission proposals to amend the country's Basic Law

In March 2021, by the decision of the Head of State, a Constitutional Commission was established, comprising of 36 people: parliamentarians, scientists, experts, heads of enterprises, representatives of public associations, science and education, culture and sports. It was chaired by the Chairman of the Constitutional Court, Honoured Lawyer of Belarus, Piotr Miklashevich. The Commission was instructed to develop proposals to amend the Basic Law of Belarus and ensure their nationwide discussion. In due time, the draft of the updated Constitution was submitted to the President. After familiarising himself with the innovations, the Head of State took part in an expanded meeting of the Constitutional Commission.



Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that a large number of people, including public associations, responded to the call to take part in the development of the new version of the Basic Law, "You had to study in detail all the proposals and initiatives, analyse the world experience of state building and modern trends in the development of constitutional legislation. This is definitely a great work."

The President named a number of areas in the proposed draft of the Basic Law, with which he agrees and which appeal to him.

Firstly, it is the consolidation of the values of society in the Constitution, including the preservation of the historical truth and memory of the feat of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War.

"In my opinion, this is absolutely correct. It is patriotism and historical memory that make us really one nation," stressed the Belarusian leader. "If we focus on this in the Constitution, then let's say it in a worldly way, it will not hinder us, it will not contradict the norms and principles of jurisprudence."

Secondly, the Head of State considers it correct to preserve the constitutional principles aimed at ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belarus.

"With them, we have established ourselves as a nation, as a sovereign state, which our people have dreamed of for centuries," he emphasised.

Thirdly, the Basic Law proposes to preserve the continuity of the social policy of the state and even increase the level of social protection of citizens.

"I agree with this. It corresponds to the state course, which is supported by the majority of the country's citizens," asserted Aleksandr Lukashenko. "But here there is a danger of slipping into preferential treatment of everything and everyone. This should not be allowed in any case. Social security is not an extension of benefits."

The Belarusian leader believes that the new Constitution should provide, if possible, greater opportunities for people's self-realisation than the current one, "Our people are very attached to the state and believe that the state should do everything (most citizens, not all): from repairing fences to building housing."

According to the President, in future, the situation should gradually change.

The Head of State is convinced that Belarusians will positively perceive the commission's proposals on securing guarantees for pensions, support for families with children, the value of family and marriage and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

expand guarantees of the judicial protection of citizens' rights. Almost everything that we began to talk about long before the start of the work of the Constitutional Commission has been worked out," noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

There is a question

Aleksandr Lukashenko focused on some controversial issues that arose during the work of the commission, "I have not found transitional provisions that give answers to the questions: how will the authorities act after the adoption of the Constitution? How will the All-Belarusian People's Congress be formed? How will the human rights ombudsman work? The draft does not include decrees.



Piotr Miklashevich, Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, reporting to the President on the results of the work, noted that the essence of the proposed changes is to preserve the presidential form of government, while the functions and powers of the President, Parliament and Government will be clarified. According to the Head of the Commission, it is planned to change 53 articles of the Basic Law, add 14 new ones and exclude 3 articles.

Another proposal of the Constitutional Commission concerns the political system of the country and is aimed at making it more harmonious and balanced by redistributing the powers of the President, Parliament and Government, establishing the constitutional status of the All-Belarusian People's Congress and the Central Election Commission.

"It was also proposed to

In this case, what will happen to the decrees already published? There is no answer, what will be the mechanism for holding elections on a single voting day with the early dissolution of the chambers of Parliament."

The Head of State considers it right if legal experts are engaged in the subsequent refinement of the draft Constitution, who — in a short time — will finalise the text, taking into account the

results of the discussion, and eliminate legal contradictions.

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko underlined, "It is important that all the work on constitutional construction should become the basis for the consolidation of Belarusian society, lay a solid legal foundation for the development of the country in the future. I am sure it will be so because the final decision will be made by the people. As I said, the referendum will take place no later than February next year."

The President noted that there are different points of view in society, especially among people who have done a lot for the formation of the state, "You yourself understand that the essence of life is to constantly change. It should only be beneficial. Change is not breakage, not destruction, it is evolutionary development. We have already decided on this. The Constitution is needed because normal progress is needed."

A clear goal

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that when changing the Constitution, two main questions must be answered: why this is being done and who needs it.

The Head of State noted that the Constitution is being made for the Belarusian people, "I will advise you, when you touch the draft Constitution, think about your children. Because they are to live well. Though we are not going to go away yet."

Aleksandr Lukashenko appealed to the members of the Constitutional Commission and stressed that they would be responsible for the decisions made. The President also expressed the opinion that, by the time of the referendum, the country should come to the version of the Constitution that our people need, and which will create the basis for the development of our state, "Through change, but not breakage."

Work will continue

Summing up the results of the discussion, the President

determined how and who will finalise the draft of the new Constitution before the referendum, "This is not the last meeting for us. I will repeat what I have already said. The Belarus President Administration will prepare a presidential executive order. In accordance with this document, a group will be created to finalise and improve the draft of the Constitution. We will meet often in order to answer certain questions. Before the submission of the draft for public consideration, we will have another meeting with you. The commission will not cease to exist. It will continue to work. You will know the members of the group. Please, submit your proposals to them," said the Head of State.

"After the public discussions, the group of lawyers will scrutinise the document and make final adjustments using judicial language. Then the document will be put to a referendum. Lawyers will work on it. This group must include specialists, economists and government officials."

After polishing the current draft and its nationwide discussion, lawyers will finalise the document and submit it to the President for subsequent submission to a referendum.

Aleksandr Lukashenko set clear tasks and deadlines, "It is necessary to make a proposal for this group within the next week, so that we finalise the Constitution within at least a month. Then we will get together, we will discuss it again, we will submit it for the consideration of the people. And in the end, the lawyers will finalise it. We will meet again with you before making a referendum. You will receive the project in advance, read it, review it and make a final decision."

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that a referendum on the new version of the Constitution of Belarus will take place no later than February 2022.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

The meeting took place on the day of farewell to the deceased KGB officer Dmitry Fedosyuk and therefore began with a minute of silence (details of the tragedy on page 5).

Aleksandr Lukashenko revealed some details of the incident, stressing that the investigation will dot all the i's. At the same time, the Belarusian leader commented on criticism for the security forces for the fact that they worked without bulletproof vests during a military operation, "This was the first question I asked Tertel when I was just informed, a few minutes later, about this incident: why were they without protective equipment?"

However, the security officials themselves explain that when they work in full gear, 'people are worried, they perceive us badly'. Therefore, these checks were conducted in this way; and these were simply checks, not a special operation.

"The guys did not want to once again, as they say, draw attention to themselves, while protecting people. I emphasise once again: it was not an operation, they were sweeping a huge area after previously getting tips about the involvement of certain individuals in terrorism attempts."

He also clarified that the work was carried out from that morning, and by the time of the incident (2pm) many people had been detained, "They are now giving statements. We will show all of them to you now. They use the title 'Rabochy Rukh'."

The apartment where a group of employees came, including Dmitry Fedosyuk, was also

Details of the KGB officer's feat and secret terrorist cells. Patriotism and professionalism of personnel. What else did the Head of State talk about at a meeting with the leadership of the President Administration.

Important conversation



among the addresses subject to planned development. The President continued to talk about the details of what happened, "In the course of this work a local police department alerted them about a phone call for help from an apartment in the area they were working in, where something had happened..."

"We can now suspect why the call was made. The guys saw the address was also on their list, there was a call for help, something may have happened there. And as good Slavs, as good Belarusians they rushed to this apartment. They knocked on the door, but nobody opened it. The second call for help was made to the same police department. You've seen it all. The door was broken down, people went inside to help, to help the scoundrels calling from this apartment."

As the Head of State specified, both the man and the woman called, while he stressed

that those who were in the apartment were preparing for the shooting, "Nobody intended to die there. They wanted to broadcast it in real time (we know this already) over there, to Poland, to America."

The President also spoke about what happened next when the group got into the apartment, *"Dima was ahead of the others. He was actually covering the team by being the first to run into the apartment. The guys saw a person with a gun, just several seconds, and as usual they shouted: 'Weapons on the floor!'. Instead this scumbag shot at Dmitry. He hit him right in the heart. And as Dmitry was dying, he shot twice to kill his murderer, he couldn't fire the third time."*

Terrorist cells

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, a large amount of information has been received,

which indicates that preparations for the provocation were carried out in advance. In addition, a link was discovered between the gunman and the extremist network, Rabochy Rukh. Commenting on the sweeps that began to be carried out, the President drew attention to the fact that after the assassination attempt on Grigory Azarenok and Oleg Gaidukevich, many different operations were carried out, "Then I honestly said: 'That's it, it's intolerable, people will not understand us'. Therefore, various kinds of NGOs were shut down in the country. Maybe, not all of them but all sorts of 'media outlets'. Rabochy Rukh came to light. What did this IT specialist [who killed Dmitry Fedosyuk] who got paid 10 times more than an ordinary worker have to do with these workers? Nothing. These are ordinary European-style IS cells in the territory of Belarus... When we started confronting these scoundrels, we saw what kind of 'movement' it was. These are ordinary terrorists, they are now confessing and saying where they were planning to commit terrorist acts."

The Head of State once again clarified the position of the country's leadership, "We will use a targeted and careful approach with the assistance of the security service and other agencies of

the Ministry of Internal Affairs to investigate the activities of different people, different organisations, and other things. We have enough wits to deal with every scoundrel."

According to him, work to identify such people is being carried out in all areas, starting with those who 'chat' and 'post', "We got our hands on all accounts. We see what these people are worth. If some scoundrels like Tsepkalo and others think that they are unreachable abroad, they are mistaken. We will not forgive the death of this man."

Professional approach

During the meeting, the President named the main characteristics that should be decisive for any employee of the state apparatus, *"At the forefront is the purity of personnel. Professionals with a firm state position, patriots, should work in government structures... In a protracted pandemic and unprecedented challenges to our statehood, strategic planning and speed of response towards changes in the situation in the country and worldwide as a whole are also becoming the most important factors in organising the activities of the Administration."*

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

By Dmitry Kryat, Polina Konoga

Honest diplomacy

The President of Belarus received credentials of the new heads of diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan, Armenia, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Tunisia and South Africa. Speaking with the diplomats, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, "As a matter of priority, Belarus intends to build friendly relations with those states that really respect our sovereignty and independence, who respect our people and with those who are ready to develop co-operation with us honestly and openly... The beginning of your diplomatic mission falls during a period of important transformations in Belarus. But we are not talking about a global change of priorities. This is primarily an internal affair of our country. To ensure the dynamics of the further development of Belarusian society, to adjust the domestic and foreign policy in the country, there is objectively a need for changes."



The President touched on the topic of migration, which has recently received a wide response, "Our country has always been a responsible participant in collective efforts to combat smuggling and human trafficking. We are ready to be such in the future, but only on condition of respectful attitude towards us, and not under the pressure of sanctions and ultimatums, especially hybrid wars."

The Head of State also said that, as a serious industrial hub, Belarus can carry out profitable supplies of agricultural and mining equipment, potash fertilisers, petrochemical and pharmaceutical products to the countries of Asia and Africa.

Vectors of co-operation

Azerbaijan has been and remains our strategic partner, a fraternal state that consistently and disinterestedly supports Belarus. Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, "Our country and me personally are sincerely grateful to the entire Azerbaijani people and my friend President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, for their trust and reliability."

The Head of State also emphasised that traditionally friendly relations, common history and close interpersonal contacts connect us with

Armenia, "Our countries interact within the framework of integration structures, in most cases speaking from a unified position. So far, the significant potential of bilateral interaction has not been fully realised. However, Belarus is open to proposals for the further development of strong relations with Armenia in all areas."

The Head of State noted that the international situation

increases the importance of collaboration with the countries of the 'distant arc' for Belarus. The Indian vector is among the priorities, "We highly value the relationship with India based on friendship, trust and mutual understanding. Minsk and New Delhi are the most important partners, and the potential for bilateral co-operation is limitless. I would like to especially accentuate the striving of Bela-

rus to build constructive relations with all countries which are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations."

The Republic of Indonesia is our key partner in this association. The President said, "Our citizens, representatives of business and scientific circles know Indonesia not only as a tourist pearl, but also as a country with a dynamically developing economy, high human and scientific potential."

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that over the past decades, Malaysia has made a huge leap forward in its development, "We are very interested in your experience of transformation of the state."

The President noted that Belarus sees Mongolia as a reliable and promising partner, "We are interested in continuing the implementation of joint projects. Recently, our states have achieved a lot, but I know we still have additional opportunities for further development of mutually beneficial interaction."

The Head of State underlined that Belarus is showing interest in liaising with Lebanon, "Our countries have significant potential in various areas."

Our country considers Tunisia as a promising partner in North Africa, "We are interested in enhancing comprehensive relations. We should be more active in looking for areas that will strengthen our interaction. First of all, this applies to the spheres of tourism and healthcare."

According to the President, Belarus is ready to further promote interaction with the Republic of South Africa, "We can offer South Africa modern integrated solutions in the field of agricultural mechanisation, current scientific developments, technology and knowledge transfer and educational services."

What the President of Belarus said in an interview with CNN and why this conversation was a cold shower for the collective West

Truth versus fakes



Aleksandr Lukashenko's interview with CNN TV Channel was not just sharp. It has clearly highlighted the true face of western journalism, which is as far from freedom of speech as the Earth is from the Moon. Matthew Chance, a Briton who works for American CNN in the Moscow bureau, came to Minsk as an interviewer. He came with a pre-prepared set of 'hot' facts and 'loud' sensations from the category of unsubstantiated accusations and sometimes outright slander. However, the Belarusian leader patiently, convincingly and reasonably responded to all the reporter's attacks. He spoke in detail about the migration crisis, naming the reasons and perpetrators of the current situation, spoke about the fugitive 'would-be revolutionaries', commented on fabrications around the Ryanair plane landing,

once again outlined the position of Belarus on integration with Russia and sovereignty. Here are some quotes from the Head of State.



By Dmitry Kryat, Yvgeny Kononovich, Polina Konoga, Svetlana Isaenok, Yulia Demeshko

On unwillingness of Minsk residents to talk to CNN

The guest began the conversation with an offensive start. Matthew complained to the President that he was walking along the streets of Minsk in an effort to communicate with passers-by, and everyone ignored him. Maybe, of course, the Americans themselves, at the sight of the CNN logo, fall to their knees and begin to bow earnestly, but this is not customary in Minsk. Moreover, the attitude to the tented channel after its style of coverage of last year's Belarusian events, let's say, is not very good. Aleksandr Lukashenko sympathised with the journalist, but remarked, "You said that you are from CNN and the overwhelming majority of people in Minsk did not want to talk to you, right? People in Minsk are very intelligent, wise, talented and educated. They know what CNN stands for. There was a CNN journalist recently at the 'Big Conversation with the President' and we showed CNN's position live. So in Minsk, people know very well that your channel is biased, and they simply didn't want to talk to you about it, because they knew that you were going to distort anything they said anyway. And the fact that the people of Minsk didn't want to talk to you — look, that's your problem."

Matthew tried to twist the case in his direction... and spoke of the 'atmosphere of fear'. The President, realising how hard it is for a journalist to promote the agenda he needs, smiled condescendingly, "An atmosphere of fear? Lies! Matthew, you're lying, excuse me. You were walking through Minsk? Without security, without the security service, no one accompanied you, and I don't see any fear in your eyes today. So why should our people be afraid?"

"The main thing in the image of our state, our trick, if I may say so, is that our people are not afraid to go out with little kids, including in baby strollers, neither at night, nor in the evening, nor during the day. This is our property. And I am ready to defend this position at any level, with any person. And I do

not believe that you — being in Minsk — were afraid of anything. I just don't believe it. This is a pre-created lie by CNN. Maybe, someone needs this."

On opposition

At some point, Matthew decided to go through the personalities. How can it be without a woman who, like a monkey, is dragged through various western offices and shown as an overseas curiosity. Like, here's a real leader ... To which the Head of State just shrugged his shoulders, "The female persona — I'm not going to discuss her. I don't fight with women. And I don't want to characterise her in any way."

Returning to a serious tone, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, "With regard to leadership in the opposition... God grant that I always have such an opposition as it is now. Opposition leaders are those who live in this country, have a different point of view and, expressing it, fight for the implementation of this alternative point of view. There are no such characters [from among the fugitives] in Belarus. They are out there somewhere, with you. Your money supports them."

On the true goals of the runaways

Chance tried to warm up the topic. How is it that they are recognised, they are also spoken to and all this sort of things for fall guys. But again he ran into weighty arguments from the President, "If there are revolutionaries and they have got themselves involved in a revolution, moreover, tried to win a blitzkrieg here with foreign money — they need to be prepared for anything. But if you wanted to make money out of this or cause chaos, well that's a different issue. After all, I swear by my children that Tikhanovskaya was not fleeing anywhere. She asked me to take her to the Lithuanian border, not only her but a few other people too, which is what I did."

"Let those who have got themselves involved in a revolution go to the end. They know what a revolution is and its consequences. Escaped? So this are crooks who wanted to make money out of it. Which they did. Recent events prove it. So you are either misinformed or you are trying to misinform your viewers and listeners.

On human rights

Perhaps this is the most beloved mantra of western media. If things don't go according to plan, start a fuss about human rights. They say, admit they are violated in Belarus. Did Chance and his curators really expect the Belarusian leader to repent for something? Literally from the very first words of the President's answer, the journalist began to deflate.

"You are trying to accuse me of something but let me give you some facts about human rights. You recently delivered a strike on Afghanistan on suspicion of terrorism, and you hit a family... **12 children died. Did you see those people clinging on to the chassis and dying in Kabul? You spent 20 years killing people there. So please calm down about deaths and dying and so on.**"

Matthew Chance was very nervous when the conversation got away from the direction that he needed. The Afghan theme caused him to panic. He began to talk a lot, diverting the conversation aside. The same horror was evident in his behaviour when the President mentioned the murder of an American citizen in Congress. The curators clearly did not give Matthew instructions to touch on these very uncomfortable problems, because IT'S DIFFERENT. And then the main function of the visiting journalist began to emerge. He is not interested in Belarus. And he would like to see in the interlocutor only a tool for confirming the picture of the world that his channel draws. Truth is not needed here in principle.

On charges of 'revenge' on the EU for the sanctions

Throughout the interview, Matthew Chance tried in every possible way to show his independence and assertiveness. At some minutes, he frantically gestured, raised his voice, interrupted his counterpart, which went beyond journalistic ethics, requiring a reporter to listen and hear the interlocutor. The TV man was clearly working out the obligatory programme, 'drawn' for him by the management. The journalist, now and then burying himself in a piece of paper, continued to pepper the conversation with fake news and speculation. For example, isn't Lukashenko using migrants

as revenge of the EU for sanctions against Belarus? And he again received an exhaustive answer from the President:

"Can you prove that I decided to take revenge on the European Union? Do you think I'm a madman? I have a small Central European country, covering only 210,000 square kilometres. Can I dictate terms to half a billion people with 10 million? I'm not going to take revenge on anyone. We have lived without the European Union and will live for many more years. Besides you, the world is huge. And what we need to sell (the main question is to sell what we produce), Russia alone can take it all. But we also have China with 1.5 billion, our friend, and we'll sell things there. We will sell to Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India. We have normal relations with them. We can do without you and without America. We will manage in the future as well. **Only weak people can take revenge. Forgive me for being immodest, I do not consider myself a weakling.**"

Instead of an afterword

"President Lukashenko, thank you very much for the conversation," thanks Matthew Chance. The Head of State once again clarifies: did he ask everything he wanted? Having received an affirmative answer, he thanked him with a kind smile, "Thank you, you are an interesting conversationalist."

And then one remark from the First Person. At first, as it may seem, personally to the journalist. But if you think about it — to all of us, people and governments on different continents, "Matthew, I would like you (it is a solid channel, we watch this channel at home, my youngest son speaks English very well, he often translates for me) to be more objective and honest."



The world is very small. The planet seems to be big, but it is so small. And no matter how different we are, we will live with you on this planet. Therefore, let's live together.



People carry flowers to the KGB building in Minsk in memory of the deceased employee

It won't go unpunished

On September 28th, a tragic event took place that divided our life into before and after. A KGB officer who was doing his duty was killed. From now on, all efforts to counter the forces trying to destroy our country will be weighed against the cost of the life of the 31-year-old employee, known under the code name Nirvana. A wife and a four-year-old daughter were left without a husband and father.

It was you — the runaways — who pushed your duped adherents to buy weapons, make caches of weapons and create bandit groups. It was you who called for terror, bragged about your connection with local saboteurs. It is you who threaten us with new victims, blackmail us with sanctions. It's blood on your hands.

By Roman Rud, Lyudmila Gladkaya

Chronicle of events

At first, events developed according to a banal scenario. KGB officers worked out addresses where people — involved in terrorist activities — could be located. That is, they went in, examined the housing, talked with the suspect — if there was reason — they were detained. In one of the apartments, the door was not opened for them. The whole country could hear, having watched the video, how the owner had been exhorted for a long time to let the law enforcement officers in. They knocked, introduced themselves, begged them not to play the fool... The officers couldn't know that at the very moment, the supposedly harmless employee of EPAM Systems was rapidly turning into a murderer: he loaded a hunting rifle with cartridges, installed a phone with a working video camera on the chest of drawers, took pictures of himself, pointing the barrel at side of the hallway... His wife was moving around, choosing the best angle for shooting the upcoming bloody performance. That is, both participants in the impending crime understood perfectly well that they were preparing to capture someone else's death. However, neither the woman nor her husband tried for even a second to cancel their plan.

When the KGB officers did manage to enter the apartment, two shots were fired almost immediately: a young officer Dmitry F. was wounded in the heart area from a hunting 'vertical' gun. His colleagues pulled

him out of the line of fire through the blood-stained floor of the hallway. We all heard a desperate cry: "Nirvana is wounded! Pull out Dima!" Unfortunately, he was dragged out on the verge of death; a little later the officer died from his injuries in the hospital.

The following events are described in the dry language of the General Prosecutor's Office: 'The KGB officers — acting on the basis of the law on state security agencies — proceeding from the current situation, in response to an armed attack, used firearms, causing the criminal to suffer injuries from which he died.

The prosecutor's check established that the KGB officers acted within the limits of the granted rights and in accordance with the law'.



Screenshot of video from the scene

Heroes and enemies

One important and literally heart-breaking moment we want to mention. They say that even professional psychologists who worked with the family of the deceased Dmitry could not hold back tears when the officer's four-year-old daughter asked the adults: "Where is dad? Why hasn't daddy come?" I think that these questions of the child should be addressed to one woman who is now in Vilnius. It was Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, speaking recently in front of her group of runaways, proudly emphasising that she fully supports the actions of the 'partisans' in Belarus and, moreover, 'is constantly in touch with them'. That is, she not only approves of the actions of the terrorists, but also provokes new 'actions', push-

WORD - FOR - WORD

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko condolences and empathises with the family and friends of the KGB officer who died in Minsk the previous day.

The Press Secretary of the Head of State, Natalya Eismont, outlined his words to reporters.

She noted that the tragedy took place during an expanded session of the Constitutional Commission, attended by Aleksandr Lukashenko, "The session was nearly over. In the current situation the President gets informed so fast that the Head of State learned about what had happened 2-3 minutes after the shots were fired," noted the Press Secretary.

On the President's instructions, the KGB Chief went to the site of the incident. One hour later the President was informed about all the circumstances of the tragedy in detail. According to their information, the Internal Affairs Ministry and the State Security Committee said that a person implicated in preparations for a terrorist attack in Belarus lived in the apartment raided by the special unit.

"Attempts to literally explode the situation in Belarus continue unabated and not everything about it has been said yet. After getting information about yet another threat the relevant agencies had to verify it and act upon it," noted Natalya Eismont. The Press Secretary stated that, after hearing the reports, the Head of State gave instructions to provide all kinds of support and assistance to the family of the dead KGB officer and his parents. "The President condoles and strongly empathises with the family and friends of this guy," the Press Secretary said.

"Instructions to thoroughly investigate what had happened were also given. I would like to draw attention to the following words of the President:

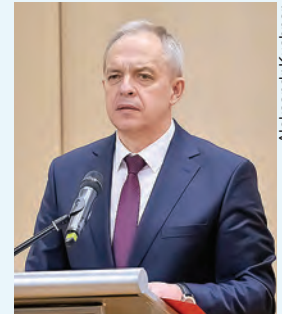
"The response to what happened will be immediate and most severe. What happened yesterday will not be left unpunished."

DIRECT SPEECH

Igor Sergeyenko, Head of the President Administration:

On behalf of everyone who protects peace and ensures the safety of citizens, on behalf of the inhabitants of our country, who carry flowers and light lamps at the place of work of the deceased and other memorable places, I appeal to those who crossed the red line. I warn you: the owners of the shops where, as you know, the so-called war leaflets are sold, propagating extremism, violence and crime; those gloating, calling themselves journalists, and all those who played in the 'revolution' here and abroad — you will answer before the law.

Don't even try to mop up your social media accounts. Everyone who saw a sacred victim in the criminal, who stepped over the tears of a four-year-old child, who created hype around the grief of the officer's family, will be found. Today you showed your true face: unprincipled, mean and immoral. You have become on a par with criminals and their accomplices. The choice has been made. There is no excuse for this, there is no excuse for this.



Aleksandr Kushner

And what about these preachers of double standards, runaway women of the western special services, who are so zealously invested in the development of the terrorist movement in Belarus? All this ruff-raff was silent for almost a day, by the end of the next day they voiced the comments approved by their bosses. In parallel, the address of the family of the deceased officer and his mother were posted on the network. For what? Is their grief worthless?

The scavengers who create a victim from another criminal and even compare both deaths should know: a terrorist cannot be good or bad. He may have family, friends, work — but this is all a screen. At any moment the terrorist will pick up a gun and without hesitation will shoot at you, your child, or will release a clip at classmates or completely random people. As one wise politician said, a terrorist has no face, no nationality and no homeland. He is the enemy of all mankind.

The deceased officer is a hero who gave his life so that such thugs as Zeltser, Avtukhovich and others, would not point a weapon at you and your family.

May his memory live forever.

ing weak-minded young people to murder. Now the tears of the officer's daughter and the grief of his family will be a heavy burden and an indelible stain on this lady's conscience. If there is anything left of it...



The Belarusian Industrial and Innovation Forum in Minsk was a venue for the largest Russian and Belarusian state and private companies. A wide industrial exhibition by Iran was presented here for the first time. During the business programme of the forum, experts discussed the development of international industrial co-operation, increasing the level of localisation, as well as import substitution. The participants exchanged views at thematic sections on ensuring the uniformity of measurements, strategies for innovative interaction and the development of additive technologies. The event was attended by foreign trade representatives. The 17th welding competition was held, where more than two hundred highly qualified specialists demonstrated their skills.



The emphasis of the event has traditionally been placed on modern innovations in industrial products, new technologies and the development of international relations



Good starting point



The forum is a convenient platform for finding new business contacts



Innovations in industrial products, new technologies and development of international relations: Minsk hosted the Belarusian Industrial and Innovation Forum

By Ilya Kryzhevich

Eventful days

According to the Director of the EXPOFORUM exhibition company, Aleksandr Starikov, the Belarusian Industrial and Innovation Forum changes its content every year. However, the emphasis is traditionally placed on modern innovations in industrial products, new technologies and the development of international relations. The participants, among whom were representatives of many countries and large industrial enterprises, included representatives of private businesses from the Volgograd and Moscow regions.

“For example, the Volgograd development, which was brought to our exhibition for the first time, is a 5D printer. The innovation attracted visitors like a magnet,” noted Mr. Starikov.

The St. Petersburg Export Support Centre presented a collective stand of eight export-oriented St. Petersburg organisations that are engaged in the production of innovative equipment and solutions: laser processing machines, springs, a wide range of radio equipment, water heaters, loudspeaker equipment, visual warning devices, etc.

For the first time, a large-scale exhibition by Iran was demonstrated at the forum’s exhibition.

“It was industrial enterprises that were gathered here. Iranian business is trying its hand in our country, offering

for example, equipment for the ventilation of premises. Iranian companies already have their first orders.”

The petrochemical industry was widely represented at the forum. The *Chemistry. Oil and Gas* exposition was attended by the enterprises of the Belneftekhim Concern and a collective stand by the enterprises of the oil and gas industry from Orenburg was organised. The general partner of the exhibition is the Gomel Chemical Plant.

A number of innovative start-ups were represented in the scientific sector. The guests were especially interested in the exposition of the Minsk City Technopark, where start-ups are launched on preferential terms: they give them the opportunity to develop, offer funding, and provide equipment.

Institutions and organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Education Ministry demonstrated their exhibits at the collective stand of the State Committee for Science and Technology. Among the most interesting developments is the MAZ 4381 EE electric truck — designed for intracity and suburban transportation of goods up to 4.5 tonnes, as well as automated 5-axis plasma and waterjet cutting systems.

An extensive programme

Within the framework of the Belarusian Industrial and Innovation Forum, the 17th competition of welders was held, traditionally attended by the organisations of the

Industry Ministry, the Ministry of Construction and Architecture, the Energy Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Ministry of Housing and Utilities and Belneftekhim.

“More than 200 welders worked in specially equipped tents,” said Mr. Starikov. “The competition was very intense, with judges evaluating the skill of experienced high-class specialists.”

On the final day of the forum, the results were summed up and the best were rewarded.

Specialists from different countries, including China and Ukraine, participate in this competition from year to year. This year there are many participants from Russia.

An extensive business programme was also held. Within the framework of the panel section, experts discussed the prospects for the development of additive technologies in Belarus. At the section of the State Committee for Standardisation, experts shared their views on ensuring the uniformity of measurements. A sectional session of the international symposium *Technologies. Equipment. Quality Topical Issues of Accreditation* was also held.

Moreover, the forum was attended by heads and representatives of diplomatic institutions of more than thirty countries, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Venezuela, Poland, Ukraine, Finland, Switzerland, Japan. The guests were introduced to the expositions at the forum and told about the most interesting developments.

Co-operation programme

Metropolitan Veniamin: priests and monks actively promote the vaccination campaign



Dmitry Pinevich

Representatives of the Healthcare Ministry and the Belarusian Orthodox Church met at the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (BelMAPO) to discuss a programme of joint co-operation for the next few years. They talked about projects that doctors can implement together with church officials, as well as what has already been achieved. Separately, the main speakers touched on the topic of the vaccination campaign, concluding that everyone should approach this issue wisely and carefully. After all, it now depends on us when, and most importantly, how the pandemic will end.



Metropolitan Veniamin

By **Khristina Glushko**

Church and doctors have long been linked by close interaction, which every year becomes more and more productive. Healthcare Minister Dmitry Pinevich described the areas where joint work is being carried out today, “We touch upon issues of family problems, prevention of abortions, healthy lifestyles and quality of life. Of course, we also liaise on acute problems — this primarily concerns mental illness, alcohol and drug addiction. It seems to me that our interaction is indicative, and we can be proud of the positive results.”

The Minister noted that he has a very positive attitude to the recent address of Metropolitan Veniamin on the topic of vaccination, “My inspection of the red zones of different clinics is intensive, I have just returned from the 1st hospital. There, in the intensive care unit, I saw one patient who was vaccinated: she is not on ALV, but on high-flow oxygen, and all the doctors note that the woman responds well to treatment. That is, this once again confirms that vaccina-

tion is the most effective method in the fight against the virus. As we know, the church is not against vaccination, so if the congregation hears the priest’s voice, it will help us a lot.”

In turn, Metropolitan Veniamin emphasised that many clergymen, especially the older generation, are fully vaccinated, “I know that in some monasteries absolutely all the inhabitants were vaccinated, in some — selectively. This issue is resolved locally, depending on how often the monk communicates with

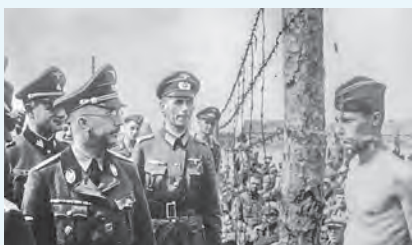
people. It’s important to understand that it’s wrong to force something, but you need to explain and answer questions. Vaccination is a concern for many now, but we know that vaccination is a business that has been going on for centuries, and thanks to it, it was possible to save the lives of many people. Indeed, there are some issues that keep a person from being vaccinated, but I think they should be addressed during a confidential conversation between a person and a doctor.”



“The Apostle tells us: ‘They were afraid where there is no fear’. That is, you do not need to worry too much about something, because this can cause more harm. It’s also important to be guided by the words of the Apostle Paul, who says that everyone should act according to the assurance of their heart. After prayer and reasoning, a person will internally feel what decision to make. Moreover, it is also important not to condemn those who did or did not get vaccinated for some reason — everyone has their own problems. We must find the right solution in peace and harmony.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Materials on the genocide of the Belarusian people will be presented to the world community by the end of the year



According to the Prosecutor General of Belarus Andrei Shved, the materials related to the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War are being summarised and by the end of the year will be distributed to all the Attorneys General of the European Union and other countries that are members of the International Association of Prosecutors.

In the meantime, the investigation of the criminal case on the genocide continues. To date, about 200 previously unknown places of mass destruction and burial of civilians and soldiers of the Red Army have been established. The data processing and filling of the interactive map of the burned villages is nearing completion. The work with living witnesses of the genocide has been practically completed.

Belarusian-Ukrainian Business Council established

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Ukraine, Igor Sokol, took part in a videoconference in the founding meeting of the Belarusian-Ukrainian Business Council. This was reported by the Belarusian diplomatic mission in Kiev.



On the Ukrainian side, the council included the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (USPP), the Association League of Machine Builders and Employers of Ukraine (Ukrmashbud), the Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation, the Union of Chemists of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Association of Light Industry Enterprises (Ukrlegprom).

The meeting participants exchanged views on the development of trade-economic relations between Belarus and Ukraine, made proposals on the main areas of activity of the established structure.

Belarus and China discuss the creation of joint ventures

According to the press service of the Economy Ministry, the first meeting of the working group on trade facilitation of the Commission on Trade-Economic Co-operation of the Chinese-Belarusian Intergovernmental Committee on Co-operation took place online. The meeting was attended by representatives of interested departments, embassies, chambers of commerce, and business circles of the two countries.



The participants discussed the current state and prospects for the development of bilateral interaction to eliminate barriers in mutual trade. In particular, they discussed issues of accreditation and certification of new types of products and Belarusian enterprises, the nuances of logistics and interaction in the transport sector, strengthening collaboration between chambers of commerce of China and Belarus, as well as the creation of joint ventures.

Belarus improved its position in the world food safety ranking

Belarus is in 23rd place among 113 states in the 2020 Global Food Security Index, according to the official Telegram channel of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. As the department noted, Russia is in 24th place in this rating, Kazakhstan — 32nd, Azerbaijan — 56th, Uzbekistan — 83rd, Tajikistan — 85th, Poland — 25th, Spain — 26th, Hungary — 36th, Bulgaria — 44th, Ukraine — 54th. In 2019, Belarus was ranked 36th.

“The demand of Belarus’ population for meat and dairy products is fully met by products of its own production. Production of meat in the country per capita exceeds its consumption by 38.4 percent, milk and



dairy products — 3.4-fold. Milk production per capita population is 828kg/person with a consumption of 244kg/person, and meat production — 137kg/person with a consumption of 99kg/person.



Illegally pushed back at the border

The human rights organisation Amnesty International has said Poland carried out an unlawful pushback of a group of migrants camped out on its border with Belarus

Poland in late August illegally turned back Afghan refugees who were stranded on the border with Belarus, the rights organisation said, citing an analysis of satellite imagery and other photos and videos.

A group of 32 refugees, including a 15-year-old girl, are stuck in precarious conditions on the Belarusian side of the border, with no access to food, clean water, shelter or medicine, Amnesty said.

The Director of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office, Eve Geddie, said the organisation has ev-

idence 'strongly suggesting' that the Afghan refugees 'were victims of an unlawful forced return'.

Poland has sealed off the 418km border and declared a state of emergency, officially banning journalists and aid organisations from entering.

"Forcing people back who are trying to claim asylum without an individual assessment of their protection needs is against European and international law," Geddie said.

The human rights group called on Poland to provide the migrants with shelter, food and

water, as well as access to lawyers and medical care.

A few days ago, the UN made a statement about possible human rights violations related to the detention of migrants in Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. Moreover, IOM and UNHCR call for immediate access to those affected, in order to provide lifesaving medical help, food, water and shelter, especially in light of the approaching winter.

Minister of Justice of Hungary, Judit Varga, accused the EU of double standards against the background of the migra-

tion crisis. She posted the corresponding message on her Facebook account.

Judit Varga compared the current situation with migrants in Lithuania to that in Hungary in 2015. "Do we remember what happened in 2015, when we were the first and almost the only one in Europe to defend our borders? At that time, western left-liberal politicians and the Brussels bubble protested against the Hungarian rules, and this topic has not been removed since then off the agenda," she wrote.

Judit Varga continued, "The

European Court has found that Hungarian migration management measures violate European law. At the same time, the European Commission did not react to similar measures taken by Lithuania. Surprisingly, the supporters of the rule of law are now silent," she said, adding, "There is nowhere an official letter from the Commission or a bad word against Lithuania's measures."

"This example proves once again that European institutions continue to apply double standards at an unprecedented level," concluded Judit Varga.



Revising visa-free travel

EU countries mull curbing visa-free travel for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and the Western Balkan states due to 'abuses'

Alleged abuses perpetrated by some Western Balkan states, as well as Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine, have prompted some European Union members to raise the possibility of cancelling the visa-free travel regime to the bloc, according to an internal EU document.

Among the abuses cited are unlawful residency and unfounded asylum claims.

The document comes as European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen tours the Western Balkans.

According to the document, Germany, France, and Italy have recently become more and more frustrated with alleged abuses of visa-free travel. It men-

tions surges in 'unauthorised residence offenses' perpetrated by citizens of Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, and Serbia.

The document also listed a more than 50 percent increase in Georgian asylum claims over the past three months, compared to the same period in the pre-coronavirus pandemic year of 2019.

Under the so-called Visa Suspension Mechanism, a rise of more than 50 percent in illegal stays or asylum applications with low approval rates can lead to visas being reintroduced.

Furthermore, refusal by governments to readmit their nationals can also see the return of visas.

'Take the Money and Run'

Danish artist Jens Haaning takes museum's money and runs in protest over 'miserable' work conditions

A Danish artist is refusing to pay over €70,000 back to a local art museum in protest at what he called 'miserable' working conditions and low pay.

Artist Jens Haaning received €71,808 from the Kunsten Museum of Modern Art in Aalborg to recreate two previous works of art for an exhibition entitled *Work it Out*, focused on the relationship between art and working life.

The museum expected Haaning to send them back two picture frames containing the cash, which would visualise the average annual income of a person in Denmark and Austria.

What they got were two empty frames

and a note saying that Haaning had pocketed the money in order to create a new conceptual art piece called *Take the Money and Run*.

Kunsten confirmed that Haaning's move was unexpected.

"The curator received an email in which Jens Haaning wrote that he had made the work and the work title into *Take the Money and Run*. Subsequently, we could ascertain that the money had not been put into the work," a museum spokesperson said.



A view of Jens Haaning's *Take the Money and Run* displayed in the Kunsten Museum, Denmark

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

A shrine with a difficult past



Aleksey Stolyarov



Ten-year reconstruction of Nesvizh's Farny Roman Catholic Church is nearing completion

By Yuliana Leonovich

Long-forgotten past

In 2010, when restoration works began, nobody imagined that the process would take so long. Moreover, the restorers could hardly imagine that their work would be transformed into a surgical operation. After all, these are different tasks: to strengthen the walls, change the roof, repair engineering networks and improve the site or to reveal fragments of numerous murals on the central and side facades.

The first exploration showed that the Belrestavratsiya specialists would have to work hard. Measurements were made, and historical and archival research started. However, historians have not yet found an answer to the main question: why this beauty has been hidden from prying eyes for several centuries.

Prior Piotr Sharko suggests, "Probably, they wanted to preserve the church in this way. The early 19th century inventory books mention multi-coloured paintings. The facade was whitewashed, most likely, after 1812. The then owner of Nesvizh, Dominik Radziwill, fought on the side of Napoleon and many heraldic Radziwill symbols were preserved on the outer walls of the church. Therefore, it was decided not to attract too much attention to it and simply paint over those murals — out of harm's way. As a result, the Roman Catholic Church became less noticeable of course but has survived until modern times. Happily, the murals have not suffered much over the years."

History vs modernity

The Prior is tired of telling people why the restoration works have continued for

The Church of the Body of God in Nesvizh is one of the main Catholic shrines in Belarus. It's a place with a long and very difficult history which strongly echoes that of the whole country. Moreover, it's the first Baroque architectural monument in Eastern Europe and the Radziwills' tomb (the princes' incredible wealth once made it possible to invite the best architects of Europe to Nesvizh).

Over the last decade, other experts have been working here: restorers. Large-scale works launched in 2010 are now nearing the end. If everything goes well, parishioners and tourists will hardly recognise the church next year. It seems that several layers of white plaster on its central facade have hidden late 16th-early 17th centuries paintings for many years. They were later covered with 18th century frescoes and soon it will be possible to enjoy them once again. We simply need to wait until the scaffolding is removed.



Aleksey Stolyarov

so long. "In 2010, a state investment programme was adopted; it planned the church's reconstruction. Each year, a certain sum is allocated from the regional and Republican budgets for a certain amount of work.

Another thing is that all restoration works should be subject to modern general construction standards. However, this doesn't work with architectural monuments (especially those protected by UNESCO) since their historical appearance can change dramatically. Therefore, it is necessary to submit the issue for consideration: how reasonable is it to adjust a 400-year-old church to modern building codes and regulations? Of course, it's important and necessary to comply with fire and other regulations. However, we should not cross a certain line," he explains.

As the Prior recalls, a decade ago, the main problem that needed an urgent solution was the roof. Overall, it had not been repaired since 1944 when it was restored after a fire from an artillery shell. Only minor repairs were carried out. "With this in mind, we addressed the Culture Ministry. Our request was met, and the church was included in the investment programme. Within a year, builders replaced the dome, and it took them two more years to restore all other sides and naves," he adds.

After completing the roof, workers focused on facades: the sides and

facades of the altar part were updated. Then engineering networks (water pipes and sewers) were repaired, and the site around the church was landscaped.

Piotr Sharko says, "Of course, it's much easier to build a building from scratch than to reconstruct a 400-year-old one. Rough work requires large financial costs: dismantling, clearing, garbage removal. However, we've done most of the work by now, thank God."

Front for the organ

Three years ago, the Nesvizh church was covered by the media when the underground tomb of the Radziwill family was heavily flooded with water. Speaking of the present affairs, the Prior notes, "The general works are coming to an end. However, there are still issues with electricity. Experts didn't recommend we put supports in the vaults so there would be no collapses, so they were only strengthened and plastered. For a long time, we couldn't figure out how to comply with building codes, and not to harm it from the point of view of historical compliance. Moreover, in the coming days, we are replacing the steps leading to the crypt: the old wooden ones are completely rotten."

Without financial assistance, restoration of the organ will not be completed soon. Its renovation is not included in the state programme and previous works (cleaning, tuning, replacement of stops) were carried out at the expense of donations from parishioners and patrons. Thanks to the latter, a few years ago, the instrument also got a new German electric motor. However, the Nesvizh organ still doesn't have a beautiful front.

"We thought of ordering a front in Riga. A school operates there and its masters carve altars. They could make a facade for our organ. However, while the borders are locked and the coronavirus is continuing, I can't go there to negotiate," says the Prior.

Construction work will soon be launched in the belfry and St. Roch Chapel which is also known as the Bulgarin Chapel

From a bird's eye view, this city can be compared to an island surrounded by an endless sea, or an exquisite cheese with holes — because of the large number of lakes in Braslav and its surroundings. The Braslavskoe Poozerie [Braslav Lake District] is the largest area of lakes in Belarus. Let's plunge into its history together.

By Marina Kuzmich,
Vladimir Likhodedov

This amazingly beautiful land with hundreds of reservoirs of different shapes, areas and depths attracts not only hunters and fishermen, but also true connoisseurs of landscape therapy. It's now a calling card for the Vitebsk Region and the whole country. *Tourists especially love local Drivyaty, Tsno, Nespish, Nedrovo, Potsekh, Voiso, Boliso, Strusto, Snudy, Volos Severny and Volos Yuzhny lakes.*

Let's try to reveal the past of some of them. Take a look at Braslav. It's in this city that local historians advise to start a journey through an amazing land.

If you look at the old photos of the Braslav lakes and its surrounding areas, you can see that medieval princes and kings knew a lot about their beauty. They built houses on the banks, received noble persons and arranged magnificent balls. Now there are legends about the former luxury of the estates and the castle. They cover every corner.

The historical centre of Braslav is its Zamkovaya (Castle) Hill — an ancient settlement of 14m high. It was here that the first stone in the foundation of the future city was laid centuries ago.

It's believed that the founder of Braslav was the Prince of Polotsk — Brachislav, the grandson of Rogneda. The original name of the city was Bryachislav, Bryatislav and, according to one version, the name of the city had a Baltic origin (from the words 'brasl', 'brod' (ford, shallow water).

Few people know that this ancient place is two years older than Minsk. The first chronicle information about the city is associated with the 1065 attack on it by the Lithuanian princes, Cernus and Gimbut. These events are depicted in the *Chronicle of Bykhovets*. The Lithuanians razed the city to the ground. Subsequently, it was rebuilt. Its centre was a castle with seven towers which hasn't survived. Numerous historical sources, including documents from 1514, confirm that it really existed. Braslav was given the Magdeburg Right by a royal decree.

There are many legends about the ancient settlement. The heroes of one of the most



Braslav and its surrounding area on old postcards and photos



Braslav. A sailing regatta on Lake Drivyaty (early 20th century)



Braslav. A shore of Lake Drivyaty (early 20th century)

famous 'came to life' in wooden sculptures on Zamkovaya Hill, among them are Prince Dvin, his wife Druika and three young princes. The plot is more like a Shakespearean tragedy and tells how Prince Dvin wanted to marry his daughter off. She rejected all the suitors but gave a chance to only three brothers: Bras, Snud and Nov. She told them, "The one who kills a competitor will marry me!" The younger brothers, realising that the young princess would give her hand and heart to the elder brother, Bras, decided to kill him but they made a mistake — confusing Bras with his servant. Bras came to the castle and blamed the obstinate bride for the death of his brothers. The beautiful Driva could not stand the shame and threw herself into the lake. Her mother died almost immediately after that. After a while, Prince Dvin returned from a campaign. But even he, grieving for his wife and daughter, did not live long. The residents of the city invited Prince Bras to reign. The glorious prince lived alone all his life. His name remained in the name of the city, and the name of the princess — in the name of the lake where she died. Now Drivyaty is the fifth largest lake in our country. The names of the characters of this legend are also hidden in the names of the local rivers — Dvina and Druika — and the lakes, Snudy and Novyato.

Zamkovaya Hill offers a view of the lakes, while tourists can't help but say: 'It's a real blue necklace of Belarus!'

Surrounded on all sides by water, Braslav resembles a magic ship cutting through a mirror's surface. As if by the wave of a magic wand of nature, the Braslav District boasts many lakes. How many are there?



Braslav. A view of the city from Lake Novyato (early 20th century)

Experts say that there are about three hundred, with Drivyaty and Snudy being the largest. The cleanest lakes are Voiso and Strusto. The last glacier left a rich legacy 15,000 years ago. It is known that the total area of reservoirs is 130 square kilometres.

An amazing legend is associated with the unusual origin of Lake Strusto. This deep clean lake appeared thanks to a girl named Strusta. She sent her beloved boyfriend to war, and he didn't return. Strusta could not survive the grief, she cried and, over time, a whole lake was formed from her tears. She later drowned in it. Today Strusto is one of the most beautiful lakes of the local region. Its highlight is the uninhabited island of Chaichin.

Lake Nespish also has its own island. According to one of the ancient legends, it arose from the mirror of a girl whom an evil rich man wanted to marry. The beauty refused to marry him. In revenge, he went to war on the castle where her parents lived. But the situation was saved by a mirror thrown by the girl in the direction of the approaching troops. The castle was eventually surrounded by a clear lake, and the unsuccessful groom, along with his army, went to the bottom.



Braslav. Lake Novyato and Zamkovaya Hill (early 20th century)

Lake Nedrovo has been keeping its secrets for centuries. Few people know why one of its bays is named after St. Teresa. According to legend, she was a kind and very beautiful Braslav woman. One day Teresa went to the lake to wash clothes, but exhausted from the heat, she decided to swim. She lost consciousness in the water and drowned. Since then, the bay has been named after her. The holy girl was known for mercy and compassion for the weak and sick.

Those coming to Braslav should go to Velikaya Street, with a stone-paved road. A few years ago, a wish fulfilment arch was installed here. Local vacationers, according to a recent tradition, approach it and make a wish. They say it comes true. After all, according to legend, these re-

gions are blessed by God himself.

The legend about this formed the basis of the coat of arms of the city, which depicts a shield of the golden sun with a blue triangle and a drawing of a human eye on it. The eye is the symbol of God's blessing.

There is also God's eye in the name of the lake of the same name in the Braslav District. It got its name due to its form. The round lake has not changed shape for centuries. According to legend, it watches people from heaven. The lake is located 10 kilometres from Braslav. Its water is cold, it is not good to swim in, but it's worth going there — not only to retire and feel the harmony of nature, but also to receive God's blessing.

Photos from the personal collection of Vladimir Likhodedov

From Tokyo to Paris



2020 Olympic Games winners have received well-deserved bonuses from the state, while the National Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sports and Tourism discussed further ways to success



Igor Lutsky, Deputy Head of the President Administration:

Sports victories are not an end in themselves. Today, an athlete is a notable and rather significant figure in society. Their life and career are always being watched and interested. After all, in honour of their victory, the national flag is raised and the national anthem is played. They do it, I want to believe, as the song says, 'for the beauty of sports, for the sake of their homeland!'. Champions should show the younger generation an example of selfless work, readiness to defend the honour of their country, an example of patriotism. Why do the people need 'champions' who, even if they have high sports results, work for the destruction of civil harmony in the country, the economy, advocate the impoverishment of people, the loss of sovereignty?

By Sergei Kanashits

It was noisy and festive at the headquarters of the National Olympic Committee: the Olympic and Paralympic medallists once again bathed in glory. Honours, kind words and monetary vouchers found their worthy holders. Personal and first coaches, as well as federations of the particularly successful sports were not left without attention — receiving serious financial support. Actually, the Tokyo Games are already in the past and Paris 2024 is looming ahead. Accordingly, a joint meeting of the National Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sports and Tourism focused on this issue. The event was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister — Igor Petrishenko, the Deputy Head of the President Administration — Igor Lutsky, the NOC President — Viktor Lukashenko, the Minister of Sports and Tourism — Sergei Kovalchuk, as well as heads of all Summer Olympic sports federations.

The body is like a mechanism: without working, it rusts. Athletes know this well. It was nice to see our honoured Olympians again — all at once, at the same time, in the same place, smiling and festive. They were happy and it was a pleasure to replay in our memories the inspiring and joyful triumphant moments of Tokyo 2020 and to talk — wishing each other good luck. It was wonderful to enjoy the process when medals and labour are miraculously embodied in tangible material well-being: the presentation of monetary certificates is neces-

sary and, of course, pleasant.

However, in the atmosphere of the Olympic Hall of Fame, the feeling of celebration was mixed with another one: excitement and shining eyes. The heroes of Tokyo were eager to fight again. Some want a rematch. Some seek a new dose of adrenaline. However, they all have a great desire to realise themselves again, to glorify their names and native Belarus.

The NOC President, Viktor Lukashenko, heartily congratulated the Tokyo 2020 medallists and those who had contributed to their success. However, he noted that not everyone coped well and some failed to show the expected results. Viktor Lukashenko added that the state will continue paying close attention to the development of sports and support athletes, but the Tokyo Olympics have already become history. The 2024 Games in Paris are next in line, **“The return of the sports industry should correspond to the funds invested by the state. It’s also necessary to seriously analyse the structure of the management personnel of physical culture and sports organisations and evaluate the results of their activities. The most important thing is to get ready to work for the future Olympics in Paris, to make all the necessary decisions. We will continue the practice of financial support for athletes and coaches. It will, of course, directly depend on the results achieved and the medals won. Those who performed well in Tokyo are great but there are enough problems in our sport**



Bronze of Alina Harnasko — one of the happiest moments of the Tokyo Olympics

and some of them were exposed at the past Games.”

Our archery athletes pleasantly surprised us and, accordingly, received a significant financial award from the state. However, how is it possible to look calmly on our failure in weightlifting competitions? Was everything successful in swimming, shooting or equestrian sports? These and other issues were high on the agenda of the recent meeting.

Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko noted that the athletes received well-deserved awards, but it’s now necessary to assess what failed, **“You know that relevant critical comments were also made by the Head of State. So let’s evaluate why it was not possible to achieve the best result and see what needs to be done in order to take into account the mistakes that were made and perform well at the**

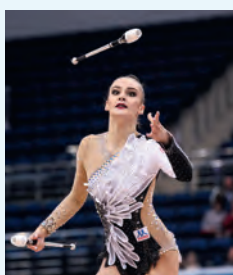


Silver medallists of the Olympic Games: Marharyta Makhneva and Nadzeya Papok

ARENA

Alina Harnasko won the All-Around Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship of Belarus

The final mark for the Tokyo Games bronze medallist, Alina Harnasko, was 106,250 points. The most successful pupil of Marina Lobach performed with the hoop (27,400 points) and the ribbon (24,900).



Silver in the all-around was won

by another participant of the Games in Tokyo, Anastasiia Salos — 102,900 points. She was most successful in the exercises with the ball (28,450) and clubs (27,600). The bronze medal went to Arina Krasnorutskaya (89,400).

In the finals of the individual events, it’s worth noting the performance of Yana Striga, who managed to retain gold in the events with the hoop and the ribbon. Anna Kamenshchikova managed with the ball better than the others while Arina Krasnorutskaya had no equal in the exercises with the clubs.

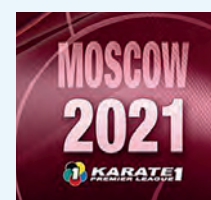
The RCOP-1 team excelled in the

all-around group exercises. The same squad earned gold medals in the exercises with five balls and five ribbons.

The competitions were held online. Each participant demonstrated programmes in their own hall. Their performances were broadcast at the Palace of Gymnastics, where marks were given.

Belarusian karate fighters claim two awards at the Karate1 Premier League tournament in Moscow

The most successful event was for Aleksei Vodchits (individual kumite, weight



category over 84kg), who won silver.

Bronze was claimed for the Belarusian squad by Anton Isakov (individual kumite, 84kg).

In the women’s kumite, Maria Azarova (weight category 61kg) and Maria Alekseeva (68kg) took fifth places.

The Karate1 Premier League series tournament in Moscow, held at the CSKA Small Sports Arena, gathered approximately 400 athletes from 49 countries in the Russian capital.

Photo of the week

Yury Mozolevsky



Mushroom season in Belarusian forests

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On October 8th, 1831, Mikhail Yelsky was born — a Belarusian violinist, composer and music writer. From the early 1860s, he gave concerts abroad, collecting Belarusian folk melodies and using them in his works. He wrote approximately 100 pieces of music, including 2 concerts, Sonata-Phantasy, violin and piano polonaises, mazurkas, miniatures, etc. He is also the author of articles and essays on composers and performers. He died in 1904.

On October 8th, 1596, the Brest Uniate Council adopted the Council Letter of Metropolitan M. Rogozza, which was approved by the Minsk Archimandrite Potey, marking the beginning of an intensive process of creating a church-organisational and cultural-educational structure of the Uniate religion, including in Minsk.



On October 8th, 1871, Ivan Poddubny (1871-1949) was born — a Russian wrestler, athlete and circus performer. He is one of the most outstanding professional wrestlers in the world. He repeatedly won the

world championships in classical (Greco-Roman) wrestling among professionals, including the most authoritative of them in Paris (1905-1908). For more than 40 years of performances, he has not lost a single competition, championship or tournament.

October 8th is World Egg Day, celebrated in many countries around the world on the second Friday of October. This is a celebration for all lovers of eggs, omelettes, casseroles and fried eggs... After all, eggs are a most versatile food product, they are popular in the cuisine of all countries and cultures, largely due to the fact that their use is so diverse.



October 9th is World Post Day. It is held by the decision of the 14th Congress of the Universal Postal Union, held in 1957, on the day of the creation of the Universal Postal Union in 1874. According to the UPU, international mail speaks 6,800 of its customers' languages and is the world's largest physical mail delivery network. In Belarus, a regular postal service was organised in 1667.



October 10th is World Kite Day. Kites are fairly simple apparatus that are held in the air by air pressure on a surface set at a certain angle to the direction of the wind.



October 10th is the Day of Cultural Workers in the Republic of Belarus. More than 65,000 Belarusians are involved in this professional holiday: actors and poets, writers and artists, musicians, employees of museums and exhibition halls and heads of creative teams. Over its centuries-old history, the Belarusian people have created a rich original cultural heritage. There are more than 15,000 historical monuments in the country.



On October 11th, 1941, Yevgeny Gladkov was born — a Belarusian cymbalist, teacher and People's Artist of Belarus. The repertoire includes works of classical and modern Belarusian and foreign music. He is the first performer of many works of Belarusian composers, being the author of the *School of Cymbal Playing* and teaching aids, as well as being the compiler and editor of collections of cymbal works by Belarusian composers.



October 11th is International Day of the Girl Child, proclaimed by the decision of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly on December 19th, 2011. Today there are 1 billion young people in the world, including

600 million adolescent girls. They all have tremendous potential to transform our future. The date calls for a focus on the need to address the challenges faced by girls around the world and to promote the empowerment of girls and the fulfilment of their rights.



On October 12th, 1971, Oleg Novitsky was born (Cherven, Minsk Region) — a Belarusian cosmonaut, Hero of the Russian Federation. He served as a pilot, senior pilot, flight commander and air squadron commander of an assault aviation regiment. He received the qualification 'test cosmonaut'. On April 9th, 2021, he departed as a spacecraft commander on the 65th expedition to the International Space Station. This is the third space flight for Oleg Novitsky.



On October 12th, 1931, the grand opening of the giant statue of Christ — which is today a symbol of Rio de Janeiro and Brazil in general — took place. The Art Deco statue is located at the top of Corcovado Mountain. In 2007, it was unofficially elected as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

