

Minsk has hosted the *Transport and Logistics* exhibition, gathering together over 70 companies who presented their developments in the field of transportation



In 2022, Belarus will host the World Chess Olympiad



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Turning to the past to win

Former → **6** students doing business with old patterns

In a highly distinctive style

Alexander Lukashenko is presented with the uniform for Belarusian athletes and volunteers at 2nd European Games 2019



By Vladimir Velikhov

Bright, recognisable, modern, cheerful, stylish... These epithets come to mind when speaking of the samples of uniform for athletes and volunteers of the 2nd European Games. They were presented to the President at the Palace of Independence. The collection has an uplifting feeling: it features the national colours, a sporting theme and a commitment to records and victories.

Remarkably, a new uniform is developed for every Olympics but, this time, we are the hosts — which means we should think not only of our team but also other participants of the large-scale event.

Designer Yulia Latushkina has come up with a suit for the central figure of the opening ceremony: torchbearers of the 'Flame of Peace' campaign. In March, they will go on a tour through cities and countries in white — symbolising peace and purity of intention. They will be accompanied by volunteers dressed in light grey tones. Blue is the colour for the rest of the volunteer 'army' which will help all the guests during the Games. The ceremonial uniform of

Belarusian athletes has also been designed by Yulia, who is also responsible for the dresses of the ladies who award the winners of the competitions: a bright cornflower blue outfit and a headdress in the form of a wreath. The Games will be held during Kupala Night festivities and it's an interesting and symbolic decision to dress them in a uniform style.

The sports uniform for the national team has been developed by private enterprise Solo-Pinsk, which also makes Yulia's models. Its General Director, Vasily Goreglyad, tells us that the collection is called 'Prastora' (Space), which sounds very fitting.

When addressing the Pinsk company, Mr. Lukashenko expressed only one wish: the colours should be as bright and clear as those of the 'Flame of Peace' campaign, "Consult with designers and artists to make the uniform worthy — so that your design is as good as this. This bright uniform immediately catches the eye. It can be taken as an example for brightness and clarity."

The company director promised to finalise its models with this in mind. The President's wish regarding the depiction of

the state emblem on the uniform has also been considered. "The coat of arms should be embroidered or sewn on the suit... It must look impressive — not a speck. That's important," he said.

Meanwhile, state sewing companies have something to seriously consider. Mr. Lukashenko wondered why they could not develop the uniform. It appeared they participated in the competition but failed to meet some of the requirements. The President instructed them to, "Ask Mr. Yefimchik [Chairman of Bellegprom Concern] about this. He should tell me why we could not compete with private enterprises and why Ms. Latushkina alone won. Why are there not more worthy rivals, including those subordinate to Mr. Yefimchik?"

As Mr. Lukashenko noted, the question of who will develop and produce the uniform — a private or a state company — is not fundamental. The main thing is that Belarusian specialists are engaged in this and the clothes are of good quality. Pleasingly, the outfits for the European Games will not be produced as an exclusive limited edition: they will also go on general sale.

Issues require in-depth development

By Olga Korneeva

Belarus and Indonesia keen to activate direct contacts between business groups

The topic was discussed in Minsk by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus, Andrei Dapkiunas, and the Chairman of the Indonesia-Belarus Parliamentary Friendship Group of the House of Representatives of the People's Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia, Adang Sudrajat.

Both parties are keen to invigorate direct contacts between Belarusian and Indonesian businesses, including through their chambers of commerce and industry. The negotiations also tackled the topic of the exchange of high-level visits and the possibility of opening an Indonesian Embassy in Belarus.

Lausanne added to Zurich

By Svetlana Savelieva

Honorary Consulate of Belarus opens in Swiss Lausanne

Swiss businessman Andrey Nazheskin will represent the interests of Belarus in the consular district in the Cantons of Vaud, Valais, Geneva, Neuchâtel, Fribourg and Jura. The Honorary Consulate of Belarus to Switzerland is also operating in Zurich.

Lausanne is the capital of the Swiss French-speaking Canton of Vaud. The city is situated on the shores of Lake Geneva. Lausanne is a focus of international sport, hosting the International Olympic Committee (which recognises the city as the 'Olympic Capital'), the Court of Arbitration for Sport and numerous international sport associations.

Practice relies on purposefulness

By Alexey Fedosov

Minister of Communications and Informatisation reports to the President about transformations in the industry

The working meeting with the President tackled a specific topic. The Minister of Communications and Informatisation informed the Head of State about the suggested draft presidential Decree 'On the Management of the Radio Frequency Spectrum'. The issue is more understandable to narrow specialists though, in modern conditions, it affects everyone. The Ministry itself is gradually transforming from a branch governing body into a kind of 'ministry of everything'. Each of us has a mobile phone and round-the-clock access to the Internet. All areas are going the way of informatisation or, as is commonly said, digitisation. If we must spend less time in electronic queues to register property, to address a bank operator or to visit a doctor, it means that communications and informatisation really work. If this is so, in the wake of progress, legislation must be also corrected. Welcoming



the Minister, the President was speaking from simple logic, "We have been working for many years to manage the radio frequency spectrum and it seemed that there were no issues... Did we do this wrong or distribute it incorrectly? What's new in the fact that we once again have to address this issue?"

According to Konstantin Shulgan, the majority of the suggested changes deal with the need to bring the legal base into compliance with practice to expedite the decision-making process. Later, the

Communications and Informatisation Minister told the media that the Head of State had approved the draft decree on the whole but certain adjustments would be introduced.

We won't tire readers with the technical terms, but practical examples are as follows: large international events are often held in Belarus and we're visited by journalists who use radio transmitting devices. The new document contains regulations which eliminate excessive bureaucratic formalities in this respect. Or,

for example, the task of de-dollarisation is facing the economy, while payment for the provision and use of radio frequencies is still connected to Euros. It's an obsolete measure and now the price will be fixed in Belarusian Roubles.

Mr. Shulgan hasn't spent a month yet in the position of Communications and Informatisation Minister. Naturally, the President was interested in his first assessments of the structure. Journalists asked the Minister about this after the working meeting, and he responded, "The President wondered whether the Ministry is ready to fulfil the tasks that were voiced during my appointment. Instructions have been given to change the structure itself to fit these tasks and to change the ministry's staff without increasing their number. Issues have been determined dealing with co-operation with other structures which are working in the sphere of economic digitisation. These are the branches which should first launch new technologies, enabling us to receive a tangible effect. These include the ministries of health, education and High-Tech Park."

Priority security issue

At the 174th training ground of the Air Force and Air Defence Forces, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, learnt about new and modernised models of weapons for the army. It was not an exemplary demonstration, but a working test, which showed both successes and points for improvement. Most importantly, the areas for growth are clear.

By Vasily Kharitonov

On arriving at the site, the Commander-in-Chief warned against bravado, “We have not gathered here to threaten anyone or develop public relations. This is our normal life.”

About two years ago, the President drew the defence industry’s attention to the need to develop its own advanced weapons — based on the experience of the wars and armed conflicts of our closest neighbours. At the base in the Ivatsevichi District, the results of the execution of the Commander’s order were demonstrated. Turning to the past. Mr. Lukashenko personally reminded us of the fact that, in the sovereign history of Belarus, the Armed Forces have been constantly modernised in stages.

At the beginning of independence, the task was to reduce the army to a reasonable number to save it from destruction in principle, “There was the question of how to save what was left of the USSR. The armoured machinery was sold to the Germans so that it could be melted down and made into weapons for NATO. This was one of my first decisions, but was soon revoked. It was the first step of an independent sovereign army.” It then became politically charged in the Middle East. “We needed to modernise, while reforming the Armed Forces we already had. We could not fight in the desert. There was the question of how to adapt the army and weapons to new conditions,” the President said.

The experience of modern wars has shown that nobody fights face to face. We have a new task, “We had to create special operations forces. We needed high-precision weapons and specially trained forces to protect the country and defeat the enemy.”

The recent events in Syria and other hot regions are forcing the country to adjust. Mr. Lukashenko noted, “I set a task to develop new weapons necessary for the defence of Belarus. These are not tanks or planes — but special troops. We must appear quickly at any point in Belarus should anything untoward happen. Speed and manoeuvrability are the key. Accordingly, we had to create new weapons for these troops, special operational forces and so on.”

In this case, even the help of our closest allies means a lot. However, we also need to be concentrated. “Today Mr. Putin and others understand us, I understand him. Jointly we act, though not always. What will happen in the future?” It is necessary to have our own weapons and equipment for mobile troops. This is what we must produce independently. We also need to upgrade the available equipment to a modern level. The visit to the Belarusian military-industrial complex offered the opportunity to inspect modernised samples. Both public and private companies presented their products.

For the first time, the T-72 tank improved by Belarusians was shown. It is comparable in performance with one of its newest brothers, the T-90. The ‘Cayman’ fighting machine is swift in a sud-



President of Belarus familiarises with modern models of weapons for the army

den attack — matching its name. Combat vehicles made by the VOLAT company have recently been presented as prototypes. Today, they carry ‘Shershen’ anti-tank missile systems or electronic warfare equipment capable of diverting from their targets not only drones, but also manned attack aircraft. The anti-drone gun is also very impressive. The operator uses the drone to solve reconnaissance or combat missions, but if he loses control over it, a man with the relevant control can land it accurately and softly.

We have already mentioned unmanned aerial vehicles. Specialists of the Academy of Sciences and State Military Industrial Committee have

developed them and trained not only in intelligence, but also shock and combat work on targets. A hundred percent success is not yet achieved and there is work to be done — firstly, in polishing the operators’ skills. However, it’s important to repeat it: there was no exhibition of achievements but a working training session.

The ‘Berserk’ robot with two four-barrelled machine guns is also a success. It’s impossible for a ground or air target to escape it. 12 thousand shots per minute may not impress some, but 200 bullets a second are certainly a shock. It’s difficult to imagine this. I must admit I did not even know that there was a manufacturer of small arms in our country. It makes weapons in the full range, including a pistol and a sniper rifle. This company has already attracted interest from custom-

ers of different countries. All samples of new weapons on the ground were shown in live operation. For two years, under different circumstances and at various events, the President has been presented with the projects and experienced models. He has always delved deeper into the subject, supporting reasonable and promising

DIRECT SPEECH:

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plans. As a result, Belarusian specialists have made confident improvements in the military sphere. It is important that the country protects itself and gives everyone the opportunity to build their future peacefully.

At the training ground, the President talked to journalists and, while answering their questions, touched on some contemporary problems on weapons:

Do you understand how serious the issue of independence is in the defence of the country? I also set the following goal: Belarus should have pistols, machine guns and small arms. I jokingly said that if, God forbid, war comes, we would be able to provide each family with small arms. So that people can defend themselves. However, to achieve this, we need to have our own weapons. Furthermore,

the army must be trained, the number of soldiers must be appropriate, and they must be armed with the weapons that we need. We don’t need aircraft carriers. We do not need strategic bombers carrying nuclear weapons. We need weapons that we will use solely for defence, to inflict damage against those who want to fight with us. This is high-precision missiles with a range of 300-350km. We have these.

In this case, we’ve looked not at our ‘Polonez’ or planes but have once again confirmed what our new requirements are: these are drones. We’ve inspected what we can upgrade. A lot has been done in this respect. True, we also have a big job ahead of us. Today we openly and honestly say that the main thing is not the machinery. The equipment works well for us. We need operators. They must be trained. The machinery is fine. What we’ve seen will be implemented within a few months. It’s possible to train people. It’s not expensive. By winter, we will easily repeat these exercises again.

A new era of drones has come. We have agreed that we will not have many centres that develop them. As for modernisation, you’ve seen a good tank able to hit all the targets with the first shot. That’s what technology and people are for. The machinery does its job and it knows how to act only if properly managed. The main conclusion is that we are on the right track. We will continue to move in this direction, making our own small arms, ammunition, drones, modernised and new armoured vehicles and a robot with machine guns.

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On the way to sustainable development

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei presents the country's vision on UN reforms at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York

The diplomat noted that, in recent years, the UN member states have adopted fundamental documents such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. At the end of the year, the international community will give the green light to another two documents that are expected to bring fresh hope to the world — global agreements on refugees and migrants.

Implementation of these key initiatives is aimed at bringing dramatic changes to all nations and peoples, to secure fair globalisation advantageous to all, to eradicate poverty and preserve the planet for generations to come.

According to the Foreign Minister of Belarus, efforts to respond to global challenges and fulfil common goals show that no country can address global concerns on its own. There cannot be individual progress without collective progress. Therefore, even though there may be criticisms of the UN, we still need this organisation as a unique platform for co-operation, an efficient multilateral mechanism based on principles



of equality and respect for all countries, their priorities and needs.

Mr. Makei believes that to help nations achieve the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to set up country-specific UN teams that will be able to provide meaningful and practical support to governments on their way to sustainable development. “This is the essence of the UN reforms,” emphasised the Belarusian diplomat.

The Minister believes that achieving the goals of the global agenda for sustainable development with its overarching promise not to leave anyone behind requires a focus and international support for middle-income countries. Indeed, it is this group of states that is home to five out of the world's seven billion people and has the highest reserves for economic growth and global sustainability. On the other hand, it's within this group that three quarters of the planet's poor reside. It's they who are the most vulnerable to fluctuations in the global economy, the impact of regional conflicts, natural and man-made disasters, climatic upheavals and epidemics that threaten the socio-economic stability and exacerbate inequalities, including at regional and global levels.

Opportunities of dialogue venues aren't restricted

By Oleg Bogomazov

Attention towards Belarusian initiatives in international and regional parliamentary structures increases, notes the Chairman of the House of Representatives, Vladimir Andreichenko, at the autumn session's opening

Making a serious contribution to strengthening international stability, Belarus boasts a whole range of advantages from the point of view of running modern businesses. “Increasing numbers of foreign parliamentarians who have visited Belarus in recent times, are assured of this,” noted Mr. Andreichenko. “The interaction resulted in considerable expansion of bilateral ties and increased attention towards Belarusian initiatives in international and regional parliamentary structures.”

Meanwhile, parliamentary diplomacy represents a rather powerful resource. As an example, Mr. Andreichenko cited the fact that in the middle of September, contracts have been signed in Minsk for the supply of 17 grain stores — worth \$60m — to Sudan. He noted that this is a direct result of last year's visit of the Belarusian parliamentary delegation to this country.

Parliamentarians continue to expand the dynamics of bilateral contacts. The heads of the parliaments of Kazakhstan and Egypt plan to visit Belarus, while visits of Belarusian legislators are planned to Germany, Canada and China. “We have ideas to suggest to each other; it's necessary to be determined to find points of application of joint effort. To achieve this, we need to use wider opportunities of multi-lateral dialogue venues,” said the Speaker. For example, this autumn will host sessions of Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as the third Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments and 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. According to Mr. Andreichenko, during his participation in these forums, Belarusian parliamentarians are ready to discuss any topics on a wide range of trade-economic, investment and humanitarian relations. The National Assembly also welcomes initiatives aimed at expanding contacts with representatives of diplomatic missions, accredited in Minsk. They are also ready to share their experience and consider the best foreign practices.

According to Mr. Andreichenko, only by uniting international efforts can we ensure a fairer world order and help solve the accumulated problems. “This idea was the basis of the President of Belarus' initiative to relaunch the Helsinki Process. It's necessary to give new impetus to the pan-European dialogue dealing with security issues and to elaborate a range of measures aiming to restore mutual trust and co-operation in the world,” noted the Speaker.



At the Belarusian-Indian Business Forum

A one billion dollars' worth of trade is quite a realistic figure

Slightly more than three months have passed since the previous Belarusian-Indian Business Forum, but Minsk is once again welcoming guests whose number has increased after the June visit. Representatives of eighteen companies, headed by the State Minister of Trade and Industry of India, Chhotu Ram Chaudhary, discussed with the Belarusian side prospects for co-operation and signed a memorandum on the inter-state treaty on investments. Moreover, the decision to set up a joint production of electric buses is also among the benefits.

By Vladimir Velikhov

In the last few years, the trade turnover between Belarus and India was at the level of \$400m. The official visit of Alexander Lukashenko to India a year ago gave an impulse to the relations. Currently, we expect that by 2020, the volume of trade turnover between the countries should reach \$1bn. It's ambitious but quite realistic. The results of the previous business forum and negotiations in the Council of the Republic and the Industry Ministry are confirmation of this.

During the meeting with the State Minister of Trade and Industry of India, Chhotu Ram Chaudhary, the Chairman of the Council of the Republic and curator of the Belarusian-Indian co-operation, Mikhail Myasnikov, expressed satisfaction with the level of collaboration but didn't hide the fact that the number of economic projects between the

states could be higher. “We have many points of coincidence. Priority areas include pharmaceuticals, IT technology and investment co-operation. Today Belarus, along with our Indian partners, are building three modern pharmaceutical plants. I think that in the near future, we can launch the construction of the fourth production.”

Another relevant topic is access of Belarusian quarry machinery to the Indian market. Belarus has fulfilled the necessary conditions of the Indian side and expects a positive resolution of the issue.

The business forum, attended by representatives of more than fifty Belarusian enterprises and eighteen companies, all members of the Confederation of Indian Industry, was also efficient, with the sides signing a bilateral treaty on investments. Moreover, Belkommunmash and Indian Axis Mobility have agreed to set up joint production of electric

buses. It's expected that the presentational lot of at least forty units will be first dispatched to India. Then the joint venture will also supply electric buses to the African states. During the forum, Belarus' Industry Minister, Pavel Utyupin, described in detail the creation of a comfortable business environment for Belarusian and Indian companies.

“We suggested to our Indian partners a project of investment in a Belarusian-Indian cluster in the special economic zone at Bremino-Orsha. We hope that Indian business will be able to use this opportunity and form an industrial and logistics hub for the production and promotion of goods, including in the EU and EAEU. According to the Industry Ministry, the most promising areas for joint work include machine building, the textile industry, oil production, pharmaceuticals, the sphere of high technologies, agriculture and sci-tech interaction,” noted Mr. Utyupin.



Time to innovate decisively

Minsk has hosted the *Transport and Logistics* exhibition, gathering together over 70 companies from Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Austria, Ukraine, China and Latvia, who presented their developments in the field of transportation. The main theme of the forum — held as part of Belarusian Transport Week — was the development of Belarus' transport infrastructure and transport and logistics services on the basis of modern information and communication technologies.



flights from Minsk. It is known that to fly to another continent, Belarusians are forced to use the services of airports in neighbouring countries. Therefore, it is necessary to create favourable working conditions for air carriers that will fly to the countries of America and South-East Asia from Minsk. At the same time, Mr. Sivak pointed out that there are no restrictions for foreign companies, including low-budget ones, in Belarus.

The Ministry of Transport has also reported on reconstruction of the main highways. Among them are roads aimed to service fans and guests of the 2021 IIHF World Championships. Moreover, the reconstruction will allow us to abolish seasonal restrictions of heavy axle loads. The Minsk-St. Petersburg road project also has great prospects.

In May, Belarus took the initiative to extend the Minsk-Polotsk highway to the northern capital of Russia. This will reduce the route between the two cities by 132km.

The Belarusian Railway has also presented new opportunities. According to its Deputy Chief Engineer — Gennady Levitsky, the future relies on digital transformation in the area of passenger transportation, cargo and all business processes. Belarusian Railways are now developing new services for both business and ordinary passengers. The mobile application — 'Passenger Services' — will make it possible to buy tickets online for commuter trains both beforehand and en route.

By **Alexey Fedosov**

To turn the country into a transport and logistics hub for the entire region and increase its transit attractiveness is perhaps one of the most urgent tasks that the Government and businesses plan to solve together in the near future. The absence of the sea is no hindrance to Belarus becoming a major 'dry port' and to break into the global chains of multimodal transport. At the same time, such global tasks should not ignore urgent consumer needs — such as good roads and bridges, cheap air tickets, wireless Internet in passenger cars and paperless cargo clearance. All these and

more were discussed during Belarusian Transport Week and the international *Transport and Logistics* specialised exhibition.

According to Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Kukharev, the improvement of transport and logistics, the signing of new contracts and agreements are impossible without an exchange of experience. Belarusian Transport Week — held for the 12th time — provides such an opportunity to participants. The forum is traditionally a discussion platform and a place where the most interesting projects in the field of transport and logistics are announced.

The main newsmaker of the forum was

the Minister of Transport and Communications — Anatoly Sivak: he announced changes in legislation which will — for example, enable Belavia to significantly reduce transportation costs. In particular, baggage-free tickets are expected to be offered for sale. In addition, the Transport Ministry relies on the support of partners (the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Taxes and Duties) and the introduction of non-refundable tickets. This approach is very similar to the principle of low-cost airlines and will make it possible to sell a portion of the tickets for each flight at low prices. The ministry is also negotiating with various companies on transcontinental

TOP-3 INNOVATIONS PRESENTED AT TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS-2018

Round-the-clock assistant

The Belarusian Railway is ready to provide assistance to passengers 24 hours a day — thanks to its new contact centre. By dialling 105, anyone can ask any question, ranging from the availability of tickets, a complaint or message about. At the same time, it's possible to contact the centre by phone and by using information and reference terminals for video or audio communication. In the future, it plans to process messages from messengers.



Hybrid bus

Designed by Belkommunmash, this unique hybrid bus does not simply look modern and stylish: it has a promising system of energy storage. This means that it charges from the energy that it produces itself during movement. Another advantage is a body made from anti-corrosive materials.



Silent metro



Stadler has demonstrated a new type of train for the metro. As Director Philipp Brunner said, by the end of the year, the first train for the Minsk metro using this innovative technology will be produced. Certification will follow and, in 2019, the capital's subway may boast silent and light trains made with an aluminium profile. The company plans to sell this innovative product to other countries — such as Georgia and Russia.



Turning to the past to win

Former students doing business with old patterns

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Those studying at the Belarusian National Technical University learn to professionally create and develop start-ups: some students take their first steps in business without even leaving their classroom.

Design Centre Vyshivka JSC is a typical example. Its employees embroider fashionable old national patterns on fabric under the brand's name, in addition to bespoke patterns at the customers' request. It has taken several years for the company to enter the list of the top five enterprises in this sphere. Their production volume has almost doubled, and profit is now starting to be generated. Twenty-five people work at the company, led by a group of young entrepreneurs.

"We started while BNTU students," says marketing specialist Ksenia Saffronova. "I, for example, entered the University's Polytechnic Technopark as a second-year student. At that time, the start-up centre was just established. Some students were trying to develop their models of a robot or a 3D printer on a commercial basis, while we decided to rent the equipment available in the Technopark for machine embroidery and establish a small enterprise on this basis. We were led, on the one hand, by an interest in learning how to earn money. On the other hand, we wanted to test in practice the knowledge that we had



New generation of students take on the role of designers and fashion developers

received at the University. After all, we were taught to create start-ups and bring them to a profitable level."

The first few months of work didn't bring any profit, and sometimes the founders couldn't even earn enough money for their daily needs. However, the situation is different now. The company has found its niche in the market. It is cost-effective due to high quality products, reasonable prices and the ability to carry out large orders. For example, it has been selling its products in the City of Master Craftsmen for several years now, at the popular international song festival — *Slavianski Bazaar* in Vitebsk. When additional funds were accumulated, the young businessmen in-

vested in new technological equipment and rented a more spacious room. As a result, production volumes increased, the range of products expanded. The decision to open a shop was logical. The embroiderers are also pleased: none of them has left the company.

The business is typical for Minsk. The city is implementing a whole programme of assistance to start-up entrepreneurs, including the young. There are 7 business incubators, 31 business support centres in the capital, where young people under 31 can apply to the youth social service with their business idea; if the idea is recognised as financially promising, an office place, a computer and material support are offered to them.

Scientists lift the bar on collaboration

By Svetlana Savelieva

Academies of Sciences of Belarus and of Chinese Shandong Province to set up joint laboratory

The Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and the Laser Research Institute of the Shandong Academy of Sciences will set up a joint research laboratory. A corresponding agreement was signed during the visit of a Chinese delegation to the NASB. The document envisages the fulfilment of a range of contracts in the sphere of laser physics.

Alongside this agreement, a trilateral memorandum of co-operation was also signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Jinan's municipal government. According to the document, Belarusian and Chinese scientists will outline research priorities, discuss the establishment of new joint laboratories and identify projects of mutual interest to develop the relevant technical and industrial areas.

The NASB is actively engaged in joint activities with Chinese scientific organisations. President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Bai Chunli, is a foreign member of the NASB. We have now started to co-operate with China's regions. We hope that the new memorandum will help bring co-operation between Belarusian and Chinese scientists to a new level," noted the First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Sergey Chizhik.

Convenient and comfortable

By Oleg Bogomazov

A 24/7 call centre for tourists will operate during the 2nd European Games that will take place in Belarus in 2019

Special tourist packages for guests and fans will include tickets to sport competitions, accommodation in hotels, hostels and farmsteads, an excursion programme, souvenirs and gifts and a public transport travel pass. Volunteers are invited to help tourists find their way around the city's streets and cultural sites and provide assistance at the border checkpoints to people crossing the Belarus state border to fill out migration cards and customs declarations. According to Belarus' Deputy Sports and Tourism Minister, Mikhail Portnoi, there are plans to use approximately 6,000 volunteers. The section on the 2nd European Games is being finalised in the 'Minsk' mobile application.

The forthcoming Games are being actively promoted at international tourism fairs. Moreover, a video will be shot soon to showcase the tourist potential of Minsk and the upcoming games. It will be shown on Etihad Airways flights.

Shopping and catering facilities, museums and other cultural institutions will operate seven days a week during the Games. The network of trade facilities working in the tax-free system will be expanded. This is coupled with preparations for the IIHF World Championships, which Belarus will co-host with Latvia in 2021.

The 2nd European Games will take place in Minsk on June 21st-30th, 2019, at twelve sporting facilities. Over 4,000 athletes from 50 countries will compete in about 200 medal events in 15 sports. Competitions in ten sports will be qualifiers for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

It was held in real scenery near the village of Duki, where German concrete pillboxes and trenches have been preserved. They were recreated thanks to the initiative of local authorities. An exciting show of reenactors with dashing hussars, the roar of bombs and bayonet attacks aroused the interest of French diplomats. The ‘ten day massacre’ which took place in 1916 in the Postavy, Vileika and Myadel districts forced Germany to withdraw significant forces from the French front. It saved the allies of the Entente from attacking Verdun, and then Paris.

One of the reenactors — a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists, founder of the Kroki (Steps) Foundation of WWI Memory, Boris Titovich — arrived in Postavy dressed in the uniform of a colonel of the 112th regiment of the Ural. “This regiment took part in the Naroch operation and was at war in those places where I live: near the village of Zabrodie in the Vileika District. We began investigating the history of WWI in the 1980s. We run a small museum in the Chapel of Boris and Gleb and we are now continuing to perpetuate the names of officers and soldiers who fought in the multinational Russian Imperial army. In the future, a monument to General Smirnov — Commander of the 2nd Russian army — will be unveiled in Zabrodie and, in Vileika, memorial plaques will be unveiled; the latter will feature over a hundred names of soldiers who died during WWI.”

Mr. Titovich is sure that the reconstruction of battles is not a game, but one of the forms of sympathy and familiarisation with the history of one’s own country — both for participants and the audience. Minsk’s painter of battle scenes — Vladimir Saiko — agrees. He pre-

Small episode of great war

On November 11th, there will be a 100-year anniversary since the end of WWI. Near Postavy, where the Naroch operation took place in March 1916, Belarusian and Russian military-historical clubs marked the date with the reconstruction of one of its battles.



During the Naroch operation, Russian troops lost 78 thousand people. As regards the ‘Verdun meat grinder’ of February 1916, this battle is considered one of the bloodiest in the history of the First World War. It affected about 1 million soldiers from both sides. Over 400 thousand of them were killed.

sented his *Siberia Shooters* picture to the Postavy Local Lore Museum. “It was painted two years ago and features the 3rd Siberian infantry regiment, which fought north-west of Postavy during the Naroch operation. I was inspired by the feat of Yevgenia Vorontsova who served as part of it. This girl, a volunteer from Moscow, was the first to find a way through the enemy’s

diers of the 12th battalion of the 223rd Odovskiy regiment from the 56th infantry division were identified: they were natives of Vyatka, Kursk and Tver provinces — Fiodor Bolshakov, Gavriil Polyakov and Grigory Zaitsev. The men were killed in March 1916. Our civil and moral duty is to identify names of the dead in all military burials,” he said.

wire fences during the battle and helped carry away the soldiers.”

The First Counsellor of the French Embassy in Belarus — Alexandre Piquet — has come to Postavy with his family. He regrets that his fellow citizens know little about the operations on the Eastern front during WWI, “This is true that the attack of 1916 saved Verdun and Paris. We call Verdun the heart of the French people. It’s like Stalingrad for you. In Verdun, where one of the bloodiest battles of that distant war took place, there is the WWI Museum. Recently, thanks to the French Embassy, a trip for a delegation of Postavy’s museum staff was organised. I hope that this co-operation will help us learn more of each other.”

Interestingly, exhibitions of private collections have opened at the Postavy District Local Lore Museum. They represent original artefacts from the time of WWI: weapons, helmets, photographs and awards. In turn, a burial ceremony of the remains of 106 soldiers of the Russian Imperial army was held at the cemetery near the village of Kashitsa. According to the Deputy Chairman of the Postavy District Executive Committee — Yuri Kiselev, they were unearthed during excavation works this summer by the 52nd separate specialised search battalion of the Defence Ministry. “In the forest near the village of Mankovichi, the remains of hundreds of people were discovered. Another six were unearthed near Mozheika and Duki. Three soldiers of the 12th battalion of the 223rd Odovskiy regiment from the 56th infantry division were identified: they were natives of Vyatka, Kursk and Tver provinces — Fiodor Bolshakov, Gavriil Polyakov and Grigory Zaitsev. The men were killed in March 1916. Our civil and moral duty is to identify names of the dead in all military burials,” he said.

Amazing sounds to thrill the soul

By Alexander Pimenov

Organs of Belarus book, dedicated to the centuries-old organ culture, presented at National Library of Belarus

The idea to prepare and release such a book belongs to the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House and was supported by Belarusian musical experts, since the organ culture of Belarus has more than 600 years of extremely rich and beautiful history. At present, churches of various Christian faiths, as well as concert halls, maintain 123 organs of historical and cultural value. The edition tells us about this, as well as about the history of the creation and technical characteristics of the instruments, while also paying attention to the problems of preservation of organs as part of a national identity and their reconstruction, as some organs from the 18th-19th century no longer function. The names of outstanding organ players and composers,



alongside organ masters, and technical characteristics of each of the instruments can be found in the edition.

Organs of Belarus includes scientific research and colourful illustrations. Readers are taken on an exciting journey into the history of organs and organ music in Belarus. One era replaced another, bringing life-changing events to the

country, while the sounds of the organ continued to fill the souls of Belarusians with peace and serenity.

The author of the edition, Alexander Burdelev, and photographer of the publishing house, Anatoly Dribas, have been on a scientific expedition aiming to study and take photos of all Belarusian organs. Alexander Burdelev, a teacher of

the Applied Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty at the BSU, has been involved in the problems of Belarusian organology for more than a decade. He began studying the organ in the organ class of the Moscow State University and then took private lessons. In 2015, he was granted the qualification ‘performer of ancient music (organ)’ at the Belarusian State Academy of Music.

The current project was supported by leading Belarusian researchers. The authoring team was involved in the preparation of the edition jointly with the Chairman of the Belarusian Fund of Culture, Tadeush Struzhetskyy, and Rector of the Belarusian State Academy of Music, Yekaterina Dulova. Reviewers were famous researchers and practical specialists from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. The book itself was released with financial assistance from the Information Ministry of Belarus and a disc of organ music by Belarusian performers is attached to the edition.



Five thousand people are feared missing

Officials fear at least 5,000 people may still be missing in Indonesia following a deadly earthquake and tsunami that killed 1,763 people and devastated the northern island of Sulawesi

Indonesia's disaster agency said the number of dead had climbed to 1,763, mostly in Palu. Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said many more people could be buried, especially in the Palu neighbourhoods of Petobo and Balaroa, where more than 3,000 homes were damaged or sucked into deep mud when the quake caused loose soil to liquefy.

"Based on reports from

village chiefs in Balaroa and Petobo, some 5,000 people have not been found. Our workers on the ground are trying to confirm this," he said at a news briefing in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital.

Nugroho said that efforts to retrieve decomposed bodies in deep, soft mud were getting tougher and that some people may have fled or been rescued and evacuated. More than 8,000 either injured or vulnerable

residents have been flown or shipped out of Palu, while others could have left by land, he said.

Officially, Nugroho said only 265 people are confirmed missing and 152 others still buried under mud and rubble, nine days after the magnitude 7.5 earthquake and powerful tsunami hit Palu and surrounding areas.

The government targets to end search operations nearly

two weeks after the disaster, at which time those unaccounted for will be declared missing and considered dead, Nugroho said.

Many of the dead were buried in mass graves because of the overwhelming amount of victims. Officials have said they worry that a delay in burying the bodies could create a new health crisis. Families have sifted through body bags searching for their loved ones.

Thousands of German firms sought advice on Brexit

Thousands of German businesses sought advice in recent weeks on how to prepare for Britain's exit from the European Union in a sign they are 'highly uneasy', the Head of the DIHK Chambers of Industry and Commerce was cited as saying

DIHK President Eric Schweitzer said that it was more important than ever for German firms to prepare for the different possible forms of Brexit, adding of the negotiations, "The cat and mouse game is never ending."

Britain is due to leave the EU in March, but talks on managing the unprecedented split have been stalled over differences on how to avoid border checks between EU member Ireland and Britain's province of Northern Ireland.

Facebook debuts smart speaker for Messenger video calls

Facebook Inc released a smart speaker designed to ease video calls, but the company's history of privacy mishaps and the device's price and limited functionality could slow it from taking on market leaders Amazon.com Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google. The device, known as Portal, comes in \$199 and \$349 versions and its signature feature is a wide-angle camera that automatically keeps users in focus as they move about a room. Facebook hardware executives said Portal is available at Amazon and Best Buy stores in addition to Facebook.com and starts shipping to US customers in early November.

Teaching coral to toughen up could help reefs survive climate change



"We know not only one thing is changing," Putnam says. But 'we really don't have a very clear understanding of what that 'cross-talk' is doing and who is leader and who is the follower'.

In Australia, a team of scientists is rearing fast-growing corals to see if preconditioning can help them withstand a 1- to 2-degree Celsius temperature increase — and whether this hardiness can be passed down to future generations.

Neal Cantin, a research scientist at the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the team's leader, says the researchers spent the last year tracking 7,500 first-generation preconditioned corals. The corals will become reproductively mature within the next six months, and it'll take two more years for the second generation to fully mature and produce larvae that can be tested for temperature hardiness.

As the world's oceans continue to warm, coral reefs are struggling to survive. In recent years large swaths of some of the world's biggest and best known reefs have died, and a recent UN report maintains that the reefs could 'cease to exist as functioning coral reef ecosystems by the end of this century' unless steps are taking to protect them.

Warmer, more acidic water hampers the ability of coral to build its calcium carbonate skeleton and leaves reefs vulnerable to attack by marine microbes that thrive in warm water. Any effective effort to precondition coral must take into account the effects not only on the coral itself but also on the bacteria, viruses, algae, and other organisms that coral interacts with in the marine environment.



Ships collide near Corsica causing major fuel spill

Officials are working to clean up a fuel spill stretching some four kilometres in the Mediterranean Sea, after two cargo ships collided near the French island of Corsica

The collision between the Tunisia-registered Ulysse and Cyprus' CLS Virginia occurred at around 7.30am last Sunday, some 28 kilometres off the

northern tip of the island. No one was injured in the crash, but it smashed a hole several metres long in the hull of one of the vessels, causing the spill, according to a statement from the regional French maritime authority.

The collision left a trail of pollution four kilometres long and several hundred metres wide, it added.

A talented photographer receives an order: to film the windows of an old Minsk house. He produces exemplary glossy images, but the photo shoot suddenly changes the life of a young man where everything was previously calm and ordered — including an interesting job and a strong family...

The Belarusian director and screenwriter — Sergey Talybov had experience in different genres: detective, drama, comedy and action, but he has now worked with a thriller for the first time. The world premiere of his film *Inside Self* took place at the Russian festival *Kinoshock*. In November, the film will be released in Belarus, and it will not only be the premiere for the film but also, the genre, which is still not greatly in demand in film production in the country.

Sergey Talybov tells us how Christmas windows of old Minsk gave him the idea of shooting the first thriller in his life.

How did you dare to film a thriller?

Why not? It is always interesting to start doing something new. Yes, I've studied drama, war drama. Yeah, I've shot many short films. All this is fine and with the prospect of festivals. The thriller is a genre which will cede to drama at any festival, due to its nature...

Are you not focusing consciously on festivals...?

No. I'm not, honestly. In addition, in any modern cinema it is important that it is not only smart and interesting, but also brings money, and that this money works. It's important to never stop shooting. This is a utopian story; however, the sleeping fox catches no chickens. You need to gather your thoughts, write a script, every time go to the site. The thriller is a very 'narrow' genre. There are a huge number of techniques already created by great masters, ranging from Hitchcock and ending with Lynch or Fincher. All the parameters and confines are already invented and it's hard to get away from them. However, it's even more challenging to join them.

What do you attract the potential audience with?

The twist in the script is very simple. One publishing house orders a photographer for a film shooting: the windows of old Minsk. He goes, takes a film camera as he needs to make a retro series of these photos. When he begins to shoot one window of the old house, he sees through the window there is a murder. A woman wants to escape, tries to open the window but behind her a man approaches, takes the lace curtains and before his eyes, strangles her. The photographer is filming all this. The man notices and runs out after him. The photographer manages to get in the car and goes to his studio, of course, he is shocked, runs to develop his photos — to see the house and the windows but no woman or man.

It's intriguing...

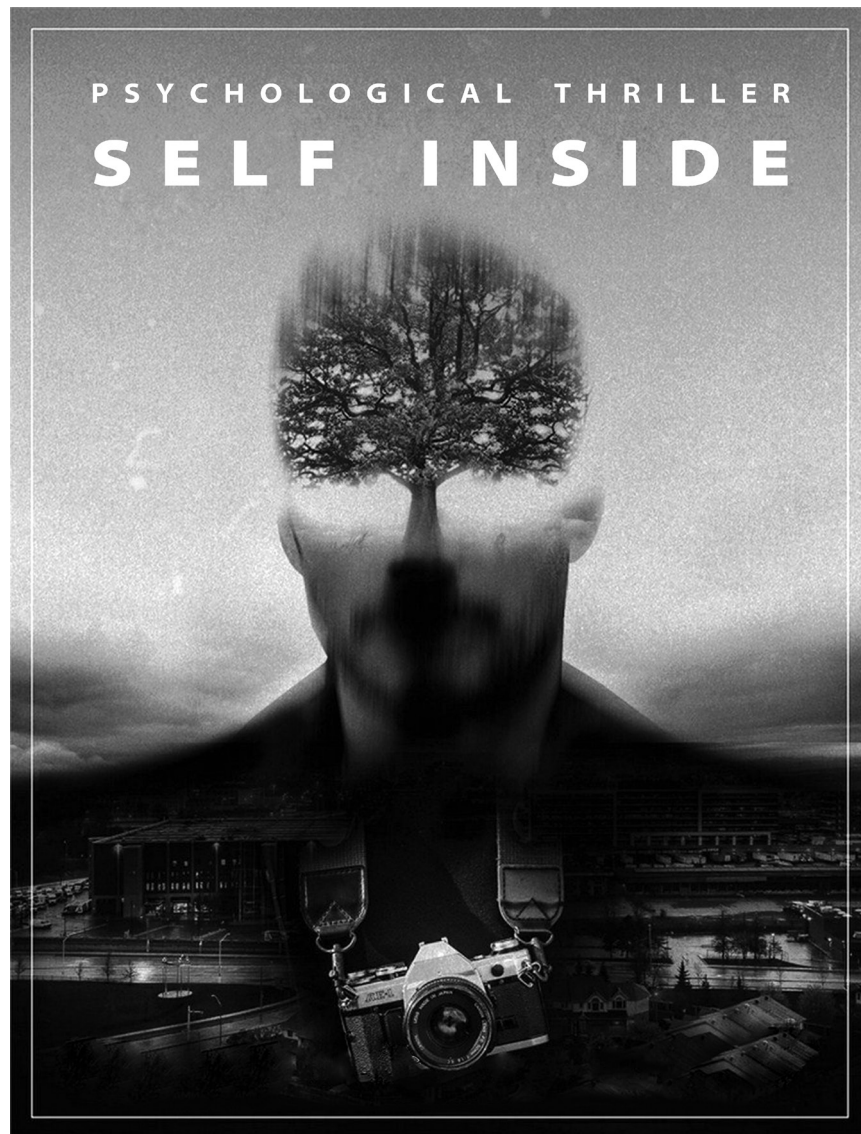
No mystery... And there is no information about the film on the Internet — apart from the trailer. It was ready a month before 'Kinoshock'. The film has not yet been screened in our homeland.

Did you shoot completely in Belarus?

Yes. I must admit the shooting process was hard. Paradoxically, we shot the film in 12 shifts.

Twelve you say? This is the most important thriller in your life.

Because of the time limit, the shifts were not 8-10 hours, but 12-14 hours. They were not in a row but were spread out over six months. Any sunny day pushed us back and we had to cancel shooting. We were creating cloudy weather. There is sum-



Looking into Minsk windows

Sergey Talybov films philosophical thriller — *Inside Self* — in Belarus



mer in the film, but it was shot in August. All other episodes feature autumn-winter scenes, with an oppressive sky. We were waiting for the optics and actors. It was hard to gather these all together. Maybe, this was god: after making a scene, we had time to think over the next stage thoroughly. In a thriller, if you lose the audience's attention even for a short while, you can lose it forever. However, we managed to do several 'somersaults': we let the key character go, attracted a new hero to the plot — a secondary character. The latter then became the key, but at that moment, we again returned to the first character. The second part of 'Inside Self' is written, and you'll understand in the finale of the film that it is needed. We'll see what will happen to the film. We have another

script; we'll be working on it simultaneously with the second part of the film.

As the producers say, its plot is even more intriguing...

I would say it's not more intriguing but more frightening: it's a horror.

You co-authored *Inside Self*. Did you write some scenes or simply edit it later?

I wrote the script with my wife. It was weird and spontaneous. We went to the store on Christmas eve... There were festive windows everywhere. Everything was beautiful. I told my wife, "Look, there is a destiny behind every window, a person behind every window. Now they are celebrating Christmas. Everyone has relatives, so everything is great..." We then passed by a window with a sin-

gle burning garland; it had no curtains. On seeing it, my wife asked, I replied, "I'd say nothing. We are now passing by and just imagine: a woman runs out, being chased by a man who later kills her in front of us. What will you do?" "I'll take a video of it; we all have mobile phones with a camera now. We'll have documented evidence," she said, and I suggested then, "What would you do if you photographed this murder on a film camera and then see nobody on the photographs?" My wife replied this is an interesting idea and we must think on it. As a result, we began thinking it over.

Everything is quite realistic in the film. We did not give away much, did not confuse the audience. We produced some teasers: whether the man is going mad, whether they invented it all or whether this happened. This takes place throughout the film. In the last fifteen minutes, everything becomes clear. Look at how Conan Doyle wrote! He described murders: how, what and why everything was happening. He then took out the key links, put it in the details and gave them to Holmes. The links disappeared, and the story remained. That's where deduction comes from.

Is the title of *Inside Self* referring to psychoanalysis?

Certainly. Our hero-photographer goes to a psychologist: madness is inherited in his family after a person turns 30. The man is already 30 and he is already manifesting symptoms of certain dementia. He is scared of this, especially against the background of the thing he witnessed...

What about female characters?

There is enough female plot. I think this avenue is good in the film.

Is this female story happy?

It depends on the point of view. I'm not saying it's a woman who is a villain or a man. Every villain has their own truth. It's not necessary to make a villain bald, with a Spanish beard, squint or with a scar covering a half of his face. This does not work. I remember it was Hitchcock who said: 'The film is more interesting when its villain is perfectly invented'. If a film has a 'well-made' villain who is not a mere maniac cutting people's heads off for no reason but has his own motivation — why he is so vengeful, why he pursues, etc. — and if you're interested in watching how he is caught, or not caught, and what he will do next, then this is not a mere thriller.

Who is the villain in your film: a woman or a man?

I'd rather not say. You need to watch the movie.

Who have you met most often in real life?

It's a 50x50 ratio. Women are clever. I have in no way ever belittled a woman's mind. I would say that in some things it is more sophisticated, more pragmatic and accurate. A woman drives a car very well. What does that mean? This means she controls any situation, knows how and what to do. She is not freaking out, she has a clear understanding of the function that she is now performing. I'm talking about most women. Although I'm not a fan of women's driving, really. But the fact that women are more sophisticated in their thinking works.

What about kindness, sincerity... Is there love in your film?

Yes, of course.

Is it happy or tragic?

I believe no happy ending is possible for a thriller. It is in any case already a genre. It's not a melodrama when we tell the story of two people and how good they feel together. This is a completely different movie.



Natural impressions transformed by imagination

Belart Gallery of Belarusian Union of Artists presents an exhibition of paintings by Olga Shkarubo and Vadim Bogdan



ings are perceived as a single chord of the restrained symphony of colours. In the landscape works of the artist, natural impressions are transformed by the author's imagination, they have that elusive breath of nature that finds the emotional response of the viewer.

Vadim Bogdan seeks to give images of awe and warmth. In his compositions there are no deliberate dynamics, ascetic laconism in the interpretation of images, although there is often a desire for beauty and refinement. In the artist's works, personal life observations and his aesthetic preferences are organically combined in an holistic artistic image. Vadim Bogdan attaches considerable

By Veniamin Mikheev

Artistic creativity is an intimate and individual process. For each artist, the main thing is to search for their distinctive and recognisable style. Olga Shkarubo is not a novice in the fine arts. She already has enough exhibition experience, and the recent exposition of her works gives us the opportunity of an interesting meeting with the young artist.

Olga's nature is impulsive and always dissatisfied with the result. She persistently searches for new themes and ways of implementation. Her works are always sincere and lyrical. This is a kind of poetic observation, where a subtly transmitted state of nature coexists with an expressive, experimental manner of performance. It is easy to notice that in the stories behind the feeling of contemplation lies an internal impulse, a restrained emotional tension.

However, in searching for experiment, it is useful to remember that conceptual and formalistic motives begin when the author is at a loss, when they have nothing to offer the audience and have nothing to say. In turn, the

individual author's style of painting by Olga Shkarubo is born of internal necessity. In her works, she finds her idea, expresses her attitude to the topic directly in the process of work, right on the canvas. This is an attempt to involve the viewer in the process of creating a picture. Painted enthusiastically and impulsively, her compositions are alien to dry and cold verification.

The variety of impressions are often overwhelming, when you want to capture the most expressive features of nature and objects, to convey in the picture. Recognisable and usual forms are not always present in her works; otherwise it would be too easy. However, each picture has enough clues to understand the meaning.

Similarly, Vadim Bogdan is slowly, step by step, improving his painting skills. He gains confidence and determines the range of his creative interests and attachments. He sets complex creative tasks which he later solves successfully. His worldview is alien to dissonances: the paint-

importance to composite plastic. He skilfully generalises the main elements of the composition, making it rhythmically clear and precise. The pictorial language of his paintings is simple and laconic. In the development of details, fluency and sketchiness can coexist with a careful ratio of the total volume and attention to the clarity and expressiveness of the silhouette. Some fragmentation and apparent randomness in the choice of motive does not prevent the artist embodying the beauty of the whole. With all the generality of the picturesque solutions, in each of his works there is a desire to create a whole image. The colour gives a sense of density, weight, it becomes more airy, romantic, fabulous. It is obvious that Vadim Bogdan bases each piece on a main idea, to which he seeks to subordinate a motive, transforming it in his imagination.

The works of Vadim Bogdan presented at the exhibition are another step towards the process of self-knowledge and self-improvement of the young artist.



CHESS OLYMPIAD
MINSK 2022 BELARUS

Brilliant game

In 2022, Belarus will host the World Chess Olympiad

Belarus' application was supported by most of the participants of the FIDE General Assembly in Batumi. Belarus won the right to host the tournament over South Korea and Tunisia. In the next few years, Belarus will host a number of big international sporting events: the 2nd European Games in 2019, the 2021 IIHF World Championships and the 2022 World Chess Olympiad.

One more piece of news from Batumi: the Chair of the Belarusian Chess Federation, Anastasia Sorokina, has been elected as the Vice-President of the World Chess Federation.

Arina Sobolenko best in September

By Alex Komarov

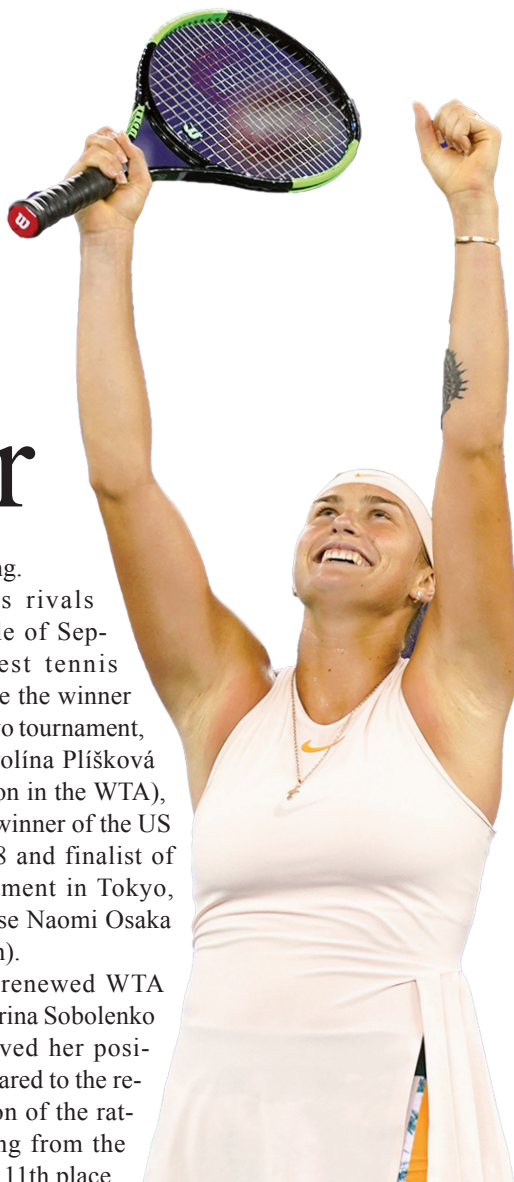
Belarus' number one tennis player named best tennis player of the world in September, following the results of a vote on the Women's Tennis Association website

During the first autumn month, Arina won the Premier 5 category tournament in Chinese Wuhan. Then she continued her performance at the Chinese Open 2018 and had the chance to qualify for the WTA final tournament of the year in Singapore which features the eight best female tennis players of the season. However, in the quarter-finals she was defeated in a tough struggle by Chinese,

Wang Qiang.

Arina's rivals for the title of September best tennis player were the winner of the Tokyo tournament, Czech Karolína Plíšková (7th position in the WTA), as well as winner of the US Open 2018 and finalist of the tournament in Tokyo, the Japanese Naomi Osaka (ranked 6th).

In the renewed WTA rankings Arina Sobolenko has improved her position (compared to the recent version of the rating), raising from the 16th to the 11th place.



ARENA

Belarus' national ice hockey team (U-17) win at international Bauer Cup in Beijing

On the final day of the competition, head coach Pavel Perepekhin's trainees were stronger than the German team, winning 11:0. Yegor Strelkovsky scored a hat-trick and two more goals were scored by Miroslav Mikhalev. Due to this success our squad earned 13 points and went beyond reach of its rivals. Previously, Belarusian hockey players defeated Finland (3:1), Russia (7:2) and the USA (3:1) in Beijing, losing only to Latvia in a series of penalty shoot-outs (2:3).

Three medals earned by Belarusian athletes at World Cup stage in trampolining in Portuguese Loule

Olympic champion in Rio de Janeiro, Vladislav Goncharov, confidently won in the individual jumps, earning 62,125 points. He managed to go ahead of his principal opponent from China, Gao Lei, while the bronze medal went to another representative of Belarus, Oleg Ryabtsev.

Lidselmash gets into Futsal Champions League elite stage

The round-robin tournament in group 4 finished in Priština, which determined the three participants of the elite round of the Champions League from this quarter. Lidselmash of Belarus was also among these. In the third-round match, the four-time champions from Belarus, alas, couldn't find the necessary attack against Kairat of Kazakhstan, losing 0:6. The second match of the day was also a disappointment: Kosovo Feniks 'surrendered' to Portugal's Sporting — 0:5. Thus, Lidselmash together with the two favourites joined the next stage.

Victoria Azarenko splits with her personal coach

Former world number one, Victoria Azarenko, decided to split with her personal coach, Benjamin Ebrahimzadeh, with whom she has been working for several months/

After returning to the professional tour, it was announced that the cooperation between Victoria Azarenko and Vyacheslav Konikov would be renewed. Previously, Victoria has trained under the guidance of coaches Michael Joyce and Ashcon Rezazadeh. Her training partner was Sascha Bajin, who, this season, helped the Japanese player Naomi Osaka to join top ten strongest tennis players in the world.

Ice hockey

Trampolining

Mini-football

Tennis

Victory without euphoria

Tsmoki-Minsk female basketballers win Belarus Cup for third time in a row

In the semi-final match with the finalists of the last Cup event — Horizont — Andrey Vavlev's trainees won 65:60. In another semi-final

match, Grodno Olimpia defeated Gomel-Sozh — 82:53. The final match didn't see a tough struggle: Minsk were much stronger than their rivals, winning 74:56.

After the successful final, the head coach of the Tsmoki-Minsk team noted that it's

always pleasant to win but there's no euphoria from the victory. This is primarily connected with the fact that the squad failed to show a quality game which would enable them to look good in the European Cup events.

Basketballers from Hori-

zont, who beat Gomel-Sozh — 48:42 — claimed the bronze award. The centre player of the winning team, Victoria Gasper, was recognised as the most efficient player of the 22nd Women's Belarus Cup; in the semi-final and final matches she scored 22 points.

Simply frustrating beginning

By Nikolay Khodasevich

Greek PAOK defeats BATE in the first match of Europa League Group Stage

It sometimes happens that a plan falls to pieces. Alexey Baga, after the first missed ball, shouted instructions to the players at the Borisov-Arena, which was almost completely full of fans. Everything was in vain. The second goal in Denis Shcherbitsky's net arrived quickly; Baga wasn't appeased, rushing along the trainer's zone, shouting out on the frosty autumn evening, but it seemed nobody heard him. The third goal followed and BATE calmed down; the coach did the same. He sat next to the assistants, looking for a moment confused and resigned. It's impossible to find words after missing three goals from the Greek team PAOK in seventeen minutes.

The Brazilian Léo with the tricky surname for our region, with a tactful accent on the last syllable — Jabá (pronounced as 'Zhaba' in Russian and translated as 'frog') — became BATE's executioner. The ex-player from Grozny Akhmat was involved in all the goals against the hosts. His exact pass to Prijovic's head opened the defeat. Twice, Léo effectively worked at speed, quickly broke into the penalty area of BATE and coolly beat the goalkeeper in close combat. After the break, he gave another assist to captain Pelkas and, to the applause of a small guest fan area, quickly went to warm up in the locker room. The logical question is whether Jabá is so fantastic. He is, but not in such a superlative way. He was helped to express himself by the BATE defenders. As regards the direct position, Rios and Polyakov



During this match the ball was primarily hitting BATE's net

were great, as well as the whole team in the first half — not only in defence but also in attack. Missed balls are often a consequence of a badly organised move from defence to attack. Our champion from the first minutes appeared rarely in the hosts' part of the field.

Captain Igor Stasevich was silent after the final whistle, but he probably experienced the hardest time: four years ago, he participated in a similar defeat. At that time, the midfielder wore a captain's armband in Minsk Dinamo, played away matches against, for example, PAOK and analysed the depressing defeat of 1:6. However, the team, under the leadership of Vladimir Zhuravl then played a debut match in the group stage of the Europa League and it was forgivable to lose. This time, BATE has experienced embarrassment despite its

greater experience, playing at home and being inspired by real chances to go through to the tournament's playoffs.

Alexey Baga reported to journalists at a press conference and appeared in the foyer of Borisov-Arena. Two thoughts from the head coach, in a fleeting conversation, reveal the essence of a major defeat. In European cups, a team is punished for a minor mistake. It's senseless to expect mercy from PAOK or anyone else in the group stage. The potential success of any top-level championship relies on the utmost concentration and strict discipline. The second truth lies in the skills of our players. Any move from national championships to international matches are still a challenge for BATE. The speed of decision-making among opponents varies significantly.

Holiday of the week



On October 6th-7th, Pinsk brightly and colourfully celebrated its 921st birthday

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 30th December. *Universe of Yazep Drozdovich*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 11th October. Vladimir Lihodedov's personal exhibition: *Belarus 1914-1918. War and Peace* Until 7th November. *Silver Age of Russian Jewellers*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 14th October. *Scientist with Soul of a Violin* Until 21st October. *With Faith and Love* Until 28th October. *Organs. European Legacy of Belarus*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 30th November. *Cat and Autumn*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 21st October. *Belarus and the Bible* Until 31st October. Project: *Small Homeland — Novel of Times* Until 31st January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale horror*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street
Until 14th October. *Life with Cold Blood* Until 14th October. *Insects and More*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

11 Sovetskaya Street
Until 30th November. *Belarusian Lawyers of 19th Century*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st January. *Somewhere to the West of Minsk: Daily Life of Western Belarus* Until 4th December. *20th Century Avant-Garde*

MAGIC MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 15th December. *Tournament of Three Magicians*

LEONID SHCHEMELEV ART GALLERY

10 Revolutsionnaya Street
Until 28th October. *Under the Sign of Weighs* exhibition of decorative-and-applied arts

MINSK GALLERY

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 13th January. *Museum of Fir-Tree Toys*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
11.10. *The Flying Dutchman*
12.10. *Laurencia*
14.10. *Eugene Onegin*
15.10. *The Nutcracker*
16.10. *The Queen of the Spades*
17.10. *The Swan Lake*
18.10. *Salome*

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
13.10. *Romeo and Juliet*
14.10. *House Upside Down*

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
11.10. *Hunting for Oneself*
12.10. *Th Broken Nest*
13.10. *Grandfather*
14.10. *Three Giselles* 15.10. 1517
16.10. *This Is All She*
17.10. *Concrete*
18.10. *Live Until Premiere*

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
11.10. *Warsaw Melody*
12.10. *Chekhov. Comedy. Seagull*
13.10. *Love of Three*
14.10. *Sanya, Vanya and Rimas*
16.10. *Caught by Love*

17.10. *Tectonics of Feelings*
18.10. *Zhmurik*

BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street
11.10. *Dog and Hay*
13.10. *Trouble of Tender Heart*
17.10. *I'm Your Officer*

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
11.10. *Two Souls* 12.10. *Evening*
14.10. *Local Cabaret* 16.10. *Inspector*
17.10. *Tolerance* 18.10. *Pan Tadeush*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Strete
11.10. *Taming of the Shrew*
12.10. *Red Hot Mamas*
13.10. *The Twelfth Night*
14.10. *An Ideal Husband*
16.10. *Double Eternity*
17.10. *Lady for a Day*
18.10. *Dangerous Ties*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
11.10. *Mixed Feelings* 12.10. *A Very Simple Story* 13.10. *Robbery at Midnight*
14 and 16.10. *Mechanical Man* 17 and 18.10. *Even a Wise Man Stumbles*