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INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 36 (898) ● THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 ● WWW.SB.BY



The Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex encourages everyone to think about the fragility of the modern world and about the need to appreciate the main thing that we have today: the right to live in a sovereign, peaceful country

## Place of power

The Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex has celebrated its 50th anniversary. On the day of the jubilee, the monument to those who gave their lives for the Motherland and forever entered the history of our people hosted official events: a commemoration meeting, ceremony for joining the ranks of Little Octobrists and Young Pioneers, and *Memorial. 50 Years of Service to History* round table session with the presentation of the anniversary album. At the end of the working day, a gala reception dedicated to the anniversary was held at the Brest Academic Drama Theatre. In accordance with the decree of President Aleksandr Lukashenko, the Brest Hero-Fortress was awarded the Order of Francysk Skaryna. The prestigious award was presented to the Director of the Memorial Complex, Grigory Bysyuk, by Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko.



# State support: focused and efficient

By Polina Konoga,  
Svetlana Isaenok

Early use of family capital for individual needs, a financial bonus from the employer in the formation of a funded pension, methods to stimulate the construction of housing in rural areas, as well as a new area — the implementation of civil and youth initiatives on the spot: these issues were the focus of the meeting. The discussion of the draft decrees turned into a heated discussion with opposing opinions. As a result, a number of documents will still be finalised. Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined a principled approach, “In the current economic situation, every Rouble counts. Any government support must be justified.”

## Social brand

One of the central topics of discussion was the details of the draft Decree ‘On the Use of Family Capital’. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that the state is doing everything possible to make large families the norm for our society and added that a powerful package of social measures has been established in the country, which includes benefits for the birth and upbringing of children, financial assistance for housing, benefits in education and healthcare, as well as in the tax, pension and labour spheres.

“We can responsibly say that the support of large families is a social brand of our state, its calling card,” commented the President.

According to him, life shows that we have chosen the right path: the number of large families has almost doubled over the past decade. Today there are more than 115,000 of them in the country.

The Head of State is convinced that, “The mechanism of the programme works and works efficiently. This means that we need to develop it further.”

At the same time, he asked the developers of the document how justified and timely the expansion of the boundaries of the early use of family capital was, stressing, “We shouldn’t exchange long-term support for momentary needs.”

The draft decree on the use of family capital was presented to the President by the Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Irina Kostevich. She noted that this measure of state support

citizens in the construction and acquisition of residential premises. Even at this difficult time, we must take additional measures to protect the interests of large families and provide them with financial assistance in the construction of housing until the children reach 23 years of age (previously this was up to 18 years old).

Moreover, it is proposed to increase the amount of state support for families with many children living in the country-

Support for large families, innovations in the pension system, new measures to stimulate housing construction: the meeting between the President of Belarus and leadership of the Council of Ministers tackled draft important decrees

side, in which at least one of the spouses works in rural areas.

After the meeting, the Minister of Architecture and Construction, Ruslan Parkhamovich, told reporters that the purpose of the document is to stimulate the construction of housing in rural areas, as well as to revise and adjust the conditions for the provision of state support, taking into account the practice of applying existing regulations.

To stimulate the movement

of citizens to the countryside, it is proposed to give an opportunity to those in need of better housing conditions from regional centres and Minsk to build housing with state support in settlements with a population of up to 20,000 people.

## A balanced approach to the future

The topic of voluntary insurance for supplementary funded pensions was also in the spotlight. The Head of State recalled that at the 6th All-Belarusian People’s Congress the issue was raised: a decent income in old age should be taken care of in advance, through an additional voluntary pension programme. The meeting considered proposals for a financial bonus from the employer when forming a funded pension.

They also considered a new area of work: the mechanism for implementing civic and youth initiatives on the spot.

In general, the President requested to establish control over the implementation of the decisions made at the meeting, to provide high-quality and wide information coverage of the topics under consideration.



BELTA

is the most demanded, recalling the modernisation of the programme last year, when families received the right to use family capital ahead of schedule.

Irina Kostevich said that in 2020-2021, representatives of the ministry held meetings with large families in all regions. It was their proposals that were included in the draft decree, which will be finalised.

## Help for housing

Another document discussed by the meeting participants was the draft Presidential Decree ‘On Measures to Provide State Support’. According to the Head of State, housing is the most pressing need for people, “There is a need to make certain adjustments to the procedure and conditions for providing state support to our

## Redistribution of powers and amendments to the Constitution: the President announced a number of important events

During the meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko also gave instructions to hold several important events on topical issues in the near future, particularly, to organise a similar meeting with representatives of the Belarus President Administration, “As for the President Administration, we’ve accumulated a great deal of issues that need to be addressed — political, ideological, and those relating to human resources. Even more so because the referendum will be held soon, there are things that need to be discussed. Therefore, it is necessary for parliamentarians and the Administration, as well as the Government, to get involved, collect five or six questions (if we need we will hold two meetings) and consider them, then agree, if necessary. So do it.”

Among the important topics of the upcoming event is the issue of the redistribution of powers. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “**No progress of late. We did several steps and calmed down. The transfer of the President’s powers to the central government, municipal authorities and so on that we’ve talked about in order to implement it without violating the Constitution.**”

In the near future, the President also plans to discuss the draft of the updated Constitution at a meeting with the Constitutional Commission, “I want to meet with the Commission after they have finished their discussion. And then we will create, I think, a specific small group, which will professionally finalise the draft Constitution on our behalf. Therefore, it will also need to be discussed — how we will continue to work in this regard.”

A meeting of the Constitutional Commission with the participation of the President may take place in the nearest time. Aleksandr Lukashenko instructed the responsible persons to prepare for this event, especially regarding the transfer of powers.

# Personnel decisions of the President

## Aleksandr Lukashenko appoints new ambassadors to Tajikistan, Brazil and the Republic of Korea

Viktor Denisenko will represent the interests of Belarus in Tajikistan. He will take the ambassadorial post after working as Deputy Head of the Main Directorate — Head of the CIS Countries Department of the Main Directorate of Russia, the CIS Countries and Eurasian Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sergei Lukashevich, now senior adviser to the Belarusian Embassy in Spain, has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the

Federative Republic of Brazil.

Andrei Chernetsky will head the Belarusian Embassy in the Republic of Korea.

Addressing the new Belarusian Ambassador to Tajikistan, Viktor Denisenko, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that this is not just a friendly country to us, our President has a long-standing personal friendship with its leader, Emomali Rahmon, “We have practically no secrets from each other. This was also shown by my last three-day visit. Therefore, it will be easy for you to work from this side.”

Moreover, as the Head of State noted, there is great potential for the development of trade with Tajikistan, specific areas in which should be added in co-operation,

“**The main thing for any ambassador is trade-economic relations. We have no problems with politics with Tajikistan, as well as in other countries where you will go.**”

He also spoke on the topic of co-operation with Brazil, “This is a powerful, huge state and we need to expand our presence there, at least a little.

I mean trade-economic relations. You will see in politics how much this is possible.” In this area, the Head of State also counts on Russia’s support.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must help through Russia and BRICS. Russians can help in many areas, especially in Brazil and especially now, when they are trying to assist us at many levels amidst the sanctions. It’s a difficult period for them, just as it is for us. But, as you can see, we are coping. I think we will handle it. And Brazil should be one of the main states on this list,

thanks to which we can feel more stable here,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“As far as Korea is concerned, we really need to liaise with it. Now, together with the Foreign Ministry, we need to collaborate and outline the main directions of our co-operation. They are meeting halfway. They are interested in this huge platform in the centre of Europe. Therefore, we need to maintain relations with them,” said the Belarusian leader.

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**The Belarusian real sector has faced a double test. On the one hand, there are COVID restrictions in different parts of the world, on the other, there are sanctions pressures from the EU and the United States. Nevertheless, Belarusian industry is withstanding these blows with dignity. Moreover, it demonstrates growth in both production volumes and export supplies. The level of warehouse stocks is also acceptable. This is a good trend, and, as Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, it is important to keep it, "We must stay at this level — no matter what it takes."**

**Fighting against espionage**

Obviously, there are a lot of ill-wishers around our country. They also recruit local figures into their service. There are not many of them, but this situation is also unacceptable. The Head of State put the question bluntly, "I know that you in the Government have made a number of decisions to minimise the impact of western sanctions on our economy but look at your employees in factories. I have information that there are still a few scoundrels left in some places, and they set themselves the goal of informing the collective West about how Parkhomchik and Nazarov are trying to bypass the sanctions."

There must be an adequate response to the facts of malicious sabotage. The President calls things by their proper names,

The financial condition of enterprises, co-operation with Russian colleagues in microelectronics, the fight against industrial spies: important aspects of the report to the President of Belarus by Industry Minister Piotr Parkhomchik and Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Nazarov

# Industry shows growth



*"In fact, they spy and hand over information. We have identified several, they will be imprisoned for a long time, I say this bluntly. Nevertheless, we must watch out for them. There are just a few, but they still remain. And these are not just people who express their civic position. These are people who deliberately harm our economy, as well as our state, for the money from western special services. Pay special attention, directors, to this and watch these processes yourself."*

The President also recalled the recent agreement with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the joint development of microelectronics, "Thank God, we have preserved these

enterprises, but, naturally, we should develop more intensively in this respect in order to reach a competitive level with those who call the tune in the world today."

**Push for growth**

After the report to the President, Industry Minister, Piotr Parkhomchik, described details of the discussion to the media.

"According to the results of the last eight months, the enterprises of the Industry Ministry are fulfilling all the adjusted indicators; moreover, they demonstrate very high export growth rates (138-139 percent). There is no doubt that these dynamics will continue after the results of nine months," said Mr. Parkhomchik, announcing the figures and plans.

He added that the Head of

State instructed, despite all the difficulties, to maintain the level of production and the level of exports no lower than the indicators from the first half of the year,

*"In the second half of the year, we must practically double the results of the work of the country's industrial enterprises. We have no doubt that we will cope with the task at hand."*

Answering the question about the expansion of sales markets, the Minister admitted that what the European partners are doing is unpleasant. However, according to Mr. Parkhomchik, this is an impetus and opportunity for enterprises to pay more attention to import substitution, technical solutions and diversification,

*"I would not like to reveal our technical plans now, but we will surprise you. There is no doubt that the industrial enterprises of Belarus will cope with these sanctions."*

But as for specific enterprises that came under the sanctions, the President separately pointed out that their employees should not suffer in any way. Certain steps have already been taken to further protect employees."

"I will not name the amount, but the Government has adopted the relevant documents and roadmaps. And these enterprises received cheap funds to address these issues," commented the Minister.

**Important vectors**

One of the topical areas of work is interaction with Russia. The growth rate of shipments to our partners this year is already 152 percent, Piotr Parkhomchik cited the figure, "Tractors, harvesters, refrigerators, TV sets and other Belarusian products are being successfully sold. Most importantly, those roadmaps [Union State programmes for deep integration], which we have agreed, enable us to overcome the obstacles that appear on the way."

The African region is no less interesting for Belarus. For example, last year, harvesters, MAZ equipment, fire trucks and tractors were assembled in Zimbabwe — in total, about 800 units worth \$30m. This year, the volume of supplies of our equipment to this country will almost double.

Referring to the situation at the enterprises, the Minister stressed that there are no strikes, the enterprises are working in normal mode of operation, and the information that appears in separate telegram channels does not correspond to reality.

# Negotiation marathon at the UN

Thoughtless sanctions pressure from the West threatens global food security

By Yevgeny Kononovich

The 76th session of the UN General Assembly was held in New York. The Belarusian delegation was headed by Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei. The programme of the visit included speeches at the general political discussion and the UN Summit on Food Systems, participation in the ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends in Defence of the UN Charter on the topic of countering unilateral measures and a series of bilateral meetings and negotiations.

At the UN Summit on Food Systems, Vladimir Makei warned that the policy of sanctions against the Belarusian potash sector could lead to a decrease in crop yields and an increase in food prices in the world. The Foreign Minister stressed that Belarus has always made a significant contribution to ensuring global food security by exporting agricultural products and foodstuffs to more than 100

countries, given that in Belarus, national food security is fully ensured. However, the thoughtless sanctions imposed by western countries on Belarus promise far from bright prospects on the way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and in the fight against hunger in the world.

Vladimir Makei noted, "The absence of Belarusian potash fertilisers on the world market, which occupy 20 percent of the market, a priori leads to a significant decrease in agricultural yields.

*The shortage of potash fertilisers in the world market will predictably lead to an increase in their prices and, as a consequence, to an increase in food prices. The exclusion of Belarusian potash fertilisers from the European market will also negatively affect the agricultural sector of the EU itself."*

Belarus calls for abandoning the use of sanctions, which

not only contradict international obligations, but also run counter to the provisions of the UN Charter and UN General Assembly resolutions on unilateral coercive measures.

"Against the background of the fact that almost two billion people in the world are malnourished, it is unacceptable to use food and connecting chains as an instrument of political pressure and economic blackmail," stressed the Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry.

At the ministerial meeting of the countries participating in the Group of Friends in Defence of the UN Charter on the topic of countering unilateral coercive measures, Vladimir Makei noted that these measures pose a growing threat to global security and have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable groups of the population, on the health and well-being of ordinary people, women, children, people with disabilities and

those in difficult life situations.

Bilateral meetings were also held on the fringes of the UN General Assembly, during which topical issues of the international agenda and prospects for the development of trade and economic co-operation were discussed. Vladimir Makei met with colleagues from Venezuela, Vietnam, Mozambique, Jamaica, Estonia, Syria, Hungary, Iran, Nicaragua, Turkey, Serbia, Finland.

Vladimir Makei met with UN Secretary General António Guterres in New York. The meeting focused on issues of reforming the organisation and Belarus' contribution to enhancing the role and importance of the UN in the world, as well as a number of problematic aspects on the subject of Belarus-UN relations.

Speaking in New York at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Vladimir Makei noted,



*"Despite the universal calls for strengthening security, multilateralism, solidarity and mutual assistance, which are heard annually within these walls, the world today has reached the highest degree of confrontation. Belarus also found itself unwittingly drawn into the abyss of this geopolitical war. Our country has been the target of militant pressure from the collective West for more than a year. This is only because Belarus failed to implement the polished scenario of the yet another colour revolution timed to coincide with the Presidential elections in Belarus."*

FOCUS

# Time to show oneself



Belarus presented its national pavilion at the *Novi Sad* international agricultural exhibition in Serbia

NOVI SAD FAIR

*Novi Sad* International Agricultural Fair is the largest exhibition in South-Eastern Europe. This year, more than 600 companies took part in the event. National pavilions were presented by nine countries: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia and the Czech Republic.

The organiser of the exposition of Belarusian manufacturers *Made in Belarus* is the Belinterexpo exhibition unitary enterprise of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Belarus was the largest foreign participant in the exhibition, with more than 30 companies presenting their goods. Famous Belarusian brands were among the exhibitors.

The Molochny Mir Company demonstrated rennet and soft cheeses, sterilised milk, butter and cream. The Soligorsk Poultry Farm showcased chicken and quail eggs smoked over birch and alder with mustard, black pepper, garlic and turmeric, while Belshina, Mogilevkh-

imvolokno, Lakokraska and the Mining Wax Plant presented new items and developments in the chemical and petrochemical industries. Among the samples of Belshina's products are tyres for tractors, agricultural vehicles and dump trucks, which provide increased resistance to cuts and chips, alongside polyester fibres, paints and varnishes, as well as paraffins, waxes, and cooling lubricants.

A number of innovative developments, including biotechnological solutions for the agro-industrial complex, were demonstrated by the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Preparations for protecting and stimulating plant growth were presented by the Institute of Microbiology and the Institute of General and Bioorganic Chemistry. Moreover, a biological analogue of hu-

percent compared to analogues.

The capabilities of the 'Palesse' grain and forage harvesters were demonstrated by the Gomselmash enterprise — one of the leaders in the world market of complex agricultural machines. Samples of equipment produced by the Minsk Tractor Works, the Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units and other manufacturers of agricultural machinery were on show by the Belarus-Agropanonka joint venture in the open area of the exhibition.

A representative delegation from Belarus took part in the events: Minister of Industry, Piotr Parkhomchik, Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Ulakhovich, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Sergei Chizhik, as well as other heads of Belarusian exporting enterprises.

A memorandum of intent was also signed between the Belkommunmash enterprise and the Serbian company Tehnograd to create an assembly plant for electric buses. Moreover, a number of meetings and consultations took place on the fringes of the exhibition.

Belarusian enterprises held negotiations with several dozen representatives of regional business, discussing co-operation in a number of areas. In particular, farmers from Serbia showed interest in purchasing self-propelled units for harvesting apples produced by the Scientific and Production Center for Agricultural Mechanisation of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

Based on materials of belta.by



Photo courtesy of the Embassy of Belarus in Serbia

Belarus' Industry Minister Piotr Parkhomchik was received by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić. During the meeting, the high level of relations between the two countries was confirmed and the potential for the development and deepening of economic ties was noted.



belinterexpo.by

man lactoferrin — used for the production of products in the field of medicine, pharmaceuticals, cosmetology, food industry — was demonstrated by the Research and Production Centre for Animal Breeding.

An innovative half-row harvester for gathering chokeberry, blackcurrant, gooseberry and rose hips was brought to the attention of Serbian farmers by the Research and Production Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Cost savings when using the harvester is 30

## Well done — well sold

Today, domestic engineering industry exports its goods to 99 countries

By Ilya Krasovsky

This year is going well for the domestic industrial sector. In the context of potential sanctions, risks and the unpredictable behaviour of foreign counterparties, as well as a difficult epidemiological situation, our industry maintains positive dynamics in terms of key financial indicators. All key indicators — indicated by the Government — have been met. Export growth for the first nine months of this year is 135 percent while net profit stands at about Br430m. On the eve of Machine Builder's Day, which was celebrated in the country on Sunday, First Deputy Industry Minister Sergei Gunko tells us about the mechanisms for increasing the export of products and innovative growth points.

### Upward movement

The global situation after the lockdown was lifted contributed to the growth of exports. World corporations, primarily those that extract minerals, have resumed their investment activities. The sales of Belarusian-made household appliances, especially TVs and refrigerators, also started to grow. 95 percent of all household appliances produced in our country are exported.

"Since the beginning of the year, we have produced over Br11.9bn of industrial products (about \$4.65bn in equivalent)," says Sergei Gunko. "The growth rate against the same period last year is 142.5 percent. Exports to Russia and neighbouring countries have also been increased. In many areas, we have reached the maximum

actual production capabilities. We receive more orders than we can handle."

### War of brands

Today AMKODOR, MAZ and BELAZ are under western sanctions. Sergei Gunko is sure that sanctions are another instrument of a competitive war against our enterprises, "We pushed large players out of the market and took away a significant market share from them. Under the conditions of sanctions, we have found alternative ways of development. We reoriented work with other suppliers, while the quality of the products did not suffer. We

have redirected export flows while mastering new sales markets."

Today, export from the machine-building industry go to 99 countries. One of the most promising markets for our equipment is the African continent. So, last year, three contracts were successfully completed for the supply of equipment to Zimbabwe worth about \$50m. Meanwhile, in June, new contracts were signed for the supply of 1,337 MTZ tractors, 16 Gomselmash harvesters and five units of agricultural machinery manufactured by Bobruisk-agromash for a total of \$26.5m. Moreover, our equipment was highly appreciated in

Every year, the Industry Ministry allocates about \$60m to create solutions and products in the field of electric transport production



Vitaly Pivovarenchik

200 MAZ vehicles will soon go to Tanzania

Malawi and Burkina Faso, with the issue of building assembly workshops in Zambia and South Africa also being considered. Assembly shops are being set up in Egypt. A contract has been signed for the supply of 700 tractors to this country; 200 MAZ vehicles will soon go to Tanzania.

### Future technologies

A third of the total volume of products shipped for export is innovative. In some industries, this share reaches 80 percent e.g., in machine building and the production of television equipment. These are future growth points.

"We are actively developing electric technology: this is our foundation for innovation," comments Mr. Gunko. "By 2025, a whole new industry will appear for the production of freight, passenger and light electric vehicles. The first prototypes are already being tested."

The production of electric vehicles annually receives about \$60m for the creation of solutions and products. In total, by the end of 2025, about \$400m will be spent on these studies. The invested funds bear fruit.

In June 2021, the Head of State was shown how unmanned BELAZ trucks were mining granite crushed stone at the Sitnitskoye deposit of the Granit enterprise in the Luninets District. Prototypes of BELAZ-7558R mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 90 tonnes and a BELAZ-7825D front loader operate using data transmission technology over the 5G communication channel.

Minsk Automobile Works is also engaged in unmanned vehicles, with pilot development launched back in 2018. The first batch was produced and delivered to the domestic market this year. Four electric buses based on MAZ-303 run along Minsk streets and six more operate in the regions.

ECONOMY

The Institute of Sociology at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus conducted a survey, entitled *Historical Memory in the Assessments of the Population of Belarus*. The representative study covered more than two thousand people from all over the country. The results were announced at a press conference in the House of Press by the Director of the Institute, Nikolai Myslivets.

# Where does the Motherland begin?

By Yelena Kozlovskaya

Answering the question ‘What does Belarus mean to you?’ more than half of the respondents chose the option ‘my homeland’. For almost 48 percent of the respondents this is ‘the country in which I live’, for almost every third respondent this is ‘the land that my grandfathers and great-grandfathers defended’. Every fourth respondent indicated that Belarus is ‘the country I love’ while a little more than 12 percent of the those polled chose the option ‘a country whose culture and language I consider native to me’.

Sociologists asked the respondents *what our country is associated with in the first place*. More than 44 percent of respondents believed that these are national symbols: stork, auroch and cornflower. Approximately the same number of people answered that they identify Belarus with objects of the cultural heritage: palaces and castles, Slutsk belts, Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

“As we can see, the policy that is being pursued to restore historical monuments is justified,” Nikolai Myslivets said, commenting on the data. “The poll also showed the important role of state symbols, which have been actively popularised recently. For slightly more than 40 percent of the respondents, the country is associated with these symbols.”



Aleksandr Kulevsky

## How Belarusians relate to the past of their country

When asked *with whom the Belarusians identify themselves first of all, i.e. who they mean when they say ‘we’*, more than 90 percent answered ‘with relatives’. Slightly less — 84 percent — responded ‘with friends’.

“We can talk about the im-

age of a nation, for which the kinship principle is most important,” concludes Mr. Myslivets. “We are, if you can call it that, a ‘home nation’.

Answers to the question ‘What unites us?’ confirmed the love of Belarusian citizens for stability. More than

55 percent of the respondents answered that they are united by the desire to live in stability and prosperity. Slightly more than 40 percent believe that the desire to live in a separate and independent country is a consolidating factor for them. Every third thinks that Belaru-

sians are united by historical heritage, the same number of respondents — that it’s by the national traditions and customs, and the same mentality. Every fifth person believes that the inhabitants of Belarus are united by culture and language.

The citizens of Belarus were asked *what they would like to see Belarus achieve on the world stage in 5-10 years*. Equal shares of respondents — about 14 percent each — see Belarus in the future as part of the European Union and part of the Eurasian Union. Every fourth respondent wants to see it as a state that has retained neutrality and is not a member of any unions. A large proportion of respondents could not unequivocally state their position. The Director of the Institute of Sociology interprets this as normal, “The realities that we all observe are quite difficult to perceive. And if it’s easier for a person who has special knowledge and who is professionally versed in certain areas to make a choice, then it is difficult for young people and representatives of other socio-demographic groups to comprehend the information that literally falls from all sources. This is the field in which our national humanities, educational and cultural institutions, research institutes and journalists work, and which, of course, needs to be further explored.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Belarus improved its positions in the ranking of the most innovative countries in the Global Innovation Index 2021



“Belarus climbed two places and took 62nd place in the ranking of the most innovative countries in the Global Innovation Index 2021. It is published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organisation — a member of the UN structure. Over the year, our country has improved its position in several categories of the rating. In the category ‘Knowledge and Technology Outputs’ Belarus has risen from 46th to 37th place, in the block ‘Creative Outputs’ — from 97th to 93rd,” reads the statement on the website of the Hi-Tech Park.

In the category ‘ICT Services Exports’ Belarus took 11th place in the world, moving up 4. The country also moved up from 19th to 16th place in the ‘ICT Access’ ranking. Belarus remained the world leader in the category ‘Mobile App Creation’.

### BELAZ assembled a jubilee 90-tonne mining dump truck

The anniversary 90-tonne mining dump truck BELAZ-7558 — chassis No. 500 — was assembled at the Belarusian Automobile Works (BELAZ). The vehicles of this particular series went down in history as the world’s first dump trucks



with a carrying capacity of 90 tonnes with alternate current electromechanical transmission, the press service of the plant said.

In 2012, the first prototype of the vehicle was assembled in BELAZ experimental workshop. BELAZ-7558 quickly established itself in practice as reliable equipment that works perfectly in difficult meteorological conditions. Today, the 7558 series dump truck range is represented by ten different modifications while also serving as a platform for new generation vehicles, such as robotic dump trucks and electric dump trucks. The geography of deliveries of 90-tonne dump trucks covers almost the whole world.

### New resident of the Great Stone Park will create a centre for processing and storing large amounts of data

A new resident has been registered in the China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park: Data Cloud LLC (Belarus), the press service of the Park reports.

The company will create an integrated centre for collecting, processing and storing large amounts of data. In future, on its site, services will be provided for analysis, processing, data exchange, as



well as the development of e-commerce systems with the involvement of its own data centre capacities.

The China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park is a special economic zone with a special legal regime. The priority areas for the Park are machine building, electronics and telecommunications, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, new materials, logistics, e-commerce, storage and processing of large amounts of data.

### Russia fully restored air traffic with Belarus

On September 21st, Russia lifted all restrictions on air traffic with Belarus and resumed it with Spain, Iraq, Kenya and Slovakia. This decision was previously made by the operational headquarters for the fight against coronavirus, TASS reports.

Thus, air traffic between Russia and Belarus, temporarily limited due to the spread of the coronavirus, has been fully restored.

In June, Russia increased the number of regular flights in air traffic with Belarus to ten per week.

Since August 1st, the Russian Fed-



eration has doubled the number of flights from Moscow to Minsk, as well as increased their number from Sochi and Krasnodar.

Previously, Russia had already resumed flights with 53 countries.

**Definitely, sanctions do bring some tension into our routine but the imposed and planned restrictions have so far had rather a positive impact on our economy. The foreign trade balance, which is fundamental for our country, is not just in a positive zone but is breaking historical records.**

By Vladimir Volchkov

**Flexible escape**

According to the National Bank, from January-July 2021, the positive foreign trade balance rose more than 2.2-fold against 2020 — to reach \$2bn. Moreover, the dynamics of exports to the EU (the states which are actually not so friendly to us) are growing faster than to Russia, which is our strategic partner. However, there is nothing strange about this. This is exactly the case when figures demonstrate the discrepancy between political and economic interests.

Vilnius (or rather, the politicians who have settled there) stubbornly demand from the whole world tougher sanctions for Belaruskali. Although what our mining giant has displeased the Lithuanian authorities about remains unclear. However, our neighbours are showing the greatest zeal in foreign policy confrontation with Belarus. Somehow, in matters of rhetoric and sanctions stories, they were ahead of the whole planet. Meanwhile, businesses look at our country differently.

*Based on the National Statistical Committee data, in H1 2021, exports of goods to Lithuania increased 1.5-fold, to Latvia — 2-fold, to Poland — 1.7-fold, and to Ukraine*



**Belarus' positive foreign trade balance has reached \$2bn: sanctions have become not a brake but a trigger for development of Belarusian exports in all key areas**

— almost 1.6-fold. Sales to Germany and the Czech Republic almost doubled, while exports to Russia increased slightly more than 1.3-fold.

These seemingly strange figures can be easily and logically explained. Of course, the effect of a low base of last year played its role: a pandemic started, countries one after another went into a hard lockdown, logistics ties were disrupted... However, this was not a key factor in improving the balance. Our enterprises are distinguished by their flexibility, which enabled them to reorient and not only successfully pass through a tough pandemic period but also not miss the chance to improve their positions in foreign markets. Without bringing tangible epidemiological dividends, lockdowns hit western industry — creating a vacuum in many markets which Belarusian goods were happy to fill.

It should be noted that the growth didn't occur from scratch: COVID was a trigger for positive quantitative and qualitative dynamics.

Wood processing products enjoyed success, for example. They were in need globally in H1 2021 and, accordingly, prices soared. Naturally, it was virtually a sin for our enterprises not to take advantage of the successful conjuncture. They worked to increase their presence in foreign markets, including in Western Europe, in the area of high-margin products — such as furniture.

Belarusian Ivatsevichdrev systematically increased supplies of its own products and those of the trademarks manufactured by order of major foreign operators: Polish, German and French. Moreover, it sig-

nificantly pushed Polish companies behind in this market.

**Undoubtedly, sanctions create a very unpleasant feeling. True, they affect the work of our enterprises but do not drive them into a negative zone. Although, if it were not for the restrictions, the results could be even better.**

**It's impossible to start a car with rhetoric**

Official Kiev has repeatedly and loudly made vivid political statements on Belarus. At the same time, supplies of our oil products to this country are rising. Politics is still there, of course, but it's necessary to fuel the transport. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in the second year

of his presidency, discovered a well-known truth: Ukraine's own oil refining is almost destroyed. He also made another unexpected discovery: fuel production is a strategic area. The President of Ukraine tasked the Government to restore order and work out options for reviving national refineries. However, it's still unclear when such a miracle will happen (after all, the four previous Ukrainian presidents were not able to solve this problem) and where will the investments come from? Anyway, it's evident that this won't happen tomorrow. Accordingly, Belarusian petrol and diesel fuel is a lifesaver. At the political level, there were threats to abandon co-operation with Belarus and drain their fuel tanks to spite us. However, from the business point of view, only Russian supplies can be an alternative to Belarusian ones. A pipeline stretches from our countries to Ukraine. Theoretically, it is possible to export petroleum products by sea but this will definitely be more expensive. In addition, it remains unclear how to restructure the internal logistics.

*In recent months, the demand for our products in the Baltic States has sharply increased. They are proud of their market economy but our consumer goods, especially food, are in great demand. Eco-friendly products are trendy globally now: Europeans have already had enough of fillers and sweeteners.*

Possible sanctions are very straining to Baltic businesses which try to make more stocks of Belarusian products just in case. This is also why there was a significant increase in supplies to both Latvia and Lithuania.

Sales to most of the countries of the far arc have also increased significantly. True, last year, many large foreign companies (for example, machine building companies) actually left the market — because of lockdowns in their own countries, or due to the problems caused by supplies of components. Belarusian factories did not stop. Moreover, high localisation of production within the country turned out to be competitive in conditions of a pandemic. As a result, our manufacturers (of agricultural machinery, for example) in some periods remained almost the only ones in the market. Accordingly, supplies are increasing.

Figures are a stubborn thing. They show that the Belarusian real sector has made the most effective use of the windows of opportunities in the new reality which is being formed under the influence of the pandemic and all the stories in geo-economics and geopolitics that follow from it.

# ‘My heart is touched by Belarus’ beauty’



One hundred and fifty children from Donbass visit our country's best camp

A group of children from the Donetsk Region will be resting and recuperating at the Zubrenok National Children's Educational and Health Centre from September 15th to October 5th, 2021. The corresponding order was signed by the President of Belarus. The request to accept children from the Donetsk Region for recuperation in Belarus was addressed to the Head of State through charitable organisations. Aleksandr Lukashenko supported the initiative. Alongside recreation and health improvement, an educational process and excursions and cultural events in iconic places of Belarus will be organised for children from the Donetsk Region. The decision of the Head of State underlines the consistent course by Belarus aimed at pursuing a peaceful foreign policy, adherence to the ideas of humanism and mercy for children in need of care and support.

By **Khristina Glushko**

It was expected to be a very positive report from Zubrenok — a camp that enthralled with its scale and landscapes. However, after meeting the children, everything turned out a little differently. They have fun, run, pass balls to each other and turn somersaults on the workout court — in a word, outwardly they are absolutely no different from their peers. Except one thing: their eyes — sparkling and naively pure — reflect pain and tragedy. When they talk about the war and the fears they experienced, you can't even cry. You just stand rooted to the ground and listen in silence. It's literally spine-tingling, you clearly understand why today there is so much talk about unity and why it needs to be protected.

## Indivisible destinies

“Wow, look, the plane!” says the dark-skinned boy, distracted from the ball and looking after the white ‘path’ in the sky. An unusual beginning, I thought: the boy looks at least 13 years old, has he really never seen iron birds?

“Hey, I'm 16! Nice to meet you, Rostislav Leonov,” the teenager corrects me. And, as if hearing a question frozen in the air, he adds, “I'm from Gorlovka, it's an hour's drive from Donetsk. Passenger planes haven't flown over us for seven years, so I forgot what they look like.”

I'm almost burning with shame. This child sees beauty in such ordinary things for us... He continues to look after the airplane and quietly adds, “Do you know what war is? At the boarding school I was told that our town was very rich, famous for its businesses and people. In 2014, everything collapsed instantly. I remember how it started: I was awakened by the sounds of gunfire. I did not understand anything: my brother grabbed me, told me to throw all my things and run to the basement. We stayed there for several hours, and when we got out, we saw that a bomb had hit our neighbours and only small fragments remained from the windows.”

I don't know what my face was expressing at that moment, but Rostik hastened to change the subject. Now, he says, his life is much calmer, “Now they shoot only on the outskirts, but



Yegor Yermalitskiy



we are used to it, it has become a part of life. Come on, look at the beauty around! This is my first time in Belarus: while I was driving, I almost cried, you have so many forests! And the buildings are generally super, I would like to live in places such as these. I believe that soon everything will work out in our home.”

Our conversation is interrupted by the camp counsellor: it's time for Rostislav, without him they can't start the sports day. The weather only plays up to the youngsters: the sun strokes the tops of the pines while Naroch playfully invites them to swim in the waves. It's a pity it's cold. But children already have things to do, and there's much still ahead...

## All the best is here and now

The first to leave the team are Anya Kuzminova and Lena Pustovit: they run to the hanging chairs to chat. I join them and ask them to tell me what they expect from the rest of their time in Belarus.

“When we were in the train

## DIRECT SPEECH

**Aleksei Talai, Paralympian athlete, social activist, motivational trainer and businessman:**

*We are very glad to welcome children from the Donetsk Region to our country. This spring I happened to be there. I am fully aware of the difficulties and problems that adults, children and youth face there. I visited a Donetsk orphanage, and my heart leapt: I promised myself to do something for these children. Thank God, we see the guys on our Belarusian land, they were waiting for this. We are grateful that the Head of State so cordially supported this initiative, and the people who responded to the call for help.*



mances and competitions. They would have happily forgotten about their studies for this time, but camp counsellors prudently took books with them. On weekdays, camp teachers organise lessons for them: three lessons a day.

“You can't even imagine how we dreamed of coming here,” the head of the group Alena Levitskaya doesn't hide her emotions. “It took two days to get from Donetsk, passed three borders, and in Rostov we took a Belarusian train to Minsk. The kids' eyes were really shining. They came up to me in turn and asked: ‘Can we take a picture of the station?’ I say: ‘Guys, just be calmer so that people don't get scared’,” she says laughingly.

On the train, the children were not allowed to get bored by our conductors, and food was brought to them directly from the dining car.

“We took up three carriages, can you imagine how noisy it was?” Alena smiles. “But no one ever asked us to be quieter, the conductors were very kind. The children did not let their phones out of their hands, taking pictures of the landscapes all the time. They have never seen this, but thanks to the country's leadership, Belarusians and, of course, Aleksei Talai, they were able to plunge into a fairy tale.”

Now the young guests have lunch, and then — a tour of the camp on small trains. They were accommodated in the beautiful ‘Star World’ building: the children live in blocks with showers, three people per room. In a word, the conditions are no worse than the hotel. But the most important thing: going out to the balcony in the morning, they will be able to contemplate the forest, lake and sky: calm, which they have dreamed of for so long.



and looked at the landscapes, our hearts skipped a beat. I have never seen such beauty,” Anya admits. “You have amazing air, it's mesmerising around the forest! I really hope that we will have fun and will definitely try dishes of Belarusian cuisine.”

“And I would like to forget about the war at least for a while and enjoy the rest,” Lena adds. “I'm looking forward to a tour of the castles and Minsk.”

In total, 150 children from orphanages, boarding schools, a

Sunday school and a cadet school came to Zubrenok. Each of them has a very difficult fate, and this vacation is a small thing that we can help them with. Aleksei Talai's charitable foundation helped organise the trip, and President Aleksandr Lukashenko supported the initiative and signed an order stating that the children will stay in the camp until October 5th. So, the three weeks should be unforgettable: every day children go in for sports, go to the massage centre and pool, participate in perfor-

HUMANITY

By Vladimir Kozyrev,  
Varvara Morozova

Nadezhda Masevich, an official representative of the Grodno border service command, tries to hide her emotions while explaining,

*“On September 21st, at the section of the Tushemlya outpost of the Belarusian-Polish border in the Svisloch District, a border patrol discovered a foreigner in an unconscious state with signs of physical violence. At the same time, on the neighbouring side, Polish security officers were calmly watching what was happening. Taking into account the refugee’s serious state, he was taken to the border post. An ambulance team attended. The man was in a coma and had obvious signs of hypothermia. He had an Iraqi passport and a negative PCR test from a Polish medical institution.”*

### Following Third Reich precepts?

It’s interesting to look at the records made on the Polish emergency medical care card. On September 20th, Polish border guards found a young man in a country house and showed him to the doctors on the spot. Shock, incessant vomiting, complaints of severe pain in the leg, bleeding injuries from barbed wire were obvious but, despite the foreigner’s severe condition (which, by the way, continued to worsen!), the Polish doctors limited their help to giving him an analgesic drug. Furthermore, the bleeding man was left in the same place without being hospitalised and, later, Polish security officers simply threw the unfortunate man out of their territory.

*The Iraqi’s life is not in danger now. He is staying at the Svisloch Central District Hospital and is being provided with the necessary medical assistance.*

...Gun-butts beaten on faces, clubs on backs, handcuffs make bones crunch and joints

ache! Gas [so far, from cans but whether this will last long?] is common... Refugee camps are overcrowded; they desperately lack water, warm things and food. Barbed wire is stretched, hefty German Shepherds are barking, crying babies are trembling with fear and clinging to their parents in fright...

*This is not archival documentary newsreel footage from the times of the Third Reich, but modern realities. Looking at what is happening now on the Polish-Belarusian and Lithuanian-Belarusian borders, we feel the desire to pinch ourselves painfully — to wake ourselves up. That was 80 years ago. Who is to blame when the picture is being repeated in the second decade of the 21st century?*

In this regard, a camp opposite the Rusaki border outpost of the Berestovitsa District is indicative. Thirty-two refugees from Afghanistan have been living here in tents, in inhumane conditions, for a little more than a month. There are two important details. Firstly, these people are still alive only because the Belarusian Red Cross Society and other organisations regularly deliver food, drinking water, warm clothes, hygiene kits and other basic necessities to them. Secondly, these refugees are behind barbed wire on Polish territory where security officers isolate Afghan migrants from doctors, representatives of human rights and humanitarian organisations.

### Promised Europe

Attempts by the Polish authorities to move the issue onto safer ground are becoming increasingly obvious. A user of the DELFI portal, under the nickname Stop Fakes, notes, “All these refugees were killed by the Nazis on the territory of Poland, by the fascist Polish junta. The woman’s body was found on the border away from Poland, and traces are visible that the body was dragged from Poland, the rest also died on the territory of Poland by the hands of the Polish Nazis.



# Not a war... but the list of victims is growing endlessly

More victims of Polish security officers’ outrage were registered last week: a beaten Iraqi citizen was delivered to the Svisloch Central District Hospital

*According to international laws, Poland is obliged to accept refugees, give them food and decent accommodation, and not beat them with batons, not bait them with dogs and not use stun guns.”*

Commentator Transit writes, “NATO bombed their house, ruined their country, destroyed the government that defended their interests. Therefore, the EU countries that are members of NATO are obliged to provide them with a home, a job and all social benefits, including medicine and edu-

cation. At one time, Lithuania, together with Poland, received millions of Dollars for supporting the Pentagon’s policy in the Middle East. It’s time to pay off the debts.”

### Politics vs life

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organisation for Migration are shocked by the death of people from hypothermia. According to the organisations, groups of migrants are in transit through Belarus in search of asylum in Lithuania, Latvia

and Poland, but they are denied entry to these countries. At the same time, the expulsion of asylum seekers puts their lives at risk and is illegal under international law.

What could be said about the citizens of Poland who are shocked by the murder of migrants at their border? Just recently, about 200 Polish activists held a mass protest against the atrocities of their border guards. An open memorial service for the refugees killed by the Polish regime was held at the headquarters of the border service in Warsaw.

**On Monday, the President of Belarus heard out a report on the situation at the state border and instructed to provide assistance to refugees in need at the border,**

*“We must do it. How can we stand aside when women and children are dying there?.. A humanitarian catastrophe at the border. Neighbours imposed the state of emergency and do not let people enter their country. They do not want anybody to know how people are dying there.”*

## The most expensive heating winter of all time is imminent in Europe

**Gas shortages threaten Europe with rising prices and food shortages. Electricity and gas bills have already started to rise, and some countries have also faced fertiliser shortages, the BBC reported.**



According to Action News Now, the wholesale price of natural gas rose to record highs in the UK, France, Spain, Germany and Italy.

Gas prices in Europe have more than tripled since the beginning of the year and, according to Gazprom CEO, Alexei Miller, will continue to break records.

The result will be ‘growing discontent among voters already impoverished in the pandemic, as well as the threat of further impoverishment due to the fact that rising utility costs are holding back consumption — the main engine of the European economy’, the BBC reports.

*Residents of Germany who heat their homes with gas must be prepared for a sharp rise in energy prices. The reason is record prices for gas and electricity, as well as sharply increased prices for fuel oil. Carsten Fritsch, Commerzbank’s raw material expert, warns that the most expensive winter of all time is inevitable, as written in German edition ‘Bild’.*

Dozens of utilities have already raised prices, arguing for

the move by higher purchasing prices for natural gas due to sharply increased demand after the economy emerged from the pandemic, as well as relatively empty storage facilities. In the current period of time, the market price for gas is at an all-time high.

Gas supplies from Russia remain limited as the country is restoring its own reserves, and gas exports from Norway were below average due to repairs at fields and processing stations. Experts believe that the final price will depend on many factors, including weather conditions and the pandemic, the volume of gas supplies from Russia to the European market and price competition from Asian countries.

According to the BBC, an extremely unfavourable situation

is developing in the UK, which has left the EU. Prices there are growing faster, and the economy is recovering more slowly than those of its European neighbours, because in addition to the coronavirus, the consequences of Brexit, and now also expensive gas, are affecting it.

“The British experience demonstrates how a gas shortage can turn into a food crisis,” writes the BBC and points out that local farmers and supermarkets have already warned of the high likelihood of a rise in food prices.

Earlier, European Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, promised that the European Commission in the coming weeks will determine a list of measures that EU member states can apply to solve the problem of high energy prices.



# Infiltration of consciousness

Experts have estimated that, since WWII, the American armed forces have been used abroad more than 300 times. They penetrated other people's homes with slogans of 'protection of freedom and human rights'. However, the notorious democracy was simply a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The United States has no plans to give up such a convenient doctrine to influence others in accordance with its preferences and plans.

By Yevgeny Kononovich

## Purpose and means

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) plans to launch a programme of 'support for democracy' in Europe and has even requested \$2.8bn from the White House administration for this. The project is planned to be launched in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia with the aim of counteracting 'malicious foreign influence' and (who would have doubted it!) promoting 'democratic freedoms and reforms'. In reality, analysts say, Washington fears the growing influence of Russia and China and, in order to prevent unpleasant consequences for itself, seeks to strengthen pro-American sentiments — focusing on the countries of Eastern Europe. For this, it's well-known, all means are good.

More than once or twice in its history, the United States has proved that they will stop at nothing in achieving their goals. There are numerous examples: military intervention, murders of political leaders, interference in elections, directing 'colour revolutions'. American journalist and historian, William Blum, in his *America's Deadliest Export* book gives very eloquent figures.

*After the end of WWII, Americans tried more than 50 times to overthrow foreign governments, interfered in elections of at least 30 countries, made more than 50 attempts on leaders of foreign powers, bombed over 30 states, suppressed people's liberation movements in more than 20 countries.*

Here is what former US Senator, James William Fulbright (who voted for sending American troops to Vietnam in the past), said about this, "We've created a society whose main occupation is violence. Not an external force at all but our internal militarism creates the most serious threat to our state.

*There is a depressing impression that we, in America, have clearly got used to wars. For many years, we have either been at war or are immediately ready to start a war in any part of the world. War and military have become an integral part of our everyday life..."*

## What is at stake

American politicians have never hidden their true nature. "We will never stop at the use of force when the life and vi-

tal interests of Americans are at stake," the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said.

*That said, if we want to occupy or bomb someone, we will do it. However, what does the bombing of civilians in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya have to do with the vital interests of Americans who are thousands of kilometres away from these countries?*

There is no clear and logical answer to this question. Meanwhile, any steps by the White House against independent states suit Mr. Blinken's words — either it refers to military aggression or the use of 'soft power'. This was the case during the Cold War and after it, when exports of democracy and 'colour revolutions' under the star-spangled flag reached their peak.

At the same time, forced democratisation has not brought prosperity and wealth to anyone yet. A few weeks before the 2003 invasion of Iraq was ordered, President George W. Bush promised that once Saddam Hussein was removed, Iraq would become 'a beacon of democracy for the entire Middle East'. Instead, the country plunged into a protracted civil war and became a beacon for terrorists. The same situation happened in Libya. In general, the Arab Spring did not at all imply the flourishing of democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. In this case, it was much more important for the United States to establish control over the energy hub of the region and its transport communications, which — according to observers — makes the economies of Europe and China dependent on America.

## Grants for projects

It's becoming increasingly expensive to fight at present, while the results are not as fast as they might be wished. Therefore, for some time now, overseas strategists have changed tactics and increasingly began to use so-called 'soft power' to promote their interests. In this regard, non-governmental organisations and foreign foundations start joining the big game to influence the policies of other countries by information methods. There is nothing new in this approach.

For example, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) — known as the largest sponsor of 'colour revolutions' — has been operating in the United States for almost 40 years. Its activity referred to the creation of opposition and dissident move-

ments in the countries of the socialist camp in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as later activities in a variety of areas. In 2011, the WikiLeaks portal reported that the foundation actively supported protests in a number of states which later led to the Arab Spring.

There are plenty of such non-profit organisations, various foundations and research institutes that influence people's minds. The United States is using them with might and main to promote its own interests. In particular, political scientist Ivan Mezyukho recalled that US-AID-sponsored non-profit organisations took an active part in the coup in Ukraine in 2013-2014.

**“**In 2020, US military spending reached an estimated \$778bn, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The United States accounted for 39 percent of total global military spending.**”**

## How it works...

Americans aren't sparing with money for propaganda in a destination country. The printing press never stops working, while the scheme is quite simple and works the same everywhere. Funds from a state agency pass through several controlled donor-funds in other countries and flow into a non-governmental organisation in the country which is planned to be influenced.

*Grants are allocated for specific, seemingly quite harmless, projects in the field of economics, education, culture and ecology — with the help of which the ideas and values necessary for the customer are distributed in society. In this way, consciousness is infiltrated primarily among the youth.*

For example, in February 2020, the media reported on US plans to allocate \$38m for the development of 'democratic values' among the Ukrainian youth. At the same time, special emphasis was planned to be placed on adolescents, since it is during this period that 'life attitudes and behavioural models begin to form'. American strategists have learned the Eastern wisdom: if you want to defeat the enemy, raise their children.

This was far from the only

Democracy requires sacrifices: how Americans impose their own rules of the game on the world arena and the price countries and peoples have to pay for it



US programme in Ukraine. Previously, it became known about Washington's intention to allocate more than \$22m to a project to increase the 'stability of Ukrainian democracy' through 'innovative communication initiatives'. This deals with creation of a content that will attract citizens to discuss issues of European integration and reforms. This May, the US State Department announced the allocation of up to \$100,000 for organisation of festivals in Ukraine in order to spread 'American values'. There were also grants for 'development of science', a programme of learning English, and others. It would seem that this money aims at education and it's truly noble but, behind a quite presentable exterior, sometimes devilish intentions are hidden. In this regard, it's hardly possible not to recall Warsaw's Freedom and Democracy foundation which work was connected with a recent scandal at the Polish school in Brest: there, a detachment of Bury — who organised the genocide of Belarusians after the Great Patriotic War — was honoured.

## New generation weapon

In fact, thousands of similar projects are being launched worldwide and, as a result, opposition is nurtured in society, the necessary political and economic agenda is formed in people's minds, an alternative history is formed, and heroes are made traitors and vice versa.

Belarus is no exception in this respect. Over the past decade, several thousand different non-governmental foundations, private institutions, and human rights organisations have been established in our country. As a result of the activities carried out,

185 destructive structures that pose a potential threat to national security have been identified.

"We were slightly naïve and believed in the promises that were given to us (not only to us but also to the rest of the post-Soviet countries). We were assured that the projects are supposedly designed to increase the competitiveness of our entrepreneurs, the independence of our media (though against whom?), to develop contacts of young people with some centres. All this falls under the definition of 'soft power'," comments the Chairman of the State Security Committee, Ivan Tertel, in the *Belarus Against Colour Revolution* documentary series screened by Belarusian TV this summer.

Gradually, over the decades, this 'soft power' has been penetrating our society, creating agents of influence and conditions for development of values alien to the Belarusian mentality and national interests. At the same time, an information field was created that would have enabled foreign states to influence the minds and moods of Belarusians. However,

**“**According to a report published in March 2021 by the American Code Pink anti-war movement, over the past 20 years, the United States and its allies have consistently bombed other countries, dropping an average of more than 40 bombs a day.**”**

our state, the Belarusian political, economic and social model has turned out to be more stable, viable and stronger than the enemies believed. This is another lesson for them of where an attempt at violent democratisation leads to.

# Taste the bread



Close the circle: an appetising round dance

**Our grandmothers knew the secret of delicious homemade bread: the first compressed sheaf was threshed by a baby, stomping on the ears with bare feet. Then the dough could rise easily, and even grey bread turned out tender and rich. So that the loaf does not go stale, the housewife beat the dough as many times as there are days in the year...**

By Yelena Vasilieva



August is called 'zh-niven' [from Belarusian 'zhat' — which means to reap]. True, this is the time for grain harvesting. In East Slavic mythology, Karavai [a loaf] is a deity personifying fertility, repleteness and wealth.

Preserving the ancient traditions, the country has revived the holiday of new bread — Zhorovsky Khlebodar [bakery] in the Minsk Region. Bread baking in the villages of Zhorovka

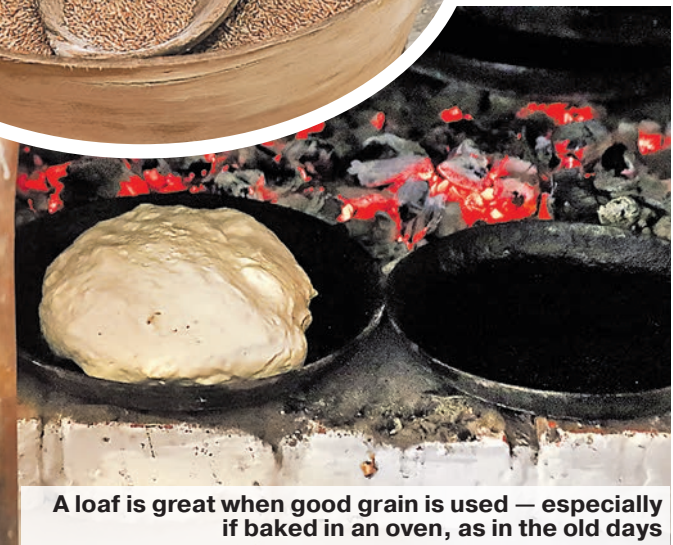
and Kuzmichi of the Lyuban District is included in the State List of Historical and Cultural Values of Belarus as an immaterial manifestation of human creativity — thanks to Irina Zhudrik and her amateur association Kulitka Traditional Baking Club.

The first symbolic threshing of the new crop is overseen by women. In elegant clothes, with sickles and chains for threshing in their hands, they go into the field — singing. Bowing to the cornfield, they get the first sheaf. It is solemnly threshed, the young grain is collected, sifted, cleaned of litter and carried into the house. The housewives grind grain in millstones alternately, joining the sacred rite of new bread. The kneading of the dough is special, jokes and laughter are inappropriate here, everyone is focused on thoughts of gratitude to the earth. The luck and well-being of the villager for the whole year depends on how the new bread will turn out.

The recipe, which is now used by housewives, is more than two hundred years old. It was recorded by Irina Zhudrik — the granddaughter of Paraska Nagornaya, born in 1908. Her grandmother told her that it was her great-grandmother's recipe. That's how the traditions of baking bread according to old Belarusian recipes were revived.

Thanks to Ms. Zhudrik, such a seemingly everyday thing as baking homemade bread has become an attractive 'exotic' treat for tourists. Guests came to Lyuban District to taste bread not only from different parts of Belarus, but also from Russia, Estonia, Poland and Germany.

"In my family, everyone knew how to bake bread, and my mother became my mentor," says the lady. "I moved to the village of Zhorovka when I got married, and at first it seemed to me that there were no traditions of home baking. However, here, too, many people baked bread for themselves. I really wanted to create a baking club, the idea just wouldn't go away. With the help of the local authorities, we bought an old village house and made repairs. The whole village helped: some gave antique furniture, others carried hand-woven towels, embroidered tablecloths and curtains, as well as a spinning wheel, churns, old jugs, wicker boxes made of vines... All this has become part of the interior of our amateur association. And we bake bread here, as we have been baking since ancient times in the Belarusian village."



A loaf is great when good grain is used — especially if baked in an oven, as in the old days

## AN OLD RECIPE

### THE BREAD DOES NOT GO STALE FOR TWO WEEKS

The Zhorovka bread is a round (irregular-shaped) loaf, its local name is 'kulitka'. The more irregularities the shape of the loaf has, the better the quality of the bread will be. It also does not go stale for at least two weeks. The recipe for 'kulitka' is quite simple: flour of two varieties, rye and wheat, whey or spring water, salt, spices and additives. Loaves are sent to the oven on leaves (maple, oak, cabbage, calamus) or on wooden mugs and tin-lined cast-iron pans. Usually, bread made of sifted flour is baked for ordinary days, while festive bread is made of wheat. Housewives use different additives that are combined. These can be sunflower and pumpkin seeds, cumin, coriander, dill, dried blueberries, dried apples and pears, raw grated or boiled mashed potatoes, etc. They also bake a special 'partisan' bread in Zhorovka, adding ground acorns, tree bark, quinoa, goatweed and other herbs, as was done in the war.



The keeper of traditions, Irina Zhudrik, knows ancient secrets



Irina Leshchenko going the distance



Shooting during the 7.5km sprint (women, juniors)

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Summer Biathlon Championship of Belarus ended in Raubichi. Since the men's national team was forced to miss the national championship (after returning from training camps in Italy cases of coronavirus infection were detected among athletes and representatives of the coaching and administrative headquarters), the women's team was in the spotlight at the home tournament. There were only two races in the competition programme. In the first of them, the sprint, the victory was won by Marie Eder of Finland, who trains this off-season with our team. Dinara Alimbekova and Irina Leshchenko closed the top three. Alimbekova was the best in the pursuit race. She was followed by Anna Sola, who missed the sprint and was therefore out-of-competition, followed by Eder and Leshchenko. The results of the championship were summed up by the team's senior coach Oleg Ryzhenkov:

— I appreciate the performance, except perhaps for the last shooting line in the pursuit race, where many did not succeed. The tension, the weather conditions, and the fact that we did not prepare for these competitions affected the results of the championship. While many national teams from other countries have already held several events in national championships and commercial tournaments, we abandoned this practice and continued to systematically prepare for the new season and the Olympic Games. Therefore, the Championship of Belarus has become a control event — important for the analysis and planning of further work.

— **What is the state of the biathletes now?**

— All the girls in the team are motivated. Sometimes their desire to give their best in training goes off the scale, they have to stop. As far as Dinara Alimbekova and Anna Sola are concerned, they — being the leaders of the last season — show leadership qualities even now. With Anna Sola, we continued to work on the shooting component, and there are improvements in this area. A new rifle stock was made for her, and from May she began to shoot in a dif-

## Reaching the heights



Oleg Ryzhenkov tells us about the past Belarus Summer Biathlon Championship and the preparation of the women's team for the Olympic Games in Beijing

ferent way. The rest of the athletes didn't have to modify their weapons; these issues were solved in previous years. Irina Leshchenko (better known by her maiden name Krivko) experienced a poor last season. First of all, caused by accumulated fatigue: many years of work at high speed and maximum stress affected her. I think we managed to revive her a little.

ample, when returning from Austria, they first arrived in Belarus, and only then went home. Of course, this takes a lot of strength and energy. It gets easier during the season. Some progress is seen in both sisters. If we talk about competitions, Lena usually peaks by the middle of the season, which is good for us: the Olympic Games are just during this period.



Marie Eder (L) — 2nd place, Dinara Alimbekova — 1st place, Irina Leshchenko — 3rd place

Now Ira is strictly performing her tasks in training, we will make adjustments to strength training. I think her results should improve.

— **How are Yelena Kruchinkina and Irina Kruchinkina performing in the offseason?**

— They always differed in that, during the summer training, it was a little more difficult for them than for the rest of the girls. This is due to the fact that our biathletes live in Belarus, and it's easier for them to get to the same training camp. Lena and Ira have a house in Russia, so moving is more difficult. For ex-

— **This off-season Finnish biathlete Marie Eder trained with our team. Has she been an impetus for the Belarusian women?**

— Not only an impetus, but a good example. Marie Eder is a very professional, strong and experienced athlete. Our girls look at her, see how she works, and take something from her. At the same time, joint training stimulates and motivates the team, there is healthy competition in it.

— **Last season, our women's team managed to expand the quota in the World Cup to six people. Are you plan-**

ning to enter for sprints and individual races as many biathletes as possible?

— Now it makes no sense. Unfortunately, we don't yet have biathletes who would perform at the same level as the main five. But we don't exclude the possibility that if some of our athletes show themselves well at the IBU Cup, we will enter them in the World Cup races. But not at once.

— **What are our team's plans for the coming months?**

— Now we will have a short rest, after which we will hold a week-long training camp in Raubichi. On October 10th, we plan to start training camp in Ramsau, Austria, where we can train both on skis and on roller skis. We will spend the next stage at a higher altitude in Obertilliach. This will be direct preparation for the season and the World Cup. I think we will take part in competitions there. As a rule, usually at this time the championship or the Cup of the country is held in Austria.

— **The main event in the new season will be the Olympic Games. The pre-Olympic week, which is usually held on the eve of the event, did not take place in Beijing due to the coronavirus pandemic, therefore, there was no opportunity to see in what conditions the competitions would take place. Does it complicate preparation?**

— In principle, we have all the necessary information. At the end of last season, the International Biathlon Union sent out brochures with route schemes, photographs and video materials to everyone, which help us to get acquainted with the complex in which the competition will be held. We know what kind of weather conditions there may be, the altitude at which the track is located. Having received this information, they carried out certain calculations and created a model of a 2.5km circuit on the treadmill. The biathletes tested this track during the training camp in Raubichi, and we will work on it again in the next training sessions. But it's difficult to judge objectively by this estimate. The track itself does not seem difficult, it doesn't have a very steep profile, but altitude will play an important role in Beijing. It will be just this factor that will interfere with our athletes.

## ARENA

### ● Ivashka reaches career high

For the first time in his career, the Belarusian has risen to 45th place in the Association of Tennis Professionals ranking. Before his performance in Nur-Sultan, Ilya Ivashka was in 53rd position but, after reaching a semi-final, he moved up 8 positions, with 1,370 points. Egor Gerasimov left the top-100 and dropped to 112th (709 points).

Meanwhile, Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka is still 2nd in the Women's Tennis As-

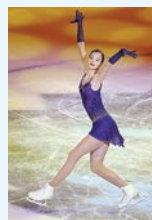


sociation ranking — followed by Victoria Azarenka (34th, 1,801 points), Aliaksandra Sasnovich (106th, 740 points) and Olga Govortsova (136th, 555 points).

### ● Figure skater Viktoriia Safonova captures Olympic place for Belarus

At the Nebelhorn Trophy 2021 qualification tournament in Germany, she scored 190.29 points after two programmes to be placed third — following American Alysa Liu (207.40 points) and Ekaterina Kurakova of Poland (193.58).

Belarusian figure skaters Bogdana Lukashevich and Alexander Stepanov, who competed in sports pairs, were placed seventh — with 159.08 points.



### ● Luc Tardif elected International Ice Hockey Federation's new President

The Head of the French Ice Hockey Federation, Luc Tardif, has become the new President of the International Ice

Hockey Federation, following a vote of the IIHF Congress delegates in St. Petersburg. In the fourth round of voting, the Frenchman received 67 votes, beating the German hockey functionary, Franz Reindl (supported by 39 participants of the congress). Apart from the Czech Petr Bříza, Dane Henrik Bach Nielsen and Belarusian Sergei Goncharov participated in the elections. Luc Tardif has replaced Swiss René Fasel as the IIHF Head. Mr. Fasel was elected the President of the International Ice Hockey Federation in 1994, at a general congress in Venice.

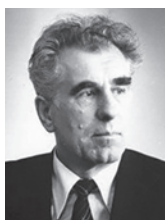
## Photo of the week



Alexsey Stolyarov

Traditional holiday of the autumn harvest and equinox — 'Bagach' — celebrated in the house of Belarusian poet Yanka Kupala in the village of Vyazyinka

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On September 30th, 1931,** Nil Gilevich was born — Belarusian poet, playwright, literary critic, translator, scientist, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Professor, Honoured Scientist of Belarus and People's Poet of Belarus. He is the author of the novel in verse *Native Children*, the first collection of sonnets in Belarusian poetry *Naroch*, satirical collections, as well as collections of poems and poems for children. Many lyric poems of Nil Gilevich are set to music by Belarusian composers. He is a laureate of the State Prize of Belarus. He died in 2016.

**On September 30, 1966,** on the 21st kilometre of the Minsk-Moscow highway, the ceremonial laying of the Mound of Glory of the Soviet Army — the liberator of Belarus. The memorial was solemnly opened on July 5th, 1969. The participants of the meeting adopted the text of the appeal to the descendants, which was buried in a special capsule at the foot of the mound. They called upon future generations to preserve friendship between peoples, to be patriots of the Motherland, to cherish the memory of those who defended the freedom and independence of the Fatherland.



**September 30th** is International Translation Day, established in 1991 on the initiative of the International Federation of Translators (FIT). The date for the holiday was not chosen by chance; on this day, September 30th, 420, St. Jerome of Stridonium — one of the four Doctors of the Latin Church — a writer, historian and translator, died. He is considered the patron saint of translators. The purpose of this international date is to confirm that professional translation plays an important role in bringing peoples closer together.



**On October 1st, 1931,** regular television broadcasting began in the USSR. It was conducted from Moscow with the help of optical-mechanical television systems, transmissions were carried out by radio communication.

**October 1st, 1946,** the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg — formed by the four Allied Powers to try the main war criminals of World War II — announced its historical verdict. 12 main criminals were sentenced to death, 3 — to life imprisonment and 4 — to various terms of imprisonment.



**October 1st** is International Day of Older People. It is celebrated by the decision of the UN General Assembly in accordance with the resolution of December 14th, 1990, in order to draw public attention to the problems of the elderly.

**October 1st** is International Music Day. It has been held annually since 1975 by the decision of the UNESCO International Music Council. Composer Dmitry Shostakovich and Chairman of the International Music Council Yehudi Menuhin were among the initiators of the establishment of this holiday.



**On October 2nd, 1836,** Charles Darwin returned from a five-year round-the-world oceanographic expedition aboard the 'Beagle'. The scientist substantiated the results

of his observations and achievements in biology and breeding practice in his main work *The Origin of Species by Natural Selection and the theory of the evolution of the organic world (Darwinism)*.

**October 2nd** is International Day of Non-Violence, proclaimed at the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly in accordance with the resolution of June 15th, 2007. It is celebrated annually on the



birthday of Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), one of the leaders of the Indian independence movement, the founder of philosophy and the idea of non-violent protest.

**On October 3rd, 1906,** an SOS was received by the international telegraphic distress signal at the International Radiotelegraph Congress in Berlin.



**October 3rd** is Teacher's Day in the Republic of Belarus — a professional holiday for education workers which is celebrated in a number of post-Soviet countries on the first Sunday of October. World Teachers' Day is celebrated on October 5th, established by UNESCO in 1994.



**October 4th** is International Doctor's Day. It is celebrated as the day of solidarity and active action around the world on the initiative of the international humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta and UNICEF.

