



BNBC launched the first production of essential amino acids in the CIS and it enters the world market

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Twelve countries, book novelties, an influx of readers — the 29th Minsk International Book Fair took place in the capital

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Students of the Mogilev State College of Arts presented to the public a literary musical and plastic artistic composition called *Maryjka*. It is based on the eponymous poem written by the Mogilev poet Ales Kazeko.

‘M.@rt.contact’: bright days of Mogilev

The International Youth Theatre Forum ‘M.@rt.contact’ returned to Mogilev after a forced hiatus. The craving for beauty turned out to be stronger than external circumstances: the theatrical marathon, which the 15th anniversary festival turned into, gathered spectators every day.

The main programme included fifteen performances by nine Belarusian and three Russian theatres, as well as creative meetings and master classes of artists, directors and writers. The festival has fully proven the status of youth. Young actors, directors, playwrights were involved in each production. Shows of performances by participants of the ‘M.@rt.contact’ youth creative workshop became an outstanding event.



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In sports, results matter!

The results of the participation of Belarusian athletes in the 24th 2022 Winter Olympics and the prospects for the development of winter sports were discussed at a meeting with the President

The main question raised by the Belarusian leader: what is the return on the government sports funding,

“I just want, as a pragmatic person, to hear the answer to the main question: we did everything to help the athletes train well and perform decently. We created the necessary conditions. And it cost our state a lot. What is the result?”

“In recent years our athletes have had to train and compete in various tournaments under unprecedented pressure on the entire Belarusian sport, the National Olympic Committee, sports organisations, athletes and coaches,” Belarusian Sport and Tourism Minister Sergei Kovalchuk started his report.

The President objected,

“Any action is met by counter-action. There is no point lamenting about pressure. Everyone is putting pressure, everyone is under pressure. It is not the point. Athletes and the military know this: pressure breeds counter-pressure.”

The Head of State believes that pressure is even good, “You perform better when under pressure.”

The Sport and Tourism Minister admitted that the athletes had a debt to the country and people for these unsuccessful performances at the Olympic Games, “The potential of our athletes, of course, is not realised. They could do much better. Two medals are, of course, not the result that we should have expected. A minimum of 5, a maximum of 10 — this is what we should have counted on and what goals we should set for ourselves.”

According to him, an analysis of the results of the performance was carried out after the Olympics. The leadership of some federations have been revised, work is underway to redistribute foundation boards, many federations have been headed by new leaders, but not new people in sports, all state financial flows have been taken under strict control.

The minister emphasised that today sport is a big politics. The world is changing very fast, “Amidst hostility and outright speculations we, in collaboration with our partners, are working on holding alternative international sporting events. Given that most of the partner countries are members of the CIS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, we and our Russian counterparts have begun to work on

bringing such countries as China, India, Pakistan, Mongolia and others to participate in these sporting events.”

The minister believes invitations might also be sent to friendly nations of South America as well. It is also possible to arrange games of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and the Republic of South Africa).

The second CIS Games, which will be held in Belarus in 2023, will become an example of such events. According to Sergei Kovalchuk, there are proposals to hold this event annually.



The President demanded to ensure dynamics in the development of sports, “Where is positive dynamics, where is progress? That is what I need! As an economist, I understand: today we have such a situation, but tomorrow we will move forward.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that there is a downward trend in the number of medals won at the previous Winter Olympic Games, “We invested a huge amount of money. And people want to see their sport heroes.”

The President voiced a number of complaints about performance in some sports, “Our hockey is a total shame! There were three indoor ice rinks, now there are 44 of them. What has changed? Your hockey performance has deteriorated tremendously. Remember, football and hockey are our national sports.”

Aleksandr Gagiyeu, chief de mission of the Belarusian Olympic team to the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, Director of the Winter Sports Centre Raubichi said at the meeting that there were a good working climate during the Games, everyone was tuned to the maximum result. It is true that

the tasks were not completed in full: due to problems with logistics, some teams did not have enough time to study the sports grounds where the competitions were held, others were not ready for difficult weather conditions, and others did not have enough rest before the Olympics. However, he assured that there were no ‘tourists’ at the Olympics.

During the conference the head coach of the Belarusian national skating team Sergei Minin informed those present about results of participation of Belarusian athletes in the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Skating sport made a decent step forward in Belarus in the last few years. The number of athletes in the national team increased primarily thanks to the emergence of a modern skating stadium in Minsk. High results were achieved at international competitions, however, no medals were won during the Olympics. By the way, the Belarusian skating team is one of the world’s youngest.

The President emphasised that sufficient conditions have already been enabled for the development of skating sport in Belarus. It is necessary to first and foremost work out methods to select and train promising athletes at the regional level and then get them involved in the training process at well-developed facilities in Minsk.

The Head of State urged to effectively use the existing opportunities and shape the training process in a way to allow the most promising athletes to skate in Minsk, “Don’t count on the construction of a skating stadium soon. Take roller skis and start working with the people. You need methods and physical training.”

The President orders large-scale stock-taking of Belarusian sport. The Head of

State noted that three people are in charge of sport in the country. These are the deputy prime minister, the sports minister and the president of the National Olympic Committee. In addition, certain duties have been vested with member of the Council of the Republic Dmitry Baskov.

“If you want to work, then get together, take stock of all things not only in winter sports, get rid of slackers. Sort things out. I’m not going to wait till the next Olympics,” the President demanded.

The performance of the Belarusian team at the Beijing Olympics was worthless, “There is only one conclusion: this state of affairs can no longer be tolerated. The state needs the result.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also urged to actively go to international courts in the events of pressure on Belarusian athletes and their non-admission to competitions,

“In fact, you should be lamenting and ringing all the bells everywhere, including in international courts. Go to the international court, make a statement, and show the athletes that you are ready to defend them. Instead, you are waiting for some kind of instructions. Let these Bachs (IOC President Thomas Bach) and others provide excuses.”

The President also added, “Everyone should understand that money must be earned. When there is a result, there is money. But, I would like to repeat, every athlete should be a patriot. Come on, men, roll up your sleeves and get down to work! That’s all there is to it.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also drew attention to the very intense situation in Europe,

“It may catch fire at any time. This is why in this situation every one of us should concentrate and produce results.”

The Head of State also gave his take on the Ukrainians who engaged in espionage in Belarus using a diplomatic cover,

“There are plenty of them, international spies. A bunch, even in our Ukraine over there. We identified 12 of them. They could just come here and see things. Instead, they chose to engage in espionage and do harm to Belarus. We have kicked them out, these Ukrainian official-cover operatives who used a diplomatic cover.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

President signed decree on Internet news aggregators

On March 22nd, the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, signed Decree No. 116 On News Aggregators in the Global Computer Network Internet

As the press service of the President of Belarus reported, the document was developed in order to improve the quality and accessibility of information provided to citizens through news aggregators and to ensure the protection of the interests of society and the state in this segment of the information space. The decree regulates the peculiarities of the news aggregators’ functioning and the legal status of their owners.

In particular, the rights and obligations of owners of news aggregators are established. It is determined that they have the right to collect, process

and distribute both their own materials and those borrowed from other sources.

The document establishes the grounds, conditions and procedure for applying response measures to the owner of a news aggregator in case of violation of the current legislation. The decree is aimed at preventing the distribution by the owners of news aggregators of materials from Internet resources, in respect of which, in accordance with the law, a decision was made to restrict access to them.

About the core of the subject

In accordance with the decree, the owner of a news aggregator is a legal

entity, an individual entrepreneur exercising the rights to own, use and (or) dispose of a news aggregator.

A news aggregator is an Internet resource that is used to process, structure and distribute information messages and (or) materials in the global computer network Internet and which hosts at least 50 news items per day for five consecutive days, while the number of news materials — borrowed from various sources — exceeds 50 percent of the total number of posted information messages and (or) materials per day.

Network publications, official websites and other Internet resources of

national government bodies, local executive and administrative bodies, other state bodies and state organisations, as well as online stores are not considered to be news aggregators.

In turn, news items are information messages and (or) materials containing information regarding current issues in the economic, political, social, sci-tech, environmental, military and other spheres of life of the state and society.

About responsibilities of aggregator owners

The decree details the responsibilities of news aggregators’ owners.

Firstly, they should not allow the

These topics were discussed at a meeting with the President, dedicated to current issues of the media. It was about the tasks that must be solved today in the information sphere.

Belarus will survive in the information warfare

Will Belarus block YouTube and foreign social networks?
Who should be supported in the media field?
How will the media advertising market develop further?

“A global information warfare is going on, and we became part of it against our will. No matter how difficult it is, you must not only keep the attention of the audience, educate, explain, support, but also think about your own development,” the Head of State said.

One of the topics of the meeting was a draft decree regulating issues of advertising in the media, which was submitted for consideration to the Head of State. The draft decree had already been considered several times from various sides by the government and the Belarus President Administration. A domestic media measurement system has recently been launched in the country to ensure market transparency; a register of advertising distributors has been created.

“The situation has changed dramatically, and not for the better. As a result of the current geopolitical conflict, Russia and Belarus were subjected to a new barrage of predatory sanctions,” the President emphasised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he got the feedback from ordinary people who criticise the presence of advertising in those outlets that previously opposed the state, “I will say directly: advertising should be on patriotic channels with pro-government positions that protect the state, that work to keep peace and order in our state. We have *Pervy, ONT, STV* and *Mir* channels, *SB. Belarus Segodnya* newspaper, as well as other newspapers and magazines... So advertising should be placed in these mass media rather than in some rabid outlets who sought to destroy the state and continue to do it successfully grinning from abroad.”

The President gave his take on propaganda activities of mass

media at a meeting. The Head of State noted that propaganda is part and parcel of mass media and this should neither be denied nor feared, “Propaganda has always been and will be, but we need to propagate the best.

sibility anymore. This is a full-scale information warfare — for the minds of our people, for the future of children. We cannot lose this war. We are not supposed to lose it unless we make big mistakes.”

sureing citizens and trying to toy with their emotions by claiming that allegedly Belarus will go to war against Ukraine. They are trying to psychologically affect military personnel and particularly their families.

Information Minister Vladimir Pertsov on the priorities of work in the information field of the country:

- **The first is to improve the quality of the information product, raising the professional level of journalists.** Much has been already said on this topic, but there is still something to work on.

- **The second is to ensure an increase of the share of domestically-produced television programmes.** To date, the in-house content reaches 40.3 percent in the average volume of state TV channels. In the future, the target is set to achieve 50-70 percent of in-house TV products, but this depends on financial possibilities.

- **The third is to promote and strengthen the state position in the Internet space, including the active development of social networks and messengers.** According to social surveys, 63.2 percent of Belarusians receive information from Internet sources and 61.3 percent — from television. Every second person uses social networks.

- **The fourth is to strengthen editorial offices of the regional media and to set up regional media holdings.** This will enable to concentrate financial, technical, and human resources in the main editorial office, and will solve the problems of design and promotion of content in digital environments. This will result in the creation of a unified, efficient, manageable system of regional media. The work is already underway.

“Mass media outlets must fulfil the main task — to promptly convey truthful, objective information to residents of our country and abroad,” Vladimir Pertsov stressed.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



We have enough of it... We just need to propagate not fake news and various rubbish. You see, we are in a unique situation: I do not want to offend other countries, but we are the only civilised country that looks decent.”

According to him, the state-run media in Belarus convey the truth without embellishing information,

“We have enough newsworthy events and facts to present honestly and reliably to the entire global community, not only to our public. Let them watch and envy. You see how roughly they are fighting against us. They are demonising both Moscow and Minsk in front of the rest of the world. Even Sharp and Goebbels have already been outdone.”

The President drew attention to the outpouring of the most brazen and wild lies on the internet, “All decency has been lost. No one cares about journalistic standards, professional respon-

Aleksandr Lukashenko urged to work more with personnel and to develop human potential, “It is important, while keeping journalist teams, to look for new people — young, creative and, most importantly, patriotic. Thus we will ensure the continuity.”

At the meeting, the President spoke about the possibility of blocking YouTube and foreign social networks in the country.

“Of course, theoretically we could block major outlets such as YouTube, some social networks as Russia did it, or we could put up a ‘golden shield’ as in China. Anytime. Nevertheless, before we take a step, let’s weigh all pros and cons of what will come out of it. If what they are doing there is harmful or will be even more harmful in the future, then let’s take this decision. If it has not yet come to this, let’s wait and see. Let’s not rush,” the Head of State said.

The President pointed out that the self-exiled opposition and its followers are now pres-

“I’ve told you one thousand and twenty times that we have no plans to fight in Ukraine. However, the topic is hot. Belarusians genetically abhor wars. Now they are trying to pick at it. We have to respond to it beautifully. Not only propaganda but also counterpropaganda was wisely talked about during the Soviet times. It is necessary to calmly respond to it but just not to make excuses,” the President stressed.

The Head of State noted that the self-exiled opposition is forming volunteer units for the war in Ukraine now.

“Then who is really fighting in Ukraine today?” the President asked.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, numerous reports have been published abroad on Belarus’ possible involvement into the hostilities in Ukraine. They are doing it for a reason: In this way, they are preparing the public for getting us dragged there.

use of a news aggregator to post information which is prohibited for dissemination by legislation.

They are also obliged to comply with the restrictions established by the electoral legislation when conducting election campaign, campaign for a referendum, recalling a deputy of the House of Representatives, a member of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the procedure for using the media in an election campaign, during a referendum.

They should not allow the distribution of information messages and (or) materials from Internet resources, online publications, in respect of which a decision was made to restrict access in accordance with the Law of July 17th, 2008, No. 427-3 On the Mass Media, as well as hyperlinks to them.

The owners of aggregators are now required to store for one year the

disseminated information, data about its source, as well as the timing of its distribution. Moreover, they must perform a number of duties as the owner of an Internet resource, envisaged by the Law On Mass Media.

At the same time, the owner of the news aggregator in some cases is not responsible for the distribution of information messages and (or) materials. If they are a verbatim reproduction of information messages and (or) materials (their fragments) posted on official websites and other Internet resources of the national government bodies, local executive and administrative bodies, other state bodies and state organisations. Or if they were distributed by mass media, news agencies — registered in Belarus — with the exception of information messages and (or) materials of Internet resources and online publications, in respect of which a decision was made to restrict access in ac-

cordance with the Law On Mass Media, as well as hyperlinks to them.

About Information Ministry's functions and its ability to restrict access to aggregators

The Information Ministry, in accordance with the decree, has the right to request from the owner of a news aggregator the information necessary to analyse the information posted on the news aggregator. The owner of the news aggregator, in turn, is obliged to provide the requested information no later than five working days from the date of receipt of the request from the Information Ministry.

If the owner of a news aggregator fails to fulfil the obligations established by this decree, the Information Ministry sends a request to such owner to eliminate (prevent) violations of the legislation on mass media.

The Information Ministry may restrict access to the news aggregator in the cases envisaged in paragraph 2 of Article 51-1 of the Law On Mass Media. The decree also makes it possible to do this if the requirement of the inadmissibility of distribution of information messages and (or) materials from Internet resources, online publications, in respect of which a decision has been made to restrict access, as well as hyperlinks to them, is not met. Or in case of repeated (two or more times during the year) failure to provide or untimely submit information requested by the Information Ministry, as indicated above.

Restriction, resumption of access to the news aggregator is carried out in the manner prescribed by the legislation on the mass media for the restriction, resumption of access to the Internet resource.

Next level grain

The Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation launched the first production of essential amino acids in the CIS and it enters the world market

The development of agriculture has been a top priority since the beginning of Belarus' independence. Time has shown that it was the right thing to do. Domestic agro-industrial complex (AIC) not only fully ensures the food security of the country, but also earns on exports. Last year, we exported food products and agricultural raw materials worth \$6.7 billion. This is 117.3 percent more compared to 2020 and a record high compared to previous years. Can the return from agricultural production be even more significant for the economy? For sure, the efforts of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation (BNBC), established on behalf of the President, among other things, are focused on solving this problem. The project has no analogues in the entire post-Soviet space. Its goal is deep processing of grain using modern biotechnologies. This allows us to obtain highly productive and balanced feed and feed additives, which is an undeniable advantage for our AIC.

By Yekaterina Veselukha

New frontiers

BNBC is called an enterprise whose goal is to buy tomorrow. Judging by the successful beginning, it is quite real. Vasilina Akhramovich notes that the corporation and its partners have a task to put all facilities into operation in strict accordance with the master contract and gradually reach production capacity in the near future, "Several factories are already operating around the

tion. The production of amino acids, taking into account our pricing policy, will provide an opportunity to obtain an even larger volume of products, as well as to make the meat and milk of Belarusian agricultural enterprises competitive and in demand in many countries."


Profit from the first transactions

"We established a young professional team of 1400 people. We received declarations of conformity for all species, as well as registration certificates for premixes

Good deal

This is also why, since the end of last year, wheat gluten, L-lysine sulphate, and since March 15th — threonine from BNBC have been traded on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange. Experts note: the trading is more than productive.

"By entering the exchange, we are able to increase the efficiency of export sales. We offer a price that provides us with a reasonable, economically justified level of profitability, further pricing is at the mercy of



The main production facilities of BNBC are: a granary with a capacity of 450,000 tonnes of one-time grain storage; plant for the production of compound feed for cattle and poultry — 60 tonnes per hour; plant for the production of compound feed for pigs — 40 tonnes per hour; plant for the production of compound feed for fish — 14 tonnes per hour; plant for the production of premixes — 20 tonnes per hour.



Aleksandr Kulevsky

Aleksandr Lukashenko:
A few countries have such production — only four countries, and Belarus is among them. It's more than 'space'. We have been dealing with space since Soviet times, but this is a completely new production with our raw materials — BNBC is ready to buy 700,000 tonnes of grain at world prices.

(During a visit to the BNBC construction site, August 10th, 2020)



Aleksandr Kulevsky



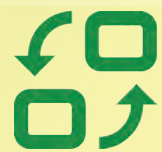
The Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation CJSC is implementing a large-scale export-oriented and import-substituting investment project called 'Organisation of high-tech agro-industrial production of a full cycle for 2016-2032'. Its goal is the deep processing of grain using modern biotechnology methods to obtain essential amino acids, highly productive balanced compound feed and premixes for all types of animals.



The unique Chinese technologies for the production of amino acids had become accessible thanks to the strong comprehensive strategic partnership between Belarus and China, and primarily thanks to the friendship between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Chinese President Xi Jinping.



100 percent of import substitution



Today BNBC already allows our agricultural producers to refuse imports. It is known that Belarus, like all countries of the former USSR, imports amino acids, vitamins and other feed components. Even Europe brings most of the amino acids from China. BNBC supplies 100 percent import-substituting L-lysine sulphate, threonine and essential amino acids to the domestic market. Our enterprises do not need to import wheat gluten either. This gluten is used not only by bakers. It is an important component of feed, and also an absolute import-substituting product.

buyers. From the starting \$2,500 per tonne of L-lysine sulphate, the cost rises to \$4,000.

The corporation emphasises that the project for deep processing of grain was created primarily for Belarus in order to help our agricultural enterprises. For them, BNBC has a different price, a preferential one. For example, \$2,200 for a tonne of L-lysine sulphate (amino acids are mainly purchased by large grain processing plants). The same volume in Russia goes at a price twice as high. This is a significant contribution of BNBC to increasing the competitiveness of the domestic meat and dairy industry," adds Vasilina Akhramovich.

Own raw materials as the guarantee of sustainability

The decision to focus exclusively on Belarusian raw materials taken at the beginning of the construction of the corporation proved to be far-sighted, and the pressure of sanctions does not have a significant impact on the work of the company. Grain is the key raw material position for the production of animal feed, premixes and amino acids. It occupies about 60 percent of their composition. The annual need of the enterprise is 330,000 tonnes of food and approximately 450,000 tonnes of fodder grain. Almost the entire volume is closed by domestic agricultural enterprises. The corporation has been testing the capabilities of Belarusian companies and agricultural production cooperatives for two years. As a result: during this time, not a single tonne of fodder was imported.

clock, and soon the entire main complex will reach full capacity. This step is extremely important not only on the enterprise scale, but throughout the entire country. The demand for food is increasing year by year. How to meet it? By an increase in animal productivity. However, the number of livestock cannot be constantly increased, there will be no more land, it is necessary to increase the animal productivity. It is impossible to achieve this only with simple pasture, rich balanced feed is needed. Of course, amino acids will be crucial here. The more complete the food is, the more it will give back. This is BNBC's contribution to the country's food security and export direc-

for all animals. Everything is certified according to the strictest international standards: GMP +, TUV — ISO 9001, STB ISO 9001, Halal. We make compound feed strictly in accordance with National State Standards of the Republic of Belarus. We mainly sell them and premixes within the country, but partly to Russia and Lithuania. The products are in great demand all over the world. The task is not to find a buyer — we already have many of them. It is necessary to choose a reliable, most solvent one," says Vasilina Akhramovich, Director for Economics and Finance of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation CJSC.

Technology hits the gas

The key task is to develop a component base for an electric vehicle — that is what our mechanical engineers think about the development of Belarusian skill sets in the field of environmentally friendly transport and implemented projects

The global fleet of electric vehicles, according to forecasts of the International Energy Agency, may grow to 145 million by 2030. Large automakers are already announcing the refusal to produce cars with internal combustion engines. Belarus has not stayed away from the trend. The data of the Belarusian Automobile Association confirm the growing popularity of electric vehicles among our car owners. Despite an overall decline in the number of new cars bought by Belarusians last year, one of the trends was an increase in demand for electric vehicles — up 168 percent. The MT correspondent learned about the prospects for electromobilisation and the development of domestic skill sets in this area.

By Inna Aleksandrova

Full swing

Since 2017, the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has been actively involved in the topic of electric transport. Scientists have been given the task of developing environmentally friendly transport in the country, because most enterprises that feel the market are already producing equipment with electric power units. The goals are ambitious: not only to assemble an electric car based on imported equipment, but also to create the production of its own component base. When it is available, it is possible to transfer any transport to electricity in a short time.

“Our key task is to develop a component base for an electric car. Because it is the component base that determines whether this car is domestic or whether it is simply assembled in Belarus. It should be noted that this topic has become especially relevant recently,” says Aleksandr Belevich, Head of the Electromechanical and Hybrid Power Units of Mobile Cars Scientific and Engineering Centre of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The largest project of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering and the Minsk Automobile Plant is a cargo electric vehicle. The entire component base of domestic development! The new product is based on the well-known urban medium-tonnage MAZ-4381 Kordnet. However, the design of the front mask has changed significantly. The characteristics of the truck are as follows: weight — 11,990 kilogrammes, load capacity — 3,890 kilogrammes, platform volume — 39 cubic metres. This is less than the base model. However, this is always the case with electric vehicles. The battery partially ‘eats’ the carrying capacity.

The electric truck is designed for intracity transportation, for example, for delivering goods from logistics centres to end users. This is a small truck, therefore, unlike large trucks, it has access to any part of the city. The battery is charged in two hours at a current of 300A. The 245-horsepower electric motor was manufactured by the Mogilevliftmash plant. The

electric truck can travel up to 200 kilometres on a full charge, and this is quite enough to cover the daily need for the mileage of a delivery service car.

“We can make a car with a mileage of 500 kilometres, but then the ratio of the mass of the car and the cargo will not be

Craving for electricity

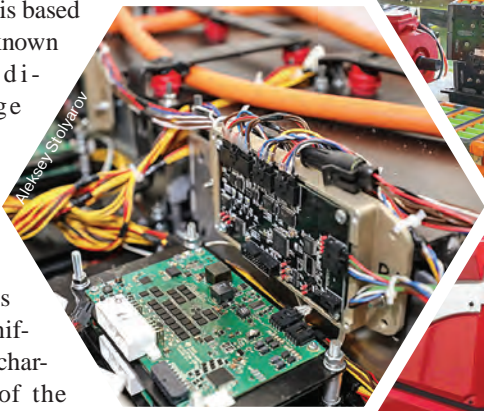
The Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering is engaged in the creation of electric drive components, power electronics and control systems for energy storage devices of its own design. According to Aleksandr Belevich, one of the implement-

The prototype was tested on the ice of the Sports Palace. The tests were successful. There are plans to put 25 such machines on the ice arenas of the country.

Finally, the conversation turns to the pros and cons of electric vehicles. There are many advantages. They are safe for the urban environment, emit less noise, have a simplified design, which reduces the cost of repairs. They are more dynamic, the maximum torque is achieved from low revs, the electric car pulls ahead at a traffic light. And they are safer as the centre of gravity is shifted down where the battery is. Because of this, electric vehicles roll over less often and are better controlled during sharp manoeuvres.

And what about the cons? The main one is a limited power reserve. For premium models, it is up to 200-250 kilometres, for Tesla Model S and Jaguar F-Pace — more than 500 kilometres on a single charge. Budget electric cars have about 100-120 kilometres. Because of this, they can only be ridden in the city. There are many questions about the efficiency of electric cars in our climate. Studies show that at five degrees, battery capacity is reduced by 20 percent, and at minus five degrees — by 35-40 percent. The air conditioner and stove are powered by a battery. By turning them on, you reduce the power reserve by another 20-25 percent.

If you read this material and wondered if it is worth buying an electric car in 2022, then budget-friendly models should definitely be considered as an option for moving within large cities. They significantly reduce cash costs compared to gasoline models. For the sake of this, you can wait an extra hour at the charging station.



very effective, roughly speaking, the car will carry itself,” Aleksandr Belevich explained why the option of using electric trucks for interregional deliveries is not being considered yet.

As Aleksandr said, there is no specifics yet about the timing of the development of mass production, but there are no serious technological obstacles to this.

ed projects is a standard range of frame-panel electric vehicles using a completely domestic component base.

A large sector for the introduction of electric power units is support service transport. In 2020, the Minsk Tractor Works, together with the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering, created a prototype of the BELARUS KL-418 electric ice resurfacers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The name of the June 22nd memorable date has been changed by Decree of the President of Belarus



On March 23rd Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed Decree No. 117 to amend Decree No. 157 as of March 26th, 1998, ‘On National and Public Holidays and Commemorative Dates in the Republic of Belarus’.

The name of the memorable date was changed from ‘National Remembrance Day of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War — June 22nd’ to ‘National Remembrance Day of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War and the Genocide of the Belarusian people — June 22nd’.

The decree was based on the law of January 5th, 2022, ‘On the Genocide of the Belarusian People’. The law recognised the atrocities committed by Nazi criminals, their accomplices and nationalist formations during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period, aimed at the systematic physical destruction of the Belarusian people as the genocide of the Belarusian people.

The Cultural Capital 2023 of Belarus has been determined

Six cities claimed the title of Cultural Capital 2023: Baranoviichi of the Brest Region, Mozyr of the Gomel Region, Svisloch and Shchuchin of the Grodno Region, Slutsk of the Minsk Region, Belynichi of the Mogilev Region. The press service of the Ministry of Culture of



Belarus noted: all the cities presented their capabilities, and Slutsk will become the Cultural Capital 2023 of Belarus according to the results of voting by members of the Collegium of the Ministry.

During the presentation of the applicant cities, the positive experience of organising and holding cultural events, the presence of a developed socio-cultural infrastructure, the systematic work on the preservation of tangible and intangible historical and cultural values, the preservation of traditions, customs, festivals of folk art, the presence of new cultural projects planned for implementation within the framework of the ‘Cultural Capital of the Year’ republican campaign. It should be noted that the city of Orsha is the current Cultural Capital.

The European bison population in Belovezhskaya Pushcha has increased by almost 30 individuals

The State Nature Protection Institution National Park ‘Belovezhskaya Pushcha’ counts 703 individuals of the European bison (*Bison bonasus* or zubr). This is 28 individuals more than in 2021. Aleksey Bunevich, a bisonologist of the National Park, Candidate of Biological Sciences, said that European bison were counted in December-February using a visual method of counting with remote optical observation tools, as well as by photographing on the ground



and from a quadcopter. During 2021, 78 calves were born in the European bison population, of which 77 survived by the end of the year. There were 117 adult males older than 3.5 years old, 402 adult females, 107 young animals (1.5–3.5 years

old) individuals. As in previous years, European bison lived in five main territorial groups, which we conventionally call northern (57 individuals), northeastern (150), central (67), southern (334) and southwestern (89). In addition, six European bison are in excursion enclosures.

Find your favourite book



Twelve countries, book novelties, an influx of visitors, meetings of writers and readers — the 29th Minsk International Book Fair took place in Minsk

The 29th Minsk International Book Fair under the motto 'The River of Time of the Homeland' is not just a festival of writers and readers, but also a review of all domestic book publishing. From year to year, the leading publishing houses of Belarus exhibit high-profile novelties on their stands, based on reader demand and social trends. The current exhibition is no exception: here you can find the most diverse literature — from children's to scientific, from fiction to technical.

By Victoria Popova

From past to present

The main difference of the forum from all the previous ones is that there are many young people among the visitors. It seems that the organisers, in particular the Ministry of Information, managed to distract teenagers from gadgets, draw their attention to His Majesty — the book. The main attraction of the book exhibition is the educational quarter and the main stand called 'The River of Time of the Homeland'. Here one can point smartphone's camera at the screen to see the revived photographs, imagine how Belarus looked many years ago, and see how beautiful it has become now.

Read, watch, and meet

There are many visual elements on the Russian stand — in the children's part of the exposition, one can get acquainted with the *Books in the City* collection. This exhibition of picture books about real and imaginary cities and their inhabitants is designed to help children teach them to tell fascinating cartoon stories about themselves and their city.

Many bright and distinguished surprises were prepared by our guests from exotic countries: partners from China not only doubled the occupied space, but also published a number of books especially for the exhibition. The forum was also attended by publishers from Turkey, Pakistan, Palestine, Iran, who traditionally did not limit themselves to paper products, but presented large book and cultural stands that give an idea of the richness and diversity of their national arts.

'The Writer and Time' annual Symposium of Writers was held within the framework of the exhibition, in which publishers, writers, philosophers and poets from seven countries took part. These eternal questions were discussed at the symposium by thinkers and our contemporaries: how to establish a dialogue with readers, should writers make commitments of making sharp journalistic statements in our difficult time, does the role of thick literary magazines increase in an era when every blogger believes he or she is a writer.

In the bookshelves

The priority areas in which the Belarusian book publishing is developing are educational, children's, classical and modern fiction.

The most active book buyers are parents who purchase different textbooks, as well as art publications: these areas are traditionally the leaders in sales. That is why the educational quarter is considered the central panel at the book exhibition, in the organisation of which the publishing houses of the Ministry of Education took part. Moreover, they often go beyond strictly educational literature in recent years: for

in the last year. Staggering novelties of 2021 — early 2022 are also presented at the book fair. Firstly, these are biographies of famous contemporaries: just recently, the *Unbroken Aleksei Talai* (the book is dedicated to a famous Paralympic athlete, public and political figure) and *The Phenomenon of Valentin Elizariev* (about the path and work of an outstanding choreographer, People's Artist of Belarus, artistic director of the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre) publications were presented.

Belarus Publishing House arranged a real presentation

“The President sent a greeting to the participants and guests of the 29th Minsk International Book Fair and the 8th International Symposium of Writers called 'Writer and Time'. Maksim Ryzhenkov, First Deputy Head of the Belarus President Administration, read a greeting to 222 participants and numerous guests of the forum. "At all times the book has been at the centre of culture, an integral part of the history of mankind, its spiritual wealth and heritage. Telling about the events of the past days, passing on knowledge about the centuries-old national traditions, the book teaches us to love our native land and honour the memory of our ancestors. I am convinced that by uniting readers, writers and publishers of different generations through love for the book, we connect the past and the present, anticipate the future," the message reads.



example, the **Vysheishaya Shkola Publishing House** this year issued a whole series of medical publications in English prepared by Belarusian doctors and an extremely effective language course called *Belarusian language? With pleasure!* made by Professor of Belarusian State University Tatyana Ramza.

Book publishing also occupies an important position in the work of the **Zvyazda Publishing House**, which is mainly a media publishing house that produces socio-political, social and literary periodicals. Moreover, its share has grown

marathon for the 29th Minsk International Book Fair: *Belarus Remembers. In the Name of Life and Peace* book series, *Belarus. Tragedy and Truth of Memory*, the *History for Schoolchildren* series, *The Peace of Riga in the Fate of the Belarusian People* two-volume book, the *Poland and Belarus. 1921–1953*, *Aleksandr Prokopenko. People's Footballer* biography and a number of art albums and books on art.

In defence of people and truth

Over the past two years, publicists have appeared in Belarus, who can be considered writers as well. Andrei Mukovozchik, the observer of *SB. Belarus Segodnya* is

among them. He presented his solid two-volume book called *Roots and Dorcadion* at the main stand of the book fair.

"In the first volume — *Roots*, I talk about how, in what way and by what methods they tried to introduce Western values to us, thereby replacing our national identity. However, the second volume — *Dorcadion* is focused on personalities. I could even not to write about these collaborators, but I thought that time would pass, and many would forget their shameful role in our Belarusian history. We should remember this forever. We need to know those who tried to overturn the country in 2020 by sight. The second book is devoted exactly to them," the author explained.

We are pleased to note that our other colleague, columnist Maksim Osipov, presented *the Crimes of Poland and Lithuania against Refugees: Facts and Evidence* book at the stand of the Belarus Publishing House.

"This book is our contribution to the Year of the Historical Memory, to the protection of people and truth. This is a denunciation of the essence of Western civilisation, which has transformed into anything but democracy, and has lost its philanthropy," Maksim Osipov emphasised.

The dollars had it coming...

The dollar is losing liquidity, rubles are becoming more advantageous for keeping in everyday life

By Vladimir Volchkov

Let us all together commemorate the dollar, gentlemen. The fact is it has already ceased to be the world's currency, the only, unique and unwavering one. Even Belarusians, who have developed an instinct to rush to the exchange office for no reason for 30 years of globalisation, slowly started to hand over the dollar. So, what is its value? The magic is gone, only pragmatism remains, and it tells us: new values are coming to finance. Besides, the President recently drew attention to the fact that there is no longer a need for citizens to 'run around the back streets' in order to exchange rubles for dollars.

Recently, Russia and Belarus agreed on a transition in pricing and settlements in national currencies. Russian banks announced the opportunity of making deposits in rupees, drachmas, yuan, Belarusian rubles and other currencies. And the other day, Saudi Arabia began negotiations with China on the sale of part of the oil to Beijing for yuan. It should be noted that the rise of the dollar began with the 'occupation' of the oil sector.

Money goes to money

Admittedly, at a certain point the US managed to monopolise the financial system. In fact,

Washington has turned the planet into one huge 'village' (sorry for such comparison), in which there is only one bank — American. That way, all payments went through it.

Therefore, the dollar dominated the world, and for a later time everyone had to put up with it. Well, in fairness, it should be noted: a single global system was temporarily convenient. Settlements in international trade were unified, standardised, everything worked according to the same rules, regardless of whether your counterparty is located in Argentina, Germany or Honduras.

Another issue, as antimonopoly inspectors say, is that the United States has begun to abuse its dominant position more and more actively. Not to provide services, but to impose them, and in recent years also to push around customers, telling them what they need to release, for whom and with whom to be friends, and with whom not. As they say, they had it coming. Clients began to turn away from the 'centre of the universe'.

The same old story

Today, American activists and publicists accuse Joe Biden of killing the dollar. In fact, several of his predecessors did it systematically with some maniac sequence.

The current head of the White House has only the dubious honour of nailing down the coffin of the American financial system. And without global dominance, the American currency is not particularly needed.

The problem arose not yesterday, but the day before yesterday. It's hard to pinpoint a turning point. Perhaps these were sanctions against Iran, when they froze all its international assets and disconnected it from the financial system. Perhaps...

Over the past two decades, there have been many events of misbehaviour by the American financial authorities (to put it mildly), which have

undermined the credibility of the 'US bank'. Over the past decade, parallel systems of international settlements began to form in the key economic centres such as the EU, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Russia. There are already dozens of them.

The economic war with Russia (however, the United States is still trying to draw China into it) has become the trigger for the 'Plan B' activation in international trade. By the way, when there was a clap of thunder, it turned out that the United States had only satellites and vassals, but not allies (and not even partners) in the financial and economic circle. They turned out to be not very reliable. Including transnational corporations from the real sector as well as those with American roots.

Most recently, Moscow catering and Russian furniture sellers were happy that McDonald's and IKEA were leaving their market. But it turned out that they didn't seem to leave... They just took a break... Toyota at first scorned towards the Russian market, but a few days passed — and it had already changed its mind about disappearing from our roads...

The situation is changing every day, but there are already real opportunities for international transactions outside the dollar system. And if it is possible to jump out of the control of the US Department of the Treasury — why anyone should lose the market. Moreover, in the developed world, the term 'recession' is becoming increasingly relevant. The bosses from the IMF are already talking about it, although they said that there would be no crisis a week ago. However, international institutions have long been engaged in either analytics, or propaganda, or verbiage (sorry for such harshness) — It is a real mess.

On the way toward conversion

Is it possible to manage international trade without the USA? For sure. Of course, not everything is so simple, it is necessary to expand a number of bottlenecks in payment and international regional payment systems.

But there are no insurmountable walls. By the way, the share of settlements in Russian rubles and yuan in mutual trade between Moscow and Beijing was growing even before the Ukrainian crisis. Now the dynamics will be even faster.

Moreover, there is a strong feeling that Europe will also join the ruble-yuan pair. Eurasia is the largest trade partner of the EU. Yes, there is now a cooling down going on for political reasons rooted in Washington. There is also a certain pressure through the US financial system on European companies, politicians, and countries.

Nonetheless, Europe still needs oil, gas, other raw materials and



President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:

Today the U.S. dollar has already started weakening against other currencies. Nobody needs it any longer, especially given the current sanctions... Very soon we will be hunting for the Russian ruble or the Chinese yuan, because these are the countries we will be mainly trading with.

(March 15th, 2022, at a meeting with the leadership and operational staff of the state security bodies)



Chinese intermediate goods. Otherwise, the economy will collapse. And who said that the same oil cannot be sold for Russian rubles or our potash for Belarusian rubles for our Western counterparts? The sanctions factor connected with the use of the euro and the dollar passes away.

Where does our money come from in the West? It's not a problem. We must not be blind to the fact that Belarus and Russia also require a number of European goods. So bring, offer, sell it to us... Get our money, for which you can buy raw materials. Yes, there are some nuances with exchange rate formation, certain technical issues. But all they are solvable. By and large, dozens of national currencies circulated in Europe in the last century, but trade continued. Another question is that we will not only have to 'monkey around' in order to interest Western companies that are used to this approach with proposals. They will also have to try to make us an offer one could decline.

The era of the dollar is coming to an end

No one will be left without cars, household appliances and other con-

sumer, intermediate and technological goods. They will just buy everything the same, but produced in other countries: China, India, Vietnam... Business entities will almost irreversibly conclude contracts with partners from these countries in yuan, rupees, and dong amid rapid deglobalisation and restrictions on the American financial system.

Admittedly, the unipolar financial system has already disappeared. In foreign trade, there is a rapid transformation, a transition to settlements in national currencies. Yes, everything is getting more complicated, and the world economic system will be even more interesting and multifaceted in the near future.

There is no need to run around the back streets for dollar... It's just ridiculous. Finita la commedia — the dollar system cracks and collapses. And in a few months we will see a completely different financial system. In this kaleidoscope, national currencies will be the most reliable means of savings.

At least for household (as they say today — non-professional) investors. In the end, ordinary people have previously mainly purchased goods of domestic production. Today the focus on the domestic market will be even higher. In other words, the era of dollars has almost come to an end. At least in most third countries.

ACTUAL

The Minsk Times
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Adding fuel to the fire

A lorry drivers' strike, mass protests by farmers and fishermen, industrial production stoppages: record inflation levels have fuelled growing anger with Spain's left-wing government as energy prices go through the roof

The rallies, which took place in Spain's main cities, were called by the far-right Vox party which sought to tap into growing social discontent over the spiralling cost of living that has left many families struggling to pay their bills.

Backed by consumer groups, the unrest comes as Spain saw consumer prices surge to their highest level in almost 35 years, with inflation jumping to 7.6 percent in February, against a backdrop of soaring energy costs, worsened by the conflict in Ukraine.

"We want the EU to take all the necessary measures, and at least let countries regulate prices... it can't keep nations shackled with prices that are completely misaligned with the cost of

electricity production," said UGT boss Pepe Alvarez.

Rally organisers warn the consequences for both households and businesses are serious.

"Month-by-month, lighting bills, heating bills, the cost of petrol and diesel, food, housing and transport just keep going up. The whole of society is suffering," they said in a statement.

Spain has been gripped by unrest since March 14th when lorry drivers launched an open-ended strike over mounting fuel prices, staging roadblocks and picket lines and leaving supermarkets with empty shelves and several sectors struggling to cope.

Blaring their horns, some 300 taxis

drove slowly through a central avenue of Barcelona in protest against rising fuel prices.

The government is also facing a strike by fishermen who downed their tools following calls by a federation of nearly 9,000 boats which says diesel prices have left many vessels working at a loss.

And there is anger in the livestock and farming sector, which has been hit by rising animal feed costs, with nearly 150,000 protesters demonstrating in Madrid.

It is the biggest wave of social unrest since Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez came to power in mid-2018 and is firmly backed by the opposition, notably the far-right Vox which organised the anti-government protest in several cities.

Washington benefits from Ukraine's misfortune

The US has taken a 'mafia' approach in an attempt to get neutral countries to condemn Russia over its military operation in Ukraine, China's *Global Times* writes

According to the author of the article, the US and NATO, which hold the key to resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, have made no practical moves to end the war. Instead, they are still intensifying contradictions and escalating confrontation, creating obstacles for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine.

"Washington exerts strong pressure on neutral countries that 'don't join the club', criticising India for being 'shaky' on one hand and sensationalising China's 'threat' to peace on the other. Isn't this a typical mafia approach?" the publication says.

At the same time, the observer noted that Europe is beginning to realise that its position and goals differ from the intentions of the United States. "More and more Europeans realise that blindly sending arms to Ukraine is heading to-



ward the opposite direction of the security goals they pursue. In addition, the result of long-term extreme sanctions must be that the US gets rich, Europe pays the bill and Ukraine bleeds. Washington can't hide these petty ideas," writes the *GT* author.



Tokyo Fashion Week shines a light on homegrown talent

Amid easing COVID-19 restrictions, this season's event saw a packed schedule of runway shows

After successive seasons of cancelled shows and virtual presentations, a largely in-person Tokyo Fashion Week returned in a blur of technicolour palettes, digital innovation and sculptural runway creations.

With 54 brands in attendance and 30 physical showcases, the event's Autumn-Winter 2022 edition marked an optimistic return to form — and the highest number of participants since the pandemic struck.

Designer Tomo Koizumi, whose extravagant creations went viral after his 2019 New York Fashion Week show — and, more recently, at the Summer Olympics opening ceremony — showed in his home country, with Japanese celebrities among those modelling his creations.

Some designers used the welcome

return of larger audiences to show their creations in new and unexpected ways. Punk-inspired label Kidill put on a live concert, dressing indie band Psysalia Hito in hyper-saturated coloured dresses and tartan. Meanwhile Yoshio Kubo, in what was dubbed as an 'NFT presentation' by organisers, presented his sculptural works as an exhibition, with models wearing monochrome creations that ballooned out into extravagant inflated gowns.

COVID-19 still loomed over the event, with attendees required to wear masks and capacity limited per show — less than a third of pre-pandemic levels. But Kaoru Imajo, one of the directors of Japan Fashion Week Organisation, said organisers were 'very happy' with the turnout, despite the absence of more overseas buyers and international editors.

World's happiest countries in 2022

Finland has been named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row, in an annual UN-sponsored index that ranked Afghanistan as the unhappiest

Even though the planet has endured much over the past couple of years, the World Happiness Report revealed something unexpected in its 10th anniversary of publication. There have been significant increases in donating to charity, helping strangers and volunteering, especially the help to strangers in 2021, relative to either before the pandemic or 2020, by a very large amount in all regions of the world.

Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia recorded the biggest boosts in wellbeing. The largest falls in the world happiness table, released recently, came in Lebanon, Venezuela and Afghanistan.

The world happiness report, now in its 10th year, is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data. It assigns a happiness score on a scale of zero to 10, based on an average of data over three years.

Northern Europeans once again dominated the top spots — with the Danes second to the Finns, followed by the Icelandic, the Swiss and the Dutch.

This year, the authors also used data from social media to compare people's emotions before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. They found 'strong increases in anxiety and sadness' in 18 countries but a fall in feelings of anger.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Cross half the world to get asylum in Belarus. A year ago, such an idea could not even occur to Evan Neumann, a simple American. However, last week a US citizen was issued the relevant document in the Citizenship and Migration Office of the Brest Region Police Department. The document was solemnly handed over to the American by Yuri Brazinsky, Chief of the Citizenship and Migration Office.



I feel safe and calm in Belarus

American citizen obtained refugee status in Belarus

By Nikolai Yarmoshuk

Double standards

Evan was among the participants of the protests in Washington in January last year. The man was forced to leave his native country due to political persecution by the government for expressing disagreement with the result of the presidential election near the United States Capitol. Although Evan does not consider himself guilty, “A felony is a pretty serious charge. However, I do not believe that I have harmed anyone. One of the accusations is very offensive: they claimed that I hit a police officer, but there is no evidence to support this fact. All these accusations are politically motivated. Therefore, I had no other choice but to leave the United States. After all, if I stayed there, most likely I would have been in prison.”

Evan Neumann is convinced that the so-called double standards are becoming more and more common in the USA. When representatives of the Black Lives Matter movement rioted in the streets, burned shops and cars, the authorities turned a blind eye to this. However, as soon as you question the results of the presidential election, you already become a potential criminal. The man does not hide the fact that he voted for Donald Trump, and believes that the victory was stolen from his candidate, “For me, as an ordinary citizen, the fairness of the American elections now raises serious doubts. Moreover, the United States has no moral right to teach all other countries how to live. The US should focus on its own internal problems, but not interfere in the affairs of other states.”

From the USA to Belarus

He clearly understood that he could be imprisoned for his political position. Evan made the difficult decision to leave the States. The man was engaged in business and went to one of the European countries where the production was located. Then he reached Ukraine by car through Germany and Poland. He lived there for four months until he noticed the tail, as he believes it was the SSU. That is when the idea to find refuge in neighbouring Belarus appeared. In August last year, a man decided to illegally cross the border, “I did not know that there are many swamps in the Pripyat forests. In addition, it was very diffi-

cult to move around them. Once I fell into some sands, from which I got out with great difficulty. I also had the opportunity to see wild boars and snakes. In general, this adventure was remembered for a long time.”

The American failed to cross the green border unnoticed, and was detained by Belarusian border guards. However, the man was not upset, and after some time he asked for political asylum. After a thorough study of the situation and documents, the Ministry of Internal Affairs made a decision in favour of the foreigner.

Evan Neumann admitted that he was glad to receive refugee status in our country, “Belarus is a wonderful place where I feel safe and calm. I am very grateful to the Belarusian authorities for granting such a status. Now I have mixed feelings, as if eating cranberries — sour and sweet at the same time. I feel joy, because Belarus showed care and took me under protection, but I also feel sadness because I have to live far from my homeland. I like Brest, and I plan to visit other regions of the country, including Minsk.”

During a short stay in Belarus, Evan learned a little Russian, got acquainted with the national cuisine, the dishes of which he appreciates very highly, and made several friends. In Brest, an American likes to walk along the embankment of the Mukhavets River, along the central Sovetskaya Street, and just wander in the park. He also visited the Brest Fortress and the Brest Museum of Rail Equipment. In general, a foreigner has only positive impression. He plans to study the local business environment, because it has become almost impossible for him to conduct the existing business, “Most of my money remained in the West, it is difficult to manage it for doing business, and there were difficulties with the sale of products. Until I had refugee status, I did not check the rules for doing business in Belarus. Now there is such an opportunity and I will study the business climate in the country. I respect the Belarusians, the government, I am immensely grateful to everyone, because it was here where I received protection from political persecution. Of course, I miss my homeland, where my wife and children are left, and I hope that someday I will be able to return to the United States.”



The United States District Court for the District of Columbia sentenced Jacob Anthony Chansley, who took part in the Capitol attack, to three years and five months in prison



Chief of the Citizenship and Migration Office of the Brest Region Police Department Yuri Brazinsky:

Evan Neumann remains a US citizen, but now he is under the protection of the Republic of Belarus. The issue of granting refugee status was resolved positively, as we have concerns about his return to the homeland, when he would be subjected to political persecution. Now everything is in his hands, because in our country there are many opportunities to fulfil one's potential. We have a socially oriented state, working and business conditions are comfortable. I think Evan will succeed. Belarusians are friendly, as he himself notes, many are ready to help adapt to a new life. However, over time, Evan can also apply for Belarusian citizenship.

Romantic Belarus

The warmer it is outside, the more we think about travel. It is still far from complete holidays, so short trips along sophisticated routes will save us from daily grind.

By Sofia Arsenyeva

Hang out in Paris

Do you want to arrange a French weekend for your sweetheart? Easy enough. Just remember the address: Vitebsk Region, Postavy District... Paris village! According to legend, one of the first places that Napoleon saw on the Belarusian lands was an inconspicuous village on a hillock. It was the sultry summer of 1812: endless fields grew below, emerald forests were in the distance. Mirrored lakes gleamed here and there. 'Beautiful, like in the parks of Paris,' the French emperor said in amazement and then kept going. Nevertheless, the locals remembered his words for generations, and began to proudly call their village Paris.

Nowadays, the Eiffel Tower and a monument to the soldiers who died in the Patriotic War were erected here in the middle of rural streets. On the whole, the French spirit is felt even better in Belarusian Paris! The local history museum at the school is full of artefacts from the Napoleonic era — from buttons and forks to buckshot.

Take wings with love in Vitebsk

Marc Chagall and his Bella — this couple enchanted the entire world. 'When I am with her, I do not walk, but fly,' the artist often repeated. And then he very successfully transferred his feelings on canvases: the autobiographical triptych from the paintings *Over the Town*, *The Promenade* and *Double Portrait with a Glass of Wine* is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars today.

But then, at the beginning of the 20th century, it was love at first sight. Chagall himself described the meeting with Bella in Vitebsk as 'She was silent, and so was I. She was looking — oh, her eyes! — I was looking at her too. It felt like we have known each other for a long time, and she knew everything about me: my childhood, my present life, and about what will happen to me. As if she was always watching me, she was somewhere nearby, although I

saw her for the first time. I realised: this is my wife. Her eyes were shining on a pale face. Big, bulging, black! These are my eyes, my soul.'

Of course, you need to walk along the Chagall routes in the northern capital of Belarus with somebody. Dvina embankment, narrow streets, shady parks — the city favours couples in love.

Take the beloved from the high tower

Golshany Castle is the main mystical attraction of Belarus. Vladimir Korotkiy described the ruins of the former splendour as 'Sinister, monstrous! It stands not on a hill, not at a distance, so that a person has time to somehow prepare, but face to face, like an unexpected swing of a sword.'

According to legend, Princess Hanna-Gordislava Golshanskaya fell in love with a poor man. Marriage was impossible, and the couple began a secret affair. The man visited Hanna in the vestments of a monk in order to avert suspicion from himself. However, the happiness did not last long: the Duke caught the lovers and, in a fit of anger, ordered both to be walled up in the walls of the castle. Since then, the ghosts of the Black Monk and the White Princess have been wandering around the castle.

Last year, the North Tower, which is the best preserved, was restored. Moreover, one can only get to the top floor from the outside. The unusual staircase design allows one to appreciate the scale of the former splendour of Golshany. It also evokes romantic associations: what gentleman did not dream of saving the princess from an impregnable fortress?

Hide from everyone on the island

Just ten kilometres from the Minsk Ring Road in the middle of the vast Minsk Sea there is a real piece of paradise. One can get here via a wooden bridge. No cars, no people. The residents of Minsk have long called this picturesque place the Island of Love. Throughout the territory

there are secluded gazebos, which are illuminated with lanterns after dark.

There is no better location for a picnic under the starry sky! A warm blanket, a thermos with tea or cocoa, a basket with a light snack — all this creates the perfect atmosphere for kissing!

Make it up in the alley of lovers

If there is a setback in your relationship, go to Gomel. The city above the Sozh River is famous not only for harvesters and the luxurious Rumyantsev-Paskevich Residence, but also for its sprawling green parks. In Festivalny, for example, an unusual alley was laid a few years ago. Here, every bench, sculpture and graffiti creates a romantic mood — as well as hearts, cats, shapes of couples flaunt at every step.

By the way, Sukhoi State Technical University of Gomel is around the corner from the park. The university has a unique museum dedicated to the life of the legendary aircraft designer. Here Pavel Osipovich is represented as a family man who for many years was devoted to his only Sofia Tenchinskaya. The museum contains numerous gifts that the engineer brought to his wife from abroad. Shoes, fans, Chanel perfume bottles. Sukhoi knew a lot about not only airplanes, but also how to capture a woman's heart.



Marc Chagall, *Double Portrait with a Glass of Wine*, 1917



In the Festival Park in Gomel



North Tower of the Golshany Castle



Eiffel Tower in Belarusian Paris

Amateur hockey

The Belarus President's Team reached the final of the Amateur Ice Hockey Tournament

By Ivan Semenov

On the ice of the Minsk Olympic Arena, the Belarus President's Team defeated the guests from the Gomel Region with a score of 8:6 (4:1, 3:3, and 1:2).

The host team started the game very actively and already opened the scoring at the 19th second of the game with the first attack of Artem Karkotsky, who was assisted by Nikolai Lukashenko and Alexei Yefimenko. Soon Mikhail Grabovski doubled the result after Aleksandr Lukashenko's assist. Then Andrei Mikhalev scored the third goal. Shortly before the first break, Vasily Bely scored one goal, and then Konstantin Durnov found the back of the net for the fourth time.

At the beginning of the second period of the match, Gomel centre Bogdan Kovshikov scored, but Artyom Antonenko, the top scorer of the tournament, and Yaroslav Chupris strike back with three goals in a row after an accurate pass from Aleksandr Lukashenko and Oleg Antonenko. Before the second break,



BELTA

centres of guests Nikita Koloskov and Evgeny Velichko reduced the gap to three goals — 7:4.

In the final twenty minutes, the member of the winners' team Oleg Antonenko scored his second goal, and then Gomel players Yuri Shklyarov and Evgeni Kovyrshin scored.

Andrei Kolesnikov (Gomel Region) and Artem Karkotsky (President's Team) were awarded as the best players of the game. Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee Vladimir Kukharev presented the prizes.

Following a long-standing tradition, the fans received numerous gifts. Just after the game, they received dozens of toys from the players of the President's Team. In addition, during the intermission, the most active fans took part in competitions right on the ice, the winners of which became the owners of prizes from the President's Sports Club.

At the preliminary stage of the tournament, the ice team of the Head of State gained six victories in six matches and, having scored 12 points out of 12 pos-



sible, took first place. Hockey players of the Minsk Region finished second, the team of the Brest Region took the third place, and the squad of the strongest hockey players of the Gomel Re-

gion closed the quartet.

Now the race among the top scorers is led by centre of the President's Team Artyom Antonenko, who received 21 points (9 goals and 12 assists).

The first match of the final series up to two victories is scheduled for April 2nd, the second match will take place on April 9th.

The President's Team won competitions among amateur teams for 12 times. However, hockey players from the Gomel and Minsk Regions have one title each.

The President's Sports Club, the Sport and Tourism Ministry, the Minsk City Executive Committee are the organisers of the 15th Amateur Ice Hockey Tournament.

Not instead, but together

Belarus and Russia continue comprehensive sports rapprochement



By Sergei Kanashits

The ridiculous attempts of politicians to inflict damage to our positions and smash Russian and Belarusian sports with the help of absurd sanctions have a visible opposite effect: any action is met by counteraction. Russian and Belarusian athletes are standing together in order not only to survive, but become even stronger amid total exclusion from the world sport calendar. Moscow hosted a joint meeting of the staffs of the Sport and Tourism Ministry of Belarus and the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation last week — a kind of sports headquarters for prompt response. The second meeting of the delegations took place in Minsk.

In the days of the Soviet Union, it has been said that it was more difficult to win the USSR Championship in almost any sport than to become the winner of the European or World Championship.

The competition was extremely tough. The level of skill of the participants was also high. There have been many missed opportunities over the years that they have been strenuously trying to divide us and cause a quarrel between us, but today the movement towards each other cannot be stopped.

There are already successful examples of the participation of Belarusian teams in joint leagues with Russia: in volleyball, basketball, hockey... The task of turning these particular cases into a common practice is on the agenda.

Belarusian Sport and Tourism Minister Sergei Kovalchuk sees the concrete and specific results of rapprochement, "We talked about the joint training of coaches, various educational programmes, the development of children's and mass sports. We also considered the tasks of import substitution and the production of sports facilities and equipment. We have a large scope of activities, we discussed issues in 43 sports — the way we will work this year, as well as in the future. Somewhere joint leagues will be created, somewhere the stages of the Union State Cup will be held. Decisions have already been made on almost all athletic disciplines and a system of events has been developed."

Decisions are not specified yet, but the process, as they say,

has begun. Additional interest and professional level of the competition will certainly be provided by the participation of athletes and teams from other countries in joint tournaments and leagues. Their involvement, as Sergei Kovalchuk noted, is also planned, "The possibility of holding tournaments with the BRICS countries is being considered — here we see an excellent platform for our athletes to compete with the best athletes from China, India, and these are professionals of a very decent level."

Russian Minister of Sports Oleg Matytsin fully agrees with his colleague, "The participation of Belarusians in the Winter Paralympic Games in Khaty-Mansiyk proved once again that no political pressure can disrupt our ties and self-confidence.



Belarus and Russia have a common view, we are standing against discrimination and the politicisation of sports. Each of the sports federations of our countries integrates its calendar into the schedule of the other. I think this year there will be a kind of pilot project for our co-operation. We have all the financial and organisational capabilities, and most importantly, the desire and experience."

Let's add to the above the fact that Belarusian sportsmen also take part in the Championship of Russia in Cross-country Skiing, which is being held in Syktyvkar these days. Our athletes will also take part in the Biathlon Championship in Tyumen, which started on March 30th.

ARENA

● **Belarusian hockey player Vladislav Kolyachonok scored the first goal in the NHL**

The Belarusian scored in a match against Calgary Flames, which the Arizona Coyotes lost with a score 2:4. Vladislav Kolyachonok scored his team's second goal two minutes before the final siren. In total, he spent 16 minutes on the ice and earned a '+1' in plus-minus statistic. In



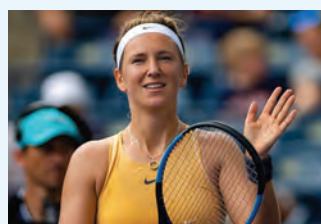
18 matches of the current season, Vladislav Kolyachonok scored three (1+2) points.

For the first time in 10 years, three players from Belarus scored

in one NHL season. Earlier centres Yegor Sharangovich (New Jersey Devils, 16 goals in 58 games) and Alexei Protas (Washington Capitals, 3 goals in 33 games) also managed to score.

● **Belarusian tennis player Victoria Azarenka played the last game at the tournament in Miami**

Victoria Azarenka (16th in the world ranking) finished her



performance at the WTA-1000 tournament in Miami, USA with a prize fund of \$8.3 million.

In the first set of the match of the 1/16 finals, the ex-first number in the world lost to

16-year-old Czech tennis player Linda Fruhvirtova (ranked 279) with a score of 2:6, and in the second set, with a score of 0:3, she just could not continue the game. In her first match, Azarenka defeated Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova (ranked 54) — 6:4, 2:6 and 7:6 (7:5). Victoria Azarenka became the winner of these competitions three times (in 2009, 2011 and 2016).



Aleksey Yuzmitinov

Photo of the week

Abbess Angelina of the Barkolobovsky Holy Ascension Convent

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On March 31st, 1889, the grand opening of the Eiffel Tower took place in Paris. The designer Gustave Eiffel hoisted the French flag on top of the tower. Today, the shape of the Eiffel Tower is the most recognisable architectural landmark of Paris. It is known all over the world as a symbol of France. The designer himself simply called it a 300-meter tower.

On March 31st, 1943, the Battles of Rzhev ended during the Great Patriotic War, which began on January 8th, 1942.



This name conditionally unites 4 offensive operations that were carried out by the Soviet troops of the Western and Kalinin fronts against the Army Group Centre in the Rzhev-Sychev-Vyazemsky direction. The Battle of Rzhev was one of the bloodiest battles of the Great Patriotic War, but there is still no single answer to how many Soviet soldiers died on Rzhev land — sources indicate from 1 to 2 million people.



On March 31st, 1882, Korney Chukovsky was born (1882-1969), a Russian writer, critic, children's poet, literary critic, translator. Author of the *Moydodyr*, *Buzzy*

Wuzzy, *Fedorino gore*, *Doctor Aybolit* fairy tales in verse, the *Nekrasov's Mastery* study, literary-critical essays about writers and cultural figures, etc. He was among the founders of the Soviet school of literary translation theory. Furthermore, he was in Belarus many times and highly appreciated M. Bogdanovich, singled out Y. Kupala and Y. Kolas, whom he knew personally. He was Laureate of the Lenin Prize.

April 1st is April Fools' Day, an international holiday celebrated all over the world. On this day, people play pranks on relatives, friends and acquaintances, or just make fun of them. It is unknown where exactly this holiday comes. One of the versions about the origin of the feast of laughter is associated with the fact that April 1st was originally celebrated in many countries as the day of the vernal equinox and the time of Easter. The festivities were always accompanied by jokes, pranks and funny tricks.



April 1st is International Bird Day, an international ecological holiday. Its goal is to preserve the species diversity and abundance of birds. It originated in the USA in 1894. Soon the holiday, which gained popularity thanks to the media, came to Europe.



April 2nd is International Children's Book Day, which is celebrated on the birthday of the great Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen. Its

celebration was established in 1967 at the initiative and decision of the International Board on Books for Young People. The purpose of the Day is to draw attention to literature, book art and book culture for children, to the problems of accessibility of children's books and the spread of children's reading, to emphasise the important role of children's books in shaping the spiritual and intellectual image of new generations.

April 2nd is Day of Unity of the Peoples of Belarus and Russia. It was on this day in 1996 that the Presidents of Russia and Belarus, Boris Yeltsin and Aleksandr Lukashenko, signed the Treaty on the Formation of the Community of Russia and Belarus in Moscow. Exactly one year later, on April 2nd, 1997, the *Treaty on the Union between Belarus and Russia* was signed, which gave a new impetus to the process of comprehensive integration of the two states. On December 25th, 1998, the *Declaration On the further Unity of Russia and Belarus* was signed. On December 8th, 1999, the



Treaty on the Creation of a Union State of Russia and Belarus was signed. Over the past years, the union project has proved its relevance and viability.



On April 2nd, 1833, the first complete edition of *Eugene Onegin* novel written by Alexander Pushkin was published. In one week, the 5,000th run of the first edition sold out in its entirety. Alexander Pushkin began to work on the novel in the spring of 1823. The last point was set by him in September 1830 in Boldino. Considering his work completed, Pushkin himself calculated the time spent on writing the novel — 7 years 4 months and 17 days.

April 3rd is Geologists Day. It is celebrated in a number of post-Soviet countries annually on the first Sunday of April. This professional holiday was established in 1966 to commemorate the merits of Soviet geologists in creating the country's mineral resource base. The beginning of April was chosen for the holiday because this is the period of the end of winter cold and snow melting, when specialists in this industry begin preparations for summer field work and expeditions.

