

INTERNATIONAL

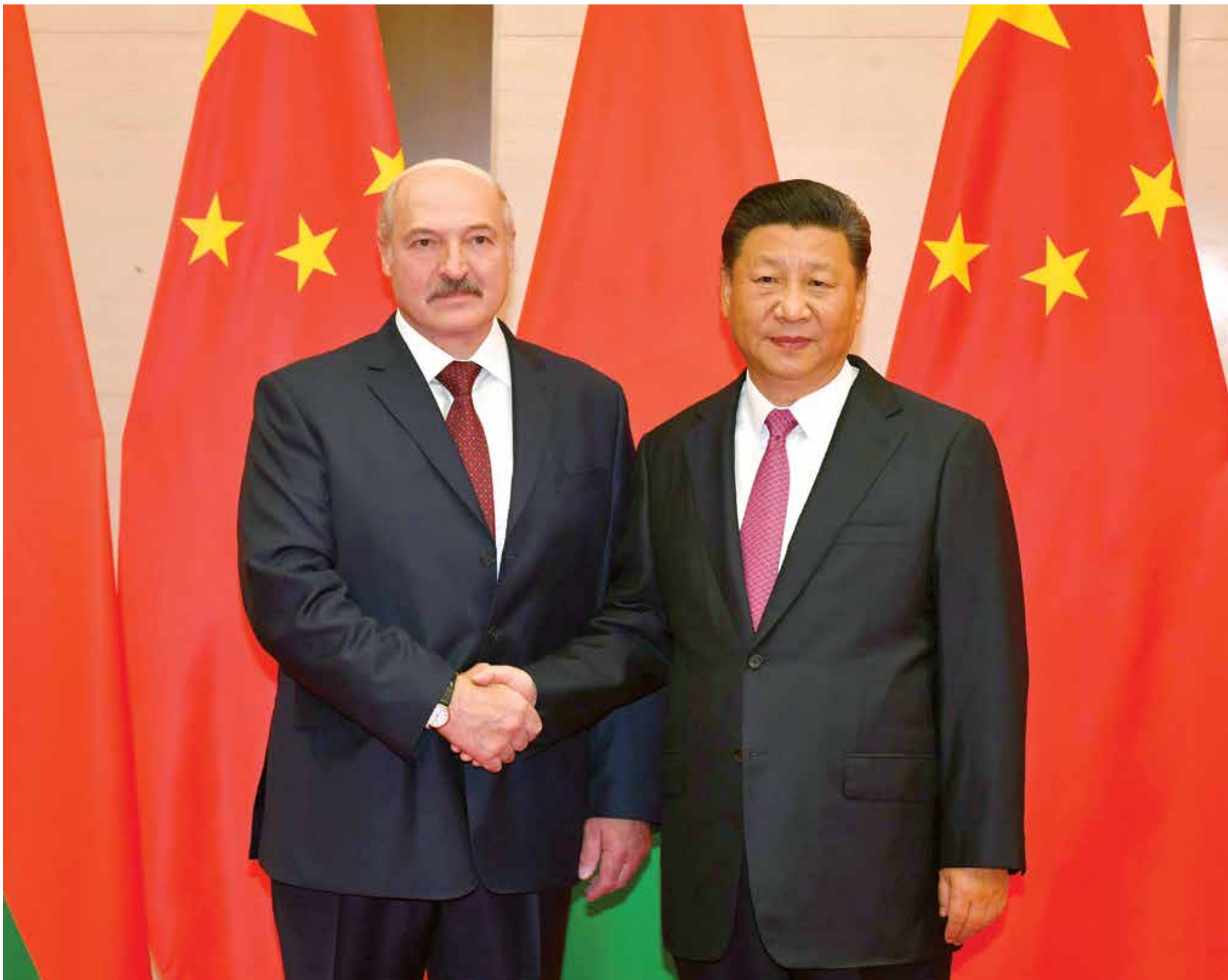
# The Minsk Times

ISSN 1991-2978



**Socio-political Weekly**

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 22 (740) ● THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018 ● WWW.SB.BY



President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and President of China, Xi Jinping, during their meeting in Qingdao

## Belarus makes a whole range of proposals dealing with Shanghai Cooperation Organisation development

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has made a working visit to China to take part in the session of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

→ 2-3



# Belarus makes a whole range of proposals dealing with SCO development

At the Summit, held in Qingdao, Alexander Lukashenko voiced the position and proposals of Belarus regarding the development of this organisation, new dimensions for cooperation with the SCO member states and strengthening of security in the Eurasian region

By Vasily Kharitonov

## Cooperation across many areas

It's known that in July 2015 Belarus was given an observer status at the SCO. Alexander Lukashenko, as the head of the observer country, took part in the summit in 2016 in Tashkent and in 2017 in Astana. As an observer Belarus takes part in the sessions of the SCO Heads of State Council, sessions of SCO ministers who are responsible for foreign economic and foreign political activity, conferences on trade-economic cooperation and events of non-governmental structures of the organisation.

Interaction with SCO in the military sphere and within the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is developing dynamically, with Belarus also developing collaboration with the organisation in the cultural-humanitarian area.

Today Belarus views SCO as an organisation which should make its own weighty contribution into the victory of common sense in inter-state relations, noted Alexander Lukashenko at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Qingdao. The Head of State noted that against the backdrop of ongoing global geopolitical and economic transformations, disagreements between states are getting increasingly tense. Uncertainty has become a new 'normality'.

"Hostility and confrontation lead to the escalation of tensions; serious conflicts may emerge leading to unpredictable consequences. Against this backdrop, Belarus sees in the SCO an organisation that should make a considerable contribution to maintaining multilateral security, protecting international rules and regulations, and ensuring the supremacy of common sense in interstate relations," noted Mr. Lukashenko.

## Using opportunities on a wider scale

The President of Belarus paid attention that the new waves of protectionism in global trade directly or indirectly affect virtually all the countries participating in



At the SCO Heads of State Council session

the SCO Summit. This situation threatens to push countries into trade wars.

"Therefore, it's absolutely relevant to adopt joint measures in order to strengthen the global trade system by taking advantage of the economic opportunities offered by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation," believes the Belarusian leader.

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Qingdao Mr. Lukashenko also suggested using Belarus' opportunities in strengthening SCO food security. "Belarus has a traditionally strong and efficient agricultural sector, high-technology manufacturing and agricultural machinery industry. We suggest tapping into the opportunities these sectors offer to boost food security of the SCO."

Mr. Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that after India and Pakistan joined the organisation in 2017, its area expanded to cover nearly a quarter of the land with almost half of the world's population. The President underlined that in these conditions, adequate food supplies are crucial for the SCO's development and for maintaining security in this huge region.

## Collaboration to bring results

Alexander Lukashenko also suggested arranging a specialised exposition *AgroSCO* at the *Belagro* international agricultural forum that is held

in Minsk every year. He invited all the SCO friends and partners to take part in this expo in 2019. The Head of State emphasised that practical economic cooperation of the SCO member states with observer countries and partners, efficient use of their transit and logistics opportunities can become one of the promising areas for the development of the organisation. "Moving towards this goal, within the framework of the joint action plan, we have already made the first step towards synchronising national development strategies and aligning the EAEU with the *Belt and Road* initiative. Being an initiator and strong supporter of the 'integration of integrations' idea, Belarus is ready to help identify new areas of common interest and expand cooperation in Greater Eurasia," asserted Mr. Lukashenko.

The President of Belarus paid attention that modern development rates of technologies bring new opportunities, as well as new threats and challenges. Neither state can allow itself to simply become closed or to ban something in this sphere. "I suggest considering the development of a common electronic platform, let us say, SCO's IT ecosystem that will incorporate the possibilities of electronic mass media, social networks, e-trade and many more," said the Head

of State. In his words, this will help boost interaction and increase competitiveness of national economies against the backdrop of globalisation.

## Atom for peaceful purposes

Belarus fully supports control over peaceful use of nuclear energy, noted Alexander Lukashenko at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Qingdao. "Belarus totally supports equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation while using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as it is envisaged in the Astana Declaration of the SCO Heads of State."

The President believes that further cooperation in boosting nuclear security, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and research in this field can become one of the areas of considerable mutual interest for the SCO states.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit sounds much more powerful than the G7 Summit, asserted the President of Belarus during the talks with China's President Xi Jinping in Qingdao. "The hard work you have done was worth it, because the outcome of the Qingdao events is stunning and far-reaching. I have watched international news. I do not know whether it is accidental or not, but the G7 Summit is taking place at the same time. I should tell you, our event within the framework of the SCO resonates much more potently."

The President noted that all mass media quoted statements made by the heads of state at the summit and bilateral talks that were held on its sidelines.

"The level of organisation and the form of our today's work is an example for all international organisations, how it's necessary to work rather than going along the halls, forgetting that it's necessary to listen to each other," said Mr. Lukashenko.

The President of Belarus wished successes to Kyrgyzstan which took over presidency in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

# Mutual partnership receives guarantees at the highest level

Belarus will be strong if China is strong, noted the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, during his negotiations with the President of China, Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, held in Qingdao



During the negotiations with Chinese President, Xi Jinping

By Vladimir Velikhov

“We’re very glad that we lend each other unconditional support in any situation. We never look back for the reactions or opinion of others when it comes to independence and sovereignty of the states. I’m convinced that if China is strong, Belarus will also be strong, as our country is your reliable partner,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The President congratulated the Chinese on the completion of its presidency in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and noted that the summit can be called a landmark event.

“It’s an example of how international

meetings should be held. This is an example of order, discipline and efficiency, as everyone listened to each other and everyone was given a say and could give their feedback. This differs dramatically from other international organisations,” the Belarusian Head of State said. “The SCO is China’s brainchild. The international reputation this organisation has earned is a testimony to the increasing role of your country in the world. Being your sincere friend, we will provide all possible support to this organisation and all the developments within it.”

In turn, China’s President Xi Jinping pointed to Belarus’ active participation in the summits of the SCO. He underlined

China’s commitment to being a reliable friend and partner for Belarus. “We’re ready to align our development with Belarus’ development,” said the Chairman of the People’s Republic of China. Xi Jinping also recollected his first meeting with Alexander Lukashenko.

“We felt like we had known each other for a long time. We try to synchronise our efforts to promote our relations and try to be on the same page in areas of mutual interest. We keep working to give new impetus to bilateral cooperation. I am ready to keep it up,” asserted the Chinese leader.

## DIRECT SPEECH

Alexander LUKASHENKO, President of Belarus:

“The hard work you have done was worth it, because the outcome of the Qingdao events is outstanding and far-reaching. I have watched the international news. I do not know whether it is accidental or not, but the G7 Summit is taking place at the same time. I should tell you, our event within the framework of the SCO resonates much more potently.

## Development of bilateral relations

By Alexey Fedosov

### Belarus plans to solve problems in relations with Iran

On meeting the President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Qingdao, Alexander Lukashenko asserted, “Our relations don’t simply improve from year to year — we already boast a whole history of relations.”

The President noted that he had been to Iran several times before and he knows what problems the country faced and what difficulties prevail in Belarusian-Iranian relations. “We’re fully determined to deal with these issues,” noted the Head of State. “Belarus is ready to go as far in bilateral collaboration as Iran wants.”

In turn, Hassan Rouhani spoke of his previous meeting



Hassan Rouhani

with Alexander Lukashenko that also took place on the sidelines of the SCO Summit held in Ufa in 2015. “After that, I instructed the industry minister to go to Belarus to discuss the future of bilateral relations and to resolve all issues. I believe that we still have a long way to go to reach the optimal level, however, today our relations are much better than before,” emphasised the Iranian leader.

## Meeting — useful in all directions for everyone

By Vasily Kharitonov

### Belarus is ready to create high-tech enterprises and products made using Belarusian techniques in Mongolia

On the sidelines of the SCO Summit, the President of Belarus held a working meeting with the President of Mongolia, Khaltmaa Battulga. The Mongolian side expressed interest in creating a dairy cluster using Belarusian technologies. Mr. Lukashenko responded that Belarus is ready to share its experience in this area, “If we can reach agreement, we’re ready to build a cluster in your country to produce and process milk. I know that Mongolia needs such high-tech enterprises.”

Mr. Lukashenko believes that Mongolia is also aware of Belarus’ opportunities in manufacturing automobiles and agricultural techniques. “If you’re interested in new ma-



Khaltmaa Battulga

chinery that we produce we’re ready to trade in this and other things. We’re also ready to set up joint ventures in Mongolia to manufacture such machinery,” the President of Belarus said.

Khaltmaa Battulga said that several years ago, he visited Belarus in the position of agriculture minister. “My attention was drawn to the fact that dairy production is successfully developing in your country and this produce is being supplied to the markets of Russia and the European Union,” noted the Mongolian

leader. On visiting Belarus, he drew attention at home to the development of agricultural machinery and planned to organise an exhibition of Belarusian produce in Mongolia but had been unable to realise the plans.

Mr. Lukashenko invited Mr. Battulga to once again visit the country. “I invite you to come to Belarus at any convenient time to become more familiar with those areas of development of our state and economy that will be interesting and useful for Mongolia.” The President of Belarus noted that the current meeting is important for the development of cooperation and the vector of the relations of the two countries depends on it.

The two sides noted that Belarus and Mongolia are located between large states or blocs, so it’s important to be able to use this location and find advantages from an economic point of view.

# Partners have good intentions

## Belarus and the Vologda Region develop new joint productions for the interests of Russia

By Alexey Fedosov

On meeting the Governor of Russia's Vologda Region, Oleg Kuvshinnikov, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko asserted, "We're ready to work together if you are interested. I think we have good experience of this already. We can set up not only joint ventures but also start production facilities that the Vologda Region, as well as the whole of Russia and Belarus will need."

According to the President, Belarus and the Vologda Region could implement successful manufacturing and agricultural projects. "I have been informed about the Vologda Region's interest in cooperation with Belarus. I think there could be many successful projects, especially at the metalworking plant where we already produce some joint equipment," noted the Head of State.

Mr. Kuvshinnikov said that his region has a number of proposals that are being discussed with the biggest Belarusian enterprises. "The talks are in progress. We have made significant steps in the joint production of tractors. More than 6,500 tractors have been jointly made in the Vologda Region." In the near future, the Vologda



Oleg Kuvshinnikov (L) during opening of *Belagro* exhibition

Region of Russia will purchase more than 120 low-floor buses from Minsk Automobile Works (MAZ), noted the Governor of the Russian region, Oleg Kuvshinnikov, after his meeting with the President of Belarus.

"We're interested in buying low-floor buses from Belarusian MAZ. We've already bought 30 and intend to get another lot of over 120 buses soon," added Mr. Kuvshinnikov.

Minsk Motor Plant will also sell its products to the Russian region. Its engines will be used

to jointly make loaders and excavators. The first batch of Belarusian engines is already on the way to Cherepovets Casting and Mechanical Plant.

The Belarusian company Amkodor continues selling agricultural machines to the Vologda Region. In addition, the enterprise will soon start selling forest harvesters. Only imports have been available in the Vologda Region until now.

According to Mr. Kuvshinnikov, there are plans to buy 20 MAZ road tractors in 2019 to set up a transportation and



MAZ buses for Vologda Region

logistics company. "Those are the plans and negotiations are starting now. If we reach acceptable terms, then we will be able to create a major transportation and logistics company in order to deliver machines and equipment, food and various products along the central corridor from north western Russia through Belarus and into the European Union. We need to substitute vehicles made by Scandinavian producers, which now dominate the Russian roads," said the Governor of the Vologda Region.

The Vologda delegation paid a visit to Belarus in early June when there was a session of the joint commission for cooperation development. The delegation also held talks with Belarus' Prime Minister, Andrei Kobyakov, visited a range of industrial enterprises and attended the opening of the international specialised exposition *Belagro-2018* and the *Healthy Towns* conference, held by the Belarusian Health Ministry.

In January-March 2018, the trade turnover between Belarus and the Vologda Region went up 11.1 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. Belarus exports tractors and tractor units, milk and cream, freight vehicles, potash fertilisers, liquid crystal devices, lasers, parts and units for cars and tractors. Major imports from the area are flat-rolled products, mixed mineral fertilisers, pipes, tubes and welded and riveted sections from ferrous metals.

A plant to produce Belarusian tractors has been established at the Cherepovets Casting and Mechanical Plant. Moreover, there is a subject of the MTZ commodity distribution network in the Vologda Region and a broad dealer network for Belarusian machine-building enterprises.

# Where the barrel is going nowadays

By Yevgeny Kononovich

**Although our currency doesn't link directly to oil extraction, we also depend on the cost of energy resources. Belarus' Deputy Finance Minister Dmitry Kiyko believes that one of the biggest risks is the completion in Russia of the so-called tax manoeuvre, and the refusal from taking export duties for oil and oil products, because of which, the Republican budget loses one of its income-producing sources.**

Under such a scenario, our oil processing industry will have to operate in the regime of actual world prices for oil. Potential losses could be levelled out via the modernisation of the Naftan and Mozyr oil refineries. Due to this, the oil refining depth by 2020 will reach 91-92 percent (against the current 73-78 percent). For comparison: during the USSR period, 'wastes' — unsuitable for further processing — accounted for 50 percent. "The increase of



the oil refining depth and the receipt of new products will enable oil processing plants to receive additional profit and to remain competitive on the world market," believes Andrey Rybakov, the Deputy Chairman of Belneftekhim Concern.

The behaviour of the Belarusian Rouble undoubtedly depends on external factors, as our economy is integrated into the world economy. Moreover, as Russia remains our major trade and economic partner, we can't be indifferent to the situation with

the Russian Rouble. Zhanna Kulakova focuses on one important aspect of the issue.

"Unlike the Russian Rouble (much less the US Dollar or Euro), the Belarusian Rouble isn't a speculative currency, therefore the consequences of currency fluctuations can be reflected on our market with some delay. Of course, some reaction will appear immediately. During the first days of the Russian Rouble crash the exchange rates of the US Dollar and Euro in our country raised, with the exchange

rate of the Russian Rouble falling. If we look at the dynamics of the currency basket however, it practically hasn't changed, i.e. generally speaking the Rouble hasn't strengthened or weakened."

A different matter is that, with the fall of the exchange rate of the Russian Rouble, Belarusian goods became more expensive for Russians, while Russian goods have become cheaper on the Belarusian market. This is not profitable to our exporters. With the change in the balance of demand and supply on the domestic

currency market, the Belarusian Rouble may weaken; however, this process can take months. Experts advise businesses to remain calm in the current situation and to understand that the dynamics of the exchange rate of the Russian Rouble against the US Dollar and Euro is primarily caused by the nervous geopolitical situation. It is senseless to try to earn money on this by buying foreign currency in exchange offices.

"We're now committed to a policy of flexible exchange rates, which can fluctuate on either side," explains analyst Alexander Mukha. "It's possible to buy foreign currency at a higher exchange rate, but when the Russian Rouble strengthens again (which will lead to the strengthening of the Belarusian Rouble's position towards the US Dollar and Euro), there will be losses from currency transactions. If we consider savings, it's necessary to diversify them across separate currencies and investment instruments, which will enable us to ensure a good level of profitability and reliability."

# Transfer of state property to private investors should bring benefit to the country

Belarusian authorities are not opposed to privatisation: they are against mass or 'shock' campaigns — as noted by Alexander Lukashenko on meeting the EBRD Vice President, Alain Pilloux



Alain Pilloux, EBRD Vice President

By Vladimir Khromov

“You are aware of our approaches to the privatisation of public property. I do not think that my views of privatisation differ much from the approaches of the European Bank. We are absolutely not opposed to privatisation. It is quite a natural process. However, we believe, as all sensible people do, that if the state cannot manage an asset, then this asset should be given to an effective owner. We proceed from this key premise. We are against mass or 'shock' privatisations. This is the essence of our approach,” Alexander Lukashenko noted. According

to the Head of State, the transfer of public property to private investors must bring benefits to the country. It should envisage good salaries for workers of the privatised companies, new jobs and regular revenues to the state budget.

In general, the President spoke highly of cooperation between Belarus and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. “The prospects are great. We have learned a lot from you and were guided by your recommendations. I thank you for the projects — especially infrastructure projects — that we are implementing jointly now,” he

added. The EBRD has invested in the Belarusian economy a total of about 2bn Euros since its collaboration with Belarus began. In 2017, investments totalled 163m Euros. “These are encouraging figures. Belarus is a good partner of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. I am particularly pleased that the bank has made some adjustments to our relations, showing an interest in our public sector and — importantly — wishing to expand its liaisons with the state sector of the economy,” the President added.

In turn, Alain Pilloux expressed appreciation of the level

of health and ecological tourism in Belarus. The EBRD Vice President shared his impressions of the visit to the Plissa sanatorium in the Glubokoe District, where a meeting of the EBRD regional group (Eastern Europe, including Belarus and the Caucasus) was held. According to him, the participants liked the place very much. “I hope that our 220 employees who were there will actively promote health and ecological tourism in Belarus, because they are all tremendously impressed,” the foreign guest added. Mr. Pilloux also said, “We cooperate actively with Belarus in the field of water

resources management and water treatment in Belarusian cities, which is very important for the population.” In general, he noted the improvement of indicators of the Belarusian economy. “This relates to indicators such as economic growth and inflation that are under control. Two years ago, we gave up restrictions on our activities in Belarus and that move enabled us to significantly step up work on infrastructure projects in the country.”

By late 2018, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development expects to join the share capital of Belinvestbank. “We have been cooperating with the National Bank and the Government of Belarus for some time in order to improve Belinvestbank's operations and now we are approaching the moment when the EBRD is considering a specific decision on joining Belinvestbank's equity capital. We hope that this will happen by the end of this year,” Mr. Pilloux stressed. “However, after our entry into the capital, work will not end. On the contrary, jointly with the Government and the National Bank, we will do everything possible to ensure that Belinvestbank expands and its package of operations increases — so that it will rise to the level where there will be the interest of a strategic investor, whose involvement we will discuss jointly with the Belarusian Government.”

## Belarus and EU obviously lack framework agreement on collaboration with each other

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Czech parliamentarians support signing of framework agreement on cooperation between Belarus and the EU**

Frantisek Bublan, the Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Czech Parliament, said during a meeting with Chairman of the Council of the Republic Mikhail Myasnikovich, that Belarus and the EU need the framework agreement. “It would be nice to finish the negotiations and sign the framework agreement, which would then create the basis for other specific agreements,” he believes.

During the meetings with the Belarusian MPs, the Czech delegation discussed cooperation in the *Eastern Partnership* initiative and the *Partnership for Peace* programme. The Czech

side views Belarus' participation in these projects as very important. Moreover, the Czech Republic also highly appreciates Belarus' role in the settlement of the conflict in the east of Ukraine. In turn, Mr. Myasnikovich took note of the strong vocal position of the Czech Republic in the EU. He confirmed Belarus' interest in active economic and political collaboration with Europe.

At the *Eastern Partnership Summit* in Brussels in November last year, Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei, noted that the conclusion of the framework agreement between Belarus and the EU was an issue for the immediate future. This document defines the principles of cooperation, the institutional framework and creates a solid legal basis for interaction between Belarus and the EU. Moreover, the Czech Republic could more actively use the opportunities of Belarus as a member of the



Czech parliamentarians at the meeting

Eurasian Economic Union, said the Chairman of the Council of the Republic, Mikhail Myasnikovich. According to him, the Czech Republic could use the opportunities offered by Belarus for trade, investments and the implementation of humanitarian and other projects. Belarus also hopes for the arrival of Czech investors to develop joint business projects.

The Speaker voiced several more proposals that should facilitate the expansion of bilateral contacts. He believes that Belarus and the Czech Republic need to expand the legal framework of bilateral cooperation. The two states are currently examining nine draft agreements, including the one on scientific and technical interaction. Mr. Myasnikovich believes that

implementation of the agreement on sci-tech liaisons will promote contacts between Belarusian and Czech youth, universities, and research centres. He expressed the hope that the Czech MPs will support agreements already under consideration and encourage new ones. The Council of the Republic also advocates increasing contact between the regions.

Mikhail Myasnikovich added that Belarus considers the Czech Republic an important trade-economic and political partner in Europe and expressed confidence for more active contact, including parliamentary, between the two countries. He believes that the parties should make the best use of the opportunities that international platforms and bilateral contacts provide. The Speaker is confident that Belarus and the Czech Republic could have more joint projects and initiatives.



# Perfect place for business meetings — *Belagro* expo

International Specialised Exhibition — *Belagro-2018* — held amid high attendance at the trade and logistics centre Globus Park in the agrotown of Shchomyslitsa in the Minsk Region

By Vladimir Velikhov

Some figures speak for themselves. 536 companies from 28 countries — including Austria, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Poland, Russia, the USA, Ukraine, Finland and others — took part, with collective exhibitions presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Industry, the National Academy of Sciences, as well as other ministries and departments of Belarus. Enterprises from the Czech Republic, India and Pakistan were represented by separate displays.

In total, over 300 samples of modern agricultural machinery were presented at the open exhibition site. Fertilising equipment and machinery for plant protection, grain harvesting and foraging were on show, in addition to vehicles for reclamation, cultivating and harvesting potatoes, sugar beet and other crops. Agricultural products, machinery and equipment were demonstrated in the technological area, with modern energy-saving technologies from all industries connected with production, processing, transportation, storage and sale on show.

Every year, *Belagro* becomes one of the major venues for business negotiations. In 2018, the fair was visited by over 20 official delegations from all over the world. During thematic conferences and seminars, issues such as ensuring the competitiveness of agricultural products, using land resources in terms of environmental and economic efficiency, the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and CIS and non-CIS states in the production of innovative technologies for agriculture were discussed. In addition, the exhibition programme was rich in practical demonstrations, presentations and master

classes. Various contests were held, such as: ‘Champion of Taste’, ‘The Best Ploughman’ and a competition for the best breeding cow. Apart from *Belagro-2018*, international specialised exhibitions *Belferma*, *Belproduct*, *Prodmash*. *Holod and Upak* were also organised in the Minsk Region during Belarusian Agro-Industrial Week.



As a rule, numerous meetings of high-ranking officials from the agrarian sphere take place during *Belagro*. This year has been no exception. As the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic — Jiří Milek — said during the meeting of the Czech-Belarusian working group on cooperation in the field of agriculture and food, the Czech Republic is interested in liaising with Belarus in the areas of agricultural science and education. “Science is of great importance for further development of agriculture — primarily, the introduction of scientific developments in practice; in the future, development of agriculture will depend on it,” he noted. Among the areas the countries hope to cooperate are technologies for livestock and science. We encourage the deepening of cooperation between our countries in the agrarian sphere,” Mr.

Milek added.

Companies from the Czech Republic were represented by a separate stand at the exhibition. “We have an opportunity to visit *Belagro-2018* where products of Belarusian and world manufacturers are presented. We are mostly interested in a wide range of MTZ tractors. We visited the Minsk Tractor Works

and what we saw made a great impression on us. Issues of cooperation have been discussed,” he added. In turn, the Minister of Agriculture and Food of Belarus — Leonid Zayats — spoke of our country’s interest in Czech agricultural technologies. “I would like to draw attention to the positive dynamics in our trade and economic relations. I am sure that we could work even more efficiently for the benefit of our two states. I would like to add additional impetus to our cooperation,” he added.

In general, the work of industry, science and the agrarian sector were presented at the fair. The Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus — Mikhail Rusy — stressed, “At the exhibition, we could virtually see a report on the results achieved by our manufacturers, scientists and agrarians. The exhibition has become a kind of new Green Week

in Belarus. 28 states expressed a desire to participate. About 540 companies brought the results of their work to *Belagro*. This means a lot.” For the last ten years, the best, most advanced, technological products created in the previous year in the agrarian sphere, have been exhibited on the big demonstration platform — the international

specialised exhibition *Belagro*. And while, in the first years of its formation, it fit perfectly in the small area of the Exhibition Centre BelExpo on the capital’s Pobediteley Avenue, the current 28th show could only be accommodated in the huge trade and logistics center in the agro-town of Shchomyslitsa near Minsk.

This is a figurative reflection on the situation in the agro-industrial complex. In the early 1990s, the industry could not provide its own country with food, but now Belarus is a significant exporter of produce to the world market. From January-April 2018 alone, \$1,644,000 were generated. This year’s *Belagro* surprises, fascinates and arouses interest. Its participants exchanged experiences, negotiated and concluded contracts. Over five hundred companies from almost thirty countries of the world — including Germa-

ny, Austria, the United States, Russia and Great Britain — testify to the solidity and deserved authority of the forum.

Our country also had exhibits to demonstrate. The colourful stand of Gomselmash JSC attracted the attention of visitors who enjoyed staying for a long time. The company’s so-called super-combine was on show: a powerful, beautiful machine on which the best designers in the industry worked. The vehicle is equipped with numerous options, including a system for highly accurate farming. Looking at it, it was hard to believe that, in the mid-1990s, Belarus did not have its own simple combine harvester... Two decades have passed and Gomselmash machinery has made a name for itself — exporting to 38 countries.

Another leader of Belarusian machine building is the Minsk Tractor Works. Its newest ‘Belarus-3522’ tractor on caterpillar tracks will surely be appreciated by agrarians. Meanwhile, the company’s robot-‘transformer’ was probably the most popular hero for numerous selfies. The robot had some worthy competitors: *Belagro*’s live stands are traditionally among the most popular. Record breaking cows, horses, goats, bulls and poultry were on show, attracting families with children. In addition, farming businesses also showed their achievements alongside agricultural companies. The former are likely to take the unoccupied agricultural niches.

The food section of the exhibition was also popular: aromas from meat and milk stands were the most effective guide to the fair. *Belagro* organisers creatively decorated this section in 2018.

In short, all those wishing to spend time interestingly and fruitfully went to *Belagro* last week.

# Polyclinic of tomorrow

By Yulia Matuzova

A single information space will be created for all the medical institutions of Minsk. As planned, the introduction of new technologies will improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and individual approach when providing medical care. Our reporter has investigated why mobile ambulances will be equipped with tablets and how patients will be able to learn the results of analyses via the Internet portal.

Computerisation of Minsk's medical institutions is planned to be completed by 2020. As the Chairman of the Health Committee — Sergey Malyshko — informed the operative meeting in the Minsk City Executive Committee, information on patients will be kept in a common database; as a result, the 'information follows the patient' principle will be achieved. Mr. Malyshko said that Minskians already can use e-services, make an appointment with a specialist or get a statement from the patient card. Paperwork is to be eliminated in the future.

E-prescriptions are al-



## Electronic prescriptions and tablets for ambulances: Minsk medicine transfers to digital format

ready enjoying great popularity among city residents. The First Deputy Chairman of the Health Committee — Dmitry

Cherednichenko — said, "All polyclinics of the city and public pharmacies use this service already and, by July

1st, all other medical institutions will join: hospitals, clinics and dental clinics."

Complete computerisa-

tion of medical institutions of Minsk is to be finished by 2020.

According to Mr. Cherednichenko, a portal is now being designed; patients will then be able to gain access to their medical records. Minskians will be able to view the results of their recent analyses, cancel and order appointments for the doctor, get information on healthy lifestyles and test for risk factors of a particular disease. Information on patient will be protected; the access available only with the passport data. There are also plans to develop mobile programmes to conduct surveys and inform residents about donors and special events.

Another important project concerns the automation of medical emergencies. By late 2018, mobile teams will receive tablets to enable doctors to issue an electronic record of the call and access the patient's medical details in the clinic. Moreover, technologies will be introduced to enable teams to monitor the location with visualisation on an electronic city map. This will enhance the level of admission control and responsiveness in the event of emergencies.

## Vigilance outdoors will prove helpful

**In recent weeks, an increasing number of reports of diseases associated with tick bites has been registered. What are these infections and how should we avoid them?**

Tick borreliosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria borrelia, which often causes a chronic infection: mainly affecting the skin, nervous system, joints and heart. It is also called Lyme's disease (it was in the American city of Lyme that this disease was first identified). In different regions, the infection rate varies from 10 to 50 percent; one — or even two — in ten mites is the source of infection.

### If afflicted by tick bites

The tick activity begins in April and lasts until October. The greatest number are seen in the first half of summer. The tick cannot jump. It is waiting for its victim, placing its feet in different directions — it sits on a blade of grass or on a low bush no more than 1 metre high. The tick is attracted by the smell of animals and people and attacks very simply. If you touch a twig or tick foot, it will almost certainly latch onto you. Clinging to the victim, it crawls up and often it is found on the shoulders or head, there is often the false assumption that the tick has fallen from above. The best weather for a tick is dry, sunny and warm. On cold days, with frost or rain, the tick is dormant — hiding on the forest floor and waiting until the bad weather ends.

In case of a tick bite, you will not necessarily fall ill, but should



immediately consult the doctor for diagnosis and preventive treatment. After the bite, the tick must be removed — either in a surgical room or at a trauma centre. If you try to remove it independently, there are important things you should know: the tick cannot be crushed. Do not pull it, as you could tear the body from the head. The remaining part left in the skin can cause inflammation and infection. There are several ways to remove ticks. The easiest is to use curved tweezers or a surgical clamp; any other tweezers will do. In this case, the tick needs to be seized as close as possible to the proboscis, then it is carefully pulled, while rotating around its axis in a convenient direction. Usually, after 1-3 turns, the tick is removed en-

tirely with the proboscis. If the tick is simply pulled out, then the probability of it bursting is high. Special hooks for removing ticks are sold widely. Such a hook is similar to a bent two-pronged fork. The tick is inserted between the teeth and is also twisted. If you do not have a pair of tweezers or special tools for removing ticks, it can be removed with a thread. A strong thread is tied into a knot, as close as possible to the proboscis of the parasite, then the tick is removed — slowly swaying to the sides and pulling it upwards. Sharp movements will be damaging. After removing the tick, you must wash your hands. The wound should be treated at home with antiseptic.

If, during extraction, its head is torn off (it looks like a black dot),

the suction site should be wiped with cotton wool or a bandage moistened with alcohol and then the head removed with a sterile needle (pre-sterilised in heat) — as you would remove a usual splinter. After the tick is removed it is recommended that you take a tablet as recommended by the doctor. If traces of infection was not seen during examination of the tick, prevention still continues. You also need to monitor your health and temperature and observe the site of the bite. If redness occurs, temperature rises, headache, dizziness, vomiting, pain in the muscles of the trunk and limbs are seen, then you need to consult an infectious diseases doctor. Redness can be both a symptom of borreliosis and an allergic reaction to a bite — a slight redness around the wound in the first days after a tick bite is usually a reaction to a bite and passes without consequence. If dirt is found in the wound, redness may be a consequence of the development of infection.

In most cases, the symptoms appear in the second week after the bite but may appear sooner or later (up to 21 days for tick-borne encephalitis, up to a month for borreliosis). If 21 days have passed since the bite, tick-borne encephalitis will not develop. As regards tick borne borreliosis, the incubation period can be up to a month.

The best way to prevent tick-borne infections is to protect against tick bites with the help of repellents, vaccination, and prevent them in garden areas.

**By Tatiana Zhukova,** doctor of highest category, Candidate of Medical Sciences



# Merkel's G7 photo says everything about Trump's diplomacy

As the G7 Summit in Quebec drew to a close last Saturday and US President Donald Trump sped off in the direction of Singapore, photos of one meeting appeared to sum up the conference, which saw leaders divided over a trade row

Donald Trump's trade adviser, Peter Navarro, insisted last Sunday that the president was 'willing to talk to any world leader'.

But a day after Trump left a trail of diplomatic chaos from Canada to Singapore, the site of his summit with Kim Jong-un of North Korea, a picture of world leaders apparently confronting Trump dominated reactions to the G7 summit.

It shows Trump, arms folded and eyes glaring, sitting while around him stand a group of world leaders and their advisers.

Merkel is centre stage, arms planted on a table, with the Japanese prime minister, Shinzo Abe, standing to her left, arms folded and a look of resignation on his face. The French President, Emmanuel Macron, stands next to Merkel, partially obscured, with the British Prime Minister, The-

resa May, more obscured still at his right.

To many observers the photograph, a rare glimpse of diplomatic activity not wreathed in smiles and handshakes, seemed both a summation of the effect of Trump's 'America first' foreign policy and the perfect pictorial accompaniment to a tense couple of days in Canada.

Departing Washington last Friday, Trump called for Russia

to be readmitted to the G7, four years after it was thrown out over the annexation of Crimea.

The release of the picture caused animated commentary around the world about body language and what it might say about relations between the US and its allies in the Trump era. It was followed on Sunday by a furious attack on Trudeau by Trump's leading economic advisers.



## Spain's Basques form human chain for secession vote

**Over 175,000 people in Spain's Basque country formed a 200km human chain to call for a vote on independence**

The chain extended 201.9km from San Sebastian (also known as Donostia) to Victoria-Gasteiz — the capital of the Basque autonomous

community. It was organised by the Guru Esku Dago (In Our Own Hands) group as a peaceful call to the Spanish government to allow a vote on independence.

Similar to the situation in Catalonia, the Spanish government has stated that any vote would be illegal.

## Thousands rally in Romanian capital

**Over a hundred thousand government supporters gathered in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, last Saturday to protest alleged abuses by prosecutors investigating corruption**

The ruling Social Democrats think investigators have too much power, claiming that they have tapped phones illegally and targeted officials without sufficient cause.

The anti-corruption office says it successfully prosecuted over 700 officials in 2017 including a senator and critics of the rally say it is aimed at intimidating judges and Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, who supports the fight against corruption.

"It is very peculiar to have a rally made by the parties that are in power against what they



call the deep state. The deep state is usually very linked with conspiracy theories," said Professor Andrei Țăranu, a doctor in political sciences, National School of Political Sciences and Administration (SNSPA).

## France and Germany have yet to agree on Eurozone reforms

**France and Germany have made progress but have yet to agree on a roadmap for Eurozone reforms, a French official said after the two countries' finance ministers and their teams held 13 hours of talks in Paris**

France and Germany have promised to present a joint reform proposal at a European Union summit on June 27th-28th.

"It was a long but fruitful 13 hours of negotiations. We kicked off just after 3 pm in the afternoon at the Hotel de Noirmoutier in Paris's 7th arrondissement and finished just before 5 am," the official said.

"We discussed all outstanding issues and made substantial progress, exchanging papers and talking throughout the night. We still have some work to do before being able to agree on a roadmap," the official added.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire met with his German counterpart Olaf Scholz and their respective teams in Paris in an attempt to narrow their differences.

"The ministers agreed to meet again during the week, probably by video conference to continue the work. We are meeting again because it is worth it, because we have progressed a lot and are determined to reach a compromise in the coming days," the official said.

On Friday, speaking at a business conference in Berlin, Le Maire had welcomed new German proposals for a reform of the Eurozone but said there was still a way to go for the two countries to reach a consensus on an overhaul of the single currency bloc.

## PM May says hopes UK lawmakers will not block EU exit laws

**British Prime Minister Theresa May said she hoped lawmakers would recognise the importance of passing legislation which will end Britain's membership of the European Union**

"I would hope that everybody across the House of Commons will see the importance of ensuring that that bill is not frustrated," she noted at a news conference in Canada, where she was attending a G7 meeting.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



# Return to native land after many years

The National Art Museum has hosted a solemn ceremony to commemorate the donation of Ossip Lubitch's *Still Life with a Jug* by the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to the Swiss Confederation. This is the second work by our countryman — a representative of the famous Paris School, painter and graphic artist — which has supplemented the museum collection.

By Veniamin Mikheev

“To date, an important task of the museum is to create an integral picture of the development of 20th century Russian art — a century full of twists and turns,” the National Art Museum’s General Director — Vladimir Prokoptsov — commented at the ceremony.

Vitebsk’s avant-garde and the art of emigrants — which became the classics of the Paris School, as well as socialist realism and austere style, nonconformists and postmodernists were among the features of 20th century Belarusian art. The regeneration of forgotten and unknown pages of Belarusian culture and art began in the late 1980s when — under the influence of the ‘perestroika’ reforms — a powerful stream of returning artistic heritage burst into the art sphere. The process of returning the names of artists — previously moved to the periphery of public attention — from oblivion started.

Since the late 1980s, the names of M. Chagall, K. Malevich, V. Yermolaeva, E. Lisitzky and others have been mentioned in art studies. In the 21st century, artists of the famous Paris School — the international community of artists who settled in Paris in the early 20th century — became known to Belarusians. Painters with Belarusian roots — who emigrated before or after the 1917 Revolution — played an important role.



In this context, the donation of Ossip Lubitch’s work is an important step towards the formation of a fully-fledged collection. After careful study, this artefact will be demonstrated at thematic exhibitions of the National Art Museum and other museums.

## Desire to meet the Ukrainian public

By Mikhail Veremeev

**Gomel’s Youth Theatre to demonstrate *Method* performance at festival in Kiev**

Gomel’s Youth Theatre will take part in the 2nd *Andriyivsky Fest* International Theatre Festival with its *Method* performance. This international creative forum in the capital of Ukraine will take place from June 18th-24th. Theatres from Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Ukraine, France and Estonia will be showing their performances. “At the forum Belarus will be represented by our theatre. This is our first experience at this festival. We’ll get to know the public with a performance by the production director — Vitaly Kravchenko — *Method* — based on the play by the Catalan playwright Jordi Galceran” says the Director of the Gomel Youth Theatre, Yelena Mostovenko.

The Director also pointed out that the performance raises understandable and acute issues for the world audience: which moral principles a person is ready to give up and which moral borders a person is ready to cross to move up the career ladder.

In the *Method* performance the selection procedure for the prestigious post turns into a severe mental torture where cruel manipulations with human consciousness hide behind trainings and tests — innocent at first sight.

The performance by the theatre group has already been seen by the Belarusian audience at the 13th *M@rt.contact-2018* International Youth Theatre Forum that took place in Mogilev and was a winner of the spectator Internet voting.

## Documentary story about money — albeit fake

By Alexander Pimenov

**Fake coins and banknotes from different eras on show at recently opened exposition of Historical Museum of Belarus. It is entitled in a rather frank but educational manner: *Thieves’ Money, or History of Counterfeiting*.**

It is known that the history of counterfeiting is almost as long as the history of money. The desire to illegally enrich oneself through forgery of legal means of payment was recorded almost in all parts of the world and in all historical periods. This phenomenon did not bypass the territory of Belarus. In previous centuries, with development of numismatic collectibles, a new branch emerged in production of fake money: the so-called

antique fakes made for sale to collectors and not for money circulation.

The exhibition demonstrates not only counterfeiting as a crime, but also the spoiling of money at the state level, the creation of antiquarian fakes. The exposition presents fake coins and banknotes, documentary excerpts about the most famous cases of counterfeiters, tools for counterfeit coins and banknotes, antiquarian fakes.

It remains to add that the exhibition features items from the collections of the National Historical Museum of Belarus, the Museum of Criminalistics at the Interior Ministry’s Academy, the Museum of the Centre for Cultural and Educational Work of Belarus’ Interior Ministry, the History Department’s Museum of the Belarusian State University



Near the entrance to the Historical Museum of Belarus

and private collections. Much attention is paid to the topic of criminal liability for counterfeiting in different periods of history — from the Middle Ages to present times.

The exhibition has become a joint work of the National Historical Museum, Belarus’ Interior Ministry and the Belarusian State University’ History Department.

# Festivals will suit every taste

At last! Summer has finally come, with good weather, vacations and recreation outside the city. Even at this time there are many interesting festivals. The *MT* has prepared a guide to the biggest and most spectacular Belarusian events of the first summer month.

## Svyata Sontsa (Sun Feast)

**When:** June 16th-17th  
**Where:** Minsk Region, the village of Ptich (Dudutki Museum of Ancient Crafts and Technologies)

The Feast of the Sun is timed to coincide with the summer solstice and the Kupalie holiday. Guests can stay in a large tent city, then wander in the City of Craftsmen and in the evening go to the grand fireworks show and a large concert with famous folk and rock musicians. The event will end with a torchlight procession to the River Ptich. A large bonfire will be built on the shore, with round dances organised.

## Kupalskae Kola (Kupalie Circle)

**When:** June 22nd-23rd  
**Where:** Minsk

The music festival dedicated to the ancient national holiday of Kupalie is also timed to coincide with the summer solstice. This year, the event will be held for the tenth time and it has formed its own traditions. After bathing, you can listen to famous rock and folk musicians, as well as heavy metal music: in particular, *Krambambulya*, *Aillion*, *Ocean of My Dreams* and others.

## Opera in the Castle

**When:** from 26th to 28th June  
**Where:** the city of Nesvizh, the local museum of the same name

Opera and ballet in the open air will be shown. This fabulous event is being organised for the sixth time by the Belarusian



Jumping over the purifying fires of Kupalie night is a long-lasting tradition

Bolshoi Theatre. It was not for nothing that they decided to put the festival in Nesvizh. In the 17th-19th century, the city was one of the largest cultural centres of Europe. Here, the best composers of Italy, Germany and France performed their works. The present Nesvizh Palace and Park Complex is one of the most beautiful and popular places in the Republic. This summer, guests of the former residence of the Radziwill noble family will enjoy classic and modern pieces, the famous *La Traviata* and the *Evening of Romances* by the Sergei Rachmaninoff concert orchestra. Performances will be held at three venues. The most interesting is in the courtyard of the Nesvizh Castle, which boasts the best acoustics thanks to the high palace walls and stone floor, so microphones are not needed. The second stage is the theatre hall of the castle and the third is the Church of the Body of Christ. The festival will close with a gala concert of soloists of



Historical re-enactors reproduce to the smallest detail

the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. In addition, two exhibitions will be displayed: one dedicated to the 175th anniversary of Maria Dorota de Castelian's birth — the princess and ancestor of the German Radziwill family, and the other will showcase lanterns, lamps and candlesticks.

## Beraginya

**When:** June 20th to June 24th

**Where:** Gomel Region, Oktyabrsky urban settlement

The International Folklore Festival is held under the auspices of UNESCO. Musicians and guests come to this warm and sunny holiday of peace and friendship not only from Belarus but also from neighbouring countries. Adults and children come — all dressed in national costumes. They chat and sing. Grandmothers passionately dance the Lyavonikha, polka, Krakovyak and the Korabushku, inviting everyone around, but especially the children. In addition,

there will be competitions and a large fair. At the end of the festival, all the guests will be presented with a doll — Beraginya.

## Magutny Fest (Mighty Feast)

**When:** June 30-July 2 from 4 pm

**Where:** city of Braslav, cafe Beach

At this rock festival, musicians and artisans meet at a single venue. Master craftsmen will demonstrate everything they've learned over the past year and visitors will be able to buy unique souvenirs. Newcomers and Belarusian rockers will go to the beach by the Braslav Lakes to celebrate. *Anthropos*, the *Loop of Addiction*, Uncle Vanya, *Tornado*, *Aillion* and other bands will perform at one of the most beautiful places in Belarus. Magutny Fest is not only three days of live music but also sun, beach, wakeboarding and motor boating. Fans of outdoor activities will not be bored.

## Charlie Chaplin's son to become jury member

By Olga Korneeva

**Son of the great comedian — Eugene Chaplin — to become a member of jury of first International Circus Arts Festival, *Idol-Belarus***

*Idol-Belarus* will take place in the Gomel State Circus from September 13th-16th. The jury at the festival will be composed of big-name circus directors, impresario and iconic cultural figures and also Eugene Chaplin, the filmmaker, screenwriter and son of the great comedian Charlie Chaplin.

The festival will feature five shows. At present, the directorate is busy selecting applications and developing the programme of the upcoming cultural events. The directorate has already reviewed almost a hundred acts.

Organisers are paying special attention to the cultural programme for foreign artists and guests. The must-see list will include visits to the iconic sights of the region, including the Palace of Rumyantsev-Paskevich — a pearl of the Gomel Region. The participants of the international festival will be also offered the opportunity to taste the national cuisine, including the famous local dish — 'galki'.

## Characters from artist's paintings

***The Divine Comedy of Salvador Dali* exhibition at National Historical Museum extended at visitor's request**

Even if you happen to visit the world's museums and see original paintings of Salvador Dali, do not miss the opportunity to enjoy the best examples of book graphics of this brilliant Spaniard. It's still possible to get acquainted with the European culture of antiquity and the Middle Ages in picturesque illustrations of Dante's *Divine Comedy* at the Historical Museum in Minsk's centre.

In the first two months, the exhibition demonstrated a high interest of the audience and received the best reviews. Some of them read: 'I'm 12 but I'm struck by the pictures'; 'I really like Dali's work. Thank you for the opportunity to once again touch the works of this — as I see — great artist. Every time, it's possible to discover something new here'; 'Great!'

In March and April, there took place several meetings dedicated to Dali, Dante and *The Divine Comedy*; each gathered full halls of participants. May weeks in Minsk also pleased the audience with a rich programme of events. Each Saturday and Sunday, the exhibition is open in accompaniment of a guide. On the Museum Night, art lovers got a new wave of emotions: the project was joined by artists working in body art techniques. Moreover, the characters depicted in Dali's pictures gathered at the hall of the Historical Museum.

# Speedy javelin flight in Norway

## Javelin thrower Tatiana Kholodovich sets national record at IAAF Diamond League 2018 in Oslo

The Belarusian athlete unleashed a national record of 67.47m in her best effort breaking her own national record of 66.34m set in Amsterdam in 2016 at the European Athletics Championships. Her result — 67m 47cm — is the best so far this season in Europe.

The leader of the world season in javelin throwing — Tatiana Kholodovich — will participate in the athletics event between the national teams of Belarus, Ukraine, the Baltic States and the Balkan Region, to be held on June 22nd at the renewed Dinamo Stadium in Minsk.

In Norwegian Oslo, Belarusian Alina Talay took second place in the 100m hurdles, finishing in 12.63 seconds. Gold went to Daniel Williams from Jamaica who showed her best

time of the season: 12.60 seconds. Queen Harrison from the United States won bronze — 12.71.

“I touched two barriers with my knee and lost a bit in speed — taking second place, although, given my good form, I had counted on winning. I will try to be successful in Stockholm, which will host the next stage of the tournament,” said Alina Talay.

In the high jump, Belarusian Dmitry Nabokov coped with the starting height of 2m 20cm but failed to reach the bar at 2m 25cm, and was placed sixth as a result. Mutaz Essa Barshim from Qatar took gold: 2m 36cm.

Next day, another stage of the Diamond League in Stockholm saw Elvira German of Belarus winning the ‘national’ 100m hurdles, covering the



Tatiana Kholodovich



Alina Talay



Elvira German

distance within 12.74 seconds. Representative of the South African Republic — Rikenette

Steenkamp — finished second (12.99), followed by the Dutch Eefje Boons (13.06).



## Final series is a success for Lida

By Oleg Yemelyanov

### Lidselmash becomes Belarus' champion in mini-football for the fourth time

The Lida team has performed excellently in the final series against Gomel's VRZ for gold medals at the 29th national championship. In the first game, Victor Tarchilo's trainees won the away match (3:1) and then won with the same result at home. During their third match, victory was celebrated after a series of penalty shoot-outs. The main part of the match ended in a draw — 3:3. In extra time, the opponents exchanged goals, while the penalties were played better by the Lida team

— 5:4. Lidselmash has previously been the Belarus' champions: in 2012, 2015 and 2016.

In the playoff for bronze, Minsk's Stolitsa twice defeated Orsha Viten — 6:3 (at home) and 3:2 (away).

Andrey Skvarchevsky from Minsk's Dorozhnik has been named the best scorer of the championship; he scored 35 goals.

Dorozhnik is so far the most titled club in the country: Valery Dosko's trainees have won gold medals 6 times (1999, 2002-2006). Orsha's Viten has three titles, as do Minsk's MAPID and Mensk. Stolitsa and Minsk's Simurg have won gold twice.

## Nadezhda Skardino makes her choice

By Svetlana Savelieva

### PyeongChang Olympic relay champion decides to end her career

“I've thought a great deal about whether I should continue or not. I've talked with the head coach Yuri Albers and our federation heads. They have accepted my decision to retire. I'll have a rest now,” Nadezhda says, adding, “I'm not making plans yet for what to do next; I've been working without a break for so many years. I wish to simply look around.” She thanked fans for 15 years of support during her membership of Belarus' national team.

Nadezhda Skardino has been part of the Belarusian team since 2006. In that time, she became a bronze medallist at the Sochi 2014 Olympics, also win-

ning bronze at the 2011 World Championship and the 2007 European champion. She is a two-time champion of the Universidad (2007).

In the 2013/2014 season, the sportswoman scored 111 accurate shots in a row, setting a world record.



Last season, Nadezhda won a small Crystal Globe for winning the overall standings of individual races. At the PyeongChang Games, she became Olympic champion in the relay race.

The four-time Olympic champion — Darya Domracheva — commented on Nadezhda's decision. On her social network, she posted: ‘Dear Friend! That was a brilliant career! Thank you for everything we've been through together! Thank you for all the faithful support!’

## First medal since 2014

### Yekaterina Galkina earns bronze at European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Spanish Guadalajara

In the individual all-round competition, one of the leaders of the Belarusian team confidently performed the exercise with the ribbon and hoop. Moreover, Yekaterina Galkina was also among the best in the performance with the ball and clubs. As a result, the gymnast received a total of 77,625 points from the judges.

This is the first medal in the individual all-around event at the European championships for Belarus since 2014. At that time, Melitina Stanyuta won bronze in Baku.

In Guadalajara, one more representative of Belarus — Anna Kamenshchikova — also claimed a medal becoming a silver medallist in the clubs exercise in the junior category.

## It is a rise — though insignificant

### Belarusian national football team climbs one place in FIFA's June rating

Currently, the national team of Belarus holds 78th place in the June ranking of the International Football Federation. Compared with the May rating, Igor Krushenko's trainees have climbed one position and now have 417 points. First place in the FIFA ranking is occupied by the acting world champion — Germany (1,558). Brazil is second (1,431) and the third belongs to Belgium (1,298).

Among the former USSR countries, Ukraine has the highest rating of FIFA; it is 35th with 733 points. Russia — which will host the World Football Championship this June — is 70th (457 points). In a recent friendly match against Hungary, Belarusians gained a draw (1:1).

## IN BRIEF

- Defender of Belarus' national hockey team — Artem Demkov — moves to one of the strongest clubs in the Slovak championship — Zvolen (which took second place in the regular season and reached the semi-finals of the playoffs last season). Last year, Mr. Demkov played for Soligorsk's Shakhtyor and scored 70 (26+44) points in 51 matches.

- Darya Domracheva will announce her decision to continue her career in the near future, the biathlete's husband — Ole Einar Bjoerdalen — told the Norwegian media, “We will decide whether Daria will continue to perform. She will make her decision in the coming weeks.”

## Festival of the week



Festival of retro cars — *Oldtimer Rally* — held in Minsk

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> June. *Chinese Painting of Ideas*

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 K. Marx Street  
Until 20<sup>th</sup> June. Jiří Karas Jr. and Tereza Šlápotová: exhibition of Czech photographers Until 8<sup>th</sup> July. *Multi-Colour of Tatar National Culture* Until 11<sup>th</sup> July. *Thieves' Money, or History of Counterfeiting*

#### EXHIBITION HALL OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> July. *Song Birds and Pigeons*

#### MUSEUM OF MODERN BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD

38 K. Marx Street  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> June. *Man. Cosmos. Belarus*

#### GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 13<sup>th</sup> August. *Piotr Masherov: His Heart Beats for People*

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Summer Season at Cat Museum*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> July. *My Homeland — Tale of Times* project Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress* Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. *ABCs from Around the Globe*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street  
Until 17<sup>th</sup> June. *Peaceful Time*: exhibition of Piotr Taranda

#### VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> July. *Dreams of the Past*

#### CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

6 Kirill and Mefody Street  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> July. *MotoVeloMinsk: Two-Wheeled History*

#### MUSEUM OF FOLK ARCHITECTURE AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Ozertso village  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> August. *Folk Images of Belarus*

### THEATRES

#### NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street  
14.06. *Queen of Spades* 15.06. *The Nutcracker, or Another Christmas Story* 17.06. *Tosca* 18.06. *La Bayadère*; *Have You Heard...* 19.06. *Eugene Onegin* 20.06. *Don Quixote* 21.06. *Carmen*

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
14.06. *Cherry Orchid* 17.06. *A Thousand and One Nights* 19.06. *The Clandestine Marriage* 20.06. *Merry Widow* 21.06. *Jane Eyre*

#### YOUNG SPECTATORS' THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
14.06. *My Little Enchantress* 15 and 18.06. *Thumbelina* 19.06. *Wolf and Seven Goats* 20.06. *My Little Enchantress* 21.06. *Doctor Aybolit*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
14.06. *Circle of Love* 15.06. *Hot Mothers* 16.06. *Oedipus* 19.06. *Husband Leaves His Wife* 20.06. *How to Become Rich* 21.06. *Tricks of Khanuma*

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
14.06. *School of Taxpayers* 17.06. *The Black Lady of Nesvizh*; *Tolerance* 18.06. *Inspector* 19.06. *The Seagull* 20.06. *People of the Marsh* 21.06. *Not Mine*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
14.06. *Robbery at Midnight* 15 and 20.06. *Even a Wise Man Stumbles* 16.06. *Night of Anton Chekhov's Miniatures* 18 and 19.06. #13

### CONCERTS

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PHILHARMONICS

50 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
19.06. *Voice, Harp, Organ* 20.06. *Rooney Bois (Canada)* 20.06. *Masterpieces of World Organ Music: Olga Kemova* 21.06. *Classic Avant-garde in concert* 21.06. *State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Belarus* conducted by Alexander Anisimov

#### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square  
14.06. *Summer Musical Nights in Upper Town* 14.06. *Summer Mood: Classic Jazz Trio* 15.06. *Steel Jazz Jam* 16.06. *Major British Festival* 20.06. *Cycle of concerts: 32 Sonnets for Pianoforte. Ludwig van Beethoven*