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Great Patriotic War veteran, former partisan Konstantin Polevechko

Memory of Great Victory is sacred for those who were there

On May 9th, Belarus solemnly celebrates the 73rd anniversary of the Victory over fascism in the Great Patriotic War. For the war veteran — former partisan Konstantin Polevechko — this holiday always takes him to an unforgettable past where his comrades-in-arms perished.

To grow faster, we need

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko delivers his annual State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly. Below is a shortened version of the Address which — in our view — outlines the principal moments of the country's development and its foreign policy guidelines.

When defining future tasks, we must look at them through the prism of modern events, being aware of our position in the world. Mankind, unfortunately, is at a crossroads. We've entered an age of uncertainty, unpredictability and I think, sadly, of long-term instability. There is no longer anywhere on the planet where you can hide away and detach yourself from the scene.

Security has become a tangible phenomenon. It is especially acute now we have learnt how easily it can be lost and what incredible efforts are needed to preserve it. Struggle for a place in the world hierarchy is becoming more topical. Strategic rivalry and competition between states have become commonplace. This is accompanied by an increase in tension and confrontation which are already beginning to go off the scale. We see strong lobbying for economic and political benefits and undisguised hostility to opponents.

National selfishness, neglect of the interests of partners and even allies, egocentrism, violation of international norms has become an integral part of the policy of the world's leading players.

The planet is swept by trade wars. Guided by strong protectionism, the United States is at odds with China. At the same time, a large-scale sanctions war was launched against Russia. We have reached the point where, on advice from abroad, the EU restricts its own companies op-



erating on the oil market with our eastern neighbour. We do not have to look far for examples of this ourselves: take our 'dairy', 'meat' or sugar' battles initiated by our closest partner when blocking the access of natural Belarusian products to its market.

The world trading system appears to be breaking down. Under these circumstances, the peace-loving, balanced foreign policy of all states — the policy that we adhere to — is particularly relevant. Our initiatives are also topical: promotion of ideas of compatibility in Europe, partnership of various integration associations, renewal of the pan-European dialogue on strengthening measures of confidence, security and co-operation.

For our allies, Belarus — with its social and political consent, interfaith peace and a problem-free policy for its neighbours and other states — is of value. There are some who talk about the return of the Cold War. This is an explosive situation. It clearly demonstrates how fragile the world can be.

I don't need to explain that, in the face of threats, any achievements of civilisation, any material blessings and ambitious personal successes fade away. **We understand that our security relies on the unity of our people and our state's strong domestic and foreign policy.**

Stability and cohesion in society and its unity have come not easily to us. We must know what to lose and what to protect. It's better to realise this in good time, so that it does not turn out later that people say: 'We failed to save what we have but cried when it was gone'.

The total interdependence of our modern world is no longer simply a nice phrase. The world is transforming into a single global organism. The Internet has become its nervous system, while international finances and banks act as its blood. The image of the world economy is increasingly determined not by national states but by giant transnational corporations. Their commercial interests dominate politics and agreements. They also provoke economic and even military conflicts. This is the harsh reality of our time.

Independence of a state, its authority, tranquillity in society, qualitative education, high culture and achievements in sport primarily depend on the success

// Our task is to be open for the best outcomes. The goal is to grow faster than others and thus reduce the gap between us and developed countries. This is the guarantee of qualitative changes that we need, and which will allow us to raise the level of well-being of Belarusian citizens in relation to others around the world.

of the economy. **Like no one else, we confirm this rule. We create our success — unlike other countries rich in natural resources — only by the labour and intellect of our people. This is our advantage.**

To ensure a correct choice of actions within the country, we must sensitively and correctly understand the development of the modern world. It is determined by three key factors: the explosive growth of new technologies, the rise of emerging markets and the total globalisation of all world processes.

At the same time, as mentioned, confrontation and mistrust are being exacerbated in the international arena. This is not an easy time. Sanctionary wars will inevitably hurt us. Whether through trade, or through a fi-

nancial channel, we will feel this personally. However, we'll not shut ourselves out of the world. No country — even those on the list of great powers — can be successful if it closes in on itself.

Our task is to be open for the best outcomes. The goal is to grow faster than others and thus reduce the gap between us and developed countries. This is the guarantee of qualitative changes that we need, and which will allow us to raise the level of well-being of Belarusian citizens in relation to others around the world.

This topic was high on the agenda at a session in Government focusing on the 2017 results. We did not make any secret of our plans and my tough assessments and policy conclusions were brought to the public.

Speaking openly, a year ago, we were set for more modest results than we received. The efficiency with which the country has worked, and the painstaking efforts of the Belarusian people have produced a much more positive result. We've jointly overcome the negative tendencies of recent years.

At present, we are seeing a low level of inflation. Our exports are recovering, and the balance of payments is improving. We have as much money as we earn, and we do not need to consider the printing press to solve our problems. Budgetary funds are spent only for targeted programmes and for specific tasks — enabling us to pursue a balanced exchange rate policy. About the growth of gross domestic product, we are emerging from a two-year recession.

The major goal now is to make these positive changes irreversible. This is the corner-

stone of economic policy, something that will give us an opportunity to preserve economic stability and hence peace and order in society!

Our internal potential allows the economy to grow regardless of how much oil is worth and how much it will recycle, what the situation is for potassium or food products. The competitiveness of our goods and services should be such that external factors affect us minimally. This task is a matter of more than one day, although we have been talking about its solution for decades. We need a result.

It is necessary to quickly master new avenues. We have the framework of an IT-country, unique conditions have been formed in the Chinese-Belarusian Park and a great stake has been placed on small and medium-sized businesses.

Dynamic development of traditional and new industries will enable us to occupy a worthy place in global processes and not remain in the role of a passive participant.

Our country exports two thirds of its produce and, accordingly, our well-being relies on foreign markets. Company leaders must live and breathe this thought.

The CIS vector retains its significance in the system of our foreign policy and foreign economic priorities. 'Road maps' of bilateral interaction are being implemented with our main partners in the Commonwealth. The CIS has become a platform for meetings, negotiations and contacts. A single day is needed to talk with all our closest partners — which is good.

Belarus, without isolating itself, maintains economic ties with those states that left the Commonwealth or are at the stage of secession from the CIS. The aspiration of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia to deeper integration with the European Union is not an obstacle to our



active trade and economic co-operation.

We’ve established relationships with Moldova which signed a partnership agreement with the European Union. How does this affect us? The answer is not at all, we are already looking for the benefits.

The European Union is our neighbour; this neighbour is God-given. It’s an axiom: we must live with our neighbours, but it is better to be friends. In recent years, relations with the People’s Republic of China have seen rapid development. Since 2016, the level of relations of confidential all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial co-operation has

been established. Our relations are dynamically expanding both in quantity and quality. We are active and equal participants in the initiative of Chinese leader Xi Jinping: *Belt and Road*. It is a new model of interstate interaction built on the principles of support and joint development. Recently, when meeting an influential Chinese politician and the Minister of Defence, in the presence of the Chinese Ambassador, I said openly, “Thank you for the co-operation but we insist on deeper collaboration.”

We haven’t ever made friends and won’t ever make friends against someone.

China is a country which is progressing very quietly and

calmly — trying not to hurt anyone. We can see how rapidly China is developing. The Minister of Defence has agreed with me and my approaches. We will intensify our relations on the eastern vector — with both Russia and the People’s Republic of China. This is our strongest support and it’s a blessing.

Belarus has managed to find its own niche in the world, becoming an independent regional player. Global foreign policy initiatives based on ideas of security and co-operation (the so-called Helsinki-2 process) have become a logical expression of the unifying agenda proposed by Minsk to the world community.

Our multi-vector foreign

policy will remain consistent and predictable. We will continue to build co-operation with different partners, balance our interests between different poles of power, cultivate new geopolitical pillars and ‘buffers’. This is confirmed by our first experience of chairing the international organisation outside the CIS — the Central European Initiative — and holding (for the first time in the country’s history) the session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Our chairmanship in the CSTO has also become a success.

The world community has seen the ability of Minsk to implement significant projects. Enhancement of Belarus’ role in re-

gional and international politics is a common strategic task that the Foreign Ministry and other interested ministries, departments and enterprises must solve together.

We have no excessive geopolitical ambitions, but we also do not view ourselves as an outsider. We are proud of our country. Respecting all nations and states, we have every right to demand the same respect for ourselves. Belarus is a European country with a sound emerging economy, a calm socio-political situation, interfaith peace and a decent, responsible foreign policy. We do not create problems for anyone, but only help to solve them if they ask.

On the side-lines of the Oval Hall

Our reporters ask for impressions of the President’s State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly



Mikhail Myasnikov, Chairman of the Council of the Republic:

The President’s Address proposes ways of developing the economy and civil society. In his speech and in answers to parliamentarians’ questions, Alexander Lukashenko gave an exhaustive assessment of events and trends in the country and the world, suggesting ways of developing the economy, civil society and state institutions. Personnel, energy, financial market, intellectual resources, the unity of the nation, the Constitution... This is not a complete list of issues that characterise the novelty of the Address. The task of parliamentarians is to envisage in their plans actions, aimed at unconditionally fulfilling the President’s instructions.

and creation of new high-performance jobs. In fact, the growth of incomes depends on the efficiency and productivity of labour.



Olga Politiko, a deputy of the House of Representatives:

In my opinion, the main message of the President’s Address is that we must grow, develop faster than others, and thereby reduce the gap from developed countries. Therefore, enterprises should accelerate innovative development. The world is changing so rapidly that, only having breakthrough technologies, one can enter global markets and successfully compete. It is necessary either to master something innovative, or to be able to integrate into the technological chains of the world’s leading leaders. We have the key to achieve this: human potential.



Tamara Krasovskaya, Chair of the Standing Commission on Labour and Social Affairs of the House of Representatives:

Naturally, social issues are the most important topic for me. We all heard two major ideas: less talking — more business. During his Address, the President paid great attention to the social sphere and social policy. He placed emphasis on the fact that, perhaps, it is worth allocating more funds to people in need of social assistance and protection.



Igor Marzalyuk, Chairman of the Standing Commission on Education, Culture and Science of the House of Representatives:

Some people may have the impression that such annual speeches by the Head of State are specific tasks for the year. However, everything said today is not a programme for a year. Maybe I am wrong, but it seems the tonality and conceptual tasks formulated by the President during his Address are the strategic programme which has much in common with Lee Kuan Yew’s action in Singapore. If we can pass — as he said ‘on the edge of the knife’ — and realise these ideas, then Belarus will be among those who determine the world agenda.

Maxim Misko, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Commission on Law of the House of Representatives:



Personally, I really appreciated the President’s answers concerning the state of the Russian and Belarusian languages. This is the most consolidated position; according to it, popularisation of the

Belarusian language should not cause a split in society. We need to address this issue evolutionally, promoting the language in kindergartens and schools. However, we should not oppose those who do now know Belarusian to Belarusian-speaking citizens.



Memorial sign in Khoiniki

By Stanislav Gladkovsky

A memorial has opened in Khoiniki dedicated to the

power engineers who dealt with the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station

Heroic deed has been perpetuated in bronze

The statue was unveiled in the city park, perpetuating in bronze the heroic deed of thousands of engineers who worked to rescue and restore their native land.

...Three power engineers laid a cable to give electricity to those districts without power, covered with a radioactive cloud. This incident from 1986 has been embodied by sculptor Valery Kondratenko.

The power engineers were obliged to give electricity to plants, farms and flats without regard to the radiation present. Drivers and power engineers helped to evacuate locals and assisted the army who, together with the rescuers, worked at the damaged nuclear power station and in the surrounding area.

The place for the memorial sign wasn't chosen incidental-

ly. The Khoiniki District is one of the areas that suffered most from this nuclear catastrophe. More than twenty thousand people were evacuated from the region and the population of the area has almost halved. Forty-nine settlements out of ninety-nine were abandoned.

At present, the district is actively developing with support from the state and hard-working residents.

In Polesie they surely can do business

During his working trip to Gomel Region's Polesie, Alexander Lukashenko paid special attention to the development of the Turov Dairy Industrial Complex



In the Turov Dairy Factory's workshops

By Vasily Kharitonov

This business perfectly illustrates the essence of ideas on the development of the Polesie region and their realisation. Having visited these areas many times, the President has always steered the Government, as well as regional and local authorities, towards the development of their own processing facilities. Lands here are rich and give good crops, a solid foundation for the development of dairy production. However, it's one thing to sell milk of high quality, but selling popular branded cheeses that have never before been produced in the country is another issue entirely. Furthermore, new processing facilities envisage additional jobs, which Polesie has always lacked. These basic principles were the foundation for the comprehensive Pripyat Polesie development programme, approved by the President. The Turov Dairy Industrial Complex was constructed in line with this strategy.

Alexander Lukashenko visited the company almost five years ago when it had only just

begun, so he was well equipped to compare progress. At that time, the business processed up to 75 tonnes of milk daily, now this figure stands at 400 tonnes. This improvement leaves no doubt that the achievement of the planned 760 tonnes is close. The Turov Dairy Industrial Complex exports its produce to 14 foreign markets, including such distant places as the UAE, Hong Kong, Jordan, Singapore and China. The geographical spread is expanding, as is the diversity of the production line. Until now, the company has primarily orientated its produce to large chains but now it's preparing to launch a whole range of products for hotels, cafes and restaurants. 340 people are currently employed at the factory — a breakthrough growth in jobs for a small town.

Remarkably, the Turov cheese makers, producing goods with high added value, purchase milk on average 10-15 percent above the average market price and even the distance of 400km (to the furthest agricultural enterprise of the Turov Dairy Industrial Complex) doesn't affect the commercial practicability

of the operation. Nevertheless, the President asked whether it would not be more reasonable to take the raw material somewhere closer.

It's clear that local authorities are keen to favour their own milk-processing productions (the Turov Company is privately-owned); however, Mr. Lukashenko named three criteria which should be considered while distributing raw materials. Those who have higher price, who pay more to their workers and who make weightier deductions to the budget are the priority. This formula should be used across the whole dairy industry.

The President also complimented the Turov Dairy Industrial Complex on the housing it has built for its employees. They are given loans in the following way: around Br200 are automatically taken from their monthly salary of Br1,000 to pay the debt over seven years. Everyone is happy with the arrangement: workers who have received their own housing, the enterprise which retains precious personnel and, of course, the state when the level of citizens' comfort grows.

Bright and festive colours of May Day

By Yulia Popko

Labour Day was celebrated countrywide on May 1st, with most of the large-scale festivities held in Minsk

In the early morning people began to flock to the city centre: labour teams, veterans, families with children. This year, the weather was a favourable 23 degrees and around 10,000 Minskians came out to enjoy the warm May sun. After the festive parade flowers were laid at the Minsk Hero-City Memorial. The ceremony was attended by deputies of the House of Representatives and Minsk City Council, as well as representatives of Minsk City Executive Committee, trade unions, political parties and public organisations.

Belarus' Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Irina Kostevich, congratulated everyone on the holiday, "Good labour is a great value and the right of each person to work. It's necessary to provide jobs and a decent level of salaries in the labour market. Positive dynamics has been seen in all these areas; however, we understand that much still needs to be done."

The Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions, Mikhail Orda, also joined the celebrations, saying, "Thank you to all the workers of the country. Our standard of living depends on how hard we work, since our individual victories and achievements — small and large — are important to us all. We should value all that is good today while trying to preserve and increase it."

Nikolay Baranovsky, the Chairman of the Minsk city association of organisations of trade unions, believes that May 1st

is one of the major holidays for the whole country. "Each family and the whole country relies on labour. For trade unions May 1st is primarily International Day of solidarity of all working people in their struggle for their rights, for the right to decent jobs, working conditions and salaries. Everything is done in our country to promote this but still much needs to be addressed, therefore we have come together to discuss issues which concern us and to celebrate the holiday."

Events at various levels took place in regional and district centres. For example, winners of the regional contest of master craftsmen were honoured in Brest while major festive events in Vitebsk were held on Pobedy Square where the best



trade-union activists of the year were honoured, as well as the winners of the master craftsmen contests, people who work in the spheres of healthcare, education, agro-industrial complex, power engineering and railway transport. Enterprises and organisations of the Gomel Region marked

working departments which have achieved the greatest results in socio-economic activity. The festival with a concert also took place, with concerts, quizzes and games for children and adults, performances of winners of the trade union contest, *New Names of Belarus-2017*. Grodno first hosted the spring parade of professions, with representatives of all branches of the economy marching through the city's historical centre. Alongside the solemn events, the trade union campaign, *Let's Sing Together*, was held in Mogilev on a grand scale.

World price situation enhances our chances to achieve our goals

Favourable external conditions enable us to hope for additional revenues in the budget, noted the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, at a government session discussing the socio-economic development of the country

By Vladimir Khromov

“The conditions are favourable today. Rising world prices [for oil] are good for us too because this means the prices for petroleum products that we manufacture in Belarus are rising too. The prices for mineral fertilisers, including potassium, are growing as well. This enables us to count on additional revenues in the budget,” noted the Head of State. “Nobody knows how long this period will last but it will not last forever. We need to reap as many benefits as possible from the current trends and maintain forward momentum in all areas.”

Belarus needs enterprises operating without constant budget injections

“The Government is going to continue providing state support to businesses. Of course, some of them need support, but the main thing is to achieve goals without it. We need enterprises operating without constant budget injections,” stressed Mr. Lukashenko.

“We cannot provide budget support to all factories. For example, we have supported the modernisation of many enterprises, and now their economy should be independent and return the investments,” said the Head of State.

Obligations towards the nation of Belarus should be strictly observed

This was emphasised by Mr. Lukashenko at the session. “I would like the Prime Minister to tell us about the projected growth of people’s wages and pensions. We can’t treat people like drudges,” noted the Head of State. “How are we going to raise the efficiency of the budget system to ensure social standards

in the country? Are the proposed measures enough to reduce the state debt?”

Mr. Lukashenko also asked for information about the measures that should be taken to achieve faster economic growth. “What keeps growth down today? The foundation of economic policy is unshakable. If you see the need for transformations in any field (the economy, social life, especially manufacturing enterprises), you must always remember social responsibility and take the interests of people into account,” stressed the President.

According to PM Andrei Kobayakov, the Belarusian economy demonstrates steady balanced growth, “All the most important targets of the socio-economic development forecast, approved by the Head of State, were hit in Q1 2018, including the GDP growth rate — 105.1 percent and the growth rate of the export of merchandise and services — 129.8 percent. Foreign trade surplus reached \$206m while inflation was within the forecast range: 2.5 percent in March as against December 2017.”

It was announced at the ses-



Onward progress is the right course

sion that the Economy Ministry of Belarus is developing a plan for industrialisation which envisages the implementation of more than 1,700 investment projects. Economy Minister Vladimir Zinovsky reminded us that previously the Head of State had set a task before the Government to take \$100bn off GDP by the end of 2025. It’s expected that this year this figure will reach \$60bn.

It’s expected that the plan will be discussed in July at the Presidium of the Council of

Ministers. If it’s implemented, it’s quite realistic to reach the figure of \$100bn, believes Mr. Zinovsky.

The projects are to be realised at the expense of investments and enterprises’ own money.

To repay Belarus’ state debt in 2018, debt and non-debt sources will be directed in 50/50 proportion

According to the Prime Minister, the current situation with prices on the world market enables us to hope for more revenues to the budget than was previously planned. “For example, revenues from selling oil products have a good growth tendency, considering that the level of oil prices in budgetary law was envisaged at the level \$43 while now it’s \$73,” noted Mr. Kobayakov.

In this respect, the PM believes that it’s necessary to take a very careful approach towards the issue of spending additional revenues. “The law on the budget envisages that all revenues, connected with the receipt of duties from oil products, should be directed to repay the state debt. This year, we have an opportunity to ensure the correlation of debt and non-debt sources on the repayment of state debt in the proportion 50/50. This is a good figure which forms the back-

ground for a gradual reducing of the burden on state debt in our country.”

Directors of businesses will lose their positions for non-efficient use of state support

“As for the heads of enterprises, who have failed to comply with the state support conditions, they will definitely not continue running these businesses. They will also have problems getting employed in executive positions in the country. This is the view of the Head of State and the Government,” underlined the PM.

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister noted that the state as an owner, possessing production assets, should take measures to enable them to function efficiently. According to Mr. Kobayakov, state support in the form of monetary assets will be provided only in exceptional cases. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. “Every enterprise with the relevant responsibility measures will be closely examined. I would like heads of regions, enterprises, and branches of the economy to take note that they’d better not submit such proposals. If they do, every comma and every figure will come with tough responsibility,” emphasised the Prime Minister.

Andrei Kobayakov mentioned the positive contribution of Belarusian enterprises to replenishing the state budget revenues and to ensuring the positive dynamics of the national economy as a whole. “Among other things, firstly, I’d like to mention the operation of the country’s production sector — industry, civil engineering, transport, state-run and private enterprises. It means that steady economic growth is indeed in progress right now,” he said.

‘We should struggle for every person’

By Alexey Fedosov

The influence of the Federation of Trade Unions should be significant, noted the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, as he met the Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions, Mikhail Orda

“I would like to see our trade unions play a greater role. At least, I want you to know what is happening in the labour collectives and protect the interests of our people,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The Head of State also inquired about the status of trade unions in private organisations. “This is a very important matter,” he stressed.

During the meeting, the two

sides also discussed the modernisation of the trade union structure, including the establishment of new grassroots organisations and the reform of the system as a whole. “If people want to apply to a so-called independent trade union, let them, we won’t interfere. However, we should struggle to retain each person,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

The President asked about co-operation between the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus and the International Labour Organisation. “This matter has been out of the spotlight lately, probably thanks to your interaction, but I would like to know if they have any claims against us in today’s situation, which has changed a lot,” noted the Head of State.



Price formation is monitored in shops

Speaking about employment, he explained that his opinion is simple. “If we do not help people to work, create jobs for them, help them get employed, there will be more crime. We will have to pay much more to cope with it and eradicate this malady from our society. A working person seldom be-

comes a criminal,” said the President.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that there are no grounds for price growth in the country. Those who raise prices without good reason are doing it for their personal gain. “This is how I see it,” he added. “There are some bottlenecks in the field of

pricing. If state bodies, the government do not see them, trade unions must help.”

The Head of State believes that the Federation of Trade Unions is also in charge of monitoring the situation in employment, wage growth, and pricing. “If we get results here, there will be good trade unions in the country, and people will appreciate their work,” he said.

The Federation of Trade Unions has been monitoring retail prices in Belarus since 2017. This initiative was supported by the President. This year prices for foodstuffs (a consumer basket including 98 foodstuffs) have been monitored in all 118 districts of Belarus, ten cities of regional subordination and nine districts of Minsk.



At 19th International Mass Media in Belarus Exhibition

Mass media presents itself noisily, with imagination and, as always, eloquently

12th
International
*Mass Media
in Belarus*
Specialised
Exhibition
held in
Minsk

By Alexander Pimenov

At the opening ceremony of the exhibition, a greeting of the President of Belarus to the participants was read out: 'For over two decades, this forum is a place of mass media active discussion of media sphere development and strengthening of partnership ties'. The latest achievements of printed media, radio, television and Internet are regularly demonstrated here'. The Head of State stressed that it is especially

pleasant to note ongoing interest in the exhibition among foreign countries. Over 50 exhibitors came to Minsk, representing about 400 media sources of Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, China, Turkey and other states.

As is traditional, the *Mass Media in Belarus* fair demonstrates a full range of the country's information space. It gathers printed and audio-visual Republican and regional media, Internet resources, news agencies, cable television operators and distributors, printers and publishers. This year was no exception, featuring exhibitions of printed and e-media, specialised and departmental editions, news-



papers of higher educational institutions, industrial enterprises and scientific organisations.

The three days of the exhibition were rich in events: there were presentations of information and Internet projects, autograph sessions, master classes and more. Media heads, journalists and representatives of the expert community discussed important issues in the media sphere and the role of media in the development of society and the state.

A range of events were devoted to the Year of the Native Land. For example, the Zvyazda Publishing House held *My Native Land* round table discussion with the *Nastaunitskaya Gazeta*

newspaper. BelTA News Agency presented its *Legends of Native Land: Slutsk Belts* project, while the Grodno Region's mass media held a presentation and organised a master class for the *Belarusian Castles* project.

The Day of Regional Printed Media was held for the first time as part of the exhibition and the Day of Children and Youth was another novelty. Every day, the children's playground offered diverse programmes, with most events held on the final day.

As usual, the *Mass Media in Belarus* exhibition honoured winners and laureates of the *Golden Letter* national contest of printed mass media. As Informa-



countries at the exhibition.

The Vice Governor of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District of Russia — Irina Sokolova — expressed her confidence that the exhibition will help us get to know each other better, while contributing to strengthening of ties between Belarus and Russia.

The General Director of Trend News Agency (Azerbaijan) — Ilgar Guseinov — noted at the opening ceremony that journalism in Belarus is at a high professional level. In his opinion, a patriotic attitude to the profession is important.

The Deputy Head of the News Department of Yangtze Today Publishing Corporation and the Editor-in-Chief of *Yangtze Tributaries* — Cheng Dazhong — said, in turn, that *Mass Media in Belarus* is a good platform for communication among journalists from different countries — including Belarusian and Chinese. He was impressed by the exhibition's scope, appreciating its large number of participants and rich programme.

Mr. Dazhong came to Belarus as part of a press tour of Chinese journalists which began on the eve of the exhibition. Its participants also visited the fair, visiting the exhibition and talking to colleagues.

Stamp on human hearts

Cardiosurgeons from Hanover assess Belarusian expertise, using 3D model

By Olga Kosyakova

Cardiosurgeons from the Cardiology Republican Scientific and Practical Centre have conducted the most complex operation to treat thromboembolism of the pulmonary artery, being consulted by their colleagues from the Higher Medical School of Hanover.

Co-operation with German specialists has been ongoing for the past year or so, with exchange internships, attending of profile congresses and regular sharing of experience. The Hanover clinic is among the best in the world, boasting serious experience in transplanting lungs and both 'lungs and heart'. Belarusian doctors have been sharing their own unique experience of 3D-surgery on the heart, using mitral valve plasty, with German colleagues.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a serious heart disease, with symptoms including dyspnoea, heart rhythm disorder, dizziness and fainting. Without proper treatment, it can result in heart attack and sudden death. Many countries display similar proportions of sufferers from this pathology, with Belarus having around 500 patients diagnosed. Previously, in cases of



hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, our cardiosurgeons conducted classic surgery but, last year, specialists from the Cardiology Republican Scientific and Practical Centre began using 3D modelling.

Speaking of this modern technology which is still be-

COMPETENTLY

Alexander MROCHEK, Director of the Cardiology Centre:

The results of the surgery in curing thromboembolism of the pulmonary artery, conducted jointly by our doctors with German colleagues, are looking good. Everything has worked well, with tasks fulfilled. Much work is needed to train specialists for such surgeries on a wider scale. Our German colleagues are helping us master these operations thoroughly.

They've also been coming to learn surgical techniques from us, using 3D models of a heart before surgery and its plan. They're also interested in the resection of the ventricular septum during the hypertrophy of the ventricular septum and mitral valve plasty. In Germany, they conduct more surgeries dealing with prosthesis; however, an artificial valve is 'foreign' to our body, while plasty uses the valve's own material, so it restores heart function more naturally.

The Cardiology Centre has bought a 3D printer and we now plan to expand the range of high-tech heart surgeries.

ing mastered in Europe, cardiosurgeon Vladimir Andrushchuk notes that visibility can be restricted during standard surgery. Doctors need to determine the amount of muscle to remove with pinpoint accuracy; if they take too much, it leaves a hole between cardiac cham-

bers, while taking less means that the heart can't work at full capacity. 3D modelling helps determine the ideal path.

German colleagues from the Higher Medical School of Hanover, where our specialists undertake their internships, have helped cardiosurgeons

from the Cardiology Republican Scientific and Practical Centre to conduct complex surgery to cure thromboembolism of the pulmonary artery. This disease brings much suffering to patients: retrosternal pains, asphyxia, cyanosis of the face and neck, and a rapid pulse.

Levels of fatigue can be different

Who never feels tired? There is nothing unusual in feeling tired and needing a rest before resuming activity. However, long periods of tiredness can be a sign of serious illness for some people; this is known as chronic fatigue syndrome.

The disease has become widespread in developed countries. It is characterised by long-term fatigue which cannot be cured by rest. Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) was recognised as a distinct illness in 1988; by 1990, over 100,000 cases were reported in the United States. Approximately 80 percent of the patients were women.

CFS is a result of the development of neurosis in the regulatory centres of the autonomic nervous system. Factors such as excessive emotional and intellectual stress (to the detriment of physical activity), can trigger the disease. Residents of large cities, entrepreneurs, people with significant responsibility at work — such as air traffic controllers, railway transport operators or doctors are at high risk. The main symptoms of the disease are general weakness, lethargy, apathy, depression, unprovoked anger and aggression with partial loss of memory. The reasons for this remain unknown, but nutrient and vitamin deficiency, excessive physi-



Being toned is the best remedy

cal and mental stress and viral infections are thought to be causes. The infectious, or viral, theory is currently viewed as the most convincing.

The onset of CFS is often associated with an acute flu-like illness. Data shows the high frequency of detection of herpes viruses and signs of its activity. Numerous studies indicate that changes in immunological parameters are observed in case of CFS.

The fatigue is often alleviated after a weekend or holiday. People simply need to let their bodies rest for them to once again function at full strength. However, be sure to consult a doctor if you are worried about a prolonged state of severe fatigue.

Symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome — apart from the obvious tiredness — include decreased memory and ability to concentrate, unexplained muscle pain, joint pain (though joints do not swell and the skin over them does not turn red), severe headaches and problems with sleep.

Sometimes the syndrome is difficult to diagnose since its symptoms are like those of various other diseases. Your physician firstly needs to exclude all other possible diseases. The criterion for diagnosis is chronic fatigue lasting 6 months or more.

A complex approach is the main principle of treatment of CFS. One of the most important conditions for treat-

ment is keeping to a protective regime and constant contact of the patient with the attending physician.

The programme for treatment includes:

- normalisation of rest and physical activity
- dietary therapy
- autogenic training or other active methods for normalising psycho-emotional background, psychotherapy
- medicines where indications require it
- elimination of chronic diseases associated with insufficient intake of oxygen into the body.

Prevention of this state is primarily the prevention of overtiredness. Regularly perform physical exercises as they improve the work of the heart and lungs and train muscles. Get a hobby so you do not get bored in your spare time. Meet with friends, go to exhibitions or to the theatre. Work out what bothers you and solve your problems little by little. Learn how to relax and cope with stress: breathing exercises, exercises for muscle relaxation, massage or meditation would help.

Importantly, try not to use sleeping pills because they have negative effects and can be addictive. It is also necessary to give up alcohol and tobacco.

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



Lava damages at least 26 homes in Hawaii eruption

The number of homes destroyed by lava shooting out of openings in the ground created by Hawaii’s Kilauea volcano has climbed to at least 26, and five other structures have also been destroyed, authorities said

Lava has been spewing more than 200 feet in the air, scientists say. Some of the more than 1,700 people who evacuated prepared for the possibility they may not return for quite some time.

“I have no idea how soon

we can get back,” said Todd Corrigan, who left his home in Leilani Estates with his wife last Friday as lava burst through the ground three or four blocks from their home.

Hawaii County civil defence officials say ten fissures

have opened since last Thursday.

Scientists said Kilauea was likely to release more lava through additional vents, but they were unable to predict exactly where. Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the mostly rural

district of Puna, is at greatest risk. Residents were briefly able to return to gather essential items, and officials said residents would be able to do so each day until further notice as authorities monitor which areas are safe.



NASA has launched mission to explore below Mars’ surface

NASA has launched a probe to Mars as part of a mission to find out more about the planet’s internal structure and see if life may once have existed there

The InSight mission was launched on an Atlas V-401 rocket from California.

Only 40 percent of all missions sent to Mars have been successful due to extremes of

temperature and its very thin atmosphere.

If all goes well NASA will place a single lander on the surface and drill down to unravel the mysteries around the core.

Both Earth and Mars were formed at the same time more than 4.5 billion years ago but have evolved into being very different planets. The InSight mission is hoping to find out why.

No secret chambers behind ancient Egypt’s young boy-king Tutankhamen



Researchers at Italy’s Turin Polytechnic University have found no evidence of the existence of any hidden chambers behind the walls in the tomb of ancient Egypt’s boy-king, Tutankhamen, the Antiquities Ministry

Experts have been divided over the existence of a concealed chamber behind the tomb, which some believe could be the final resting place of the lost Queen, Nefertiti. International interest in

Nefertiti is high. She died in the 14th century BC and is thought to be Tutankhamen’s stepmother, and any confirmation of her final resting place would be the most remarkable Egyptian archaeological find this century.

Discovery of Nefertiti, whose chiselled cheekbones and regal beauty were immortalised in a 3,300-year-old bust now in a Berlin museum, would shed fresh light on what remains a mysterious period of Egyptian history.

Nestle to pay \$7.15 billion to Starbucks in coffee tie-up

Nestle will pay Starbucks \$7.15 billion as part of a global coffee alliance in which the Swiss-based food giant is getting the rights to market the US coffee company’s products around the world outside Starbucks’ coffee shops

“This global coffee alliance will bring the Starbucks experience to the homes of millions more around the world through the reach and reputation of Nestle,” said Starbucks Chief Executive Kevin Johnson.

Nestle, which will take on about 500 Starbucks employees as part of the deal, says its ongoing share buyback programme would remain unchanged.

Turkey’s Erdogan says has never given up on goal of joining EU

Turkey has never given up its goal of joining the European Union, President Tayyip Erdogan said as he announced his manifesto for next month’s snap elections

Speaking to thousands of supporters in Istanbul, Erdogan said that Ankara’s counterparts in Europe did not show the same determination on the matter.

Turkey began talks to join the EU in 2005, 18 years after applying. While a series of factors slowed negotiations, notably the Cyprus issue and resistance in Germany and France to Turkish membership, since 2016 membership talks have all but collapsed.

German industrial orders fall unexpectedly

German industrial orders fell unexpectedly in March, posting the third consecutive monthly drop, data showed, in a sign that factories in Europe’s largest economy will shift into a lower gear in the coming months

Contracts for ‘Made in Germany’ goods decreased by 0.9 percent after a downwardly revised drop of 0.2 percent in the previous month, data from the Federal Statistics Office showed.

The Economy Ministry said that the sector had lost some momentum in the first quarter after an unusually strong performance in the second half of last year.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Strength of emotions seen in Mai Dantsig's 'military' works without a single shot

People's Artist of Belarus, Mai Dantsig, believed the 9th of May — Victory Day of the Great Patriotic War — is the most important date in the year. "This is not just great, but the greatest Victory!" he often said. In the coming days, the National Art Museum's Modern Belarusian Art Hall presents a permanent exhibition featuring the artist's paintings on the military-patriotic theme from the museum's collection.



By Vladimir Mikhailov

Mai Dantsig's artistry is a bright note in the history of our national painting. The artist confidently declared himself in the late 1950s-early 1960s when a new generation came to Belarusian fine art. Representatives of the 'severe style' stood out for their sense of personal, romantic involvement in the environment which was reflected in their interest in the poetry of everyday life and identification of the national features of their culture.

In his lifetime, Mr. Dantsig produced several hundred paintings; most of them are now part of our national art collection. At the start of his artistic journey, the master outlined several ma-

jor topics which he developed and interpreted throughout his life: war, the city, new buildings, working days and portraits of cultural figures.

The war theme occupies a special place in Mai Dantsig's artistry. He introduced his personal understanding of the inhuman essence of the war, the tragedy of its losses and the heroics of the struggle into Belarusian art. Moreover, he believed the 9th of May was the most important day in the year. "This is not just great, but the greatest Victory!" he said.

Mai Dantsig works on the theme of war do

Museum's permanent exposition

not actually feature a single battle scene or a single shot, as he often quoted. However, as regards the strength of their emotional impact, the depth of semantic richness and the originality of compositional solutions, his 'military' works are perhaps unique in Be-



Mai Dantsig's *My City*



Near Mai Dantsig's works

larian art.

Throughout his life, Mai Dantsig was interconnected with Minsk. His works devoted to the native city feature a generalised poetic image; here, the past and the present merge. The artist demonstrated the metropolis from various and sometimes unexpected angles, showing its history and youth, rhythms and colours, and overall many-faceted life. He was not simply painting Minsk: Mai Dantsig was breathing in and admiring the city. The artist spoke of his native city through his pictures — doing this poetically and with sincerity.

In his artistry, Mr. Dantsig showed great interest on the themes of construction and working days of Soviet people, especially in the post-war period. Motifs of new buildings were extremely popular in early 1960s art; this was a memorable era of construction of

new cities throughout the Soviet Union. New residential districts — built with great speed — became a sort of analogy of the reassessment of values of ordinary people's private life and daily work. Mr. Dantsig's large-scale paintings devoted to this theme have an expressive and integral structure; the master depicted everything down to smallest details.

Bright, talented and energetic, Mai Dantsig was superb at painting portraits of his contemporaries — people who were similarly talented and strong, with an inner depth, inspired by art and selfless.

From a modern standpoint, Mai Dantsig's artistic style is distinguished by an epic scope, monumental-generalised interpretation of forms, expressiveness of colour solutions and the depth of the psychological characteristics of his characters. When asked about the impressive sizes of his paintings, the master answered briefly, "Wings exist. An artist must have eagle's wings!"

Even Zhodino's BelAZ was given a role

By Tatiana Khoroshilova

Days of Belarusian Cinema as part of Moscow International Film Festival

The Days of Belarusian Cinema at the Moscow International Film Festival opened with Vyacheslav Nikiforov's *Tum-Pabi-Dum*. The programme was presented by the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers, Victor Vasiliev, producer Sergey Zhdanovich, Honoured Ar-

tiste of Belarus Svetlana Sukhovei (awarded an honorary diploma by Nikita Mikhalkov), director Vyacheslav Nikiforov, actress Valeria Arlanova and actor Anatoly Golub.

As part of the celebration of Belarusian Cinema, *Rules of Gamers* and *Traces of Apostles* were also screened, as were *Red Dog* (shot on Victor Kryukov's *Red Soldier* book). It tells us about the role of dogs during the Great Patriotic War. These quadruped soldiers inspired

fear among the enemies and exploded hundreds of German tanks and armoured vehicles...

The Days of Belarusian Cinema finished with *Code of Cain* which was presented at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in the Belarusian pavilion. The *Code of Cain* is the first large-scale international film project in Belarus shot with the involvement of world stars. Piotr Zelenov was invited to edit the picture. He is well known by such works in 3D as *Leg-*

end No.17 and *Viy*. Belarusian co-producer Yuri Igrusha (who produced the *Tufelki* (Shoes) film — nominated for an Oscar) said that the project aims to lift the veil on Belarusian film production.

The film crew from Belarus first worked in the Hollywood Universal Cinema Company. The film was made in an action style and includes pursuits, fights and explosions... There are many complex stunts in the picture. One of them is when

a car turns in the air twice and 'lands' on another moving vehicle. The pride of Belarusian industry and the world's largest heavy-duty dump truck — Zhodino's BelAZ (with a load capacity of 450 tonnes) — also starred in the film. This 'bison' doesn't let anyone get in its way. Actress Natasha Alam believes that soon Belarus will be able to compete with Hollywood. She arrived at the film presentation in Cannes and in Minsk for the shooting.



Spirit of nature reflected with an amazing sense of poetry

For the first time in its history, the National Art Museum of Belarus has returned to its *Aivazovsky and Marine Painters* project after numerous requests from visitors

By Veniamin Mikheev

Ivan Aivazovsky once said, “The sea is my life.” It’s no exaggeration to say that the numerous canvases by this well-known seascape painter make up an encyclopaedia of information about the sea and its diverse states. It’s obvious at the exhibition that Aivazovsky’s sea is calm and peaceful — as in *A Foggy Morning*, *Marina*, *Morning at Sea*, or bewitching and mysterious as in *Moonlit Night in Amalfi* and *Night on the Island of Rhodes*, or terrible and raging as depicted in *The Storm*. Each of these states is shown with poetry and skill. “The plot of a picture is born in my memory just like the plot of a poem: after sketching on a piece of paper, I start working and do not stop until I have expressed my thoughts on it with the brush,” said the artist. Ivan Aivazovsky’s works contain strong feelings and vivid experiences.

The current show at the museum occupies almost the whole floor. Several dozen paintings by Aivazovsky and a few other marine painters are exhibited. The works create the effect of being in the presence of sea waves breaking over the rocky coast, where the purple-pink sunset over the ocean is crowned by a lightning day, where clouds cling to the masts of sailboats. “I’ve always felt the poetry of nature. I try to convey it with the help of a brush. The enchantment of the southern night, the sky, the sunset, the horror brought to the soul by a storm or a hurricane are the feelings which inspire my drawing,” confided Aivazovsky in his notes. This variability of the sea is reflected in



At Aivazovsky and Marine Painters exhibition

his works.

Ivan Aivazovsky began his artistic journey in the early 19th century, though the main period of his work took place in the latter decades. At the time, works of other masters such as Alexey Bogolyubov or Rufin Sudkovsky were more popular. It was thought they painted more authentic and realistic sea elements, coasts and ships. Those artists were far from being romantic. Aivazovsky’s pupil Lev Lagorio also eschewed the realistic tradition. Like many of his contemporaries, he was attracted by a greater simplicity of compositional construction and a restrained coloristic scale. This can be seen in the Minsk exhibition in his *On the Seashore* work.

The art of the late 19th-early 20th century was marked by significant diversity, the coexistence of different approaches to depict the surrounding reality. Colour plays a major role for Nikolay Dubovsky, whose works are also showcased. His pictures are characterised by lightness, airiness, intense colour saturation and tension. It was important for these art-



ists to show nature as it really was, distancing themselves as much as possible from any effects and artificiality. The brilliant colourist Vasily Surikov, carefully studied fragments of nature, finding measure and harmony in it, in his *Sea Shore: Crimea* water-colour, painted in the open air. In turn, Arkhip Kuindzhi’s *The Sea* creates the feeling that colour and light have the flesh.

The acuity of perception and rejection of clichés distinguish Valentin Serov’s *Amsterdam*. Konstantin Korovin —

who spent much time working in the open air — also achieved amazing freshness in his perception of seascapes.

In the 20th century, artists were increasingly attracted by the monochrome nature of the North. Several painters worked behind the Arctic Circle. Each of them brought something special and their own to the depiction of this region. The leaden water — masterfully painted by Albert Benois in his *On the White Sea* — draws the viewer in. In turn, Leonard Turzhansky’s *Sea and Barges* seem to be im-



mersed in the grey-brown haze — creating the impression of an impenetrable wall. Airy, pearly-blue seascapes and coasts drowning in the distant haze, painted by Vitold Byalynitsky-Birulya, are subtle and poetic. Expression, generalisation in the interpretation of forms, emotional involvement and excitement are also common for Herberts Siliņš.

The sea is undoubtedly diverse, changeable and infinitely attractive to artists. That is why something new is seen each time a work is unveiled by romantic painters demonstrating their emotional perception of nature, in the works of realistic artists and paintings drawn in an impressive manner. The present exhibition at the National Art Museum, however, is remarkable primarily for the presence of Ivan Aivazovsky’s pictures. His contemporaries recall that the artist could paint a picture in virtually 90 minutes — as they say, in one breath. This is the reason why those trying to copy Aivazovsky often fail: they work on a picture for six months or more. As a result, experts can easily tell in a fake, how long the paint has been drying — unlike the original work created by the artist in a single session.

The present exhibition showcases originals only, from the museum’s collection. Many lovers of Ivan Aivazovsky’s artistry come to enjoy them. They are all attracted by this master who managed to reveal the deep beauty of the sea, the charm of sunlight and the softness of southern nights.

Girls prove surprisingly stronger

Belarusian wrestlers win ten medals at European Championships in Russian Kaspiysk

By Oleg Samsonov

On the final day of the tournament in the 74kg freestyle wrestling category, Andrey Karpach became a bronze medalist. On the way to his win, he defeated Latvian Alberts Jurčenko and Lithuanian Andrius Mažeika. Only a semi-final match against France's Zelimkhan Khadjiev proved unsuccessful: the latter won with a clear advantage. In the struggle for bronze, the Belarusian confidently beat Zaur Efendiev from Serbia. As a result, Mr. Karpach's medal became the tenth for the Bela-



Fight between A. Nurikov of Belarus and M. Muslimov of Azerbaijan

rusian national wrestling team. Meanwhile, Belarusian female wrestlers have made the most significant contribution:



kova (72kg), while Veronika Ivanova (62kg), Kristina Fedorashko (65kg) and Vasilisa Marzalyuk (76kg) were placed third.

Among the wrestlers, Alexander Gushtyn (97kg) came to the finals to win gold, while Vladislav Andreev (57kg) finished third. In the classical style competition, Victor Sosunovsky (82kg) won silver.

In the overall standing, the Russian team came top with 12 gold medals. The national team of Belarus gained one gold, four silver and five bronze medals to take sixth place in the final medal table.



Joining WTA top-100

Vera Lapko has joined the top-100 of the world rankings for the first time in her career — and is now ranked 92nd

Her recent successful performance at the tournament in Khimki (Moscow Region) enabled the Belarusian tennis player to join the top-100 ranking of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). This is the fifth victory of the 19-year-old Lapko at tournaments held under the ITF aegis. Before the start of the competitions in Khimki, Vera Lapko was ranked 111th in the world ranking.

Among Belarusian female tennis players, Arina Sobolenko currently occupies the highest position of 46th, while Alexandra Sasnovich is 58th and Victoria Azarenko is in 98th position.

This week, Alexandra Sasnovich and Victoria Azarenko are performing at the Premier category tournament in Madrid with a prize fund of 6m Euros. Arina Sobolenko also played on the clay courts of the Spanish capital but after two successful qualifying rounds she lost at the start of the major stage.

Another prestigious title comes from Dusseldorf

Belarusian runner Olga Mazurenok finishes first in the marathon

By Yegor Vetrov

The track-and-field athlete covered the distance in 2 hours 25 minutes and 25 seconds which is a record. Fabienne Amrhein of Germany, who claimed silver, was more than 7 minutes behind the Belarusian winner, while bronze went to Rose Maru of Kenya.

Olga Mazurenok is Belarus' record-holder in the marathon with a time of 2 hours 23 minutes and 54 seconds, from two years ago, finishing fourth at the London Marathon. This March,



Olga renewed her national achievement in the half-marathon, covering the distance in 1

hour 10 minutes and 57 seconds at the World Championship in Valencia.

Not anyone able to keep emotions

Ilya Polozkov wins silver at UIPM Pentathlon World Cup round in Hungary

Belarusian Ilya Polozkov has taken the second place at the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup round in Hungarian Kecskemét. The struggle for a place on the pedestal in the individual competition among men was exacerbated before the final event: Laser-Run (running and shooting). After three disciplines, many leaders could not do without mistakes at the shooting range. Ilya

managed to cover his distance smoothly, crossing the finish line sixth. As a result, he got enough points to take the second place in the overall standings: 1,426.

In Kecskemét, Jun Woong-tae from the Republic of Korea won (1,437) and bronze went to Hungary's Bence Demeter (1,423).

Ilya Polozkov's silver medal has become second for the Belarusian team. Earlier, Anastasia Prokopenko also captured silver in Kecskemét.

Ranked second in team standings

By Kirill Karin

Two medals claimed by Belarusian gymnasts in the first stage of the FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup, in Spain's Guadalajara

In the individual competitions, Anastasia Salos finished third in the hoop exercise, earning 18,500 points. Arina Averina of Russia won gold with a score of 19,500 points, followed by Linoy Ashram of

Prizes prepared for contest winners

By Alexander Pimenov

My Hello to 2nd European Games is being launched by International Radio Belarus, jointly with the Fund of the 2nd European Games 2019, aiming to expand the number of people aware of the forthcoming Games, in Belarus and abroad

“During preparations for the 2nd European Games, our radio will broadcast various programmes, featuring organisers, guests and participants of the sports forum. International Radio Belarus broadcasts in nine languages and will be telling listeners about the forthcoming event in each language,” notes International Radio Belarus' Chief Director, Naum Galperovich.

The project includes a contest of creative ‘selfie’ photos, with each entry placed on popular social networks and sent to selfie@minsk2019.by or to the official website of International Radio Belarus — www.radiobelarus.by. The shot should reflect something about our favourite sports or a sporting location.

This isn't the first large-scale action in which Belarus Radio has taken part. Previously, events dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing were a success, while the *Hello, Belarus!* campaign was supported by representatives of eighteen countries.

“Social networks in modern society are the quickest and most convenient way to tell young and old about the forthcoming event. Therefore, we immediately agreed to take part in the action, aiming to attract as many sporting amateurs, from abroad and from Belarus, as possible,” notes Anatoly Kotov, the Deputy Director of the European Games 2019 Directorate.





EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 15th May. *Serving to the Homeland*
Until 21st May. Exhibition of Mikhail and Valeria Svistunovs: *In Language of Watercolours*
Until 27th May. *Territory of Earthly Hopes*
Until 1st June. *Aivazovsky and Marine Painters*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 K. Marx Street
Until 10th June. *Under Muse’s Heel: Footwear History Facts*

VANKOVICH’S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya
Until 27th May. Photo exhibition by Margarita Trenina: *Fairies* artistic cycle (as part of the Close exhibition)

MUSEUM OF MODERN BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD

38 K. Marx Street
Until 26th June. *Man. Cosmos. Belarus*

GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 25th May. *Red Banner Belarusian Military District: History in Faces*
Until 13th August. *Piotr Masherov: His Heart Beats for People*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress*
Until 15th September. *ABCs from Around the Globe*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 13th May. Bronislav Pilsudsky (1866-1918). *From Sakhalin to Zakopane: Ethnographic Travel*

EXHIBITION HALL OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street
Until 3rd July. *Song Birds and Pigeons*

GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 27th May. *World of the Future*
Until 31st May. *The Art of Brick*

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

6 Kirill and Meľody Street
Until 1st July. *MotoVeloMinsk: Two-Wheeled History*

THEATRES

NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street
11.05. Orr and Ora 13.05. Turandot
14.05. Sleeping Beauty; Gypsy Strings
Beat Heart 15.05. Eugene Onegin
17.05. Aida

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
11.05. Jane Eyre 12.05. Adventures of Kai and Gerda; Tristan and Isolde 13.05. The Sleeping Beauty; Secret Marriage
14.05. Dubrovsky 15.05. Art Major-2018 Festival of Arts 16.05. Blue Cameo
17.05. Cleopatra

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
11.05. Lady for a Day 12.05. Miraculous Rings of Almanzor; Red Hot Mamas
13.05. Tricks of Khanuma 15.05. Woe from Wit 16.05. Fourth Planet 17.05. Zoika’s Flat

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
11.05. Concrete
14.05. Father, Don’t You Love Me?
15.05. Quiet Rustle of Leaving Steps
16 and 17.05. Circles of Paradise

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
11.05. Pinsk Gentry 12 and 13.05. Paulinka 13.05. School of Taxpayers
14.05. Aura band in concert: Keep Me
15.05. Ursula Radziwill’s Theatre
16.05. Radio Prudok; Inspector
17.05. Radio Prudok

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
11.05. Nobody Ever said Life Would be Easy 12.05. Battlefield 13.05. Pygmalion 15 and 16.05. Mechanical
Man 17.05. Night of A.P. Chekhov’s Miniatures

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
11.05. Tectonics of Feelings; Zhmurik
16.05. New Affair of My Husband
17.05. A Man from Podolsk; Bigamist

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street
11.05. Belvedere 12.05. Adventures of Pin-Pin 13.05. Wash’Em’Clean

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
15.05. Comedy