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The Chernobyl accident rescue worker Igor Lapshin at the Museum of the History of Chernobyl in Gomel

They saved lives. They saved lands

Thirty-six years ago, on April 26th, 1986, an accident occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant — the largest man-made disaster in human history. Belarus suffered the most — almost a quarter of the territory of our country was exposed to radioactive contamination, 265 thousand hectares of farmland were taken out of circulation, hundreds of farms were liquidated, more than 135 thousand people were forced to leave their homes. In fact, Belarus had to cope with all this alone. Nonetheless, an unprecedented thing happened: the Belarusians managed not only to bring back to life the lands lost, it would seem, for centuries, but also to overcome the public fear of nuclear energy.



The situation in the economy requires prompt, but balanced decisions. This was discussed during the report to the President on budget policy in the current circumstances. Finance Minister Yuri Seliverstov was the keynote speaker. The event was also attended by Chairman of the State Control Committee Vasily Gerasimov, Chairman of the National Bank Pavel Kallaur, First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Snopkov and Deputy Head of Belarus President Administration Dmitry Krutoi.

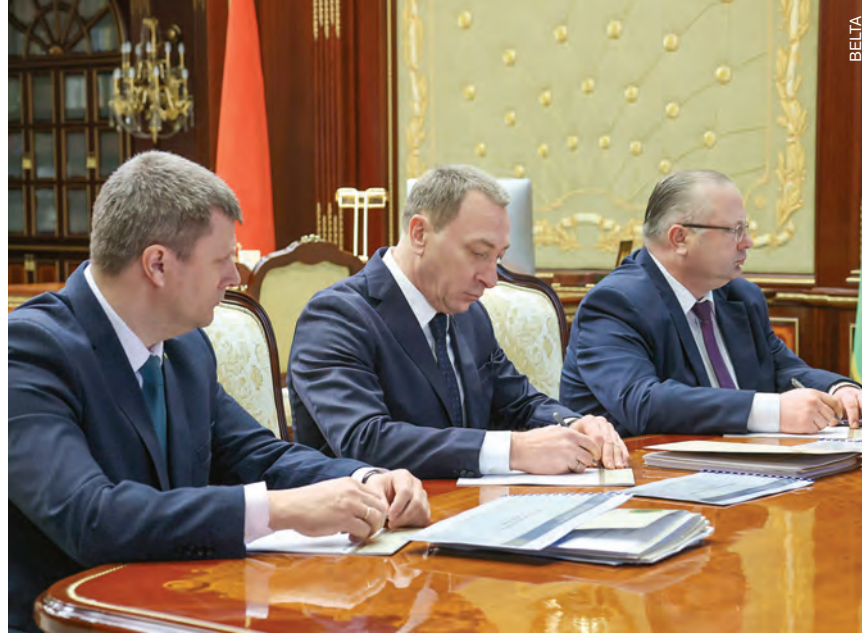
Starting the conversation, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted,

“The budget is an indicator of the economy and the state of affairs in the country. I would like to hear what measures have been taken by the government to consolidate the budget. The meeting is focused on people’s wellbeing in the first place. This is the reason for which we are discussing something here, for the sake of which we are carrying out this balancing of the budget. This means salaries, our state employees, and, of course, retirees. The budget, like a mirror, reflects all our problems and today’s achievements.”

The Head of State drew attention to the fact that the Chairman of the National Bank was specially invited to the conversation, “So that those present here (and you are mainly involved in economic and financial issues in our country) understand that the economy is the number one issue. The rest, including the exchange rate, inflation and so on, comes second.

Of course, all these things are important, including the exchange rate of the national currency, infla-

The state will fulfil social commitments



tion, which is an indicator of rising prices or deflation. Economy, however, is above all. If economy collapses, no one needs the exchange rate, inflation, deflation, etc.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out that today is not the time for professional disputes, “Realising that the government and the National Bank sometimes have different approaches to financial matters (they were, are and will be), but it is necessary to come to common solutions, so that the economy does not suffer. We need to do everything possible to keep the economy going. Then we will have a stable exchange rate of the national currency and no inflation.”

The President demanded an objective report on the situation. At the same time, he admitted that he was pleasantly surprised by the results of work for the first quarter,

“I am informed and, frankly speaking, I was even surprised, but I was glad that in the first quarter our budget even grew a little, a little more than a percentage point. But this does not mean that we should relax. There will be even more pressure against us.”

Budget policy priorities

Finance Minister Yuri Seliverstov reported to the President that the budget was maintained within the planned parameters for the first quarter of this year, “The republican budget received 6.7 billion rubles, or 1.1 billion rubles more than in the same period last year. Six billion rubles were financed in terms of expenses for the first quarter. The surplus for the first quarter amounted to 662 million rubles.”

According to Yuri Seliverstov, if we

exclude one-time decisions to support the BMZ last year, the national budget expenditures are generally comparable with the last year’s figures,

“The budget policy priorities include people’s incomes, national defence and security financing, purchase of medicines and support of the agro-industrial complex.”

After the meeting, Yuri Seliverstov explained to journalists some issues and peculiarities of the state budget policy. He also spoke about the importance of budget consolidation at the current stage, “Consolidation of the budget provides, let’s say, for gathering everything into one pool, gathering all the revenues in order to cater to the goals we have. Refusing to cover some expenses is part of it. At the same time, all expenses that are associated, for example, with the purchase of medical equipment, those things that are needed for budget facilities to function, will be financed.”

The surplus of the republican budget that formed in the first quarter, as Yuri Seliverstov noted, is a good indicator,

“The budget execution is steady. Certainly, there are new challenges we have to address. But as the Head of State instructed, all the social things, all the commitments of the state will be honoured as usual, unconditionally.”

First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Nikolai Snopkov:

“Despite all the complications and the difficult economic situation the government should be primarily concerned with interests of ordinary people. Not economy for the sake of economy but economy for the sake of people. Including in matters concerning today’s budget issues. People should get salaries, welfare benefits, and pensions. It is undoubtedly what the government has to secure regardless of all the difficulties caused by the sanctions-fuelled pressure. Welfare benefits, pensions, and salaries will be paid in full and on time. As for the possibility of raising them due to inflation, the government and the Finance Ministry will consider it depending on the budget execution and inflation in order for people not to feel the problems the country is experiencing due to the pressure of sanctions...”

For the development of the new Constitution

Discipline and personnel policy, adjustment of legislation in the development of the new Constitution, the work of the bar and notaries, the execution of court rulings, parties and public associations. These and other questions were discussed during the report of the Justice Minister Sergei Khomenko to the President. The report was also attended by Deputy Head of Belarus President Administration Olga Chupris.

The Head of State recalled that amendments to the Constitution of Belarus had recently been adopted,

“We have created a new framework for the state in the area of law and lawmaking. Of course, we should have estimated long ago how many amendments, additions and

laws we need to make to develop the Constitution adopted by referendum. This work should be started immediately. The whole country should be involved in these processes.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko asked how the Ministry of Justice sees this work and when it is planned to start it. The President noted that the legislation should be brought into line with the updated Constitution within two years, and this time will pass very quickly, “We have to adopt the basic laws as soon as possible.”

The Head of State noted that he has to actively interfere and control the work of the defence attorneys and the notarial system, “Some people tried to profiteer from it, primarily for their own gains. You remember how I had to destroy this ‘gang’ as I vulgarly put it back then. I don’t think we’ve resolved all the issues over there.

Defence attorneys must be under control but should act in line with the law and should be genuine defence attorneys. A defence attorney has to do their job without fearing anything but at the same time we should understand that he or she is a person of the state. And their actions should be based on norms of the law.”

The President pointed out that the country was in for big work to build parties and bring order to public associations,

“People need to be given a clear message about what civil society is and what it consists of, and this should be reflected in the law. The law should define it clearly.”

The Head of State wondered about the performance of the court rulings enforcement service, which had been established as an independent division a considerable time before.



“And another question in connection with it — the enforcement of court rulings. Court rulings must be executed. This is why it is necessary to clean it all up and demand execution by the end of the year. If they don’t execute rulings, you know what to do,” emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Eternal values

Aleksandr Lukashenko celebrated Easter with fellow countrymen in his small homeland. President visited the Transfiguration Church in Kopys.

On this holiday, the Head of State spoke about something that is of great value not only for Belarusians, but for all peoplekind,

“Let’s cherish peace... I always said: nothing is needed in case of a war. And these requests and demands of the Belarusian people — if only there were no war — sound so topical today. That is why, in the name of peace, in the name of normal life and friendship, I would like to appeal primarily to our neighbours: let us live in harmony.”

On Easter, Aleksandr Lukashenko traditionally visits small churches located, as a rule, outside of Minsk. The Transfiguration Church in Kopys, Orsha District is cosy and intimate. A two-domed church in the tradition of wooden architecture was erected on the site of the former one, founded on the banks of the Dnieper River more than 300 years ago. Once or twice a century it was rebuilt. The previous temple was built here in 1947. The building began to deteriorate over time. Reconstruction began in October 2017, and on August 19th, 2018, a service was already served in the new church.

Aleksandr Lukashenko shared his warm childhood memories with the parishioners, “Many times the boys and I came to the church that stood on this place and looked at our mothers who came here to celebrate this holy day...

This holiday has always given people hope, hope for justice and happiness. Hope still lives in our hearts, in every person — not only in Belarus. As people say, a person will not always live in hope, but there is definitely no happiness without hope.”

The Head of State compared the Easter holiday with the Victory Day, “These two great holidays are always in the soul, always in the heart of our people. It is customary to celebrate this bright holiday in the circle of relatives and friends. This is the reason that I came today to this holy native land, where I was born.”

Speaking with parishioners, the President stressed that the main thing today is peace, harmony, friendship, which have always been key characteristic of Belarusians. In the temple,

Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded both of the need to protect our land and the fact how often, especially the so-called opposition members, used to tease him and our compatriots about the phrase ‘if only there were no war’... But times are

border should not blockade the normal life, including of our neighbours’ as well. We always treat people in a neighbourhood and human way, as we say. And the only thing I want is to have the same attitude towards us.”

Christ sacrificed himself for people, “It is a lesson to us. We must learn to sacrifice for what is most important to us — for the sake of people. I would like you to always appreciate these sacrificers as we appreciate Him. Unfortunately, we



already different: the value of peace and normal life now humanity must rethink anew. The President drew special attention to this, addressing the neighbours of our country,

“Let us live in harmony. I would like to ask my colleague-politicians: let’s not get mad, let’s not create problems for our people. There are enough of them at present.”

Just look at what is happening with neighbouring Lithuania and Latvia, the Poles. I’m not talking about Ukraine in this case. They were so happy, they were so cheerful, they lived in such a ‘prosperous’ world. They had everything. And where are they today? They stand along the borders and ask us to let them into Belarus — at least to buy buckwheat. Cereals would be a different matter — but they ask us for salt. We, as noble people, open this border, and especially on the eve of religious holidays — Catholic, Orthodox Easter... Come in, your people are here. The

Protect our native land

Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed his compatriots with an important request,

“I want to tell Belarusians: our happiness is in our country — we need to preserve our land. Today in this temple, addressing my fellow countrymen, the Belarusians, I would like to ask them, demand, as the President if you like: take care of Belarus. If you lose your land — you will have neither health nor happiness. You will have neither money, nor salt, nor your children. It is of high importance to take care of Belarus.”

We all understand when we lose something in our home. Belarus is a big home of ours. Remember: if we do not have our big home, we will not have our small one, either. If we fall to our knees, our Orthodox churches won’t exist either, as has always been the case in the history of our country.”

The President emphasised that

don’t have many people who know how to sacrifice not just themselves but their own. However, there are more and more of them today. If we appreciate these people, there will be many. At least enough. We need to appreciate, love and respect them. This is the philosophy of life.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko donated an icon to the temple. The President expressed individual words of gratitude to the clergy,

“Thank you — those who believe for people, who live for people, who sacrifice their time and their health. As the Head of State, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Be always with your people. There are no more devoted clergymen in the world than in Belarus. And there are also no more honest ones anywhere else.”

This is because we still keep that bright, untouched and unadulterated that we have inherited from our ancestors.”

Belarus and Uzbekistan signed contracts worth \$25m

Commercial contracts worth \$25m have been signed as a result of Belarus’ Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko’s visit to Uzbekistan

The Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus and the Ministry of Sports Development of Uzbekistan signed an agreement on co-operation in the field of physical culture and sports.

The Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of co-operation with the National

Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

Moreover, an executive programme for sci-tech and innovative co-operation for 2022-2023 was signed between the Belarusian State Committee for Science and Technology and the Uzbek Ministry of Innovative Development.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus and the State Committee for Veterinary Medicine and Livestock Development of Uzbekistan.

The Belarusian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture signed a roadmap for the further development of interaction in the field of agricultural science, education and innovative development for 2022-2023. An agreement on co-operation in the area of livestock breeding between Belplemzhivobyedinenie and the agency Uzbekchormanasl was also signed.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Battery of fresh ideas

Modern technologies in batteries for electric vehicles

One of the key components of electric vehicles is the battery. This is a rather complex device, the main element of which are cells. They are not produced in Belarus due to the lack of minerals. However, the National Academy of Sciences and the leading enterprises of the country's engineering industry are developing numerous technical and technological solutions in batteries for electric vehicles.

By Inna Gorbatenko

Craving for electricity

Speaking about the creation of batteries based on domestic production, the spokesperson for the Belarusian Industry Ministry Oleg Slepchenko noted that this is a rather complex device with huge requirements, "Cells are main elements of the battery. They are not produced in Belarus, because we do not have the necessary mineral resources. Most of these products are made in China. For example, Belkommunmash mostly redirected its production in the construction of batteries. The plant purchases cells from different manufacturers and makes batteries based on them."

Now our scientists are working on creating skill sets in lithium-ion batteries. They may not be cheap, but they have a good capacity. The scope of their use is constantly expanding. They are used not only in electric transport, but also in the electric power industry, on hoisting machines, in telecommunications systems, in solar systems, in railway transport and wherever energy is required to be stored for later use.

"Ninety-nine percent of electric vehicles use lithium-ion batteries today. In fact, lithium batteries have revolutionised electrical engineering, rapidly replacing lead-acid batteries. Their main advantages are specific gravity and resource. The amount of stored energy in a lithium battery is three to four times higher than in a lead battery. Their efficiency is also much higher, their service life is two to three times longer, they do not emit aggressive acid fumes and have no memory effect. The latter factor is very important, since new technologies allow us to recharge a partially discharged battery without any damage to it any number of times. The tightness of lithium-ion batteries is a guarantee of their safety in food, chemical industries, as well as in fire hazardous industries," says Alexander Belevich, Head of the R&D centre Electromechanical and Hybrid Power Units of Mobile Machines of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

"Lithium is a rare earth metal. There is very little of it on the planet. There is no lithium in Belarus at all, so it is not economically feasible to bring ore here to create our own production. Our electric vehicle manufacturers buy cells in China and assemble batteries here. This is the strategy followed by automakers around the world. The cost of the cells is 50-70 percent of the cost of the battery. Our task is to localise the remaining 30 percent in Belarus. When you make a battery your-

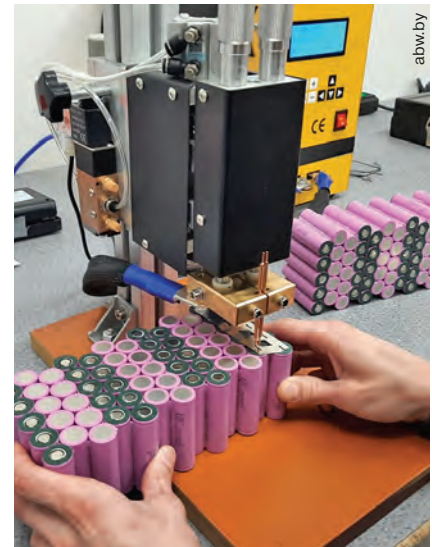
self, you control all the processes that take place in it, and, most importantly, after removing it from the vehicle, you can sort it out, process it and use it in stationary drives. Everyone understands that lithium-ion batteries are not the best solution in terms of cost and reliability. The engineers are working on it. As soon as there is something new, there will be a rapid transition, because all other tech-

seven thousand rubles only on reducing power consumption during this time. And after that, the battery life will still be far from being used up. The rest will be about 1000-2000 charge-discharge cycles.

New enterprises and logistics centres immediately focus on the use of forklifts powered by lithium-ion batteries, which could pay back throughout the entire life cycle, unlike lead-acid ones. When de-

While there is no single standard, hundreds of thousands of tonnes of batteries will have to be disassembled manually. That is slow and inefficient.

Alexander Belevich believes that there really is a problem, but it is not as global as it could seem, "When a battery's retention capacity drops to 80 percent, it can no longer be used in an electric vehicle. But it can be given a



nologies will already be ready for this. The task of our scientists is to develop skill sets in this direction and prepare the basis for such a transition," admits Alexander Belevich. Perhaps graphene will be this new material. Scientists of the Academy of Sciences are already developing graphene batteries. So far, they are inferior in efficiency to lithium-ion ones, but they relieve the manufacturer from the need to purchase lithium in China. In addition, graphene batteries are cheaper. Among other advantages, graphene is an environmentally friendly material, which makes it attractive for use in the creation of electric vehicles.

Aboard!

Modern lithium-ion batteries for electric forklifts and electric carts were created by the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Amkodor-Radian public unitary enterprise. The operation of such a forklift will pay back the cost of purchasing a lithium-ion battery in 2.5 years, saving the owner over

veloping batteries for Amkodor equipment, innovative materials produced in Belarus were used. New batteries are equipped with a touch screen, which displays information about the technical parameters of the cell. In addition, the batteries are equipped with a programme control system. Using AC technology, it increases the productivity and speed of electric trucks by an average of 20 percent compared to standard models, increases battery power efficiency by 10 percent, and at the same time reduces maintenance costs to a minimum.

In full swing

Green technologies are good, but electric car batteries may one day become a new environmental concern. It is necessary to put their disposal and processing on stream, because the spent batteries will one day have nowhere to go. We need not just recycling, but complete recycling. To do this, we have to disassemble thousands of batteries daily. However, each automaker puts unique batteries on their cars that differ in structure from others.

second life, for example, by using it as a stationary storage device for servicing electric networks, as a spare battery for an electric car, or for solar and wind farms. Nonetheless, sooner or later, the battery will still completely exhaust its resource, it will have to be disposed of. Technologies for recycling electric vehicle batteries and isolating rare earth metals already exist. For instance, there is a plant that recycles accumulators and batteries in Russia. Its capacity is such that in one month it manages to process everything that was brought to it for recycling from all over the country in a year! Work on the creation of technologies for processing lithium-ion batteries is also underway in Belarus. So far, we do not have such a quantity of 'dead' batteries in our country that it would be economically feasible to build a separate plant for their processing. However, the situation will change in 10 years. Therefore, our task now is to develop strategy in order to effectively organise the work of our own lithium battery processing plant in the future, if necessary."

A test of strength

How Dobrush Porcelain Factory solves problems with supply logistics

Growing uncertainty in the global economy, sanctions from a number of Western countries that have disrupted many commodity distribution flows — all this has become a serious challenge for Belarusian manufacturers. Nonetheless, domestic enterprises are holding up well: they are looking for new partners and improving their marketing strategies.

By Dmitry Boyarchuk

The Dobrush Porcelain Factory, the only one of its kind in Belarus and the leader in the CIS, calmly takes the new economic realities — there is enough margin of safety to resist sanctions and maintain its position in the world market. It produces more than 20 million products per year. All products are immediately sent to customers in Poland, Germany, the USA and other countries. Porcelain teapots or Belarusian-made pizza dishes are found in many restaurants in Paris and in the homes of French housewives, says leading marketing specialist Marina Zaitseva,

“In recent years, the scope of deliveries to Europe has been growing. Despite the sanctions, our partners continue to co-operate with us, and they would not like to reduce the volume of purchases of Belarusian porcelain. Delivery has become more difficult, but we are solving this issue.”

The domestic market accounts for 20 percent of the plant’s deliveries. The rest is exported, and Russia occupies the vast majority of it — 80 percent. Alexander Vinokurov, CEO of Dobrush Porcelain Factory CJSC, is sure that this is not the limit, because the opportunities for increasing trade in the Union State have not been exhausted, “We have been working hard to capture very specific markets, and we do not intend to lose it. In Russia, we work with partners who represent us at the Wildber-

ries and Ozon platforms. Partners from Germany helped us enter the Amazon, the world’s largest online marketplace. We started with small batches, now we ship products by trucks.”

The plant does not hide the complexities with the supply of necessary materials. For example, the decal, which is used to apply images to porcelain products, was purchased from Ukraine. However, the situation is not critical, Alexander Vinokurov is



convinced, “The plant has stocks that give us enough time to make decisions and allow us not to stop production. Experts are actively looking for new suppliers.”

The company employs more than 900 people. They all have their own dining room with minimal extra charges and a medical centre for a comfortable work. By the way, employees were vaccinated right at the workplace, and all those who were vaccinated received a cash bonus. Maria Lopukhova, the Quality Assurance Service Specialist, who has worked at the enterprise for 28

years, is sure that the plant will withstand any difficulties,

“We have a very friendly staff, so there is no doubt that we will cope with all the tasks. I came here after school and just fell in love with production. I started as a simple worker, and now I am responsible for quality — in recent years, it has grown significantly thanks to modern equipment.”

In 2007, a new high-speed tunnel furnace helped reduce energy costs and product costs while improving product qual-



ity. In 2010–2011, the company installed tunnel, batch and muffle furnaces of Czech production. Later, a new French machine for casting in plaster moulds began to operate in the production. And in 2014, they spent about €4

million on German equipment. Time has shown that these investments are worthwhile. Now the Dobrush Porcelain Factory is working on continuously incoming orders and is looking ahead with confidence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belarus’ food exports growing



From January-February 2022, exports of Belarusian food and agricultural raw materials made \$1.1bn — rising 23.1 percent against the same period last year.

Foreign currency revenue stood at almost \$210m in the first two months of the year. No difficulties with the reorientation of export flows from the markets of Ukraine and the European Union, in connection with the well-known events and restriction of an access to the Odessa seaport, were registered. Belarusian food enjoys great demand and promptly finds its customers. The problems related to delivery of products outside the CIS, including China, have been solved.

Russian diamond mining company keen to liaise with MAZ

The delegation of ALROSA (the Russian diamond mining company) has visited the Minsk Automobile Works and stated that it was interested in purchas-



ing Belarusian equipmen. The guests of the enterprise got acquainted with the models of MAZ vehicles and studied the work of the factory’s main assembly line. The guests are keen on interaction with MAZ and discussed the possibility of acquiring trucks and special vehicles with the plant’s management. During the negotiations, MAZ representatives spoke in detail about the options for after-sales service, as well as plans to expand the range of gas equipment.

New Belarusian-Russian satellite to be able to detect space debris

Scientists plan to equip a Belarusian-Russian spacecraft with optical equipment capable of detecting dangerous objects along its path. Accordingly, the orbit of spacecraft and the ISS can be adjusted to avoid collisions. This is one of the tasks that scientists aim to



solve within the framework of the Union State’s new programme: Complex-SG. Its concept has already been approved at the level of the Council of Ministers of the Union State. The state customers — Belarus’ National Academy of Sciences and Russia’s Roscosmos State Corporation — have already signed the project.

Damage from the construction of a fence in Belovezhskaya Pushcha by Poland amounted to more than 52 million rubles

Several categories were used to assess the damage caused to the environment on the territory of Belovezhskaya Pushcha: land degradation and soil damage during the construction of the fence; impact on the upper layers of the soil, that is, the destruction of the living ground cover, forest litter and fertile soil layer; land degradation as a result of the destruction of valuable old-growth broad-leaved and

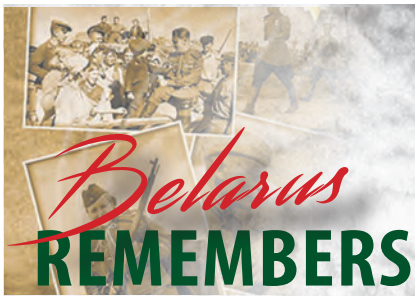


black alder forests. At the same time, the negative impact of the construction of the fence on the wildlife at the legislative level cannot be calculated.

ECONOMY

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Real genocide

Typhoid haze of fascist night

The bacteriological weapon of the Third Reich was tested on Belarusian women and children



By Maksim Osipov

The very picture of sorrow, suffering, pain and tears

That's how Yakub Kolas once called the Ozarichi concentration camp. For the first time, the world heard this name on February 14th, 1946, when at the Nuremberg trials, the assistant to the chief prosecutor from the Soviet Union, Lev Smirnov, presented to the court documents testifying to the atrocities of the Nazis on Belarusian land. One of them stated, "On March 19th, 1944, the attacking units of the Red Army discovered three concentration camps on the front line of the defence of the German army near the town of Ozarichi, Polesie Region, Byelorussian SSR, in which there were more than 33,000 children, disabled women and the elderly..."

Other documents proved the deliberate use of bacteriological weapons by the Nazis: the elderly, women and children were deliberately infected with typhus.

The camp lasted ten days. For thousands of prisoners, they turned out to be the whole eternity.

The investigation by the Prosecutor General's Office of the criminal case on the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War is ongoing. But behind the new facts, one should not forget the old, well-known ones. The Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, with the support of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus, continues the No Statute of Limitations project. Today you can read a story about Ozarichi death camp.

Human shield

At the beginning of 1944, the front line passed through the territory of Belarus along the Dnieper and Berezhina Rivers. At the end of February, the civilian population in the rear front of the 9th Wehrmacht Army — the elderly, women and children — was driven into the swamp by the Nazis. The order of the commander of the 9th German Army dated March 8th, 1944 'On sabotage' was preserved in the reports of the commander of the LVI Panzer Corps, Friedrich Hoßbach, which indicated the task: to create a human shield to protect military facilities from the attack of the Red Army troops.

In the early spring of 1944, a German plane landed in the Polesie forestry, carrying Nazi microbiologists led by Professor Blumenthal. The Nazis deliberately infected women, the elderly and children with typhus in order to subsequently spread the infection among the soldiers and officers of the Red Army.

To increase the infection, 7,000 people with typhus were brought to the camp. Blumenthal said, 'A glass of water drunk, every cubic metre of inhaled air should infect every person.'

In late February — early March 1944, the occupiers began to drive, bring disabled population from the Gomel, Mogilev Regions of Belarus, Smolensk, Bryansk and Oryol Regions of Russia to specially designated places in the

Of the **33,480** people liberated from the camp, **15,960** were children under 13, **517** of whom were orphans.

Ozarichi — Podosinnik — Dert villages under the guise of evacuation from the operational zone.

On March 9th, 1944, the chief of staff of the 9th Army, Schtedtke, and the chief of staff of the rear of the 9th Army, Bodenstein, announced the immediately enforceable order to deport the population to the Ozarichi concentration camp and (at the end of the operation) to destroy it at the meeting in Bobruisk.

Failed epidemic

According to the list of people who were in the military field hospital No. 2199 (located in the village of Novoselki, Domanovichi District), stored in the archives of the Military Medical Museum of the Russian Ministry of Defence, more than two thousand people who contracted typhus were treated there. In one list, among 720 people with typhoid patients, there were more than 150 soldiers and officers of the Red Army who took an active part in rescuing the prisoners of the Ozarichi concentration camp.

The epidemic affected the 19th Corps of the 65th Army, which was directly involved in the liberation of people. The corps was withdrawn from the front and sent to quarantine. This, however, had no any effect on front-line events: the Red Army continued its offensive.

Photo documents provided by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus

Aleksandr Lukashenko:

"I appeal to everyone who is convinced that fascism 'brought civilisation to our land'; who calls killers heroes; who worships the white-red-white flags under which Belarusian people fell victim to the genocide. We have come to grips with this problem, and we will show the whole world what genocide is about and we will prove that those who are trying to teach us how to live have no right to do so. To all of you, misguided and intoxicated, I say: 'Come and see! Go to Khatyn, Borki, Ola, Dalva, Usakino, Shunevka, Ozarichi, to the memorials Trostenets, Yama, Krasny Bereg.'"

(At the Lamp of Memory nationwide commemorative rally timed to the 78th anniversary of the Khatyn tragedy, March 21st, 2021)

The average life expectancy of people in the camp was three days. During this time, about **17,000** people died in inhuman conditions, many just lost their minds.



Vera Kuryan, 6 years old: 'These are my first photos that will never let me forget the war that deprived me of my childhood and people that are closest to me...'



MEMOIRS OF EYEWITNESSES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONT

'In March 1944, scouts of the 37th Guards Division discovered three death camps created by the Nazi command at the turn north of Ozarichi and further towards Parichi in the swamps. Thousands of Soviet citizens languished and died there — mostly the elderly, women and children. The history of these camps is one of the vilest atrocities of the fascist invaders committed during the war years on Belarusian land.'

Pavel Batov, lieutenant general who commanded the 65th Army of the 1st Belorussian Front, which liberated Ozarichi (from the In Campaigns and Battles book)

'I was returning from the front line, not suspecting that I would see such horrors. I felt the change first by a strange, unsettling sound that I couldn't understand where it came from until I found the camp in the distance. The unceasing prayers of many voices turned into a roar and ascended from there into the sky. Then I saw how the soldiers dragged the body of an elderly man like dead cattle. The dead old woman was lying on the road with a fresh gunshot wound in her forehead. The paramedic pointed me to some knots in the mud. There were the dead bodies of children.'

Josef Perau, Divisional Chaplain of the 110th Infantry Division of the Wehrmacht (from his diary, March 17th, 1944)

Lithuanian jackal

On the historical roots of the imperial ambitions of a small Baltic country

Today, the establishment of Lithuania act as the most irreconcilable and aggressive representatives of the collective West. They openly state that there are no red lines for them in relations with Russia and Belarus. Like, they are ready to go far, regardless of even the interests of their own people. Such provocative attacks are a manifestation, no matter how funny it may sound in relation to a small Baltic country, imperial ambitions and great-power complexes. And the roots, as always, are in history.

By Ph.D. in History Vadim Gigin

In the footsteps of the tiger

Lithuania entered the big historical arena in 1009. Not so long ago, the millennium of the first written records was magnificently celebrated in this country. For a long time, these were disunited tribes on the outskirts of Kievan Rus, who raided neighbouring Slavic lands from time to time. To protect against them, the Kievan and Polotsk princes built fortresses: Braslav, Novogrudok, Slonim, Grodno.

The appearance of German crusaders on the Baltic shores inflamed the situation in our region at the end of the 12th century. Resistance to the invaders rallied the Lithuanians, accelerated the formation of statehood. At the same time, the Mongol invasion dealt a crushing blow to Ancient Russia. Lithuania has a unique historical chance to rise. The tribal duke Mindovg laid the foundation for the formation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

As the Lithuanian historian Edvardas Gudavičius aptly said, this state, like a jackal, followed in the footsteps of the Mongolian tiger. The rapid exit from historical non-existence to the wide international arena made the Lithuanian nobility crazy. In its midst, a legend about the origin from the ancient Romans will gradually form.

However, contact with the highly developed ancient Russian culture could not help but have an effect. Many Lithuanian princes married Russian princesses. Documents were written in Russian. Voyshelk, the son of Mindovg, even became an Orthodox monk. An amazing phenomenon arose — Lithuanian Rus.

But many in Lithuania did not like it. They kept paganism to the last. Lithuanians became perhaps the last European people to adopt Christianity — at the end of the 14th century. Jagiello made a choice in favour of the Western Catholic rite, which gave rise to a source of fault lines in society.

The confrontation between the Lithuanian and Russian parties in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania ended in victory for the Poles. The times of the Commonwealth became difficult for both Lithuanian and Belarusian culture. The national revival that began in the middle of the 19th century led to a certain competition between the Lithuanian and Belarusian projects. Vilna, and other border lands caused disputes about their ethnicity.

Expansionist dreams

Discussions escalated during the First World War and the Russian Revolution. The Council of Lithuania, which became the centre of nation-building, from the very beginning showed expansionist ambitions, claiming the native Belarusian lands.

Many Belarusian politicians were not up to the mark either. The failure of the Belarusian Democratic Republic (BNR) led to the fact that a number of its 'founding fathers' were ready to co-operate with Lithuania. Naturally, in a subordinate position. The Ministry of Belarusian Affairs and Belarusian military units were created.

On July 12th, 1920, a Soviet-Lithuanian treaty was concluded in Moscow. The Red Army secured its right flank in the war with Poland and, according to a secret protocol, received the right to pass to the Vilna Region. Lithuania easily refused to support the remnants of the BNR.

And in return this country received Grodno, Shchuchin, Oshmya-

mended that Lithuania agree to the establishment of diplomatic relations.

We have come to an episode that modern Lithuania does not like to remember. In the notorious Secret Additional Protocol to the Non-Aggression Pact between Germany and the USSR of August 23rd, 1939, which reads as follows: 'In the event of a territorial and political rearrangement of the regions that are part of the Baltic states (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the northern border of Lithuania is the border of the spheres of interests of Germany and the USSR. At the same time, the interests of Lithuania in relation to the Vilna Region are recognised by both parties.'

before the approach of the Wehrmacht, the nationalists with weapons in their hands opposed the Soviet regime and staged a bloody Jewish pogrom.

The atrocities were terrible! Several thousand Jews were killed in Kaunas alone. It is nonsense, and the modern Lithuanian state is trying to shade this shameful page in every possible way. Of course! After all, streets and schools were named after the main rioters.

The Nazis appreciated the diligence of their new henchmen. It was from the Lithuanians that the most brutal police battalions were formed. They also left their bloody trail on Belarusian land. We still have not heard words of apology or regret for the crimes committed from a single Lithuanian politician.

Great power chauvinism

It was in Lithuania at the end of the 80s that the mechanism for the disintegration of a single country was launched. At the same time, great power chauvinism began to liven up.

Already after the collapse of the USSR, Vilnius imagined itself to be the centre for the spread of democracy in Eastern Europe. A real political theatre was created here to promote American interests.

Instead of mutually beneficial co-operation, the Lithuanian authorities have chosen the path of confrontation with both Belarus and Russia.

In 2020, Vilnius became one of the centres for the preparation and implementation of the coup attempt in Belarus.

However, such satisfaction of phantom claims to a certain 'special role of Lithuania' is detrimental to national interests.

In history, the arrogance of the Lithuanian nobility led to Polonisation and the loss of statehood. In the 20th century, exaggerated nationalism turned into Nazi complicity. And now Lithuanian politicians, being in a frenzy of military rhetoric, are directly hitting the well-being of their citizens and inciting discord between neighbours.

Will they take a different path? The path of peace, mutual respect and prudence? Only the Lithuanian people themselves can give an answer.



ny, Smorgon, Braslav, Lida and Postavy. Of course, without any autonomy for Belarusians.

This agreement was completely nullified by the Polish offensive and Pilsudski's cunning intrigue with 'Republic of Central Lithuania'. The Lithuanian government moved to Kaunas, which became the capital of this state for the entire interwar period.

Lithuania protested, issued declarations. But the Entente did not care about its dreams and rights. In 1923, the League of Nations gave the Vilna Region to Poland.

Fateful date

Poland at that time was inspired by the example of Nazi Germany and on March 17th, 1938, immediately after the Anschluss of Austria, presented an ultimatum to the Lithuanian government: to establish diplomatic relations within 48 hours and abandon the Vilna Region, otherwise — they will face the war. Taking into account the situation in Europe, the USSR recom-

Just a amazing care for Lithuania! This is a fateful date in the history of Lithuanian statehood!

This is how the then President of Lithuania, Antanas Smetona, who is now recognised as a national hero, treated the situation. When in October 1939 Vilnius was solemnly handed over to Lithuania, he thanked the Soviet people and their leader Joseph Stalin in the most enthusiastic terms for the return of the 'historical capital'.

In the newly found Vilnius, a Jewish pogrom was staged. 35 stores were looted. There were no casualties thanks to the intervention of Soviet soldiers. Anti-Semitism flourished in interwar Lithuania. In 1926, a nationalist ideology was established there, and many of its prominent representatives openly admired Hitler.

Nazi ideology

They just gone wild in 1941. Now in Lithuania, the June uprising is considered a heroic page in history. Then, even



Rio's Carnival celebration is back

Rio de Janeiro samba school floats and feather-festooned dancers join parade in Brazilian city as COVID-19 cases decline

After two years of COVID-19 cancellations, Rio de Janeiro's Mayor has officially opened the world's most famous carnival celebration, handing a key to the city to 'King Momo', a mythical figure who is said to lead the festivities.

"I proudly announce the greatest show on Earth is back — Long live, carnival," Mayor Eduardo Paes told a cheering crowd at city hall, handing a giant golden key over to the jovial 'monarch' as confetti rained down on them.

The carnival involves lively parades of floats and thousands of dancers. Crowds of people take to the streets to take part or watch. Lots of people wear

colourful costumes and dance to music on the streets. There are samba competitions between rival dance schools, parades and block parties. Carnival traditionally takes in place the run-up to the Christian festival of Lent but this year it was postponed until April.

The first Carnival was designed as a feast in the 1640s, modelled after the Roman festival of Saturnalia, where attendees would give honour to the Greek gods of wine, Saturnalia and Bacchus. Drinking sprees were common in the ancient tradition, with soldiers encouraged to swap their uniforms for outfits.

The festival 'Entrudo' was intro-

duced by the Portuguese, inspiring the birth of the Carnival in Brazil.

"City hall won't impede people from being in public spaces, from celebrating, but it's impossible that it happen at such [large] size," Rio de Janeiro's Mayor noted.

In the Sambadrome's shadow are the free parties known as 'blocos', which stream through streets and pour into plazas, many of whose members relish subverting established order. What blocos lack in glamour they make up for with glitter and grit. Costumes range from racy to outlandish, and are sometimes clever digs at authority figures.

China proposes global security initiative

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a 'global security initiative' that upholds the principle of 'indivisible security'

During a video speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022, held in Hainan Province, Xi Jinping said that the world should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, while paying attention to the 'legitimate' security concerns of all.

"We should uphold the principle of indivisibility of security, build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture, and oppose the building of national security on the basis of insecurity in other countries," Xi told the gathering on the southern Chinese island of Hainan.

Xi Jinping also reiterated China's opposition to unilateral sanctions and 'long-arm jurisdiction'.

"We stay committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation, support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises, reject double standards, and oppose the wanton use of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction," underlined the Chinese leader.

Earlier, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said China has 'always opposed unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction that lack a basis in international law and are not authorised by the (United Nations) Security Council'.

French presidential elections spark protests

Macron became the first French leader to win re-election for 20 years, scoring 58.54 percent to Le Pen's 41.46 percent

Emmanuel Macron was elected to a second term as French president with 58.8 percent of the vote, according to an estimate from the Ipsos polling institute. His far-right challenger Marine Le Pen won 41.2 percent of the vote in an election that saw the country's highest abstention rate in 50 years.

French cities after election results. Some protesters clashed with law enforcement officers and the police reportedly fired teargas. The protests also began in the commune of Rennes, where hundreds of people were shouting slogans against Macron, as well as against Le Pen. A group of protesters also set fire to a barricade made of wooden



Addressing a victory rally at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, Macron vowed to respond 'efficiently' to the 'anger and disagreement' of voters who chose the far right.

Le Pen succeeded in delivering the far right its biggest-ever score in a French presidential election. She called her score 'a shining victory in itself', adding that, "The ideas we represent are reaching new heights."

Meanwhile, protests erupted in major

furniture and trash cans and confronted the police officers standing in a cordon.

Moreover, two people have been shot dead by police in Paris. It is unclear if this incident was linked to the presidential election, but it came as riot police clashed with demonstrators unhappy with the results. Officers opened fire on a car that was hurtling towards them, killing two people inside on Paris' oldest bridge, the Pont Neuf, a police source said.



'Eighth wonder of the world'
The Tsarskoye Selo Museum Reserve has prepared a virtual version of the Amber Room, created with the support of Gazprom. This is an accurate interactive model of the most famous hall of the Yekaterina Palace.

Designed for royalty in Prussia and Russia, lost to war in Germany and eventually reborn in a St Petersburg palace, the Amber Room remains a mystery as captivating as amber itself.

Now, in order to see the most popular hall of the Yekaterina Palace in Tsarskoye Selo, it is only necessary to have virtual reality glasses, a special pointer and a powerful computer.

A team of designers and programmers spent a year working on the VR copy. They took 35,000 high-quality photographs so that every fragment, every curve of the lines, every shade of the golden stone could be seen. The photographs were processed and turned into 3D models. No one in the world has ever been able to scan amber: Russian specialists were the first.

The VR version of the Amber Room in Russian, English and Chinese gives one an experience of being inside the masterpiece and zooming into some wonderful details usually not seen on a palace tour.

The Amber Room was originally designed in the early 18th century as an opulent showpiece chamber for Frederick I. In 1716, the chamber was gifted to the Russian Tsar Peter the Great, and it was eventually moved to the Yekaterina Palace near St. Petersburg. The Russian Baroque marvel became known as the 'eighth wonder of the world'. When Nazis invaded Russia in 1941, they dismantled the Amber Room and moved it to Königsberg Castle but when the Red Army seized the city in 1945, no traces of the Amber Room were found.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

On the verge of downfall



Who and why is driving Europe into a severe economic crisis

The rapid growth of inflation, unemployment, bankruptcy of companies, poverty and banditry... This is the current reality of the notorious satisfied world of Europe. The events taking place now may seem to be chaos, confusion and fuss. At the same time, everything that we are now witnessing is clear, well-organised and planned strategy. At the same time, such scenario was shaped purely by material and monetary ambitions of global corporations and elites.

By **Aleksei Avdonin, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research**

Suppress and destroy

To fully understand the processes, one should turn to the background of today's events. They originate not 10-30 years ago, but much earlier. On September 16th, 1898, Republican American Senator Albert J. Beveridge delivered a speech in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is considered the beginning of the US transition to an aggressive policy towards other countries, regions and markets.

The essence of Beveridge's ideas reduces not just to populist political slogans, but to critical economic problems of large enterprises.

Even then, American companies faced the problem of overproduction (when there are a lot of goods, but there is no one to buy), so the Republican proposed an advanced idea: it is necessary to suppress and destroy the industry and agriculture of the main competitors by all possible means, and then supply only their own products to these new markets. Then the issue of overproduction will be easily resolved.

It was Beveridge who introduced the 'divine mission', 'prevailing interest', 'political proximity', 'geographical predestination', 'self-defence', 'ex-

emptionalism' terms in his speech into political use.

You have to admit, that these are very relevant 'fine words', and they are still actively used by the United States to justify their dirty deeds to establish control over foreign territories.

Who do readers think was chosen as the victim of this policy? Europe, of course.

New victim

On April 7th, 2022, Zhao Jiaocheng, reporter of the Chinese *Huanqiu Shibao* (Global Times) daily tabloid newspaper, confirmed the above theses in his article.

The United States is the main plotter of the 21st century with a Cold War mentality, whose goal is to divide and weaken Russia. The aggravation of the situation in Ukraine is a new trap set in the 21st century by the United States, a Cold War conspirator, in an attempt to absorb Russia and control Europe, thereby maintaining its absolute hegemony in the world.

The US deliberately created a sense of crisis, which increased Europe's dependence on Washington and NATO. The desire to divide Western countries, China and Russia into two opposing camps is a typical manifestation of the



The war in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region will allow the Anglo-Saxons to solve the problem of overproduction, get rid of old debts, maintain the dominance of the dollar and finally achieve the weakening of their main competitors, followed by the realisation of the long-standing dream of the globalists — the creation of a new world where there are no states, and overwhelming power belongs to the financial digital corporations.

Cold War mentality. The ultimate goal is to emasculate and shatter Russia through military quagmire and sanctions.

Attempts by European political elites to please the United States in matters of pressure on Russia led to disastrous consequences for the national economies and financial systems of the EU countries.

There is a high inflation rate (above 7 percent), the number of unemployed is growing by three to four percent weekly, protest activity is on the rise, and society is being criminalised.

Crazy advice comes from European officials: drive slower, wash less often, sleep in the cold, close the curtains, and so on. Such ridiculous recommendations indicate only one thing: the US keeps these puppets (the political elites of the EU) restrained, and they are ready to sacrifice the well-being of their citizens in favour of the American plans.

The Chinese analyst Gao Jian recommends that Europe now should start looking for a fundamentally different model of political, social and economic development, where there is no place for American hegemony. Otherwise, the complete dependence of the EU on the decisions of Washington may lead to a global financial crisis and an energy collapse in the near future.

Who benefits?

The Anglo-Saxons (USA and Great Britain) are very much in favour of such a scenario of the economic and energy collapse of Europe. Why?

In conditions of unemployment, poverty, hyperinflation, hunger, society can be easily shaped and 'hooked' on extremely radical nationalist philosophy. Europe will plunge into the war of all against all, which will lead to the collapse of the European Union, and then the European society will 'vote' for the new Fuhrer. In other words, the 'Ukrainian model', but only across Europe.

We can observe a similar strategy in Japan: its accession to the Western sanctions policy, sharp attacks against Russia and China may indicate that the political and economic elite of Tokyo have formed revanchist views. It should be understood that Japan would not have dared to do this on its own, the hand of Washington is clearly visible there. In addition, the United States is doing all the provocations of the war for Taiwan, which, according to ideologues, will weaken China and then claim Japan some 'attractive/disputed' territories. It is feared that the Anglo-Saxons are once again trying to blindly use long-suffering Japan in order to provoke a conflict with Russia and China in the eastern direction with her hands.

In fact, the war in Ukraine, the economic and energy discord in Europe, the aggravation of the situation around Taiwan are links in a chain, in a single scenario. It should be noted that the sequence of events in Belarus was the first link in this chain. Now the date of August 9th, 2020 should be considered the beginning of a new global war between the West and the East.

Belarus has not collapsed and showed all other countries that it is possible to successfully fight with the West and even win. The main thing is the cohesion of the people, authorities and law enforcement agencies around a common idea. Our idea is simple — to prevent the loss of our state and sovereignty.



Anton Stepanishchev



Golden patterns

Straw violin and more: the story of a craftswoman from Rossony

Not by straw alone: every summer, the Rossony craftswoman Olga Smorgunova takes a sickle and goes to the grain field

By Yelena Begunova

The cups are made of Russian porcelain, and the coasters for them are made of Belarusian straw. Such a creative symbiosis will soon conquer the London connoisseurs of beauty. Gold may be easily told! This is how, together, painstakingly and bit by bit, craftspeople and industrialists of the two countries contribute to the foundation of international relations.

The unique craftswoman Olga Smorgunova lives and works in Rossony, so let's get acquainted here then. Among her masterpieces are: intricate headdresses, mysterious dolls, peculiar bags, bouquets of outlandish flowers, an unusual windmill and a formidable owl with wide eyes. It's hard to believe that all these things are made of straw!

"Yes, they are made of straw. This is a universal material for this kind of crafts. Warm, elegant, plastic, very light and beautiful. The main thing is to properly prepare it, so to feel it in your hands..." says Olga Leonidovna with a smile.

The current director of the House of Crafts of the Rossony Regional Centre for Culture and Folk Art took up straw weaving about 20 years ago. She thoroughly studied the folklore heritage, and she did her part. Today, amateur art groups decorate costumes with its products, they are widely used during the Kupalle, Maslenitsa and other holidays.

But the fame of the Belarusian straw has long gone beyond the borders of the country. So Olga Smorgunova is a regular participant in various fairs, competitions and exhibitions.

"Not all of my works are here. Many have been in the museum in Sebezh, Pskov Region, for two years already," the craftswoman shows a solid exposition in the House of Crafts.

However, the work of Olga Smorgunova was appreciated in many countries of the world. She is a permanent participant of International Festival of Arts 'Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk', her products are taken away by hundreds of participants and guests of the art festival. She also fulfils exclusive requests — recently Minsk residents asked for a violin as a gift

for their business partners in Austria.

"I've just received order from representatives of a company from London. They co-operate with the Saint Petersburg Porcelain Factory. So we decided to combine Belarusian straw and Russian porcelain in one. We were asked to make original coasters for cups. This is exactly what I do. It does not matter to me whether my authorship will be indicated. I represent Belarus, I am glad that through my work my country will be known in the world even more and better," Olga Leonidovna tells the details of the main intrigue.

...An exciting job, an interesting hobby — what else is needed in order to feel happy and accomplished? Olga is a trained lawyer. She became keen on straw weaving in her student years — she made applications for herself and friends. And 17 years ago, when the House of Crafts opened in Rossony, she was offered to take the place of director. So it happened...

Every summer Olga Smorgunova takes a sickle and goes to the grain field. Fortunately, the heads of agricultural enterprises co-operate with her — they allow Olga to choose the most suitable areas for harvesting straw. The preparation of raw materials is a painstaking task. It is necessary to follow all the rules, and maintain all the technology. Therefore, the craftswoman personally controls the entire process.

"Last season I prepared 14 thick sheaves in the girth of human hands. How much is left? Only one. It is necessary to somehow make it to the new season..." estimates the interlocutor.

The craftswoman has a lot of ideas in her plans. Hands seem to ask to implement these plans as soon as possible, and the soul — searches for a new beauty from the warm glossy Belarusian straw. Let this beauty from our well-groomed fields continue to conquer international expanses. It should be noted that recently Olga Smorgunova was awarded the gratitude of the Belarusian Culture Minister, and following the results of last year, she was awarded the title of 'Woman of the Year of Vitebsk Region'.



Anton Stepanishchev



Real men's hockey

Hockey players from HC Metallurg Zhlobin won the President's Cup. The main prize was awarded to Zhlobin hockey players by Aleksandr Lukashenko, who watched the game from the stands of the Minsk Arena.

The final series of the President's Ice Hockey Cup turned out to be an incredible thing to watch: hockey players from HC Yunost Minsk and HC Metallurg Zhlobin fought for the title of the best for six fights, but everything was decided only in the seventh match, which took place at the Minsk Arena. It was sold out: the main ice arena of the country gathered 15,086 fans — and this is a new record at the games of the Extraleague of Belarus' Open Ice Hockey Championship.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

The finalists stretched out their confrontation to the maximum only twice in the history of the championships of our country until this season. Interestingly, in both cases HC Yunost Minsk fought for the victory: in 2009, it took over HC Gomel, and in 2010 — over HC Shakhter. The Minskers were unable to repeat this success again.

From the very first minutes of the decisive match, the teams began to carry out a series of attacks, but it was the Zhlobin team that managed to open the score. Sergei Kuznetsov outplayed the Minsk goalkeeper by an accurate pass from Artyom Volchenkov and scored the first goal against the defending champions in the seventh minute. The Zhlobin youth upset HC Yunost again



in the seventh minute of the second period: Sergei Kuznetsov scored his second goal, Vitaly Pinchuk and Artyom Volchenkov were the authors of wonderful assists. The Minsk team tried to win back and created many dangerous chances at the opponent's goal. Four minutes before the final siren, Evgeny Esaulov's team went for broke and substituted the goalkeeper with the sixth

skater, but that didn't help either: the third unanswered puck appeared in the empty 'net' of HC Yunost in 1 minute 25 seconds — Yevgeni Solomonov iced the game.

The winning streak of HC Yunost Minsk is snapped. HC Metallurg Zhlobin, which became the champion of the country in 2012, ten years later regained the title and the main trophy — the President's Cup.

Under the guise of words

When politics interferes with sport, the result is not good



Aryna Sabalenka

By Vladimir Dmitriev

The UK Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) have issued an official united statement, according to which Russian and Belarusian tennis players will not be able to take part in tournaments under their auspices in 2022, including the

Grand Slam tournament on the grass — Wimbledon. The decision applies to both senior and junior competitions. "If circumstances change significantly between now and June, we will review the applications of Russian and Belarusian tennis players and respond accordingly," the press release says. It should be noted that several other major tournaments will be held in addition to Wimbledon in the UK in June: ATP Tour 500 in London, WTA 250 tournaments in Birmingham and WTA 500 tournaments in Eastbourne. Russian and Belarusian tennis players will also not be able to take part in them.

All this is deliberately done and announced in extremely rude manner — without taking into account the opinions of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), Women's Tennis Association (WTA), International Tennis Federation (ITF), who have already made harsh statements before. No one has taken care of the sports component, or even of the income, which is likely to miss out on millions of pounds due to the decline in the level of tournaments. But who cares when big politics breaks into sports?!

The loss of ranking points, which affect the struggle for getting into the final tournament, as well as the deprivation of money and huge bonuses, both from advertising and from the tournament organisers are only some of the consequences of this decision for tennis players. Isn't that a significant reason to appeal to court?

The very last ace

The tennis world is in anxiety. The game of aristocrats and millionaires, which always existed by its own strict rules, had a very strict code and shunned the rest of world sports, distantly looking down on it, like a prince of noble birth behave with the mob and common people, appeared at the centre of a disgusting controversy. It suddenly became clear that neither titled nobility, nor noble ranks by no means exclude the lackey essence of character — dishonour, baseness and petty meanness. The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) confirmed the day before that the famous Wimbledon — perhaps the most vivid Grand Slam tournament — will be the first individual tennis tournament where players from Russia and Belarus will not be able to play. They were ruled out on a national basis.

By Sergei Kanashits

Great Britain screwed up again, it brought it on itself, soiled itself. The great Charles Dickens once said, "I do not know the American gentleman, God forgive me for putting two such words together." But now the famous classic is surely banging on his coffin, for that's hard to find gentlemen in Britain these days. No, indeed. Boris Johnson clearly isn't one of them.

But there is a task, and it must be completed — brushing aside all sorts of norms, shame and common sense, to crush Belarus and Russia under the wheels of their hatred. Wimbledon in this sense should act as a leader, and its example — as a guide for action for others. Yes, but the provocation was not very successful: the tennis establishment did not want to be a dumb creature and, follow the

Anglo-Saxon propaganda like an unreasonable beast. Tennis stars who are bolder than others and not afraid to speak up just murmured.

Officials did not keep their mouths shut either: both the Women's Tennis Association and the Association of Tennis Professionals — organisations that generate the entire life of the tennis universe — did not support the inflammatory and violating all the fundamental principles of the existence of the ball and racket in the world. Moreover, they were strongly opposed. And this is an encouraging sign: it means that the planet has not completely gone crazy yet, and common sense is timidly making its way to the sun.

The aforementioned Dickens wrote, "But the absence of the soul is far more terrible in a living man than in a dead one." The All England Lawn Tennis Club has always been proud of its prim and strict rules at Wim-

OPINIONS



From the statement of the Belarusian Tennis Federation:

"Such destructive actions in no way contribute to the resolution of conflicts but only incite hatred and intolerance on a national basis. Absolutely politicised decisions lead our entire sport to global destabilisation — ATP and WTA have already sharply criticised the decision to remove athletes from the tournament. Prominent athletes such as Novak Djokovic and Martina Navratilova also denounced the decision. Throughout the history of tennis, armed conflicts have taken place in the world — in Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Yugoslavia and other countries, but never until now have tournament organisers suspended athletes from the United States, Great Britain and other countries from participating, and other athletes have not pushed the public to division of tennis players on a national basis. We once again state the policy of double standards applied to the current situation. All this only confirms our confidence that world sport and international sports organisations have now been turned into an instrument of political pressure and manipulation and, unfortunately, they no longer have anything to do with the development of sports and its popularisation."

Novak Djokovic, 20-time Grand Slam champion, world No. 1 in tennis:

"I will always condemn war, I will never support war being myself a child of war. I know how much emotional trauma it leaves. In Serbia we all know what happened in 1999. In the Balkans we have had many wars in recent history. However, I cannot support the decision of Wimbledon, I think it is crazy. When politics interferes with sport, the result is not good."



Martina Navratilova, 18-time Grand Slam champion, former world No. 1 in tennis:

"Exclusion like this... is not the way to go... Truth is, I think AELTC has gone further than it should have. I think it's the wrong decision. This is unfair to the whole world. There are so many bad things going on right now. I think this is a useless decision... Would I like Wimbledon to change their mind? I would like to. But I think it's too late. It will be difficult to turn back time."



bledon for many years, calling them traditions that have accumulated over more than a century of existence. Grass courts, royal patronage and attention, exclusively male judges in the competition of the stronger sex, it is allowed to perform only in white (including underwear, laces and sneaker soles), everyone eats strawberries with cream, drinks a bell, but it is not allowed to visit the temple of tennis with dogs. Now the entry to Wimbledon has been banned for Belarusians and Russians.

What can we say?

Each person chooses for himself what is dear and valuable to him or her, and according to what principles to live. Time only gives clues and pushes for decisiveness in the manifestation of certain life attitudes. The masks have been torn off, and now no one pretends that we should keep politics out of sports.



Aleksey Stolyarov

Photo of the week

In the village of Matyukovo, Vitebsk Region, the old custom of sculpting a lamb from butter for the festive Easter table has been preserved. The technology for preparing this amazingly beautiful and delicate culinary masterpiece is included in the State List of the non-material historical and cultural heritage of Belarus.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



April 28th is World Day for Safety and Health at Work. It has been celebrated by the decision of the International Labour Organisation

(ILO) since 2003 at the initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation. The purpose of the Day is to draw the attention of the world community to the scale of the problem of safety and health in the workplace.

On April 28th, 1563, the printing house of the first printers Ivan Fyodorov and Pyotr Mstislavets began to operate in Moscow. In March 1564, the first Russian precisely dated printed book *Acts and Epistles of the Apostles* was published by order of Ivan IV Vasilievich and the blessing of Metropolitan of All Russia Macarius. As a result, Ivan Fyodorov and Pyotr Mstislavets went down in history as the first Russian printers.



On April 29th, 1962, the Orsha sewing machine plant produced the millionth sewing machine. An enterprise for the production of household sewing machines was organised in the city of Orsha

in 1952. Later, the name of the enterprise was changed to the Legmash Plant OJSC, which since 2012 became part of the holding company Belarusian Metallurgical Company and is no longer related to sewing machines.



April 29th is International Dance Day. It has been celebrated since 1982 by decision of the International Dance Committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute ITI on the birthday of the French choreographer Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810).

April 30th is International Jazz Day. It was proclaimed at the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (2011) in recognition of the contribution of jazz to the dialogue of cultures. Jazz originated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States as a synthesis of African and European cultures, and to this day remains a unique form of musical art that unites races and nationalities.



April 30th is World Veterinary Day, which was established by the World Veterinary Association in 2000 to highlight various aspects of the work of veterinarians around the world and raise awareness of their contribution to animal health and welfare, as well as public health.



On April 30th, 1945, the Red Army soldiers hoisted the Banner of Victory on the Reichstag building in Berlin. 'Banner of Victory

#5' — assault flag of the 150th Order of Kutuzov 2nd class Rifle Corps Idritsa Division, which became the Banner of Victory, was carried by a group of three fighters led by senior sergeant Ivanov. Ivanov was mortally wounded while breaking through to the upper floors of the building. But sergeant Yegorov and junior sergeant Kantaria did everything possible to hoist the banner.

May 1st is International Workers' Day (The Day of Spring and Labour) — an international holiday in many countries around the world, which was originally called the Day of International Workers Solidarity.



On 2nd May, 1945, Soviet troops completely captured Berlin, the capital of Germany. The troops of the 1st Belorussian Front under the command of Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Zhukov, with the assistance of the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front under the command



of Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan Konev, completed the defeat of the Berlin group of German forces after stubborn street fighting. On May 2nd, 1945, they completely captured the capital of Germany, Berlin. The Berlin garrison ceased resistance, laid down their arms and surrendered.

May 4th is International Firefighters' Day — this day is celebrated worldwide by people of a courageous profession, who protect and save the lives of people, animals, as well as property, ecosystem objects from fire. A red and blue ribbon is the symbol of the holiday. Red colour symbolises a flame, and blue colour symbolises water.



May 5th is Press Day in Belarus. This date was chosen for the holiday in honour of the first edition of the Pravda newspaper on May 5th, 1912. Although the Belarusian press has much deeper roots and many significant dates. For example, on August 6th, 1517, Francysk Skaryna published his first book in Prague. On May 5th, 1581, Andrej Rymsha's calendar called *Chronology* was published in Volyn, in the Ostroh printing house of Ivan Fyodorov in the Old Belorussian dialect. It was also the first printed calendar of the Slavs.

