



Socio-political Weekly

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Performance of the Olympic champion Vladislav Goncharov (C) recognised best at the FIG World Cup stage in Minsk. Oleg Ryabtsev of Belarus (R) takes bronze

Positive emotions from performing at home stage

Five medals — three gold, one silver and one bronze — earned by Belarusian national team, at FIG World Cup, held in Minsk

Time to construct enduring and reliable bridge to Kabul

Belarus and Afghanistan should move from wishes and conversations to establishing concrete co-operation, notes Alexander Lukashenko as he met in Minsk the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Abdullah Abdullah

By Vladimir Khromov

The President remarked that the relations of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan were not easy in the course of history. As one of the former republics of the USSR, Belarus is also responsible for the events of the past.

“Not only the Soviet Union is responsible. To a greater extent this is the responsibility of other countries, you know them very well. I believe that people should not forget their history, but, perhaps, it is not good to dwell on the past either. It is necessary to build relations, to do our best to establish wonderful ties,” notes Alexander Lukashenko. “In this regard I would like to assure you as a Chief Executive that our government will do everything to build the foundation of our relations, to fill them with a qualitatively new content, to move from suggestions and conversations to full-fledged co-operation. We are ready for it.”

The Head of State assured that Belarus is ready to develop collaboration across all areas that may be of interest for Afghanistan. “We can do it with the participation of third countries. Frankly speaking, I have often discussed the topic of Afghanistan and joint co-operation at the meetings with the President of Turkmenistan. I have asked him to help me establish relations with the leadership of Afghanistan, to help us get the ball rolling,” noted the Belarussian leader.



Abdullah Abdullah visits Minsk Tractor Works

“Therefore, you can be sure that your visit will be full of important events. We will show you everything you want. I think that we will do our best to assist our friendly people of Afghanistan in restoring and developing the economy.”

The participants of the talks agreed that there are big prospects for co-operation in machine-building and instrument-making, petrochemistry, oil processing, agriculture, military-technical co-operation, personnel training, and healthcare.

Mr. Lukashenko assured that Be-

larus is ready to develop interaction across all areas which may be of interest to Afghanistan. “If we are able to help our friendly Afghan people in restoring their economy and in their development I think we’ll do it,” he stressed.

After long years of civil war and instability the Afghan economy is in deep position: GDP per capital stands merely at \$676. The country needs practically everything that Belarus produces. Belarussian tractors have been working on Afghan fields for more than 50 years. Over sixty

years more than 20,000 vehicles have been delivered. Today Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) is ready to expand the range of the supplied vehicles. Before the meeting with the President Mr. Abdullah has personally attended the enterprise and tested one of the innovations. He drove a powerful energy-intensive tractor and remained very pleased with the vehicle. Amkodor is also studying variants to enter the Afghan market. Promising areas for collaboration include petrochemistry and oil processing, agriculture and healthcare, as well as

military-technical co-operation and staff preparation.

After meeting with Belarus’ Prime Minister Andrei Kobayakov, the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Abdullah Abdullah told journalists that Afghanistan is ready to develop co-operation with Belarus.

An agreement was signed in Minsk to establish a joint committee of Belarus and Afghanistan in trade-economic co-operation. “We believe that in view of the signed agreement interrelations between our states can be expanded in various spheres: extraction of mineral fertilisers, road construction and the organisation of supplies of agricultural produce. Moreover, sharing of experience and technology will be also developed,” noted Mr. Abdullah.

During the official visit to Belarus Mr. Abdullah visited a range of Minsk enterprises. According to his assessment, these enterprises demonstrate a high level of the country’s technological development. “We’re ready to use Belarus’ experience in various spheres. We can congratulate Belarus on its successes which were achieved in agriculture, industry, pharmacology and in the sphere of preparation of specialists in various spheres,” he believes.

Mr. Abdullah also thanked the Belarussian aide for readiness to prepare specialists for economic sector of Afghanistan.

Curriculum to be updated

By Dmitry Neratov

President demands simplification of textbooks and for us to dress children without luxury

The Belarussian leader has said many times that there should be no differences between children of various social status at school.

“The formulae is simple — by September 1st, all children should be dressed equally. Not in wearing the same black-and-white dresses, with knee socks, but children from families less wealthy shouldn’t stand out. We should dress all children the same by September 1st,” noted Alexander Lukashenko. “The top

priority is to renew the curriculum and textbooks. I don’t see any obstacles to achieving this. We don’t need to create them completely anew. They are generally fine. However, some topics — not only in the humanitarian sphere but in mathematics and physics — should be polished.”

The President has demanded that reforms be completed by next year, to improve the school curriculum. “A group should be created for each textbook, involving more practical experts than academicians. However, we shouldn’t ignore academicians, since they’re at the top of their field regarding knowledge,” said the President.

Invitation to acquaintance with rich cultural heritage

Exhibition dedicated to 500th anniversary of Belarussian book printing opens in Belarussian Embassy to Indonesia

By Olga Korneeva

The exposition comprises archive photos of the Belarussian Telegraph



Rarity from Francysk Skaryna

Agency (BELTA) depicting famous Belarussian writers and the national artworks.

According to Charge

d’Affaires of Belarus to Indonesia Denis Kovalev, the two countries have been successfully developing relations in a number of

areas, including trade-economic and political sectors.

“We can see a growing mutual interest in the cultural heritage of Belarus and Indonesia. The Belarussian and Indonesian governments signed an agreement on co-operation in culture in October 2015. The exposition about great classics Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas and first book printer Francysk Skaryna in the Belarussian Embassy in Jakarta shows the visitors of the diplomatic mission the historical and cultural contribution of our country,” underlines Mr. Kovalev.



About life in space and on the Earth



Alexander Lukashenko meets Belarus-born pilot-cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky, and chats warmly as they exchange gifts

Lukashenko: Thank you for everything. We've been keeping an eye on you, seeing everything. Thank you very much!

Novitsky: Thank you for the letter of greetings. It was really touching. I realised that I couldn't disappoint those who trained me for the flight, or the people of my own republic, my land. Thank you very much indeed. I've prepared a small present for you:

a picture of our crew.

Lukashenko: Three of you? The international crew...

Novitsky: Exactly. A Frenchman and an American. The American is still up there, by the way. I returned with the French cosmonaut. This is the watch that they give us before the flight. It's certified for spacewalking. Unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to do so, but it's at-

tached to a space suit all the time.

Lukashenko: Oleg, I'd like to give you the first book about the Palace of Independence. It's a unique historical book, and I want you to have the first copy. It's very good, I think, and the first I've authorised for printing. I've written a small message, for you to read later. I want to give the first copy of the book to a man of virtue, with

a Belarusian heart. It will be a symbolic and beautiful gesture.

Novitsky: Thank you very much!

Lukashenko: We've been keeping an eye on you, following your career with emotional involvement. As far as I understand, your first mission lasted for about 150 days, and the next for almost 200 days. It's hard to imagine.

Novitsky: For me too...

Lukashenko: I don't like closed spaces, and to see you there...

Novitsky: There's no other way to do it. If you promise to undertake a mission, you must rise to the challenge.

Lukashenko: Absolutely. You can't leave the station to take a walk, and can't really relax there.

Novitsky: No, you can't

slam the door after a slight misunderstanding either!

Lukashenko: Are you on holiday now?

Novitsky: Yes, until the end of August. I don't know how well it will go. There are lots of things to do. I must get used to living here.

Lukashenko: On Earth...

Novitsky: Yes. I should prepare myself for living on Earth, in Belarus.

EXCLUSIVE: impressions from chatting with the President, on the past, present and near-term plans of the cosmonaut

The meeting between the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky, which lasted for around two hours, was held in a spiritual and friendly atmosphere, touching upon various topics

"We tackled a great many topics. Firstly, those connected with cosmonautics and the role of Belarus as a space country. We spoke about various developments in science, the construction of spacecraft and investigations of Earth from space," notes Mr. Novitsky.

Oleg Novitsky also reveals that they chatted about raising a family and about patriotism. "The day before, my family and I had gone to Brest Fortress Memorial, spending a long time there. Hours passed quickly while we were chatting. Honestly, I didn't expect to be chatting with the President for so long!" admits Mr. Novitsky. This was his second meeting with the Belarusian Head of State. "The first took place after my first flight. I was lucky and honoured to be walking next to him as part of the column to lay flowers at the Victory Monument, on May 9th. It was fantastic to have my spirits raised like that, after my first flight," says the cosmonaut.

Plans to live in Belarus

"Even after the first flight, I said I intended to live in the country I'd been born in. I'd love to build a home. Instead of an apartment, I want to live in a private house of my own. Maybe, it's because I spent my entire childhood in a house like that. Since I have some time, I'll try to make a start," Oleg reveals.

School years

Oleg wasn't a straight-A pupil at school, but tells us, "I had my share of As and Bs, and gained the relevant school graduation certificate after finishing the tenth form." He emphasises that it's important to set goals and aim high, pushing yourself to succeed. "Then, your results will be much higher. Natu-



Personal belongings of cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky in museum

rally, you should take exercise. I always loved spending time on sports, as did my friends. While

training for flight school entrance exams, I set higher goals, running more than necessary and faster than necessary."

Dealing with media attention

Regarding his holiday plans, Mr. Novitsky admits to having quite a few media interviews lined up. "I'd like to tone it down a bit. I'd love to stay at home, help my mother with chores, and chat with my brothers, sisters, and friends. I think this time will come soon," he notes.

Sports for pleasure

Oleg Novitsky continues taking exercises and runs in the morning. "I ran this morning. I run as much as the body wants to. Running very little is bad. Running a lot is difficult.

You have to do everything with pleasure, particularly on vacation. I run 4-5km on average," he said.

Impressions on visiting Brest

The cosmonaut likes the city very much. "It has retained its own architectural style and is well-maintained. My meeting with the mayor was super, as he told me the history of the city. We took a walk along Sovetskaya Street and saw the sights. It was fascinating," says Oleg. "We agreed that I'll visit the city again. Maybe not during this vacation, but I'll definitely stay overnight next time, to see how the street lamps are lit each night by hand."

Training for next flight

"I'll face a major medical examination in December, or possibly in January, to determine my body's readiness for the next flight. If things are okay, I'll be able to start training," says the cosmonaut.

Agricultural work is vital

Alexander Lukashenko tours agricultural enterprises in Shklov and Orsha districts to see harvesting campaign in the country and modern samples of agricultural machinery while personally inspecting harvesters at work

By Vasily Kharitonov

The Head of State drove a four-wheeler to the grain field of Alexandriyskoye JSC, noting that he was visiting with good reason. "I'll work today. This has been called 'my' field, as I used to work here, at a young age," he explained.

The President heard about the harvesting campaign, discussing the nuances of various grain species, of domestic and foreign selection.

High-quality Belarusian grain harvesters for agrarians are a focus for the President, who is keen to see the manufacture of grain harvesting equipment develop in Belarus. Over the past two decades, Gomselmash has launched seven models of grain harvester, as well as 38 modifications, of various classes.

The President watched the new 'Palesse' harvester in action, hearing about its technical characteristics and the experience of using it. Mr. Lukashenko instructed designers to modernise the model by the next harvest campaign, to eliminate its current weaknesses. This should help in



Harvesting at Alexandriyskoye JSC in the Mogilev Region's Shklov District

harvesting, and create a vehicle with good customer demand.

He wanted to see the harvester in operation, so one of the local workers took the driver's seat, with the President's younger son, Nikolai, beside him. Alexander Lukashenko stood on the platform near the cabin, to watch. He stressed the major role of harvester operators, saying that good drivers gain better results and keep the equipment well-maintained. "We must prove that this harvester can be

as efficient as foreign models. Much depends on the machinery operator," asserted the President.

Wheat crop yields have reached 91 centners per hectare, compared to just 13-17 centners per hectare in the President's youth, proving that high crops can be received from most soils if quality seeds are used, and all farming standards and technological processes are observed.

Mr. Lukashenko asked about the achievements of domestic seed spe-

cialists, hearing that domestically-bred seeds rival those from abroad, and even surpass them in some respects. Visiting agricultural enterprises in the Shklov and Orsha districts, Mr. Lukashenko taught the reporters following him how to harvest grain crops with a sickle. Heads of municipal government agencies and other government officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Rusy, also took part in the master class.

The Head of State jokingly suggested reverting to old ways of harvesting grain crops after reporters showed their T-shirts decorated with Belarusian ornamental designs, in national colours. These celebrate the legacy we have inherited, from those who farmed Belarusian lands for centuries, growing grain. The Head of State received a photo of the flagship model Belarusian harvester, whose performance Mr. Lukashenko observed during his visit.

'Profitability rivalling that of oil'

By Alexey Fedosov

President sees potential for improving flax production efficiency

The President has ordered that shortcomings be eliminated in the growing of flax, having visited Ustie Republican Unitary Enterprise, under Belarus' National Academy of Sciences (in the Orsha District). The farm specialises in the cultivation and harvesting of flax seed and, under the supervision of scientists, the best practices and advanced technologies relating to cultivation of this crop are being tested. Alexander Lukashenko visited the fields, and viewed all processes, to gain a better idea of how flax cultivation is being carried out.

The Director of the Institute of Flax, at Belarus' National Academy, Ivan Golub, reported to the President that the profitability of flax production has reached 70 percent. "In the best times, oil produced similar margins," the President noted.

Mr. Lukashenko has issued instructions that flax growing farms and linen mills be given a system to follow, to ensure efficiency. He un-



Flax harvesting in the Vitebsk Region's Orsha District

derlined the need to develop a clear system of staff training for the flax industry and that there must be control over the quality of work at all stages. "You should follow Stalin's methods, with work completed to strict orders," Mr. Lukashenko told Mr. Golub. Asking about problems hampering the increase of flax efficiency, he heard from Mr. Golub that farms' lack of technologies is a problem, including those relating to chemical weeding and protection against disease. Lack of machinery and skilled mechanical operators is a challenge.

Speaking of machinery, Mr. Lukashenko asked how many more specialised flax

harvesters are needed. Mr. Golub stated that around forty are needed, costing \$8 million. "This means we must find \$10 million to buy combines," noted the President, turning to Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Rusy.

During the President's working visit, the problem of providing farms with high quality domestically grown seeds was discussed. Mr. Lukashenko stressed the importance of setting up corresponding centres. "There should be no more than five or six, and we must calculate the logistics, as this involves expense. We need to study where the centres should open," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko demand-

ed that work be completed as quickly as possible, to eliminate shortcomings and to spread best practice countrywide. The President commented that, if no order had been placed at the highest level to preserve and develop the flax industry, some time ago, the branch would have ceased to exist in Belarus.

The Head of State viewed harvesters at work in the fields and, following the established tradition, invited the media to join him in scything flax.

While visiting the farm, they discussed the ongoing harvesting campaign in Belarus, with Mr. Lukashenko hearing about harvesting progress in the Vitebsk Region.

Searching for good personnel

By Vladislav Kuletsky

According to labour market research, more jobs are now available in Belarus but not enough for all unemployed job seekers. At present, employers are offering 41 percent more jobs than a year ago. Tension on the labour market has declined but remains high.

According to rabota.tut.by, in the second quarter of 2017, an average of 19,250 vacancies and almost 150,000 resumes were daily active. At the same time, the increase in vacancies was the highest in the last two years.

The number of vacancies has increased in each professional area, except perhaps for public service. Most employers need workers (the number of vacancies increased by 66 percent compared to the first quarter of 2017), and builders (up by 57 percent). The



sphere of raw material mining demonstrates record figures: 125 percent more people are needed now than three months ago. However, one third of all vacancies, as before, belong to the sphere of sales. Another 12 percent account for the IT sphere.

Interestingly, the average number of daily active CVs has hardly fallen. Resumes are most often submitted for those early in their career or newly graduated. Experts assert that the labour market has approached the level of 2015, with the number of vacancies steadily increasing across all professional spheres, while the activity of job seekers remains steady, leading to a fall in competition.



Personal financial portfolios

Will Belarusian citizens soon gain access to trading in shares of Google, Samsung, Apple and other foreign large corporations?

By Polina Konoga

Next year, Belarusians may gain access to trading in foreign companies' shares. It will be like choosing between imported tomatoes and peppers, but for more complicated products! Apple shares currently stand at \$160 each, while Gazprom's cost less than two Euros. Shares in Google or Spase X cost about \$950 each. A new financial tool is set to appear, although it's yet to be seen whether it will find consumers, and become more popular than saving money with banks. Our *MT* reporter chats with professional analysts.

Take two!

You can purchase shares in foreign companies in various ways: by addressing foreign brokers or a bank rendering trust management services. Financial institutions place their own requirements regarding buyers. For example, in order to buy shares in foreign companies through Belarusbank, it's necessary to spend at least 10,000 Dollars or Euros. Meanwhile, the minimum sum of investment is five times higher at Priorbank.

Andrey Aukhimenya, the Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange recently promised that

shares of international companies would soon be available via the Exchange.

Financial analyst Zhanna Kulakova believes that shares by foreign issuers will find their customers. However, demand for purchase is likely to be hampered by the rather complicated procedures and by the limited choice of attractive securities. The lion's share of securities for sale will be in state-owned enterprises. Meanwhile, the economic situation is unpredictable. Traditional bank deposits are easy to understand, are predictable and, most importantly, are profitable.

Nevertheless, Ms. Kulakova considers that 'simplifying the procedure for acquiring shares and expanding the range of non-residents' securities will significantly increase the attractiveness of such investments for depositors'.

New horizons of opportunities

It's clear that this form of personal investment isn't likely to become immediately popular. It will require more than convenient infrastructure to increase the number of investors in foreign shares. According to Ms. Kulakova, the low level of financial literacy and low incomes of most of the population

will restrain demand. However, some people are looking for an alternative to bank deposits, investing in bonds and precious metals and performing operations on the global financial market. The 'updated' stock market will certainly attract their attention.

If you're looking to invest in Facebook or Toyota shares, what

should you know? Firstly, in acquiring securities, you won't know in advance what percentage of your invested funds you'll receive as profit. Revenue will depend on the success of the issuing company, since shareholders receive dividends based on company profit. Secondly, you can make a profit by selling your shares at a higher-

price than you paid for them (since prices fluctuate, due to supply and demand). However, if stock value falls, you may lose out. Unlike regular savings deposits and bonds, owning shares brings risk.

Owning shares in foreign companies brings risk, although potential income is greater than for deposits.

High cost of securities means little

Vadim Iosub, senior analyst of Alpari:

We shouldn't expect that the purchase of shares in foreign companies will become as popular as, for example, banking deposits. It's unlikely that students or pensioners will suddenly hurry to buy Google shares. However, those who understand it will definitely show interest in the new instrument.

I'm often asked whether it's more profitable to purchase shares at \$1,000 than at \$10, but the price is irrelevant. It's important to follow trends over time. When it's clear that securities in a company have risen by 10 percent since the beginning of the year, and shares in another have risen by 20 per-

cent, it's clear which will bring more profit. There are two ways to make money on shares: by receiving dividends and by selling your securities for more than you paid for them. Dividends might be zero while securities' price triples within a year. Meanwhile, dividends might stand at 10 percent while the price of shares halves. Of course, the former choice is the winning one.

Let's investigate an example. Imagine that you've \$10,000 to invest in a foreign company, buying shares. You need to understand that, even if securities appear on the exchange, ordinary customers won't have direct access. You need to act via an intermediary: a professional, licensed participant

of the securities market. They can help solve the purely technical problem of gaining access to the stock exchange or may offer consultative support, for a fee.

It's important to be aware that recommendations from specialists don't guarantee making money on shares. This is the fundamental difference between the securities market and savings deposits: shares may fall in value, or rise. Meanwhile, bank deposits guarantee interest.

Buying shares in foreign companies isn't as difficult as you might think, but it's not as simple as making a bank deposit. The appearance of new opportunities on our financial market should lead to a rise in public financial literacy.

Integration between states best judged via concrete actions

Astana hosts session of Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, with delegations from Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan discussing further integration within the Eurasian Economic Union and deciding several important issues long viewed as problematic

By Vyacheslav Ivanov

Member states are pleased with the development of co-operation within the EAEU, with economies gradually reviving: the volume of EAEU trade (including with other countries) has increased by 25 percent of late, while export growth exceeds 10 percent. Moreover, members confirm that the share of energy goods is falling, making trade more balanced.

“It’s very pleasant that our session is the first of recent years to be held against a background of economic revival for EAEU member states. Growth is becoming more sustainable and we’re seeing positive dynamics across several economic branches, which inspires optimism,” Belarus’ Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov stated in his welcome speech.

However, obstacles remain to foreign trade: more than sixty barriers, over various branches. They’ve been brought together under a single register and, by the next meeting, our heads of government are to discuss the first ‘roadmap’, to eliminate some restrictions. Now, the accent is on the creation of a mechanism of traceability for



Visiting the Belarusian exhibition at EXPO 2017

goods within the EAEU.

“Such a mechanism is vital,” stressed Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. “It’s evident that we must have traceability, without closed spheres. This should cover all types of business activity.”

Countries will be implementing such a mechanism in creating a single digital space. In various EAEU states, particularly in Belarus and Russia, a digital economy

programme has been approved. However, it’s clear that, if the EAEU states create a single market, a common digital space will need to cover the whole Eurasian region. On the eve of the major session, the heads of EAEU governments discussed this mechanism of digital traceability for goods.

“We need an efficient system to counteract ‘grey’ schemes of avoiding customs and tax duties,

to prevent illegal trade. Belarus has an obligation to fulfil everything and we expect the same from all sides. Traceability should work on a mutual basis,” Mr. Kobyakov underlined.

The treaty on pension provision for employees of EAEU member states is not moving as quickly as we would like, as Mr. Kobyakov noted. “Millions of people who have worked in several EAEU

states are waiting for this treaty. The issue is sensitive but the interests of people should be protected, taking into account the financial opportunities of our states.”

The heads of government plan to finish the document by the end of this year, to commence ratification in 2018.

The session of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council also adopted a dozen general proposals, such as for the establishment of a commission to investigate aviation accidents, and another to monitor customs declaration of goods brought into the EAEU from China. The session also looked at mutual recognition of national and international driving licenses. This would help remove contradictions regarding the validity of foreign driving licenses in Russia, and the principle of free movement of labour within the EAEU. Russia is making serious concessions to its allies. According to the Russian State Inspection for Traffic Security (GIBDD), 30 percent of all road accidents are the fault of CIS citizens. Meanwhile, their level of training leaves much to be desired, with only 10 percent passing the exam on their first attempt.

Military demonstrate their mettle

By Anton Kostyukovich

International Army Games-2017, gathers twenty-eight nations’ military teams, with stages held in Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China and Belarus

Each year, the scale of the Army Games grows, with teams demonstrating skills in air defence through to construction of temporary bridges to cross a river. It’s no accident that the Army Games are called a military Olympiad. Pleasantly, the national team of Belarus’ Armed Forces was ranked 4th in the overall team standings.

As ever, the most spectacular event was the tank biathlon, taking place on the last day of the Army Games. Our tankmen performed confidently at all stages, ensuring a place in the finals. However, just



Machinery from Belarus demonstrates high capabilities

a few minutes separated the squad from the medals podium, leaving Belarus placed fourth among nineteen participants. In total, the Belarusian national military team took part in thirteen disciplines and earned second place in the ‘Clean Sky’, ‘Safe Route’, ‘Engineering Formulae’, ‘Masters of

Artillery Fire’, ‘Field Kitchen’ and ‘Faithful Friend’ events, the last being a competition for dog specialists.

Anna Kovalevskaya of Belarus confidently claimed gold in the *Commonwealth Warrior* contest, held in Belarus, gaining victory in four out of five stages.

Set your sights, female snipers!

By Dmitry Neratov

Belarus welcomes Commonwealth Warrior competition

Grounds near Minsk recently welcomed armed forces teams from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, each comprising three men and one woman.

The women had to cover a 500m field of obstacles, before shooting from submachine guns and throwing knives. Lance corporal Anna Kovalevskaya, of Belarus, showed the best time, being absolute champion of the *Commonwealth Warrior* competition. Second place went to junior sergeant Lilia Dautova of Russia, followed by junior sergeant of Kazakhstan Lyudmila Gubareva.

The men’s contest saw Orynbek Sandybekov take first place: a junior sergeant with Kazakhstan’s Armed



Lance corporal Anna Kovalevskaya (L)

Forces. A representative of the Belarusian Armed Forces, Artem Pushnev, came second, with bronze going to a senior sergeant of the Belarusian Armed Forces, Sergey Chernov. The programme included nominations of ‘Athlete’, ‘Professional’ and ‘Sniper’, as well as an intellectual round and a contest of talents.

Friends, bonjour!

Almost six months ago, Minsk National Airport welcomed its first visa-free tourists. What inspires foreigners to fly to Belarus for five days and what could entice them to stay longer?

By Anna Kurak

Claude searching for treasure

Claude Lucien from Toulouse visits Minsk several times a year. He has many Internet friends here and is delighted by Belarus' visa-free opportunity. "It's great! I save both money and time. Previously, it took several days to gain a visa — collecting documents and standing in queues. I now only need to buy a ticket and insurance and take a certificate to the bank," he smiles. Claude loves Belarusian nature, Slav girls and our attractive prices. He's toured all our regional cities and many of the district centres. As a true Frenchman, he's searching for his great love...

Since February 12th, when the visa-free regime came into force, 35,000 foreigners have visited Belarus, arriving mostly from the USA, Europe and China — usually visiting relatives and friends. Guests come less often out of pure tourist curiosity, but many are businessmen, having communicated with partners by phone and then negotiating face to face. They spend a day on business matters and then several more seeing the country.

Give me ten!

Vitaly Gritsevich, the Deputy Director of the Department of Tourism at the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus, tells us, "It was planned that the inflow of foreign tourists would grow by 20-25 percent, but the figures for the first five months have been pleasantly surprising: the airport's load has increased by a third. We can say that the visa-free regime has justified itself."

It's already clear that five days are not enough: both tourists and hosts are asking to increase the term. "Sanatorium-resort holidaying ac-

counts for the lion's share of tourist service exports from Belarus. Most programmes at health resorts envisage at least ten days of stay. If we want foreigners to come to our sanatoriums, the visa-free regime should be increased to at least 10-20 days," Mr. Gritsevich adds.

Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, has already confirmed that the Government is discussing the extension of the regime to ten days. In early July, the



HISTORICAL FACTS:

Belarus took its first steps towards a visa-free regime back in 2015, when foreigners were allowed to stay for three days in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha. The pilot project produced modest results, with about five thousand tourists using the scheme. Another visa-free project was launched along the Avgustovsky Canal and through its neighbouring territories, including the city of Grodno, attracting tourists from Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. On the first May weekend, border guards registered record figures, with over 2,000 foreign guests crossing the border: an impressive figure for the regional centre.

Deputy Minister of Sports and Tourism of Belarus, Mikhail Portnoy, said that our Belarusian and Chinese leaders had agreed to work on visa-



Visa-free travel was initially tested for trips to the Avgustovsky Canal, bringing foreign guests for cruises and picturesque hiking, while enjoying national cuisine

DIRECT SPEECH

Helping with electronic visas Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Taleb Rifai:

It's much more profitable to attract tourists for longer periods. Foreigners would like to stay longer. It's not necessary to expand the list of countries. Rather, you need to switch to an electronic visa option, so that visitors can fill out all information online. It's safe and convenient: a tourist can immediately pay for their visa online and receive a code to enter the country. Many are already using this mechanism and it's working well, saving time for everyone. On our part, we're ready to offer all necessary assistance.

Moreover, foreigners ask for help in finding a place serving tasty potato pancakes: a mandatory article of their programme. The stereotype of Belarus as a 'country of potatoes' has spread to all continents. Those who travel beyond Minsk go to Mir and Nesvizh, while the tourist potential of other Belarusian cities goes unexplored.

Claude complains that most of the information available online refers to Minsk, while foreigners can find little about the regions. Last winter, it was announced that the Gomel Region alone had over a hundred tourist programmes ready for the visa-free regime, envisaging a five day stay. Everything is planned, to the smallest detail — including transfer from the airport, interpreting services, food and accommodation. With museum visits, a night on a country estate, and kayaking or rafting on the Pripyat or the Dnieper, there's truly something for everyone, but many foreigners remain unaware. Pleasingly, the Belarus. Travel portal (launched this January) has been already translated into English; it's now possible to schedule travel through the Belarusian regions. However, much work lies ahead.

free entry to Belarus for citizens of China for up to 30 days; so far, this refers to group tours only.

Potato pancakes as country's brand

Staff at a Minsk travel agency specialising in the admission of foreigners say that many come to Belarus with a 'script' in mind. They surf the Internet and prepare a plan: to see the Great Patriotic War History Museum, the Stalin Line, Troitsky Suburb and a sightseeing tour around Minsk. These are common sights.



Greetings from the Bronze Age

By Sergey Golesnik

Locksmith from Novopolotsk, Mikhail Voronko, aged 48, donates 4,000-year-old bronze axe to museum

Mikhail works at Naftan JSC's Polymir Plant and is an avid fisherman and mushroom picker. While visiting his native village in the Polotsk District, he was down a quiet lane, when he noticed something glittering in the raw earth at the edge of a field. Oil pipelines were being laid there and the axe had been brought to the surface. He took the find to Polotsk's museum workers, who dated it to the 2nd-early 1st millennium BC! Recently, the ancient artefact joined the Polotsk Local History Museum's exhibition.

Tamara Dzhumantseva, the Director of the Polotsk National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve, has called it a unique exhibit for the city. "We haven't many ancient bronze objects, especially those in a good state. We'll study whether there's something similar in the country's museums. It's hard to assert whether this artefact from the early Bronze Age was used in our area or was brought from elsewhere," she adds.

The wooden handle of the axe was bent, while the bronze part, with lateral protrusions, was fastened to it with leather straps. The axe was used either for military or commercial purposes. It's another puzzle which scientists need to investigate.



Beauty at its best

By Yelizaveta Baranova

Around half of Minsk hair salons provide services graded as 'four' out of five, with cut and styling skills praised

Minsk City Executive Committee has assessed 240 hair studios and thirty-one beauty salons (14.8 percent of the total) with a mark of '5', while 105 (50 percent) are graded as '4'. Only eighteen have received a mark of '2' while three have managed only the lowest mark (of '1').

In May, 15.4 percent of salons were assessed as '5' while 51.7 percent were assessed as good and received '4'.



Deadly terror attack on streets of Barcelona

Spain saw one of its most violent days in recent memory as a spate of incidents throughout the country appeared to be connected to a terror attack in Barcelona that left 13 people dead and more than 100 injured

Authorities said they are working under the assumption that two other deadly events, a terrorist incident in the seaside city of Cambrils and a house explosion farther down the coast in Alcanar, were

linked to the van attack in Barcelona that had ISIS taking credit.

Also two police officers in Barcelona were hurt when they were hit by a car, but police were unsure whether that was related

to the other incidents. The deadly events began in the early evening with a van plowing through crowds on the renowned Las Ramblas avenue, a popular tourist section of Barcelona. Authori-

ties said of the 80 people taken to hospitals, 15 were seriously hurt.

As police searched for the van driver, Spain's Prime Minister called it an act of 'jihadi terrorism'.

UK to seek Irish border waivers on customs and food safety after Brexit

Britain will seek a series of waivers for goods and people crossing the Northern Ireland border under new plans that risk creating a 'back door' with the European Union after Brexit

The government aims to avoid the need for border posts with Ireland when the UK leaves the EU, an ambitious goal seen as essential to preserving the Good Friday peace agreement. "The UK and Ireland have been clear all along that we need to prioritise protecting the Belfast agreement in these negotiations, and ensure the land border is as seamless as possible for people and businesses," said David Davis, the UK's Brexit Secretary. Details of the plan unveiled by Whitehall officials have, however, sparked a series of difficult questions about what the knock-on impact of having no border may be for wider EU-UK relations.

Sixt CEO hints at car-sharing merger talks between BMW and Daimler

German carmakers Daimler and BMW may be in talks to combine their car-sharing services Car2Go and DriveNow, Sixt Chief Executive Erich Sixt, whose company owns part of DriveNow, hinted

Asked whether Sixt was involved in merger talks with Daimler and BMW, he said: "At the last press conference I made clear that we are not involved. Today I can only say no comment. This is of course a different statement from the last one. Why things are dragging on is not down to us."

Drug raids in Philippines: 58 have been killed

Fifty-eight people have been killed in the Philippines over two nights

26 died in the capital Manila, following a death toll of 32 in Bulacan Province the day before. Police say all the victims were criminals involved in narcotics: many of them were shot during the course of 'buy-bust' operations carried out by undercover officers.

The deaths mark a lethal spike in the number of dead as a result of President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial war on drugs. Even so, it is estimated that over 3,400 have been killed since the campaign's inception.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Google acquires maker of the Fabby application

Computer vision — the branch of artificial intelligence that lets computers 'see' and process images like humans do (and, actually, often better than us), and then use those images to help run programs — is at the heart of how the next generation of tech is developing, and Google made an acquisition to help it along with its own efforts in this area

The search and Android giant has acquired AIMatter, a startup founded in Belarus that has built

both a neural network-based AI platform and SDK to detect and process images quickly on mobile devices, and a photo and video editing app that has served as a proof-of-concept of the tech called Fabby.

Terms of the sale are not being disclosed, but we understand that Fabby — which has had over 2 million downloads — will continue to run, and from what we understand most of AIMatter's employees will come over to Google. AIMatter had people working in Minsk, the Bay Area, and Zurich.

Saudi Arabia welcomes Qatari pilgrims

Saudi Arabia has said that it will welcome Qatari pilgrims traveling to perform the Hajj in Mecca this year

Qataris have been unable to travel to the kingdom since June, when Saudi Arabia and three of its allies accused Doha of supporting terrorism, and imposed sanctions.

Qatari pilgrims will now be able to enter the country via the Salwa border point, which has been closed since the start of the blockade. Previously it was thought they would only be able to enter the country via two airports.

Doha had complained to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion that the Kingdom's stance politicised the Hajj, which is a sacred duty for Muslims. The announcement came after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman received a diplomatic envoy from Doha and is the first sign of compromise in the



long-running stand-off. The Hajj is an annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest site, Mecca, in modern-day Saudi Arabia. It's one of the seven pillars of Islam, and a sacred duty for all Muslim adults who are physically able to complete it, and who can support their family at home whilst doing so. It derives from traditions which date back thousands of years to the time of Abraham, and employs rituals established by the Prophet Mohammed in the seventh century.

Revealing black-and-white enchantment of old photos

Exhibition at National Art Museum, dedicated to Minsk's 950th anniversary, demonstrates two hundred photos dating back to the 1930s-1960s, showing Minsk's restoration and reconstruction, as captured by Belarusian artists Nikolay Mikholap and Anatoly Tychina

By Mikhail Veremeev

Many of the photos have never before been published, finding their way into the museum's archives following the death of the artists. Their families have donated the photos, which are 'amateur' shots, but which offer an interesting portrayal of the city in its resurrection, following the damage of war. Naturally, the photographs show what was interesting to the painters at that time, taken with a FED-1 miniature camera — a copy of the German Leica II.

Despite their difference in age, Nikolay Mikholap and Anatoly Tychina knew each other well and were good friends. Before the war, Mikholap headed a Picture Gallery while Tychina worked as a painter in the Museum of Revolution. When WWII broke, Tychina was the first to help Mikholap package exhibits from the Picture Gallery. They were united not only by their creative spirit but by a love for Minsk, where they often met and walked, observing each new building or sculpture which was erected. One photo, from the 1950s, remains, showing both of them deep in thought, on the banks of the overflowing Svisloch River.

Nikolay Mikholap was born in Minsk and his father was a railway worker. In 1941, he managed to evacuate from Minsk, together with his family, and returned in 1944. His view of his native city is very special, recording what was lost and saved. He sought out the poetic corners of wounded



Minsk (familiar from his childhood) and captured the 'new Minsk', of the early 1950s. Some shots show what no longer exists: street lamps and outdoor decorative vases, gypsum lions near Pobedy Square, and a whole series of gypsum figures of gymnasts, which stood near the River Svisloch, on Karl Marx Street, where Mikholap's house was situated.

Nikolay Mikholap captured the destroyed Domini-

can Cathedral and the red-brick water tower, as well as taking a rare shot of urban buildings in front of the Holy Spirit Cathedral (destroyed in early 1970s). Mikholap had special interest in Minsk buildings, focusing on balcony lattice-work, forged gates and window surrounds.

After his return, he worked as a scientific secretary at the Architecture Department of the Council of Ministers, being tasked with developing such small items as city lamps, façade moulding and decorative sculptures. He thoroughly studied what had survived of traditional

Minsk architectural decoration, while capturing new elements of the city under construction.

Anatoly Tychina, who was born in Lithuania, began his artistic chronicles in Minsk in 1922. He spent the war years in occupied Minsk, surviving the tragedy of the

city. He endured hunger and a hand-to-mouth existence and feared for the life of his relatives, residing at 8 Tolstoy Street. It was a place in which under-grounders gathered. His photos from the 1950s capture Minsk with almost wooden streets, smothered in gardens. However, the features of the new city were becoming apparent.

These photos were created with the goal of continuing a pre-war series of lithographs, entitled *My Minsk*, which enjoyed great popularity in the 1930s. Meanwhile, the rarest photo in the museum collection is a photo of a parade of railway workers, on May 1st, 1937, dedicated to the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the October Revolution. An armoured train drove along Lenin Square, in front of Government House.

Naturally, artists look with an artistic eye; Mikholap and Tychina's shots are lyrical and poetic, depicting a panorama of urban life. Simple clothes are seen drying

in the breeze, while lone passers-by roam the city streets. City churches lie in ruin and the new House of Trade Unions building is seen under construction. Some scenes are sad, many trees having been cut down during the war years. The city appears almost deserted, while the River Svisloch overflows, in the section near Gorky Park.

Often, the quality of printing is low and sizes are small, but these shots accurately reflect the spirit of their time and the atmosphere of Minsk, from the 1930s-1960s. Details are very important and it's necessary to look thoroughly, to feel the nuance of urban life in the past.

Dreams where reality interwines with fantasy

Minsk's exhibition by Sergey Pyzhikov, *Searching for the Paradise*, takes numerous audience into the unknown

By Mikhail Veremeev

Sergey Pyzhikov is a teacher at the Belarusian Scientific-Technical University. He travels in his free time to unknown places, untouched by civilisation. Moreover, he is a photographer and a romantic philosopher.

However, it's also important to mention that Sergey Pyzhikov has had dreams of becoming a painter since his childhood. This dream has come true in old age. Since 1989 he has been regularly taking part in artistic exhibitions in Belarus, Russia and Germany. His works have been exhibited in Minsk and in many other Belarusian cities, including Molodechno, Slutsk, Krupki, Nesvizh and Mir.

Sergey Pyzhikov's works are contemplations on world issues and the place of humans on earth. At the same time, these are also the painter's dreams where reality mingles with fantasy. The author says that his pictures take the audience into the unknown where there's no place for bustling thoughts but there's an opportunity to understand something mysterious which is hidden in nature and in ourselves. The painter's pictures are diverse: from native landscapes to fantastic alien scenes. The major components of the compositions are elements as symbols: sky, earth,



water, fire and clouds. Metaphors, used by the artist, are spacious and meaningful: trees 'overflow' into each other; fiery lava transforms into a wooden trunk rising into the sky; clouds act a bridge between sky and the earth... Each canvas arouses a whole range of associations through which the major idea of the work is reflected.

MT REFERENCE:

In 1982, Sergey Pyzhikov finished his studies at the Design Chair of the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute. He lives in Minsk and is a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists. He works in painting and graphical art and the works of this author are kept in private collections in Belarus, Russia, the UK, Turkey, Israel, Switzerland, the USA, Italy and Canada.

Co-operative programme between two museums

By Oleg Bogomazov

Collection of 1917-1920s Soviet posters of National History Museum of Belarus on show at exhibition in St. Petersburg

We Will Build Our New World exhibition has opened at the Commandant's House, inside St. Peter and Paul's Fortress. Prepared by the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg and the National History Museum of the Republic of Belarus, the event is being organised in line with a programme of international co-operation between our two museums. Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the February and October revolutions, it showcases posters, postcards and items from porcelain dedicated to revolutionary events and the first years of Soviet power. The art of political posters began to develop in 1917, as a means of political propaganda and awareness-raising. Many outstanding painters and literary figures worked in this genre, enabling posters to become a bright phenomenon in the history of graphic art, reflecting major trends.

The St. Petersburg museum is displaying Soviet political posters owned by the National History Museum of Belarus, donated in the second half of the 20th century by Leningrad resident Tikhon Vorobiev. The collection comprises large numbers of posters, postcards, satirical magazines, and leaflets, which reflect the history of the Russian Empire, the RSFSR, USSR and foreign states in the early 20th century.

Fate of the rarity is now known

By Oksana Nevmerzhtskaya

On the eve of the opening of the *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* exhibition, the artist's museum in Vitebsk acquired a rare exhibit — an engraving depicting the master

Employees of Minsk-2 customs transferred to the museum a black-and-white engraving from the 1920s — a portrait of Marc Chagall created by the German painter Hermann Struck. It had been confiscated due to an attempt to illegally move it across the border. However, this is not to say that the engraving was the object of a smuggling attempt. Irina Voronova, Director of the Chagall Museum in Vitebsk, describes the difficult journey of the exhibit to the museum, "Thanks to Hermann Struck, a new stage in Marc Chagall's creativity be-

gan. They first became acquainted in Berlin. The German painter was among those who were making drawings in regions occupied by the Germans during WWI. Moreover, he was also a talented teacher who worked using the techniques of lithography and etching. Marc Chagall was his pupil."

Hermann Struck always engraved a portrait of each of his pupils and the latter had to depict their teacher in return. Art historians have long believed that Chagall's portrait, created by Struck, existed somewhere.

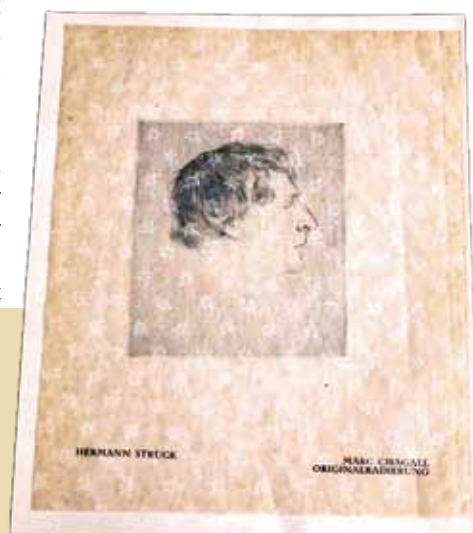
The first engraving appeared in our country thanks to collector Vladimir Bogdanov who purchased a series of Struck's works connected

with WWI and Belarus in an internet auction. They included an etching depicting Chagall. Wanting to present this to the museum on the 130th anniversary of the birth of the painter, the collector

found and ordered one more engraving. Objects of cultural value however, are not allowed to be sent through international mail without

MT REFERENCE:

Art historians long believed in the existence of an engraving, depicting Chagall, and now they have finally received it into the museum collection



Hermann Struck engraved a portrait of each of his pupils



Most precious coins can be found in international mail

observing special regulations. Consequently, the engraving was held at customs. Having learnt that it will become state property, employees of the museum prepared a petition to transfer the engraving to their exhibition. On the eve of the exhibition, the head of Minsk-2 customs, Andrey Mikhalkovich, solemnly transferred it to museum representatives. Minsk-2 customs from time to time 'supplies' exhibits to the country's museums: over the first six months, 30 rare exhibits have found their place in museum show-cases. Twenty-two cases have been recorded of illegal export of items of cultural value in international mail without declaring them. These included precious coins, medals, banknotes engravings, pieces of Japanese painting and a porcelain cup.

Positive emotions from performing at home stage

Five medals — three gold, one silver and one bronze — earned by Belarusian national team, at FIG World Cup, held in Minsk

By Alexey Grishin

The men's Rio de Janeiro Olympic champion, Belarusian Vladislav Goncharov, was truly unrivalled. In the final, he received the highest score, of 60.755 points, while second place went to British Nathan Bailey, with 59.165 points. Another Belarusian, Oleg Ryabt-



Maria Makharinskaya of Belarus (L) earns silver in competitions among women

sev, scored 59.100, to take bronze.

Among the women, first place went to Yana Pavlova of Russia, with 56.065 points, followed by Belarusian Maria Makharinskaya, with 56.030 points, and Russia's Victoria Voronina, closing with 55.160 points.

In the synchronised trampoline event, the Belarusian team won two gold medals: Maria Makharinskaya and Anna Gorchenok were named best among the women, having earned 48,700 points, while Nikita Ilyinykh and Artem Zhuk took gold with 51.280 points.

"It's nice to win at home; I made no serious mistakes. I'm also glad for our young sportsmen, who demonstrated their capabilities well at the Sports Palace. I think the Belarusian national team performed well at the World Cup in Minsk," Vladislav Goncharov commented,

after the event.

The Belarusian trampoline team will now begin training for the Cup of Belarus, before going to Portugal for the third stage of the World Cup, with the ultimate World Cup rounds hosted by Bulgarian Sofia, from November 5th-13th.



Thorny path to World Cup

By Igor Svitov

Basketball national team of Belarus loses in away match to Portugal but passes pre-qualification for 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup

In the last pre-qualification match for 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup, our basketball team lost to Portugal in an away match — 78:79 (overtime) but is placed second in Group D, enabling it to enter the next round.

Previously, Belarus de-

feated Portugal at home — 78:75, allowing us through to the next stage, surpassing the guests in additional parameters.

The match in Coimbra was a challenge, as our players had to do a great deal of catching up, but, importantly, are now through to the next stage of selection for the world event.

Artem Parakhovsky performed brilliantly, producing a double-double: 16 points and 17 rebounds, while Vitaly Lyutyich earned 18 points for the Belarusian squad.

Match ending in a draw but was disappointment for BATE

First playoff match of Europa League sees BATE Borisov draw against Ukrainian Oleksandriya at home

BATE was considered a favourite before the match and certainly took the initiative early on. Thankfully, after missing out on four matches, disqualified for his behaviour during the last European season, BATE captain Vitaly Rodionov has returned to the team. The experienced striker immediately pushed forward

and, with his younger partners, began to threaten the rivals' net. The initial attack was a success, with a goal in the 8th minute, to the lower corner, completed by Mirko Ivanic (assisted by Mikhail Gordeichuk).

In the 19th minute, in a rare counter-attack, Ukraine managed their own goal. Moving along the left flank to make a pass to the penalty area, Yevhen Banada sent the ball into Denis Shcherbitsky's goal, leaving the score at 1:1. The



Moment of BATE-Oleksandriya match

Ukrainian team rallied after this success but failed to score again, despite several chances.

The final score sends Oleksandriya through to the next round, where it needs a goalless draw.

According to team leader's plans

By Kirill Karin

Darya Domracheva completes training for new season in Oberhof

The Belarusian biathlete has reported on her progress on social networks. The triple Olympic champion has completed training in a ski tunnel and, jointly with her husband (eight-time Olym-

pic champion Ule-Einar Bjoerdalen) has improved her marksmanship. "The summer is near its end and we're packing our suitcases, preparing for the next training session," Darya says. In her photos, on social networks, she appears in a new uniform, as sewn in Minsk. The leader of the Belarusian national team will continue

her training in Italian Bormio. The women's team of Belarus recently completed training in Obertilliach and has moved to Oberhof. In September, they'll return to Raubichi, to train for the new season. Our Belarusian biathletes will launch their winter season on November 23rd, in Sweden's Ostersund (where the first stage of the

World Cup will be held). The Winter Olympics are to take place from February 9th-25th, 2018, in Korean Pyeongchang. Meanwhile, Darya Yurkevich and Kristina Ilchenko, of the women's national biathlon team, are about to attend the summer World Championships, hosted by Russian Chaikovsky, from August 25th-27th.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, August 24, 2017

Festival of the week



The Way of the Vikings festival held in the Sula park-museum of interactive history, in the Minsk Region's Stolbtsy District

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 31st August. *Aivazovsky and Marine Painters* Until 31st August. *Magic of Old Photos* Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* Until 20th September. *Masters of Polish Drawing* Until 24th September. *Mikhail Blishch: Dedicated to 100th Anniversary of His Birth* Until 1st October. *City. Architecture. We*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Story* educational programme
Until 3rd September. *IND-BEL-ART*

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 2nd September. *Hurry to Meet Poet*
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 30th June 2018. *Legacy of Belarus: Devotion to Minsk's 950th Birthday*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 11th September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybitykaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9th September. *The Artist and the City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Pictorial Art*

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 1st September. *Made in USSR* Until 10th September. *Pictures and High Fashion*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 31st August. *Summer of Cat Platoshka*

KOMSOMOLSKOE LAKE

Pobediteley Avenue
Until 17th September. *Art-Islands* project

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN FOLK ART

Raubichi oillage
Until 17th September. *Miraculous Samarkand*

UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Street
Until 31st August. *Path to Satori:* exhibition of Dmitry Lysyuk's origami

THEATRES

TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue
29.08. TheatreHD: *Angels in America*. Part 1: *Millennium Approaching*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
24.08. *Viva Commedia!* 25.08. *Circle of*

Love 26.08. *Lady for Day*
27.08. *Oedipus*
29.08. *The Twelfth Night*
30.08. *Tricks of Khanuma*

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
29.08. *French Express*

CONCERTS

PALACE OF TRADE UNIONS

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue
30 and 31.08. *Debora Davis*

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
24.08. *Frédéric Chopin*
27 and 28.08. *Days of National Cultures*

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street
24.08. *Rage Against the Machine* tribute-concert
25.08. *The Apples / Double C*
26.08. *Machines on Mute & Merlyn Monroe*
27.08. *Ru.St band*
30.08. *BB Ship*
31.08. *The Yankees of Moor*

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
25.08. *Disco from 1980s and 1990s*
26.08. *Disco from 1990s and 2000s*
29.08. *Amon Amarth*

SVOBODY SQUARE

Minsk
26.08. *Classics by the Town Hall*

GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane
24.08. *Krama band in concert*
25.08. *Mutnaevoka: Acoustics*

LOSHITSA PARK

10 Chizhevsky Lane
24, 28 and 31.08. *Khatkha Yoga*

ZORKA

10 Odintsov Street
24, 28 and 31.08. *Open Air Yoga*

YANKA KUPALA PARK

24, 25, 30.08. *Cycling School*. Minsk

FREESTYLE SPORTING CENTRE

4A Surganov Street
25-26.08. *Belarus' Open Championship in Water Ski Jumping*

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