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INTERNATIONAL

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Aleksandr Kulevsky

During the Education of the Capital: New Realities and Opportunities city educational forum in Minsk

Time of knowledge

September 1st is Knowledge Day. This is one of the most memorable, exciting and joyful days for all participants of the educational process. The new academic year will give all schoolchildren and students new knowledge, creative meetings, amazing discoveries and all the opportunities to show their talents. It will begin with the first lesson entitled *Belarus and I – a Dialogue of Peace and Creation*, which is consonant with the theme of the Year of Peace and Creation, under the idea of which the year 2023 passes.

This academic year, 2,865 secondary schools across the country will accept over 1 million pupils, including 110,000 first-graders.

Knowledge will give the young generation of Belarusians the opportunity to find themselves in the modern world, to become true citizens and patriots of their native land.



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The President of Belarus: ‘The country must be preserved, and we must mobilise in this regard’

The prospects for the work of BSU and the fine-tuning of the entire system of higher education became the main topics of the meeting with the participation of the President at the Belarusian State University

The Head of State immediately offered to openly and frankly discuss the problems in order to finally fine-tune the system of higher education this year. Various opinions and proposals were voiced at the meeting, some quite radical, while Aleksandr Lukashenko orients the entire field of higher education,

“This is a state-run higher education institution. Therefore, whether you like it or not, the government policy should be clearly observed here. We need to get mobilised in order to go through this period. The country must be preserved, and we must mobilise in this regard.”

The Head of State emphasised that the impetus for the meeting at BSU was given by the rector himself, “It was at his suggestion that I decided to meet today, although the topic is very pressing.

BSU is more than a university. It is the history and future of the country. Founded during the formation of the Belarusian statehood, it has come to epitomise the scientific and industrial power of contemporary Belarus.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the current level of university developments, “Your projects are really cutting-edge. I knew that you were doing this, but I did not think that you had advanced to such a high level. We will draw the attention of our manufacturers to this. You have already created important developments. Especially space, drones are the future.”

The President said at the meeting that he was informed about a number of problems in the functioning of the Belarusian State University, “Moreover, I remember the year 2020 very well when you showed your true face. But I did not make any remarks then. You may have noticed that. I did not criticise you. I thought that you were an advanced part of our society and would eventually understand everything you had done here.

On behalf of the Head of State, the work of the Belarusian State University was studied by the President Administration, various departments, open and closed meetings were held. An expert analysis was requested from the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and other government bodies. Reports submitted to the Head of State contained a number of essential problems in the operation of the university, including poor personnel policy of the administration, insufficient involvement of the rector’s office and first of all, the rector in administrative work.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out that, on his instructions, the government conducted an attestation of the rectors of all the country’s universities. The Head of State is categorically not satisfied with the conclusions drawn on the basis of the work carried out,



“The results are upsetting. Some rectors rest on their laurels, delegate their administrative functions to deputies, focus on journalism, and perform purely representative functions.”

With regard to the performance review of the Belarusian State University rector the government put forward a radical proposal due to a significant number of issues in the operation of the university. The Education Ministry is also of the opinion about changing the leadership of the university. The President made his position, “For now I am not in favour of this decision. And it is one of the most important reasons for today’s meeting. At present when we have realised and understood a lot, it is unacceptable to make a personnel decision in a haphazard way.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko directly asked BSU Rector Andrei Korol a question, “Can you manage the university and solve existing problems or not? Because you can’t sit still. I do not demand a revolution from you, but we will force you to move progressively towards the goal, whoever is here.”

BSU Rector Andrei Korol answered the Head of State’s questions resolutely, “Yes, I can. I say it firmly. The Belarusian State University sees its main mission in helping enrolled students to unlock their potential, transforming it into human capital, which is one of the most valuable resources of the state in the era of technological change.”

A serious conversation will take place in all universities

Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the results of the meeting at the Belarusian State University during a conver-

sation with journalists after the event. He stressed that a conversation similar to the one that took place at the Belarusian State University should be held in all universities, “We must meet and talk with the heads of universities, with students, to convey our position. They will accept it or not, someone will sit out, keep silent — this is their business. But this should be done on behalf of the President. Even if it’s not the President. Natalya Ivanovna Kochanova went somewhere — she must convey the position of the President. And let people sit there and think, so that later it would be disrespectful. Because not everything is clear. It cannot be unam-



Scientific developments of BSU

biguous. This is a university, this is freethinking. Take history, it has always been like this everywhere. Therefore, an amendment must be made, but no

enemy overshoots should be allowed. The country must be saved, and we must mobilise in this regard.”

The Head of State also asked journalists to share their opinion on the tough conversation at BSU. ONT political commentator Igor Tur remarked, “In my opinion, there is a lot of work in universities everywhere, of course. The most important thing is that there should be no formalism in this work. There is a great temptation to write on paper that everything is fine, but then we will have to clear up.”

“I came here to make sure that everything was written that way. Everything must be compared, weighed, and conclusions drawn. It is necessary to approach these issues subtly and carefully. God forbid we start to ‘push’ our own people. Here comes the trouble! Therefore, we must carefully pass this time,” the President said in response.

“After all, political opponents are not the only task,” Igor Tur remarked.

“Naturally. If we have a basis (the economy, normal people and politics will be carried out normally), then there will be fewer opponents. They will always be, but there will be fewer of them, and they will be afraid to even lean out into the street. This is the main thing,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

‘The Western hegemony is not on its last legs yet. But that was a strong move in this direction’

The BRICS summit ended last week in South Africa. Based on its results, it was decided that six new states will join the organisation starting next year: Argentina, Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. In the West, they have already begun to noticeably get nervous about this, and therefore the question

of the political observer of STV Aлена Syrovaya to the Belarusian leader appeared: does he think that Western hegemony is ending.



BELTA

The Head of State shared his opinion on this matter, “I think that the Western hegemony is not on its last legs yet. But that was a strong move in this direction. This put on high alert not only media, but also high-level politicians. There is something to think about. This is a huge step towards a multipolar world.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that, speaking at the time at the SCO summit, he noted, “Many of progressive mankind have turned towards the SCO. And we should not be late, we need to pull up these forces in order to make this organisation powerful, so that this centre of power appears... BRICS has taken this step. Great. This is the first step. And then we might see some settlement mechanisms, some currency. This is what they fear most of all, especially the Americans who call the shots. They are fully aware that the dollar might soon be replaced by a new currency, and their hegemony will come to an end. They will no longer be able to ride this gravy train. Instead of printing these dollars they will have to earn them the hard way like we and the rest of the world do.”

The Head of State noted that he himself is a ‘more radical’ person and usually calls for more decisive steps, “Yet, sometimes I get doubts whether these more drastic steps will be possible, as there are conflicting opinions and approaches. Yet, the main thing is to keep pushing forward. We must move in this direction. And it’s good that China and India were not against it, even though Americans are courting them. They have made progress in this matter... This is almost half of the world’s population. No wonder Narendra Modi [Indian Prime Minister] said that in the near future it will be the fastest growing economy. Yes, it will be so. It has been posting high growth rates this year already, it has already caught up with China. So I would like this alternative centre to come into being. This is necessary for much-needed multipolarity to appear. We used to be afraid to even pronounce this word ‘multipolarity’. The first time I spoke about the need for a multipolar world was twenty years ago in China. And the world is moving towards this now. Thank God.”

‘Belarus is a peaceful country and has no claims to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland’

Western neighbors have voiced their intention to close the border with Belarus. The head of the department for covering the activities of the President of BELTA Vladimir Matveyev asked how Aleksandr Lukashenko assesses these steps of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

“I don’t quite understand Lithuania and Latvia. Most likely they are just get-

ting ahead of themselves. They should make sure they don’t get crushed by it. They want to show off. But the consequences will be unfavourable for them. If they want to close the borders, they should go ahead and do it. We don’t travel to Lithuania and Latvia anyway, and we don’t work via them. For whom will they make things worse? They will make things worse only for themselves and their own people. They are afraid that their people have started coming to us and see how we live. And so their people were already impoverished. I said that in winter they took firewood from us. Because they put a potbelly stove, but there is nothing to heat. And for God’s sake! We will help them! It is necessary — we will help for free so that people can endure this. Face their people. People over there are no fools. They are strong and seasoned. Just like

‘They respect us. They look to us’

Director General of the National Library of Belarus, political scientist, regular contributor to *SB. Belarus Today* Vadim Gigin asked how the Head of State feels about the fact that the Belarusian agenda is now in the top in Poland — news from the Wagnerites to the fence at the border: is this a manipulation of public opinion?

The Belarusian leader is convinced, “They respect us. They look to us. The population is talking about it — we have to react. And what will they say today that they built the wall in vain? The leadership of Poland will not tell them [citizens of their country] that this wall is not a hindrance for migrants. It’s amazing for me too. Not a single migrant who decided to go to Poland was detained by the wall. I tell you this very responsibly.



we are. They will soon knock down these rulers. You same know, that recently government Latvia resigned. What are they, just like that? Were they bad? No, they are ruining themselves,” the Head of State noted.

Belarus, meanwhile, is pursuing a completely different policy. The Head of State recalled the visa-free regime, thanks to which about 800 thousand people have recently visited our country, “They see how we live! And in that Lithuania there are already less than two million people left. In addition, everyone who has been here, try to convince him or her that Belarus is a peaceful, normal country and has no claims to Lithuania, as well as to Latvia and Poland. We want to live in our land. We need neither Poland’s nor Lithuania’s nor Latvia’s. But they have political psychosis due to the upcoming elections. Particularly in Poland. This is why they are going to inflate tensions.”

If migrants want to go there, they go. They here [the Poles on Belarusian territory] simply throw out not only corpses, but sometimes they throw living people here and try not to let them in.

The President noted an important point — migrants do not come to Belarus, “After all, we did not create this wave. They [the European Union] refused to co-operate with us — to build these centres, finance and so on. And sanctions were imposed against us. And then I say: what are you, madmen? You imposed sanctions against me — and I will protect you from migrants? Well, catch them there. Merkel called them there at the time. They remember it. And other reasons. We are absolutely innocent that this wave of migrants has begun. It would be smaller through Belarus if there was no war in Ukraine.”

A large flow of migrants at one time went through the Ukrainian side, the Head of State noted, “They also went to Europe, through Ukraine, for big money,

when there was no this war. Now this window remains [through Belarus]. We do not take bribes from them. But we will not fight for Europe and will not tear our clothes. In connection with the policy they are pursuing.”

‘Let’s tell the Poles the truth’

As for the Belarusian issue in Poland, here the President’s opinion is as follows, “The Poles must understand: there is only one reason — they [the Polish authorities] need some kind of external enemy. Belarus, Russia — this is the enemy.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, it raises eyebrows that Poland decided to put this matter to a referendum, “They put the matter to a referendum. And they didn’t ask ‘to build or not to build’, but ‘to demolish or not’. Listen, I thought that this country was run by sensible people. It was utterly stupid to put this question to referendum! Do they really think that Poles are idiots? Poles ‘appreciated’ this move right away.”

The Head of State explained why our western neighbours need the Belarusian issue so much. “On the lips of the Poles are the words: ‘Belarus, Belarus, Belarus. Why did we (the Poles) get in there, why is this, that not? And fuel is expensive, and this is... But the Belarusians don’t have it’. They are comparing. So we have to let go. They want to jump into the parliament on this Belarusian horse and win. Will not work. We explain everything to the Poles and we will explain it. In the near future we will increase these conversations on the Polish topic. Let’s tell them the truth. Yes, and the Poles see for themselves.”

CSTO exercises start in Belarus on September 1st

Should the West consider the upcoming exercises as a special signal? Aleksandr Lukashenko was asked.

“No. Frankly speaking, I didn’t even learn the details of this exercise. But in the current situation in order not to inflate tensions, I’d like to say there is no combat component in it. Small units of some CSTO states will be there to focus mainly on staff things, tactics, and strategy for the future,” the Head of State said.

The West, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, knows about all this, Belarus warned about it in advance. Nevertheless, the President is sure that our opponents will still use this topic, “They will say that Putin and Lukashenko have once again come up with something in Belarus and are close to invading unlucky Poland again... Nothing like that. No offensive. We practice usual things that were planned a long time ago. This is why you and they do not have to worry about it.”

The President of Belarus: 'The country must be preserved, and we must mobilise in this regard'

Plane crash with Prigozhin

The crash of the plane on which the founder of the Wagner PMC, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and his associates flew is a hot topic. The incident was immediately overgrown with speculation and fakes. Journalists, predictably, could not ignore this tragic event and not take an interest in the President's opinion on some of its aspects. The Head of State answered, as always, frankly and extensively.

What is the cause of the incident? The exact answer to this question will be given by experts and investigators over time. Therefore, the Head of State said that he could not answer this question, since he was not at the scene. But the President cannot refute anything with absolute certainty. Meanwhile, some thoughts shared, "I am only starting to think: a missile shot it down, an explosion happened on board... Do you know how a missile can shoot down an aircraft? Only the commander-in-chief can order the Aerospace Forces to do something. Then the commanding officer of a specific army unit will be ordered. And he will order a specific manning detail. Do you understand how many people get involved? What idiot would do it? Although I don't deny that I'll be damned if I know, some crazy people may have done it. But I don't believe it."

At the same time, the Head of State pointed out an essential detail, "The fact that the tail had been torn away has definitely been confirmed already. It means that an explosion on board was likely. I personally don't know who did it."

Is there a 'hand of the Kremlin'? This is the most common topic for speculation. Allegedly, behind the catastrophe are the Russian authorities and almost personally Vladimir Putin. Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that his Russian colleague has nothing to do with it. Although there will still be many such fakes, and they will try to blame him. The President of Belarus noted, "I am not going to be the advocate even of my elder brother. But I know Putin. He is a calculating, very calm, and even sluggish person when he makes decisions on other, less important matters. This is why I cannot imagine that Putin did it, that Putin is guilty. It was too sloppy, unprofessional job for that matter. It doesn't look like Putin's. But whatever happened and however it happened, Putin will be blamed for it anyway. We have a system of power, both in Belarus and in Russia, like this: some kind of dirty trick happened, who is to blame — Lukashenko is to blame, why do we have to bother. Exactly the same for him. But I say that it was a sloppy, disgusting, abnormal job. And I am far from thinking that Putin did it, that he instructed someone to do it, that the government did it."

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that it would be genuine madness to order the destruction of the aircraft for a Head of State and Vladimir Putin is not that kind of person, "I know Putin. I know how scrupulous, careful, delicate he is. I don't believe he would do such a thing. And another point. It is madness for a Head of State. He is no madman. I am far from calling him white and fluffy. He has a dirty job. I am not saying he is white and fluffy, but I know that he will be blamed for everything. So it happens. The West has started shouting. Others started sing-

ing along that Putin is evil and vindictive. No matter how it happened, whatever happened, time will tell. Do you remember, the 'Black Hundred' in Belarus, they killed, they started to hang it on me? Time has passed, where is this hundred, stolen, lost and others? Time will pass and we will learn everything. It is impossible to hide it nowadays. But what happened is disgusting. It is unacceptable for me. From another point of view as well: all of us are men, war is war, but what are the three pilots and the flight attendant guilty of? Half the people over there had nothing to do with this 'march of justice'. This is why I don't understand it and don't accept it. It is unacceptable. This is what I know for sure today. It is unacceptable. Besides, why? Everything settled down, everything is fine, he co-operated (Prigozhin) with the authorities. He met with Putin. And Putin told me: he accepted it. It was true. They discussed issues, he (Prigozhin) said how he would act. What will happen tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and so on. They left, realising the situation. They met with me, I also laid everything out for them. Furthermore, they wanted to stay in Belarus. Please. Let's work out a system. Legally, contracts there and so on. Hand over weapons, ammunition there. All folded, handed over. They didn't even have guns. I say later: guys, you will allow the commanders to have pistols, anything can happen. No, no, no... Everything, we believe in Belarus, everything is put together. They didn't have heavy equipment. Therefore, everything that they agreed with Putin and agreed with me, we sacredly fulfil."

What the President of Belarus promised Prigozhin

Another fake: Aleksandr Lukashenko guaranteed security to Prigozhin and did not keep his word. The judgment is frankly far-fetched, but Aleksandr Lukashenko commented on it too, "If I had to answer

arately pay attention to security matters."

Regarding security, the Head of State gave one example from life, "The last time we flew to the UAE, I received some very serious information from deep sources. As deep as anything. About an attempt on the life of Yevgeny Prigozhin. I gave instructions and within two hours they found Russia's ambassador to the Emirates and summoned him to me. I handed over a coded telegram about the attempt on Prigozhin's life to him for delivery to Putin and Bortnikov in the Kremlin."

Sometime later Aleksandr Lukashenko asked Yevgeny Prigozhin whether he had received this information. The PMC Wagner founder confirmed that the Russian President had warned him about the assassination in the making.

In response to claims that the Belarus President had failed to deliver on the security guarantees he had promised to Yevgeny Prigozhin, Aleksandr Lukashenko responded calmly, "Well, they have to write something after all. In order to bite me and the rest. Not more than that. It is stupid. They said it yesterday and half of those, who read it, laughed right away. And a day later the other half thought: 'What does Lukashenko have to do with it? How could he ensure Prigozhin's security in Africa?' Prigozhin was flying from Africa. And then he landed in Moscow and left for St. Petersburg. How could I ensure his security? This is why I am not the guy you should be asking to answer these questions. Moreover, we've never had this conversation. About ensuring security in someone else's territory."

In its own territory the Belarusian side has honoured all the promises to PMC Wagner personnel. Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out, "They have no complaints. The KGB chief contacted them yesterday upon my instruction and handed over only one message to them from me: we will honour everything Prigozhin and I have agreed."

At the crash site of Embraer in the Tver Region



this question directly, I'd say I am not supposed to ensure Prigozhin's security. That's the first point. The second point is that we have never spoken along these lines."

The President remarked that two things had been discussed during negotiations with Yevgeny Prigozhin: the termination of criminal cases against PMC Wagner personnel and their extraction to Belarus, "I suggested it. I said: 'If you are afraid of something, I will talk to President Putin, and we will extract you to Belarus. We guarantee full security to you in Belarus'. And credit where credit is due, Yevgeny Prigozhin has never asked me to sep-

Further work of Wagner in Belarus

Judging by how quickly the 'red herings' flew from the West that the fighters had either gathered or had already flown from Belarus, many people there would like this. But, judging by the clear comment of Aleksandr Lukashenko, they will not wait, "PMC Wagner lived, PMC Wagner lives, and PMC Wagner will live in Belarus despite anyone's wishes to the contrary. Prigozhin and I came up with a system of how PMC Wagner will be accommodated in Belarus. And these satellite images claiming that we are disman-

ting something... Why are we removing extra tents? We don't need that many. The core will stay here. Some are on leave. Some decided to live somewhere else, but the core has their contact information. Within several days all of them will be here. Up to 10,000 people. There is no need to keep them here now. They will come here in certain batches for training. If Russia wants to take them for rotation to Africa, go ahead, we don't mind it, those people may stay here. We help and support them. This is why they are not fleeing anywhere. As many people as this unit and we need will live and work in Belarus. We will honour our promise. They know the terms."

There was also a fake that a Russian military transport plane flew to Belarus immediately after the disaster. The President did not hide the fact that there really was such a request, but so far no one has arrived. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained "We definitely coordinated with Russia when PMC Wagner personnel asked for a permission to use our airfields in order to collect troops for rotation to Africa I think and some gear, equipment, and so on. Feel free to land and take them. I promised that. I guaranteed that. That's the first point. The second point is that there have been no planes. This is why these are lies. But the relevant request had been made. We received it on August 21st."

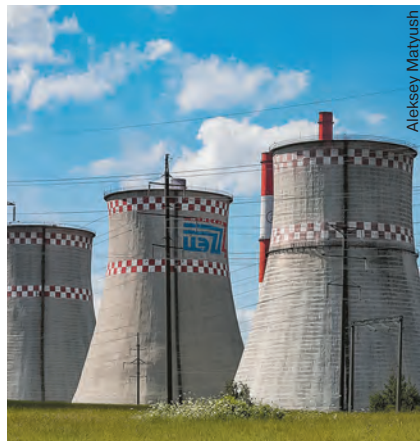
'They will help an old lady across a street and don't take change in a shop'

Sofa experts have composed a horror story that the presence of the Wagner group in Belarus is dangerous for our country, Dmitry Kryat, a journalist from the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, noted. Say, they themselves rolled a barrel of gunpowder to themselves. The President is categorical, "No, I'm not sitting on a barrel of gunpowder, I'm telling you sincerely. No one is in that mood."

According to the Head of State, the Belarusian servicemen are happy to learn from the experience of the Wagnerites, especially the internal troops and special units, "There is no rejection, that's what surprised me. Our military did not roll out the lip. Anything can be, so they absorb everything. I had my fears. I read descriptions by you and your colleagues: they are former convicts, they are the bad sort. Listen, they will help an old lady across a street and don't take change in a shop. Surprising people. Iron discipline. If you are afraid of wolves, don't go into the forest. We don't keep them here for pleasure but for benefits. And we've built a system to keep everything under control. We don't see any danger. We need to build human relations with them. As I once said, since such a unit was born, well, you treat them like human beings. Talk, interpret, specify what they lack there at the front: ammunition, food or clothing. Like all people. And even more so, an amendment must be made to the fact that they are fighting. They risk their lives every day. Therefore, I do not see these problems yet. And we've built a system to keep everything under control. Don't worry about Wagner. Let them worry, who needs to worry."

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

The National Statistical Committee has published an annual statistical booklet on environmental protection in Belarus. It contains information about the state of the environment, the availability and use of natural resources, as well as the costs of its protection. The publication presents statistical indicators of 'green growth' and individual indicators of the national list of indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals. What has changed, what is the state of our nature today, and where are we heading?



We appreciate what we have

From water to air: how pure is the famous Belarusian nature

By Maksim Osipov,
Anastasia Tselyuk

Climate change

In Belarus, emissions of greenhouse gases that affect climate change have significantly decreased compared to 1990, notes Ekaterina Maslovskaya, Head of the Environmental Statistics Department of the Main Department of Agriculture and Environment Statistics of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus,

"In recent years, greenhouse gas emissions have remained about the same level. In general, no critical changes were recorded."

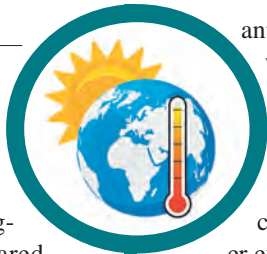
Such data are provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, which calculates them in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Belarus has committed itself under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent by 2030 from 1990 levels.

A consistently high percentage of greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, including through fertilisers used in the fields. And this is not surprising, since agricultural land in the country covers a significant area.

Also, according to the statistician, almost 70 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions into the air come from carbon dioxide.

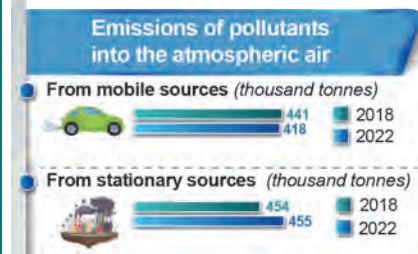
Air

The published booklet also presents indicators characterising emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air,



ants into the atmospheric air, which come from both mobile and stationary sources of emissions.

At the same time, mobile sources of emissions, such as cars, pollute the air to a lesser extent than stationary sources (TPP etc.).

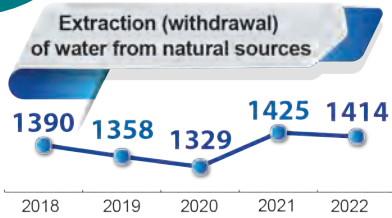


"Atmospheric air indicators are normal. There is no threat based on the recorded statistical indicators," Ekaterina Maslovskaya draws attention.

Water

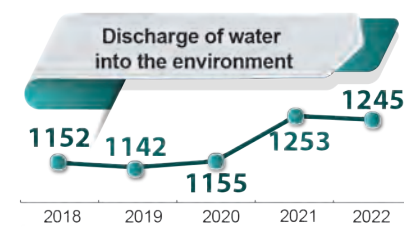
The figures that many countries can envy in the final tables of the Statistical Committee testify to the careful attitude to the environment and water resources. The share of safely treated domestic and industrial wastewater is about to approach 100 percent.

"Today, 99.8 percent of the water discharged into surface water bodies is safely treated wastewater. This suggests that the wastewater undergoes serious treatment before being discharged," Ekaterina Maslovskaya emphasises.



The expert also points out that, according to statistical indicators, water in our country is most often extracted from natural underground sources, and draws attention to a very important point: we use drinking water not from surface sources (for example, lakes), but mainly from artesian wells.

An analysis of the dynamics of water use indicates its stability in the country.



Belarus is one of the countries that has been able to ensure economic growth against the backdrop of a decrease in water consumption.

Forest and land resources

Our country is included in the 10 forest states of Europe, draws the attention of statistics. On the part of the state, there has always been an increased interest in this type of natural resources.

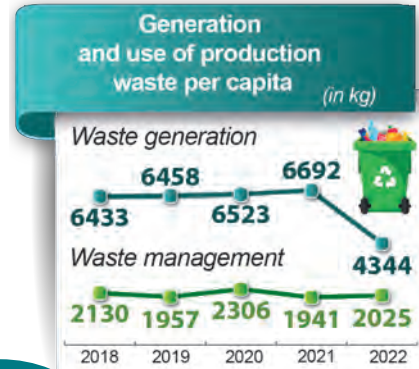


Protection and respect for forest plantations is an undoubted priority. According to statistics, in 2022 there was an increase in forest areas that are sown with improved seeds.

Ekaterina Maslovskaya also draws attention to the fact that 100 percent of Belarusian forest areas are covered by a long-term management plan, "For all forest areas, an action plan is developed for the conservation, reproduction and rational use of forest resources. Forest management is constantly monitored."

Human

The ecological quality of life of Belarusians as a whole can be characterised positively. For example, there is an increase in the percentage of the population's access to hot water supply and sewerage, more households are now provided with running water. Undoubtedly, the sphere of production has an impact on the environment. If you look at the statistics on the carbon efficiency of production, you can see the following pattern: an increase in production volume has proportionally affected a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

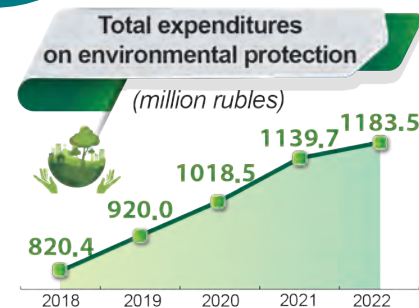


The growth in the amount of municipal solid waste, including per capita, is typical today for many countries of the world. We are no exception. However, along with this, Belarusian statistics also record an increase in the percentage of recycled waste in the total volume of their generation.

Expenses

In general, according to the published data, the total expenditure on environmental protection activities increased slightly. We are talking about both investments in fixed capital and current costs aimed at protecting the environment. At the same time, most of the funding was directed to wastewater and waste management, as well as to the protection of atmospheric air and the prevention of climate change.

According to the specialist, Belarus is at a high level in the field of environmental protection. The fact that our natural resources are surrounded by such care is shown by the given indicators. And when compared with other countries, it becomes obvious how much work is being done in this part.



OPINION

Dmitry Grummo, Director of the V. F. Kuprevich Institute of Experimental Botany at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus,

"The above statistical indicators show us that there are no significant and radical changes in the state of the environment. This indicates a balanced state policy, correctly placed accents. There are three main priorities: wastewater and waste management, as well as the protection of atmospheric air and the prevention of climate change. With regard to our competence, it should be noted that the forest cover in the country is progressively growing and today is one of the highest rates in Europe both in terms of forest coverage and timber stock per 1 inhabitant of the country. The forest is becoming not only an important resource for the economic development of some industries, but also a brand of the country, and the tourism potential of the forest fund has not yet been fully realised."



MOGILEV REGION



The Republic of Belarus is located in the center of Europe and is one of the 15 largest countries in this part of the world. Belarus is often called a 'blue-eyed country': there are thousands of lakes, rivers and protected forests. But the country is interesting not only for its unique nature. Each region of Belarus has its own modern industrial giants, amazing historical sites and sights. Belarus consists of six regions: Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk and Mogilev. *The MT* presents the project called *Belarusian Land Treasures* and invites readers on an exciting journey. Having a rich and original history, the Mogilev Region is a bright and dynamically developing region of Belarus. The childhood of the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, passed in the village of Alexandria, Shklov District, Mogilev Region. Famous natives of the Mogilev Region also include the artist Vitold Byalynitsky-Birulya, the first printer Pyotr Mstislavets, the poet and translator Arkady Kuleshov, the writer Leonid Daineko and many other people who left a noticeable mark on the history of our country.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"The history of the Belarusian Dnieper Region is literally woven from many labour achievements and military victories obtained by the valour and courage of our ancestors. Today, in all spheres of production and public life of the Mogilev Region, the necessary conditions have been created for the sustainable development of the economy, improving the well-being and quality of life of people. The main volumes of the Belarusian production of chemical fibres, automobile tires, elevators, as well as cement are concentrated in the region. Animal husbandry and fish farming are progressively developing. Enterprises in the region are successfully rebuilding to meet the new requirements determined by the time. A significant achievement of the past year was the overcoming by the workers of the village of the millionth milestone in the gross grain harvest."

From the greetings of the Head of State, January 15th, 2023

Belarusian land treasures



Trofimova Krinitisa

Historical insight, interesting facts

In the 8th-9th centuries, the territory of the Mogilev Region was inhabited by the Slavic tribes of the Dregoviches, Radimichs and Krivichs, who founded the first cities and laid the foundations of statehood.

The most ancient cities of the Mogilev Region are Mstislavl (founded in 1135), Propoisk (now Slavgorod) and Krichev — both have been known since 1136. The year of foundation of Mogilev, according to the report of the Mogilev Chronicle, is considered to be 1267, when the castle was laid at the bend of the Dnieper River.

Throughout its history, the Mogilev lands have repeatedly become the site of hostilities, including during the Livonian War, the Northern War, the war with Napoleon in 1812, the World War I and the Great Patriotic War.

After the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986, part of the territory of the Mogilev Region (mainly in the south) was subjected to significant radioactive contamination. However, thanks to a consistent rehabilitation and land restoration policy, the Mogilev Region today is a well-developed and attractive region.



The House of Soviets in Mogilev

Geographical position and population

Mogilev Region is located in the east of the country. It borders the Smolensk and Bryansk Regions of Russia. The relief of the region is predominantly flat.

As of January 1st, 2022, 1,000,845 people lived in the region.

The largest cities in the region are Mogilev (355,436 people), Bobruisk (209,675 people), Gorki (30,010 people), Osipovichy (29,633 people) and Krichev (23,704 people).



At the Mogilev City Emergency Hospital



Natopa-Agro. Livestock specialist Pavel Gurin.

Economic development

Mogilev Region is one of the main industrial regions of Belarus. It is the country's main producer of car tires, elevators, cement, chemical fibres, as well as fabrics from chemical fibres. The leading industries in the region are the production of food and beverages, rubber and plastic products, building materials, machinery and equipment, chemical products, and woodworking.

There are almost 1,650 industrial enterprises and organisations in the region. The largest of them are Belshina, Mogilevkhimvolokno, Belarusian Cement Plant, Krichevmentnoshifer, Mogilevliftmash, Mogotex, Mogilev Metallurgical Plant, Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units, Mogilev Carriage Works, Newsprint Plant, Mogilev Dairy Company Babushkina Krynka.

The most important sector of the economy and the main component of the agro-industrial complex is agriculture. Crop production is dominated by cereals, potatoes, fodder crops. Flax growing is at a high level.

In a number of regions, specialised farms are engaged in fur farming, horse breeding, and fish production.

After the adoption and implementation of the State Programme for the Revival and Development of the Village, about 200 agro-towns have been equipped in the Mogilev Region. The agro-industrial complex is represented by almost 200 agricultural organisations. The Mogilev FEZ was founded in the region in 2002.



At Belshina in Bobruisk



During flax harvesting in the Mogilev Region

Natural wealth and mineral resources

Nature endowed the Mogilev Region with picturesque places.

453 rivers flow through the region, including the Dnieper River, Berezina River, Sozh River, Svisloch River, Ptich River, Drut River, Oster River, Besed River, Iput River.

Most of the 120 lakes in the region are of glacial origin and have crystal clear waters. The largest of them are Vygoda Lake, Zaozerskoye Lake, Chernoye Lake, Neroplya Lake, Vyakhovo Lake, Dikoye Lake.

5 reserves of republican significance and 61 hydrological, biological and landscape reserves of local significance have been created here. There are 91 natural monuments in the region, many of which are popular not only among Belarusians, but also among foreign guests. These are, for example, Trofimova Krinitisa, located near the agro-town of Alexandria, Polykovichskaya Krinitisa near Mogilev, Zhilichsky park in the Kirov District and an arboretum in Gorki.

The region is famous for its hunting resources. Forests occupy almost 40 percent of the territory of the Mogilev Region.

The area is rich in minerals. There are 1800 known deposits: cement raw materials (the country's largest reserves of chalk, marl, clay and cement loam), phosphorites (fields unique for Belarus), sand and gravel mixtures, building and silicate sands, peat, sapropel, mineral waters, tripoli and oil.



Chalk quarries near Krichev



At the Kupala Night Festival in Alexandria

Culture and main attractions

Mogilev Region is a bright cultural region of the country. It was in Mogilev in 1888 that the first drama theatre in Belarus appeared — one of the best in Europe in terms of acoustics, in which Komissarzhevskaya, Chaliapin and Rakhmaninov performed. And in Krichev, the palace of Count Potemkin, erected a century earlier, pleases the eye to this day.

The oldest agricultural university in the CIS and European countries, founded in 1840, is located in the district centre of Gorki — the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy. Among the graduates of this famous establishment, which has a rich history and traditions, is the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The only castle preserved in the region is Bykhovskiy. It is worth noting the ensemble of the St. Nicholas Monastery of the 17th century in Mogilev, the Jesuit church with the monastery of the early 17th century in Mstislavl, the palace and park ensemble of the 18th century in the village of Zhilichi, Kirov District, as well as the Bobruisk Fortress of the 19th century and the Town Hall of the 18th century in Shklov.

Many bright events are held in the Dnieper Region of Belarus. These are the Kupala night nationwide festival (*Alexandria Gathers Friends*), the international musical and sports festival *Big Bard-Fishing* in the Bykhov District, the medieval culture festival *Knights Fest* in Mstislavl, the international festival of children's creativity *Golden Bee* in Klimovichy, the *Wreath of Friendship* festival of folk art in Bobruisk, the *Golden Hit* International Music Festival in Mogilev and many others.

The majestic Buinichi Field memorial is another iconic place in the Mogilev Region, dedicated to the heroic defenders of Mogilev in 1941.



Bulgakov Palace in Zhilichi



Buinichi Field Memorial Complex

Fukushima water released into Pacific



Japan has started releasing treated radioactive water from the devastated Fukushima nuclear power plant

More than one million metric tonnes of the treated water, used to cool the wrecked reactors after the 2011 tsunami, is stored in some 1,000 tanks around the site and its removal is a key part of decommissioning the still highly dangerous facility.

The entire discharge process is expected to take as long as 40 years and has been mired in controversy.

Japan says all radioactive elements have been filtered out except tritium, which is hard to remove from water. The hydrogen isotope is also discharged — at higher levels — by operational nuclear power plants, including in China and France.

The company will carry out four releases of treated water until March 2024,

with 7,800 cubic metres of water released each time.

The plan has sparked continuing controversy despite Japan's insistence that the process is safe and the backing of the IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, which approved the proposal in July, saying the impact on health and the environment would be 'negligible'.

Shortly after the release started, China, which has lodged a formal complaint over the plan, again accused Japan of being 'extremely selfish'. "The ocean is the common property of all humanity, and forcibly starting the discharge of Fukushima's nuclear wastewater into the ocean is an extremely selfish and irresponsible act that

ignores international public interests," China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Customs authorities announced a ban on all imports of aquatic products from Japan, widening a ban that had targeted fisheries from the Fukushima and Tokyo areas.

A protest action was held at the headquarters of the operator of the Fukushima-1 nuclear power plant — the company TEPCO — in connection with the beginning of the discharge of water from the emergency station into the ocean. Meanwhile, in South Korea, environmental activists have taken to the streets to voice fears of contamination, with dozens of alarmed protesters gathering in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul.

Europe's economic engine is breaking down

Germany's economy hasn't looked this weak since the start of the pandemic

Germany suffered the steepest decline in business activity for more than three years this month, according to survey data published recently, stoking fears that Europe's biggest economy is falling back into recession.

An initial reading of the country's Purchasing Managers' Index, which tracks activity in the manufacturing and service sectors, tumbled to 44.7 in August, from 48.5 in July. That's the lowest reading since May 2020, when the country began gradually lifting stringent pandemic restrictions. A reading below 50 indicates a contraction.

The survey highlighted a 'deepening downturn in manufacturing', with output falling for the fourth consecutive month. Activity in services fell for the first time in eight months.

"Any hope that the service sector might rescue the German economy has evaporated. Instead, the service sector is about to join the recession in manufacturing," said Cyrus de la Rubia, Chief Economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank, which publishes the survey of German companies in partnership with S&P Global.

Data earlier this month revealed a steeper-than-expected slowdown in industrial production in June — driven by a sharp contraction in the country's vast automotive sector.

Germany's economic malaise is spilling over to the other 19 countries that use the Euro, with the wider region also at risk of slipping into recession after eking out growth in Q2.



China eyes robot manufacturing as way to fuel economic growth

China's sales of industrial robots accounted for more than half of the world's total, ranking first across the globe for 10 consecutive years

China's robotics industry has made great strides, with its revenue surpassing \$23.3bn last year, maintaining double-digit growth, Xin Guobin, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology said, adding that the nation's sales of industrial robots accounted for more than half of the world's total in 2022, ranking first across the globe for ten consecutive years.

Data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology showed that China's output of industrial robots reached 222,000 units in H1 2023 — up 5.4 percent year-on-year. Output of the country's services robots jumped 9.62

percent year-on-year to 3.53 million units between January and June.

Industrial robot installations in China took the top spot globally in 2022, taking up more than 50 percent of the global market share, according to the ministry. In addition, the total disclosed financing amount in China's robotics industry amounted to over 30bn Yuan last year.

China will ratchet up efforts to bolster technological breakthroughs and innovations in key components of robotics, cultivate world-class robotics industrial clusters and safeguard the stability of global robotics industrial and supply chains, Xin said.

British Museum missing nearly 2,000 artefacts

The true number of items believed to have been stolen or destroyed by a single thief is 'closer to 2,000', sources confirm

More than 1,500 objects from the British Museum are believed to have been stolen or destroyed by a single thief who went undetected for years, *The Telegraph* can disclose. The total value of artefacts now known to be missing runs into millions of pounds, it was understood.

Staff are shocked at the scale of the losses, which were unearthed during an internal investigation into a senior curator at the museum who was dismissed in July.

The museum has so far refused to make public the number of items that were stolen, or to release photographs or descriptions of them. However, sources have confirmed to *The Telegraph* that the true number is well over 1,000 and 'closer to 2,000'.

The sheer number of missing objects, some of which are 3,500 years old, helps to explain why the museum was so reluctant to share all of its information with the public. As well as being deeply embarrassing for the museum, it appears increasingly likely that it might never know exactly what has been stolen because of gaps in its inventory.

Reverend Professor Martin Henig, a leading expert on Roman art at the University of Oxford, said the scale of the losses was 'horrifying'. He said, "This is the worst case that I've come across like this because it involves not just selling the odd object, but also destruction. This is totally unforgivable."



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

The world is changing



The G7 countries are increasingly losing not only their economic power, but also their political positions. This was once again confirmed by the BRICS summit.



From August 22nd to August 24th, Johannesburg, the largest and richest city in the South African Republic, hosted the 15th summit of one of the largest economic associations in the world under the telling title: 'BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism'.

The five founding countries of this union (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) today represent 42 percent of the world's population, 26 percent of all land (with incalculable natural resources) and from a quarter to almost a third of the world's GDP. According to the forecasts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the BRICS five will reach the coveted figure by 2028 — 33.6 percent of all goods and services produced in the world. Already now it has surpassed the G7 countries (USA, Germany, Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy and Canada) in terms of development and contribution to the world economy!

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"The West is trying to maintain its dominance in a number of areas of economy and finance, to restrain the development of countries it dislikes, it imposes illegal barbaric sanctions against them. In order to effectively counter this, Belarus is actively promoting the idea of global development. We consistently advocate the formation of a large Eurasian partnership with our long-standing partners — China, India, Pakistan, Iran, the CIS states — and the alignment of the EAEU, SCO and BRICS formats in a broad context."

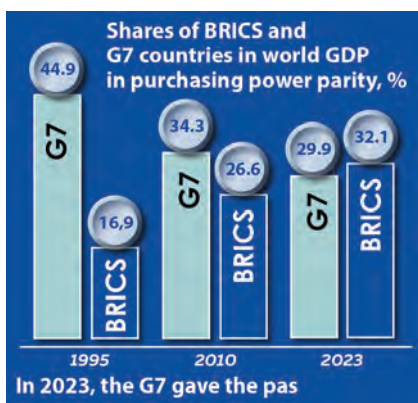
During meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State on July 4th

By political scientist, candidate of historical sciences **Aleksei Belyaev**

On the wishlist

Representatives of more than 60 states arrived in South Africa for the summit. And at least 20 countries, to one degree or another, expressed their readiness to join the union in the near or medium term. In early August, two states loudly declared their desire to do so: Bolivia and Venezuela. Even earlier, Saudi Arabia spoke openly about its decision to join the BRICS, which puzzled its, we dare to think, almost former geopolitical ally — the United States.

And it is gratifying that for the first time among the guests at the current summit is the Belarusian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik, who held a number of important meetings at the summit. Only in July of this year, Belarus handed a note to Brazil, where it clearly indicated its intention to become a full-fledged member of the association in the future, and now, after a month and a half, it is probing the real ground and establishing contacts for the necessary interaction with all countries that consider BRICS as a platform for building a new global society based on equally shared



rules of mutual respect and taking into account the interests of partners.

To a new world — under new rules?

Of course, no one expected the instant entry of new members into the BRICS precisely in these August days, especially since the existing members of the union have different approaches to this issue. While China, Russia, and South Africa were initially quite sympathetic to the expansion of the association, India and Brazil showed a certain restraint.

You can understand them: the union was created to ensure the faster development of the economies of the participating countries on the basis of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. Demographic and natural resources were combined with technology and logistics, which should have given (and gave) an impetus to accelerate production and trade. However, the inclusion in the BRICS of countries with fewer resources and significant economic problems (to be honest, the same Venezuela is by no means distinguished by sustainable economic growth) can lead to a braking effect.

Before our eyes is the example of the European Union, which, due to exorbitant political ambitions, expanded at the expense of small (and poor) countries, which turned into eternal recipients of sponsorship from Brussels.

Therefore, there are calls to introduce and write down in the documents some more specific rules for admission and the necessary standards of compliance for new BRICS participants. It is also necessary to outline the principles of relations with other international organisations and unions.

Therefore, there is still a lot of work, but it just can lead to reformatting the entire world system of international relations and creating a more just and inclusive world order.

Currency passions and political intrigues

One of the important elements in the struggle for economic justice and sovereignty of the BRICS countries is the reform of the global financial system, or rather, the departure from the hegemony of the dollar in international settlements.

The BRICS countries are increasingly switching to mutual settlements in national currencies, the yuan is often used as a reserve currency within the association. And on the eve of the summit in Johannesburg, the topic of creating their own BRICS currency was actively raised. Of course, we are not talking about the fact that from tomorrow there will be some new monetary unit. On the eve and during the summit, the problems of settlements in the digital environment, the potential possibility of creating a common BRICS electronic currency were discussed.

The question of a more active use of the currencies of other states (in particular, African ones) in mutual settlements was also considered as a proposal. The same BRICS New Development Bank will gradually be able to take control of financial and investment flows within the organisation, without burdening its debtors with unnecessary political obligations and restrictions, as is now happening with those who use the services of the IMF or the World Bank.

The time of uncontested hegemony of the West is inexorably running out.

BRICS CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

- Belarus
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Bahrain
- Bolivia
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Cuba
- Honduras
- Egypt
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Palestine
- Saud. Arabia
- Senegal
- Thailand
- UAE
- Ethiopia

Six new countries were invited to BRICS

The leaders of the BRICS countries decided to invite Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to become full members of the alliance. This statement was made by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during his speech at the summit. The President of South Africa noted that the admission of new members to the BRICS is the first phase of the process to expand the alliance. Ramaphosa added that the full membership of the new countries will begin on January 1st, 2024.

OUR MOTIVATION

Belarus took part in the BRICS summit this year for the first time

Not so long ago, our country applied to join the BRICS in the BRICS+ format. By decision of the Head of State, the Belarusian delegation went to the summit in South Africa led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Aleinik. In the days of work in the African country, the head of the foreign policy department held a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit. They were told in the press service of the department. So, Sergei Aleinik discussed with the President of the State of Eritrea Isaias Afewerki common ground in order to revive bilateral relations. During the talks with the Minister

of Foreign Affairs, International Co-operation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea Simeon Oyono Esono Angue they discussed the intensification of practical contacts at various levels, including the exchange of visits, the expansion of the bilateral legal framework, the situation in the African region. Sergei Aleinik also discussed the supply of domestic products, including its high-tech segment, co-operation in the field of agriculture during a meeting with the Minister of Economic Coordination of the Republic of Angola José de Lima. The Head of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held detailed talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Faisal ibn Farhan ibn Abdullah Al Saud. There were also

talks with President of Brazil Luiz Lula da Silva and President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi, as well as meetings with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, Head of Iranian Diplomacy Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Foreign Ministers of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Russia Sergey Lavrov, colleagues from Cuba, Kenya, Algeria, Tunisia, Burundi, Togo and heads of several other delegations. The intensification of the political dialogue, the schedule of contacts and visits at various levels, the economy and mutual trade, the work of the joint intergovernmental committee, the prospects for simplifying the visa regime — an incomplete list of topics discussed. The parties also confirmed the

coincidence of views on key issues of the current global agenda. According to analyst at the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR) Olga Lazorkina, Belarus has vast experience in working on international platforms, "Participation in the BRICS summit solves several problems. Belarusian diplomacy should be in the thick of world events, represent the opinions and views of the country, which is in the wake of the transformation of the international order. The economic agenda of the summit fully meets the goals of Belarus — accelerated growth and sustainable development. Therefore, it is important to clearly understand the interests of partners, the direction of their movement and coordinate actions both in regional and global formats."



Belarusian Provence

You don't have to go to the south of France to see the lavender fields. Purple dreams become reality in Belarus. In recent years, local farmers have succeeded in cultivating this exotic plant!

By Sofia Arsenyeva

Slow down and calm down

There are lavender plantations in every region of our country. Low, but extremely fragrant bushes feel great in our climate: they endure summer droughts without problems and withstand winter frosts. Pests and diseases lavender nothing. Some farmers are engaged in growing it in parallel with other areas of crop production for fun, while others are seriously focusing on beautiful business. But the main thing is that the fields are created in order to be seen not only by the owners, but also by tourists. Enjoy the amazing smell and admire all the shades of purple on numerous excursions that take place in the middle of summer. The smell of lavender belongs to the group of relaxing: if you inhale it, you can cope with insomnia and nervous overexcitation. A nice bonus — there are no midges and mosquitoes in the lavender fields (they just don't like such aromas).

See honey dreams

Would you like to taste lavender? We recommend paying attention to the honey that bees collect in such fields — unusual in colour, special in medicinal properties. And some lavender farmers offer tourists a related service — sleeping on the beehives. Do not be afraid, this is a centuries-old way of healing the whole body. They say it replaces a spa, meditation classes and a sanatorium combined. What's the secret? Scientists have proved that bees conduct non-contact body massage by vibration of their wings. In addition, during sleep, a person inhales pollen, propolis, honey, bee bread and thereby strengthens the immune system. And the monotonous rumble of striped labourers has a healing effect on the human psyche. But the main thing is that there are no bees in the houses where a person sleeps! They are located a little lower, and the therapy takes place thanks to the ventilation holes.



Make an unfading bouquet

The ancient Romans called lavender the Latin word lavare (from 'wash', 'cleanse') and protected themselves by this plant during epidemics. Today, bunches of dried flowers with pale purple flowers are a welcome gift for many girls. In the cold season, the price of them bites, but during the season on farms you can buy a bag for Br5-10. With a pleasant aroma and aesthetic appearance, it will delight until the next season. Another running souvenir is aroma sachet. Rag bags with dried flowers can be put in the closet to give clothes a pleasant smell or as an effective moth remedy.

Arrange a romantic photoshoot

If you didn't post content on the social network — consider that you haven't been anywhere at all. An obligatory point of travel to the lavender paradise is bright pictures against its background. In addition to the fragrant bushes themselves, the owners in the fields often place props for photo shoots. It can be wooden gates, vintage cars, swings and even horses! Here and there you can rent a ball gown or costume. Therefore, it is not surprising that bloggers, newlyweds, families with children, and excursion groups flock to lavender photo shoots during the season. And all for one thing — good shots in a lilac fog.

Learn the secrets of eternal youth

Historians say that lavender came to Belarus several centuries ago. There is information in the archives that the Radziwills bred it in Nesvizh in the middle of the 18th century for decorative purposes. From the point of view of medicine, the botanist Jean Emmanuel Gilibert, who founded the first Belarusian botanical garden in Grodno, studied lavender. Some places have already begun to produce essential oil from Belarusian lavender. The product is valuable and very useful in everyday life. For example, it is recommended to use it in aroma lamps during a cold. In addition, lavender oil helps after wasp and bee stings. It can be applied to wounds without diluting. And what miracles lavender does in the field of beauty! Hydrolates from this plant, creams with oil extract promote cell regeneration and skin regeneration, making it smooth and hydrated.



Thirst for the fight

Two large-scale tournaments with a break of two weeks and two gold medals. This is how we can briefly describe how 19-year-old Abubakar Khaslakhanov spent this August. First, our Greco-Roman wrestler, won the only gold for the 'classics' team at the 2nd CIS Games, performing in the weight category up to 97 kg. Then he went to the U-20 World Championship in Amman, Jordan, and left no chance for his opponents in all four fights. He returned home with an award of the highest standard and a championship belt.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

'I went there only for the gold medal'

We went to meet Abubakar Khaslakhanov at the airport, where dozens of people were waiting for the arrival of our athletes — relatives, friends, colleagues, coaches and journalists. The wrestler admitted: this is the first time in his career.

— Now, most of all, I want to take a break and give all my strength to preparing for the adult world championship, which starts in September in Belgrade. Victory is a victory, but won it some time ago. We must forget about it, prepare for the next tournaments.

— Two years ago, you became the world champion among cadets, now you are among juniors. Are the emotions from victories similar?

— Totally different. When I won the world championship among athletes under 17, it was just incredible! I couldn't stop the tears. Now somehow more in an adult approach to the tournament. Of course, I am glad that I won, but I already want to fight at an adult level — this is what I strive for. And successes in cadets and juniors are stages on the way.

— Belarus hosted the 2nd CIS Games quite recently, and after this start there was nothing left before the championship in Jordan. Was there enough time to recover?

— These Games have become a starting point for me. I was able to test myself, compete with foreign athletes, and this helped a lot. And the fact that a short period of time... You need to be ready for anything. You can get used to any difficulties. The coach and I planned rest, training, and everything went as expected.

— Which of the opponents in Amman was the most difficult to fight?

— Absolutely all the fights at the



Abubakar Khaslakhanov on victories at the 2nd CIS Games, the World Championship and more

'Today we look far ahead'

His first coach Kirill Fomenko was together with Abubakar Khaslakhanov at the World Championships in Jordan. They met when the future wrestler was in the fourth grade.

“Abubakar has always been a calm boy, not very talkative. When he first came to us, a little overweight, uncoordinated. Started wrestling from scratch. But even then, he was very diligent, went to the end and did not want to lose — this was different from other guys,” the coach explains.

Kirill Fomenko says: Abubakar did not start winning immediately, but slowly gained momentum. The father of the wrestler Murat also shaped the portrait of the athlete, “You know, he had a grip since childhood, if he grabbed something, he would not let it go. He always tried to be only the first — he denied the second and third places. And now we were sure that everything would work out...”

The coach of the athlete, recalling the 2nd CIS Games, the wrestling tournament of which was held in Soligorsk, noted: the competition turned out to be quite difficult for Abubakar, “Each fight was given with sweat and blood. First, Abubakar won against athletes from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, in the semifinals — against the first number of the Russian team under 23 Artur Arzumanyan, and in the final — against Azerbaijani Murad Akhmediyev,

European champion among wrestlers under 23. Before the World Cup, he did not have to be motivated. When the tournament ends, we forget about victories. We look far ahead, so the medal was postponed — we are preparing for the next start.”

DIRECT SPEECH

Victor Sosunovsky, head coach of the national team in Greco-Roman wrestling,

“Abubakar is distinguished by just crazy diligence, this guy is a professional in his field. He still competes among athletes under 20 years old, but is the first number of the national team in his weight.”

At the world championships, Kirill Fomenko continues, there are different subgroups, but in Jordan Abubakar got into the one where the top athletes gathered, so there was no time to build up, “In the first fight he met with a strong Iranian. Then — with a Russian, the first number at this age. In the semi-finals, he competed with the Estonian — by the way, he probably gave the strongest fight to Abubakar. Well, in the final he fought with the Georgian Gor Ayyvazyan.”

This opponent also has a lot of titles under his belt. World champion among athletes under 17, European champion under 20, bronze medallist of the continental championship among cadets. However, he could not do anything with Abubakar. After the first period, the Belarusian was leading with a score of 5:0, and 40 seconds after the start of the second period, he put an end to the ‘golden’ fight.

Now Abubakar Khaslakhanov is starting preparations for the World Championships in Belgrade. Kirill Fomenko has no doubts that our wrestler will be competitive in this tournament as well. He explains, “Abubakar has been wrestling among adults for several years now. He won the championship of Belarus, where there were also very worthy opponents. We have travelled to tournaments in Russia more than once. Again, he became the winner of the 2nd CIS Games, where, let me remind you, athletes under 23 competed, and these are already mature wrestlers who are ready to go to the Olympic Games...”

World Championships were difficult. Rivals are strong — I won't even single out anyone. I tuned in to everyone the same way: I just wanted to show my struggle, to impose my own tactic. I went there only for the gold medal. Others did not even consider. But before the final fight, he didn't think about the awards - only about the fight, the task that he had to complete during the fight.

— The won gold is probably the main award in your career so far. Have you already figured out where to store it?

— It's easy. When I come home, I put the medal in a box, and put it in a closet so that it is not visible. I don't want to dwell on it. This is temporary, but at the same time, the motivation to work further and strive for greater results. The World Championship in Belgrade, which will be licensed for the Olympic Games, is ahead. The opponents on it will be completely different, and their struggle is completely different. But I'm ready for anything. I live for the fight.

ON POINT

At the World Wrestling Championship among athletes under 20 in Jordan, our guys won six medals. The winner of the tournament, besides Abubakar Khaslakhanov, was Arina Martynova. Alesya Getmanova returned home with silver, while Kseniya Terenya, Alina Shevchuk and Abdulmasih Abdulmasih with bronze medals.

ARENA

● Hockey players of HC Vitebsk became the owner of the Ruslan Salei Cup

The Ruslan Salei Cup 2023, the second most important club tournament in Belarusian ice hockey, kicked off in Salihorsk.

Hockey players from HC Shakhter and HC Vitebsk reached the decisive match of the Cup of the country.

The hosts of the ice opened the scoring in the 18th minute of the final, Bogdan Denisevich scored



a goal for the Soligorsk team. In the second period, the audience also saw one abandoned puck, but already in the performance of the guests — Artur Gilmanov equalised the score. The fate of the Cup was decided in the final 20 minutes: exactly at the equator of the

third, Artyom Smirnov brought the ‘bears’ forward, and in the remaining time the northerners kept the advantage. Thus, 2:1 and the second Ruslan Salei Cup for HC Vitebsk in the history of the club — a year ago, Roman Yupatov's wards also won the trophy, having beaten HC Gomel in the final.

The third place in the current draw of the tournament was taken by the hockey club Brest, which had previously defeated HC Yunost in the match for bronze — 2:1.

● Belarusian footballers win tournament in memory of Yuri Morozov

Football players of the youth team of Belarus (U-16) became the winners of the international tournament in memory of Yuri Morozov in St. Petersburg.

In the decisive match for the first place, Valery Apanas' wards outplayed their peers from Kazakhstan's FC Kairat from Almaty in all respects with a score of 5:0. Daniil Chergeiko scored four goals in this meeting, Dastan



Satpaev from FC Kairat scored one goal into his own net. On the way to the final, the Belarusians defeated the Turkish FC Fenerbahce (Istanbul) — 6:0, the St. Petersburg FC Zenit — 2:1, the Brazilian FC Santos — 2:1 and the youth team of Russia — 1:0.

Photo of the week

Aleksey Bibikov



Harvest 2023 is drawing to a close. Grodno District is among the leaders in terms of productivity. In the photo: wheat harvesting at the Denshchikov agricultural company in the Grodno District.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



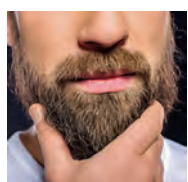
On September 1st, 1939, World War II began. On this day, the Gleiwitz provocation [Prowokacja gliwicka

in Polish] or Operation Konserve [Aktion Konserve in German] took place, which served as a pretext for the German attack on Poland, which became the beginning of World War II. The provocation was organised at the direction of Adolf Hitler.

On September 1st, 1969, Belarusian ensemble Pesnyary was founded. Military service in 1965



brought together four musicians — Vladimir Mulyavin, Leonid Tyshko, Vladislav Misevich and Valery Yashkin. Vladimir Mulyavin was the artistic director of the ensemble from the moment of its formation until his death in 2003. Pesnyary became the first owners of the Golden Disc of the USSR, won the hearts of listeners in more than 56 countries, giving the world wonderful songs.



September 2nd is World Beard Day. It is a holiday that is celebrated by those who wear a beard, those who like this fashion, and those who are related to beard

care services. Today, wearing a beard is closely intertwined with fashion trends in the appearance of a man. The beard has become a trend. Barbershops have appeared, where a range of moustache and beard care services is provided.

September 2nd marks the 895th anniversary of Grodno — one of the most beautiful and ancient cities in Belarus, the administrative centre of the Grodno Region. The city is located in the west of the country, on the banks of the Neman River, near the borders with Poland and Lithuania. The first mention of Grodno, dated 1128, was found in the Hypatian Codex.



September 3rd is Day of Oil, Gas and Fuel Industry Workers of Belarus. Oil and gas are key types of raw materials,

their extraction is a strategically important branch of the republican economy. The industry provides 35 percent of the total industrial production of the country and 35 percent of exports. More than a quarter of budget revenues are deductions from oil refineries. The hard work of gas and oil workers warrants a well-deserved respect.

September 3rd is Day of Belarusian Written Language. The concept of this national holiday provides for showing the indestructible unity of the Belarusian printed word with the history of the Belarusian people, its close connection with the Slavic origins, as well as understanding the historical path of writing and printing in Belarus. Belarusians have something to be proud of — Belarusian writing has centuries-old traditions. Enlighteners of the Belarusian people — Francysk Skaryna, Kirill of Turov, Euphrosyne of Polotsk, Simeon of Polotsk — figures of European scale.



On September 4th, 1975, the first broadcast of the *What? Where? When?* television club of experts. From the moment of its first appearance on the air to the present day, the TV game has been popular with a large audience. Knowing a few facts, comparing them, finding a logical move and calculating a completely new, previously unknown fact — this is the highest intellectual pleasure that brings thousands of new fans to this game.

September 5th is International Day of Charity, established by the resolution of the

UN General Assembly of March 7th, 2013. The purpose of the Day is to draw public attention to the activities of charitable organisations and individuals in overcoming poverty and acute humanitarian crises, encouraging their work and encouraging people around the world to participate in volunteer and charitable activities.



On September 6th, 1689, the Treaty of Nerchinsk was concluded — the first treaty between Russia and China.

This Russian-Chinese treaty, concluded in the city of Nerchinsk, went down in history as the first document that determined the relations of the Russian state with the Manchu Qing Empire, where agreements were established on borders, trade and other issues.

On September 6th, 1991, Leningrad recovered its historical name — St. Petersburg.

The city was founded on May 27th, 1703, by the Russian emperor Peter the Great. It is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The city received one of its names, Venice of the North, because of its location on 42 islands, 99 canals and tributaries of the Neva River.

