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Participants of National Ball for University Graduates

## Excellent students attend graduation ball with the President

The long-awaited event attended by many young boys and girls held in Independence Palace

## The most vital thing is to achieve the result

By Alexey Fedosov

**On meeting Grigory Rapota, the State Secretary of the Union State, Alexander Lukashenko, said that he expects efficiency and effectiveness from the forthcoming session of the Supreme State Council of Belarus-Russia Union State**

The peculiarity of the Supreme State Council session, scheduled for the end of the month, is in its agenda. Alongside the usual issues planned for discussion, the draft document envisages coverage of the topic of preservation of potential of the machine building complex of the Union State and co-operation in the agro-industrial sphere.

“I have not seen such detailed practical issues for a long time: the development of machine building,



Grigory Rapota

**Those theoretical and legal items that will be discussed at the Supreme State Council will be strengthened during contacts between businesses and representatives of the regions.**

agriculture, agribusiness in general and other political and foreign political problems... It is necessary to prepare the event in a way to make at least one step forward in our relations in the practical dimension, to have an efficient event.”

After the meeting with the President, Mr. Rapota spoke with journalists about the practical issues.

One more peculiarity is that the Supreme State Council will take place simultaneously with the Forum of Regions of Belarus

and Russia. The President envisages a positive outcome to the simultaneous conduct of large-scale political and practical events, “Governors, who are very significant people in our states, will meet with each other. As you know, I always meet Russian governors arriving in Belarus. We discuss issues that we can solve together. We implement programmes to develop machine building, agriculture and other areas with virtually all regions of Russia.”

## Everything is ready for the important event

By Alexander Pimenov

**At a meeting between the President and Chairman of the House of Representatives, Vladimir Andreichenko, preparations for the 26th summer session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly became the major topic of discussion. It will take place in Minsk from July 5th-9th. Mr. Andreichenko believes this event to be the biggest large-scale international political event to be held in the history of sovereign Belarus.**

Later Mr. Andreichenko told journalists that Mr. Lukashenko had agreed to take part in the opening of the session. The programme of work also envisages the meeting of the President with the OSCE PA Presi-



Vladimir Andreichenko

**It is no accident that Belarus has been chosen as the venue for the session. Our country is making a significant contribution to the provision of European security while conducting consequential and predictable domestic and foreign policy...**

dent, Christine Muttonen and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Austria, Sebastian Kurz.

The event promises to be representative, with 593 participants from 56 countries already registered. The biggest delegation is expected to arrive from the USA — 49 attendees. Russia and Italy will be represented by 24 parliamentarians each while Germany will send 20. Organisers expect that 6-7 more states will also announce their participation.

The session is to focus on the strengthening of mutual trust and co-operation for the sake of peace and prosperity in the OSCE region. After it, the major declaration and resolution of the member states will be adopted. Fifteen such documents have been already proposed, with the Belarusian delegation also preparing its resolution, aiming to counteract the appearance and spread of new psychoactive substances; it has already been supported by 20 countries.

# Initiative with big opportunities



## Minsk hosts meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central European Initiative

By Vladimir Mikhailov

At present, the organisation unites 18 countries aimed at preventing further divisional lines in Europe. The states involved work together on detailed, mutually beneficial and constructive dialogue. This year, Belarus is presiding over the CEI and its partners are hopeful of the success of this mission. The representative assembly itself can be viewed as the precursor of an even wider discussion that will take place in Minsk in early July, at the summer session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Both events are working towards stability and sustainability of the European region through interaction. In the CEI, Minsk is focussing on the necessity of developing co-operation between the countries and integration associations involved.

In Minsk, the CEI Foreign Minis-



Meeting of CEI Ministers for Foreign Affairs

ters worked at the President Hotel and discussed how to adapt the organisation for new trans-boundary challenges in the region. According to Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, the only way to tackle these issues lies in the concerted efforts of all countries in Europe, “There is no room for selective dialogue, where those ‘not European enough’ are ignored or set aside. There can be no ‘one-size-fits-all’ political integration and there can be no universal recipe for instant democracy.”

The most constructive European politicians understand this. For example, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, Péter Szijjártó, noted, “We advocate a fair approach by the EU towards Belarus and support the removal of sanctions, simplification of the visa regime between Belarus and the EU and the promotion of Belarus in the negotiations regarding membership

of the WTO. Your country can be a bridge between the EU and EAEU.”

After the meeting, Foreign Ministers agreed major thematic priorities for co-operation within the organisation that will become the basis for another CEI Plan of Action for 2018-2020. The participants shared their impressions with journalists. In particular, the CEI Alternate General Secretary, Margot Klestil-Löffler, noted, “For Belarus it was a wise political and strategic decision to take the baton of presidency in the CEI. This opens new opportunities for the country in collaboration with European partners... We should express our gratitude to the Belarusian CEI presidency as Belarus has put forward many new ideas.”

Furthermore, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation for Italy, Vincenzo Amendola, emphasised,

“The Belarusian presidency is successful not only in terms of hospitality (this was noted by all the participants) but also from the point of view of the major message which Belarus tries to bring. The time has come for all countries to sit at the negotiating table and discuss major issues while also presenting concrete solutions.”

Foreign Ministers and heads of foreign delegations of the CEI member states agreed the major thematic priorities for co-operation.

One of the topics was the prospects for further reforming of the CEI, enabling the organisation to adapt to new challenges in the region. Major thematic priorities for co-operation within the organisation have been approved; these will lay the foundation for the CEI Plan of Action for 2018-2020.

The Head of the Belarusian foreign political department, Vladimir

Makei, noted that the discussion was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. He thanked his colleagues for their weighty and pragmatic approach towards issues dealing with the organisation's activity.

Margot Klestil-Löffler also noted that the CEI won't achieve its goals if it does not interact with other international organisations. In this respect, the diplomat noted the importance of the meeting of high level CEI and OSCE experts regarding overcoming the negative socio-economic consequences of migration, which took place in Vienna on June 9th.

Meanwhile, economic co-operation, aimed at maximum realisation of the transit potential of the CEI member states, is of major interest, so the meeting also tackled the results of the CEI ministerial conference on connectivity and compatibility which was held in Minsk on June 8th.

# European co-operation unites East and West



On meeting Foreign Ministers and heads of the national delegations of Central European Initiative member states, Alexander Lukashenko notes that it's equally important for Belarus to develop co-operation with East and West, without making an artificial choice between them

By Vasily Kharitonov



President of Belarus meets Foreign Ministers and heads of national delegations of CEI member states

“The foreign policy of our country has a multi-vector and peaceful nature. We're committed to building friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all states. It's equally important for our country to develop co-operation with the East and the West without making an artificial choice between them,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

However, the President said that there are certain powers which do not give up on attempts to restore the block policy of the past. “As the representatives of the states of Central and Eastern Europe, we realise that it can have devastating and catastrophic consequences,” he noted.

At the meeting, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, emphasised that CEI member states should develop collaboration between various integration structures on the continent.

“The existing realities are as follows: countries geographically located between Europe and Asia should take on more responsibility in ensuring regional stability. These efforts do not require large amounts of finance. It is largely down to us whether our countries will become a dividing line between the world centres of power or a link between them. There's no need to erect a new iron curtain, it's

essential to join efforts to build bridges between various integration associations on the continent,” believes Mr. Lukashenko.

Only through equal dialogue and comprehensive economic co-operation can we create a truly Wider Europe, thus guaranteeing peace, security and prosperity for our descendants.

The President remarked that since the very first days of its existence, the CEI has been committed to developing mutually beneficial economic ties between European countries after the Cold War. Over a quarter of a century the CEI has proven to be a good venue for dialogue on

a wide range of issues. First of all, this pertains to such fields as transport, the energy sector, regional development and science and technology. A great deal is also being done for education and culture.

“At present, this organisation unites countries partaking in various integration associations and formats. We must use fully this potential. That is why Belarus' presidency is aimed at promoting connectivity in a Wider Europe,” explained Mr. Lukashenko. “Being at the crossroads of Eurasia, our countries face similar difficulties in their socio-economic development. At

the same time, it opens up big opportunities for the expansion of trade and enhancement of ties in other areas.”

The Head of State emphasised that Belarus' presidency should give momentum to the discussion around solving issues that limit the economic potential of the countries in the region. “These include the synchronisation of plans to expand the transport infrastructure, the harmonisation of standards and procedures for accelerating trade flows, and the development of logistic services. I would like this meeting in Minsk to help us address such issues,” he said.

The presidency of the

CEI is an additional opportunity for Belarus to improve its mutual understanding with the EU through applied co-operation. “We view our presidency of the organisation as a unique opportunity for the country to effectively engage in the European integration processes,” added Mr. Lukashenko. “It is important that the CEI co-operates closely with the European Union, participates in its various programmes and projects, including the regional development strategy. We see this as an additional opportunity to improve understanding with the European Union through practical co-operation.”

During the meeting, the diplomats discussed the most urgent problems emerging in the European region.

In particular, the participants discussed the struggle against terrorism, the migration situation and the conflict in Ukraine. Speaking about the latter, the ministers of foreign affairs emphasised the role of the Minsk venue in the regulation of the crisis in Ukraine. They agreed that there are no comparable initiatives today.

The ministers also noted that the European Union now faces difficulties, therefore the uniting role of various integration associations and particular countries, including Belarus, is extremely important.

## CEI is open to collaboration

By Vladimir Khromov

During the meeting with the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Igor Crnadak, said that it's extremely important to unite efforts in counter-acting existing challenges and threats under modern conditions

Mr. Crnadak emphasised, “We're pleased to see how much attention your country pays to this interregional organisation, this initiative that has gathered us here. We live in a more complex and interconnected world, and all the countries of one region face

the same challenges and complex problems. The world changes daily and the problems that we are faced with also mutate. There are a number of areas of crucial importance in terms of co-operation, regardless of how developed our institutes are. We still need to interact with all the countries of our region. Such collaboration will enable us to effectively address different problems together.” These areas include combating terrorism and organised crime and addressing migration challenges.

The Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that it is of crucial importance to develop and implement regional programmes and projects while



Igor Crnadak

strengthening infrastructure ties within the countries and beyond their borders.

He noted that the CEI region includes EU member states, countries moving towards EU membership, and countries that are members of other integration associations. “As an international organisation, we're doing our best to ensure effective co-operation, intensification of infrastructure ties, harmonisation of procedures, effective trade in services and implementation of knowledge in the region,” added the Minister.

## Goals unite wider Europe

By Sergey Bogomarov

Belarusian presidency in CEI aims to improve situation in the region, notes Slovakia's Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák, during his meeting with the President of Belarus

Miroslav Lajčák congratulated Belarus on the successful CEI presidency and fully supported Alexander Lukashenko's call for discussion of multiple common challenges and threats. “No country and no region can deal with these challenges on its own. Most challenges are transnational and require comprehensive solutions. The Minsk meeting provides another possibility for discussions and better understanding,” noted Mr. Lajčák.



Miroslav Lajčák

Slovakia's Minister of Foreign and European

Affairs focussed on Belarus' CEI presidency aimed at promoting connectivity in a Wider Europe and bringing nations together. “Belarus' presidency aims to improve the situation in the region. In this light, I would like to speak about the *Eastern Partnership*, one of the key tools of co-operation between the EU and its Eastern partners. This project has always pursued very ambitious goals, namely to reunite Europe and establish links between the European countries. At the same time it is totally voluntary. We would like it to have an effective impact on our nations,” added the Minister.

# Transport horizons clearly visible

By Oksana Drukova

**Speaking at the ministerial conference on relationships and inter-operability, Central European Initiative: Building Bridges Between Europe and Asia (in relation to the Belt and Road initiative), Transport and Communication Minister Anatoly Sivak advises road building as path to success**

The Central European Initiative comprises eighteen countries interested in joint solution of transport and logistics issues. The Chinese International Chamber of Commerce of the Silk Road joined them at the forum. Heads of relevant departments, business representatives and specialists from international financial institutions came to Minsk to discuss how to gain benefit from

existing routes and where new routes should be launched. The Silk Road has inspired many. This year, our country chairs the Central European Initiative and, logically, Prime Minister Andrey Kobyakov came to greet guests.

“We’ve done much to develop transport and infrastructure, building excellent motorways, and modernising and developing railways, including electrification,” said Mr. Kobyakov. “We’ve created conditions for smooth movement of goods. However, the current level of globalisation in the world economy creates an even more difficult task: the need to increase speed of cargo and passenger flow. Combined efforts are needed, by many states. We hope that co-operation in the field of transport, with neighbouring European countries and international financial



High quality roads in Belarus

institutions, will enable us to modernise border transport infrastructure and eliminate bottlenecks. It’s also important to modernise water infrastructure and create conditions for movement of ‘river-sea’ ships from the Baltic to the Black seas.”

Mr. Sivak has suggested ideas for consideration by the Central European Initiative, such as initiating a common Eurasian transport network, to unify information systems, joint solution of security issues, and encouragement of the

free flow of traffic.

“As regards the railways, Europe applies its own transport law while former Soviet states use theirs. This means that we use different bills of lading, which act as an agreement with a client. We need to eliminate this imbalance and create a single document,” the Minister asserts.

According to Mr. Sivak, transport networks tend to have a local focus. For example, TEN-T network focuses on transportation problems within the European Union, while the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation and the EAEU solve their own regional problems. Such a division by country and region doesn’t aid the removal of trade barriers. Accordingly, it would be good to reduce their number, and aid trade between Europe and Asia.

## Viewing of investors

The Finance Ministry has announced information about the beginning of the Eurobonds roadshow in the USA and Europe. Depending on market conditions, our country plans to place two issues of Eurobonds for 5 and 10 years. The organisers are the Development Bank of Belarus, Citi and Raiffeisen Bank International AG. The format of a roadshow envisages presentational shares, meetings with potential investors and leading analysts. The event is organised by top management of the companies involved, prior to the placement of the bonds. Concrete terms for new issues of Belarusian Eurobonds and the volumes concerned haven’t been announced. However, analysts expect it may amount to \$1bn.



By Yevgeny Kononovich

Experts note that the major advantage of Eurobonds for a state is the absence of the necessity to take on additional obligations. Unlike international financial organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund or the Eurasian Development Bank, the owners of Eurobonds won’t require Belarus to enhance pension age, raise utility bills, privatise or conduct some other reforms. Further-

more, during the placement of Eurobonds, money immediately comes to the state treasury and in future the country won’t face the delay of tranches, as happened with loans from the Eurasian Fund for Stabilisation and Development.

“When a person hopes to receive a sum of money and doesn’t get it in the end, this creates difficulties. One can avoid such unexpectedness with Eurobonds and the most important thing is to find buyers. This is

the aim of the organisation of the roadshow,” Zhanna Kulakova, a financial consultant, explains.

However, Eurobonds also have a disadvantage. Belarus hopes to take a loan from the IMF at 2.28 percent per annum. This is a low tariff, but the IMF doesn’t aim to earn money; its goal is to conduct reforms in the country while Eurobonds are purchased with the aim of receiving additional income, so the rate will be higher.

Money that the country will be able to attract with the help of the bonds, is to be spent to service the currency state debt. The country now uses many sources of currency: directly purchased at the stock exchange, from export duties, loans on the domestic market, foreign credits and Eurobonds. Due to this we’ll be able to preserve the stable exchange rates of currencies, service the foreign currency state debt and expand our gold and currency reserves.

## Ambassador is authorised to declare

By Alexander Pimenov

**Israel keen on supplies of Belarusian food products**

During a discussion with journalists in Brest, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel to Belarus, Alon Shoham, noted that, “Israel is keenly involved in the purchase of clean products. We believe that Belarusian foods are organic and of high standard. We are considering the possibility of importing Belarusian food to Israel. We would be interested in all agricultural products especially dairy products and beef. Our consumers are also interested in mushrooms and berries as virtually none of those grow in Israel due to the lack of land and water.”

The diplomat arrived in Belarus several months ago and is becoming familiar with the regions. The Ambassador visited the Brest Region and met with the Chairman of the Brest Regional Executive Committee, Anatoly Lis. “We trade with more than 100 countries in the world, but business conducted with Israel is small and could be improved. As well as



Alon Shoham

food, we can sell light industrial products. Our woodworking industry is well-developed, too. I believe we can also expand co-operation in other areas,” stressed Mr. Lis.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the possibility of setting up a joint body in Belarus to control the production of food and promote it in Israel. Sharing best practice in agriculture was also discussed, as well as the organisation of educational tours for Belarusian and Israeli university students. Tourism development was also mentioned. “Every region of Belarus, particularly the Brest area, is interesting for Israelis from the point of view of nostalgic tourism. Coming here, people see their history. They can enjoy the nature we don’t have,” said Mr. Shoham.

The Ambassador also went to Baranovichi, visited several companies and met with representatives of the Jewish community.

# Hundreds of undertakings for country and population

Most popular youth start-up in the country: *100 Ideas for Belarus*

By Kristina Khilko

## Crazy hands

The *100 Ideas for Belarus* national competition is held annually, featuring such exhibits as biodegradable tableware, a 3D-printer, a machine for free meals and a glove-trainer for helping rehabilitation after a stroke.

First organised five years ago, as a minor contest, by the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, the competition is now prestigious, encouraging modern-day Edisons and Kilibins. To date, around nine thousand young scientists, inventors and innovators have presented their ideas at the forum, including Belarusians living in Russia, Moldova, Canada and even Argentina.

An expert council, uniting representatives of the Presidential Administration, the Academy of Sciences, the Economy Ministry and the State Committee for Science and Technology, chooses the ten best projects. These receive substantial grants from the Belarusian Innovation Fund and one lucky winner takes the Grand Prix, with prize money of Br11,500 (presented by sponsors).

This year, 120 (out of 2,000 ideas) reached the finals. The developments covered



VITALY GIL

The Ball of Robots has become a traditional annual event

diverse spheres, including IT and space. The Chairman of the Council of the Republic, Mikhail Myasnikov, follows the success of young people with great attention. He tells us, "The competition reveals our 'golden nuggets' but this is not enough. We need to encourage young people to enter graduate schools and go into science. As many ideas as possible

should be transformed into competitive products, that can be sold domestically and exported."

## Glove-simulator and hand-made telescope

In late June, finalists from the competition travel to Moscow, for the 4th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia. Among these lucky 'travellers' is Maxim Kiryanov, a third-year student at Gomel's State Machine Building College. The young man has developed a glove-simulator which helps patients recover their motor skills in their fingers after a stroke.

He comments, "While visiting the Cardiology Centre, I saw how painstaking it is for patients to recover. They

suffer from impaired motor co-ordination and have bad motor skills in their fingers. Massage helps restore these functions. There are devices for rehabilitation but they are expensive and bulky. I consulted doctors and then spent three months producing my glove-simulator. Patients can now independently — without external assistance or leaving home — do their exercises." Maxim is now collecting material to patent his development and launch its mass production.

Ilya Karpov, aged 11, failed to reach the finals but his resourcefulness amazed the jury: the young man assembled a telescope from an ordinary plumbing pipe and inexpensive lens. "How is it possible to learn astronomy if schools have no more than a couple of telescopes? I spent just Br45 on developing my device; industrially produced telescopes are at least ten times more expensive," the schoolboy adds. His innovation boasts a guidance system for tracking celestial bodies. It's pos-



YURI MOZOLEVSKY

During the finals of the *100 Ideas for Belarus* contest

sible to connect a webcam or a USB-cable to the telescope and the image can then be displayed on a large screen. As a result, all children in a classroom can simultaneously observe the stars.

## Caring for cows and receiving money

Demonstrating a development and launching its industrial production are two different tasks. Natalia Shchemeleva, a researcher at Vysheslesky Institute of Experimental Veterinary's Parasitology, under the National Academy of Sciences, won the prestigious competition two years ago. She presented a medicine capa-

ble of excreting parasites from cows, without poisoning the animals.

The unique drug is now produced by the Minsk Plant of Veterinary Medicines and is four times cheaper than foreign analogues. It has already paid for itself, within the first year, with Br3 million raised.

The competition organised by the Belarusian Republican Youth Union has reached a new orbit. Last year, the National Library hosted the finals of the *100 Ideas for the CIS* — attracting talented young people from Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.



Gomel inventor Maxim Kiryanov and his invention — a robotised glove to help recovery after a stroke

# African venue for Belarusian machinery

By Vladimir Khromov

## After negotiations with Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, the Foreign Minister of Angola, George Rebelo Pinto Chicoti, noted that Belarus and Angola plan to set up joint assembly productions in Africa

"As a result of the negotiations, we've agreed that Belarus-Angola relations have a vast potential that now requires practical implementation," asserts George Rebelo Pinto Chicoti. "We've discussed one of

the bilateral projects on the agenda, namely the construction of a plant to assemble Belarusian tractors in Angola. We've also exchanged views on setting up a plant to assemble Belarusian automobile machinery and other goods."

Moreover, the sides reviewed the prospects for expanding co-operation in defence and mining industry, with special emphasis placed on the ways of strengthening interaction in sci-tech sphere.

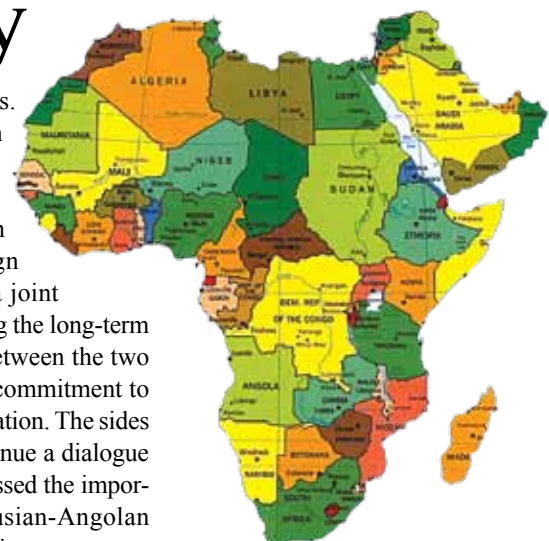
"We've agreed that we will make every effort to boost bilat-

eral co-operation, develop the legal framework, and work out the financing mechanisms to support exports of Belarusian goods to Angola," emphasises the diplomat.

In his turn, Mr. Makei highlights that the two countries are set to take specific measures to carry out various joint projects in the nearest future. According to him, the sides will hold the meetings of financial, agricultural, industrial, and other experts. "I'm convinced that these meetings will help us formulate concrete plans for further

interaction," he adds. "It's vital that both countries are interested in it."

The Belarusian and Angolan foreign ministers adopted a joint statement confirming the long-term friendly relations between the two countries and their commitment to developing collaboration. The sides have agreed to continue a dialogue at all levels and stressed the importance of the Belarusian-Angolan ministerial consultations.



# Excellent students attend graduation ball with the President

By Alexey Fedosov

The country's major national ball brought together 226 excellent university graduates who included laureates of special funds of the President, winners of international Olympiads and contests, as well as active and encouraging young people who impressively entered their new life to the rhythm of a waltz. They will have to conquer new heights in their selected areas, earn authority and work hard to gain experience. As is traditional, the President of Belarus shared his excitement and delight of the best youth of the country. Alexan-

der Lukashenko noted, "New horizons are open to you. The state guarantees a first job and a social status for you. However, such an attitude towards young specialists isn't seen everywhere. Create and work hard and you will achieve success. Don't forget that one can achieve the peak of professional mastery only through constantly expanding one's own knowledge and experience. We connect our hopes for the dynamic development of all spheres of life of Belarusian society with you, educated and energetic young people."

Mr. Lukashenko believes that the venue for the national ball of



New life lies ahead

## WORD-FOR-WORD

You embody the best qualities of the country's younger generation. When I see your lively faces and bright eyes, my heart is filled with faith in a decent future for sovereign Belarus. I'm convinced you'll always be able to defend our independence, bolster the economy and increase respect for our country on the international scene, in addition to preserving peace and accord in our native land.

university graduates is symbolic, since this solemn event is important in the life of young people and the whole of Belarus, "It takes place at the Palace of Independence — the cradle of Belarusian statehood — for a reason. This

is a sign of respect for youth, for the new generation of specialists. Young people are one of the major priorities of our state policy. Remember that Belarus needs you. Your home is here. We expect you to actively use your capabilities

and efforts for us and we will always support you."

After the ball, many graduates of Belarusian universities took home many emotions, as well as special certificates. These include expressions of gratitude from Alexander Lukashenko for excellent successes in studies, good behaviour and active participation in the country's public life.

State awards and expressions of gratitude from the President were also bestowed upon teachers. Separate words of gratitude were addressed to teachers who, according to Mr. Lukashenko, form the future of our nation.

# Long echoes of terrible war

The war is not over until the last soldier is buried: this idea has become the leitmotif for Belarus in its preservation and recreation of previously unknown pages of the history of the Great Patriotic War

By Anton Kostyukevich

In 2016 alone, the 52nd specialised search battalion involved in field exploration works, detected the remains of 6,232 bodies; the figure was greater than ever in all 20 years of the battalion's existence. The names of 369 soldiers were identified; most of them thought of as missing. In a single year, researchers visited over 100 alleged burial sites in 49 districts; in 60 cases, their digging was fruitful. Participants of WWI are also not forgotten: the remains of 11 soldiers have been unearthed and buried.

In 2016, major excavations took place at Stalags (German POW camps) in Borisov, Grodno and Minsk. In Borisov, the remains of over 4,300 victims were discovered; 47 were identified. Since January, the 52nd specialised search battalion has found the remains of 77 soldiers who gave their lives during the Great Patriotic



In memory of those who perished

War, in 26 sites. As planned, 64 alleged burials in 38 districts will be examined and, in late August, the 90th separate special search battalion of the Armed Forces of Russia will join Belarusians. A year ago, our 52nd battalion participated in field work at places of heavy fighting aimed at the breakthrough of the blockade of Leningrad. Although these areas are well studied,

the remains of three soldiers were discovered there.

This noble activity is assisted not only by special military units, but also patriotic public organisations and the movement is gaining momentum. The time has come to adopt instructions for field work. The Head of the Department on Entrenchment the Memory of Fatherland Defenders and War

Victims at the Armed Forces — Sergey Voronovich — said, "We are addressed by many representatives of public organisations of Russia and Belarus with questions on how to conduct these works. Never before has it been stipulated how these operations should be conducted and what they need to do to receive this right, what is the minimum age required for participation in excavations and what vaccinations are needed (since the remains can produce dangerous gases and bacteria). We are also preparing materials for publishing the final catalogue of war graves in Belarus."

These data will primarily appear in electronic form in an automated data base; this year alone, 85 military graves have been added. Overall, it stores information on over 2.6m people killed in armed conflict at different times. This database is available to specialists only but is likely to open for public in the coming years.

# Measures for strengthening trust between neighbours

By Alexander Pimenov

## Belarus and Latvia agree to cooperate in air defence

Oleg Dvigalev, Commander of the Air Forces and Air Defence Troops, paid a visit to Latvia. The two parties discussed the prospects for military co-operation around air and air defence. A number of important documents were signed at the meeting, including an agreement between the Defence Ministry of Belarus and the Ministry of Defence of Latvia on the exchange of information on flights, and the instruction on the interaction of the central control points of the Air Force and Air Defence Forces of the Armed Forces of Belarus and Latvia.

The military agencies of the two countries believe that the implementation of the agreement will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of protecting state borders of both Belarusian and Latvian airspace. The agreement will also help improve control over airspace use during flights near or crossing the state border.

# Belarusian surgeons perform heart transplant on girl

Specialists at the Minsk Cardiology Centre conduct a unique operation — transplanting a heart into a 13-year-old girl with a rare disease

By Olga Korneeva

The girl from Tbilisi was given the opportunity of recovery from a serious illness. Her rare and fatal heart disease was diagnosed six years ago and, over time, it had been becoming more and more difficult for her to walk. The girl's abdomen and feet swelled, her blood pressure fell and she was extremely fatigued, recently falling asleep sitting up.

The donor was a 29-year-old man from Minsk who died after a stroke. In this case, the sex is irrelevant. To transplant a heart, donor and a recipient should, if possible, be of the same height and weight. An unhealthy heart



PAVEL CHUIJKO

Yuri Ostrovsky

is usually smaller or larger than that of a healthy person. Other parameters should also match.

The operation has been a great success thanks to the efforts of the team of 12 people,



YURI MOZOLEVSKY

In the surgery room at Minsk's Cardiology Centre

including an academician and a heart surgeon, Yuri Ostrovsky. He was assisted by surgeons, Kirill Rubakhov and Yevgeny Gorbachev. Artificial circulation was overseen by doctor-cardiologist

Marina Bushkevich.

Overall, several transplant operations for children have been conducted at the Centre. "This girl's case is unique," noted cardiologist Sergey Spiridonov. "Her

disease of restrictive cardiomyopathy is rare but the patient's state is now improving."

The achievements of Belarusian doctors in various fields enable patients with

the most difficult diagnoses to be treated domestically, without the need to travel abroad. Furthermore, an increasing number of foreigners are now addressing Belarusian clinics for help.

## Kindness should always inspire kindness

Gomel hosts Belarus' first charity project — *Shelves of Kindness* — a Red Cross initiative

By Stanislav Galkovsky

Shoppers in Gomel will soon notice a new section in the supermarkets — shelves where anyone can leave food items for the needy. Donating food, and placing items in those special sections will enable anyone in need to take those items without paying anything. One of the shops participating in the project is 'Oksana': the small shelf with a red cross at the entrance connects those who wish to help with those who need assistance.

So far, the store has attracted more volunteers and media representative than those leaving food donations. However, the volume of products is increasing in the charity section. Driver Sergey Deshkunov has donated a package of rice, admitting that the campaign isn't too costly. "Maybe

not daily but a couple of days a week it's possible to leave food here. Some might have nothing to eat and this simple action helps a person, or may even save them from committing a crime. If everyone buys a package of buckwheat or a loaf of bread to put on this shelf, we won't be poorer. Meanwhile, the world will turn to the better," he says. Sergey's words are confirmed by Irina. The woman modestly asked us not to mention her family name but she donated a hot loaf of bread.

Over the course of time, flour, chocolate bars and pasta have found their way onto the shelf. A cereal company donated several dozen packages of their products. They're also ready to participate in the campaign — periodically supplementing 'the shelves of kindness'.



Shelf of Kindness in a Gomel supermarket

This practice is popular in the EU and similar shelves are appearing in Kazakh, Azerbaijani and Bulgarian stores. Alla Smolyak, the Chair of Gomel's regional branch of the Belarusian Red Cross Society,

explains that, while making purchases, people know they can help someone. "This is a pilot project — being run in Belarus for the first time. If it proves successful and popular, we plan to further distribute such shelves across

the Gomel Region and the country. I hope the project will involve many people, inspiring us to become more attentive to others' problems. Nobody will oversee how many free products can be taken. We hope everyone

will be guided by their conscience — taking as much food as they need at that moment," she notes.

So far, all food donated is being claimed immediately, with shelves often empty, but this is a temporary problem, as the Gomel Red Cross asserts. Two years ago, it placed nineteen containers throughout the region to collect clothing and footwear for the poor and homeless. It's an alternative to humanitarian non-food aid. These containers operate with the assistance of local authorities and all collected items are sanitised and then distributed among the needy. This example of charity has gained so much popularity that too many clothes and footwear are being collected and the Red Cross' regional branch now has the opportunity to provide some items to correctional facilities.

# First day of EU summit sees May set out expat plan

Another meeting of EU leaders in Brussels, but far from business as usual. Brexit still looms large.

British Prime Minister Theresa May was back in the Belgian capital, but without her parliamentary majority.

Time for an olive branch to the other 27 EU countries: the thorny issue of expats rights.

May said, "What I am going to be setting out is clearly how the United Kingdom proposes to protect the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and see the rights of UK citizens in Europe protected."

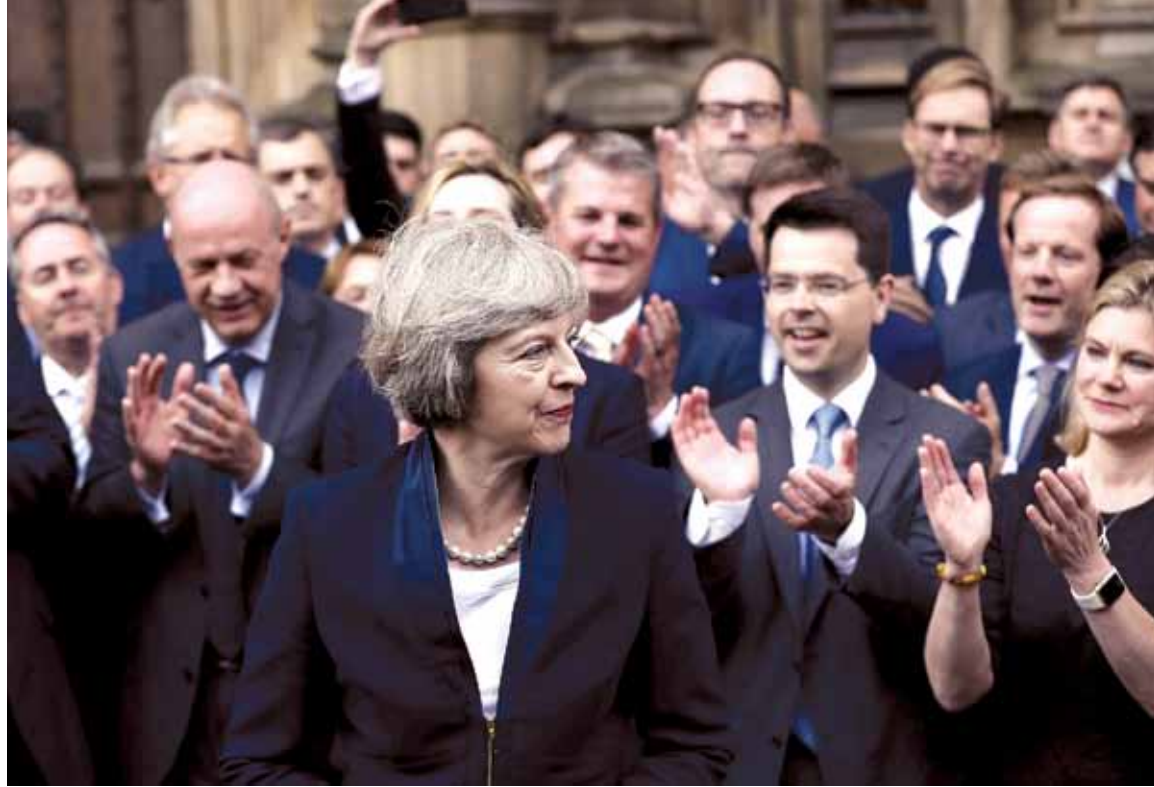
May's offer will give EU citizens living in the UK for five years or more the same rights as British citizens.

No cut off date has been specified for newer residents.

The catch? May wants EU leaders to guarantee the same deal for British expats living abroad.

Yet some imagine Brexit may never happen.

European Council President Donald Tusk said, "Some of my British friends have even asked me whether Brexit could be reversed and whether I could imagine an outcome where the UK stays part of the EU. I told them that, in fact,



the European Union was built on dreams that seemed impossible to achieve. So, who knows. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."

Meanwhile, Dutch Prime Min-

ister Mark Rutte, still locked in tricky coalition talks, urged the UK to decide what it wants.

He said, "It is crucially important we know what Great Britain wants from Brexit. I hope obvi-

ously we'll come to some form of continued [UK] membership or relationship with the internal market; with the customs union. I think that is in the interests of jobs in the United Kingdom."



## Macron reshuffles French government

**Amid a wave of resignations, France gets its second government line-up since President Emmanuel Macron took office in May**

The string of departures meant that the reshuffle was more extensive than originally planned, with a group of relative unknowns making their entrance. Among them were law expert Nicole Belloubet who becomes Justice Minister, replacing political veteran Francois Bayrou who quit earlier in the day.

He and other key centrist allies of the new President, all from the MoDem Party, have stepped down amid a judicial investigation into

claims it misused EU parliamentary funds.

Bayrou, a Macron ally since endorsing his centrist bid for the presidency in February, said he quit to protect the government from the scandal that has engulfed him.

"I will stand by the President and faithfully support him with a political and personal understanding that is dear to me," Bayrou said.

Macron's Republic on the Move Party won 308 seats in the 577-strong National Assembly in the Parliamentary elections, while MoDem gained 42. Businesswoman Florence Parly gets the defence portfolio.

## Michigan airport attacker yelled 'Allahu Akbar' before stabbing officer

**The FBI are treating the stabbing of a police officer at Michigan's Bishop Airport in Flint as an act of terrorism**

Canadian police have carried out a search at the suspect's home in Montreal — he's been named as 50-year-old Amor Ftouhi. Two others have been arrested in connection with the attack. FBI agent David Gelios said the suspect appeared to be a lone wolf attacker.

"What we do know is that Mr. Ftouhi entered the airport, he spent a little time on the first level. He was carrying baggage. He went into a restroom. He spent a little time in the restroom, dropped both bags and came out. Pulled out a knife, yelled

'Allahu Akbar' and stabbed Lt. Neville in the neck."

Lieutenant Jeff Neville was knifed in the neck and back while on duty at the airport. It's said he managed to wrestle his attacker before helping to take him into custody. The officer is in a stable condition after undergoing surgery.



## Taxi drivers against Uber

**Hundreds of taxi drivers blocked one of the Croatian capital's main boulevards with their cars to protest against the taxi-requesting app Uber**

They were demanding that the US-based ride-hailing service be banned in the country, citing what they see as illegal operations in Croatia for the last two years.

Their demands were debated in Croatian government in Zagreb and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said, "We have concluded that transportation via Uber is against the current regulations in the Republic of Croatia."

Uber issued a statement saying that the blocking of Zagreb streets 'poses a threat to the citizens and infrastructure'.

## China: ancient Sun altar

**The remnants of a 3,000-year-old altar to the Sun have been discovered in north west China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region**

It is believed to have been built by the tribes that once inhabited the grassland in three circular layers, using stones that archaeologists believe must have been pulled to the site from many kilometres away by men and horses.

Experts say the altar, which is 100 metres in diameter, closely resembles the heaven-worshipping altars of the dynasties that once ruled China's central plains. Liu Chuanming, one of the archaeologists studying the ruins, said, "This proves that central plain culture had already long reached the foot of Mount Tianshan, in the Bayanbulak Grassland, the choke point of the Silk Road."

## First Grenfell fire funeral

**The first funeral for a victim of the Grenfell Tower fire has taken place. Relatives of 23-year-old Mohammad Alhajali had flown in from Syria.**

Hundreds of mourners gathered outside the Mosque where the ceremony took place. Alhajali, a civil engineer student, lived on the 14th floor. He became separated from his brother who managed to escape.

At least 79 people died in the disaster and many more have been left homeless. In a statement to the House of Commons, Britain's Prime Minister has apologised for 'state failures' after the blaze.

There has been widespread anger at the slow response from the authorities. Some also marched with anti-government protesters demanding 'justice for Grenfell'.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



# Arkady Shpunt deserves exhibition about himself

## Exhibition at the National Art Museum devoted to founder of domestic restoration

By Vladimir Mikhaialov

The exhibited works of Belarusian art are only a small share of the artistic heritage preserved until now. The show is possible only thanks to a set of measures aimed at their rescue and restoration.

It is well-known that most icons and pictures come to the museum in a bad technical condition requiring the urgent intervention of a restorer for their preservation. At present, around two dozen specialists of this unique profession work at the National Art Museum, though domestic restoration began taking shape only in the 1970s. Arkady Shpunt was at the forefront of the work.

After graduating from the Minsk Art College and receiving his diploma as a sculptor in 1970, the young specialist was employed in the stucco workshop of the Special Scientific-Restoration Production Workshops. The organisation was in the initial stage of its development and the result of Arkady's three-year work there was the restoration of the stucco of St. Sofia's Cathedral in Polotsk, the Bulgaks' Palace in Zhilichi and, most importantly, the ceramic decoration of the Paskevichs' tombs in Gomel.

At that time, restoration was in its early stages in Belarus, and accordingly Arkady Shpunt studied restoration at Moscow's All-Union Central Research Laboratory of the Preservation and Restoration of Museum Values. He was taught by such masters as Yevgenia Kristi and Olga Lelekova. In the city of Vladimir, he was lectured by Alexander Nekrasov. Arkady's first internship was held under the guidance of Ms. Kristi, at Latvia's Ethnographic Open-Air Museum in Riga. He focused on restoration



Congratulations from Director of National Art Museum, Vladimir Prokoptsov



Arkady Shpunt in his studio

of carving, sculpture and decorative church elements.

In 1977, the Museum of Ancient Belarusian Culture at the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Culture, Ethnography and Folklore. At present, it holds many icons restored by Mr. Shpunt; three are exhibited at the National Art Museum. The same year, the master participated in a scientific expedition of the State Art Museum [later known as the National Art Museum of Belarus] and, since then, has often toured to save artworks. Thanks to his work, the museum collection has been replenished with rare samples of icon painting and sculpture from the 16th-18th century; many of them are on permanent display.

During the restoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Pinsk in the 1980s,



Exhibition tells us about the art of restoration

along with other restorers, Arkady was working out the methodology and technology of the use of new materials. He then met with Belarus' Cardinal Kazimierz Świątek with whom he co-operated for many years.

In the late 1990s, a team of restorers led by Mr. Shpunt began working on monumental paintings at the Minsk Roman Catho-

lic Archcathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 2007, the painting of St. Felician's chapel was completely unveiled and the work enjoyed the apostolic blessing of Pope Benedict. Moreover, Mr. Shpunt was awarded the Ministry of Culture's badge 'For Contribution to the Development of Belarusian Culture'.

Since 1999, Mr. Shpunt has

worked in the National Art Museum of Belarus and, in 2008, he headed its Department of Scientific-Restoration Workshops. In March 2011, the Metropolitan of Minsk and Slutsk, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, Filaret, awarded him a diploma of the Patriarchal Exarchate as a blessing for his work for the glory of the Holy Orthodox Church. In 2012, Arkady was awarded the Special Prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus to Workers of Culture and Art in the 'Museum Activity' category. In 2014, he received a Francysk Skaryna Medal.

Interestingly, Mr. Shpunt is also the author of exciting fiction, numerous articles and some documentary film scripts. The master's talent is extremely versatile.

The current show is of a fundamentally innovative character: both in terms of the selection of works and regarding the material concept. The latter is based on the fact that some works are taken straight from the restorer's hands to be further returned to him for final restoration.

In the centuries of its existence, each artefact does not simply witness diverse events: it becomes a direct participant of personal and human history which often creates irreparable damage to it. Visitors to the exhibition enjoy a unique opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of the restoration process and its results. They can also see restoration as a life stage of artefacts and the museum's routine. The exhibition presents the hitherto hidden biography of works and details of the restoration process which helps return historical and cultural monuments to glory from virtually nothing.

A team of highly professional certified restorers work at the National Art Museum now, overseeing the revival of oil paintings, ancient Belarusian and decorative-applied arts. They also conduct a chemical-physical study of old works of art.

The show unveils the secrets of the museum restorers' work, demonstrating pictures before and after their reconstruction. It also presents the personalities who have allowed us to enjoy these cultural treasures. The great Arkady Shpunt is among them.

## Worthy of world recognition

### Which architectural monuments can be added to the UNESCO List

By Lyudmila Minkevich

Any student knows that four famous sites in Belarus are registered on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites. It's good to know that one lives close to monuments comparable to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Pantheon in Rome or the Acropolis in Athens. This means that the world community has recognised the authenticity and uniqueness (two of the required criteria for the prestigious list) of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Mir Castle, Nesvizh Palace and Park Estate and the Geodetic Struve Arch. It's no surprise that after acquiring the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site, the number of tourists has increased. In the UNESCO Tentative List there are also five more entries from Belarus. The committees in charge of these monuments plan to prepare their folios and submit them to the international experts of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris by 2020. There's no need to wait for this however, as the sites can be visited now. All the monuments are worth attention not because of their UNESCO status but because of their history and uniqueness.

#### Corner of spirituality

Visitors to the St. Yevfrosiniya Monastery which also includes the Saviour Transfiguration Church, should be ready to admire its breath-taking beauty, harmonious chanting and atmosphere of spirituality. Before getting to the Saviour Transfiguration Church, drop into the Central Cathedral of the Raising of the Holy Cross. Here, the relics of St. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya — the foundress of the monastery — are kept in a richly decorated shrine, among gold and silver, candles and icons. These remain pristine even after nine centuries. Then you should continue to the Saviour Transfiguration Church — small



**Site:**  
Saviour Transfiguration Church

**Location:**  
Polotsk, Vitebsk Region

**Nomination in the list:**  
*Material Embodiment of Spiritual Heritage of St. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya in the Example of the Saviour Transfiguration Church*

This year, Kolozha Church is to undergo major repairs.

The church is the only surviving example of the Grodno architectural school. Its peculiarities include the use of huge stones in the walls, probably from the ancient pagan temple on which the church was built, and glazed ceramic tiles in the form of crosses of various colours: olive-green, brown and multi-coloured. The inside walls of the church have vase-like indentations which simultaneously add to the acoustics and improve the construction of the church. The composition itself, with round pillars, is very rare for Orthodox churches.

#### Paradise for canoeists

If one wishes to enjoy nature, to admire architecture and at the same time relax with friends or family, you may add the Avgustovsky Canal to your list of must-see sites. The Avgustovsky Canal is not merely a waterway, connecting several rivers; it's a unique monument of engineering and material culture, constructed in 1824-1839. Now it's also a tourist and recreational facility of more than 5,500 hectares. There are only three such canals in the world: the Caledonian in the UK, the Göta Canal in Sweden and our Avgustovsky Canal, located in the territories of Belarus and Poland

Though it was built as an important transport artery for moving timber and goods by raft, it was not used very long for this purpose. Its scenic route ensured it quickly turned into a tourist Mecca: back in early 20th century canoeing began to develop here, with yacht clubs and luxury boating holidays organised. Tourists are offered a trip on a motor boat or cruiser, canoe rafting, hiking and cycling. Moreover, the canal runs through the Republican landscape reserve — Grodnenskaya Pushcha — one of the most ecologically clean places in Belarus.

**Site:**  
Avgustovsky Canal

**Location:**  
Grodno

**Nomination in the list:**  
*Avgustovsky Canal — A Work of Man and Nature*



**Site:**  
St. Boris and Hleb or Kolozha Church

**Location:**  
Grodno

**Nomination in the list:**  
*St. Boris and Hleb Church in Grodno as an Example of the Grodno Architectural School*

compared to modern churches but magnificent. Remarkably, this church was built during the life of Yevfrosiniya. According to the textbooks, this was in 1161, and in line with recent investigations of the Hermitage employees, between 1127 and 1135. Despite reconstruction in the classical period, the church is the best example of a preserved monument of ancient

Polotsk architecture. Its major value is in the ancient fresco paintings which completely covered the church walls. Works are currently underway on the restoration of the frescoes so the church building is covered in scaffolding. However, this doesn't stop visitors from examining the holy faces of saints who look down from the ceiling, walls and arches... It's difficult to

believe that this is a glimpse into the 12th century! The depiction of St. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya was most likely painted during her lifetime as people viewed her as saint even before her death.

#### 'Speaking walls'

Even if you have read about Kolozha Church, seen it in photos and heard about it from friends it should still

be seen first-hand. There's much to see in Grodno; it's no accident that it is called the 'royal city'. Kolozha is one of its main features. It's strong, solid, steadfast yet vulnerable; it's a miracle how this church has been standing on the steep bank of the River Nieman since the 12th century. In 1853, it suffered from a landslide, completely losing its southern stone wall.

#### TAKING PRIDE OF PLACE

The following sites also lay claim to the prestigious list as buildings of public worship: St. Michael Church in Zelva District's Synkovichi village, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Shchuchin District's Murovanka village and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Postavy District's Kamai village. These sites are living proof that

Belarus has often been subject to the cruellest wars, even the churches were built in the shape of fortresses. By 2020, there are plans to prepare a dossier, entitled *Religious Wooden Architecture of the 16th-19th Centuries in Belarus, Ukraine and Poland*. Together with churches of the neighbouring states Belarusian

churches may also join the UNESCO World Heritage List: St. Nicholas Church in Bereza District's Zditovo and the Saviour Transfiguration Church in Zhabinka District's Khmelevo. Constructed from fragile material, they managed to survive time, weather and dozens of adverse historical events. If an agreement

is reached with other states, the architecture of Nezavisimosti Avenue in Minsk — an example of Stalinist Empire style — can claim the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the transnational nomination with the preliminary title, *Socialist and Postwar Architecture in Eastern and Central Europe*.

# Perfect start for professional career

Step by step, blow by blow, classical boxing is regaining its position in Belarus. It's pleasing to see the serious-minded activity of the Belarusian Boxing Federation, headed by Dmitry Tikhomolov, primarily aimed at the popularisation of this sport in the country and the promotion of our own young talents.

By Sergey Kanashits

Once a decision was made to completely change the path of development in Belarusian boxing, things moved very quickly. The introduction of athletes from other countries into the national team was stopped and a policy of replacing foreign boxers was adopted.

It was not an easy journey however, at first the results worsened as expected, but then a rise in fortunes should follow. It seems the first signs of improvement are appearing now. Our boxing team will be almost completely changed for the 2020 Tokyo Olympiad and shouldn't repeat the failure it had in Rio when only three Belarusians managed to appear in the Olympic ring and, unfortunately, were almost immediately knocked out of the competition.

We have several new names in the team at the European Boxing Championships,



Yevgeny Karmilchik

recently held in Kharkov. Mainly, Yevgeny Karmilchik. Yevgeny began to prove his talent in the ring when he was a pupil. At the age of 16, he became a prize winner of both the junior World and European championships alongside more mature athletes. On May 12th, he celebrated his 19th birthday; he is 154cm tall and weighs 49kg. This is the lightest weight category in contemporary boxing and often difficult for Europeans: primarily those from Asia and South America set the tone here.

Karmilchik is a unique

boxer: skilful, quick, with the instinct of a cat and, most importantly, powerful with a strong punch. An experienced Turkish athlete, Muhammed Unlu (a medallist of the 2015 European Games) has already felt Yevgeny's hard-to-catch left hand in the quarterfinals of the European Championship. In the third round, Yevgeny decided not just to rely on the judges' opinion and sent a powerful blow to the jaw which knocked out his rival as if he'd been given an electric shock. In the light category knockouts happen rarely and in amateur boxing these are single cases, so Yevgeny immediately drew the attention of famous boxing specialists.

The task for this European Championship was simple: to return home with a medal and it has been fulfilled, with Yevgeny Karmilchik claiming bronze. The performance of the national boxing squad however, should have been

better. Experienced Mikhail Dolgolevets stood one step away from the semi-finals (the judges took a rather controversial decision by awarding victory to his Croatian opponent), as well as one more new face in the national team — Vladislav Smyaglikov. Dmitry Asanov should have also performed better; he is a long way from the peak of his form owing to injury. He is however, a young boxer and has plenty of opportunity to return to his best.

Current development in Belarusian boxing have been the subject of much discussion. Each year the country hosts many international tournaments, with our national squad (including the junior team) conducting dozens of training camps, including some abroad (our young boys are at present training in Italy) and each year new boxing halls open in the country. This is only the tip of the iceberg; there are also training workshops, active representation of our envoys in European and world federations and the introduction of boxing into the school curriculum.

It will soon be no surprise to often hear the names of our young boxers in the medal standings of the junior world and European championships.



Ilya Ivashko — a winner

## New victories on tennis courts

Young Belarusian tennis players from time to time successfully perform at various tournaments

By Igor Svitov

Ilya Ivashko has won the ATP Challenger Tour's in Uzbekistan's Fergana with a prize fund of \$75,000. In the final match, which lasted 1 hour and 25 minutes, the Belarusian athlete, ranked 204th in the ATP ranking, defeated 22-year-old Serbian Nikola Milojević (ranked 211th) — 6:4, 6:3.

For Ivashko this title is the fourth in his singles' matches and the first at the tournament of the ATP Challenger series.

Another Belarusian tennis player, Vera Lapko, together with Australian Priscilla Hon, have won the ITF Warsaw Sports Group Open with a prize fund of \$25,000 in the women's doubles.

The Lapko / Hon duo was seeded first at the tournament. In the first round the Belarusian and Australian beat the duo of Poland's Justyna Jegi-

olka / Sarah Rebecca Sekulic of Germany — 7:5, 6:3 — and in the quarterfinals — Poland's Ania Hertel and Stefania Rogozinska Dzik — 6:4, 6:2. In the semi-finals they were stronger than the Polish team of Paulina Czarnik and Daria Kuczer — 6:1, 6:2 — while in the finals Lapko and Hon won over Poland's Katarzyna Kawa and Katarzyna Piter (seeded second) — 7:6 (3), 6:4. For Vera Lapko this is the fourth doubles title in her professional career.



Vera Lapko

# All entrants have been awarded medals

By Kirill Karin

Over 200 professional athletes and amateurs were brought together in the first 'Garadzenskaya Vandrouka' race through an historical part of Grodno

'Garadzenskaya Vandrouka' has become a creative interpretation of the Peace Run, which has been held in Grodno for more than twenty years. In the 20th jubilee year, the race changed from the track in the Kolozhsky Park to a tourist route in the centre of Grodno.

"The track covers the most interesting sites in the city, primarily along the historical part of Grodno. Athletes saw around 400 sights: ar-



During the race

chitectural monuments and cultural buildings, as well as unusual places and locations," said the Head of the Sports and Tourism Department

at the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Oleg Andreichik who, alongside his family, appeared at the start of the 10km race.

In total, the 'Garadzenskaya Vandrouka' included two distances of 5 and 10 kilometres. The winners were decided in several age categories of both men and women. One of the entrants was more than 80 years old. "We have come not just to win but to have a wonderful time. Our team consists of 10 people and most are visiting Belarus for the first time. We have come to Grodno under the visa-free regime. We're very pleased with the organisation of the competition, as well as with the city itself. Running tourism is becoming very popular around the world and Grodno has much to offer tourists in this area," noted the head of the amateur running club from Bialystok, Jaro-

slaw Chodyncki. Representatives of many regions of Belarus, alongside guests from Poland took part in the unusual race.

Grodno's Igor Teteryukov became the first winner of the historic race. He noted that the track was both difficult and interesting. The city is a familiar type of race but the elevation changes and relief on reaching the centre was obvious. "It was great that we were supported by fans over the whole distance," noted the winner.

All participants of the race were awarded a unique medal in the form of an ancient coin which had the race logo on one side and the city's major attraction — Kolozha Church — on the other.

# 12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, June 29, 2017

## Holiday of the week



Kupalie celebrated in Volozhin District's Rakov, with making of wreaths, singing of ritual songs and dancing around the fire

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 9<sup>th</sup> July. Exhibition of Vladimir Krukovsky's social poster

#### BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> July. *Other Side: Unknown Photos from USSR's Occupied Territory and Soviet-German Frontline (1941-1945)*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*  
Until 20<sup>th</sup> August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

#### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

#### LOSHITSA ESTATE

8/2 Chizhevsky Lane  
Until 27<sup>th</sup> August. *Wonderful Animals*

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> September. *Made in USSR*

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

#### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> July. White Pole Museum of Ice-Cream

#### YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

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

#### VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 20<sup>th</sup> July. Exhibition of Sergey Drozdov's author doll: *Male Sight*

#### PUSHKIN LIBRARY

4 Gikalo Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> July. Exhibition of live exotic butterflies

#### HOUSE-MUSEUM OF 1<sup>ST</sup> RSDRP SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 6<sup>th</sup> August. *Path of Weapon: from Blade to Sort Rifle*

#### CAT MUSEM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Summer of Cat Platoshka*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
29.06. Orr and Ora

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
29.06. Jane Eyre 30.06. Women's Revolt  
02.07. My Wife is a Liar 04.07. Once in Chicago  
05.07. Sofia Golshanskaya  
06.07. Wedding in Malinovka

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
30.06. School of Taxpayers 04.07. Pinsk Gentry  
05.07. People of the Marshes  
06.07. Jeweller's Jubilee

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street  
30.06. Woyzeck

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
30.06, 01 and 04.07. Divers 05.07. A Husband Leaves His Wife  
06.07. Pane Kokhanku

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
29.06. Thank You, Margo!

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
29-30.06. Wolves and Sheep  
01.07. The Battlefield  
02.07. Abduction of Yelena  
04 and 05.07. #13 06.07. Pygmalion

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
29.06. Portrait 30.06. Mr. Joke 04.07. Adam's Jokes  
05.07. Doctor Raus' Career 06.07. Circles of Paradise

#### BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
29.06 and 04.07. Doctor Aibolit  
05.07. My Little Enchantress  
06.07. Thumbelina

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
29.06. Belvedere

#### TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
04.07. TheatreHD: RSC: Anthony and Cleopatra

#### BELARUSIAN ARMY DRAMA THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street  
06.07. Last Ardent Lover

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