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Cornflowers perfectly suit *Cycling Miss* Yekaterina Shantar

A cycling parade has been held in Minsk, launched by eight-time world track cycling champion Natalia Tsylynskaya. After the race, the *Cycling Miss* was selected out of almost two hundred entrants who took part in trials: from a cycling dance to spinning pedals on an exercise bike and taking to the red carpet together with her bike! First place went to Yekaterina Shantar.



Heat doesn't damage the course

By Victor Kharkov

This August heat! There's nothing else to say about it, and it continues. Though August is thought to be the height of summer and everything should begin to cool down after it, so far that this is not the case...

Yes, it is not easy for us to endure the heat but weather like this is good news for our farmers when the harvest begins, and August is just the right time. Work is foremost in their thoughts, while news that millions of tonnes of grain have been harvested arouses a feeling of true pride for the farmers' hard work.

Of course, modern machinery nowadays is a great help to agrarians and it is pleasing to see that in most cases, it is domestically produced. The most recent example: Gomel's agricultural machine builders have created the latest harvester that can rival the best world analogues of such machinery. The President of Belarus personally tested the experimental sample of the harvester and highly praised it.

To gain an investor is always beneficial and profitable. Belarus has been encouraging investors as desired guests at the top level, especially in recent years. In particular cases, they are offered very attractive proposals, primarily various privileges. All this is justified, as investors need to be interested in order for them to choose in our favour.

An eloquent example of fruitful investment co-operation is the Chinese-Belarusian interaction. The joint Great Stone Industrial Park, near Minsk, whose residents are famous Chinese companies and other significant (multi-million) projects (that are successfully being implemented in our country with the participation of Chinese capital), and a more decisive and 'aggressive' attempt of the Belarusian companies to enter the huge market of the Heavenly Empire are the components of pragmatic partnership that brings mutual benefits.

Meanwhile, experts and observers believe that there are still many opportunities (including investment) regarding the countries of the post-Soviet space. Former ties have not immediately been broken. Many believe that today they are experiencing a renewed renaissance.

There's evidence to support this theory. For example, in recent times, much has appeared in the news to suggest that Belarus and Uzbekistan are trying to activate their relations. We've learnt only recently about the visits of delegations and issues of collaboration are being discussed, primarily in the trade-economic sphere. Much has been also spoken about the agreements reached. We should remind readers that an Embassy of Uzbekistan has been operating in Minsk until recently and who else, but the Ambassador has complete information about the bilateral contacts and visions of prospects at interstate level? We'll publish an interview with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Belarus, H.E. Nasirjan Yusupov, in one of the nearest issues of the newspaper.

As far as the heat is concerned, as usual, it doesn't damage our work when it is done with passion and should still bring us benefits.

Green light for all wishing to attend the Games



World football and ice hockey championships, Olympiads and other tournaments bring together guests from dozens of countries, not only celebrating sports but raising 'tourism awareness' for the host country. The 2nd European Games offers another opportunity for Belarus to throw open its doors and show itself to the world.



Welcome to Belarus!

By Denis Komarov

To help make the event a success, the President has signed off on a visa-free regime, allowing participants, official representatives and organisers of the Games visa-free entry from May 20th through until July 10th, 2019. Meanwhile, fans with tickets or accreditation will be able to arrive in Belarus without a visa from June 10th until July 10th, 2019.

Georgy Katulin, the Director of the Directorate of

the 2nd European Games Foundation, believes the decision will allow visitors 'to see our beautiful cities and talented people and to assess our hospitality'. "I'm convinced that the adopted decision will find a very good response among representatives of the world community. I've no doubt that many warm words will be said and praise given at the forthcoming session of the co-ordination commission, in early September."

According to Mr. Katulin,

the period of stay in Belarus will be written on accreditation cards for Games' official participants. Moreover, information on fans will automatically enter a database during ticketing, for transfer to the border. Ticket holders should only need to show a valid passport. Importantly, visa-free entry will apply to other entry points than Minsk National Airport.

Volunteers are a vital part of the event, with 8,000 taking part in the 2nd European Games. Only a portion

of these will be residents of Belarus. "We hope to see youngsters taking part in volunteer activity, with student brigades at sporting facilities. We're receiving many applications from abroad, from young people keen to gain experience and make best use of this opportunity."

Of course, welcoming young people as volunteers not only helps an event run smoothly, but adds another dimension to promoting a positive image of our country worldwide.

Polling conducted online

By Oleg Bogomazov

World Bank plans to allocate \$2m for population census in Belarus

When during the trial population census in the Molodechno District a third of the population expressed readiness to take part in the survey in 2019 via the Internet, the World Bank suggested to give a grant, aiming to ensure the preparation of Internet-census. "The document on allocation of the grant is in the stage of signing. It refers to \$1.9m that will be directed to develop the corresponding software product and to purchase a part of tablets," notes Inna Medvedeva, the

Chair of the National Statistical Committee of Belarus.

At the same time, work is being conducted with UNFPA from which the National Statistical Committee of Belarus (BelStat) also plans to receive financial assistance in the end of this year. This will be directed exclusively for public awareness campaign and preparation of processing of census data. "Moreover, the issue of sponsor assistance is also being discussed with organisations which are ready to purchase tablets for BelStat. We already have particular agreements. It's likely that the technique will be purchased for Education and Health Min-

istries which are currently undergoing active informatisation. We'll be granted tablets for free use only for the moment of census since we don't need so much technique," noted Mr. Medvedeva.

"As the trial census showed, thanks to the use of the software product the filling time for census form reduced by three-fold," underlined Ms. Medvedeva. "Previously, it took 15-20 minutes to fill in the form while it can be filled in within 5 minutes on a tablet." According to Ms. Medvedeva, the programme includes elements which enable to receive additional control of populating census when filling answers into a questionnaire.

Government leadership changed in the country

Important personnel decisions adopted last Saturday by President of Belarus at Independence Palace

By Vasily Kharitonov

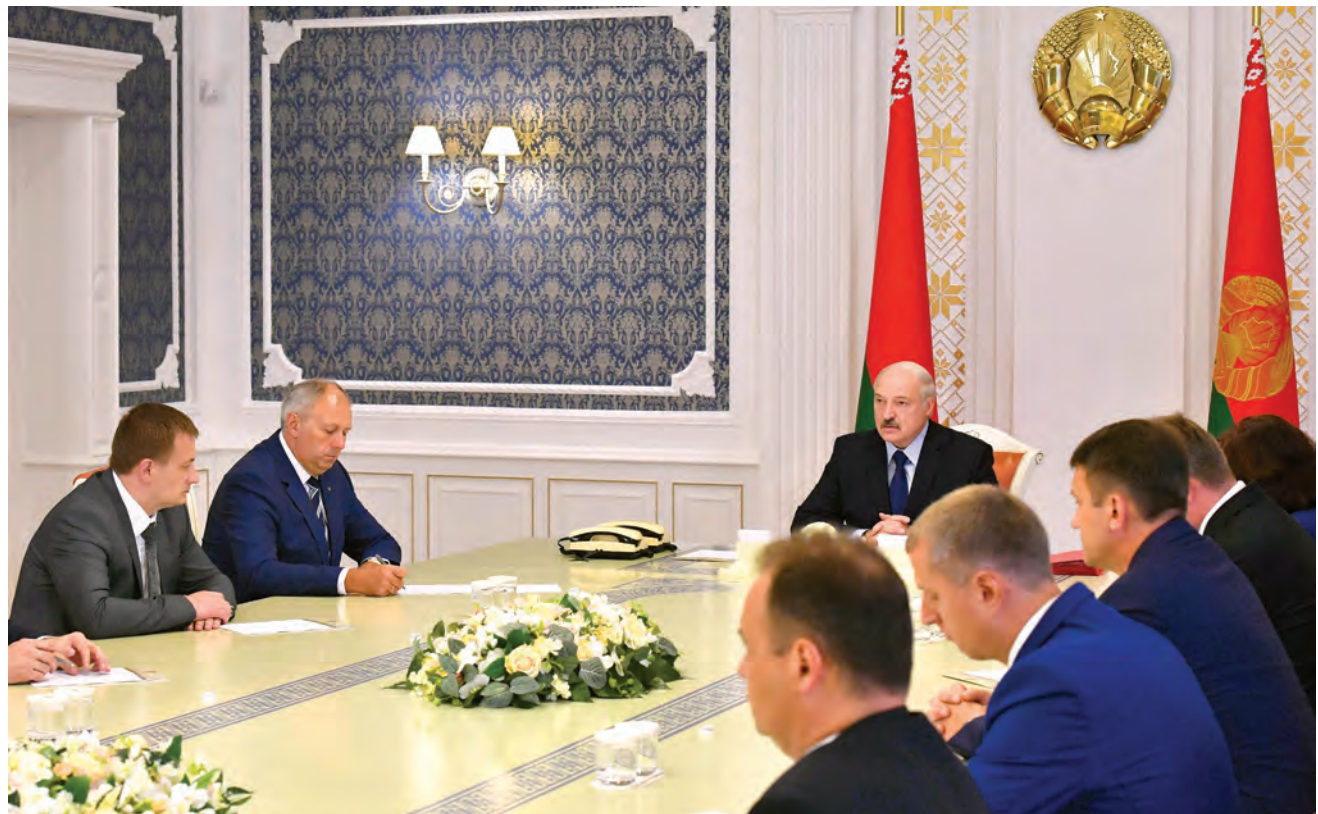
Alexander Lukashenko appointed a new Prime Minister — Sergei Rumas, who previously headed the Development Bank. The First Deputy Prime Minister became Alexander Turchin, who used to head the Office of the Council of Ministers and the Council for Entrepreneurship Development. Former Chairman of the Belneftekhimprom Concern, Igor Lyashenko, was appointed Deputy Prime Minister, who will be responsible for issues of industry and power engineering. Vladimir Kukharev, who previously worked as Deputy Chairman of the State Control Committee, will be also Deputy Prime Minister and he will oversee construction issues and the housing and utilities sector and transport. Another Deputy PM will be Igor Petrishenko who has led the Belarusian diplomatic mission in Moscow. His sphere of interests will include the social block: issues of healthcare, education, culture and sports.

Furthermore, the President appointed new heads of ministries of architecture and construction, industry, communications and informatisation, economy, as well as the head of the State Military-Industrial Committee.

The President explained the reasons for these personnel replacements, “We have decided on a particular course. According to the Constitution of Belarus, the President announces this policy in his election programme and, proceeding from this, people cast their vote. No one can deceive people. In some instances, in our own and other countries, politicians declare one policy and follow another. But this hasn’t ever been the case and won’t be tolerated whilst I’m president. What we have promised people, we will deliver.”

Proceeding from the President’s statement it became clear that during the previous Government, promises didn’t always meet the actions, while the fulfilment of presidential instructions was sometimes ‘sabotaged’. Mr. Lukashenko described a range of definite examples, “If we destroy the economy there won’t be any independence. No speechmaking will save us from this. Some in Government understood this in a different way: let’s quickly privatise state property and sell everything. Do we want to use the way of our neighbours? They have already condemned such privatisation which was conducted in the 1990s. It won’t happen in Belarus. We don’t need such a policy!”

Another example is negotiations with



New starting point for efficient actions for the new Government

the IMF. In this respect, the president has fewer complaints, “Some figures in the Government suggested we immediately raise the payment of utility services by the population to 100 percent and to privatise all state property. What would we gain from this? Probably dissatisfaction of the nation and non-payments. People couldn’t pay that level of utility services which are proposed. I responded to this question during the election campaign: as salaries continue to grow we’ll be gradually increasing payments for utility services by the population and we’ve agreed that it will be by \$5 per year. Unfortunately, red tape intervened and talks with the IMF were conducted in this way. The President set one task while they were trying to push through the so called ‘liberal’ position.”

DIRECT SPEECH
Addressing those in new positions, the President underlined that he pins great hopes on them, “In time, we’ll come to the elections, both parliamentary and presidential and it will be our test.”

According to the President, all this could be tolerated to a certain point. But patience was exhausted when the Government stopped fulfilling the instructions given by the President publicly, “This was the last straw,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

After the President’s session, chatting to journalists, the Prime Minister Sergei Rumas said that the major assessment of work of the renewed Government will be the growth of people’s well-being. All policy documents for the five-year period that are necessary for the work of the Government and sustainable functioning of the economy, have been adopted. Now, it’s necessary just to roll up our sleeves and to act.

During personnel appointments, the President responded to remarks and comments of some representatives of the mass media and those on the Internet dealing with the recent events. In particular, Alexander Lukashenko spoke about:

Populism

Speaking about populism, they hint at elections. When I read this, I began to think about when we have the next elections. They are to take place in 2020. It’s still just half the term. Some would like the elections to take place tomorrow or the day after. However, I have already responded: the presidential elections will be conducted in strict compliance with the Constitution of our country. We have no necessity to hold presidential elections today or tomorrow and to develop some populism. This is utter stupidity.

Management system

They say that the system of power faltered as did the policy inside the country. These decisions have been adopted not to allow the system to falter. There’s no other system of power and the development of the country in Belarus and no one suggested it. Finally, if I make some decisions and give instructions, this is not extempore, these are decisions endured together with the Government and the society.

Relations with Russia

We have very good and close relations. But what do we want from Russia? If Russia signed a treaty or an agreement with Belarus, we demand it’s fulfilled. And I say openly that we won’t ever become vassals of any country. There’s no need to demand anything from us. Some say: ‘Lukashenko needs to join Russia’. These will be the last days of a politician in Belarus who would make such a decision. What for is it in modern world? We can co-exist in union with Russia and solve our common tasks without any problems. We come from the same roots: Belarusians, Russians and Ukrainians. We don’t want the repetition of events between Ukraine and Russia. We don’t need this conflict. And Russian doesn’t need it either, because it has the only window, 1,000km long from the east to the west — Belarus. Russia needs a stable Belarus.

Foreign policy

Belarus has been reproached that it had turned to the West. We haven’t turned anywhere and aren’t going to do this. Our fate has been determined by God: to be a

solid bridge between the East and West here, in the centre of Europe. We have brilliant relations with Russia and with China. The West is also our neighbour. We don’t choose our neighbours, but we should build good relations with them. The West can offer technologies and free investments. Now we’re building relations with powerful India and they inject into our country, where there are our interests. Therefore, if some Russians reproach us that we’re speaking with the West, they should look at themselves. I think that no other country is trying to set up the relations with the West and America, than Russia; therefore, the Belarusian-Russian relations must develop at the highest level. We won’t ever break any integration structure.

Corruption

They advise the President to send everyone to prison. Those who are guilty will go to prison, but a law should be in the country and everything should be in line with the law. Those (who violate this law) have been already taken to prison. The law is equal for everyone: officials, peasants, teachers and doctors. Corruption is unacceptable in our environment.

The President especially warned new members of the Government, “Tomorrow businessmen who would like an easy life will start dancing attendance on you. You can meet with everyone, speak to them, go to saunas or even have a drink with them. But remember that you are state people and your moral image and behaviour is seen by people. Remember that any violation, especially bribes, and corruption manifestations will be immediately responded to from my side.”

Staff policy

Some say that people from business should be appointed to the Government. It doesn’t matter from where people come; the most important thing is that they are professionals and experienced people. If one goes to the Government, they should at least have an idea about the system. They should have an experience of their own rather than announcing a so called ‘open tender’. We have already seen these ‘tenders’ conducted in Russia and Ukraine. Therefore, we need experienced people who can do something with their own hands.

Plans to develop efficient interaction

Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park and International Finance Corporation (IFC) to elaborate investment and credit co-operation

By Alexey Ponomarev

The IFC's Regional Manager for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Jason Brett Pellmar, has joined the Head of the IFC Office in Belarus, Olga Shcherbina, in visiting the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park. They met with the Industrial Park Development Company's CEO, Hu Zheng, and the Head of the Industrial Park Administration, Alexander Yaroshenko. They chatted about prospects for co-operation and expressed interest in establishing partnership.

On his first visit to the venue, Mr. Pellmar mentioned interest in advancing interaction with the Industrial Park Development Company, with resident com-



panies and investors. He also suggested joint measures and events to promote the Great Stone Park.

A memorandum of understanding is soon to be signed, setting out firm plans for investment and credit collaboration. The International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group) is the largest global development institution supporting the private sector in developing-market countries. The IFC liaises with over 2,000 businesses across the globe and, over the 2018 fiscal year, provided developing countries with a record high in long-term financing, worth \$23.7 billion.

Attractive conditions for doing business

By Alexander Pimenov

Israeli Ambassador to Belarus, Alon Shoham, visits Great Stone Industrial Park, expressing Israeli Embassy to Belarus' eagerness to facilitate attraction of residents

The Ambassador became acquainted with the terms of privilege for residents of the Park, as well as its infrastructure and services. Mr. Shoham noted its favourable conditions for doing business and Belarus' convenient geographical location. The Ambassador is ready to support the Great Stone project and is keen to facilitate contacts between Israeli businesses and the Industrial Park.

The Ambassador also chatted with the Industrial Park Development Company, reviewing the presentation given in Israel in July 2018 and efforts to attract Israeli companies to the Park.



Service centre in Tashkent

By Oleg Bogomazov

Leadership of Tashkent Region joins BelAZ — the Management Company of BELAZ-HOLDING in launching service centre for Belarusian vehicles in Uzbek capital

The Governor of the Tashkent Region of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Gulomzhon Ibragimov, has met the Chairman of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Anatoly Isachenko, leading a delegation from the Tashkent Region. The Minsk meetings were de-

signed to drive forward regional co-operation, especially in the trade-economic and investment spheres.

The visit aimed to establish and enhance ties with the Minsk Region, featuring a tour of BelAZ's premises in Zhodino. Mr. Ibragimov tells us, "We're going to set up a special BelAZ service centre in the Tashkent Region to service the entire central region, offering repairs and spare parts. There's a mining company in our region, as well as coal industry companies and chemical companies, all using BelAZ trucks

— ranging from 30-tonnes to 180-220-tonne giants. This is why we need this maintenance centre." He noted that no facility in the Tashkent Region offers a comprehensive set of services and none offer BelAZ truck diagnostics and repair. There are only dealerships, which offer spare parts.

According to the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, the Dizel Komplekt dealership company registered its maintenance centre in August 2016 in Tashkent: Dizel Komplekt Bel Servis. The main-



tenance centre is supposed to offer maintenance and aftersales service for BelAZ trucks, in line with individual contracts with buyers of

Big distances is no obstacle

By Vladimir Velikhov

It's planned to open 100 stores of Belarusian goods in China's largest cities till the end of the year

The solemn opening ceremony of the store of Belarusian goods in Guiyang took place on August 16th during the visit of the Belarusian Ambassador to China, Kirill Rudy, to the Guizhou Province. "A network of stores of Belarusian products under the Belarus Commodity Centre brand has been developed by China's Guangdong Xinjinlai Trade from the Guangdong Province. This store has become the second in the network. By the end of 2018, the company plans to open 100 stores of Belarusian goods in the largest cities of China," noted the embassy.

Moreover, an agreement was also reached to place Belarusian alcohol products within the well-known network of Chinese stores Moutai. The company has already opened its representative office in Belarus to purchase Belarusian products, check the quality of products and organise supply logistics.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr. Rudy noted that the development of the network of direct sales of Belarusian products would guarantee not only fair prices, quality and the absence of counterfeit goods but would also create conditions for the efficient organisation of the Belarusian national exposition at the China's International Import Expo in Shanghai in November 2018, since Belarusian companies will be able to present their produce to a wide public and these goods will immediately find their place on the shelves of profile stores, omitting intermediaries. Moreover, the product tasting event on August 15th marked the arrival of the first container with Belarusian beef to the city of Chengdu. Attending the degustation were more than 30 heads of the country's leading beef companies. The event also showcased Chinese dishes prepared from Belarusian beef.

Inflation under complete control

Surely, money does not rule the world. Yet, it is the backbone of the modern economy, no matter how much we want to think otherwise. Macroeconomic stability primarily depends on the balanced monetary policy of the state. Over the last three years, the financial system of our country has undergone three significant changes. We've managed to 'get rid' of the fixed exchange rate providing at the same time exchange rate stability. Inflation is also at a record low level. Moreover, the deposit market saw a revolution that resulted in the introduction of irrevocable deposits with no excessive fuss. The refinancing rate is constantly falling and is nearing single digits. Belarus' successful drive to achieve stability is not in doubt, even among traditionally sceptical and conservative international experts. However, many positive changes are yet to come. Pavel Kallaur, the Chairman of the National Bank's Board, shares his views on the goals of monetary policy and instruments of their implementation.

By Vladimir Khromov

The Fitch Ratings Agency has recently confirmed the long-term rating of the country at 'B' level with a stable outlook. However, experts see major problems in high state debt, dependence from fluctuations of foreign currency exchange rates and a weak banking sector. Undoubtedly, any expert assessment is subjective to some degree, while its results primarily depend on the methods applied. Nevertheless, how stable is our financial system in general and the banking sector in particular?

While the Fitch Ratings is a reputable international rating agency with a team of highly qualified experts, and it is sensible to listen to their opinion, we must understand that international experts usually prefer to give conservative assessments. Yet, we can agree with many of their judgments. In addition, experts highlight many positive trends that are strategically more important than the problems mentioned. For example, the Fitch Ratings notes high structural indicators of the Belarusian economy, in particular, GDP per capita and human development that are better than in many peer countries. These are important achievements of our sovereign country, which is something to be proud of.

As far as the financial sphere is concerned, Fitch Ratings points to relatively strong public finance that can ensure the flexibility of short-term funding. The agency also believes that Belarus will be able to keep inflation rates below 6 percent this year. They note the consistency of the policy implemented and improvements of monetary regulation transmission channels due to further progress in reducing de-dollarisation and quasi-fiscal lending under government programmes.

However, there are also particular problems, according to the Fitch Ratings. Public debt totals 37 percent of GDP and exerts considerable pressure on fiscal policy. More than 90 percent of the debt is in foreign currency. Therefore, the economy remains quite dependent on exchange rate fluctuations. In case of the Belarusian Rouble depreciation and related revaluation of the public debt, there are indirect risks related

to the widespread practice of issuing state guarantees on loans and the existing ownership structure. Many major state-owned enterprises have weak financial indicators and bear a high debt burden, mostly in foreign currency. Therefore, the exchange rate volatility creates additional financial risks for such companies and fiscal risks for the state because

have a good level of capitalisation and, in principle, have already adapted to the conditions of a highly volatile operating environment and work stability. Some risks always exist. Of course, it is possible to minimise the probability of the financial system destabilising by using various restrictions. However, such stability might undermine economic and financial efficiency.

We should learn how to competently manage risks rather than trying to completely avoid them. Key financial stability indicators that are in the focus of the National Bank's attention, are within safe ranges. The banks meet all capital adequacy and liquidity requirements in accordance with the up-to-date Basel III international standards. The results of the recent stress-testing of the banking sector also indicate stability in the financial system in respect of major risks.

Several serious issues stemming from past crises have been resolved since 2014. Probably, the most important achievement is people's trust in the banking system. Even

with a slowdown in economic growth, the reduction in household foreign exchange term deposits proved

commensurate with the decrease in real disposable

income, while over the term, Rouble deposits increased by 23 percent over the past three and a half years. During the same period, interest rates on the credit market significantly

decreased, which improves investment opportunities for Belarusian enterprises. In

June, the average rate on new national currency loans to legal entities was 11.28 percent per annum. According to our estimates, currently the monetary conditions, including interest rates in the loan and deposit markets, are generally neutral. We will make efforts to preserve this neutrality in the short term. At this stage, the priorities of the financial system development include its qualitative transformation, solving accumulated problems, strengthening and structural reorganisation, the wide introduction of modern technologies that form the preconditions for further growth. The main directions of the financial market development include further assistance in non-performing loans resolution (including the creation of an effective debt market, improving the Asset Management Agency operation), enhancement of regulation and supervision in all segments of the financial market, based on the principle of proportional regulation and the promotion of competitiveness.

of the potential need to inject additional capital into distressed assets, execute guarantees on loans and issue debt securities in exchange for loan debts. 7-10 years ago, currency depreciation, with all its negative side effects, was able to smooth macroeconomic imbalances, increase competitiveness of real sector goods and services and reduce imports. Meanwhile, with the present level of dollarisation of the economy and considerable credit burden, the weakening of the Rouble only worsens the real sector and public finance condition.

The hypothesis about the weakness of the banking sector is controversial. Indeed, problems of state-owned enterprises do have implications on Belarusian banks due to a relatively high share of non-performing loans. However, qualitative indicators of bank loan portfolios have stabilised over the past year. The required reserves have been provisioned in full, banks



Watch indicating financial stability

Submitting genetic passport

Belarusian biochemists introduce genetic analysis for prescribing drugs, including exact dosage for patients with mental disorders

By Veronika Ulasevich

Pharmaco-genetic testing is the face of the future, helping not only prescribe medicine but calculate dosage. In fact, 88 percent of patients from the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Mental Health who've failed to respond to medication or who've experienced serious side effects after their administration have entered remission after receiving new medication according to gene testing. The Institute of Bio-organic Chemistry, at the National Academy of Sciences, is at the cutting edge of the innovation.

In one bundle

Specialists at the Laboratory of Molecular Diagnostics and Biotechnology, at the Institute of Bio-organic Chemistry (under the National Academy of Sciences) were the first in Belarus to investigate pharmaco-genetics, in 2013. Although applicable to all branches of medicine, from cardiology and gastroenterology to oncology, it's seen particular success in relation to psychiatry: 90 percent of psychiatry drugs are excreted from the body through enzymes that have genetic variations.

Drug treatment remains the main method of treatment in psychiatry. However, half of patients seem not to recover and drug treatments can have serious side effects, leading to disability or death, as well as Parkinson's Disease, tics, hyperkinesia, trembling of the body and limbs and other central nervous system 'quirks'.

To avoid undesirable consequences, the Centre's doctors — led by the Deputy Director for Research Tatiana Dokukina, and psychiatrist and narcologist Mikhail Machov — addressed the Institute of Bio-organic Chemistry, asking to work with patients who had reacted poorly to drugs or experienced severe side effects. Together, they geno-typed them, examining genes for certain features.

Laboratory express

Irina Gaidukevich, 31, from the Laboratory of Molecular Diagnostics and Biotechnology, working under Andrey



Gilepa, tells us, "We take a sample of saliva from patients and then examine it with special reagents and equipment. The same saliva sample can be used to analyse other genes," she explains. "We've

Research officer Irina Gaidukevich chosen seven basic genetic markers and developed methods for studying each."

To date, 1,300 patients with mental health problems have undergone gene analysis: mostly people suffering from

Irina Gaidukevich:

Among our patients are people with schizophrenia, various types of depression, alcoholism, dementia, autism and epilepsy (in cases when it entails mental abnormality)

schizophrenia, various types of depression, alcoholism, dementia, autism and epilepsy (in cases when it entails mental abnormality).

The results have been incredible, with 88 percent of patients who had previously not responded to drugs showing significantly improved health, following their course of treatment. Doctors are able to calculate the exact dosage of drugs or alter the drug prescribed completely.

Remote assistant

Over the past year, developers have pursued two goals: to make more patients and doctors aware of pharmaco-genetic testing; and to bring more specialists into the project, including from the regions. To date, tests must be paid for, at a cost of Br252 (including sampling, cost of reagents, operation of equipment, and specialists' salaries). Importantly, the test only needs to be done once.

So far, only five or six patients a month have been taking part but biochemists will soon expand the panel of genetic markers to 20-30. Looking into the distant future, there may come a time when every Belarusian will have a pharmaco-genetic passport, with information on their genes stored on a flash drive or subcutaneous chip.

Five victories at Google Code Jam

By Ruslan Proleskovsky

Gennady Korotkevich of Gomel became the five-time champion of the world programming tournament

Gomel's Gennady Korotkevich claimed another victory at international programming competitions — Google Code Jam. Our fellow countryman became the first who has managed to earn the title of the champion of this prestigious event five times in a row.

This year, one of the biggest tournaments in sport programming was held in Toronto. Anyone who wished could take part in it and the number of entrants was around 60,000. During the selection rounds, conducted online, twenty-five finalists were

decided on and these arrived in Canada.

According to the terms, the rivals were requested to solve five tasks. Some of them were simple while others required detailed study but earned more points. The participants had four hours to complete everything. The peculiarity of the current event was the requirement for an operating system installed on their personal computers. Previously, entrants themselves could decide, but now they are required to use Linux. However, this had no effect on Gennady's efficiency. Earning 104 points he, as in the four previous years, claimed a brilliant victory. The main prize is \$15,000. Second place went to Kamil Debowski of Poland, followed by Japanese Makoto

Soejima.

The former alumni of Gomel's gymnasium #56 studies at St. Petersburg National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics. Commenting on the results on the university's news portal, Gennady noted the nuances of his tactics, "In such competitions each detail is often very important while winners are determined during the last few minutes. Since the surroundings were unusual, it was important not to spend too much time on technical issues and to focus on the most vital aspects."

One of the tasks, like a brain teaser, brought him victory. It was solved by only a few and even the champion took an hour and a half to solve it.



Gennady, who turns 24 in September, is ranked among the most titled sports programmers, boasting numerous victories in world level competitions. His plans include, to continue his education in the university's post-graduate training programme. He passed one of the exams remotely, whilst in Canada.

The Google Code Jam tour-

namment has been held for fifteen years. Moreover, Gennady Korotkevich is not the only Belarusian to win the event. In 2013, our fellow countryman Ivan Metelsky became a champion and two years earlier he finished second. Thanks to the efforts of talented programmers, Belarus occupies the top position in the Google Code Jam table of results.



Korelichi invites guests

By Kristina Khilko

Living in dukes' apartments

Mir Castle is a symbol of the country, registered on the World Heritage List. It has survived periods of decline over its 500 years of history, and times of power, having been once owned by the Radziwiłł dukes. With its luxurious interiors, and halls filled with Persian carpets, furniture, utensils, weaponry and armour, we can see the grandeur of the dynasty that once lived there.

Life is bustling all year round, with summer being the busiest season. Of course, newly-weds love to have their photo taken there, or even marry under the ancient castle walls! A charming carriage ride to the accompaniment of ancient music makes it an unforgettable experience. You can even stay in one of the castle's luxurious apartments, decorated in Renaissance style.

Rybeńko's heritage

In chronicles, Korelichi is first mentioned in 1395, as an ordinary settlement within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Two hundred years ago, due to the entrepreneurial Radziwiłłs, trade was established there and manufacturing began. Most well-known are the tapestries, founded by Michał Kazimierz Radziwiłł (Rybeńko), which decorated luxurious castles all over Europe. It took craftsmen years of painstaking work to create those masterpieces; they rival works by Chagall and Malevich in value, today, and are found in the museums of Krakow, Lvov and Warsaw. Craftswomen from the local House of Crafts are always ready to tell tourists about their unique, traditional weaving techniques.

Restored Mir Castle — a symbol of country and listed as part of UNESCO World Heritage — has been hosting festivals, grand concerts and tournaments of knights, but the Korelichi area has more to it than the Radziwiłłs' Castle



Belarusian masters recreate a unique tapestry owned by the Radziwiłłs, now housed in the museum at Nesvizh Castle

Visiting the homeland of the 'Great Enlightener'

Ignat Domeiko, born in Belarus, was a well-known geologist, mineralogist, geographer and ethnographer, as well as becoming a national hero of Chile. Many significant places bear his name, including

a mountain cable car in the Andes, a library in Buenos Aires, and various streets and educational establishments in South America. Even a small planet is named after him, as is a mineral, a cactus, and a mollusc. The 'Grande Educator' or the 'Great Enlightener' lived abroad for a long time but was born in Medvyadka, in the Novogrudok District (now, the Korelichi District). The estate was burnt down during WWI but people still bring flowers to the huge stone bust of Ignat Domeiko, with bears a memorial plaque.

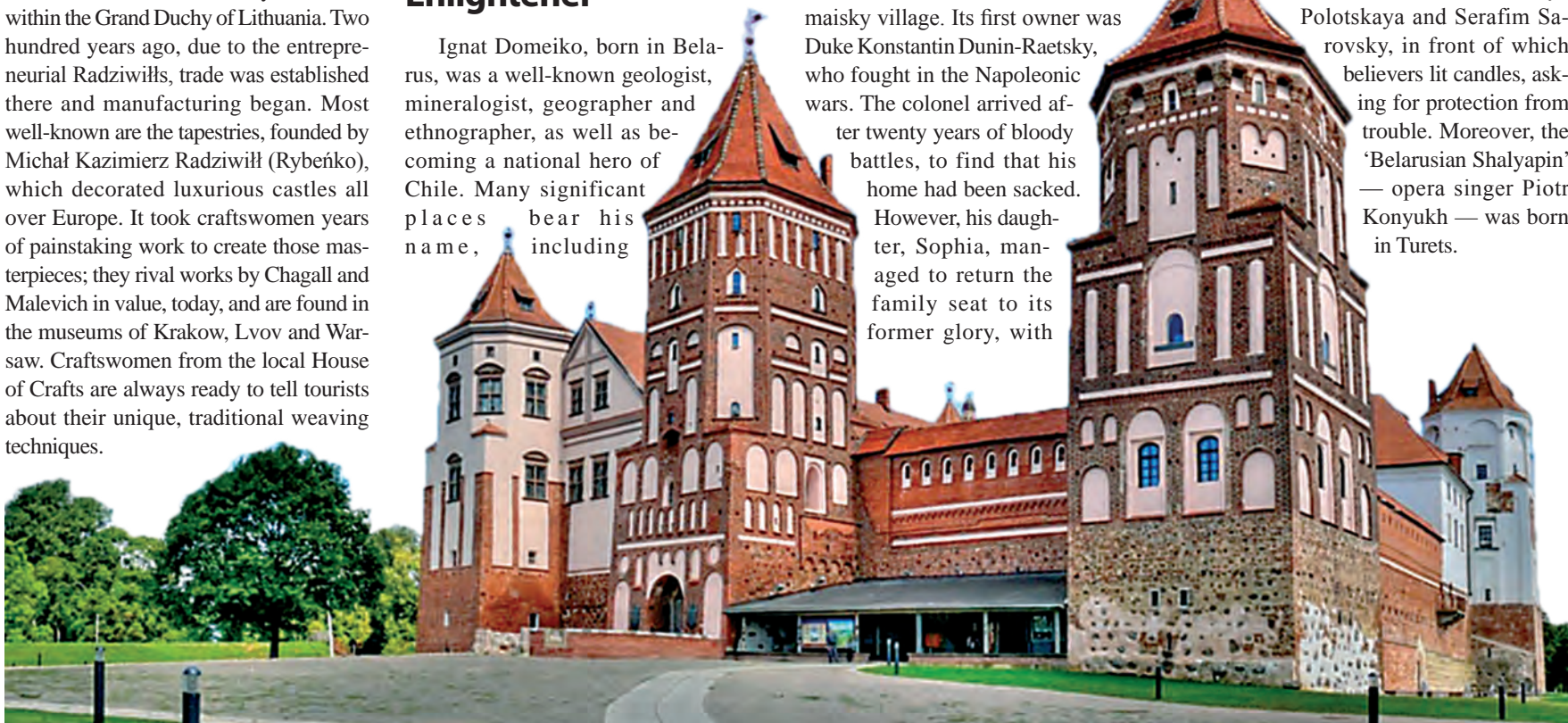
Shooting a scary film at Obrina

In the 19th century, a beautiful estate, poetically named Obrina, stood on the bank of the River Usha, near Pervomaisky village. Its first owner was Duke Konstantin Dunin-Raetsky, who fought in the Napoleonic wars. The colonel arrived after twenty years of bloody battles, to find that his home had been sacked. However, his daughter, Sophia, managed to return the family seat to its former glory, with

antiquarian furniture in its spacious halls and rich pictures hanging on the walls. At that time, formal English parklands were in fashion but Sophia chose to make the gardens more natural, with lilac blossom and chestnuts growing under the windows. An avenue of limes stretched from the house. Today, only the park remains, with a shrine and barn; the gloomy, neo-Gothic ruins make the perfect backdrop for shooting scary films.

Asking protection from the holy

The ancient settlement of Turets is located between Mir and Korelichi, boasting the 19th century Church of the Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Five silver domes top the roof of the magnificent church, built in retro-Russian style. However, the most beautiful aspect is located inside. Crossing the threshold of the church, you can't take your eyes from the carved iconostasis, created by local resident Grigory Loiko, at the Arts Academy in St. Petersburg. During Soviet times, when Orthodox and Catholic churches were closed, this church stayed open for believers. It housed the unique icons of the Gruzdevskaya Mother of God, of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya and Serafim Sarovsky, in front of which believers lit candles, asking for protection from trouble. Moreover, the 'Belarusian Shalyapin' — opera singer Piotr Konyukh — was born in Turets.



Belarusian masters recreate a unique tapestry owned by the Radziwiłłs, now housed in the museum at Nesvizh Castle



Italy bridge was known to be in trouble long before collapse

As deaths from the bridge failure in Genoa rose to 39, it became clear that while the collapse was catastrophic, it was not exactly a surprise

Years before part of the structure dissolved in a lethal cascade of concrete and steel, it required constant repair work, and experts in Parliament, industry and academia raised alarms that it was deteriorating and possibly dangerous.

Those warnings fuelled an intense round of finger-pointing among political parties and the

private company that operated the bridge, none offering an answer to a set of crucial questions that will not be answered quickly: Should everyone involved have anticipated a disaster of this scale? How were so many omens ignored? And how much of Italy's aging, often neglected infrastructure is also at risk of failure?

"It was not destiny," said

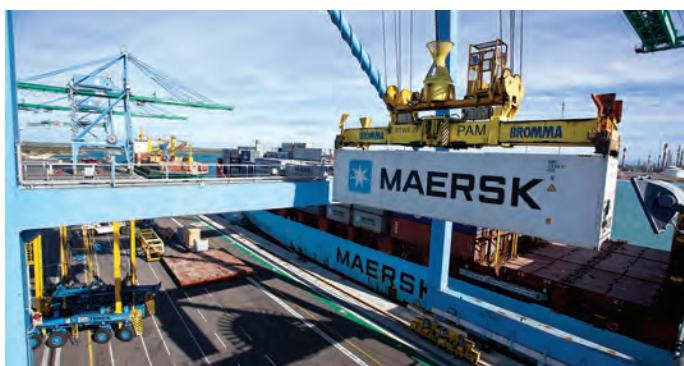
Genoa's Chief Prosecutor, Francesco Cozzi, who announced that he would conduct a criminal investigation into the failure of the Morandi Bridge.

When the bridge fell, Genoa lost a major artery that crosses the Polcevera River and connects the eastern and western parts of the city. The route is travelled by tens of thousands of commuters daily,

and by many of the passengers and much of the freight passing through the city's busy port, and its loss raises fears of economic damage that could take years to repair.

Italy has suffered a series of bridge collapses in recent years — though none nearly as serious as Genoa's — and many other spans are showing serious wear.

A day after the collapse, as many as 1,000 rescue workers in search of victims, alive or dead, swarmed a tangled mass of rubble and vehicles strewn across a riverbed, roads, railroad tracks and a warehouse. More than 600 people evacuated apartment buildings, miraculously spared under part of the bridge that remained standing.



AP Moller-Maersk to spin off its oil drilling rig arm

Danish shipping company AP Moller-Maersk said it would spin off its offshore drilling operation and list it in Copenhagen next year as it focuses entirely on transport and logistics

The Danish company, which cut its full-year profit outlook this month, last year sold Maersk Oil to French oil major Total in a \$7.5 billion deal as part of its restructuring.

Soren Skou, who became chief executive of Maersk in 2016, has embarked on a major restructuring to concentrate on its transport and logistics businesses and separate its energy operations. The CEO used to head Maersk's container business and is a long-time veteran of the Danish firm.

As part of the sale of the oil unit, Maersk in March took a 3.7 percent stake, or 97.5 million shares, in total.

No handshakes in eastern Congo city preparing for Ebola

A mobile blood-testing lab. Hand-washing stations on street corners. Motorcycle taxi drivers forbidden from sharing spare helmets. If Ebola is coming, the city of Goma in eastern Congo wants to be ready.

An outbreak suspected of killing 43 people is spreading across the lush farmlands of eastern Congo, where ethnic and military conflicts threaten to hobble containment efforts.

Goma, a lakeside city of 1 million people near the Rwandan border, is more than 350



km south from the epicentre of the outbreak in the town of Mangina in North Kivu province, and no cases have been confirmed there.

But the virus has already spread to neighbouring Ituri province, and the number of infected is rising daily. Residents in the busy trading hub are taking no chances.

Waterbomber pilot killed fighting Australian wildfires

A helicopter pilot died when his aircraft crashed while waterbombing rare winter bushfires in Australia that have swept across its drought-stricken southeast, police said

About 75 fires are burning across New South Wales state, fanned by dry conditions that prompted authorities to declare a drought across the state.

The pilot was found dead at the scene after his helicopter crashed near Ulladulla, about 180 km south of Sydney, police said, but did not identify him.

"The pilot put his life on the line to protect and keep our community safe and he has paid the ultimate price," said regional politician Shelley Hancock.

The weather bureau has forecast warm, dry conditions to continue until November.

House as sacred space and philosophy of life

Retrospective exhibition of Israel Basov — *Wisdom Has Built Her House...* — timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the birth of the master who became classic of the 20th century Belarusian art — features over 60 pictorial and graphical works

By Victor Kharkov

The exhibition showcases many pictures for the first time. Among them are works kept at the National Art Museum of Belarus, the National Polotsk Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve, the Belarusian Union of Artists, the Belarusian State Archive-Museum of Literature and Art and the artist's family collection. The artistic works are adjacent to an extensive information zone — including photos, documents and a documentary prepared by the Belarus24 TV Channel.

The words of the parable used in the title of the jubilee exhibition perfectly characterise the life and work of the artist. In all senses, he has built his own house in art.

A strict and delicate master, standing apart from the generation of Belarusian artists of the second half of the 20th century, he managed to preserve his own creative position and develop his expressive and recognisable style.

The art of Israel Basov caused a lot of controversy during his life. Despite his membership of the Union of Artists of the BSSR, for many years the master was doomed to creative loneliness. The formal boldness of his painting, the liberation from the social didactics of socialist realism determined his extremely sparse participations in exhibitions and absence of solo exhibitions. Only after his death was the artist recognised as one of the most prominent and talented masters of the Belarusian art.

The image of a house — a stable symbol of spiritual order — unites virtually all the artist's works at the exhibition. A common block of flats carries a variety of associations. It is a temple or a palace, the centre of the world or the space itself. The houses of the artist are different — bright and big, occupying the centre of the

canvas or going into the depth of the composition, topographically recognisable and abstracted, but all of them are full of significant meanings. They contain the sacred and profane, mundane and majestic, love and antipathy, drama and joy. For the artist, a house is not a mere function. It is the sacred space and the philosophy of life.

The National Art Museum has created a true summer sensation — presenting a retrospective on the 100th anniversary of the classical Belarusian painter. Mr. Basov's extremely progressive works were not shown to public for decades or were seen only

occasionally. The master's unique style has become a cornerstone for the audience. Nevertheless, he continued to paint, virtually joining a company of hermits. We can now enjoy a unique opportunity to see his pieces for the first time.

It's a true Basov approach: to measure the Neva River with a tube of paint. His scale of talent and personality was great. He put oil in layers — like plastic — to create not a mere canvas but a sculptural relief. His works are large-scale and heavy.

The artist with his individual style was a recluse for many years. His manner of painting and colours were not accepted by exhibition organisers. At the same time, it's hardly possible

to call him an avant-garde artist. The classical scheme of painting 'house-tree-man' and the form which ordinary people failed to understand, caused questions. His nationality was another 'disadvantage'.

Remembering was the first of the eight pictures bought by Yelena Aladova for the National Art Museum. In those years, the director of the main national museum realised that Basov's works would come into their own one day. She began with a picture devoted to nostalgia for his native Mstislavl. His favourite city was often painted. From there, the artist's family was evacuated during the war.

Mr. Basov's artistic face is the city. His collection unites recognisable topography and southern (due to the yellow oil) stone jungles which were not common to Belarus. Krasnoarmeiskaya Street is depicted in one of his pictures, while another features not Minsk but the city of the future.

All these works have spent much time in the workshop — awaiting the audience who have come 24 year after the author's death. Most of Mr. Basov's works are kept in the Belarusian private collection of his son Matvey. Many pictures are unsigned: the artist did not think of the glory and often criticised himself. A personal autograph occupies a title position in the show: the 'Israel Basov' shield is displayed in neon.



Israel Basov is a brand

Grand Prix Minsk gold



Minsk cycling club team

International road cycling race — Europe Tour UCI Grand Prix Minsk — brings teams from eighteen countries to the Belarusian capital



Peloton during the race on a city street

Nikolay Shumov, a cyclist of the Minsk club, celebrated victory at Grand Prix Minsk cycling event for the fourth time in a row.

From the start a big group of cyclists pulled away. It should be noted that it also included some favourites: Sergey Popok and Nikolay Shumov, Maciej Paterski and Marek Rutkiewicz of Poland, as well as Emils Liepins of Latvia and Ahmet Örken of Turkey. The work in peloton wasn't harmonious so the margin increased.

At the last loop Marek Rutkiewicz made an attempt to push forward and the titled Pole easily pulled away from his pursuers and one kilometre before the finish had a big advantage but unexpectedly reduced his speed and this was used by Nikolay Shumov who finished first without any tough struggle while third place went to another Belarussian, Yevgeny Akhramenko.

Belarusian Bronislav Samoilo, from Minsk cycling club, finished second in the Minsk Cup cycling race. In the middle of the distance ten cyclists, including two Belarusians — Bronislav Samoilo and Vladislav Dubovsky — pulled away. Twenty-five kilometres before the finish, when the advantage over peloton reduced to 1.5 minute, Samoilo and Maciej Paterski of Poland tried to attack and they managed to preserve the advantage until the end. The winner was determined in the finish sprint and Paterski — the first Polish winner of Minsk races — was the best. Three previous Minsk Cup races were conquered by the athletes from Ukraine. Estonian Norman Vahtra finished third while Nikolay Shumov, another cyclist of the Minsk club, was among top five.

During the race more than 100 racers from fifteen countries of the world covered 176km, including five circles around the Minsk Sea.

The Minsk Cup and Grand Prix Minsk are stages of Europe Tour UCI competitions and are included into the calendar of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). Next May, it's planned to conduct even more large-scale races — test competitions for the 2nd European Games.

"It's an important event for Minsk. The competitions are organised at the highest level and many spectators have come. Our athletes perform no worse than representatives of other states. The result of Bronislav Samoilo, who occupied the second place in the Minsk Cup-2018 cycling race, is a bright proof to this," Sergey Kovalchuk, Sports and Tourism Minister, tells journalists.

Paralympic athletes maintain their form

By Oleg Samsonov

Ten gold medals earned by Belarusian Paralympic athletes at 2018 World Para Swimming European Championships in Dublin

Igor Boky made the greatest contribution into our team's medals box, earning seven gold awards. The Belarusian athlete won in the S13 category in the men's 100m breaststroke, men's 100m butterfly events and men's 200m individual medley. In the end of the tournament Igor Boky claimed gold in men's 400m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 50m freestyle while the Belarusian Paralympic athlete won the 100m freestyle distance, setting a world record of 50.65 seconds.

Moreover, Grigory Zudilov of Belarus also claimed two gold medals in men's 50m and 100m freestyle (S11 category).

His teammate Dmitry Salei became a champion of Europe in the decisive 100m butterfly event in S12 category. The Belarusian national team also boasts a silver medal, earned by Vladimir Izotov in 100m breaststroke, as well as three bronze awards which were won by Grigory Zudilov (200m medley finals), Anastasia Zudilova (S12 category 100m breaststroke) and Alexandra Svadkovskaya (S10 category 100m breaststroke).



Igor Boky

Perfect game shown on the sand

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Minsk first hosted Euroleague stage in beach soccer, with our country achieving three victories, heading tournament table of regular championship and ensuring a place in super-finals for fifth time

At the new national beach soccer stadium, located on the premises of the Olimpiyskiy sports and recreation facility, our national team managed to sweep thousands of fans off their feet. There was barely room to move in the stands but spectators were ready to enjoy a dynamic game on the beach even standing for several hours. The games were really spectacular. At first, our athletes defeated Turkey 9:4 before beating Poland in overtime 5:4. On the eve of the final match, where our team had to face Ital-

ians — tanked third in European and fifth position in the world rankings — only big optimists hoped for victory. After the first period our squad was losing 1:4 but by the end of the second period it rushed forward — 5:4. After equalising the score, Italians returned an intrigue to the game. As soon as overtime began, the captain of our team Igor Brishtel scored the victorious goal into the rivals' net and was profuse in compliments both to the new arena and to the fans after the final whistle, "Under such support from the stands we couldn't win! The spectators supported us even when we missed. They became true sixth player on the player. I believe that our stadium is among top five in the world. Quartz sand is of perfect quality while the arena is very cosy and comfortable. The only thing I would like it was more spacious.



Moment of match with Italians

I have no doubts that during the European games in Minsk even greater number of people would like to support us."

Only one stage is left before the end of the regular championship of Euroleague in which the national teams of Russia, Spain, Germany and France will play on August 24th-26th. After then the final super-finalists will

be determined. However, it's known already now that, alongside our national squad, the decisive stage of the tournament will see the teams of Portugal, Ukraine, Switzerland, Italy and Russia. Each national team will play three matches and after that, depending on the places in quartets, the final places will be determined at the tournament. The

Belarusian national team and six best squads of the super-finals will play next year at the 2nd European Games in Minsk. Another ticket will be given to the squad that will win in the promo-finals — a decisive stage of Euroleague in Division B.

As far as Euroleague stage in Minsk is concerned, we can say that everything was a success. These were wonderful competitions both in organisation and in the game performed by the national team of Belarus. It's a good test for Beach Soccer Worldwide in order to get acquainted with a new sporting facility, constructed specially to hold beach soccer competitions. During the tournament all interested sides have been involved that will be responsible for similar issues next year during the 2nd European Games. It was important to see how everything will be working.

Dutch cheese for our mouse trap

By Yegor Vetrov

Having played reliably, BATE confidently overcame another barrier on its way to the Champions League Group Stage, smashing the Azerbaijani Qarabag team, considered by many as a favourite. Now, only one hurdle remains on the way to the group stage — Dutch PSV. Will this be a hard nut to crack for our champions?

With Alexey Baga as its head, BATE can no longer be accused of uninspiring play. Our champion has already ensured a ticket to the play-offs, meaning that it has killed two birds with one stone. Firstly, BATE participated in the Europa League Group Stage ahead of time, thus entering the European season in a grand style and with much fanfare, bringing great joy to itself and its fans. Secondly, the footballers from Borisov have significantly improved their material base, earning a solid amount of money. After its win over Qarabag, the club was given around 8.5m Euros.

Although money is a bonus, it shouldn't hide the essence of the game. Qarabag was defeated primarily because, like BATE a couple of years ago, players in the Azerbaijani club are good but simply not ready for the season either physically or mentally. At present, there's a feeling that the psychology of our team has changed, and this is a tribute to its coaching staff: their perception of themselves, their capabilities and understanding what should be done first and which steps should be taken later.

BATE participated in the Europa League Group Stage ahead of time, entering the European season in a grand style with much fanfare



Great joy from well-deserved success

The BATE team stopped being so introspective and began to simply play football, much to everyone's delight. The game brings evident pleasure to BATE footballers, their passion creates something on the field rather special. Yes, there's still much to be done but we see their efforts and, what is more important, their prospects are good. BATE can improve across all positions. Even goalkeeper Denis Shcherbitsky though reliable isn't consistent. In defence, Nemanja Milunović adds something to the team, while Alexander Hleb could improve in midfield, as could our hope Nikolay Signe in attack. If the latter realises his

potential in at least a third of goal attacks he will become the best goal-scorer of the Champions League and will sign a

contract with Bavaria, replacing Thomas Müller or Robert Lewandowski. It will be interesting to see how two black novices will enter the game for the first time in BATE history: French Cameroon halfback Hervaine Moukam (who previously played in Neman) and halfback Luwagga Kizito, who used to play for Romanian Politehnica.

Of course, Dutch PSV is not an easy rival but it's possible to defeat them. In the first round of the Holland Championship, which started last weekend, Mark van Bommel's trainees smashed Utrecht — 4:0. The team in Eindhoven played an aggressive game, enjoying the attack. Undoubtedly, this is far from the 'sleepy' Qarabag, as both the speed of the ball and passion is high in the Dutch footballers. BATE head coach, Alexey Baga said about the forthcoming match, "I expect the most complex games but we're not afraid of our rivals though, of course, we respect them and give credit to them. We're preparing for these matches already. I have no doubt that the matches will be difficult for both squads."

Both Dinamo clubs leave European Cups

Footballers of Dinamo Brest and Dinamo Minsk failed to outplay their opponents in the sum of two meetings of the Europa League 3rd qualifying round and finished their European Cup season

After a big away defeat 0:4 from Greek team Apollon, Brest footballers attacked well on their field but managed to score only once. Not long before the final whistle, the victorious goal was scored by Pavel Nekhaichik to take the result to 1:0. In the struggle for entrance to the Europa League group stage, Apollon footballers will meet the Norwegian Molde team.

Dinamo Minsk also finished its performance in the Europa League. The Minsk failed to keep their huge advantage over St. Petersburg's Zenit, achieved at home (4:0), and were smashed during the away match — 1:8.

First award in new season

Brest handball club named after Meshkov wins 11th Belgazprombank Cup international tournament, held in Brest

On the first day of the competitions HC Brest Meshkov smashed Israeli Maccabi — 42:25 and then defeated Russian Spartak — 23:20. Two victories enabled the hosts of the ground to ensure a win in the tournament ahead of time. Despite this the final match against Spanish Granollers was very tough for the Belarusian team. They were losing in the first period (13:15) but equalised the score in the



Cup in winners' hands

beginning of the second period, yet lost victory at the last minute — 32:33. Belgazprombank Cup became the first award for the Brest club in the new season. The second place in the tournament was occupied by Spartak players, followed by Granollers while

Maccabi was placed last. "We're creating a new team but it's still 'raw', therefore we perceive the result of the tournament as successful but we still need to work much," underlined the founder of the handball club Alexander Meshkov. In the nearest time, Brest Meshkov HC will take part in one more friendly tournament that is to take place in late August in French Strasbourg. At the preliminary stage Brest Meshkov HC will face Paris Saint-Germain or Vardar in Group I and then, depending on the occupied place in its trio, it can receive Veszprém, Montpellier or Nantes as rivals.



Ksenia Danilovich (L)

Always a delight to win at home

Belarusian judokas are best in medal standings at European Judo Open in Minsk

By Oleg Samsonov

Large competitions were held at Chizhovka-Arena Sports Complex and, as they say, at home even the wall helps. As a result, Belarusian athletes have claimed three gold and two bronze medals. In the under 90kg category Victor Klyausov of Mogilev earned gold, defeating in the decisive fight Ukrainian Alexander Kruk in a tough struggle. Vladislav Terpitsky (over 100kg) decided to support his young teammate and received 'waza-ari' assessment in the finals while fighting against Russian Filip Ivanov. For

Vladislav the gold award in the Open category tournament in the first medal this season.

Another award was earned for the men's squad by Nikita Svirid (under 100kg) who finished third. Before this, Ksenia Danilovich (52kg) brought gold for our national team while Ulyana Minenkova (57kg) was awarded bronze.

Belarusians were ranked first in medal standings (in the quality of medals) at European Judo Open in Minsk, followed by the Russians (who claimed two gold, four silver and seven bronze awards). The Dutch team was placed third with two gold and four bronze awards.

Seven medals at home stage

Belarusian graces claim seven medals — one gold, one silver and five bronze — at Artistic Gymnastics World Cup, at Minsk's Falcon Club

The leader of the team, Yekaterina Galkina was best in individual exercises with the hoop while also earning two bronze medals in individual all-round event and exercise with the ribbon.

Another Belarusian, Anastasia Salos, claimed silver in the exercise with the ball, as well as bronze in the exercise with the clubs.

In group exercises the team of Belarus (comprising of Anna Gaidukevich, Lolita Matskevich, Diana Misyuchenko, Anastasia Rybakova and Anna Shvaiba) won two bronze medals for their exercises with five hoops, as well as with three balls and two skip ropes.



Team of Belarus after performance

On the eve of the World Cup the Palace of Rhythmic Gymnastics hosted prestigious junior competitions — *Crystal Rose* — where the first place was occupied by Anna Kamenshchikova (for her exercise with the hoop). Moreover, two silver and bronze medal were claimed by Yana Striga for her exercise with the clubs, the ball and in individual all-round event. In team all-round competition Anna Kamenshchikova and Yana Striga were placed second.

Shot of the week



The cycling parade in Minsk brings together around a thousand participants

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 26th August. *Equos. Kon. Horse*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 25th August. *Questoria* Until 2nd September. *Motherland. Reconstruction*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street
Until 14th October. *Life with Cold Blood*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress*
Until 5th September. Gavriil Vashchenko's exhibition: *Land Under White Wings*
Until 15th September. *ABCs from Around the Globe*
Until 1st October. *Colourful Days*
Until 31st January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale horror*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

117 Kazinets Street
Until 31st August. *Safari Park* exhibition of exotic animals

REPUBLICAN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL LIBRARY

7 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 31st August. *Reserved Corners of Belarus: Minsk Region* Until 31st August. *Smart Resource Saving Technologies: Energy Efficient Technologies in Construction Branch*
Until 31st August. *Youth Chooses* Until 31st August. *Architecture. Construction. Design*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

11 Sovetskaya Street
Until 3rd September. *War Chronicle in Mikhail Ptashuk's Films*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 8th September. *The Artist and the City: open air exhibition of Georgy Skripnichenko's pictures*

LEONID SHCHEMELEV ART GALLERY

10 Revolyutsionnaya Street
Until 16th September. *Minsk. Photo. History. News*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov street
Until 4th September. *Unreal in Modern Belarusian Art*

THEATRES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
24.08. Comedy about Penny Pincher
26.08. Cinderella
27.08. Time to Pair
29.08. Romeo and Juliet
30.08. House Upside Down

EVENTS

BELARUSIAN STATE PHILHARMONICS

50 Nezavisimosti Avenue
30.08. In the End of Summer: Tamara Starchenko (piano forte)

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
24.08. Disco of the 1980-1990s 25.08. Disco of the 1990-2000s 26.08. Sonata Arctica and Amalgama band 30.08. RASA

MINSK TOWN HALL

2a Svobody Square
25.08. Classics by Town Hall 26.08. Festival of Armenian Culture: Golden Apricot

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
23.08. Animal Carnival: Minsk Classic ensemble 25.08. Peshekhodka 28.08. Charming Operetta 29.08. Jazz Chooses Classics: Yelena Vashkevich

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Strete
23.08. Red Hot Mamas 24.08. private Lives 25.08. Circle of Love 25.08. A Husband Leaves His Wife 28.08. The Twelfth Night 28.08. He and She

LILY

1 Kalvariyskaya Street
24.08. Disco Friday 25.08. Disco Saturday

RADZIWILLS' PALACE

City of Nesvizh, 19 Leninskaya Street
25.08. Saturdays with Musical Accent in Radziwills' Palace

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street
23.08. Just

YEVGENY VLADIMIROV'S JAZZ CLUB

1 Oktyabrskaya Square
28.08. James Cotton and All Stars Blues: Blues Legend

STAROSTINSKAYA SLOBODA PARK

Kommunisticheskaya-Storozhevskaya streets – Svisloch River
25.08. Khmel'nov Fest