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INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 03 (961) ● THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023 ● WWW.SB.BY



Ostromichi secondary school in the Kobrin District of the Brest Region is endowed with the status of 'School of Peace'.
Milana Grigorchuk at the school museum.

In the spirit of peace and creation

The coming year 2023 has been declared the Year of Peace and Creation in Belarus, therefore, the focus is on educational projects aimed at strengthening the ideas of peace and creative work in society. And the concept of 'Schools of Peace' fits perfectly here. This project is implemented by the Belarusian Peace Fund with the support of the Education Ministry of the Republic of Belarus and the UN Office in Belarus.

The concept of 'Schools of Peace' is one of the innovative forms of extracurricular work of general secondary education institutions for civic, patriotic and environmental education and training of children and youth in the spirit of peace, justice, mutual understanding and friendship of peoples, universal respect for human rights and freedoms.



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Integration on mutually beneficial terms

The implementation of the integration programmes of the Union State, adopted a little over a year ago, was discussed at a meeting with the President of Belarus

“We then agreed that their implementation would make it possible to make significant progress towards ensuring equal rights for citizens and business entities of the two countries. This is the basis on which we are building relations with fraternal Russia — equal conditions for people and enterprises. That is why we agreed to comprehensive solutions to many issues of co-operation with the Russian Federation,” explained the Head of State.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this primarily concerns integration in the economic sphere, creating conditions for co-operation between enterprises of both countries. The programmes and departmental plans contain about a thousand measures for their implementation, specific deadlines and responsible persons have been established.

“About 70 percent of such activities have already been completed. However, some of the important events for us are lagging behind the agreed schedules,” said the President. “As I am informed, our Russian partners are moving slowly on a number of issues. But I always say: there is no such situation when only one person is to blame, and the others are good. In some cases we have to work more.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that significant work had been done to form and adjust the legal framework for interstate co-operation.

“But, despite the implementation of most of the measures, Belarus has not yet felt any noticeable progress, primarily in the areas of energy, industry, and transport,” said the President. “Implementation of programmes to form united markets for gas, oil and oil products required the issue to be raised to the highest level. During the December talks with the President of Russia, the necessary solutions were found (for at least three years). Work is now underway to consolidate the

agreements reached in existing documents.”

As for such important areas as harmonisation of tax legislation, coordination of tax and customs control on the borders of the Union State, the President emphasised that everything should be transparent.

A proposal to ratify the Treaty on General Principles of Taxation on Indirect Taxes was submitted to the Head of State for consideration. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the current wording of the agreement provides, among other things, for the creation of an additional interstate Supranational Tax Committee. The Head of State questioned the name itself and asked for clarification on this issue.

“I emphasise once again: in this case, we are not talking about maintenance, about the loss of some part of our sovereignty. As taxes were established and laws were adopted earlier in Belarus, so they will be adopted,” said the President.

“We are independent in making decisions in this important area; only closer coordination of activities with Russian colleagues is expected. And for coordination, this small body is created (Supranational Tax Committee.)”

According to him, this new structure will be focused primarily on improving the tax legislation of the two countries. Similar approaches are in the customs sphere.

The Head of State stressed that within the framework of these agreements, it is important to develop common conceptual approaches and rules that should guide the relevant national authorities of Belarus and Russia, and ‘not double-check each other’.

“Of course, we will continue to deepen economic integration with Russia, but it will be possible to talk about a new package of integration documents only after the im-

plementation of the previous one. Moreover, in full. If at least one point has not been fulfilled, there can be no talk of any new package of integration documents. We firmly agreed on this with the President of the Russian Federation at the last meeting in St. Petersburg,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.



The President demanded to intensify activities on the implementation of allied programmes to the maximum, avoiding delays and lags in decision-making. But it is necessary to act thoughtfully and thoroughly.

“Especially now, when our countries are jointly resisting the rabid sanctions pressure of the so-called collective West,” added Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President drew attention to the fact that the governments of Belarus and Russia and the prime ministers personally are responsible for further work on the implementation of integration programmes.

“All the issues that you brought to the level of Presidents have been resolved. Solutions found. We live in normal conditions,” stated the Head of State. “Even the conditions for the functioning of our enterprises, companies and for the lives of people are a little better than last year, and maybe not even a little. I will say frankly: when we

asked from Russia something, Russia found a compromise.

I warn you, there was no talk that Russia or Belarus would give up their sovereignty, and today it does not and cannot happen. There is simply no need for it. We have not yet taken everything from the format in which we co-operate with Russia.”

The President noted that if the parties see in the future that something is missing and additional decisions need to be made in terms of integration and convergence of the economies of states, then the relevant issues will be discussed.

The Head of State emphasised that when 28 union sectoral programmes were approved, it was not just a decision of the Presidents of the two countries. Up to this point, for a long time, the parties have been developing relevant documents and approaches to them, and identifying areas for joint work.

“It’s not just that Putin and I gathered there and ‘made up’ something. No. The responsible officials gathered and discussed at the Supreme State Council. We have approved these programmes. But there were a lot of heated discussions when we adopted these programmes,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

It was decided that if the two sides are not yet ready to resolve certain issues, then for now it is worth leaving them aside.

“If there is a need, we will decide. So it was said. And these 28 programmes remained. They are socio-economic in nature. And where security issues are reflected. In addition, time has now pushed us in such a way that those security programmes that we approved more than a year ago are already outdated. We have already gone so far in bilateral relations on security issues,” said the President. “That is, life pushed us, and we went for closer integration. That’s how you have to act. Base your decisions on the current conditions. Otherwise, we will break everything.”

Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko stressed in his

report that time has proved the correctness of the chosen course: despite serious challenges, sanctions, restrictions and so on, Belarus and Russia continue to develop co-operation in all areas of the socio-economic sphere and achieve results.

“Following the results of 11 months of 2022, the historically maximum volume of mutual

turnover in goods and services was reached — \$45 billion. I believe that by the end of 12 months (2022, when the statistical results will be finally summed up) we will be able to overcome the bar of \$50 billion,” he said.

Roman Golovchenko reported that for the first time for Belarus there is a positive balance in trade with Russia — that is, the value of exports of goods and services exceeds imports. In general, according to the results of the past year, Belarusian exports of goods to the Russian market increased both in physical and value terms.

“We have always had one of the main problems with Russia — a negative balance. We imported more than we sold. And in some years this difference reached \$7 billion,” noted the head of government.

In this regard, Belarus had to balance the imbalance through trade with some other countries, the President drew attention, “Which is not very easy when the world is economically divided. But last year we had such a balance.”

Roman Golovchenko stated that Belarusian manufacturers have managed to find ways to intensify work on the Russian market, and great attention is paid to the regions.

“The work with the Russian regions, which was carried out under your leadership, is bearing fruit. Work with each region is under special control, including the embassies of Belarus in the Russian Federation. Here the system is set up. I’m sure it will work the same way this year,” he added.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Last year, thanks to Union State co-operation, a new school for 1,000 pupils — constructed by Belarusian builders — opened its doors in Russia’s Kaluga Region

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented Spiritual Revival awards, special prizes for people of culture and art, and the special prize Belarusian Sport Olympus

Accord and respect are the components of peace

This annual event has already become one of the unshakable traditions of independent Belarus, and it is no coincidence that it is timed to coincide with Christmas. After all, this bright holiday symbolises faith, love, kindness and mercy. Thus, it is these universal values that the Belarusian state invariably puts at the forefront of its policy,

“We’ve always known, and today we recognise particularly acutely that all the material and immaterial values created by the Belarusian nation act as staples, on which basis the national statehood was born and developed... Today we understand that national cultures and traditions cannot be adapted to match a unified standard, that the world is beautiful thanks to its diversity. Apart from understanding it we confirm it with the history of our state where people of different faiths and different ethnic origins have lived for over a century in accord, while enriching all of us spiritually. And if there is accord and respect, then there will be peace.”

The President recalled that the first laureates of the Spiritual Revival awards were honoured in Belarus more than a quarter of a century ago, “Back then we couldn’t even fathom what challenges we may face in the fight for our spirituality, for our historical legacy, and our way of life. And we couldn’t imagine how relevant the tradition to award people, who dedicate themselves to the noble work of preserving our spiritual origins, will be.”

The Head of State especially emphasised the significant



Aleksandr Lukashenko bestows the Medal of Francysk Skaryna upon Editor of the Belarus President Activities Coverage Department of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House Yevgeny Kononovich

role of Orthodoxy, which united the Slavs into an ancient state more than a thousand years ago, taught mercy, peacefulness and love for one’s neighbour.

Belarus’ example in this regard is a genuine challenge for the project bent on global unification to match ultrafashionable values and so-called trends forced upon the entire world, the President is convinced, “We understand that this cultural expansion (it is also called soft expansion) will be followed by not exactly soft, I’d even say, quite hard consequences for independent states: the loss of statehood and sovereignty. The loss of oneself as a nation.”

The annual ceremony to award laureates of the year prizes is primarily a token of recognition of all those who work in the humanitarian and cultural field, those who preserve our spiritual origins, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes, “Without an exaggeration, you play a leading role in matters of ensuring national security of the Republic of Belarus.”

MEMORY IN NAMES AND FACES

The National Archives of our country, together with the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, has created a unique scientific, cultural and educational resource for the entire territory of the former USSR, perpetuating the partisans. The project received a special award from the President for significant work on the formation of public consciousness, popularisation of the history of the partisan and underground movement in Belarus.

The Partisans of Belarus web portal (<https://partizany.by/>) is a tribute to everyone who fought the enemy in the occupied territory of the country, says Director of the National Archives Andrei Demyanuk, “This is an immersion in micro-history — a person, a family, a village, a city, a region. To personify partisan heroes, to preserve the memory of them, to convey it to the younger generation and to instil a sense of patriotism, duty and responsibility with examples of courage — these are just a few of the tasks that the portal is already solving.”

Director and Editor-in-Chief of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House Dmitry Zhuk notes, “This project is primarily focused on the younger generation. Which, through documents, through the award lists of their great-grandfathers and great-great-grandfathers, can come into contact with the events of the Great Patriotic War. This project allows each of the Belarusians to find their relatives who took part in the partisan movement. And this personal emotional involvement is the best motivator for the preservation of historical memory.”

‘Our choice is creation’

The Old New Year reception on behalf of the President took place on January 14th. During the event, the Head of State stressed that Belarusians celebrated the New Year and Christmas holidays in the comfort and warmth of home, at the festive table, but most importantly, under the peaceful Belarusian sky.

“Traditionally, I thank all of you for your work, for your position, which in this difficult time is a reliable support for our state,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

Journalists, political scientists, artists, athletes, representatives of various professions and spheres of activity, senior officials, and heads of government bodies and enterprises have been invited to the presidential reception.

from the Year of National Unity to the Year of Historical Memory, knowing that the former is simply impossible without the latter and vice versa. It is impossible to imagine the future, a good, bright future, without such concepts as peace and creation. This is how Belarusians want to see 2023 — the Year of Peace and Creation. And not only on our own land.

The President noted that now even those who yesterday opposed themselves to the state, opposed, as they say, the ‘regime’ understand this, “Today they see their salvation in this regime. About 90 percent of them. I’ve already talked about this in the temple: we are ready for this. In what form it will be, what path they should cover to go back to their home is up to you to de-



Participants of the ceremony for presenting the Spiritual Revival awards, special prizes for people of culture and art, and the special prize Belarusian Sport Olympus

The President emphasised, “These are people immersed in the political life of the country and the world. The people who, frankly, make this policy and create this world. I will put it bluntly: no matter what information or other agenda they try to impose on, we, Belarusians, have always built our policy and way of life independently, and we will continue to do so. No external circumstances and threats will change our goals. Our choice is creation.”

The Head of State remarked that Belarus purposefully moved

side... Dear friends! I have every confidence in you and millions of people like you, true patriots. Therefore, I will repeat what I said on January 7th: this year should definitely be better. We promised this to people.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented state awards to journalists and cultural workers after the keynote speech.

The Medal of Francysk Skaryna was bestowed upon Head of the Belarus President Activities Coverage Department of the Belarusian Telegraph Agency Vladimir Matveyev, Head of the Cultural News Department of the Main Directorate of the National

State Television and Radio Company Mikhail Revutsky, Editor of the Belarus President Activities Coverage Department of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House Yevgeny Kononovich, soloist with the Zhinovich National Academic Folk Orchestra Andrei Kolosov, Chief Director of the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre Anna Motornaya, soloist and leading stage master of the theatre Dmitry Shabetia for their fruitful work, high professionalism, significant personal contribution to the development of national journalism and television, outstanding achievements in theatre and music arts.

The President’s Letters of Commendation were awarded to eight journalists for their significant personal contribution to the implementation of the state information policy, high professionalism, objective and comprehensive coverage of events in the socio-political and socio-cultural life of the country.

The President’s Letters of Commendation went to three employees of the main directorate of the National State Television and Radio Company: Head of the Reporters’ Department Anastasiya Benedysyuk, Deputy Head of the Political Commentators’ Department Ilona Krasutskaya, and Head of the Editorial Department Irina Yakovleva.

The President’s Letters of Commendation were also bestowed upon Deputy Director of the News Broadcasting Department of the Second National TV Channel Svetlana Knutova,

Director of the Morning Broadcasting Department of the Second National TV Channel Tatyana Rudakovskaya, Head of the Internet Resources Support and Development Department of the Belarusian Telegraph Agency Natalya Yemich, Head of the Radio Broadcasting Department of Alfa Radio of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House Vadim Shepet, and Head of the Computer Graphics Design Department of the TV Production Directorate of Stolichnoe Televideniye Dmitry Golovchits.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

With care and respect!



Aleksey Bibikov

The new Belarusian tradition to congratulate not only children, but also the elderly on New Year's holidays, which appeared at the initiative of the President, does not have a single format. But there is a prerequisite: you need to do this only with all your heart.



President Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"I would like this Our Children event, when we go with gifts to you, to continue and end on the New Year (or better, let it not end), so that we come to our old people and give them gifts, congratulating them on the New Year and Christmas."

During a charity holiday as part of the Our Children campaign on December 29th, 2022

Belarusians actively responded to the proposal of the President to pay special attention to lonely elderly people during the New Year holidays

By Svetlana Isaenok

Not for show

At the end of last year, during a charity event as part of the *Our Children* campaign, the President called for attention not only to babies, but also to older citizens during the New Year holidays. The initiative immediately found a response from the Belarusians. The idea was picked up by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education, public organisations.

The new event was called 'From the Bottom of Our Hearts'. Already on January 3rd, phones all over the country in the homes of lonely elderly people rang, "Today you will have guests, just wait!"

All that was needed was a small push — and the sympathetic caring Belarusian soul opened up to the fullest. Representatives of youth organisations — the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, the Belarusian National Pioneer Organisation, the Belarusian Union of Women, parliamentarians, representatives of local authorities and simply caring Belarusians have already congratulated hundreds of our fellow citizens across the country. They helped them with housework, chopped wood, shovelled snow, went to the grocery store, to the pharmacy for medicines. Elderly people were invited to big and small concerts; artists came to other places of residence. Young people and old people sang songs together with accordion and guitar, looked at old photo albums, shared opinions about what is happening in the world, discussed plans for the future and simply gave each other the warmth of human communication.

MOMENTS THAT TOUCH THE HEART

"We must keep up so that our country develops, and we live as long as possible and manage to leave something good for posterity," says Boris Beilin, veteran of the Great Patriotic War. The legendary front-line soldier is happy to receive guests: a long-time family friend of the deputy of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly Aleksandr Danchenko and pioneers from the 5th school of Gomel. Boris Beilin shares memories of his life, which are enough for more than one volume of memoirs. He went to the front as a 17-year-old boy. He served on the 3rd Baltic Front as an air reconnaissance radio operator. Already in peacetime, together with colleagues, he brought the first truck of earth to the foundation of the Mound of Glory in Gomel. Aleksandr Danchenko wished Boris Beilin to stay in the ranks for a long time. The deputy also admonished the pioneers. As an 'Afghan' warrior, he continues the work of patriotic education begun by veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

93-year-old Yevgenia Ivanovna Kapitsa from Shchuchin was so touched by the congratulations of local high school students that she could not hold back her tears of joy. And Danuta Yushkevich assured that after talking with the children, she looked younger, "I realised: communication with children is the best remedy for old age."

There are 11 children in the large Gerasimov family. The guys, having learned about the From the Bottom of Our Hearts campaign, decided to visit the guests of the Nesvizh Psycho-Neurological Boarding School for the Elderly and Disabled. Over a cup of fragrant herbal tea, the children shared their interests and successes, discussed plans for the future, read Christmas stories and poems together, sang songs, and shared their smiles, good mood and warmth.

The real connection of generations is not only in theory, but also in practice. Gomel pioneers and volunteers visited Tamara Garanina, the founder of the volunteer movement, who has been engaged in charitable work in the Gomel Region for more than 30 years. Both children and adults received a charge of positive emotions from communication and parting words to preserve everything that exists in our country and increase the prosperity of Belarus through their work.

In the Pinsk District in the urban village of Logishin, volunteers congratulated the elderly on the New Year holidays in a special way. According to an old folk tradition, Kolyada came to visit the elderly. The costume performance did not leave anyone indifferent.



Today, there are more than **120,000 lonely elderly citizens** in the country, who are especially in need of communication and attention during the New Year holidays.



At the same time, about **20 thousand** more live in in-patient social service institutions, and for **100 thousand**, day care and leisure activities are organised by territorial centres of social services for the population. Special attention is given to centenarians.



More than 400 people who have reached the age of one hundred live in the country.



By Vadim Gigin,
Candidate of Historical Sciences

Path of the creator

If we choose a historical image for the proclaimed Year of Peace and Creation, then Euphrosyne of Polotsk will be the most suitable.

Young Euphrosyne knew the history of her family well and was well aware of the political reality surrounding her. And that differed little from the old troubled times. And the whole life of the ascetic became, as it were, a visible alternative to the endless intrigues, squabbles, conspiracies, princely campaigns that filled the history of Ancient Rus’.

Euphrosyne chose the path of a creator. In fact, she made a cultural revolution (in the true sense of the word) on the Polotsk land. Thanks to her efforts, temples and monasteries were erected. The Cross of Euphrosyne of Polotsk became a legend. And rewriting books was one of her monastic vows.

Euphrosyne used all her social and political influence (and it was considerable) to appease the numerous conflicts of the turbulent time of feudal fragmentation.

It is recorded in her biography that the saint did not want to see enemies ‘neither among princes, nor boyars, nor servants, but for everyone to be as one soul’. Researchers suggest that it was Euphrosyne who helped prevent quarrels within the Rurik dynasty in the middle of the 12th century, at least in Western Rus’, from escalating into a bloody civil war.

There is reason to believe that the last work of the life of Euphrosyne of Polotsk — a pilgrimage to the Holy Land — also had not only an ecclesiastical, but also a diplomatic character. Her path ran through the Russian principalities, Byzantium, the states of the crusaders. Christians then were at enmity with each other. And the reverend tried to find a kind word, to convey the news, to find a reason for agreement everywhere. The honour with which she was surrounded on her pilgrimage indicates that she achieved a lot.

Ministerial mission

A younger contemporary of Euphrosyne of Polotsk was Cyril, Bishop of Turov. There is no need to emphasise once again its importance for East Slavic culture. Russian Chrysostom — that’s what they call it, and that says it all. Now let us recall one of his many accomplishments, connected precisely with the appeasement of turmoil.

In the literary legacy of Cyril of Turov there is *Parable about the Blind One and the Lame One*. Its appearance

We, Belarusians, are peaceful people

Peace and creation is the commandment of our ancestors, which we must faithfully fulfil today

Perhaps one of the most favourite pastimes of Belarusian intellectuals for almost a century now has been to argue about the national idea. Does it exist? And what is it? It is known that such an idea should be expressed in a motto that is close and understandable to all the people. Then the words ‘peace’ and ‘creation’ would definitely become part of it. At least, this is evidenced by our history.

is associated with an acute ecclesiastical and political crisis that erupted in Ancient Rus’. At that time, the most influential prince was Andrei Bogolyubsky, the son of Yuri Dolgoruky, who ruled in Vladimir, Rostov and Suzdal. But he was in no hurry to seize the throne of Kiev, as was customary before, but decided to become autocratic in his own land. As historians say, he separated seniority from place.

At the same time, the prince decided to create his own church, independent of Kiev and even Constantinople. The free-thinking preacher Theodore (Fedorets) served as his assistant. It was in 1164 that Andrei elevated him to the episcopal chair, without asking anyone. And Fedorets began to plant various innovations that strongly resembled heresy.

A huge scandal broke out, which lasted for several years. Angry philippics flew from Kiev and Byzantium. Not only the already fragile political structure of Rus’ was threatened, but also the unity of the entire Orthodox Church. The case was heading for a complete breakdown. And here the pastoral word of the Bishop of Turov sounded. It became decisive.

In an allegorical, but extremely understandable form, the saint urged Andrei to change his mind and abandon his risky intentions. The enormous authority of Cyril (and some researchers believe that Andrei Bogolyubsky was his student) did its job. The prince repented, expelled Fedorets from the episcopal chair and did not begin to split the church. It is significant that then the church glorified

both Andrei Bogolyubsky and Cyril of Turov as saints. Spiritual instruction and timely repentance are equally valuable.

Well of wisdom

Ancient Rus’ was replaced by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the Middle Ages by the Renaissance. But this is not only the era of great creators, poets and artists. The whole of Europe was shaken by endless wars. Cities were ruthlessly ruined, peasant fields were destroyed. The feudal lords squeezed all the juice out of their subjects and robbed strangers during aggressive campaigns.

And in the midst of the general war of all against all, The Song about the Bison, written in 1522 by our fellow countryman Nikolai Gusovsky, sounded with the voice of reason. It was a hymn to the native culture, but also a call to peace.

There are lines that are still relevant today.

*Stop killing! Excited conscience and mind
Imperiously tell me to raise the alarm,
take up arms
Against robbery. How long has the whole Christian world
Merciless Mars bathes in blood,
shaking
Our faith! It, the Christian faith,
Has become shaky both at home and on the battlefield.
Are the enemy’s sabres or our own swords cutting it?*

Another figure of the Renaissance — Francysk Skaryna — was not only the first printer, but also a great humanist. His prefaces and commentaries on

President Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“If we want to live in peace and security, then first of all we must respect and appreciate the work of people in uniform, raise children as patriots of our country and abide by the law. If we want to live in peace and prosperity, we must work hard, honestly and conscientiously. If we want to live in a free and independent state, then we must cherish and protect historical memory, spiritual values and primordial traditions.”

From the New Year’s address to the Belarusian people on December 31st, 2022

biblical texts are a storehouse of folk wisdom, thoughts that have been born through his own life.

The great educator left us his order, *“The eternal law that must be always observed: do to others everything that you yourself love to receive from others, and do not do to others what you yourself don’t want to have from others... This law is in the heart of a single person.”* The words are simple, drawn from the Gospel story, but so close to every person. If the current Year of Peace and Creation needed an epigraph, then you couldn’t find a better one...

There are many such vivid historical examples.

After all, it is only pro-Western national-radicals who are trying to drag into our pantheon all sorts of gentry on horses in feathers, thugs like Bulak-Bulakhovich and police goons. They do not know our people and our history.

Aleksandr Lukashenko has always captured people’s aspirations. This is his political strength and guarantee of victory. As well as in a deep understanding of the essence of the historical path of the Belarusian people.

And it is in the first lines of our anthem, “We, Belarusians, are peaceful people.” Hence all peace-keeping initiatives.

It is a pity that our proposals often went unheeded by the great powers. Now the Year of Peace and Creation is both a reflection of the mood of Belarusians and a continuation of the outline of our history.

The project breaks all records



Test operation of the Belarusian-Russian tram MiNiN began in Nizhny Novgorod of the Russian Federation

the average speed of the tram by 1.5 times, significantly improve the comfort of not only passengers, but also all residents of the city, since the modernisation will reduce the level of noise and vibration. The name of the trams is MiNiN, which means Minsk plus Nizhny Novgorod.

“This project is already breaking all records in terms of implementation rates. Only a little more than six months have passed from the idea to the creation of a new tram. Thanks to the entire project team. The tram itself turned out to be fantastic, it looks very cool,” commented Gleb Nikitin, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Region.

As previously reported, on December 3rd, 2022, a joint Russian-Belarusian enterprise for the production of trams was opened in Vorsma, Nizhny Novgorod Region. The start of the new production was given by Ambassador of Belarus to Russia Dmitry Krutoy, Minister of Industry

of Belarus Aleksandr Rogozhnik, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Region Gleb Nikitin and Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russia Albert Karimov.

The Nizhekotrans joint venture, co-founded by BKM Holding (Belarus), was registered in September 2022. It was created to ensure the localisation of the production of tram cars for the needs of Nizhny Novgorod in accordance with the agreements reached earlier between the government of the Nizhny Novgorod Region and BKM Holding. The project for the supply of tram cars for the needs of Nizhny Novgorod will be implemented in 2022-2024.

According to the agreement, BKM Holding will supply Nizhekotrans with 10 units of fully assembled T811 tramcars, 26 units of T856 three-section tramcars, 20 units of tram car kits and 114 sets of tram bogies and electrical equipment.

The car entered the first section in Nizhny Novgorod, renovated as part of a large-scale programme for the modernisation of electric transport (along the Sorovskoye highway to the Varya station). Then it will be tested in the Avtozavodskoy District, and then it will go to the upland part of the city.

In total, it is planned to modernise almost 150 km of tracks and purchase 170 new cars. This will increase



Exceeding the plan

Belorusneft exceeded the annual plan for the production of associated petroleum gas by 3.3 million cubic metres at the end of last year

In total, more than 184.3 million cubic metres of the associated petroleum gas were produced in 2022, which is higher than the target by 3.3 million cubic metres.

“Belorusneft is among the few companies in the post-Soviet space that have managed to achieve 100 percent processing of this type of raw material. Thus, the produced associated petroleum gas is sent to the Belarusian Gas

Processing Plant, which also specialises in the production of automotive propane-butane. Now the Belarusian Gas Processing Plant fully covers the needs of the company’s subsidiaries for the supply of petroleum products in liquefied automobile gas from raw materials from Belarusian fields. The growing demand for this affordable, environmentally friendly type of auto fuel is being met in full,” said the company.

Way to success

AMKODOR increased export of products by more than 80 percent in 2022

“2022 was a successful year for the AMKODOR holding due to the sustainable development of innovations. The growth strategy adopted in 2021 meets the current situation and development trends in the engineering market. In particular, the growth rate of product exports amounted to 182.4 percent. About 90 percent in sales volumes of the market is occupied by the products of the Construction Machines division,” stated the company’s press service.

At the same time, the holding managed to increase its share of presence in its traditional segment of front loaders. “In particular, in the segment of front-end loaders with a carrying capacity of 4-4.9 tons, the holding’s share in the Russian market in-

creased from 41 percent to 58 percent and in the most massive segment (front-end loaders with a carrying capacity of 3-3.9 tons) — from 6 percent to 8 percent, thereby squeezing out Chinese manufacturers,” said the company.

The press service also drew attention to a tenfold increase in market share in the segment of skid steer loaders. Positive dynamics is noted in the Municipal Vehicles division.

The holding produces more than 135 models and modifications of special and agricultural machinery. Due to the presence of its own element base, the localisation of AMKODOR equipment at its own enterprises exceeds 70 percent of parts and assemblies.

No less ambitious plans for the development and diversification of exports have been outlined for the current year, primarily through deliveries to the countries of the African region, large complex deliveries of equipment are planned to the countries of Asia, Central and Latin America.



Sanctions are not a hindrance to efficiency

In 2022, Belshina OJSC worked more efficiently than in 2021, despite sanctions

In June last year, the Head of State set a number of tasks for the enterprise. “The main work is in the field of import substitution. In addition, like other industrial enterprises, Belshina needs to focus on diversifying sales markets and strengthening business contacts, primarily with Russia, as well as with other countries that are on the path of progress and constructive mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation, for example, with China. To expand our presence in the segment of tire products and increase the volume of its production, we will continue to modernise the production bases at the plants,” said Andrei Bunakov, General Director of the enterprise.

Due to changes in the world market, the main task for the company was to redistribute the released sales volumes to the traditional sales markets of Belarus and the Russian Federation. Afghanistan be-

came the most distant country of sale in 2022. And as for the consumer closest in terms of territory, this is the Bobruiskagromash holding, which is located next to Belshina OJSC.

Andrei Bunakov also spoke about the joint project of the Belneftekhim concern, the Ministry of Industry and BELAZ, the managing company of the BELAZ-Holding holding. Belshina OJSC will study the possibility of increasing the production capacity for the production of all-metal cord tires of radial design with a bore diameter of 57 inches. They are necessary for equipping domestic mining dump trucks with a carrying capacity of 240 tons, as well as for supplying the domestic market of the Russian Federation. “The global demand for mining equipment has gone up again, and neither BELAZ nor we should miss this opportunity,” emphasised the General Director of the enterprise.



Based on materials of belta.by

Hub of ambitious developments



Pavel Chuiiko

For more than four years, the Belarusian company Techno-Sky has been working on the designing and production of sensor equipment, as well as software and electronic components. Among their projects there are touch panels and tables, self-service terminals that have replaced information desks at the country's enterprises. The company's portfolio today includes more than several hundred developments, most of which are supplied to Russia and other CIS countries. In 2021, Techno-Sky received the status of a resident of the Hi-Tech Park, and this year it plans a strategic transition to a new business model.

Electronic queue, multiboard and high-quality software — HTP resident offers unique projects for the CIS market

By Ilya Kryzhevich

Thousands of smart solutions

If you study the portfolio of completed orders of the company, then for a complete description of all projects, you need to make a book of more than 300 pages. As wide a variety as the functionality of touch panels, about which Techno-Sky employees apparently know everything. In their small, industrial-scale facility, they assemble, weld, and design products. In addition, they themselves create software. The founder of the company, Yuri Savchuk, is convinced that it is this approach that allows the full control of the quality of products, "We also create a unique screwless design that our competitors are trying to copy."

Among the many products, Yuri Savchuk singled out the most successful cases by which the company's capabilities can be assessed: an interactive checkpoint, a multiboard and an electronic queue.

— Interactive checkpoint is a modern replacement for classic paper information stands. The project includes a self-service touch terminal and specialised software with a huge number of modules. One of these developments was implemented at the checkpoint of one of the capital's enterprises. We were faced with the task of solving the problem of informing visitors about the activities and structure of the enterprise, as well as organising a modern way of connecting visitors with employees via telephone. This task has been successfully completed.

In turn, the multiboard is an interactive touch panel that replaced the projector and, unlike it, has become an absolutely independent device. The multiboard does not need additional devices during operation and performs its tasks stably. Built-in additional equipment, such as a fingerprint scanner, prevents unauthorised activation of the multiboard by unauthorised persons. Yuri Savchuk also drew attention to the fact that this product is the most in demand. The development of the company is ideal for classrooms and classrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, significantly increasing the efficiency of information presentation.

— Our electronic queue is a service consisting of an interactive panel, an additional receipt printer, a main display, an operator console and an administrative part for managing and monitoring the system. This solution helps automate objects of any traffic, analyse



Yuri Savchuk

work using reports, monitor the work of employees online, and also combine objects into a common network.

The Techno-Sky team also has its own bright solutions for the education sector. They include the interactive Lecture department. A powerful PC, which is located inside the case, is responsible for its operation. Any screen, audio system can be connected to the computer, the required number of outputs and connectors, microphones can be built in.

Among all the developments of the company, it is impossible not to single out the Glass table. This is a real touch table, which five years ago could be more attributed to the films about the near future, and not to reality. The table is made of tempered glass of increased transparency with the application of special dirt-repellent coatings. A feature of the series of touch tables is the possibility to place from one to four independent workstations on one device.

To become an HTP resident is to reach a new level

No less surprising is the fact that such a variety of products was created by a team of 30 people.

"For four and a half years we have successfully worked with more than 500 customers. Among them there are both well-known companies and state institutions," explained Yuri Savchuk.

At the same time, the founder of the company noted that it was important for the entire team to become HTP residents, "When we started working on interactive panels, the first thought that accompanied us was to take the company to a new level and become residents of the Hi-Tech Park. Now we are proud to say that we are part of the 'Silicon Valley of Eastern Europe'."

This gives developers not only obvious preferences and benefits, but also a status that can 'add weight' when working with foreign players. At the moment the company cooperates with Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Strategic year

Yuri Savchuk also noted that this year the company's business model may undergo significant changes.

— Over the years, we have created products for which we created separate software. We want to create a platform that will unite all our developments into a single ecosystem, and add a mobile application for individuals to this. We have an idea that through this

application it will be possible to pay, take a queue and much more. Now all possible functions are under analysis and development. Ultimately, if everything works out, we plan to refocus on software and, possibly, move away from physical products.

The founder of the company noted that the development of such a platform could take up to six months.

"Until 2025, we plan to create a software platform that will combine all existing software within a mobile application that will be used by individuals in the CIS and the West," sums up the interlocutor.

ACCENT

The Techno-Sky company worked on the creation of a software and hardware complex for the *Partisans of Belarus* special project of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House and the National Archives of the Republic of Belarus. Recently, this project, unique for the entire territory of the former USSR, received a special award from the President for significant work in shaping public consciousness, popularising the history of the partisan and underground movement in Belarus.

"We have created three interactive panels for this project. We were given the task of making information stands that could display the site partizany.by on the panel and allow users to interact with it. We tried to meet the tight deadlines, we succeeded," said Yuri Savchuk.

The *Partisans of Belarus* project is an interactive multimedia online database of the partisan movement partizany.by. In 2020, it was decided to organise the first mobile multimedia exhibition *Feats and Fates of Partisans in Documents* based on the Internet resource. The exhibition presents exhibits (photo works) and award documents. In addition, there is a branded interactive stand of the partizany.by project, with the help of which each visitor of the exhibition can try to find his heroic ancestor from among the partisans and underground fighters, learn new facts about the partisan movement in Belarus.





Biden under scrutiny

Another set of materials discovered at a separate location, as White House addresses first discovery at Biden's institute

The US Justice Department is in the middle of politics, whether it wants to be or not. Revelations that classified documents going back to President Joe Biden's years as vice president have been found in his private office in Washington and a garage at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, are threatening to become a political — and possible legal — liability for the president.

Biden said he was 'surprised' to learn of the discovery of the records. He had branded his predecessor, Donald Trump, 'irresponsible' for storing classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. But Biden's own handling of classified materials is now under scrutiny given the revelations

that documents were stored at his private office and garage.

Emboldened by a new majority and armed with subpoena power, House Republicans were already gearing up for a series of investigations into the Biden family's finances and Biden's son Hunter.

The discovery of the classified documents opens up a new line of inquiry — one they are eager to exploit.

"I think Congress has to investigate this," House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said.

Questions over how Biden handled classified documents complicate matters for the Justice Department and for Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether to file criminal charges

against Trump for keeping classified records at his private resort.

From a political standpoint, questions about Biden's handling of classified documents could not come at a more inconvenient time.

Biden ended 2022 with a pile of late-year victories, his approval rating had started to tick back up, and he is expected to announce in the coming weeks that he will run for a second term in 2024.

The documents debacle provides the GOP with a new line of attack to use against him during the upcoming campaign and makes it more difficult for him to turn the issue against Trump, who already has announced he will seek the Republican nomination for president.

The last 8 years were the hottest on record

The world remained firmly in warming's grip last year, with extreme summer temperatures in Europe, China and elsewhere contributing to 2022 being the fifth-hottest year on record, European climate researchers said

The eight warmest years on record have now occurred since 2014, the scientists, from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, reported, and 2016 remains the hottest year ever.

Overall, the world is now 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.1 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than it was in the second half of the 19th century, when emissions of planet-warming carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels became widespread.

Carlo Buontempo, Director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, said the underlying warming trend since the pre-industrial age made 2022's ranking in the top five 'neither unexpected or unsurprising'.

The Copernicus scientists said Europe had its hottest summer ever in 2022, with several heat waves rolling across the continent that set temperature records in many cities.



Ice and snow festival

The 39th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival opened in Harbin, a popular winter tourist destination in northeast China

The winter can not only be white and quiet, it also can be colourful and exciting. Those who are looking for such a winter adventure, should come to Harbin Ice and Snow Festival to enjoy pleasant landscape of white and pure snow and ice and participate in many interesting activities and events.

The ice sculptures are dispersed around the entire city, but there are two main exhibition areas. The Ice and Snow World is the main venue of Harbin Ice and Snow Festival. It is the largest ice and snow amusement park in the world with an area of 600,000 sq.m. It has the most beautiful ice sculptures during the festival and there are over 2,000 displayed. Some structures are over three stories high and show very intricate designs. Taking a roam amongst

those bright and glittery ice towers is really mind-blowing and unforgettable!

The Sun Island is a stunning place with crystal lakes, delicate rockeries, beautiful flowers and exotic architectures. However, during the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival, it becomes another major venue, showing the most distinguished snow sculptures which are large in size and related to culture.

During Harbin Snow and Ice Festival, Zhaolin Park provides an Ice Lantern Garden Party since 1963. Visitors are shocked by the vast sea of ice lanterns. More than 1,500 icescape works are displayed to form a fantastic and festival land for family and friends visitors. This place gives richer atmosphere to feel local culture and Chinese tradition for gathering.

UK's first-ever rocket launch ends in failure

Britain's attempt to become the first European nation to launch satellites into space ended in bitter disappointment when Virgin Orbit said its rocket had suffered an anomaly that prevented it from reaching orbit

"We appear to have an anomaly that has prevented us from reaching orbit," the company said. "We are evaluating the information."

The failure deals a further blow to European space ambitions after an Italian-built Vega-C rocket mission failed after lift-off from French Guiana in late December.

Europe has suffered a series of setbacks in the past year, with its key Ariane 6 launcher delayed, access to Russian Soyuz rockets blocked by the Ukraine conflict, Vega grounded and now a showcase launch for the burgeoning

small launcher industry abandoned.

"Over the coming days there will be an investigation by the government and various bodies, including Virgin Orbit," Matt Archer, Commercial Space Director at the UK Space Agency said.

Virgin Orbit (VORB.O), part-owned by British billionaire Richard Branson, had planned to deploy nine small satellites into lower Earth orbit (LEO) in its first mission outside its United States base.

A mission failure would be the second in Virgin Orbit's history since its first launch in 2020.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Royal fun

The cynical revelations of Prince Harry destroy the reputation of the English royal dynasty already bogged down in the scandals

In the West, on January 10th, the scandalous book *Spare* by the most famous British Harry (but not Potter) went on sale. However, even before the release, fragments of the work of the ex-Duke of Sussex were at the disposal of a number of media outlets, which show that the younger brother of the heir to the throne decided to give out all the ins and outs of relations in a seemingly noble family...



By Anton Popov

Palace secrets

So, what is it that the exiled prince has made, if since the beginning of January the whole of Britain has been speaking about it? Let's start with the name. As the youngest son of Princess Diana assures in the book, his father Charles awarded him such a nickname immediately after birth: William was considered the main heir. At the same time, dad did not treat the boy as his own and often made caustic jokes with the mention of Major James Hewitt, Lady Diana's red-haired lover. Although, in fact, Harry was born before the princess met Hewitt, and there is no way the major could be the father of the prince.

A considerable part of Harry's memoirs is generally devoted to the love affairs of parents. Thus, the prince recalls that he was afraid of the second marriage of Charles with Camilla Parker Bowles. He thought that she would become a classic evil stepmother. However, as it turns out later, this is exactly what happened — as soon as the mistress of the future king moved into the palace, she immediately turned Harry's nursery into a personal dressing room, which still angers Diana's youngest son.

Harry speaks warmly of his mother. He admitted that he did not immediately believe in the death of Lady Diana from injuries sustained as a result of an accident in the tunnel under the Alma Bridge, and at first believed that his mother staged death to hide from annoying paparazzi. Now the prince, who was 12 at the time of the tragedy, regrets that he did not pick up the phone that day and did not talk to Diana.

However, the memories of the darling of all Britain are perhaps the only bright moment of the memoirs. After this retreat, Harry returns to digging through dirty laundry, his own and of his family. And here, as they say, 'went to town'.

From a generally harmless boy who lost his mother early and has a difficult relationship with his father, an unprincipled carnivore grows up, whose behaviour clearly does not fit with the image of a person of royal blood.

Where did your youth go?

A special place in the book is occupied by descriptions of the adventures of the prince (then without the prefix 'ex') at the age of 17. That year, at least two significant events took place that influenced Harry's later life: he lost his virginity and tried drugs for the first time. The reserve heir performed the first action with a woman who was 19 years older than him. The prince prudently does not disclose the name of the temptress — most likely, he is afraid that unexpected fame will lead to a lawsuit from the lady, and then to an accusation of violence, which is fashionable today. Fortunately, Harry and his current wife Meghan Markle have something to demand for silence.

With no less calmness, as if everything is as it should be, Harry also talks about drug use. At 17, the royal offspring got hooked on co-

caine. And he did not just try the drug, but for some time he did it regularly. "I used cocaine then ... It wasn't very fun, and I didn't feel particularly happy because of it ... I was seventeen," Diana's youngest son states in the book.

Death from the sky

When you read, it does not leave a feeling of some kind of pretense, as if the author does not write memoirs, but paints the hero of a kind of modern 'philosophical' novel, an experienced, hardened cynic who has tried everything in the world.

So, for example, Harry writes that during his service in Afghanistan (the prince made two trips to the combat zone as an air controller and co-pilot operator of the weapons of the Apache attack helicopter) he killed 25 Taliban. "So, my number is 25. And it doesn't fill me with satisfaction, but it doesn't embarrass me either," we read on the pages of *Spare*. What follows is a not very convincing, but obligatory morality that the prince still killed bad guys, the September 11th attack is recalled and stuff like that. For some reason, Harry does not mention the fact that the invasion of Afghanistan and the massacre arranged there by the allies destabilised the region for many years and caused numerous civilian casualties.

Swastika on the sleeve

Talking about sorties, Harry mentions that he saw in the Taliban not people, but chess pieces. Like, it was easier for him to kill them.

Doesn't it remind you of anything? Anyone who saw Nazi mannerisms in this is certainly right. 'Spare', while accusing the family of racism, is, in fact, a fascist himself.

First, he proved this with his form, appearing at a party in 2005 in a Wehrmacht African Corps costume and a bandage with a swastika on his sleeve, and a few years later he proved it with his actions, 'knocking pieces off the chessboard' in the Afghan mountains.

By the way, Harry did not have the courage to take responsibility for this act. In the book, he describes the preparations for that very party, but insists that his brother and his girlfriend pushed him to choose the Nazi costume, "I had a dilemma: put on a pilot suit or a Nazi uniform. I myself leaned towards the clothes of the pilot, but when William and Kate saw me in the form of a Nazi, they rolled with laughter and insisted that I dressed up in it."

There is nothing worse than the feud of two brothers

While Harry did not say many negative things about his father, the future King Charles III, apparently feeling some respect for the age of the monarch, despite the difficult relationship in childhood, he was very blunt about William and Kate. So, the ex-prince described the ugly scene that happened between him and the Prince of Wales.

During another skirmish, William insulted his brother's bride by saying that Markle is 'problematic, rude and harsh'. The prince, based on his words, tried to calm the offender, but he first called him names, and then tore the jewellery around his neck and pushed him. Harry 'luckily' landed on the dog bowl, the pieces of which bit into his back. The final quarrel, however, turned out to be unremarkable, "I froze for a moment in shock, got to my feet and told him to leave," writes an offended Harry. As a result, the only victim was the royal dog, to whom the violent princes broke the dishes.

There is no public reaction of William himself to his brother's literary work yet. However, the Daily Beast has learned from an unnamed close friend of the King's eldest son that the Duke of Wales 'despises Harry and Meghan, hates them, feels betrayed and deeply saddened'.

But Charles III, who is preparing for the May coronation, turned out to be quicker and has already crossed out the unlucky son from the list of invitees.

In general, Prince Harry's opus is interesting not so much as a work of literature or a fascinating story about the life of a 'noble' person. Rather, it is a peculiar and hardly conscious diagnosis of Western society and its elites.

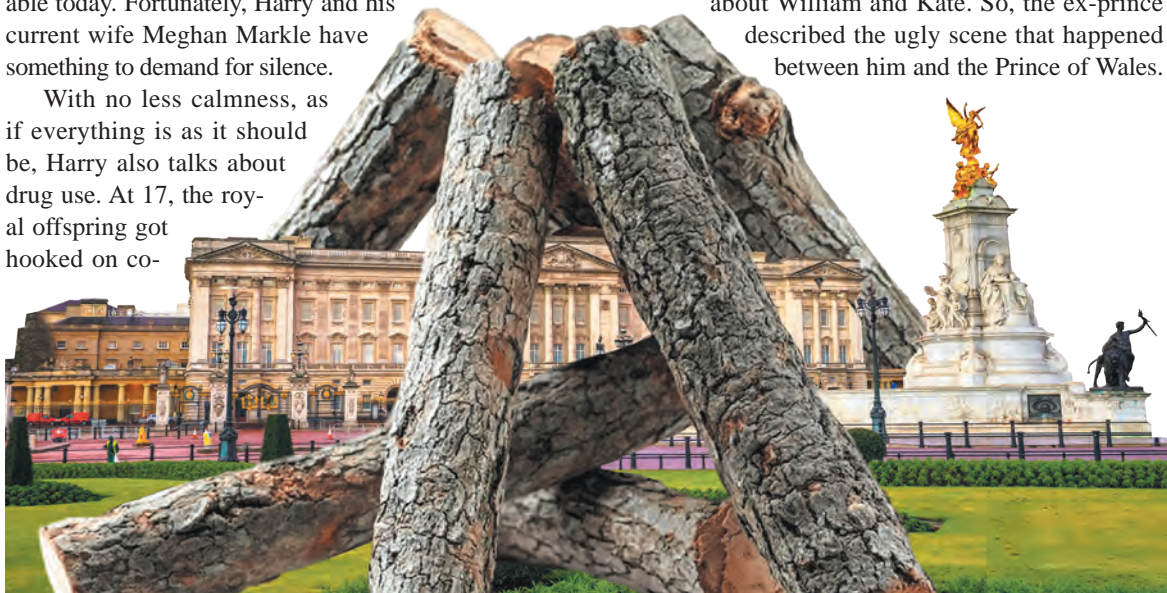
The British royal family has long been considered a model of traditional values, but a series of scandals at the end of the past and the first decades of this century have fundamentally undermined the authority of the Wind-

sors. In many ways, respect for the family rested on the earnest reverence for the Queen Mother Elizabeth II. Now, after the death of the monarch, the time has come for compromising evidence, intrigues and mutual mud-slinging.



They are like this now, these heroes of the West. Honour and dignity are clearly not about them. Wild antics, debauchery, drugs, participation in unjust wars accompany the princes all their lives, forming a completely unsightly image of Western elites. Harry's revelations are actually a very valuable historical document, revealing the true face of not only the royal family, but also the power systems in general to the west of the Belarusian borders.

And now let's think. In 2020, the zmagars (opposition activists) actively dragged Belarus allegedly to Europe, promised to introduce them to the values of the Western world and finally take them out of the post-Soviet state. Only now that very West turned out to be quite unattractive, like red-haired Harry, arranging a planetary obstruction of his own family. And forgive me, but we do not need such a civilization. Let's get by with our traditional values: no drugs, fighting princes and their hysterical wives.



Education in Slutsk: reputation and prestige

Perhaps only one city is able to compete with Polotsk for the title of the cradle of the cultural and spiritual heritage of Belarus — and this is not Minsk, and not even Novogrudok.

Slutsk, according to all these confusing written sources, is slightly younger than Polotsk, but it is not inferior to its northern counterpart neither in terms of strategic importance, nor in the frequency of mentioning in big events of 'long gone years'.

The starting point in a certain sense of the cultural revolution in the Slutsk principality can be considered the reign of the Olelkovich princely family, the last of which, Prince Yuri, personally copied the *Gospel*, which is better known as the *Slutsk Gospel*. Around the same time, the *Slutsk Chronicle* was created — a monument of the Belarusian-Lithuanian biography of the 16th century.

However, talented young people left to get an education in European universities even before that time. Thus, there were rich book collections in the city, schools were opened at monasteries, churches and the princely court.

By Vladimir Likhodedov

'Slutsk Athens'

In 1617, Janusz Radziwill built an Evangelical Church in Slutsk, at which an educational institution was opened from the moment of its foundation. However, this is the oldest school in Belarus at the moment (now it houses gymnasium No. 1) — it is already over 405 years old.

The Slutsk school has a rich and very interesting history. Some time after its foundation, the educational institution gained a serious reputation, became famous and popular not only in the Grand Duchy, but also abroad.

It was called 'Slutsk Athens' and 'Exemplary Slutsk Gymnasium' for the quality of teaching and the high level of knowledge of graduates.

Such well-known teachers at that time as Andrey Dobransky, Reinhold Adam, Andrey Musoniy taught here — each of them was a respected specialist who worked according to very high European educational standards (the great Mikhail Lomonosov, by the way, studied rhetoric from a textbook written by Reinhold Adam).

A huge role in shaping the solid reputation of the gymnasium was also played by the printing house operating under it, which was opened in 1672 on the initiative of Prince Boguslaw Radziwill and with the direct participation of the governor of the Slutsk and Kopyl principalities, Kazimir Klokotsky. The printing house printed fiction books, literature on military issues, translations from French and German, memoirs, calendars and travel notes. However, the most famous and popular publication at that time was the *Alphabet Book* manual on the Belarusian language, published in 3389 copies.

The gymnasium gave a start in life to many Belarusians who glorified

the country abroad. Ilya Kopievich studied here — a well-known educator, writer, book publisher, scientist and inventor. He was personally acquainted with Peter the Great. Furthermore, he was a man whose knowledge was highly appreciated by Gottfried Leibniz.

Among the graduates of the gymnasium are also Edward Woynillowicz, a well-known politician, whose genius was appreciated by the reformer Pyotr Stolypin, who offered him the position of Deputy Prime Minister in his government, Anton Krasovsky, an outstanding physician, obstetrician of the imperial family, Vitold Tserasky, a great astronomer, director of the observatory of Moscow University, writers Algerd Obukhovich and Anthony Petkevich (Adam Plug), People's Commissar for Labour in the first composition of the government of the BSSR Joseph (Yazep) Dylo, academi-

cian of landscape painting of the Imperial Academy of Arts Kandrat Korsalin, lawyer who defended Yakub Kolas in court in 1908, Kazimir Petrushevich and many others.

In the 30s of the 19th century, the building of the educational institution was reconstructed, and in 1868 the gymnasium received the status of a male gymnasium.

Both letter and spirit

In the first half of the 19th century, women's education was carried out by the nuns of the Eliinsky Convent, but it soon became clear that a more serious approach was required, and a private women's boarding school appeared in Slutsk, and then a state female gymnasium in 1912. In it, young ladies received basic knowledge of Russian, German and French, mathematics, calligraphy, the basics of pedagogy, music, gymnastics and the Law of God. Among the teachers, by the way, were

graduates of St. Petersburg University, the Minsk Theological Seminary and a number of other serious educational institutions.

In the late 20s of the 19th century, there was a theological school for the education of children of church ministers at the Transfiguration Monastery, later transformed into the 'Slutsk Theological Seminary'. At the same time in Slutsk, spiritual education was taught in three more institutions with a common material and technical base — in the Minsk Theological Seminary and the parish and district schools subordinate to it. In 1840, the theological seminary moved to Minsk, and the schools were united and received a permanent residence permit under one roof in the suburbs of Troychany (now it houses the Slutsk Medical College). Among the graduates of the united three-year theological school are the writer Yanka Skrigan, the diplomat and the first Russian consul in Japan

Iosif Gashkevich, the composer and ethnographer Vladimir Teravsky.

Another landmark educational institution for the city was the private commercial school of M. M. Kiriakov, built in 1910-1912, the most active part in the construction of which was taken by the already mentioned Edward Woynillowicz.

The creation of a new type of educational institution was dictated by urgent expediency — the Russian Empire needed personnel who understood the laws of the economy well.

Boys from the age of 12 were accepted for study — the children of the Slutsk townspeople, officials and even nobles. Education was paid. However, very little time was allotted to the school, and the building itself, which was the pride of the city, was burned by Polish troops during their retreat in 1920. During the years of Soviet power, it was restored, then destroyed again during the Great Patriotic War, and one can see what the original educational building was like only in photographs from the beginning of the 20th century.

But the glorious traditions of quality education, founded more than 400 years ago, are respected in Slutsk, honoured and continue to develop.



Male gymnasium (early 20th century)



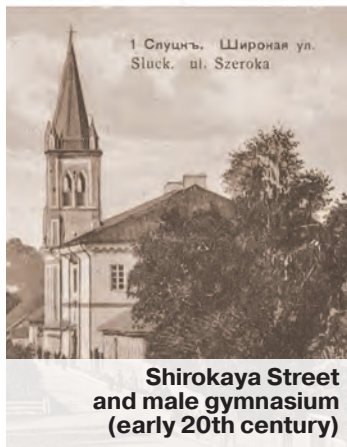
Female gymnasium (early 20th century)



Theological school (early 20th century)



The main hall of the gymnasium (early 20th century)



Shirokaya Street and male gymnasium (early 20th century)



Female gymnasium (early 20th century)

There will be no losers

On the way to the 2nd CIS Games: outlines of future competitions

20 sports. 11 cities. Thousands of participants, spectators and volunteers. The whole of Belarus will be involved in the 2nd CIS Games, the solemn opening ceremony of which is scheduled in Minsk for August 4th, and the competition on the sports grounds will be followed far beyond its borders. But this story is not only about goals, points and seconds, it is much wider. The upcoming Games are designed to become a real colourful festival of peoples' friendship and once again clearly outline the peace-loving position of our states: sport should unite and delight, and all victories should be won in an honest and open struggle.

By **Sergey Kanashits**

The scope, of course, will be a little different from that at the 2nd CIS Games 2019, which everyone remembers, but the mood is certainly not worse. It is assumed that in the period from August 4th to 15th, the competition matrix will absorb us all at once, and we will plunge into an incredible world of emotions, bright victories and joyful experiences. It is highly likely that leading athletes will come to Belarus not only from the CIS countries, but also from other countries. In particular, such a desire was expressed by representatives of Mongolia, China, Cuba, Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and it's not over yet — the list of participants is being formed and is not closed. According to the regulations drawn up before the first Games held in Kazan, most of the participants in the competition must be no older than 23 years. At that time, such a decision looked reasonable and logical: the competitions were scheduled for

2020 (they were postponed for a year due to the pandemic), and in the Olympic year it was not possible to attract adult athletes to the forum, and, perhaps, it did not make sense. More than 1,500 participants came to the capital of Tatarstan, including 1,100 athletes (aged 14 to 23) from 9 CIS countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). The games included competitions in 16 sports, in total, athletes competed for 181 sets of awards. More than 400 judges and referees worked at the competitions, as well as more than 1,000 volunteers. This is so that you understand the approximate



Memorable moments from the first Games: at the opening of the competition

scope of the sports festival (in Belarus there will certainly be more). Representatives of our team won 69 medals in Kazan: 8 gold, 32 silver and 29 bronze and took 5th place in the medal standings. The champions were Hleb Makaranka, Pavel Glinchuk (Greco-Roman wrestling), Fedor Koltun, Evgeny Fedorinchik, Albina Posokh (Thai boxing), Pavel Muravyov (bullet shooting, pistol), Anastasia Grishchenko (sambo) and Yelizaveta Zorkina (rhythmic gymnast, exercise with ball).

Not even a year and a half has passed since then, and so much has happened. It is unlikely that in September 2021 even the most notorious visionary could have imagined that the sports political landscape would change so dramatically.

But it happened, and today the sport is held hostage by politics and is actively used in dirty behind-the-scenes machinations. But our Games are open to all participants and fans: come, participate, watch and enjoy the spirit of true freedom and fair fight.

The participants of the 2nd CIS Games, as before, will be mainly ath-

Kazan-2021. Pavel Glinchuk (right) on his way to the gold medal.



letes not older than 23 years old, but, of course, it will not do without stars. The organisers continue to discuss with partners the involvement of the main compositions of the national teams in the competitions in certain sports. This, of course, will add entertainment and significance to the competition programme, as well as significantly increase the interest in what is happening, both fans and the media. So, for example, it is quite possible that the strongest teams will take part in competitions in karate, beach football, weightlifting, sambo, field hockey... In beach football, where the Belarusian team led by the Spanish coach Nicolas Alvarado is one of the main favourites, the composition of the participants has already been drawn up: in addition to the hosts, players from Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan will compete for medals at the Olimpiyskiy stadium. And it will be passionate — be sure!

By the way, it is worth noting a very pleasant surprise for the fans: admission to all competitions will be free!

Leonid Anfimov, First Deputy Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee, in one of his interviews noted another, apart from sports, important significance of the

DIRECT SPEECH

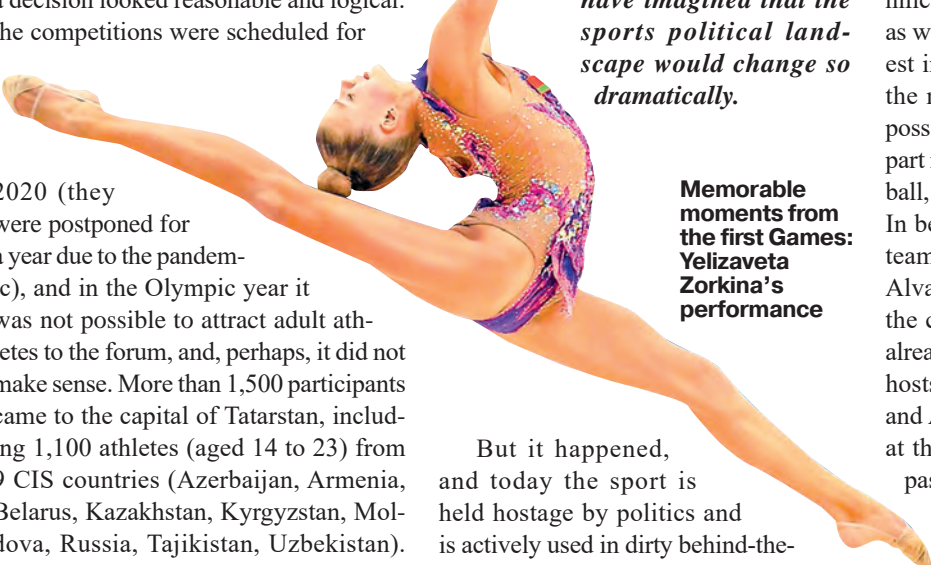
Sergei Kovalchuk, Sport and Tourism Minister, "2nd CIS Games will become a kind of mini-Olympics. No one will stay away from the chic multi-sport festival, all regions will be able to touch and fully feel the spirit of this grandiose event, to participate in it. Life goes on. And sports as well. We are ready for any challenges, but our position is known to everyone: a peaceful policy aimed at uniting all peoples and continents through sports."

upcoming Games. "We must not forget," he said, "that holding the CIS Games in the regions will reveal the tourism potential of Belarus and open it up for guests. The Sports and Tourism Ministry is developing a rich tourism programme. In addition to the goal of holding competitions at a high level, the country intends to show itself in all its glory. I hope that the guests will not be limited only to the sports arena, but will also visit Belarusian sights with pleasure. For example, guests of Soligorsk will be able to go down into the mine, in Brest they will be able to admire the beauty of Belovezhskaya Pushcha and face the heroism of the defenders of the Brest Fortress. In any city and region where the games will be held, there is something to see to discover Belarus."

Well, they know how to welcome guests in Belarus. And there is no doubt that everyone who visits our country during the sports festival will remember Belarusian beauties, cordiality, comfort and time spent here for a long time and not without pleasure. The strongest will win, but there will be no losers.

Cities and sports in the programme of the 2nd CIS Games

Minsk — track-and-field athletics, volleyball, rhythmic gymnastics, shooting, beach football, 3x3 basketball, modern pentathlon. Borisov — mini-football. Soligorsk — freestyle, women's and Greco-Roman wrestling: Molodechno — beach volleyball. Brest — handball and swimming. Vitebsk — Thai boxing. Orsha — boxing. Gomel — judo. Zhlobin — sambo. Grodno — field hockey and weightlifting. Mogilev — archery and karate.



Memorable moments from the first Games: Yelizaveta Zorkina's performance

ARENA

● **Belarusian tennis player Iryna Shymanovich and Alena Fomina from Russia won the doubles tennis tournament in Tunisia**



In the final match, the Belarusian-Russian duet defeated the Greek-Romanian tandem Sapfo Sakellaridi/Oana Gavrilă in just 50 minutes — 6:2, 6:1.

In singles, Iryna Shymanovich (world No. 239 in tennis) reached the quarterfinals, where she lost in two sets to Japanese Sakura Hosogi (world No.

302 in tennis) — 2:6, 1:6. Before that, the Belarusian won against the Serbian Lola Radivojevic (world No. 349 in tennis) — 6:1, 6:4 and the Greek Sapfo Sakellaridi (world No. 307 in tennis) — 6:3, 7:5.

● **The next stage of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup kicked off**

The finished Biathlon Cup of Belarus has become a preparatory tournament for two stages of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup. The fourth stage of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup will be held in Raubichi from January 19th to January 22nd, and the fifth — from

January 26th to January 29th.

Belarusians will have to compete with the best Russian biathletes. Now the men's overall standings are led by Anton Smolski with 858 points, followed by Russian biathletes Anton Babikov (821 points) and Eduard Latypov (777). In women, Russian Natalia Gerbulova (830) is in the lead, Dzinara Alimbekova (813) is in second place, another one Russian athlete Tamara Derbusheva (811) is third.



● **Stolitsa Minsk won the Belarusian Futsal Cup for the second time**

In the final match of the 33rd cup draw, the Minsk team defeated Viten Orsha in a penalty shoot-out. The main and additional time ended in a draw — 2:2, but in the end the Stolitsa Minsk team was stronger in the penalty shootout — 4:2.



In the semi-finals, both finalists took over the Gomel teams. Stolitsa Minsk defeated VRZ with a clean score — 6:0, while Viten Orsha defeated BC only in overtime — 6:5.



BELTA

Photo of the week

During a traditional ball at the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre on the night of the Old New Year

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



January 20th is World Cheese Lover's Day. The variety of its kinds allowed it to gain popularity both among ordinary consumers and

among real gourmets, connoisseurs of exquisite tastes. The history of this product goes back to pre-literate antiquity. Some researchers mention 8000 BC. as a starting point for the development of cheese making.

January 20th is

Penguin Awareness Day. Its goal is to increase people's knowledge about penguins, to direct attention to the conservation of the number and habitats of these birds. Penguins [Spheniscidae in Latin] are a family of flightless seabirds, whose representatives swim and dive well. Penguins live only in the open sea of the Southern Hemisphere.



On January 20th, 1958, the first speed control radars appeared on the streets of London. They have gone from the first huge stationary high-speed tracking sensors to almost invisible cameras. Modern impulse radars have a sensitivity of up to



five hundred metres and are capable of measuring the speed of several cars from a stream at once.



On January 20th, 1978, the world's first unmanned automatic cargo transport ship Progress was

launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Soviet Union to supply orbital stations.

January 21st is the Day of Engineering Troops in the Republic of Belarus.

The history of the engineering troops dates back to the time of Peter the Great. According to his Decree of January 21th, 1701, the Moscow School of Mathematics and Navigation was created in order to train artillery officers and military engineers. Today, the engineering troops of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus continue the glorious combat traditions of previous generations, honourably fulfilling the tasks they face.



On January 22nd, 1908, Lev Landau (1908—1968), Soviet theoretical physicist, founder of a scientific school, Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Hero of Socialist Labour, was born. He won the Nobel Prize in physics. In addition, he proposed



the theory of electron plasma oscillations, introduced the concept of combined parity and the concept of density matrix, built a phenomenological theory of superconductivity, created the theory of electronic diamagnetism of metals, etc.

January 22nd is the World Snow Day. It is considered international holiday and winter sports day.

It has been celebrated annually on the penultimate Sunday of January since 2012. The International Ski Federation (FIS) is the initiator and founder of this holiday. It takes place under the motto 'Enjoy, discover, try!'.



On January 23rd, 1960, a record for deep diving to the bottom of the Mariana Trench was set. Scientist J. Picard and Lieutenant D. Walsh descended to the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the Trieste bathyscaphe. They reached the 'lowest' point of the oceans, the so-called 'Challenger Deep'.



The instruments recorded a record depth of 11,521 metres. Subsequently, the figure was adjusted — 10,918 metres.



On January 24th, 1803, Minsk Men's Gymnasium was opened. The following subjects were taught there: Russian

language and literature, Latin, German and French, history, philosophy, law, mathematics, physics, etc. The gymnasium had a church, church and secular choirs, mixed and brass bands, physical, natural history and mineralogical studies, a library. In the autumn of 1915 it was evacuated to Moscow, in 1918 it was closed.

On January 24th, 2013, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus organised the production of unmanned aerial



vehicles. Over time, the enterprise became the leading company in the country in the development and production of a wide range of unmanned aerial vehicles for agricultural activities, monitoring critical infrastructure, the Emergencies Ministry and the military.



January 25th is the Student's Day. It was on Tatiana's Day in 1755, which is celebrated on

January 25th according to the new style, that Empress Elizaveta Petrovna signed a decree 'On the Establishment of Moscow University', while Tatiana's Day became an official university day.