



# In excellent mood before PyeongChang

Darya Domracheva is approaching the Olympic Games in great shape, as is confirmed by Belarusian biathlete's mass start victory at World Cup stage in Italian Antholz-Anterselva → **11**

# Joining struggle for deputy mandates

By Alexey Fedosov

**Chair of the Central Election Commission, Lidia Yermoshina, claims elections to local councils are becoming more inclusive and less elitist**

“Previously, we registered a very narrow circle of people, mostly connected with politics. We also have some unexpected applicants from the spheres of business and small entrepreneurship. As usual, the largest representation comes from the education and culture, and about 25 percent from the social sector,” said Ms Yermoshina.

There are also many young people among the potential candidates: in Minsk, one in 7 of the applicants is below 30. Registration of candidates for the deputies’ positions has already begun. Only Minsk has currently submitted its data to the Central Election Commission; the highest competition is expected here: with over 6 applicants per position (1.5 times more than during the previous campaign).

The exact number of citizens

applying for the political campaign this year will be announced in due course. From a technical point of view, the local elections are a more complicated procedure; time is needed to collect information from all the regions and make up a general picture.

The pre-election campaign begins after registration and will last until February 17th (inclusive). On February 18th, local elections will be held, when over 18,000 mandates will be distributed among the campaign participants.



Questions asked at Lidia Yermoshina

# About elections to local councils, parliamentary groups and observers

**Lidia Yermoshina expressed her point of view about possible changes during shift towards mixed election system in the Parliament. However, the Chair of the Central Election Commission made particular specifications regarding some peculiarities during nomination of candidates into deputies of local councils.**

During the period to Febru-

ary 17th, candidates for local councils will have the opportunity to distribute publicity material, these must be produced legally, i.e. using election funds and must contain the publisher’s details. The Central Election Commission was asked whether it’s possible to prepare leaflets and posters independently, using one’s own money, and then to distribute them. The answer is ‘no’, because a business acting in accordance with an agree-

ment automatically includes the necessary information: certificate of registration, the circulation of the printed leaflets, and this information can always be checked. Otherwise, we can’t be certain that these leaflets have been produced at the candidate’s home and not brought in from other countries, as financing of

elections from abroad is forbidden in our state.

**Do you think there are enough party deputies in our Parliament?**

Parties in our country are not activated unless there is a proportional (or semi-proportional) election system. Currently parties don’t have their own interest in participation in elections. If we introduce voting by lists or using a mixed election system, then party representation will automatically increase at all levels, including in local councils.

**When will we take such a step?**

In this case it will be necessary to change the Constitution. At present, everything is speculative and there are no concrete steps towards it.

**Do partners from the European Union, who traditionally take part in election observation, show interest in the political life in our country?**

European structures show interest and I think it will increase as the elections approach.

# Present your fingers to cross the border



Biometric procedure takes a few minutes

By Ruslan Proleskovsky

**How is the new biometric control system working on the Ukrainian border?**

The ticket offices at Gomel bus station are always busy, as those travelling to Ukraine need to present their passports as well as paying. You can’t purchase a ticket without an ID. Biometric controls are now launching, bringing change to the Ukrainian border.

On January 1st, 2018, the biometric data fixing system came into force at international crossing points on the state border of Ukraine: the corresponding decision was taken by the

Council of National Security and Defence last summer. The innovation aims to exert control over entry and exit of visitors, as well as their compliance with the rules of stay in the country.

“The mandatory registration of biometric data is used in accordance with the Foreign Ministry’s list of seventy ‘risk’ countries (including the Russian Federation),” explains the State Border Service of Ukraine. “Other foreigners are viewed from the point of view of risk analysis and assessment of results.”

Belarus is not on the list. However, given the clause of ‘analysis and assessment of

risks’, hypothetically, our citizens can fall under selective control. Nothing terrible will happen but Ukrainian border guards will take fingerprints from the right hand. No ink is needed, as modern electronic scanners do without.

The Acting Head of the Border Control Department of Gomel’s Border Group, Vitaly Yuhnevich, clarifies the situation, telling us, “Ukrainian colleagues warned us about the innovation in advance. Our citizens can cross the border in both directions as before but need to pass through biometric control on the Ukrainian side, which takes a couple of minutes.”

The biometric information is entered into the database of the Arch interagency information-telecommunication system and the National System of Biometric Verification and Identification of Ukrainians, Foreigners and Stateless Persons of the State Migration Service of Ukraine.

To learn more, we addressed representatives of the tourist industry for their comments on whether the innovation might affect tourism. The Director of EurAsiaTour JSC, Alla Davydenko, has been following the introduction of Ukraine biometric control from the outset. However, she isn’t yet ready to draw conclusions or make predictions. She comments, “Time will tell. We’ve received no complaints from our clients travelling to Ukraine. I think that, if biometric control doesn’t affect Belarusians, the flow of tourists will remain steady. Everything should be done correctly and quickly at the border, without discomfort.”

Alina, a client of the travel agency, travels a great deal, and has passed through biometric control several times, even having her iris scanned, for a UK visa. “These procedures don’t irritate me,” she underlines. “I’m not ‘wanted’ by the authorities and do nothing illegal. It’s good that my biometric data is taken, as you never know what can happen while staying abroad.”

# Interesting programme prepared

By Olga Korneeva

**A group of children from Syria have arrived in Belarus for recuperation**



It was announced during the meeting between the President of Belarus and the Syrian Social Affairs and Labour Minister that the Syrian children will rest and recuperate at the National Education and Recuperation Centre Zubrenok, in line with the agreement reached in late August 2017.

The programme for the project includes health-improving sports and cultural events. The Syrian children will visit the Naroch Lake area, the National Art Museum of Belarus, the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, Nemo dolphinarium, the National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve at Nesvizh and Mir Castle.

During the visit to the Nanosy-Novoselie agro-tourist centre, as well as the Cultural Heritage of Belarus excursion, guests from Syria will get to know the culture, traditions, life, games and customs of the Belarusian nation.

# A very responsible mission

By Vasily Kharitonov

“Our hearts are always open to partners interested in the enhancement of good relations and expansion of all-round co-operation. Today Belarus is a peaceful European state serving as a guarantor of security and a platform for the regulation of several conflicts in the region,” noted the Head of State. “Belarusian proposals regarding various models of integration, joint actions against modern challenges and threats have more and more supporters among other states and international organisations.”

The President described how the economy is always the foundation of stability, the guarantor of sovereignty and independence of any country. Most of the important decisions adopted in Belarus have been to stimulate business initiatives and the activity of investors. Entrepreneurship and innovative activities are encouraged while clear-cut rules for business have been developed.

“Nuclear energy and biotechnology are developing vigorously in Belarus. Unprecedented legal conditions for the IT industry have been created. Belarusian doctors provide high-quality services in neurosurgery, cardiology, oncology, transplantation and rehabilitation,” asserted Mr. Lukashenko, saying that this opens up additional opportunities for the strengthening of ties with countries all over the world.

The President received credentials from the ambassadors of twelve states: Georgia, Egypt, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Columbia, Cuba, Malaysia, Malta, Nigeria, Tajikistan and Croatia.

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that the relations between Belarus and Kazakhstan have a strategic character and rely on mutual trust and openness. The recent visit of the Kazakhstan President to Belarus

## Belarus is a peace-loving European state and serves as a guarantor of security, noted Alexander Lukashenko as he accepted credentials from ambassadors of foreign states



At the ceremony of presentation of credentials

was testimony to that. The two sides signed a comprehensive agreement on socio-economic co-operation to 2026, which will help the two countries reach a new level in bilateral relations.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, Tajikistan has been and still is, a friendly state and reliable partner for Belarus. Joint projects helped them reach a brand-new level of trade, humanitarian collaboration is increasingly strong.

The Belarusian leader stressed that relations with Georgia have stabilised in recent times. “We are enthusiastically liaising in various fields and we already have the first successful examples of industrial co-operation. Five or seven years ago we did not even know how to build logistics in the trade with Georgia. Today we can and will do it,” noted Mr. Lukashenko, adding that a top-level visit to Georgia is planned for 2018.

Belarus is interested in

the development of political, economic, tourism and other ties with Malta. “We hope to ensure sustainable positive dynamics in trade,” remarked the Head of State.

### REFERENCE

#### Most of the important decisions adopted in Belarus have been to stimulate business initiatives and the activity of investors

Belarus is also ready to expand the entire range of relations with Croatia. “It is essential for the business circles of the two countries to join efforts to boost bilateral trade and investment co-operation.”

Mr. Lukashenko said that Belarus will continue paying attention to collaboration with Iceland. “We deem it necessary to balance out our trade turnover. We’re

interested in developing a corresponding legal framework between our countries and consider issues of mutual interest,” he said.

According to the President, Belarus can meet the demand of the rapidly developing economy of Cambodia.

“We propose to build up co-operation in the manufacturing sector, agriculture, education, science and culture,” he said. Mr. Lukashenko explained how the country is a promising partner of Belarus in Southeast Asia. However, bilateral interaction can be described as having a wealth of unrealised opportunities. “It is important to create conditions for joint economic initiatives, expansion of scientific, technical and humanitarian ties. Healthy pragmatism and mutual benefits should always serve as the foundation of our partnership in the long run,” the President believes.

“The relations between Belarus and Egypt are special. My

friend President el-Sisi and I discussed it in Cairo a year ago,” underlined Mr. Lukashenko. He remarked that the two sides agreed to make serious progress in the implementation of joint manufacturing projects and boost bilateral trade, opening promising avenues in science and education.

Mr. Lukashenko also reaffirmed Belarus’ interest in the deepening of all-round mutually beneficial co-operation with Nigeria. The main objective today is to give concrete impetus to the development of trade, economic and humanitarian contacts. We hope that the activities of the new ambassador of Nigeria will lead to significant progress in our bilateral relations.

He also stressed that Belarus values the level of mutual understanding with Cuba which is Belarus’ strong ally. “This is a reliable platform for the establishment of ties with other countries in Latin America. We continue to provide all-round assistance to Cuba and are doing our best to promote its political and economic interests in our region.”

The President spoke in positive terms about the growth of Belarus’ bilateral trade with Colombia. He mentioned the delivery of Belarusian machines, chemical products, pharmaceutical products, optic and electronic devices, farm equipment and passenger transport as promising avenues of co-operation.

“Our country is open to new ideas, projects and initiatives. I believe that, as ambassadors, you will make the maximum effort to add positive dynamics to political and trade-economic contacts.” The President wished successes to the ambassadors in fulfilling their responsible missions. “Let your stay in Belarus become an impressive and useful point in your life. Welcome to Belarus!”

## Apparent effect from optimisation

By Alexander Pimenov

### Foreign Ministry’s central staff reduced by almost a third

Alexander Lukashenko had a working meeting with Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei, tackling optimisation of the Foreign Ministry’s structure. The second issue concerned problems of foreign economic activity, its results and prospects for export diversification and the role of embassies in this process. The third matter tackled the fulfilment of instructions previously given to the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Makei reported that a positive tendency has been seen in foreign trade and exports have grown by approximately 23 percent. This increase was ensured by the growth in prices (up two thirds) and the physical increase in exports (by one third). Accord-

ing to the Foreign Ministry’s information, the EU states and other countries account for around a third of foreign sales while slightly fewer than 50 percent goes to the EAEU states.

After the working meeting with the President, Mr. Makei described their conversation in detail.

“The President was informed of the results of the Foreign Ministry’s work in the previous year. We agreed conceptual approaches for our foreign political and economic activity. We have also agreed approaches towards the development of our relations with the EU: the President was reported to about the current situation and about particular problematic issues. Moreover, he was also told about the schedule of his visits for this year and informed about important international events, which are to be conducted in Be-



Vladimir Makei

larus in 2018,” noted Mr. Makei.

Among such events (at which we expect a high level of foreign representation) Mr. Makei mentioned the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, the conduct of the session of the Munich Security Conference and opening of the memorial of Trostenets at which we expect the presence of heads of a range of foreign countries.

As far as optimisation of the Foreign Ministry’s structure is

concerned, Mr. Makei said that the central staff has been significantly downsized but this won’t reduce the efficiency of its activity in any way.

“On the contrary, the structure of our central staff is geared towards effectively handling the tasks given by the Head of State. A similar approach is used regarding diplomatic institutions abroad. “We’ll have to optimise their work this year, and a number of diplomatic institutions will be reduced. However, close attention will be paid to the countries, where interaction produces great results,” he said. According to Mr. Makei, in total, the Foreign Ministry’s central staff was reduced by roughly one third and the number of employees of diplomatic institutions will fall by around 15 percent.

During the report, the President noted positive tendencies in

foreign trade but emphasised that we mustn’t rest on our laurels, since positive changes can also be due to the change in the markets for the better. Therefore, Mr. Lukashenko pointed to the necessity of analysing all aspects of foreign economic activity.

Mr. Makei explained that the important task of diversifying foreign trade remains and much needs to be done. The Minister noted that out of 58 countries where Belarus has its foreign representations, only nine registered a fall in exports. “Nevertheless, we’re committed to analysing the situation comprehensively,” asserted Mr. Makei. “In February we’ll have a final session of the Foreign Ministry, inviting representatives of other ministries and exporting enterprises. We’ll assess the work of each foreign institution, and each official and set the tasks for the future.”

# Additional profit lies in oil refining depth

Belarusian oil refining industry prepares to work as Russia decreases oil export duties

By Vladimir Khromov

The Deputy Chairman of Belneftekhim Concern — Andrey Rybakov — noted that the Belarusian oil refining industry has been operating for several years under tax conditions decided by Russia. As a result, the cost of oil for Belarus is growing and is gradually approaching the world price. In 2017, for example, the cost of a tonne of Russian oil (delivered to Belarusian refineries) stood at about 80 percent of its world amount. At the same time, Mr. Rybakov noted that — when exporting



At one of Belneftekhim Concern's productions

oil products — refineries pay a tax duty, accordingly, conditions for privileged oil prices are levelled. In this way, refinery costs become comparable with the purchase of raw materials at the world price.

If Russia abolishes duties, the cost of Russian oil will grow by the same amount and

will equal global costs — in line with the applicable formula for determining oil prices for Belarus. The terms of such abolishment have not yet been determined by the Russian side. “However, we are actively preparing for the expected changes,” Mr. Rybakov noted.

It is with the goal of increas-

ing efficiency of refineries under the market prices, Naftan and Mozyr oil processing facilities are undergoing modernisation, increasing the depth of oil refining and obtaining new products that will enable them to gain additional profit and remain competitive in the world market.

One shop soon to be followed by a whole chain

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Belarusian products shop opens in Chinese city of Chongqing**

The shop, named Valosha, sells Belarusian products in demand in China: milk, cheese, meat, vegetable oil, flour, chocolate and alcoholic drinks. Belarus and Chongqing have been co-operating since 2011, when the two countries were linked by the Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe railway which opened up new opportunities for boosting economic and trade contacts. In 2016, the Minsk Region and Chongqing signed a twinning agreement envisaging the development of trade, economic and humanitarian co-operation.

The Valosha brand was founded by Olga Zelkovskaya, a graduate of Minsk State Linguistic University, who also has a Master's Degree from Peking University (Philosophy Department). She has been living in China for over seven years and plans to keep expanding the Valosha network in the country. The second shop is expected to open in Chengdu, the administrative centre of the Sichuan Province.

## Support received to explore new areas



By Olga Korneeva

**Minsk schoolboy Danila Yeliseev decided to establish batch production of inexpensive and high-quality 3D printers for start-ups and schools and, after graduating from the Business School for Teenagers, he is closer to success than ever before**

The young man began working with radio electronics at the age of six — sorting broken

appliances, giving second life to their parts, producing chips, power supplies, and so on. “I once saw a 3D printer at my father's work, but its price struck me as high at \$2,000. I then thought of assembling such a device myself,” he remembers.

He surfed the Internet for instructions and assembly tips, also studying the most interesting ideas. As a result, he combined them to make the best solution. Last May, Danila demonstrated the 3D printer

— which he assembled himself — to the President, at the Exhibition of Achievements of Children and Youth Movement *Leadership Landmarks — Formula of Success*. He decided to continue work on the project and was recently invited to the ONT Channel's project — *My Business* — to present his idea of establishing batch production of Belarusian 3D printers.

Receiving support from the Zubr Capital company, the young man decided to look at the matter from the other side and develop a 3D printer-construction kit for teenagers. “Such a product has many advantages,” he explains. “A printer-construction kit is an exciting pastime for parents and teens. In addition, you get a fully-fledged device able to print 3D models. I've tried to make a high-quality machine. Printers of the same size and cost — which are available on the market now — would not be able to print so accurately and efficiently. We can compete with them in terms of pricing, while offering better quality. Importantly, the areas of start-ups, schools and universities are not yet fully explored.”



## Learn to become true professional

By Alexey Fedosov

**Belarus to train technical specialists for India**

Belarus will shortly welcome 50 people from India to gain a technical education in different fields — including automobile manufacturing and mechatronics in modern production management. The programmes will last from three to ten weeks and comprise a fee-based education at colleges of the Republican Institute of Vocational Education. The Indian students are also expected to learn more about the operation of Belarusian resource centres and enterprises.

Belarus is taking part in the ‘Skill India’ programme, initiated by the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. India currently co-operates with the UK,

Germany, Singapore and other countries in joint projects for vocational education.

“Belarus will become another partner of India in 2018. This is because Belarus and India have achieved the goals set by the Belarusian President following a visit of the Belarusian delegation to India in September 2017. The two countries have put into practice the Belarus-India memorandum of understanding on co-operation in vocational education and training signed during that visit,” commented the Indian Embassy in Minsk.

As a follow-up, a Belarusian Vocational Education Centre is planned for India. This will be discussed in detail during the visit of India's Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, Anant Kumar Hegde, to Belarus.

# With hope and confidence in our own power supply

## From 2018, Belarus hopes to stop importing electricity from Russia

By Vladimir Mikhailov

### No politics

Some experts have greeted the news from Minsk with bewilderment. However, the indications are that it's more profitable for us to produce and consume our own electricity than to buy it from Russia. Energy Minister Vladimir Potupchik emphasised that there is no political agenda behind the move. "Russia has been, and remains, the main strategic partner for Belarus. The decision to move away from importing electricity is purely economic. Belarus has been approaching this point for a long time, gradually cutting its supplies from abroad and modernising its energy system."

New facilities are being launched in the country almost every year. Belarus is continuously modernising its existing power plants, also developing energy from local fuels. Renewable energy sources are being increased, using wind, sun and water. In 2017, Belarus' two most powerful hydroelectric power stations were put into

operation: Polotsk and Vitebsk. In addition, one of the oldest power stations in Belarus — Gomel — was fully reconditioned. These measures made it possible to cut the costs of electricity production. The Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir



Se - mashko, shared the figures at the joint session of the Belarusian Parliament, "In 2017, electricity generation consumed 230 grams of standard fuel per kilowatt / hour. In comparison, in Russia, the figure is a third higher."

### Pure mathematics

A decrease in the cost price is a direct way to preserve low prices on electricity and heat energy for the population. Tariffs in Belarus are almost the same as in Russia. At the same time, as the Energy Minister explained, gas prices -

for Belarusian power engineering is almost twice as high as that of

their Russian colleagues. The cost of thermal energy is three times lower than in Russia.

"We have calculated that it would be more profitable for the country to ensure its own generation of electricity from its own sources. As a result, in 2018, we will reduce the burden on the foreign exchange market by three hundred million

Dollars," said Mr. Potupchik.

Belenergo's General Director — Yevgeny Voronov — stressed that the decision to stop the import of electricity is not unexpected and the Russian Inter RAO has been aware of it. "We enjoy close relations with our partners. However, economic expediency means we've decided not to buy electricity for the time being. We have a flexible relationship and we can buy electricity or sell it as required," he added.

The construction of Belarus' own nuclear power plant in Ostrovets is in full swing. Mr. Semashko assured parliamentarians that all financial issues with the project have been resolved, saying, "A Russian credit line of \$10bn is in force, on favourable terms for Belarus. This sum covers 90 percent of the costs of construction and installation works needed for the station. By late 2019, we will launch the first phase of the Belarusian nuclear power plant and the second will be put into operation in 2020. Commissioning of this facility will enable Belarus to avoid energy dependence and release about 5.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas."

## EXPERT OPINION

### Inter-fuel competition expected

The leading analyst at the Centre for National Energy Security — **Igor Yushkov** — considers how Belarus can technically increase its energy balance and how the energy market will change after the launch of the Belarusian nuclear power station:

*The two countries have failed to agree on price. Throughout the year, there will be repeated rounds of negotiations at the level of individual companies. It is likely that the purchase of electricity from Russia will*

*eventually resume, at least until the Belarusian nuclear station is put into operation. According to the initial plans, the first reactor will service the domestic market and the second will work for foreign customers. The refusal of Belarus to import will affect certain Russian power stations which may suffer losses. This is not critical since their main market is internal. They'll simply get less profit.*

*When Belarus launches its nuclear power plant in Ostrovets in 2019-2020, our two countries will not compete as exporters. Russia is not present on a grand scale in the markets where the Belarusian plant plans to sell; these are the states to the west of Belarus. No conflict is expected in this respect. There may however, be other difficulties. Belarus is planning to sell electricity to those countries where Russia sells gas. As a result, inter-fuel competition might arise — not only in foreign markets but also in Belarus. At the recent Eurasian Economic Congress, we explained how our plant will replace gas generation to the volume of 4.5bn cubic metres which is currently bought from Gazprom. This is a great loss for the Russian corporation.*

*If Poland, Germany and other countries also reduce purchases, Russia and Belarus will compete. However, I do not think this will generate any conflict. The Ostrovets project is not something new; Russia is helping to construct it and provides the loans. Generally speaking, everyone is accustomed to the idea of it.*



This January, the General Secretary of the United Nations Organisation, António Guterres, presented the Making Migration Work for All Report. The UN Head focused on the positive aspects of migration which, according to him, stimulates economic growth, facilitates the reduction inequality and strengthens ties between various communities. Moreover, migration helps solve problems connected with the reduction and ageing of the population. António Guterres reminded the audience that, since 2000, the number of migrants has almost doubled and currently stands at 256 million. Most of them have legally moved to other countries. According to the UN General Secretary, the best way to 'cure the stigma'



regarding illegals and hostile attitude towards migrants is to ensure legal ways of migration. Even though the migration situation in Belarus remains calm and controllable, according to the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Interior Ministry, in 2017 alone, more than four million foreign citizens arrived in the country. That's why it's important to develop partnership relations in the struggle against illegal migration with neighbouring states and international organisations while also preparing a national migration policy for Belarus. Evidently, in solving migration problems it's vital to consider the experience of such world structures as the United Nations Organisation and the UN General Secretary's report is dedicated to this end..

# Towards a new global compact on migration



Migration powers economic growth, reduces inequalities and connects diverse societies. The majority of migrants live and work legally, but migration is also a source of political tension and human tragedy, as a desperate minority risk their lives in the face of discrimination and abuse.

Demographic pressures and the impact of climate change are likely to drive further migration in the years ahead. The global community has a choice. Do we want migration to be a source of prosperity and international solidarity? Or do we want it to be a byword for inhumanity and social friction?

This year, governments will negotiate the first-ever overarching international agreement on migration — the Global Compact on Migration — through the United Nations.

This will not be a formal treaty; nor will it place any binding obligations on states.

Instead, it is an unprecedented opportunity for leaders to counter the pernicious myths surrounding migrants, and lay out a common vision of how to make migration work for all.

This is an urgent task. The



recent video of migrants being sold as slaves is evidence of what happens when large-scale migration is not managed effectively.

How can we prevent and end these injustices?

Our thinking should be guided by three fundamental considerations.

First: we must recognise and reinforce the benefits of migration, so often lost in public debate.

Migrants make huge contributions to both their host countries and countries of origin. They take jobs that local workforces cannot fill. Many are innovators and entrepreneurs. Nearly half of all migrants are women, looking for better lives and work opportunities.

Migrants also contribute income to their countries of origin that totalled nearly \$600 billion last year — three times

all development aid.

The fundamental challenge is to maximise the benefits of migration while stamping out the abuses that make life hell for a minority of migrants.

Secondly, states need to strengthen the rule of law underpinning how they manage and protect migrants.

Authorities that erect major obstacles to migration — or restrict migrants' work opportunities — inflict needless

economic self-harm and can unintentionally encourage illegal migration.

Aspiring migrants who are denied legal pathways to travel will fall back on irregular methods that may put them in danger and undermine governments' authority.

The best way to end illegality and abuse is for governments to put in place more legal migration pathways. States also need to work together more closely to share the benefits of migration, for example through partnering to identify skills gaps in one country that can be filled by migrants from another.

Thirdly, we need greater international cooperation to protect vulnerable migrants, as well as refugees, and we must re-establish the integrity of the refugee protection regime in line with international law.

The death of thousands of people attempting to cross seas and deserts is not just a human tragedy. Unregulated mass movements in desperate circumstances fuel a sense that borders are under threat and governments are not in control.

This leads in turn to draconian border controls which undermine our collective values and help perpetuate the tragedies.

We need urgent action for those trapped in transit camps or facing abuse, whether in South America or North Africa. We must envisage ambitious action to resettle people with nowhere to go.

We should also take steps — through development aid, climate change mitigation and conflict prevention — to avoid unregulated large movements of people. Migration should not mean suffering.

It is within our power to achieve a world in which we can celebrate migration and its positive contribution. This year can be a milestone on the road to making migration truly work for all.

**António Guterres,**  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations



# Digitising is truly important

Belarus could become a platform for beneficial co-operation between European states in the IT industry

By Oleg Bogomazov

This idea has recently been voiced at a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative in Minsk. According to the independent consulting company BDRC Continental data, Belarus is now among the top countries with the cheapest Internet — occupying 7th position in global rankings. The country is unrivalled in the CIS regarding the development of information and communication technologies (Belarus is 32nd globally among 175 countries on this indicator).

The Minister of Communications and Informatisation — Sergey Popkov — believes the country will demonstrate even greater results in the coming years. “The concept of Belarus e-health

development to 2022 is ready, aiming to ensure full coverage of all citizens with high-quality, equitable and safe medical assistance, regardless of their place of residence. The World Bank has allocated Br 72m for this purpose.”

Another ongoing project — *E-School* — envisages the further development and implementation of online-solutions for the provision of diverse innovative services, such as an electronic journal, a diary, a schedule and so on. Mr. Popkov adds that by 2020, the project is likely to involve at least 80 percent of Belarusian schools.

Furthermore, there are some aspects which need additional consideration. The development of information and digital technologies has advantages and serious challenges. According to the



*E-School* envisages new opportunities of modern education

Minister, cyber-attacks on commercial organisations and the banking sphere (with the aim of stealing money) are a very serious issue. However, experts are ready to respond to all emerging risks, including hackers’ interference in various political campaigns. “The Commu-

nications and Informatisation Ministry has united efforts with other structures empowered to control Belarus’ information security to take all possible measures to avoid external influence during such political campaigns,” said Mr. Popkov.

# Come on, cheerful super-grandmas!

By Inna Kabysheva

**Though they may be grandmothers, there is nothing ‘elderly’ about these wise and elegant women, who often call each other ‘girls’. Cheerful and energetic, they can find their way out of any situation. They’re living evidence that old age doesn’t have to mean apathy and creaky joints! Most have their own remedies to keep them feeling well, which don’t come from the pharmacy. The Visiting Grandmas Minsk club now has over five hundred members.**

Not long ago, the club celebrated its 20th birthday; since

its launch, it’s had several leaders and is currently headed by Nina Kuzmitskaya. She’s a true powerhouse: a super-grandma offering the perfect example to her friends. She’s always busy, having raised two sons and now helping with her grandchildren. She’s been married for forty years and her husband is a great help to her, in all her pursuits. Mrs. Kuzmitskaya loves bead weaving; and has won various competitions for her talent.

Timidly touching her beautiful hand-made necklace, Mrs. Kuzmitskaya shares the secret of her youth. “I’ve never lost heart. The club is a breath of fresh air, which I lacked for many years. I suffered from asthma for a long



Visiting Grandmas club

time but it doesn’t hamper my enjoyment of life. Recently, I had an operation on my feet but the first thing I asked the doctor was when I’d be able to dance

again. Not long ago, my children presented me with a computer. I’ve completed some courses and now run the club’s page on social networks: we’ve taken 1,500

photos this year and I’ve posted many of them.”

Sadly, most of us view old age as a hard time of life. Society is full of compassion for the elderly, promoting the idea that they’re poor and unfortunate and only spend time in the garden or in front of the television. Members of the Visiting Grandmas club would disagree. They don’t sit watching soap operas, preferring to study English or ballroom dancing, to take gymnastics and yoga, and to try Indian dancing and courses in cosmetics. Anyone can attend the Centre of Social Services (in Minsk’s Oktyabrsky District). All classes are given by the elderly, aged 65, 70 or, even, 75. These grandmas are truly cool!



# Philippine authorities raise alert level to four

The Philippines' most active volcano has exploded thunderously, sending a huge grey column of lava fragments, ash and steam into the sky and prompting authorities to warn that a violent eruption may be imminent

The noon explosion sent superheated lava, molten rocks and steam cascading down Mount Mayon's slopes and shrouded nearby villages in darkness, said Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology and other officials.

Authorities raised the alert level to four on a scale of five, which means an explosive eruption is possible within hours or days. A danger zone around Mayon was expanded to five miles (8km) from the crater.

"If the eruption is vertical, it is possible pyroclastic flows

or pyroclastic density currents may cascade down in all directions," said Solidum, warning villagers and tourists not to venture into the no-go zones and planes to stay safely away from the crater and ash-laden winds.

More than 27,000 villagers have fled since Mayon started

acting up more than a week ago.

Mayon is in coconut-growing Albay province, about 210 miles south-east of Manila. With its near-perfect cone, it is popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently.

# Bomb in Thailand's province kills 3 and wounds at least 18



**A bomb has gone off in a market in Thailand's southern Yala Province on Monday, killing 3 people and injuring 18, said a spokesman for the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC)**

"The criminals put a bomb in a motorcycle and placed it next to a market cart. The force

of the explosion caused 3 people to lose their lives," said ISOC spokesman Pramote Promin. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Thailand's southern regions of Narathiwat, Pattani, and Yala have a history of long-running insurgencies by the ethnic Malay Muslim population who want autonomy.

Analysts who monitor the conflict say the attacks fell to a historic low in 2017 despite talks between the Thai government and rebel groups stalling.

Resistance to Buddhist rule in the predominantly Muslim provinces resurfaced violently in 2004.



# Maya secrets in the world's largest underwater cave

**A group of divers have connected two underwater caverns in eastern Mexico to reveal what is believed to be the biggest flooded cave on the planet, a discovery that could help shed new light on the ancient Maya civilisation**

The *Gran Acuifero Maya* (GAM), a project dedicated to the study and preservation of the subterranean waters of the Yucatan peninsula, said the

347-kilometre cave was identified after months of exploring a maze of underwater channels.

The Yucatan peninsula of Mexico is studded with monumental relics of the Maya people, whose cities drew upon an extensive network of sinkholes linked to subterranean waters known as cenotes.

It gives us enormous and wonderful perspective in understanding the leaders of ancient settlements.

# Macron says UK must pay for post-Brexit City deal

**The French President used his first visit to Britain since being elected to warn the UK over EU exit negotiations**

Emmanuel Macron has warned Theresa May the UK will have to pay into the EU's coffers in order to secure a Brexit trade deal on financial services.

Speaking alongside the Prime Minister, the French President insisted he was 'here neither to punish nor reward' over Brexit.

# Mauritius on high alert ahead of cyclone Berguita

**Mauritius is bracing itself for the arrival of a tropical cyclone that is headed its way**

Strong winds which could produce gusts of up to 120km per hour are already being felt from category 3 Cyclone Berguita. Thousands of residents have flocked to government storm shelters as the island raised its alert. Pravind Ruggoo from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, said, "The population should not go into risky areas, areas where there are landslides, accumulations of water and also areas that are prone to flooding."

# Emirates saves the giant Airbus A380 airliner with a 13 billion Euro order

**Emirates has confirmed it will buy twenty A380 planes from Airbus with an option to order another sixteen**

One of the largest airlines in the world has saved the largest airliner in the world from going out of production. Emirates has confirmed it will buy twenty A380 planes from Airbus with an option to order another sixteen. The deal is worth 13 billion Euros and the first planes will be delivered in 2020.

Emirates already has over a hundred A380s in its fleet. Airbus had said it might have to stop manufacturing the A380 if no new orders were made. The plane can carry over 500 hundred passengers and many airports around the world have had to adapt their runways for it to land.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



# Nostalgia for winter, or seven winter landscapes by a single author

Abram Krol — a pupil of Lev Leitman and Fiodor Fogt — entered the Vitebsk Art College at the age of 15; he studied there until moving to Minsk in 1932. After graduation, Abram joined the category of ‘exemplary painters of Socialistic Realism’. It’s hardly possible to imagine now but, at the age of 19 when he was sent to Belizdat to work, the young artist was charged with decorating the exhibitions of the Revolution Museum, the House of the First RSDRP Congress and the Labour Museum. In the 1930s, he decorated columns for revolutionary holidays and sports parades.

By Veniamin Mikheev

During WWII, the painter was drafted into the army and reached Berlin as a cartoonist and photo-journalist for a front-line newspaper (he used his Leica camera). He received two military medals: ‘For Courage’ and ‘For Military Merit’. In memory of his family who died in the Minsk ghetto, Abram Krol created a series of works dedicated to the ghetto and presented them to Israeli museums in the 1990s. Since the 1940s, Mr. Krol has worked as the Head Artist of the Museum of the Great Patriotic War in Minsk, authoring its first exhibition. In the 1970s, he was the Deputy Director for Artistry.

Mr. Krol’s creative biography contains many paintings on the theme of war, as well as paintings on historical and revolutionary topic commissioned. Meanwhile, his best and truly timeless works were painted not to order but guided by his soul, in the peaceful 1960s.

The artist enjoyed remarkable abilities for thematic painting. His education — four years at the Vitebsk Art College and two-year retraining courses in Minsk — enabled him to paint



Abram Krol’s 64 paintings on show at the National Art Museum

multi-figured pictures confidently, to build the composition and space of his pictures.

In landscape painting, the artist found peace and harmony, drawing inspiration from the nature of his native places. He could also show himself not only as a soulful lyric poet and promoter of nature but also as an experimen-

tal painter. Mr. Krol preferred winter landscapes to summer views and felt the tonality of Belarusian winters — with their grey days, gloomy sky and heavy snowdrifts. He remembered the lesson of his teacher Lev Leitman who used to say, “The core of our work is the ability to see.”

The artist’s winter ap-

pears in its festive version — with sunny days and sparkling frosty trees, and as a routine urban environment — with snowdrifts and thaws, as ordinary townspeople see it.

It’s physically challenging to work in winter but, as Mr. Krol’s contemporaries recollect, the artist loved long-distance open-air



A. Krol, self-portrait

sessions. “It was always great for him to paint in winter: when nature is quiet, forms and lines are clear and generalised, and when only delicate tone nuances signify the breath of life,” says a researcher of his work — Oleg Sursky.

Abram Krol’s winter landscapes contain all the signs of the commonly prevailing ‘severe style’, with monumentality and restraint of the colour range. He always had a storyline: running skiers or sports competitions.

Mr. Krol also painted monumental epic landscapes — being inspired by works of prominent landscape painters such as Sergey Gerasimov, Vitaly Tsvirko and Georgy Nissky. He also created a series of landscapes with his own unique style; among them are the lyrical *Rime*, *White Silence*, *Morning*, *Belarusian Space*, *Highway*, *New Minsk* — all painted in the 1960s. Almost all of them feature the infinity of space, the motive of roads or highways, endless white fields and village houses drowning in the snow. This is how Abram Krol portrayed his homeland which he so dearly loved.

## Founder of new style for Neman glassware

By Alexander Pimenov

The National Art Museum presents an exhibition of glassware by Honoured Figure of Arts — Vladimir Murakhver — as part of its permanent exhibition of contemporary Belarusian art

Vladimir Murakhver was born in the small town of Ananiev, in the Odessa Region. He received his initial art education at Tashkent’s Republican Art College and, in 1959, graduated



from the Leningrad Higher Art and Industrial School named after V. Mukhina (where he was taught by the famous artist Boris Smirnov). The same year,

Vladimir was employed at the Neman Glass Factory, in Berezovka in the Grodno Region’s Lida District. From 1963 to 1975, he worked as the chief artist of the USSR-wide known enterprise. Many of his works were awarded medals and diplomas from the USSR and Belarus.

In 1979, the artist received the gold medal at the International Triennial of Glass and Porcelain in Czech Jablonec nad Nisou. In 1990, his decorative ‘Wanderers: Peace for Those Coming’ composition won a silver medal from the USSR Academy of Arts.

The range of Mr. Murakhver’s creativity is wide. He was among the founders of a new style of Neman glassware — the Belarusian art glass of the late 20th-early 21st century. The artist has an unparalleled passion for the material. He possesses unique professional and artistic skills. Mr. Murakhver has been the creator of many samples for industrial



Works by V. Murakhver in museum exposition

production and also created unique exhibition pieces. Each of his works is a study of glass, telling a story, exploring nature and allowing the viewer to discover its secrets.

In addition to glass, Mr. Murakhver was actively engaged in painting and graphics. As a talented master, he managed to produce many new ideas and significant pieces in these artistic spheres.

In 1969, the children’s

studio of fine arts opened in Berezovka on his initiative and under his leadership; its pupils constantly participated in republican exhibitions of children’s creativity. The artist always amazed his followers with his inexhaustible vitality in both his creative and daily life.

Mr. Murakhver’s works are now kept at many Belarusian museums, as well as in private collections abroad.

# Tourists are invited to the cinema

## Unusual tourist route developed in Grodno



Scenes for almost two dozen films shot in the most cinematic street



Beautiful Grodno today

By Tatiana Kondratieva

Grodno is the centre of a newly developing tourist route. It will include landmark places familiar not only to older residents of the area. Around fifty movies have been shot here at different times and some have become blockbusters.

The idea to create a route around these memorable sites has been proposed and supported by the Grodno Regional Executive Committee. As a result, signs are currently being placed in the city's streets. In the future, billboards, forged artwork and information panels will be installed. What do they offer to tourists and citizens?

Last summer, the last houses were demolished in the 'fictional' village of Belye Rosy. They had been miraculously preserved for 34 years since the filmmakers came to shoot their famous film about the merging of the village and city. It was only in 2017 when the story described in the movie was almost repeated in reality: apartment buildings and a shopping centre will be built here instead of private houses. Only a small sign and a well (by which grandfather Fedos reasoned with Mishka Kisel) will soon remind us of the site where the famous film was shot.

The streets of old Grodno are still full of the spirit of the past; unsurprisingly, stage directors are always happy to use the city's natural surroundings in their work. Among the famous films are movies shot in Soviet times: *I Come from Childhood* (featuring Vladimir Vysot-



Working moment during film shooting

**B**illboards, forged artwork and panels will create the atmosphere in Grodno for locals and foreigners to feel they live in the city where around 50 films have been made



First information point placed opposite Grodno's Farny Roman Catholic Church

sky), *My Name is Harlequin*, the German-Belarusian *Babi Yar* film, the *Smersh* TV series and *The Dnieper Border*. Overall, 15 films are planned to be 'immortalised' in the trail.

The first information point, dedicated to the *Smersh* film, was placed in Sovetskaya Street, opposite the famous Farny Roman-Catholic Church. It fea-

tures film footage and annotations in Russian, Belarusian and English.

Another point is found at the intersection of Ozheshko and Sovetskaya streets. It's impossible to simply walk past this place. Lovers often meet by the sculpture of Cupid, while newly-wed couples traditionally uncork champagne bottles here. Scenes from the *Traces of Apostles* series are seen in the bank's window; many city residents also participated in the crowd scenes for the film.

The First Deputy Head for Ideology, Culture and Youth Affairs — Yelena Klimovich — shares their plans, "We will try to create an atmosphere to help locals and foreigners to feel they are in the city where these famous films were shot. We've recently toured the city with experts to decide the places that should be included on the tourist route. We plan to complete the work by the Festival of National Cultures. For example, a bench with a photo area will be arranged near Bolshaya Troitskaya Street. In Telman Street, footage for several films was shot and a large vertical information

point will appear here. The most cinematographic street — Uritsky, will have a large billboard placed on the wall of the historical-cultural building. In the centre of Sovetskaya Street, the windows of the Lily barbershop will be decorated with large pictures featuring hairstyles from different times made specially for films."

In addition, a sculpture based on the *Mikolka-Locomotive* film will be sited near Grodno's railway station. This film marked the beginning of Grodno's cinematic career. It features the old railway station and its famous turntable. An old building in the university played the role of a gymnasium, while battle scenes were shot near the fountain. In Telegrafnaya Street (where there is now a café), gallows were built for *The Seller and the Poet* film; in line with the plot, guerrillas were killed there. In turn, a two-storey wooden house with an apartment — where the family of Nina Urgant's character from *I Come from Childhood* lived and where the character of Vladimir Vysotsky returned — was situated. The actor sang to guitar accompaniment at the foot of its stairs. Sometime later, the famous Zubr restaurant was built; at present, a university building is situated here.

In 2016, Cinema Alley — devoted to Grodno's cinematic career — opened in front of the Youth Centre. Two memorial plaques were laid; one of them aiming to immortalise the famous *Belye Rosy* film. The alley plaques were made at Grodno's Stone Processing Plant and six films are now represented there. In the future, their number will rise to 12.

# In excellent mood before PyeongChang

Darya Domracheva is approaching the Olympic Games in great shape, as is confirmed by Belarusian biathlete's mass start victory at World Cup stage in Italian Antholz-Anterselva

By Kirill Karin

The President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has congratulated Darya Domracheva on her victory. The text reads: 'You gave joy to millions of citizens of our country and your fans abroad who follow your performance. We all look forward to the start of the 2018 Winter Olympics and wish our biathlon team victory on the PyeongChang tracks. We wish you good health, happiness and success!'

The leader of the national team didn't make the best start to the race, with one miss during her first shoot and falling back to the twentieth position. However, Darya Domracheva gradually approached the leading group: she came to the final firing line tenth (over 30 seconds behind the lead, Dorothea Wierer).

Darya had a good chance to win a medal but hardly dared to rely on gold: the team of biathletes ahead of her was very strong. However, Domracheva had a chance when her rivals fired a number of penalty circles. The Belarusian athlete quickly closed five targets and raced to the track first; at the final lap, she easily escaped Anastasia Kuzmina.

Commenting on her success, Darya Domracheva said that she was focused on shooting. "I did not think of whether my rivals would give me a



Darya Domracheva among leaders on the track

chance; I was simply doing my job. After the fourth shoot, I saw on a big screen that only several seconds separated me from Anastasia. I then realised I should up my game! I'm now continuing to prepare and find my best form. I've taken an important step on the path towards it."

Another Belarusian — Irina Krivko — can also celebrate a win. She could have competed for a place on the podium but made a frustrating single miss in her 20th shot.

In turn, Belarus' main sniper

— Nadezhda Skardino — didn't take part in the race. It's believed this may have been a tactical move by her coaching staff to ensure she is on top form for the Olympic Games.

After winning the mass start in Antholz, Darya Domracheva has joined the top three female athletes in the history of biathlon — for the number of personal victories at World Cup stages; until recently, the Germans have 'reigned' there. Magdalena Forsberg leads the rating, with her 42 wins. Her compatriot Magdalena Neuner

has 34 gold medals. After the recent win, Domracheva's result has equalled the number of Uschi Disl's personal golds: 30 each.

The mass start victory is the second this season for Domracheva. She is fourth (436 points) in the overall standings of the World Cup. Mäkäräinen leads with 592 points — followed by Kuzmina (577), Wierer (525) and Dalmayer (490). After the Olympics, Darya will have every chance to compete for at least a place among the top 3 biathletes of this season.



Number of awards at 2nd European Games to increase

By Sergey Selivanov

This was noted during the session of the Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committees by the Head of the Foundation Directorate of the 2nd European Games 2019, Georgy Katulin

"The number of medals groups will be raised to 208. Three new disciplines will appear in archery and two more weight categories will be added in female, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. Furthermore, competitions in canoeing and kayaking will also have an extra programme: it's in the men's 200m canoe-pair where Artem Kozyr is current world champion," said Mr. Katulin.

The programme of the second European Games, to be held from June 21st-30th in Minsk, includes 15 sports: badminton, 3x3 basketball, wrestling (Greco-Roman, freestyle, female), cycling (track and road), gymnastics (artistic, rhythmic, acrobatics, aerobics and trampoline), canoeing and kayaking, judo, karate, athletics, sambo, archery, shooting (bullet and stand), table tennis and beach football.

## Belarusian crew was first on Dakar rally

By Igor Grishin

Sergey Vyazovich's crew covered the eleventh-round distance in the best time — ensuring a first victory for Belarusians in this highly popular rally stage

Officially, this has been the seventh Dakar for MAZ trucks. Unofficially, the Belarusian vehicles first drove along the route laid in out in the African sands back in 2001. The trucks have repeatedly reached the finals of the famous race as the technical support vehicle for a Baltic team. MAZ has been secretly 'shining' for years, but it was only in 2011 when Minsk made the decision to establish a company team and revive the sporting traditions begun in 1987. When they were sending the first trucks (mostly convoy vehicles) to Latin America, few could have guessed that their market growth would be so fast.

Initially, the idea was simply to reach the end but, during their second Dakar participation, MAZ trucks began to show their character. Last year, the Belarusians once again set a new personal record (Alexander Vasilevsky was



Sergey Vyazovich pleased with performance at Dakar

placed sixth in the overall standings) and, in 2018, they have been serious rivals to the leaders. Sergey Vyazovich's third place in the general classification does not look remarkable, but a 20-minute penalty for damage to a Japanese racer's car (debates on the Belarusians' protest continue even now) did not seem to affect their tournament prospects. Sergey's eleventh stage victory is seen by the fans — who follow the adventures of Belarusians in the desert — as long-awaited and well-deserved. At the same

time, the recent rally has already gained a reputation as one of the most difficult in its history.

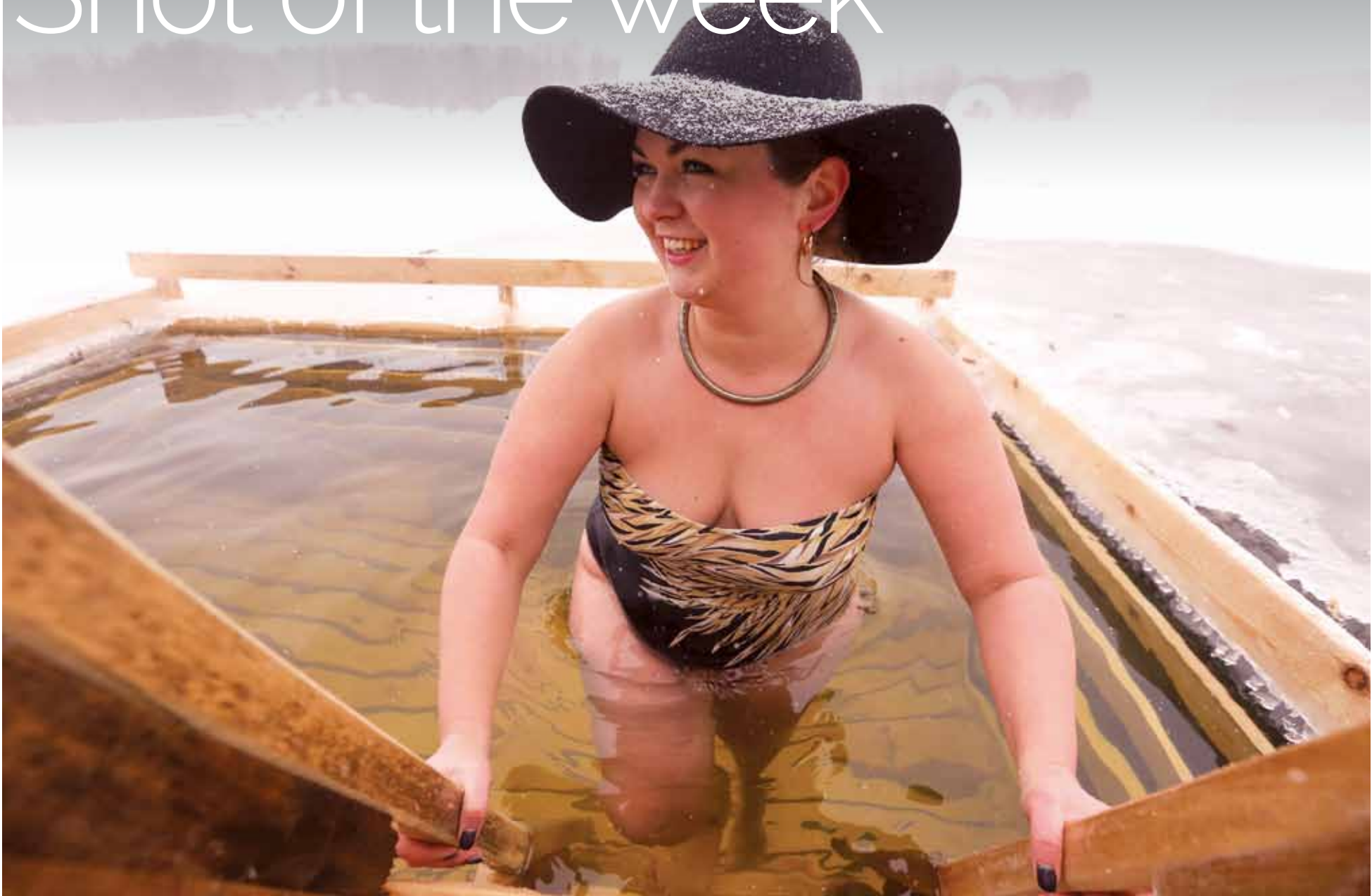
The stage which proved most successful for the Belarusian truck had its competitors beset by problems. Mr. Vyazovich's major rivals in the general classification — Ton van Genugten (Iveco) and Airat Mardeev (KamAZ) — lost time in the desert and were left behind for almost 90 minutes. In turn, Eduard Nikolaev (KamAZ) lost two hours to repair the drive shaft and, as a result,

Federico Villagra (Iveco) took the lead. In the previous stage, Mr. Vyazovich's truck was close to turning upside down while another Belarusian crew — led by Alexey Vishnevsky — had to rescue them: initially, they put Martin Coloma's collapsed truck on wheels, then helped a motorcyclist who got into an accident and, finally, called for support for Russian Anton Shibalov's truck which set on fire (extinguished with the help Mr. Vyazovich who was driving ahead).

P.S.

MAZ-SPORTauto team was ranked second in Dakar 2018's final standings among trucks. This achievement of Sergey Vyazovich's crew is our best result over the whole time of our participation in the prestigious marathon. Never before did Belarusians get into the top three of the general classification. Eduard Nikolaev of Russia (KamAZ-Master team) became the champion. Almost half of crew fell out of the race during the event. However, all Belarusian vehicles crossed the finish line. Alongside Sergey Vyazovich, this was done by Alexander Vasilevsky (13th place) and Alexey Vishnevsky (14th).

## Shot of the week



Epiphany dip at Komsomolskoe Lake, in Minsk

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 2nd February. *Devotion to 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victor Gromyko* Until 11<sup>th</sup> February. *Poetics of Landscapes by Semen Domarad* Until 20<sup>th</sup> February. *Saints of the Undivided Church*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> January. *ARTEfact Games*  
Until 17<sup>th</sup> February. *Dungeons of Light*

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

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Fighting for Homeland*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> February. *Valery Slauk's Graphics* Until 28<sup>th</sup> February. Exhibition of experiments: *Science Museum*

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> February. *Reflection*  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> February. *Lev Borodulin: Legend of Sports Photography*

#### VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> January. *Time to Search*

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> February. *Belarusian Opera Legend*

#### UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Square  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> February. *Between Hands and Flame*

#### GAL-TVORCHESTVO

47 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> February. Exhibition of dolls: *Fragile Dreams*

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *New Year Season in Cat Museum*

#### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
28-28<sup>th</sup> January. *Hobby and Pastime-2018*  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> March. *13<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World*  
Permanent exposition of Experimental Science Museum: *EXPERImENTuS*

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> March. *Water Residents*

#### CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### THEATRES

#### PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC

1 Oktyabrskaya Square  
27.01. Congratulations on Upcoming Holiday!

#### NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street  
25.01. The Magic Flute 26.01. Little Prince 27.01. Requiem 28.01. Doctor Aybolit; Giselle, ou les Willis 30.01. Carmen 31.01. Spartacus 01.02. Cavalleria Rusticana

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
25.01. A Thousand and One Nights 26.01. Tristan and Isolde 27.01. The Sleeping Beauty; Mister X 28.01. Jungle. New Year; Bridegrooms 30.01. Retro Style Wedding 31.01. Gypsy Baron 01.02. The Swan Lake

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
25.01. Red Hot Mamas 26.01. Panie Kokhanku 27.01. The Twelfth Night 28.01. Zoika's Flat 31.01. Taming of the Shrew 01.02. Truth is Good but Happiness is Better

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
27 and 28.01. Inspector 30.01. School of Taxpayers 31.01. Pinsk Gentry

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
25.01. #13 26.01. Battlefield 27.01. Who Laughs Last 28.01. Abduction of Yelena 29.01. Master and Margarita 30.01. Merchant Yepishkin's Theatre 31.01 and 01.02. The Mechanical Man

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
25.01. Sufferings Over Common Sense 26.01. An Uninvited Guest 27.01. Two Miraculous Umbrellas; Adam's Jokes 28.01. Concrete 30.01. The Broken Nest 31.01 and 01.02. Doctor Raus' Career

#### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Square  
28.01. House #2

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
25.01. Bigamist 26.01. Caught by Love 27.01. Chekhov. Comedy. Seagull 28.01. The Fool 30.01. Celestino's Career 31.01. Vanyushin's Children 01.02. Love of Three

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
26.01. Belvedere 27.01. Little Red Riding Hood 28.01. The Snow White

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
31.01 and 01.02. Come, See...and Go Away