

Stadler Minsk to produce twelve trams for Bolivian department



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Metaphors, symbols and signs originally reflected in glass



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INTERNATIONAL

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Belarusian capital hosted Days of Memory dedicated to 75th anniversary since the destruction of Minsk ghetto

## Pain from the awful tragedy doesn't lessen

**President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, sends a message to fellow countrymen and foreign guests — participants of the commemorative events dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the Minsk ghetto**

"The abhorrent crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War are seared into people's memories. It was 75 years ago when the Minsk ghetto was liquidated; but people still feel the agonising pain inflicted

by this tragedy. "This pain is for old people, children, women and men who were ruthlessly murdered because of their ethnic background. Over 100,000 Jews went through a real hell here of starvation, cold, humiliation and torture," noted the Head of State. Alexander Lukashenko noted that, on this Day of Remembrance, we remember all the ghettos, all Nazi victims, mourn the dead and share the grief of those who survived but lost loved ones. "We are grateful to the residents of Belarus who risked their lives to rescue ghetto

prisoners and who were later awarded the 'Righteous Among the Nations' title," reads the message. The President stressed that many generations of Belarusians remember the lessons of history and cherish peace. "However, our planet is once again sinking into religious, ethnic and political conflicts. We'll continue repeating to anyone who has forgotten or, fortunately, has not experienced war, that the only thing we must fight for is human life. This is the only thing that matters on Earth," emphasised the President.

# Optimal approaches should be verified

The President is ready to support any actions of the Government aimed at the unconditional achievement of the parameters of socio-economic development of the current five-year plan. Alexander Lukashenko drew attention to this during a working meeting with Prime Minister, Sergei Rumas.

By Vladimir Khromov

The Prime Minister presented the programme of the renewed line-up of the Council of Ministers. It has been generally approved and will soon be presented to Parliament. During the discussion, Mr. Lukashenko made several clarifications. The strategic requirement was as follows. "The programme adopted by the All-Belarusian People's Congress is unwavering and must be implemented. Within the framework of this programme, I will welcome any Government activities within its parameters. The main thing is to have a result."

As one of the tools to improve the efficiency of enterprises, the Government proposed the introduction of supervisory boards for some industries. The President didn't mind this idea, but warned, "There will be a very serious control on the Government in implementing these proposals, and especially over those chairmen who will be appointed to these positions — the chairmen of the supervisory boards."

Speaking about the social tasks facing the Government, Mr. Lukashenko brought the issues of wages and pensions to the fore, "The Government has calculated that, this year, we will raise real pensions by about 8-9 percent. This will be good. However, we need to move on."

As for salaries, next year, their average value should exceed Br1,000. The President clarified, "This will happen due to the increase in wages for low-



Well-being of society is best assessment of governmental work

paid sectors of the population. Decisions have been made on these issues."

The Prime Minister was instructed by the President to take two important areas under his personal control: import substitution and mediation. Regarding mediation, the President drew attention to the fact that corruption schemes are often built around such operations, "What is striking is that we have intermediaries even for Belarusian products. Produced and brokered in Minsk, these products are bought by Minsk enterprises."

Mr. Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that mediation was once partly justified, because it was dictated by the need to resolve the problem of non-payment. Today, the economic

situation is different; there is no need to use intermediaries so widely. The President stressed, "I do not want to give any non-market recommendations in this regard, but mediation has become a problem."

Mr. Rumas informed the President that the new Government has completed the preparation of its policy programme. According to him, the document is based on the unconditional implementation of the programme of socio-economic development for 2016-2020. Also, the updated programme of the Government's activities considers the instructions that were made this year during the President's State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly.

After meeting the President, Sergei Rumas answered journalists' questions. He spoke of:

## Inflation

*We will remain this year in a corridor of 6 percent. Next year, our forecast documents reduced inflation to 5 percent. Currently, there are no negative factors that would say that in the current or next year inflation rates cannot be met.*

## Salaries

*The Head of State has instructed the Government to focus next year on those who receive low wages. The Government is now preparing a list of measures to ensure that wages of low-paid sectors of the population grow at a higher rate.*



Vladimir Makei

By Oleg Bogomazov

## Alexander Lukashenko has a working meeting with Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei

Vladimir Makei informed the President about his recent participation in the meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the Eastern Partnership participating states and EU member states. The President was also informed about work to elaborate joint documents with the European Union. These are documents on partnership priorities, agreements on visa facilitation and re-

## On agreements with the EU, exports, forums and visits

admission. "In general, considerable progress has been achieved on all of them. However, new circumstances emerge every now and then, through no fault of ours; it takes time to analyse and specify them and make decisions," noted the Minister.

According to him, Belarus will keep working on these documents while considering our national interests. "The position of the Head of State to keep normalising relations with the EU is clear, firstly, economic, political and humanitarian contacts," stressed the diplomat.

The Foreign Minister also informed the Head of State about results of the Ministry's foreign economic activities. It was noted that export remains

on the growth track. "However, the pace is decelerating a little. But overall, we expect positive results by the year-end," said Mr. Makei. "The President said that everyone should get involved in this work: regions, ministries and naturally, the heads of diplomatic missions."

Top of the agenda were the forthcoming meetings, visits by foreign delegations to Belarus and overseas visits of the Head of State.

Mr. Makei noted that the end of the year will be packed with events at top level. Among them is the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine that will take place in Gomel on October 25th-26th. Participants of the forum are to sign a number of docu-

ments, agreements and contracts, worth many millions of US Dollars.

Furthermore, work is in full swing to prepare for the impending Munich Security Conference Core Group meeting in Minsk. The international forum will be held in Minsk on October 30th and November 1st. The event is expected to bring together presidents and prime ministers of other countries, foreign ministers, chiefs and representatives of security agencies and think tanks. The agenda is relevant, and the conference will discuss ways to avoid further confrontation in the region.

The Head of State gave instructions related to the preparation and conduct of this event.

## Dialogues thinking about faith

By Vladimir Velikhov

The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church first gathered in Minsk. The event is significant, so the President of Belarus personally met with its participants. At first, Alexander Lukashenko communicated with the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill, and then with all the members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Synod of the Belarusian Orthodox Church.

Alexander Lukashenko and Patriarch Kirill communicated privately for about three hours, after which they continued their conversation in the presence of members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Synod of the Belarusian Orthodox Church. The President said that he sees evidence of positive assessment of the state's efforts to preserve peace and concord and to develop an inter-confessional dialogue in the decision to hold the session of the Holy Synod in Minsk. The President drew attention to the fact that, over the years of its independence, the country together with the Orthodox Church, has come through a long and difficult path of strengthening its spiritual basis and acquiring moral and life orienting points by society. The current intense period, full of rapid change, sets new goals and constantly tests us to the limit.

Belarus remembers tragic lessons from its history and the President further developed this thought, "Therefore, we appreciate peace, security, friendship and mutual understanding. We advocate open dialogue, co-operation and interaction between states and nations... The Minsk Process and Minsk Agreements have become Belarus' calling card as a venue for negotiations on the situation in Ukraine. We're the closest neighbours, the brotherly nations and Slavonic people. We'll continue doing everything to enable peace and concord to return to the Ukrainian land as soon as possible. The split is not about us. Time is the best doctor and judge and we'll be together."

One more important statement was made by the President: the demand to renew the system of measures aiming to reinforce trust, security and co-operation in Europe is increasing daily.

"The time has come to use the best experiences of world history — the Helsinki Process of the 20th century. We voiced this initiative at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly session in Minsk. Our position remains unchanged in issues of overcoming disagreements on the European and Eurasian spaces. I believe that here, the voice of the Church, one of the most powerful and influential, should be heard in unison with the state."

# One of the most comfortable places for life in the country

By Vasily Kharitonov

**In the agro-tourist complex, Gardzenski Maentak Karobchitsy, the President examined the area and listened to the report on the prospects of the socio-economic and town-planning development of Grodno. He even watched the work of wood carvers and tried some himself.**

In turn, the leadership of the Grodno Region informed the President about the prospects for socio-economic and town-planning development of the regional centre. It tackled the modernisation of roads, bridges and transport junctions that will enable this city on the picturesque River Nieman to be made even more beautiful and modern, just like the Karobchitsy site. This agro-tourist facility, stylised as a 19th century estate, opened its doors for visitors in spring 2005 and since then has become one of the favourite places of Grodno residents and guests of the city.

Then Mr. Lukashenko visited the Pyski sports complex where he inspected the

universities which are ranked in the top 100 worldwide are powerful scientific-educational corporations, centres of scientific knowledge and generators of innovative ideas. They promote their projects in the economy. The Grodno State University is moving along this path, combining education, science, innovations and commercialisation, e.g., the laboratory of molecular spectroscopy and optics. The youngsters there are involved in such advanced developments that the mind boggles. For instance, their researches help in the early diagnosis of Alzheimer and Parkinsons diseases. Postgraduate Svetlana Gogoleva explains the essence of the methods, “If there are things that cause the disease, a molecule-marker changes its geometry and begins to illuminate. One more area of our research is the creation and modification of nano-particles which can be used to paint samples of biological fabric. This will enable us to make diagnostics of tumours more precise and simultaneously cheaper. Furthermore, such nano-particles are also applied to investigate oil wells.”

students with obvious leadership qualities, particularly those aiming at political careers. “If you’re oriented towards state service I will only welcome it. Managerial skills should be developed. For this we have the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President, we’re currently forming a whole system of selection of candidates for the second higher education.”

According to the Rector of the Grodno State University, Irina Kiturko, at present, more than 730 foreign students are studying at the university. However, their number would be greater if it were not for problems with accommodation. Each foreign student pays a considerable amount of money for their education, and the fact that around 20,000 foreign citizens now study in the Republic best illustrates the quality of Belarusian education.

After the meeting, the university students and teachers presented Alexander Lukashenko with an album containing engravings of historical personalities, whose life and activity relates to Grodno.

*conditions. While watching your students’ presentations, I kept thinking that they are top-notch, European level as they say, even above it. Why do we need to change the system of education in this university or other universities? Do we need to improve it, sure we do. But for this we should not disrupt either the system or our people. We need modern equipment, techniques and communication to be aware of the level reached by your competitors. We need to be at the top of the competition if we want to achieve results, we don’t need revolutions. We’ve already experienced all these revolutions, especially in education.*

## Professionalism and success

*Don’t ever believe politicians who promise to give you happiness in one or two years. Life and success are work, hard labour. If you want to live life well and to be successful you need to set your heart on this work. Higher education is very important in life, but you also need to be a professional.*

*I’m a supporter of practical-oriented education, enabling a person to immerse themselves into their job as soon as possible. I insist that the time spent in universities should be reduced to the minimum. If it’s possible to get education within four years, so it should be done within four, rather than five or six years. From their first, or second year at the latest, a student should be in the field, at the machine tool or with a camera — depending on their chosen speciality.*

## Contemporary state of the Grodno Region

*This was the most advanced and the best region in the Soviet Union. A blooming garden. Being a company head I came here to learn potato growing, grain sowing and getting great harvests. Today, the Grodno Region is still an example for other regions and one of the country’s best places to live.*

## Outside view on Belarus

*We’re at the crossroads of transit routes and this creates good conditions for people’s earnings and the economic development of the country. Now, everything moves through Belarus, because it’s a quiet and calm transit state. I see Belarus as comfortable for life and those who want to peacefully live here, bring up their children and earn money can always achieve this. However, to achieve this, it’s necessary to make an effort, for example, during university studies.*

## Friendship in politics

*I think that friendship in politics is impossible. A politician is a person who works in the system where things are very quickly changing. Circumstances rarely acts in line with their personal wishes. If objective necessities and personal desires coincide, it’s a happy coincidence. Often friendship in politics is dangerous. A president often acts in line with the will of his voters, his nation.*



Students during the meeting with the President

air-conditioned indoor ice rink of HC Neman and the indoor football facility of FC Neman. The President suggested thinking about measures to reward coaches, including those of children’s hockey and football teams, for training good players. The matter is not only about rewarding coaches for podium places at sporting events but also for training good athletes, who then compete for national teams. Often, would-be elite players are prepared at such regional sporting facilities as Pyski.

The next point of the President’s working trip was the Grodno State University named after Yanka Kupala, where Mr. Lukashenko met with the best students of Grodno universities. Communication was warm and sincere, with the youngsters openly sharing their concerns and interests. Of course, the topics primarily tackled the sphere of education, but they also discussed politics and some personal issues.

Before the discussion, students showed the President their best developments. It should be mentioned that the Grodno State University is one the educational establishments which uses the ‘University 3.0’ model in its work. It’s a world recognised trend. A contemporary university can’t be engaged merely in staff preparation. All

A fourth-year student of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Alexander Beityuk, enthusiastically tells the President about the ‘Virtual Grodno Region’ project, “It’s simple just to choose a site on the interactive map, click on it and set off on a 3D excursion. It’s a very important development for the tourist region.”

The university even has its own design bureau, while would-be journalists are proud of their student media-centre; the work there enables them to shape important practical skills. In a word, there was much to see at the exhibition and the President praised the talented young people, “This really impresses me! Well done! Thank you!” However, he immediately asked them whether young people are ready to independently breathe life into their own projects? Are modern universities ready to teach them how to convert ideas into money? The speed of change in the world is fast and we can’t remain outside observers of global trends. Therefore, the President gave some instructions, “The system of education should encourage initiative and prepare specialists with well-developed entrepreneurial skills.”

Alexander Lukashenko noted that it’s important for the state to notice promptly

**While chatting to young people the President spoke about:**

## Receiving education abroad

*I’m not here to tell you where you can go or not. If you have already made up your mind, then you are likely to leave the country or work abroad after getting your education here. It is your business. But I would like you not to rush things. Two thousand people who are studying abroad, with half of them possibly wanting to stay there, is not a problem for Belarus. Yet as the President I would like young Belarusians to get their education and work here.*

## Modern education

*I’m vigorously opposed to mirroring other countries’ education models. Our education system is good. I have the impression that everyone today feels they must take a master’s degree, and only then will you be considered a specialist. This is wrong. A specialist is the one who gets a university degree. If you want to be a scientist, you are welcome to take postgraduate courses. Today many wish to criticise the current system of education. However, there’s no need to. The system just needs to be improved and adapted to modern*

# Trams from Belarus for Bolivia

Stadler Minsk to produce twelve trams for the Bolivian Cochabamba Department, with a delegation from Bolivia, headed by the department's governor, already familiarising themselves with the enterprise's opportunities

By Vladimir Velikhov

The contract for the production for the *Metropolitan Train* project was signed in February 2018 with the Swiss manufacturer of railway transport, Stadler, which also includes the Belarusian factory. The first supplies will begin in August 2019. The order came from the Asociacion Accidental Tunari Company, established by the Spanish construction company JOCA and Swiss construction company Molinari Rail AG. Within three years, Stadler will provide technical assistance for operation.

"This is not only our first product for Bolivia, but the first tram of the 'Metelitsa' series, which we manufacture using European norms with a rail gauge of 1,435mm. The tram boasts comfortable conditions

for passengers, offering Wi-Fi, sockets and convenient seats. In total, we'll deliver twelve trams with 36 carriages," notes Philipp Brunner, Director of Stadler Minsk.

The tram will connect several administrative centres in the Cochabamba District, servicing more than 1 million people. "We're glad that such fashionable and modern transport will arrive in our country. This transport will change the image of our region, making it more recognisable due to your advanced technology. I would also like to note that your trains are ecologically clean, which is very important for us," noted the Governor of the Cochabamba Department, Iván Jorge Canelas Alurralde.

A presentation of the business was organised for the guests, as well as an excursion

and a trial trip on a 'Metelitsa' train, made for St. Petersburg. This three-section low-floor tram, 'Metelitsa', has a module construction, with the tram wagon able to carry up to 376 passengers. It's developed and produced in line with European standards, with its maximum operational speed of 60kmh being a special peculiarity of the light-weight tram.

Deputy Chairman of Minsk City Executive Committee, Nikolay Rogashchuk, noted that Stadler Minsk is one of the largest private enterprises of the Minsk Region in terms of investments into the machine building

industry. "It produces innovative goods and masters new types of produce. The supplies of trams to Bolivia will enable us to increase trade turnover with this country. During the visit, we also plan to discuss new areas for collaboration," he added.

It should be noted that Cochabamba is fourth largest city of the country (after Santa Cruz de la Sierra, La Paz and El Alto), the capital of the Cochabamba Department and the centre of the most picturesque and fertile zone in the country, where small fertile valleys are located between mountain ranges.



## Gold-and-currency reserves reach almost \$7bn

By Oleg Bogomazov

As of October 1st, according to preliminary data, Belarus' international reserve assets totalled \$6,926.4 in equivalent

According to the National Bank's Information and Public Relations Department, in September 2018, the country's gold and foreign currency reserves went down by \$320m (up 4.4 percent) following the August growth by \$216.2 million (3.1 percent). In September 2018, the National Bank and the Government of the Republic of Belarus honoured the foreign and domestic obligations in foreign currency to the amount of about \$382m. The country's gold and foreign exchange reserves also reduced due to the lower cost of monetary gold.

Belarus' gold and foreign exchange reserves were bolstered thanks to budget revenues, including export duties on oil and oil products and revenues from selling government bonds nominated in foreign currency by the National Bank and the Finance Ministry. According to the country's main monetary guidelines for 2018, the volume of international reserve assets, considering the honouring of domestic and foreign commitments in foreign currency, should reach at least \$6 billion on January 1st, 2019.

## Contact with Thai business

Thailand is interested in direct deliveries of products from Belarus

At present, Belarusian products reach the Thai market mainly through Vietnam. Karanun Sukonriticorn stressed that it is necessary to work out the possibilities of direct supplies of goods from Belarus. In the area of interest — the products of the Belarusian engineering industry, especially tractors, as well as dairy products. Thailand's own dairy production covers less than half of the market's needs. During the visit of the delegation of business circles of Thailand to the National Marketing Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, agreements were reached on the exchange of information and the expansion of co-operation in the field of tourism business.

Director of the National Marketing Centre Valery Sadoho invited Thai businessmen to visit the National Exposition of Belarus at the 1st China International Import Expo, which will be held from November 5th-10th, 2018, in Shanghai. There will be 28 leading Belarusian dairy companies with the best product samples adapted for the Asian region.

## Successful getting into Forbes magazine

By Svetlana Savelieva



Lyubov Pashkovskaya of Belarus joins Europe's top 50 women in tech, compiled by Forbes magazine

At present, Ms. Pashkovskaya is the founder and head of the Verv company. According to the entrepreneur, the annual turnover of the project has reached \$30m.

Verv is ranked among the best developers of mobile applications in Europe and the USA. The company is involved in developing applications for fitness, meditation, walking and running.

By creating this list, *Forbes* wanted to show that there are many female entrepreneurs who change the world. Experts of the magazine took into account leadership and profit while compiling the list.

# Ahead, to the contest of digital innovations

By Alexey Fedosov

The Electronic Trading Platform of Industrial and Consumer Goods of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange JSC (BUCE) was chosen to take part in the contest of digital innovation at the World Summit Awards (WSA), held by the UN, as the most advanced and innovative project in the 'Business and Commerce' category in Belarus. In 2018, 438 out of more than a hundred countries in the world lay claim to having received the WSA Award.

The Electronic Trading Platform of Industrial and Consumer Goods represents an electronic B2B platform that unites thousands of sellers and buyers from Belarus, the CIS states and the European Union. The major difference of the BUCE solution from similar online market places is the application of the stock



mechanism with the opportunity to conduct sales directly on the platform in real-time mode.

Over the next few weeks, the WSA online jury will consider all applications and shortlist 15-20 projects in each category, which will be presented at the meeting of the main jury in Accra, the capital of Ghana, on November 4th-7th. The jury will then select 40 of the best projects that will be presented at the WSA Global Congress, where the winners

will be announced. The previous global congress was held in Vienna, Austria, bringing together over 700 participants from all over the world.

The World Summit Awards is the international contest of the UN World Summit aimed at supporting digital innovations with a high potential impact on society. WSA has been held since 2003 in accordance with the UN framework programme *Information Society* (UN WSIS).



At a recent press conference, Valery Sadokho, Director of the National Centre for Marketing at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry said that the national exposition in Shanghai will be displayed in two areas of the expo: The Country Pavilion for Trade and Investment and the Enterprise and Business Fair. In the first zone, visitors will learn about trade and economic opportunities, investment, sci-tech and the historical and cultural potential of Belarus.

The participants of the national stand will include the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Industry Ministry, the Belarusian Potash Company, the National Agency of Investment and Privatisation, the State Science and Technology Committee, the Education Ministry, as well as companies representing Minsk.

During the Enterprise and Business Fair, the industry stands will occupy an area of almost 700sq.m. where over eighty Belarusian companies will showcase their goods and services. Visitors will be able to see, and taste products made by Belgospishcheprom Concern, as well as Glubokoe Dairy Canning Factory, Vitebsk Poultry Factory and Lida Dairy Canning Factory in the pavilion 'Agricultural and Food Products'. Meanwhile, on display will be also goods made by Belarusian industry giants, like BelAZ, Minsk Tractor Works, Belshina, Gomselmash and Cooling Systems Plant at the 'Automobile Manufacturing' pavilion.

Belarusian companies will display their products and services under the 'Made in Belarus' brand. Its logo design was inspired by Belarusian national motifs featuring a cornflower. The slogan of the national exposition concept was already approved: 'Belarus-China: Friendship, Co-operation, Prospects'.

An electronic information kiosk was developed to provide instant information about Belarusian companies or products. It will use technology enabling visitors to instantly receive in-



# To attract attention to oneself is like art

## Belarus plans to present the export potential of its goods and services on a wide scale at 1st China International Import Expo, to take place in November in Shanghai



formation about an enterprise or a product, to go to the enterprise's site (if necessary) and to save this information on their electronic gadgets.

It's important to mention that participation in this expo is among the priority issues on the agenda of the Belarusian Government. Belarusian exporters are doing market research to find out what products and services will spark interest on the part of Chinese consumers.

The National Centre for Marketing at the Foreign Min-

istry of Belarus is the organiser of the National Exposition of the Republic of Belarus at the China International Import Expo and the Belarusian-Chinese business forum. The 1st China International Import Expo is supported by the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. The event will be held in the National Exhibition and Convention Centre, the world's largest single block building and exhibition complex, boasting an area of around

1.5 million square metres. It will gather over 2,800 companies from 130 countries. The number of domestic and foreign wholesale buyers is projected to reach 150,000.

Moreover, according to experts, the Chinese market has entered a stage of steady increase in consumption. This trend fuels strong import growth. In the next five years, China is expected to import products and services to the tune of over \$10 trillion. Undoubtedly, there will be a place for Belarusian goods.

It's no accident that the Head of the Asia, Australia and Oceania Department of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, Sergey Terentiev, underlined that the presentation of the large-scale national exposition of Belarus is one of the measures aimed at expanding Belarusian supplies to the Chinese market. The Foreign Ministry representative reminded us of the task to increase exports to China to \$1.5bn by 2020. "The task is ambitious but realistic," noted Mr. Terentiev. "We hope for the dynamic growth of this figure."

## Tendency that should be strengthened

By Oleg Bogomazov

**In January-August 2018, Industry Ministry enterprises increased exports of their produce by almost 25 percent compared to the same period last year**

"In January-August 2018, industrial output rose by 14.1 percent while the average monthly output increased to more than Br1.2bn," noted Genady Svidersky, Belarus' First Deputy Industry Minister. "Traditionally, the bulk of products was exported. In January-August of this year, exports exceeded \$3bn — 19.7 percent up compared to the same period last year. I hope this trend will continue."

Speaking about the geography of exports, the First Deputy Minister noted that,



this year, the list of countries remained the same. Russia is the main market for engineering products. We also export to the EU

and further abroad. BelAZ has added new destinations to its list of sale markets. Among the most successful enterprises, Mr. Svidersky named the Belarusian Steel Works (BMZ). "Earlier the BMZ annual export exceeded \$1bn. This year they already achieved this figure in early September. Exports have increased significantly thanks to the upgrade programmes and focus on engineering products. We hope this trend will still be in place by the end of the year," noted Mr. Svidersky.

He also noted the work of Mogilevliftmash and BelAZ which produced a dumper truck with a capacity of 290 tonnes. Minsk Tractor Works has been successfully working on an autonomous tractor while the upgrade project at BelOMO Holding Company is nearing completion.

## New resident in the Great Stone

By Olga Korneeva

**Resident with German capital — Medical Products SF — registered at the Great Stone Industrial Park**

The project is meant to create a high-tech enterprise to make medical products such as intravascular catheters, three-part syringes, sterile injection needles, etc. The enterprise will export about 90 percent of its output to the EU, the EAEU, the CIS and Middle Eastern countries. Initial investments will exceed \$5m. The project provides opportunities to create over 100 jobs and the enterprise is expected to start making merchandise in 2019-2020.

# Minsk ghetto — unalleviated pain

Belarusian capital hosted Days of Memory dedicated to the tragic 75th anniversary since the destruction of the Minsk ghetto in October 1943. Like more than two hundred similar Jewish ghettos, the Minsk ghetto wasn't closed but was liquidated, together with the remaining prisoners.



Mournful meeting at the Pit Memorial Complex

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus' Commissioner for Religions and Nationalities, Leonid Gulyako, told journalists that the state had directly participated in the preparations for the memorial events, particularly, in professional preparation and release of information materials dedicated to the history of those mournful events. "Everything was done honestly and spiritually, as the tragedy of the Minsk ghetto contains the pain of the whole nation of Belarus," said Mr. Gulyako. Belarus is always faithful to the principles of religious tolerance and neighbourliness, which have their roots in the distant past. It's no surprise that today in our country, around

800 people have been awarded the 'Righteous Among the Nations' honorary title for saving the lives of Holocaust victims in the period of Nazi occupation, noted the Deputy Chairman of the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, Boris Gersten.

On October 22nd, the Pit Memorial Complex hosted a solemn meeting while an evening of memory of Holocaust victims took place in the Belarusian State Philharmonic. The National Art Museum and the National History Museum, as well as the Museum of Great Patriotic War History, have also prepared special exhibitions. A thematic Week of Documentary Cinema is also taking

place. The Johannes Rau International Centre for Education and Exchange in Minsk hosted a scientific forum, entitled *75 years of Tragedy and Heroism of the Minsk Ghetto: Problems and Prospects for Preserving Holocaust Memory in Belarus*. Many guests from Russia, Israel, the USA and the Baltic States have arrived to take part in the memorable events.

In the years of occupation, the whole Jewish population of Minsk and more than 20,000 deported citizens of European countries — up 100,000 people — became victims of Nazi terror.

"The memory of the Minsk ghetto tragedy fills our hearts with sorrow. We must coun-

teract any manifestations of xenophobia and racism. We must resist any manifestations of ethnic or religious hatred," noted Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei as he spoke at the mournful meeting at the Pit Memorial Complex. He added that descendants should not forget the tragedy of the Minsk ghetto where not only USSR citizens were slaughtered but also citizens of Austria, Poland, Czechia, and other European countries.

Israel is grateful to Belarus for preserving memory about Holocaust victims, noted the Minister of Aliyah and Integration of Israel, Sofa Landver, at the mournful meeting. "The Pit is one of the most penetrating

monuments to the victims of the Second World War."

For almost a thousand years Belarus for Jews has been a native home and gave outstanding painters to the world, Marc Chagall and Chaim Soutine, as well as former president of Israel Shimon Peres and other prominent people, noted the Minister. She admitted that several generations of her family are from Minsk. "The parents of my mother lost here three sons in the beginning of the war while the father's mother together with her brother joined partisans, fought and was killed. After demobilisation my father — a lieutenant colonel and liaison officer who survived the whole war — returned to Minsk. He began to fight when he was 17 and half years old, he is my hero! I know well the history of the Belarusian nation — one of the calmest, most tolerant and benevolent in the world. The war has made its stroke of terrible power on these people, also killing almost 1 million of Jews. The whole world remembers about the tragedies of Khatyn and Trostenets," noted Ms. Landver.

On behalf of the government of Israel, Sofa Landver expressed the words of deep gratitude to the Belarusian nation for preserving the memory about Holocaust victims, as well as to President Alexander Lukashenko for his personal participation in the construction process of the Trostenets Memorial.

## ADVICE FROM DR. ZHUKOVA

### Storms are different

What is the impact of magnetic storms on human health?

I.Nefedova, Zaslavl

What are magnetic storms? Scientists explain the phenomenon this way: if the Sun releases a magnetised plasma (solar wind) it heads towards Earth, then particles bump into the protective shell of Earth, causing magnetic disturbances — storms.

There is a theory that the Sun's ups and downs rule civilisation. When the Sun is as active as possible, people's intellect grows, society makes a leap in scientific achievements, economic development and improving the quality of life. Alas, at the same time, the incidence of mental, oncological and cardiovascular diseases increases. As soon as the activity of the Sun decreases, the birth rate increases, diseases recede, people's business activity decreases. However, in the period of minimum solar activity, the intensity of emotions increases — ensuring the flowering of culture and art. According to some studies, those born during an active Sun are less susceptible to the effects of magnetic storms.

Each of our organs also has its own low-frequency magnetic field. For example, the heart has

an amplitude of about 1 second, and the brain — 7 seconds. When the magnetic storm comes into resonance with an organ, its work is disturbed. This explains why one magnetic storm can give you a headache and the other can disturb your heart. Even the ancient Egyptians found that irrational fear could be caused if a person is being affected by certain pulses of the magnetic field.

It's impossible to be fully protected from a magnetic storm, but a person can alleviate their state in an unfavourable period. To do this, it's necessary to follow the forecasts of geological information sources and follow simple rules based on the protection of the cardiovascular system: the latter suffers most from magnetic storms.

Against the background of fluctuations in the magnetic field, the viscosity of blood increases, which contributes to the risk of blood clots in vessels. It is necessary to monitor one's drinking regime and drink 1.5-2 litres of liquid per day. This reduces blood viscosity. In this case, coffee and tea are not the necessary liquids:

only clean water matters.

As with any stress, increased adrenaline leads to increased blood pressure. Hypertensive patients, on the eve of a magnetic storm, need to take a drug with prolonged action to prevent a rise in blood pressure. Persons with low blood pressure could take tinctures of ginseng, lemongrass or Rhodiola rosea.

On the eve and during the magnetic storm it's recommended to avoid rich food and drinks such as: energy drinks, strong tea, coffee, spices, onions, garlic, pepper, smoked products and alcohol.

During magnetic storms, production of the hormone melanin — an internal antioxidant and a powerful natural adaptogen responsible for resistance to stressful situations — decreases. Consequently, the stress resistance of the body is reduced. People with unstable mentality and vegetative systems, can become emotionally unbalanced during magnetic storms and may have dizziness and nervous breakdowns. It's good to find a way to



protect yourself from psychological problems as much as possible during magnetic disturbances and do not make important decisions, switch from internal experiences to positive emotions. Suspicious people, learning about the upcoming storm, start thinking of its negative consequences and will feel worse. It is important to think positively.

The tolerability of magnetic disturbances is affected by the state of the vessels. With a decrease in the elasticity of their

walls, the blood moves slower and supplies oxygen to the organs in a less efficient way. Therefore, the vessels must be trained. Contrasting showers train them well but start exercising this gradually. First, take a warm then slightly hotter shower and, a week later, turn to cool and warm water — adding and decreasing the water temperature by one or two degrees.

Swimming in the pool (two or three times a week) and sauna (once a month) also help. It is useful on the eve of a magnetic storm to take a soothing bath with sea salt, pine needle extract, essential oil of Valerian, mint, orange, tangerine, rose. You should never forget about physical and breathing exercises. Cardiac patients should reduce the static load (less sitting and standing) and the load on the shoulder girdle. In turn, the dynamic load — such as walking or cycling — is beneficial, being useful for the vascular system.

By Tatiana ZHUKOVA, doctor of highest category, Candidate of Medical Sciences



By Oleg Bogomazov

# High time to deposit knowledge

National Bank sums up the results of a programme aimed at enhancing financial literacy and announced the launch of another

Today it is not enough simply to earn money; it's also necessary to be able to manage it. Thanks to the gimmicks of marketing specialists, consumption has reached a new level, when people more often want to spend beyond their means. To assess one's own money, incomes and expenses correctly and to plan your budget, you need a minimum level of financial literacy. Yulia Sakovich, the Head of the National Bank's Information and Public Relations Department, tells us about the financial literacy of our citizens and how to enhance it.

## Level of knowledge is higher than that of neighbours

To understand the level of financial knowledge among Belarusians, researches were conducted in 2012-2016, with the participation of the National Bank, dealing with financial literacy and attitudes towards finances. The results show a tendency towards gradual and sustainable enhancement of awareness in this sphere.

The number of respondents who know about financial issues at a good level doubled in 2016, compared to 2013. The number of those who had very poor financial knowledge and skills has decreased. Belarusians have begun to use bank accounts more often (a growth of 6 percent). The share of those who refuse to make savings because of mistrust with financial institutions has fallen by 6 percent, compared to 2013.

Nevertheless, most citizens still don't register their incomes and expenses, don't plan their budget and keep to the strategy of residual savings, i.e. first they spend and then keep the remaining money.

Moreover, Belarusians often use only basic financial services and have little interest in changes in the financial markets. They receive information about financial products and services from their friends and acquaintances rather than specialised sources.



## Breaking the mentality

Work to enhance financial literacy is co-ordinated by the National Bank, while other state bodies are also taking an active part. However, it's difficult to expect progress without interest from citizens. According to Ms. Sakovich, Belarusians understand the necessity of financial knowledge and try to grasp the basics, being assisted by the National Bank.

"Last year, the Education Ministry supported our proposal to launch studies on financial literacy into the educational process. Today, these classes enjoy popularity among youngsters. Schoolchildren are keen to receive financial knowledge

and they already know a good amount," notes Ms. Sakovich. The programme to enhance financial literacy aims to work with everyone regardless of age or social status.

"We're working to enable citizens to know how to deal with money, to efficiently administer their budgets and to rationally apply financial instruments," says Ms. Sakovich.

## New programme lies ahead

At present, the National Bank is working on the draft new programme aiming to enhance financial literacy, where all the details of the previous programme will be considered. Its implementation will involve state run pub-

lic authorities, banks, scientific research institutes, educational establishments, associations of financial market participants and suppliers of financial services, mass media and public organisations. Ms. Sakovich shares the details of the new programme, "It's expected that major work will be conducted across six areas: personal finances, financial products and services, taxes, insurance, awareness of rights and digital financial literacy. We aim to work with teachers who, we believe, because of their profession, are an important link in passing down financial knowledge to children."

The National Bank believes that the future programme will

significantly help enhance the level of Belarusians' financial literacy. Of course, they won't teach us how to differentiate between futures and options and how to trade on the stock exchange. However, they promise to tell people how to administrate their budgets, calculate one's own revenues and expenses, as well as rationally use the major financial services and determine the signs of financial fraud.

## Preserving and increasing

Financial education of children was conducted in the Rechitsa District's lyceum, with teachers supplementing their subjects (such as history and literature) with elements of financial literacy.

Ella Kucher, the lyceum's deputy director for learning support, tells us about this experience, "We took the course in this project for the inclusion of financial knowledge into some subjects. For example, during the lessons in mathematics and history, our teachers developed contextual tasks on financial literacy, where the solution helps pupils better understand financial processes. It turns out that knowledge in the sphere of finances can be connected to illustrative examples with social studies, literature and geography, which helps them grasp the issue."

"Our pupils are able to use Internet banking and understand what credit is and what is needed for, and are able to administer their budget," explains Ms. Kucher. "They are able to work with bank services. We've already reached practical goals. Moreover, teachers note that the most complex issues for teenagers are calculations. In turn, we see this and try to pay more attention to them."

Ms. Kucher is confident that the earlier financial literacy is taught in schools, the earlier young people will start to understand how to efficiently manage their own savings, that they are responsible for their budget and that their own well-being depends on themselves.





# Taiwan train crash kills 18 in deadliest rail tragedy

Officials said four carriages overturned last Sunday after all eight cars of a train carrying 366 passengers left the tracks on a bend near a railway station in Yilan county, about 40km from the capital

Tsai joined Buddhist monks in prayer before an altar adorned with flowers next to a county hospital, while nearby, relatives and friends of the victims wept as they sifted through battered suitcases recovered from the train wreck.

“We are really sorry ... you have to stay strong,” Tsai told Chen Yu-chan, 41, whose only daughter, a seventh grader, was killed.

“We will do everything we can,” she told another person, who was sobbing bitterly during her visit to the hospital. Health authorities appealed for blood donations to help treat the many injured people, who included one foreigner, an American. Six of the dead were below 18, officials said.

The disaster was Taiwan’s deadliest rail tragedy since a 1981 collision in the northern re-

gion that killed 30 people.

China’s policy-making Taiwan Affairs Office expressed ‘deep condolences’ to the families of victims.

Train services resumed early on Monday, after all the derailed carriages had been moved to one side of the tracks. Authorities said they were investigating to determine the cause of the accident, which remains unclear.

Many of the casualties hap-

pened in a carriage at the front of the train, said one official, adding that the driver, surnamed You, has been moved out of intensive care, though his condition was still unstable.

“We will ask him what happened after he stabilises,” said Liu Can-huang, head of the car maintenance unit of the railways.

The train recorder, which tracks speed has been sent to prosecutors to be examined.



# Hurricane off Mexico spins toward Category 5 status in Pacific

**Forecasters predict ‘life threatening storm surge, wind and rainfall’ over Central American country**

Hurricane Willa has grown rapidly into an ‘extremely dangerous’ near-Category 5 storm which could smash into Mexico’s western coast.

The US National Hurricane Centre said it could ‘produce a life threatening storm surge, wind and rainfall’ over portions of the Central American country’s south and central west.

A hurricane warning has

been posted for Mexico’s western coast between San Blas and Mazatlan. Tropical storm warnings have also been raised from the beach area Playa Perula to San Blas and also north of Mazatlan to the bay of Bahia Tempehuaya.

Forecasters said 15 to 30.5cm of rain should fall over parts of Mexico’s western Jalisco, western Nayarit and southern Sinaloa states. Some areas could see up to 46cm of rainfall, increasing the danger of flash flooding and landslides.

# Truck makers rev up for rollout of electric big rigs

**Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk put electric heavy commercial trucks on the map in November 2017 when he unveiled the company’s futuristic, battery-powered Semi, booked hundreds of orders and said he would start delivering the vehicles by 2019**

Now, it looks like 2020 could be the big year for electric big rigs. Incumbent truck makers are accelerating their electric truck projects towards launches that year, while Musk told investors in June production of the eye-catching Semi freight hauler should begin ‘basically

(in the) first half of 2020’ instead of 2019.

Driven by regulatory pressure to cut diesel pollution, commercial truck makers have made a flurry of fresh announcements to deliver battery electric or hydrogen-fuelled vehicles. They have landed orders from big fleet operators such as Walmart Inc, United Parcel Service Inc and Anheuser Busch Inbev NV.

The challenge is gauging how big the market for electric commercial trucks will be.



# New trade pact leaves most US industry at mercy of Mexico’s courts

**The new North American trade agreement ends key legal protections for many US businesses operating in Mexico, leaving their operations exposed to a risk they had avoided under the old trade deal: Mexico’s court system**

For thousands of US firms, the change could add complications and uncertainty to doing business south of the border. Mexico is the third-largest US trading partner.

The previous trade agreement, NAFTA, included provisions that gave US firms operating in Mexico and Canada the option to challenge government decisions at an international tribunal. A change in Mexican or Canadian regulations, for example, that had a material impact on a US firm’s operations, could be challenged through an international panel instead of local courts. The removal of the investment protection means firms would now be at the mercy of Mexico’s courts, which are notorious for corruption.

# Prince Harry inspires athletes as pregnant Meghan trims Australia schedule

**The pregnant wife of Britain’s Prince Harry, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, cuts back her busy schedule as the royal couple enter the last week-and-a-half of their tour to Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific**

The Invictus Games are athletic competitions involving wounded military personnel and have been credited for fostering hope and resilience in people traumatised during conflict.

“Be inspired, get excited. Allow the example of service and determination that you all see to change something big or small in your own lives,” said Prince Harry to rousing applause from 500 athletes and a supportive crowd that filled the Opera House stairs.

However, Meghan took a break from the Invictus Games events.

“After a busy programme, the Duke and Duchess have decided to cut back The Duchess’s schedule slightly for the next couple of days, ahead of the final week-and-a-half of the tour,” Kensington Palace said in a statement.



# Metaphors, symbols and signs originally reflected in glass



National Art Museum of Belarus hosts an original exhibition, entitled *Notebooks of Tatiana Malysheva*, presenting around ten glass decorative compositions, created by the author in the 1970-2010s, as well as approximately ten original graphical works from the 1970s-1980s

By Veniamin Mikheev

The name of Tatiana Malysheva is well known among the connoisseurs and amateurs of Belarusian decorative-and-applied arts. At the famous Neman Glassworks, she was the first representative of the Minsk school of glass art who received a special education at the Department of Glass and Ceramics of the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute (now the Belarusian State Academy of Arts). In 1972, the talented graduate started working as an artist at the Experimental Art Department, where she was lucky enough to work under the guidance of the unrivalled master of his craft, the legendary Vladimir Murakhver.

Tatiana Malysheva belongs to the generation of Belarusian artists who continued the development of the figurative and decorative principles of glass art started by their teachers, and at the same time managed to introduce a new understanding in the creation of works of glass connected with associative imagery.

Remarkably, in her creativity, Tatiana Malysheva doesn't use figurativeness as a means of achieving artistic images in glass. "Many of my works were developed from simple exercises in the process of glass-making,

laid in the nature of glass. Only later, long and meticulous effort started to develop the idea and a proper laboratory research project was launched," she says.

Evidently, the expressiveness and originality of her works are achieved using such means as metaphors, symbols and signs. The creative interests of the artist include: the search for harmony and balance between history and modernity; her own vision of the moral and intellectual problems of time;



Creative diversity of Tatiana Malysheva

the embodiment of the world of associations; the discovery of such phenomena of physics as momentum and movement and the reflection of the semantic content of the word in glass, which is often reflected in her titles.

The artist comments, "Each of my glass compositions, presented at the exhibition, is a



kind of 'notebook', an internal work on myself, in which my emotions, the impressions and statements of my favourite writers, poets, painters and talented people have become closely entangled, as well as searches and reflection of information and my own spiritual establishment.

All these are landmarks of my creative journey, one more step which leads upwards. These are my contemplations about time and myself, about music and musicians, about daily bread and the natural rhythms which subject our lives to the calendar and rhythms of the Universe."

Tatiana Malysheva has a philosophical worldview. Her

best works are the result of long contemplation on the subject, generalisation and consideration of the details and experimenting with technology. Such a serious attitude to creativity was expressed in a wide range of the artist's interests.

Graphical portraits of people who used to work with Ms. Malysheva at the Neman Glassworks can be also seen at the exposition. The young painter's devotion to drawing was supported by Vladimir Murakhver, who himself was an active producer of graphical and pictorial art.

Ms. Malysheva recollected, "Often we got together and simply drew. We invited visiting painters, students and diploma students (who later also became famous) to pose for us. Sometimes we managed to persuade our workers who we saw daily at work: the wood masters, glassblowers, engineers and sorters. They also acted as characters for us. Gradually, I have acquired a whole gallery of portraits. The major thing about these portraits is that these are beautiful, smart

and benevolent people. These are young enthusiasts who selflessly love their profession and land. My drawings



are a tribute to the workers of the Neman Glassworks."

What else can be added? Undoubtedly, the works of Tatiana Malysheva are determined by her perfect mastery of her professional skills, which are harmoniously supplemented with high artistic culture and, surely, her love for glass and immense devotion to it.

## Polesie has left a deep impression

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Exhibition of works of People's Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko entitled — *Ave Radzima* — from the master's collection at Gomel's Picture Gallery, opens in Moscow at the Business and Cultural Centre of the Belarusian Embassy to Russia**

The exhibition includes thirty pictorial, watercolour and pastel works

by Gavriil Vashchenko, created by the painter between 1950 and 2005. Opening the exhibition, the Senior Counsellor of the Embassy and Head of Business and Cultural Centre, Vasily Chernik, noted the special role of Gavriil Vashchenko in forming and developing Belarusian art. He emphasised that the creative interests of the artist were extremely wide but always touched on the topic of the small homeland and his Polesie. "The title of the exhibition exactly characterises the



creative journey of Gavriil Vashchenko," noted the diplomat. The exhibition was attended by representatives of the Moscow creative intelligentsia, painters

and students from Belarus who study at Moscow universities, alongside representatives of state organisations and public associations of Russia.

CULTURE



Valery Todorovsky's *Stilyagi* film was shot on Minsk streets

# Leaving a nose for Pinocchio

Belarusfilm paving the tourist route for Minsk's cinematic places

By Irina Ovsepyan

The Belarusfilm Studio is developing a tourist route to the most interesting places in Minsk related to cinema. Its General Director Vladimir Karachevsky promises to launch it by November, by the time of Minsk's *Listapad* International Film Festival.

There are enough cinema places in Minsk; many famous films have been shot here. Among them is *Our Neighbours* directed by Sergey Sploshnov and based on Efraim Sevela's script back in 1957. Shooting of this old comedy took place on Pobedy Square, near Gorky Park. It's possible to distinguish in the film the building of the Defence Ministry (then the headquarters of the Belarusian military district) and the view from the bridge across the River Svisloch to the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre. Trolleybuses with the 'Observatory Railway Station' sign are also quite real: in the 1950s, there really was



In the stage property department at Belarusfilm Studio

such a route at number 1. Another interesting venue is Loshitsa Park where the final of the cult serial teenage detective novel by Anatoly Rybakov — *Curtlass* — was shot, in addition to several scenes of *Bronze Bird*. The 18th-19th palace-and-park complex provided the filmmakers with wonderful nature. The wooden manor house of the Lubanski family perfectly played the role of the count's estate where pioneers from *Bronze Bird* were searching for treasure.

In turn, Nezavisimosti Avenue with its unique architecture of the 'Stalin Ampir'

style is bright and recognisable in Valery Todorovsky's *Dudes*: there, young 'rebels' usually hang out in front of GUM. Minsk streets appear also in *Let's Get Married* featuring Margarita Terekhova and Georgy Volchek, and in popular TV series *Kamenskaya* and *Return of Mukhtar*.

"Scenes for *Mukhtar* are often filmed in the yards near the studio and even on our porch," explains Alla Kurkul, a leading expert of Belarusfilm. "Also, our full-scale site in the village of Kamenka is connected with famous films: there, *In August 1944*

by Mikhail Ptashuk and *Hunting for Piranha* were shot."

Several interesting things relate to the studio itself. For example, all the famous film-tales of Leonid Nechaev — *Adventures of Pinocchio*; *About Little Red Riding Hood*; *Red, Honest, in Love*; *Peter Pan*; *Do Not Leave* — were shot in Belarusfilm's pavilions. On a trip to the studio, anyone can look closely at the historical props and costumes. In total, there are 5 warehouses in the workshop for the preparation of filming: props, furniture, women's, men's and military clothing; each stores about 20 thousand articles. Everything is very democratic. Want to try on the cane of Cat Basilio? You are welcome! Put on Karabas-Barabas' scarf and take a selfie to remember it? Try on the pince-nez of the great Rina Green which she wore while performing *Turtle Tortilla* in a specially dug pond? No question!

The studio employees can also take visitors to the weaponry shop: a pyrotechnic area which has real weapons — including those used in 1900 and modern models. In films, soldiers use the props and the task of pyrotechnics is to make sure that everything is effectively 'fired' in the film, with necessary smoke and sound. The studio also keeps guns: these are 'artificial' and real; the latter have survived from WWI and the Great Patriotic War times. In the future, retro-cars are planned to be exhibited there.



By Alexander Pimenov

Igor Krutoy's company to prepare opening and closing ceremonies for the 2nd European Games

For the first time in the history of Belarus a joint creative project is being implemented to prepare and conduct the ceremonies for the European Games, involving leading Russian company, Art City 5, led by producer and People's Artist of Russia,

Igor Krutoy, and a Belarusian creative team.

"For us this project is a big responsibility. We have experience of organising events at a high level. We have been learning and suffering bumps and bruises along the way; our experiences allow us to have in our portfolio projects which will ensure we don't make mistakes in future. As far as Belarus is concerned, we're very close. It's an opportunity to show off the country at

## Show to be unusual

a European level and it's another test for us. I hope that there will be synergy from our co-operation and we'll be pleased with the level at which the event is conducted," noted Mr. Krutoy.

The Art City 5 group is a company that deals with the complete implementation cycle of cultural and mass events 'on a turnkey basis' and is responsible for all stages. They have realised many large-scale musical projects and international cultural and sporting events, including the opening and closing ceremonies of such projects as: the 7th Asian Games in Astana in 2011; 27th World Summer Universiade in Kazan in 2013; 16th FINA World Championships in Kazan in 2015; *New Wave* and *New Wave Junior* musical contests; as well as *Song of the Year* TV projects, and a show of stars of the Russian pop stage.

"Our goal is to show Belarus to the world. I think we'll succeed, and everyone will be happy with the outcome. The concept of the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2nd European Games will reflect the spirit, unique culture and traditions of the Belarusian nation. Belarus would like the show to be organised at the highest level, with the use of the most advanced technologies. For us this is an opportunity to gain more experience and to stay competitive as a company capable of implementing such projects," said Igor Krutoy.

The Belarusian production director of the 2nd European Games 2019 ceremonies, Alexander Vavilov, said that co-operation with our Russian counterparts will be fruitful. "I believe that we will do something extraordinary as one team. I'm always afraid to talk about

things that are still in the planning stages, but the concept of the ceremonies will be centred on a person through whom we will tell the European audience about our country," he said.

Russian production director, Alexey Sechenov, added that work on the script is in full swing. "The most important thing is to show the history and the culture of the country, the inner spirit of its people. If we succeed, the opening and closing ceremonies of the sports forum will be sincere and clear to the European audience," he stressed.

Preliminary timings expect the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games to last slightly more than two hours. Early results for the preparation of the ceremonies will be presented by the organisers to the media in spring. At that time, details of the show will be made known.

# Coming back from Buenos Aires with various medals

Nine medals claimed by Belarusian athletes at the Youth Olympic Games that finished in the Argentinean capital



By Yegor Yemelyanov

Belarusian athletes have earned medals at Youth Olympic Games

Belarusian judoka, Artem Kolosov, claimed two gold medals in the under 55kg weight category and as part of the

international team. Swimmer Anastasia Shkur dai clinched the 50m butterfly silver and the 100m butterfly bronze. Meanwhile, Belarusian rower, Ivan

Brynza, took silver in the men's single sculls, while Yelizaveta Dorts finished second in the women's shotput. Bronze medals also went to Kristina Kontsev-

enko (pole jump), Natalia Varakina (women's wrestling), Victoria Akhotnikova and Ilya Fomenkov (acrobatic gymnastics).

## Playing at home and away

By Sergey Grishin

Belarus' national handball team begin preparations for the 2020 European Championships qualification

Head coach, Yuri Shevtsov, invited twenty players to the training camp. At the group stage of the qualifying tournament they will face the national teams of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Finland. Our players will play the first match at home, facing Bosnia and Herzegovina on Octo-



Yuri Shevtsov

ber 25th. On October 27th, they will play against the Finns, while the second part of the qualifying tournament for the European Championships will be held next year. On the eve of the event, Qatar hosted a Congress of the International Handball Federation, where it was decided that starting from 2021, 32 (rather than 24) national teams will be taking part in the adult, youth and junior world championships.

The World Championships to be hosted by Denmark and Germany next year will be the last event to be held in the old format. The Belarusian national squad failed to qualify for that event.

## Proposed cities were approved

By Yevgenia Vlasova

Candidates for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games approved

The cities hoping to host the 2026 Winter Olympics are: Calgary (Canada), Milan/Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy) and Stockholm (Sweden). The decision was made at the session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Buenos Aires, says the IOC official Twitter page. The

capital of the 2026 Winter Olympiad will be selected from the approved candidates at the IOC session which will take place in 2019.

The International Olympic Committee has also decided that a team of refugees will perform at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Such a squad first took part in the Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, represented by ten athletes in three sports and performing under the Olympic flag.

## The eyes are afraid, but the feet are still running around

By Sergey Kanashits

The national football team of Belarus has once again failed to beat a team of Moldova, scoring not a single goal in two matches. In the UEFA Nations League, we now have one game left: crossed fingers and toes are required. Two away matches are also scheduled: against Luxembourg and San Marino.

The chance to take first place in the group and break out of the sticky embrace of the outsider swamp, which sucked us tightly in and keeps us in its viscous mud, remains. To do this, we need to win in both matches. Moreover, even in case of a draw with Luxembourg, there will still be a faint hope that in the final round

they will be beaten by Moldova; we'll then be able to slowly creep into the playoffs (if we can knock out San Marino, of course). However, this future is from the realm of fantasy and such a picture looks truly unlikely.

After a dry draw with Moldova, a dark night pervaded my thoughts. When I finally managed to close my eyes, I dreamt not of the launching pad, the ice blue sky but of the green domestic grass. I thought of Igor Stasevich's blow after which the bar rang, and the stadium groaned. I recalled the confused face of the unlucky Nikolay Signevich who didn't manage to catch a rebound and become the hero of the match. I also saw the upset of Igor Kriushenko — the head coach of the team — who seems to



When the game isn't pleasurable

be pacing a wrong line-up, trying either to win a little, or using overly cautious tactics: the main thing is not to miss a goal, believing that we'll somehow win. We failed to take advantage of our chances.

Voltaire said: 'All styles are good except the boring kind, but boredom is not a style'. The old man was one hundred percent right: boredom is the theme of the foot-

ball of the national team of Belarus in the last few matches, including, of course, the last game with Moldova — especially its first half. The second half was almost the same: it was not clear how our team was going to play. Moreover, it was important to decide how to score goals against a team that has not won guest official matches for two years. We needed the

victory as much as we need air to breathe!

The national team of Moldova has always been a difficult opponent for us, but we must admit this can't be an excuse, because such a cliché today can be given to absolutely any team that comes out on the field against our players. And it's not about them. It's us. It is important to accept this as fact.

The national team of Belarus can and must play stronger. Its potential is much greater. It can be more fun, stronger and sincere — if this style is being imposed on it. For example, BATE is now trying to act this way. This team is also not successful every time but BATE's performance does not make you grit your teeth. True, Alexey Baga's team is losing but it is making attempts, seeking for success and getting stronger.

Is the national team of Belarus growing? Or have we reached the limit? The final answer to this question will be given during the coming matches: on November 16th in Luxembourg and November 18th in San Marino.

## Fest of the week



Vitebsk hosts gala-concert of Vitebsky Listopad-2018 Festival

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> December. *Universe of Yazep Drozdovich*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> November. *Silver Age of Russian Jewellers*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> November. *On the Other Side of Life: German Occupation in Meer Axelrod's graphics*  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> January. *Art of Chocolate*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> October. Project: *Small Homeland — Novel of Times*  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale horror*  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> April. *Fantasy Land*

#### PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

11 Sovetskaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Belarusian Lawyers of 19th Century*

#### OUTLETO TRADING CENTRE

44 Zhukov Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> January. *Tropics* exhibition of exotic animals

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> October. *Organs. European Legacy of Belarus*

#### LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Somewhere to the West of Minsk: Daily Life of Western Belarus* Until 4<sup>th</sup> December. *20th Century Avant-Garde*

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Cat and Autumn*

#### MAGIC MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Tournament of Three Magicians*

#### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 13<sup>th</sup> January. *Museum of Fir-Tree Toys*

#### LEONID SHCHEMELEV ART GALLERY

10 Revolyutsionnaya Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> October. *Under the Sign of Weighs* exhibition of decorative-and-applied arts

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
28.10. *Heart, You Don't Wish Peace*  
30 and 31.10. *Anastasia*  
01.11. *Madame Butterfly*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
25.10. *Fourth Planet*  
26.10. *Red Hot Mamas*  
27.10. *How to Become Rich*  
28.10. *Divers*  
30.10. *Singer*  
31.10. *Lady for a Day*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
25.10. *An Unnamed Star*  
26 and 27.10. *Pygmalion*  
28.10. *Night of Anton Chekhov's Miniatures*  
29.10. *Master and Margarita*  
30.10. *Forgetting Herostratos*  
31.10 and 01.11. *#13*

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
25.10. *Love as Militarism / Tolerance*  
26.10. *Inspector*  
27 and 28.10. *The Black Lady of Nesvizh*

28.19. *Waltmaster-Accordion*  
30 and 31.10. *Kupala Night Dream*  
01.11. *Matches / ART*

#### BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street  
25.10. *Three Giselles*  
26.10. *Belarus. Didactics*  
28.10. *Medea Syndrome*  
29.10. *1517*  
30.10. *Love of People*  
31.10. *Chernobyl Prayer*

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
25.10. *Pieta*  
26.10. *Double Double*  
27.10. *Rich Brides*  
28.10. *Leaving Nature*  
30.10. *Playing Happy Family*  
31.10. *Synopsis*  
01.11. *Fool*

#### BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street  
25.10. *Soldiers*  
26.10. *Inspector*

#### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
27.10. *Dragon*  
01.11. *Happiness Exists*