



ALEXANDER KUSHNER

# New horizons for the Minsk Half Marathon

The sporting festival was one of the central events celebrating Minsk's 951st anniversary, launching on Saturday with a roller-ski relay and continuing on Sunday with one of the biggest mass races seen in Minsk

The Minsk Half Marathon is well known far beyond the country's borders, bringing together around 35,000 entrants in 2018. Professionals were the first to appear at the start, competing in the 21.1km distance. The advantage of the African runners among the men was indisputable, while intrigue developed amongst the women. Alongside Olga Mazurenok of Belarus, there were several other strong athletes. As a result, a gold medal was claimed by Sheila Jerotich of Kenya, who

finished ahead of Belarusian Svetlana Kudevich by just one second. Sadly, the favourite, Olga Mazurenok, finished in only fifth place. The 10.5km race brought together the amateur runners, including Sports and Tourism Minister, Sergey Kovalchuk. The biggest event was the final stage — a 5.5km race — featuring more than 25,000 people, where victory was celebrated by Maxim Yushchenko, for the men, while Darya Borisevich was the first woman to cross the line.



# Creating the future of space

This is the topic of the 31st Planetary Congress of the ASE currently taking place in Minsk, with Alexander Lukashenko speaking at the opening ceremony



Alexander Lukashenko with Congress participants: cosmonauts Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok and ASE President Bonnie Dunbar

By Victor Lyubimov

People had wanted to reach the stars for a long time, and finally managed to overcome the forces of gravity 57 years ago. It has happened so recently in terms of the development of civilisation. The achievements of specialists in this sphere are truly impressive, emphasised Mr. Lukashenko. "At present there are about 90 space countries, and Belarus is one of them. 565 people took part in space flights. There are more than 1,000 satellites in orbit. We are proud that the names of Belarusian scientists and space pilots are inscribed in

history. Veterans of orbital flights, Piotr Klimuk and Vladimir Kovalenok, and member of the recent International Space Station expedition, Oleg Novitsky, were born in Belarus. Cosmonaut Oleg Artemiev, who is now staying on the orbital station, also has Belarusian roots." Moreover, the ISS crew welcomed the participants and guests of the Congress, sending them a video from orbit.

The President asserted that the space industry is vigorously developing in the country. We make high resolution optical systems for satellites, space mirrors, instruments for remote sensing of the Earth. Jointly with our

Russian colleagues, Belarusian specialists develop cutting-edge technologies, taking part in the project to build a new space apparatus. Moreover, they also plan co-operation on the international programme *Syrius*. Belarus is a fully-fledged and active member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

There was time when Mr. Lukashenko had to make decisions on the development of the space industry in Belarus. There were many contradictions and discussions. Nevertheless, the space topic continued. "The country did not make a mistake when we decided to develop the

industry, as different countries are now joining their efforts in space exploration," said the President. "This is a driving force of sci-tech progress. Of course, the joint work of scientists and engineers promotes the development of other industries and the growth of national economies."

A good example of efficient international collaboration in the sphere of space exploration is the International Space Station (ISS). The launch of the first module took place twenty years ago. At that time, the development and assembly of the station involved fifteen countries and now its opportunities are used by

a hundred states. Representatives of various nationalities successfully and efficiently work on the ISS. This orbital laboratory is an example of how it's possible and necessary to build partnership and business relations between the states and nations of the planet in a modern world.

"This is a shining example from space to us, earthly people, of how we need to live in this close and quickly developing world. It's necessary to live in peace and concord, for the benefit of all nations. Unfortunately, vice versa often happens on earth," said Mr. Lukashenko. "All achievements and knowledge accumulated in the space industry should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. We can only move closer to conquering significant landmarks of the Universe together, in close co-operation."

Participants of the ASE Planetary Congress, to finish on September 15th, include famous cosmonauts, scientists and researchers from almost two dozen countries. The programme of the forum is intense, including several technical sessions dedicated to science and space, as well as meetings in educational establishments. A General Assembly of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) is also to take place. Excursions to Belarus' landmark places are also organised for the guests, in addition to various cultural programmes.

## European Union shows readiness for wider collaboration with Belarus

By Igor Popkov

**This was noted by Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei when he reported to Alexander Lukashenko. During their meeting, the state of affairs in foreign economic activity and the schedule of forthcoming international meetings were also discussed.**

The foreign political priorities of Belarus have been determined. "Whether people like it or not, the multi-vector nature of our politics is predetermined by our place in the world determined by God. There is no escaping it," said the President. "I have already said that the economy is our number one priority." He underlined the fact that export is the basis of the Belarusian economy, so foreign economic activity is developing with a focus on export supplies.

Unfortunately, as Mr. Makei admitted, there are some challenges in this area. However, alongside drawbacks, he also pointed to the presence of positive trends in foreign economic

activity. In H1 2018, exports rose by 19.4 percent, with the share of high-tech products increasing. Export growth can be observed in all the markets, with growth figures varying from 4 percent to nearly 30 percent depending on the export destination. Moreover, foreign economic contacts with China are also on the rise. We have a 37 percent growth here and agricultural products have also been involved in foreign trade.

The President set the task to register a growth in export supplies with all the countries we're co-operating with by the end of the year. At present, Belarus supplies its goods to 171 states.

The Minister also provided details about the schedule of the forthcoming international contacts that are due to take place to the end of the year. The schedule will be very busy. The Head of State is expected to participate in a number of important international events that will be hosted by Belarus. Among them are the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in the digital age and the Munich Security Conference



Core Group Meeting. Alexander Lukashenko is expected to visit several foreign states, including as part of his commitments to various integration associations, as well as on the bilateral level.

"The EU is demonstrating to some degree, readiness for wider collaboration with Belarus. This is seen in our interaction, for example, with European financial institutes," said Mr. Makei in an interview to Belarus 1 TV Channel. "We're keen to develop trade-economic co-operation with the EU because it's the second most important trade-economic partner for us. We're obliged to have

normal relations with the EU. We must understand that today the EU is not taking any discriminatory measures against Belarus. It pursues the same policy as with other similar countries, except for those with which it has preferential agreements. Our task is to actively promote our products to the European market. For this, we need to address the issue of product certification and work more actively in specific countries. Our business entities and regions must take more active steps in the European markets."

Nevertheless, the Minister stressed that at the same time,

Belarus still feels certain political nuances when it comes to trade-economic co-operation. The President outlined our approach once again. There are national interests, and we should take them into account first. If the EU is ready to make more headway in certain sectors, we are also ready to take the appropriate steps to meet the Union halfway. We, however, will never give up on our principles and submit to those countries that try to put pressure on Belarus," asserted Mr. Makei.

The Foreign Minister called on people not to look for 'political dividends' of Belarus in its position regarding the situation in the region. "We suffer from confrontation which is currently present in the region. We suffer in trade-economic, political and humanitarian aspects; therefore, the policy of Belarus is unanimously aimed at achieving peace, calmness, security and stability here. This won't change in future. And Alexander Lukashenko gave clear-cut and specific instructions regarding this issue," emphasised the Minister.



# Hospitable country is looking forward to welcoming guests of the Games

Last week, Alexander Lukashenko met the President of the European Olympic Committees, Janez Kocijančič, to discuss issues of preparation for the 2nd European Games. They have been also discussed in detail at the session of the Coordination Commission that took place in the National Olympic Committee of Belarus.



By Denis Dorokhov

This is not the first meeting of Alexander Lukashenko and Janez Kocijančič. This time, the major issue under discussion was the European Olympiad. Around ten months are still left before its launch and the countdown before the official opening has begun. However, it's good practice to synchronise watches. "We've done much, but I think there are always some shortcomings and loose ends. I would like to hear first-hand what else we should do for the 2nd European Games," said the President of Belarus.

According to Mr. Kocijančič, the preparations for the Games are going very well. "You have excellent human resources. People have been working very hard, and we provide them with maximum support. I'm confident that we will organise an excellent European Games. First, the international situation gives us such confidence," asserted the EOC President. Talking to journalists after the meeting, Mr. Kocijančič noted that Alexander Lukashenko, who also heads the National Olympic Committee, is familiar with sporting issues. Within the next ten months, our organising committee will be busy addressing minor technical issues. All other matters have already been settled, he stressed.

Seizing the occasion, Janez Kocijančič thanked the Belarusian authorities for the launch of visa-free travel that will benefit

both the participants and numerous guests of the 2nd European Games. "I hope you will make the best use of this opportunity to show the world a modern flourishing Belarus," he added.

Mr. Kocijančič also took part in the session of the Coordination Commission of the European Olympic Committees, held at the NOC of Belarus. The host side was represented the Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko, Sports and Tourism Minister Sergey Kovalchuk, the First Vice President of NOC Andrey Astashevich and the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee Andrey Shorets, alongside other officials.

Director of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate, Georgy Katulin, stated that all sports facilities should be completely ready for the competitions in May 2019. According to him, test tournaments in beach football, judo, canoe and kayak rowing have been already held at the sites which are involved in the European Games. In general, they were highly praised. "We know where to develop them further. The most important thing is to qualitatively realise all the plans we have," said Mr. Katulin.

In turn, the Chair of the EOC Coordination Commission, Spyros Capralos, noted that much has been already done, but work still lies ahead. At present, the major factor of success is the speed in adopting decisions and undoubtedly, in their efficiency.

A large amount of structures are involved in the organisation of the Games, so the result depends on coordination of their actions. The organisation of such large-scale competitions as the 2nd European Games, require colossal expenditure. In this respect, we should study in detail each functional direction of activity while also giving recommendations and determining ways to improve the work," stressed Mr. Capralos.

By December 2018, a European Games Guest Card will be presented in Minsk, with specialists preparing proposals for the project which will be of interest to both athletes and fans. The preliminary list contains around 200 points, including around 60 tourist attractions (museums, galleries, an aqua park, a zoo and others), 28 hotels and 23 food courts). It's planned that the sale of a new tourist product will be launched simultaneously with the sale of tickets for sporting events.

The 2nd European Games will take place in Belarus from June 21st-30th, 2019. These are international comprehensive sporting competitions that are held once in four years under the leadership of the European Olympic Committees. Athletes will be competing for 200 sets of medals across 15 sports. The competitions in 10 sport disciplines will become qualification rounds for the 32nd Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo.

# It's not always the capitals that set business tone

By Andrey Kovalenko

**18 out of 24 Ukrainian regions have confirmed their participation in the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine that is to take place in Gomel on October 25th-26th**

The number of regions whose representatives will arrive at the forum from Ukraine was voiced at the organisational committee's session that has recently taken place in Minsk. However, according to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Ukraine, H.E. Igor Sokol, the figure isn't final, as the number of those wishing to participate is increasing.

The forum will include about ten events, with participants familiarising with mutual potential in industry, agriculture, energy, science, education, tourism and other areas. They will be co-located with an exhibition of products of the two countries. "We want to show new Belarusian products and our innovative developments. We have many things to be proud of. I think that Ukraine have something to show to Belarus as well," noted the Ambassador. "Our Ukrainian partners will

encourage business to take part in the forum. We expect that the Ukrainian delegation will include about 250-300 people."

Contracts between enterprises, as well as intergovernmental agreements are expected to be signed at the forum. At present, the parties are discussing these issues. "Several agreements are in a high degree of readiness. The relevant internal procedures have already been conducted in Belarus," added the diplomat.

The President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko suggested holding the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine during his official visit to Kiev in July 2017. His Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko supported the idea and pointed out that the following forum could be organised in Ukraine's Zhitomir.

Meanwhile, before Gomel will welcome the Ukrainian guests, the 5th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia will take place in Mogilev on October 10th-12th. As the Belarusian-Russian regional co-operation showed this is a very promising area, therefore the Belarusian-Ukrainian ties also have a big potential during direct contacts of the two states' regions.

# Being given a stable outlook



By Ivan Yeremin

**Belarus first assigned sovereign credit rating of Chinese CCCI Rating Agency**

The Chinese Rating Agency has assigned Belarus a sovereign credit rating at AA+ in line with the Chinese national rating scale (Outlook stable) and the sovereign rating at BBg according to the international rating scale. Such information is placed on the website of the Finance Ministry of Belarus.

The agency pointed to the country's economic recovery after two years of recession, the sustainability of public finances thanks to the fiscal consolidation measures. Among other strengths CCCI highlighted the vast manufacturing base of Belarus,

diversification of the manufacturing industry, and high living standards. The rating may be upgraded on the back of the higher than expected economic growth, diversification of the public debt portfolio and better efficiency of management. The slowdown in the economic growth and structural reforms, a possible increase in the burden on the budget may serve as the reason to downgrade the rating.

Obtaining the credit rating according to the Chinese national scale is part of the effort to float Belarus' government bonds on the Chinese market. The Finance Ministry noted that the CCCI ratings will serve as additional independent evaluation of the creditworthiness of Belarus for the foreign investment community.



# Minsk-Tashkent: a two-way road



The official visit of the President of Belarus to Uzbekistan is scheduled for September 12th-14th. We'll describe the results of this visit in detail in our next issue; however, the topic of bilateral relations between Minsk and Tashkent is still current due to the continuation of the interview (see previous issue) with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Belarus, H.E. Mr. Nasirjan Yusupov. The Uzbek Ambassador believes that relations between the two countries will soon be characterised by new, much more efficient content.

**In a word, you confirm the fact that Uzbekistan and Belarus are now using every way of possible co-operation both in industry and other branches. Do you see this prospect as favourable?**

*It's a very favourable prospect. You know, I would like to tackle not only basic branches, i.e. economic contacts, but also cultural-humanitarian co-operation, particularly, the issue of education. We know that Belarusian higher education establishments are a famous brand. Uzbekistan is the most densely-populated country in the Central Asia, with a population of 32.5 million people. About 17.5 million people are youngsters aged under 30. Our needs in higher education considerably exceed what our republic can offer. So, why can't we use the opportunities given to us by countries — close and kindred in many relations, particularly, Belarus. We have much in common, for instance, the Russian language in Uzbekistan is the second language after Uzbek. At the same time, the Russian language is the second state language in Belarus.*

*As far as co-operation in higher education is concerned, Uzbek students could study here from the very first year. There are interesting forms which have been already tested in Belarus. For example, they study two years in Uzbekistan, teachers come from there and for the third and fourth years they come here. You know, the issues of distance education would be very beneficial for Belarus. Why? Because there's academic teaching staff and, considering the demographic situation in Belarus, where the birth rate is lower, the supply of educational services is higher than the demand. Therefore, exports of educational services are acute for Belarus. Many issues can be solved in this way. Firstly, to satisfy the needs of friendly countries in prepara-*

*tion of personnel. Secondly, the people that will study in Belarus will be the 'conductors' of cultures of Belarus and mentality of the Belarusian nation. Thus, they will act as a bridge connecting one nation with another. And I welcome this direction.*

*At present, Belarusian medicine demonstrates much that is interesting and it's competitive compared to other states. Why not offer these services to Uzbekistan and why not organise co-operation of medical institutions? We also have interesting medical institutions and rather serious traditions. Everything should be developed, and we'll be working in this area to facilitate the rapprochement of our nations and countries.*

**What has been done at legislative level and what still needs to be done to enable potential business partners of the two states to more actively establish business contacts?**

*A considerable amount of work is currently being conducted regarding this issue. During the visit of the President of Belarus to Uzbekistan, many documents will have been signed. i.e. this will create a legal foundation. Agreements will be signed between the Ministries of Higher and Secondary-Specialised Education of Uzbekistan and the Education Ministry of Belarus, between healthcare ministries of the two*

*states. As far as concrete agreements and concrete contracts are concerned, August was very fruitful month in this respect.*

**Of course, the political component is of great importance in bilateral relations. In which aspects of international policy do Uzbekistan and Belarus demonstrate coincidence of views and approaches?**

**DIRTY SECRET**

As an ambassador I observe with great interest the political life of Belarus: how often rather serious EU delegations arrive here, and that often various forums and events are held here dealing with regional security. It's clear that Belarus is an initiator, settling many problems of regional, as well as of the world level.

*I should primarily say that both Uzbekistan and Belarus are members of the UN. Uzbekistan is also a SCO member, while Belarus has observer status in this organisation. Even participations in these two organisations tell us how close the positions of Uzbekistan and Belarus regarding many political aspects of our life are. The policy of Uzbekistan is aimed to establish good neighbourly relations with all states, primarily with its neighbours. We have set up warm friendly relations with the neighbouring states: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. We know that Belarus pursues the same policy: primarily, it envisages good neighbourly relations with its neighbours.*

*I'd like to emphasise*

*one more thought. Our nations have much in common, though we're separated from a geographical point of view. Firstly, Belarus is as kind, open and spiritual nation as Uzbekistan. This is confirmed by everyone. If we look slightly into history, the famous Belarusian poet Yakub Kolas lived and created in Tashkent during the war years. His works and attitude towards the Uzbek nation reflects how warmly the Uzbek nation treated Belarusians who were evacuated during the war years. Another example is that Belarus honours greatly everything that relates to the Great Patriotic War. For you, the memory of war and the consequences of war is sacred. I was in the Victory Mu-*

*seum where there are Uzbek surnames, including that of the Hero of the Soviet Union, Tapavaldyev, alongside many others who were fighting in partisan brigades for the liberation of Belarus. Uzbeks are greatly honoured and respected in Belarus! In 1966, when there was an earthquake, Belarus assisted to restore Tashkent. Moreover, a Belarusian cultural centre is operating in Uzbekistan which unites 19,000 Belarusians. They are Belarusians in nationality, but they were born and live there. They have become Belarusian Uzbeks or Uzbek Belarusians. You feel that these are very close nations.*

*We've organised a nationwide movement to make rural places better for people's lives, so I see here much that is common and interesting between us. We are adherents of regional and global security. When the Minsk*

*forum took place during his speech, the President of Belarus said: 'Come out to the streets and see: calmness, silence and joyful people. Should we exchange this for something worse?' We should fight for this and the policy in Uzbekistan is the same.*

**Mr. Ambassador, you have been working in Belarus recently. Nevertheless, you have probably managed to get a feel for the people and the country where you continue your diplomatic career. What surprised you here and has anything greatly impressed you? What seems similar and brings the two countries together?**

*There's a great deal in common, primarily an open and spiritual nation. You know that the more I communicate with Belarusians the more pleasure I receive. I have recently made a working trip to the Vitebsk Region. Home in Uzbekistan I tackled agricultural issues and the driver suggested we drop in on his relatives who lived in the village. It was a huge pleasure and I believe that, unfortunately, we have less spirituality in the 21st century. In total, I enjoy your high culture and respect towards each other. We should foster a careful attitude towards nature and ecology. All these should be passed to our children and grandchildren, approximately in the same condition as it's now, not worse. I saw this in Belarus: wonderful roads, forests and a respectful attitude towards nature.*

**Do you feel at home here?**

*Of course. Mentality is important here while we're very close nations in this respect.*

Interviewed by  
Vladimir Mikhailov





# Power engineering surely develops nuclear muscles

Launch of its own nuclear power station into operation will ensure Belarus a powerful export potential; moreover, the country plans to stop importing electrical energy but isn't going to abolish traditional fuels

By Alexey Kurak

Speaking about the tasks which face the sector, new Energy Minister of Belarus, Victor Karankevich, focused on the launch of highly-efficient technologies and equipment. In turn, this will enable us to optimise the number of personnel and improve the organisational structure of the Energy Ministry, while also improving the functionality of the Belarusian power system and its reliability.

One of the major tasks is the launch of the Belarusian nuclear power station into operation within the established deadline and its successful integration into the energy grid and the country's economy. The Belarusian nuclear power station will provide Belarus with powerful export potential. Currently, Belarus is conducting multi-vector negotiations with all partner states, including as part of creating a common electric power market within the EAEU. Today, Belarus supplies electrical energy to the neighbouring Baltic States, over the first eight months of 2018, around \$700 million kWh were exported. Furthermore, the Baltic States often turn to Belarus to receive normative emergency reserves of power if they have technological problems with their energy supply.

It's planned to launch the first energy block of the Belarusian nuclear station in 2019, and the second in 2020. The annual volume of electrical energy production at the nuclear power station



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

will total 18 billion kWh, while the country's internal needs are 37 billion kWh. In 2018, electrical energy consumption in the country has increased by 1.5 percent compared to the previous year. If the trend continues, the production of electrical energy at the nuclear power station will amount to 40 percent. With its launch, Belarus will also stop importing electrical energy, noted the Deputy Energy Minister, Olga Prudnikova.

The Energy Ministry doesn't forecast significant change in natural gas consumption, which accounts for around 95 percent of the production of heat and elec-

trical energy. Despite gas consumption expecting to fall by 3.5 billion cubic metres per year by 2022, in the sphere of electrical energy production, the government envisages a whole range of measures aimed to create and develop new manufacturing facilities where natural gas will be used additionally. These include the plant of tinned plate in the Vitebsk Region (currently under construction), the reconstruction of Grodno Azot and others, so the total amount of natural gas consumption will remain practically at the previous level.

Local fuels won't be disregarded by the power engineers.

The development of the peat industry continues. Belarus is ranked second in Europe in terms of peat extraction, behind only Finland. The launch of contemporary technologies and implementation of important projects for reconstruction and modernisation of peat industry companies gave a new impetus to the development of the branch. Production capacities of enterprises enable them to extract around 2.5 million tonnes of peat and to produce up to 1.4 million tonnes of peat briquettes per year, noted Valery Kovalev, the Deputy Director General of Beltopgas enterprise.

At present, the share of peat resources account for 15 percent of local fuels, which enable us to annually replace around 470 million cubic metres of natural gas. Peat briquettes are a socially important product, as they are used as fuel at facilities in the social sphere and in more than 200,000 households across big cities and rural settlements. In total, around 1 million people are provided with heat and electrical energy thanks to peat.

Peat deposits in Belarus are estimated at 4 billion tonnes, out of which only 800 million tonnes (or 20 percent) are suitable for industrial production. The current deposits are enough to supply enterprises manufacturing peat briquettes, which sell almost all their output on the domestic market. It's planned to export around 100,000 tonnes to Sweden, Lithuania, Finland, Poland and Germany. By 2020, it's scheduled to additionally develop peat deposits on an additional 800-900 hectares.

Beltopgas enterprise and the Academy of Sciences are simultaneously working to expand the range of goods based on peat, i.e. over its deep processing. A project is being implemented to create in Belarus a process to produce absorbent carbon from peat. A trial showed that its quality could rival that of imported analogues. Other innovations are also being developed: granulated fertilisers and construction insulators with peat additives. These are promising areas for investors and to diversify sales markets.

## MAZ presented Belarus' largest crane truck

By Dmitry Umpirovich

**One couldn't but notice these giants among the exhibits of the Budpragres-2018 exhibition, held in Minsk**

The 'first-born' of the joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprise Zoomlion-MAZ presented the ZMC-25 crane truck with a load capacity of 25 tonnes. There was also a premiere: visitors were offered the country's largest crane truck — ZMC-60 with a load capacity of 60 tonnes. Just imagine: it's able to carry in the air a rail carriage, a tank or five dumper trucks, while it's also able to carry cargo to the height of a 20-storey building.

The developers emphasise that there has never been crane trucks of such power in Belarus. The maxim load capacity of its predecessors was half. It's



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

also unrivalled in the CIS, so the door to export is open. The technique has been already certified with the Customs Union requirement. Zoomlion-MAZ Director, Yuri Pivovarov, notes

the fact that, "The vehicle was produced within a record time — only 18 months. It's a very short period of time for machine building. Usually only concept cars are manufactured over such

a period, while we have created a serial product."

Is there a demand for machinery of such high load capacity? Mr. Pivovarov offered a recent example: a bridge cracked

on a Minsk ring road and it was a big problem to find a crane truck able to work on it. They were searching countrywide, as their number is limited.

"Previously, the technique was primarily owned by building and construction departments while now private business is being expanded," explains Mr. Pivovarov. "Private businessmen are interested in our crane trucks. A vehicle with a load capacity of 60 tonnes is also in demand. We have orders from Belarus and Russia. There's also one more advantage here: most load-lifting cranes have a weakness: they have a very heavy centre of gravity. Thanks to two frames — that of MAZ and that manufactured in China — we have produced a new crane truck very strong and stable. Moreover, it's able to work in the confined space of a city and on unstable ground."



# Remembering everyone by name

By Olga Pasiyak

## Belarus Segodnya Publishing House and National Archives sign agreement on the creation of Internet portal, Partisans of Belarus

New pages will appear in the history of the Great Patriotic War, as Belarus Segodnya Publishing House and the National Archives have signed an agreement on the creation of an information resource about the participants of the partisan and underground movement in the country. The portal will include an individual card index of partisans and undergrounders, a short history and interactive maps of battles fought by partisans and the underground movement, a photo chronicle of those events, as well as biographical data. The participants of the project include; the Belarusian State University, the History Institute at the National Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after Maxim Tank and other interested parties. All agree that the most important thing is that we personify each person who protected the Belarusian homeland.

The National Archives of Belarus carefully preserved almost 400,000 registration cards for partisans and undergrounders of the Great Patriotic War, their personal files, documents about the activity of the Belarusian headquarters of the partisan movement, its brigades and units. Director of the National Archives, Andrey Demyanyuk, underlines that these documents are in demand, as monthly they receive more than 30 inquiries about partisans from



Head of Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, Dmitry Zhuk, and Director of the National Archives, Andrey Demyanyuk

our country and abroad.

“In this year alone, more than 600 files dealing with the partisan movement have been given to researchers in the reading hall. We have been developing the issue of an Internet portal for several years and this requires significant material and personnel resources. Thanks to the initiative of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, we’ll finally launch the multi-functional Internet portal, entitled Partisans of Belarus. The first version will include digitising and placing on the website personal data sheets of the Great Patriotic War partisans who have awards. We plan to finish this by the 75th anniversary of Belarus’ liberation, celebrated next year. The information resource itself will be constantly functioning and will be filled with new

information and new documents.”

This project is a need for modern times, as the number of eyewitnesses of those years decreases, while the interest of the young generation towards this topic is increasing, noted the Head of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, Dmitry Zhuk. However, nowadays, it’s rare for someone to go to the archives, therefore it’s necessary to digitise documents, enabling everyone to read about their great-grandparents.

“We’d like to begin with those 80,000 who have awards. We plan to make this part of the project at the new portal and on the pages of newspapers which are part of our publishing house. Unfortunately, at present there are many people who interpret slightly differently what was going on in the territory of Belarus during the time of the German occupation. We need to give the younger generation concrete examples of how everything was in reality. This is our duty to our grandfathers who fought, which is especially symbolic in the Year of Native Land, since the project will tackle each corner of Belarus. There’s not a single point on our map which didn’t have partisan movement. Each interactive card of a partisan that will contain personal data and information about their military biography envisages the heroic destiny of the person. A project such as this is a manifestation of the maturity of Belarusian civil society, as it refers to the creation of a true online encyclopaedia of the partisan and underground movement,” explains Vadim Gigin, the Dean of the BSU’s Faculty of Philosophy and Social Studies.

# If domestic genetics can’t feed us, this will be done by foreign products

Belarusian scientists have created a test facility for transgenic plants, but such cultures haven’t been used in agricultural production so far. We ask why?

By Dmitry Bulatov

Though both supporters and opponents of genetically modified organisms (GMO) are discussing the issue, humanity can’t avoid their application. Those who are in the avant-garde of such research will take their chances on increased future productivity both in agricultural fields and on animal farms. Research is also being conducted in Belarus to create transgenic plants and animals.

The country already has a herd of 500 transgenic goats and research will continue in this direction, but there are currently no plans to increase the number of goats. “The milk from these goats is viewed as transgenic and it contains a useful protein — lactoferrin. At present, milk is being frozen, and the issue is currently being discussed,” notes Ruslan Sheiko, Director of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology at the Academy of Sciences.

A test facility for transgenic plants has been also created at the Genetics and Cytology In-

stitute of the National Academy of Sciences. Since Belarus is viewed as ‘potato country’, special attention is paid to it. One of the goals of the research is to give potato sustainability against the Colorado beetle and other destructive insects. Such plants have been developed; however, scientists aren’t yet entirely pleased with the results. “This is not a ready-made variety but a basic material which can be used for further work,” explains Chief Scientific Secretary of the Academy of Sciences, Alexander Kilchevsky.

The work also aimed to enhance the sustainability of rape towards herbicides. Specialists from the Central Botanical Garden were studying the creation of transgenic clover and cranberries. They were also working with other plants to reveal particular features.

After GMO began to be used worldwide, society became concerned about potential threats or risks. In this respect, in early 21st century, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Con-



BELTA

vention on Biological Diversity was formed and it was ratified by Belarus. Moreover, back in 1998, the Genetics and Cytology Institute at the NAS established the National Coordination Centre for Biosafety. Its functions are to work with ministries, departments and inform the population, while also conducting expert assessments.

There are currently no transgenic plants on agricultural fields

in Belarus. In line with the Law ‘On Safety in Genetic Engineering Activity’ it’s allowed to use genetically modified plants in the country’s fields. However, they must undergo a complex procedure of control which includes permissions from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, trials on the test facility and assessment of all possible risks. Then repeat tests and medical assessments must

be conducted. It’s a long road.

At the same time, products which come from other countries can contain GMO, therefore a corresponding control system was established in Belarus. Now, it includes 17 laboratories which quantitatively assess GMO content in products. According to the Head of the Republican Control and Testing Complex on Quality and Food Safety at the National Academy of Sciences, Irina Pochitskaya, annually around 1,000 samples of food products are checked for the content of GMO. “The sale of food products with GMO isn’t forbidden. However, they must have a corresponding label. It’s necessary to mark products if GMO content is more than 0.9 percent. In Belarus a list of products has been approved which are subject to obligatory GMO control. These include soya, soya beans, soya flour, maize and creeps. Constant monitoring since 2008 showed that produce within excess of the set requirements is observed in individual cases.”

Last year, the area occupied by genetically modified plants across 67 countries totalled 190 million hectares, with the USA, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and India taking the lead. The major products include soya (50 percent of all GMO products), maize (31 percent), cotton (13 percent) and rape (5 percent). In total, 476 genetically modified forms are allowed for development around the world.



# Bright meetings with present and glorious past, or five reasons to go to Kletsk



Historical reconstructions of the defence of Kletsk Castle, which was destroyed in 1706 during the Northern War

Ancient Kletsk picturesquely stretches along the bank of the Lan River, in the south-west of the Minsk Region. This small city has endured through centuries, keeping its original spirit, as you see on walking its streets. You can touch its historical and cultural heritage, admiring the 17th century Resurrection Church and the buildings in various architectural styles. Kletsk is beautiful at any time of the year, making it ideal for a weekend trip, to escape the bustle of the city. You can even visit a hunting lodge, taking advantage of the region's rural tourism. Kletsk welcomes visitors to its streets, houses and churches, ready to share its stories of ancient days.

By Kristina Khilko

## Workplace of 'Belarusian Voltaire'

In the mid-16th century, an outstanding religious polemist, humanist and educator, Symon Budny, lived in Kletsk. Alongside the legendary first printers, Francysk Skaryna and Ivan Fedorov, he changed the shape of Belarusian literary culture. Known as the 'Belarusian Voltaire', he printed the first book in Belarusian: the Catechism in 1562, at Nesvizh Printing House. Using simple language and explanations, he made the creeds understandable for ordinary people.

Symon educated people at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, which towered over the city for almost

Only about two dozen such windmills remain throughout Belarus

half a millennium. In the Soviet years, the church was dismantled and its bricks used to construct farms and courtyards. Only a fragment of the original wall survives today, but a newly erected building stands on the sacred site, reproducing the original architecture.

One of the most famous owners of Kletsk was influential Milanese Princess Bona Sforza, who became the Polish Queen and the Grand Duchess of Lithuania. Her beloved son, Zygmunt August, married widow Barbara Radziwill, against Bona Sforza's will. The Queen poisoned poor Barbara, whose ghost is said to walk as the Black Lady of Nesvizh Castle. With some irony, Bona met her own end through poisoning.

## Game of Thrones

Almost nine hundred years old, the city grew on the site of an ancient feudal castle, on the steep bank of the Lan River. Kletsk defended the Turov-Pinsk lands from enemy raids, seeing many battles: the Tatar invasion, the Northern War, the war of 1812, the First World War, and the Great Patriotic War. However, the city was reborn from the ashes, like a phoenix. The most famous battle of Kletsk took place on August 6th, 1506, when the 10,000-strong army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, under the

command of Prince Mikhail Glinsky, crushed a horde of Tatars. Today, a stone monument near the road marks the battle site, as does a tall cross. Since last year, colourful reconstructions have been held there, reminiscent of the popular *Game of Thrones*.

## To buy Pachakun

Tourists love to take photos on the picturesque embankment. Last year, unusual wooden sculptures of fairy-tale characters were installed there — including a mighty 2m tall volat (strong man), a simple-hearted old fisherman and a beautiful princess. If you're stuck for a souvenir, you may like to buy a Pachakun: the Belarusian version of a Snorp. A local factory began sewing this super-popular character, wearing scarlet, turquoise and lemon. You can buy him alone or as part of a bride and groom couple. Everyone seems to love them!



Sweet Zhdun lady looks with impatience for her knight

## Remnants of former luxury

The city is a mix of architectural styles, demonstrating its varied history: the local Roman Catholic church is Vilno baroque, while the ancient hospital is made from modern red stone and Pokrovskaya Church, with its golden domes is in retrospective Russian style. Even after numerous reconstructions, the city centre has not lost its charm, and keeps its medieval layout.

If you seek peace and quiet, head to the ruins of the Radziwills' summer home, in the village of Krasnaya Zvezda. Built according to all canons of classicism, with a U-shaped layout, white columns, restrained décor and simplicity of form, it was designed by Italian architect Carlo Spampiani. Despite its ruinous state, it's still worth visiting.

## Stand under the windmill's wing

It would be unforgivable to ignore the abandoned wooden mills in the villages of Urved and Sheiki, a few kilometres from Kletsk. The giant windmills are over a century old, and only a few dozen such structures remain in Belarus, despite having been common almost everywhere in the past.

In the crimson flame of sunset, the ghostly mills are reminiscent of abandoned houses from a tale of horror. Local residents report hearing howling and roaring, joking that devils frolic in the ruins.



Catechism by Symon Budny: the first book published in Belarusian

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
September 13  
2018





# Explosive Delta fire in California triples in size

A wildfire that's shuttered dozens of miles of a major interstate highway in California exploded overnight, tripling in size as it left behind charred remains of abandoned vehicles behind

The Delta fire has now exploded to 15,294 acres near the Oregon state line, prompting mandatory evacuations and showing 'extreme fire behaviour', the US Forest Service said in a statement. The blaze was human-caused, according to fire officials, who didn't indicate whether it was arson or accident.

Officials said that the area under the evacuation order was rural with scattered residences adjacent to Interstate 5 from Lakehead to the Oregon border.

As the blaze broke out, truckers abandoned their vehicles along Interstate 5. About 17 big-rigs were abandoned and at least four caught fire. Forest Service workers helped the driver of one flaming truck to safety and other truckers, firefighters and others aided other drivers.

"There's vehicles scattered all over," Brandon Vaccaro with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection noted. "Whatever occurred here was probably pretty ugly for a

while." Shasta-Trinity National Forest spokeswoman Carol Underhill said that she wasn't aware of any injuries, but that one man was hurt when he fell off his truck while trying to put out the fire when it first started.

"That is our main focus on this, is firefighter and public safety," Underhill said.

About 45 miles of the I-5 were closed in both directions, and the fire also delayed Amtrak's Coast Starlight train service between Sacramento

and Oregon. The city of Dunsmuir, with about 1,500 people, was about 15 miles from the fire. Residents were issued an evacuation warning, urging them to be prepared to leave if the fire threatened to come closer.

Officials say that pilot ranks have been thinned recently due to a combination of retirements, private companies poaching talent, and the need to rest after extended fire seasons, causing the agency to rework how they stage crews to attack fires from air.

## Land swap talks between Kosovo and Serbia fall through

Talks of partitioning Kosovo from Serbia were called off in Brussels, dashing hopes of a potential land swap that would resolve a decade-long stalemate between the two foes

Kosovo's President Hashim Thaçi was due to discuss the swap plan with his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vučić for the first time in talks brokered by the EU's top diplomat Federica Mogherini.

But moments before the meeting, both men refused to speak to each other, leaving Mogherini to speak with them separately several times. Despite the round of talks, Mogherini said 'difficulties remain'.

In a statement, Mogherini said, "I trust the full commitment of both presidents to continue the process and reach in the coming months a legally binding agreement on comprehensive normalisation of relations, in line with international law," adding she will try for another meeting between the two leaders later this month.

## The French McDonald's so loved by its staff, they're campaigning against its closure

While France is not synonymous with fast food, one McDonald's near Marseille is so beloved by its staff, they are fighting tooth and nail to keep it open

The restaurant in Saint-Barthélemy is now adorned with colourful signs that read 'McDo is killing our jobs' and 'Billionaire company, employees miserable', in protest against its impending sale.

The McDonald's is Saint-Barthélemy's second largest employer, with 77 employees, 55 of whom are full-time, according to French media.

This 'Mcdo', as locals refer to it, is destined to become an Asian fast food restaurant, due to 'structural financial losses' (3.3 million Euros since 2009), according to a June 14 letter from the local franchise operator, Jean-Pierre Brochiero.

After staging protests, the employees and their union representatives have now taken their case further — they appeared in court Monday to argue that their restaurant and five other Marseille McDonald's should not be sold.



## Uber brings new driver app to UK

Uber launched a new app for its drivers in Britain with features to help them track their earnings, calculate driving time and avoid speeding, in the latest change to the way it operates

The Silicon Valley-based company unveiled the app earlier this year and it is being rolled out globally. Uber won a probationary licence to operate in Lon-

don in June after it modified its business model to ease strained relations with the city's transport authority, which had previously stripped the company of its right to operate in the capital.

"Over the last few months we've introduced dozens of new features to improve things for licensed drivers, including sickness, injury, maternity and paternity payments," said the company's General Manager in Britain.

## Robotic surgery advances to help more patients



More complex robotic surgery could soon become available to more patients, following the launch of a new portable surgical robot system

The Versius robot is the latest development in high-tech devices designed for the operating theatre.

It bio-mimicks the human

arm and is controlled by a surgeon at a console.

Standard surgery can be invasive for the patient. This robot can go through natural orifices, perform surgery from the inside and leave no scar at all. The robotic system will be used in hospitals in the UK and continental Europe in the next year, with CMR Surgical planning wider international expansion shortly afterwards.



Last weekend, a new monument was unveiled in Minsk: in Kosmonavtov Street (close to the entrance of Mikhail Pavlov Park), a memorial entitled — To Belarusians — Heroes of the Cosmos — was solemnly opened. The event is timed to coincide with both the 951st anniversary of the founding of the city and the ASE Planetary Congress. The monument is a 6m construction, weighing 9 tonnes. The star of red granite is crowned by a bronze relief of three Belarusian cosmonauts: Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok and Oleg Novitsky; it was designed by architect Valery Mitrofanov and sculptor Ivan Misko.

The project is Mr. Misko's long-held dream. The master craftsman has been making sculptural portraits of space explorers for 50 years and has already created monuments and busts of cosmonauts from Belarus, Russia, Poland, Cuba, Romania, France, Germany, Japan, India and other countries. Many of them have personally visited his studio-museum in Minsk — including Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok, German Titov, Georgy Beregovoy, Vitaly Sevastyanov, Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, Vladimir Remek, Oleg Novitsky and many others.

**Mr. Misko, you are often called a 'cosmic' sculptor. How do you feel about this definition?**

*This theme is my disease which is a good thing and should not be 'cured'. I've been working for a long time and will continue doing so until my hands can no longer hold the clay; I will never give up the space theme. I believe in the existence of other inhabited planets and that sooner or later, maybe in 50 or 100 years, earthlings will meet aliens. The Universe is infinite and it's a commendable human desire to know more and more. We should not stop. If I'm invited to study something new — even in my old age — I will agree: there must be constant movement. Otherwise, what's the point of living? You can just go directly to the cemetery.*

**Some years ago, you dreamed of a 'space' relief of the cosmonauts born in Belarus: Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok and Oleg Novitsky. This dream has now come true ...**

*I can hardly believe it even now. The problem was rooted in funding, but we eventually met a sponsor who paid for the granite, bronze and casting. Personally, I refused the fees: I worked free of charge. Why should I not make a present to the future? This relief is my long-held dream, but I have many more wishes. I want to see a restaurant or a cosmos-related café in Kosmonavtov Street one day. The main room would look like the inner part of a spacecraft — with special furniture, waiters' in corresponding uniforms, a cosmic menu, includ-*



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

# Space by Ivan Misko

People's Artist of Belarus has been creating sculptural portraits of space explorers from around the world for around fifty years



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

*ing food sent along tubes. The second area would be devoted to the spacewalk. We've had long discussions with Klimuk, Kovalenok and Novitsky about how this place could look but, a sponsor is needed for such a project.*

**Have you ever calculated how many monuments, sculptures and other art objects you've created? How was your passion for visual arts born?**

*I began drawing in pre-*

*school: at that time, I simply took coal from the stove and drew on the walls — though I was afraid of my father's thick belt that hung menacingly in the corner, on a nail. One day, a neighbour — who saw my 'artistry' — asked my mother, "Who's done this?" "My son Vanya," she replied, and the man suggested I might one day become an artist. My parents did not insist on any profession; instead, they provided me with an opportunity to choose; I'm*

*very grateful to them for that. I think it is important that a child makes their own decisions and is committed to what their soul chooses.*

*As a result, I entered the Art College's Painting Department but, sometime later, I was summoned to the military commissariat. In the evening, they said, "Go home and we'll invite you back in six months." I was indignant, "How can I go home? I'm shaved and bald. Who will marry me?" I insisted to be*

*taken into the army. I served in the Baikal area: ten days travel from home! I have no regrets now. In the army, I learned a lot — including sculpture. A regimental commander once asked me to sculpture a bas-relief of Lenin and Stalin. If I refused, I would have been sent to another job. I wanted to create so much! Therefore, I worked and studied at the same time. During my service, I joined the school named after Krupskaya in Moscow, taking on distance learning courses. Distant learning is like eating in absentia. You learn from yourself, through your own mistakes. It was especially difficult to find paints and brushes in the army: we were surrounded by the steppe.*

**How did you solve the problem?**

*I noticed a small house near the railway; goats grazed there — including a large old goat with a huge beard. Of course, I decided to use it. I invited some soldier friends and we jointly caught the goat to cut its beard with a knife. I then made wonderful brushes! A few days later, the goats' owner came, saying, "Your soldiers defiled my goat by cutting its beard and the she-goats are ignoring it!" Thank God I was not revealed as the culprit or I might have had a hard time. After my army service, I returned to Art College and later graduated from the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute.*

**When did you feel the 'cosmic' attraction?**

*Before the space flight of Yuri Gagarin, I got interested in space and satellites. I thought that the star city is an incredible world. I wished to visit it but was told, "Do not even dream! You'll never succeed. The city is closed, with no access." Yuri Gagarin's flight only fuelled my interest. That event literally revolutionised the world, but his death was a shock for many. To the accompaniment of the funeral music, I sculptured my first portrait of a cosmonaut. Following the last will of his mother, Anna, who visited my workshop over twenty times, his bronze portrait was taken to his homeland. I then did a sketch from life for the first time and Mr. Klimuk later invited me to the Star City. What a joy I felt when I first walked along its avenues! This was how everything began...*

**In February, you celebrated your 86th birthday, but you look much younger. You are slim, active and hard-working. What's the secret?**

*I do not know where all these forces come from. I've never thought about it. I am forced to move forward by my ideas and projects. I have no time even to go to my village home, though I love the countryside very much: I grew up on a farm, my father was a forester and my grandfather was an excellent gardener. All these things are close to my soul. If I'm not in the countryside or doing farm work, I work in my studio with clay. This is my life.*



# Sensation or a logical success?

It seems that not only chickens are counted in autumn but also talents. On September 2nd, Portugal announced the news that Belarusian tenor, Pavel Petrov, 26, has won the prestigious Plácido Domingo's Operalia. His victory opens the doors of the best opera houses in the world.

By Victor Lyubimov

Even those uninterested in opera are sincerely happy for the golden voice of their fellow countryman. However, for those who know little, Operalia was initiated a quarter of a century ago by a wave of the baton of maestro and distinguished opera tenor, Plácido Domingo. The contest almost immediately became the world's major springboard to the Grand Opera House for young singers. Many stars, now shining in the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden and La Scala, are Operalia winners. This is to be expected, as the jury consists of the most influential casting managers of famous theatres. Their choice, the authority of Plácido Domingo and the incredible performance and persistence of the singers themselves ensure a rapid career rise for the winners.

The Plácido Domingo com-

petition is considered not only the most prestigious and difficult but also the most democratic: to participate, candidates must pay only \$10 and send a video via the Internet. Applicants do not need a conservatory diploma or someone's recommendation. The age ranges from 18 to 32 and a further condition is readiness to sing on the world's top stages.

The competent jury selects 40 participants (around a thousand applications are received). All costs — airfare, hotel accommodation, meals and provision of an accompanist — are covered by the receiving side. Three difficult rounds then follow: two under piano accompaniment and the third with participation of the orchestra conducted by Plácido Domingo.

The venue of the competition changes every year. This time, the opera battles unfolded in the Teatro Nacional de São

Carlos in Lisbon. Unlike many other contestants, Pavel Petrov had few fans. He was not pursued by reporters, who were unaware that they were passing the future winner. Everything became clear in the final: among the eight men, there were five tenors — including Pavel. All four finalists were female mezzo-soprano. Interestingly, no graduate of the Belarusian Academy of Music has ever been through to Operalia's final so far — though many have tried.

Pavel decided not to experiment and sang, traditionally for such a competition, Rudolph's aria from *La Bohème* by Puccini. He created a furore: both in the hall and on social networks which broadcast the finals live.

"This is a great achievement, I am very happy and proud," said the winner emotionally. "I want to thank the maestro, Plácido Domingo, the Operalia competition, the jury members and all those

who supported me!"

Pavel Petrov was born in Minsk. He studied at the Belarusian State Academy of Music and was taught by Professor Piotr Ridiger. In the second year, he was admitted to the troupe of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus where he immediately received main roles of Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, and later that of Alfred in *La Traviata*. Naturally, the young tenor wants to perform on the most famous stages in the world and he now has a chance. Piotr currently works under contract for the Austrian Graz Opera House but never forgets his native Minsk — coming to concerts here and participating in repertoire performances. In Europe, Mr. Petrov is expected to have a spectacular career.

Among the women, victory went to Emily D'Angelo, 23, from Canada; she was called 'a phenomenon of nature'.

## Fairytale — interesting to both children and adults

By Veniamin Mikheev

**Belarusfilm National Studio to release *Good-natured Wolf* animated cartoon, based on a modern Belarusian fairytale, in autumn**

"The animated cartoon is based on the history of Belarusian author Yelena Maslo. Her fairytales leave no one indifferent, being very moral and containing all the best qualities. I couldn't find the material for a long time, but when I heard about Yelena's fairytales, I understood that this is something I would like to work with," says Natalia Darvina, producer of the animated picture.

According to Ms. Darvina, the *Good-natured Wolf* is a film in which it's necessary to help each other, to help those who are weak and unprotected. This is a cartoon about good, where people help the wolf who is not angry and not terrible. This animated cartoon will be interesting to both children and adults. Natalia Darvina plans to work on the cartoon about the Loch Ness monster and others based on Yelena Maslo's fairytales; Ms. Darvina is a great admirer of Ms. Maslo's talent.

Production designer Svetlana Kotlyarova, sound designer Vladimir Yermolenko and editor Margarita Shagrai are working on the animated cartoon, while the author of the music is the *Nagual* band. Characters are voiced by Victor Manaev, Alexander Zhdanovich and Vitaly Redko. Natalia Darvina is a producer of several animated cartoons, including shooting the animated film *A Little Mouse was Running through the Grass* at Belarusfilm Studio.

## BelAZ vehicles to appear on red carpet in Cannes

win in two categories: 'Major Corporate Film' and 'Internal Communication'.

The *Continental Race* has been shot by Novosibirsk's LBL-Production. The authors wanted to show the power of Belarusian machinery which is equally successfully working in various climatic conditions. Therefore, it was decided to organise a kind of competition of heavy-duty dump trucks in Kuzbass, where temperatures sometimes fall to minus 50 degrees. The film features loading, unloading, and a confident run of a heavy-duty dump truck with a load capacity of 220 tonnes along technological roads, as well as the beautiful scenery: winter and African. The picture also contains Belarusian shots. The shooting of the final part of the *Continental Race* was



conducted at the plant in Zhodino, when the production of super-heavy vehicles turned into a performance venue and factory employees became crowd actors.

It will be announced on September 27th whether the film will

earn the award of one of the most prestigious contests of corporate and commentary films while its Belarusian premiere will take place on September 28th-29th, on the celebrations for BelAZ's anniversary.



By Lyudmila Minkevich

**Belarusian heavy-duty dump trucks earn money mining pits all over the world, as well as at prestigious film festival venues**

BelAZ vehicles from Zhodino often become heroes of the news. They either expand the geography of export supplies or are proud of their new gigantic brother, or tell us about stars whom they've welcomed on

site... This time, they have really surprised us. The company website informs us that BelAZ vehicles have reached the Cannes Film Festival! The corporate film, *Continental Race*, dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Belarusian Automobile Works (BelAZ), is shortlisted for the final of the annual international festival-contest of corporate and documentary television films — The Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards. The film hopes to



# At new stadium and in new uniform

Belarus' national team footballers conduct opening match of the Nations League against San Marino at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium



Moment of match between Belarus and San Marino at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium

By Kirill Karin

It was the first official match of the national football team at the reconstructed Dinamo Stadium. In the opening march of Group 2 of the National League's Division D, Belarusian footballers confidently defeated their rivals from San Marino. Stadium and the game was attended by more than 13,000 spectators.

Igor Kriushenko's trainees managed to score a quick goal. In the 4th minute, one of the most experienced halfbacks of the hosts, Igor Stasevich, made an on target kick to take the score to 1:0. In the middle of the first half, Stanislav Dragun increased the advantage of the Belarusians to 2:0. The second half was controlled by the Belarusian players, and in the 67th minute, the penalty into San Marino's net was realised by Anton Soroka, bringing the score to 3:0. At the end of the match, Stanislav Dragun scored his second goal, while forward

Yuri Kovalev drew the final one, scoring in the 91st minute to complete the game at 5:0.

It should be noted that in the first match of the National League, Belarusian footballers wore their new kit. On the eve of the event it was presented to journalists and fans in an unusual format — the catwalk show took place near the national Art Museum in Minsk. Why was this place chosen? This question was answered by the Deputy Director of Department for Communications at the Belarusian Football Federation, Dmitry Gerchikov, "We wanted to make the national squad close to its fans, open and accessible. We have decided that the formats of the presentation which were used before are too 'dry'. We have a new strip and a refurbished stadium, so the approach towards our fans should be also new. I think that the National Art Museum is a perfect venue because football is part of culture and history, this is patriotism. We try to preserve and

multiply traditions while making them close to the fans."

The Italian company Macron, known for working with the leading teams of the Italian A series and clubs performing in the Champions League, developed the design of the uniform of the national football team of Belarus. From this year, the company became a technical sponsor of the Belarusian Football Federation, so the Italians produced the uniform in an exclusive design. Head coach Igor Kriushenko liked it, "Of course, it is not me that will wear it, as we coaches have another uniform. However, the design is original, there are details and peculiarities which, I think, will be enjoyed by the fans. Such positive emotions will bring only benefit to the players. I hope that many fans will also get together at the stadium. It's always good to play when there are lots of spectators, when they support the squad: this adds power and emotion to the game."

## Gold from Mexico

By Igor Grishin

**Irina Prosentsova and Anastasia Prokopenko best in relay race at the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico**

During the performance in separate areas of the programme Belarusians were in high positions and managed to win in the cross and shooting. Their final result was 1,381 points. Silver medals went to Annika Schleu and Ronja Steinborn while representatives of Guatemala — Sofia Cabrera and Sophia Hernandez — were placed third. Anastasia Proko-



Irina Prosentsova and Anastasia Prokopenko

penko added another gold award to her medal box: in July 2017, she became the European champion in the individual programme in Minsk.

In the men's relay race, Ilya Polozkov and Yaroslav Radyuk of Belarus

stopped just one step short of the medals podium at the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico, earning 1,475 points. Gold awards were claimed by Valentin Belaud and Alexandre Henrard of France (1,518 points).

## To the final race with a fracture

**Track-and-field athlete Alina Talay said that she performed at the European Championships in Berlin and prepared for competitions with a fracture**

"It's necessary to make the maximum effort to achieve the best result. Sometimes the body can fail. It turned out that I was training and performing at the European Championships with a bone fracture. I was extremely surprised why it was so painful," the sportswoman wrote on Instagram.

At the 2018 European Championships, Alina Talay, who was one of the favourites in the 100m hurdles, qualified for the finals, but didn't finish. Later, the runner admitted that she had been training and performing at the tournament suffering terrible pain.

Meanwhile, another Belarusian — Elvira Herman — was celebrating victory in the finals.

## To be in the top

**Victoria Azarenko has risen to 61st place in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) ranking after performing in the US Open, where she reached the third round of the event. At the tournament, the Belarusian tennis player defeated Viktoria Kuzmova and Daria Gavrilova. Now, the former number one boasts 951 points.**



Victoria Azarenko

Alexandra Sasnovich has also improved her position in the WTA ranking, rising from 33rd to 30th place. The Belarusian player has 1,485 points while Belarus' number one, Arina Sobolenko, preserved her 20th position in the ratings, with an impressive 2,320 points.

## Belarusians part of the European national team at the Continental Cup

**Track-and-field athletes Elvira Herman and Maxim Nedosekov were members of the European national team for IAAF Continental Cup, held in Czech Ostrava**

The tournament was held from September 8th-9th and it takes place once every four years among the national squads. Elvira Herman, together with Pamela Dutkewicz of Germany, faced Kendra Harrison (USA), Danielle Williams (Jamaica) and Rikenette Steenkamp (SAR) in the 100m hurdles. Maxim Nedosekov performed for the team from the Old World together with Ilya Ivanyuk of Russia in the high jump.



## Festival of the week



Ancient Minsk international festival brings together representatives of clubs of historical reconstruction from Belarus and abroad

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> September. Exhibition of Israel Basov's works: *Wisdom Has Built her House* Until 23<sup>rd</sup> September. *Alexander Konovalov: Marginalia, or Sidenotes* Until 30<sup>th</sup> December. *Universe of Yazep Drozdovich*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> September. *Colours of Cultural Diplomacy* Until 7<sup>th</sup> November. *Silver Age of Russian Jewellers*

#### PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

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

#### MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

7A Bogdanovich Street  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> September. *Apple Paradise*

#### ZAIR AZGUR ART GALLERY

8 Zair Azgur Street  
Until 6<sup>th</sup> October. *Body Archive*

#### CAT MUSEUM

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

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. *ABCs from Around the Globe* Until 1<sup>st</sup> October. *Colourful Days* 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*

#### YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street  
Until 29<sup>th</sup> September. *Krivichi Mecca*

#### OUTLETO TRADING CENTRE

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

#### HIGH PLACE ART-PARLOUR

2A Gertsen Street  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> October. *Minsk: City and People*

#### PALACE OF ARTS

3 Kozlov Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. *Women in Action* project

#### ARISTOKRAT

10-2 Logoiski Trakt  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. Exhibition-sale of V. Gladkov's pictures — *Naked Beauty*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
13 and 14.09. *Corsair* 16.09. *Aida*  
17.09. *La Bayadère* 18.09. *La Bohème*  
19.09. *Spartacus* 20.09. *La Traviata*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
13.09. *Passing Goose* 14.09. *Lady for a Day* 15.09. *Fourth Planet* 16.09. *Pygmalion* 18.09. *He and She* 19.09. *Oedipus*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
13.09. *Abduction of Yelena* 14.09. *Forgetting Herostratos* 15.09. *An Unnamed Star* 17.09. *The Mechanical Man* 18.09. *Even a Wise Man Stumbles* 19.09. *The Makropoulos Case* 20.09. *Battlefield*

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
13.09. *People of the Marshes* 14.09. *Inspector / Elza's Land* 15.09. *Tolerance / Love as Militarism* 16.09. *Radio Prudok / School of Taxpayers* 18.09. *Local Cabaret* 19.09. *Pan Tadeusz* 20.09. *Inspector / Radio Prudok*

#### BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street  
13.09. *Live* 14.09. *Kind Artistic Workshops / Kind Man from Sychuan* 15.09. *Kind Artistic Workshops / Suffering from Common Sense* 16.09. *Kind Artistic Workshops* 17.09. *Concrete* 18.09. *Three Giselles* 19.09. *Portrait* 20.09. *This Is All She*

#### CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street  
19.09. *Night at Hotel*

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
13.09. *Caught by Love* 14.09. *Goat's Island* 15.09. *New Affair of My Husband* 16.09. *Sanya, Vanya and Rimas* 18.09. *Love of Three* 19.09. *Family Weekend* 20.09. *Double Double*

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
16.09. *Comedy* 18.09. *Husband Like Many*

#### BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street  
20.09. *Dog on Hay*