

Country's
strategic
enterprises
not to be sold



Our contemporaries'
portraits expressive
when set against the
transience of time



INTERNATIONAL

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Scarlet Sails opens new horizons

This year, 2,265 graduates have received their school diplomas in Brest, with 129 of them being awarded gold and silver medals. The *Scarlet Sails* holiday crowned the festive celebrations.





Partners always have much to learn from each other

Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Danko, didn't hide his admiration of our country during his visit to Minsk, as he gave a speech during his meeting with the President in the Palace of Independence

By Vladimir Khromov

The conversation was warm and friendly, to match relations that have been established between our two countries. No matter which way you look at it, both the Belarusians and Slovaks share single Slavonic roots and have much in common in both history and culture. It's no accident that Alexander Lukashenko called the guest a representative of the brotherly nation, despite the differences between the states' geopolitical aspirations, "You are members of the European Union, while we're members of another economic union. Nevertheless, this doesn't stop us from building warm and friendly relations. I very much hope this will continue in the future."

However, we still remember the period when political dialogue between Belarus and Slovakia was almost frozen because of the needlessly strict position of the EU towards our country. But times change, and Bratislava has also made its contribution to the warming of relations. The President sincerely expressed words of gratitude, "It was an important and decisive role, as the Europeans had to turn their faces to Belarus and have a close look at the processes which occur here. This was useful both for



Bratislava ready to expand co-operation with Minsk

us and the European Union."

"Political and diplomatic relations are increasingly active. I often observe that two countries have advanced political relations but lag behind in trade and the economy. I cannot say that about relations with Slovakia. We boast a decent trade turnover of about \$200m. This is good, but our potential is much higher. The efforts of so-called 'folk diplomacy', as parliamentarians often call it, won't be in vain."

Mr. Lukashenko highlighted the key points by saying that, "We'll be relying on you and your influential words. Who else can speak about Belarus? You

know our country better than anyone else. We learn a great deal from you, not only how to play ice hockey, but also economic lessons. We're grateful to you for this and are ready to do absolutely everything we can for Slovakia." Of course, one really can learn how to play ice hockey from the Slovaks. However, the Chairman of the Slovak Olympic Committee, Anton Siekel, was brought to Minsk by the Slovak Parliamentary Speaker for a different purpose, as Mr. Danko supervises education, agriculture and defence, while also paying special attention to sports and tourism.

"I'm impressed with the level of sports support in your country. We were walking through Minsk and admiring the facilities," said the Speaker of the Slovak Parliament, who continued as he chatted to journalists, "Belarus is organising the 2nd European Games very well, with great ceremony and at a high standard. We've also noted your wonderful, hospitable and kind-hearted people."

The similarity of historical fates is vividly seen in the example of the Second World War, and Alexander Lukashenko underlined the role of Slovakia in the historical development of

Europe. This topic is especially acute in the year of the 75th anniversary of Belarus' liberation from the Nazi invaders and the 75th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising.

"It's an important part of the anti-Fascist movement in Europe in general and something of which the Slovak people can be really proud," the President of Belarus said.

During his visit, Mr. Danko managed to visit the Great Patriotic War History Museum and praised it highly. He called the Belarusian museum a shining example of how history should be valued and respected, "I admire how everything is organised in your country. I'm very glad that you respect and value the memory of your own and our Slovak soldiers who fought here, therefore I invited the leadership of your state to attend official events dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising."

The meeting with the President tackled diverse issues, including risks, challenges and threats posed by the contemporary digital age. The Slovak Speaker added that this refers primarily to the protection of children from the negative influences of the Internet and social networks.

Great place for normal dialogue

President of Belarus meets with Ukraine's representative in the trilateral contact group — Leonid Kuchma

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Alexander Lukashenko and Leonid Kuchma exchanged warm greetings at the beginning of the meeting.

"Leonid Danilovich [Kuchma], it is good that you are still involved in politics," the Head of State said. Mr. Kuchma described the Belarusian leader's comment as a positive sign. "I must say, this is not only my view but also that of many Belarusians. It is not only the politicians who are happy that you have arrived in Belarus, and not only as a representative of this trilateral contact group," said Mr. Lukashenko. "They know my attitude to Belarus, they know about good relations," agreed Leonid Kuchma.



Leonid Kuchma

Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Kuchma underlined the trusting nature of Belarus-Ukraine relations at the meeting.

"As for policy, it has remained unchanged. You know my approach, that of the Belarusian people to Ukraine and the Ukrainians," remarked the Belarusian Head of State.

"The role of Minsk in the work of the trilateral contact group is of great importance. You know that there are many

who thought it necessary to move elsewhere. This is an absurdity that has no basis. Minsk has been chosen as the only place where normal dialogue can be held. Given how the Belarusian authorities treat these processes, this truth is of double value," Mr. Kuchma said. "For me personally, it is always a joy to be in Minsk, in your beautiful country, to meet with the President whom I respect greatly."

Mr. Kuchma expressed the confidence that history will speak in the future about the need for joint solutions to the problems that currently exist in Ukraine. "We count on the personal assistance of the President and Belarus in this matter," said the representative of Ukraine.

Italian Parliament sets up friendship group with Belarus



By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Internships transform into reality

The group is led by the leader of Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) in the Chamber of Deputies, Francesco Lollobrigida. On Belarus' behalf, it is headed by the Vice Speaker of the Council of the Republic — Marianna Shchetkina.

The talks on the friendship group in the Italian Parliament were held in several stages. The matter was also discussed at the recent meeting of Ms. Shchetkina with the Deputy Chairperson of the Senate, Paola Taverna. During the meeting, the Italian side

expressed interest in strengthening bilateral contacts with Belarus and developing co-operation in the international arena, including the OSCE PA and the CEI PA.

"The friendship group in the Italian Parliament confirms Italy's intention to strengthen inter-parliamentary co-operation with Belarus, which, in turn, will promote stronger ties between the two countries in trade, economic, investment and humanitarian areas," the Council of the Republic said.

In 2018, trade between the two countries totalled almost \$913m, up 15 percent against 2017. Belarus is home to 263 companies using Italian capital.

Intellect highly valued

The 21st century can probably be best described as intellectual. Software, data transmission technology and augmented reality cannot be touched, weighed or measured. Of course, these are products of the human mind and each has its author. Accordingly, all rights to a product must be protected. Globally, the protection of such rights is co-ordinated by the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The President of Belarus met its Director General, Francis Gurry

By Alexey Fedosov

Alexander Lukashenko began the conversation with historical parallels, addressing his guest with the words, “I can call you an old friend because we were at the start of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. We joined it immediately and have a long history of co-operation. This is your first time in Minsk, but I hope it will not be the last. You will like Belarus and Minsk. We’ve met your predecessors. I am quite deeply immersed in the problems of the World Intellectual Property Organisation and our national organisation.”

It should be noted that, during Francis Gurry’s visit to Minsk, a memorandum of co-operation between the Government of Belarus and WIPO was signed. It stipulates the main direction of joint activities. The President told the guest, “Despite the memorandum and the framework that it defines, you can always count on Belarus. Although we have been members of the world organisation for a long time and have been co-operating, I must admit that we are a young country just beginning to work closely to protect property rights. We



Francis Gurry appreciates Belarus’ support to WIPO

have a lot to learn from you in this respect, especially in terms of educational programmes and support for our specialists. I am very grateful to you for that. After reading a considerable amount of information about the world organisation, I was surprised to find that you are one of the few international officials who are sincerely and honestly immersed in the effectiveness of this organisation. In this regard, your work deserves approval, encouragement and respect. We will make even

more efforts to ensure we have a legal framework for the protection of property rights, as well as trying to make a worthwhile contribution to the development of international projects, agreements and treaties in this part of the world.”

Mr. Gurry thanked the President for his warm welcome and expressed his gratitude for the constructive co-operation, “I want to thank you for the support provided by Belarus to our organisation. As you rightly pointed out, your country was

there at the beginning of our organisation. We deeply appreciate the support you give us. The fact is that today our organisation is going through hard times. We doubly appreciate all the support and co-operation on your part.”

After the meeting, Mr. Gurry explained his comments in more detail to reporters, “Belarus is an active and important member of our international organisation. We appreciate all the support provided by your country, all the information

shared by Belarus, the experience gained in your country — especially in the field of science and technology. We live in a turbulent world in which it is especially important to have reliable partners such as Belarus, who are always ready for constructive co-operation.”

The guest also clarified the idea that the organisation is going through hard times. Competition in the intellectual sphere is growing right before our eyes. “This is the cornerstone of progress for humanity. In the context of growing competition, it is very important to develop a policy of multipolarity,” he said. “Belarus has excellent human resources that allow you to develop science and technology in your country and you have always promoted this multipolar approach, especially when it comes to such complex issues as artificial intelligence, robotics and large data sets. International discussion on an equal basis is needed. Belarus is always ready to promote this approach and share its experience.”

WIPO brings together the knowledge of 192 countries and it is worth mentioning that the Belarusian contribution to this global intellectual treasury is highly valued.

Ability to manage intellectual property

Current issues of rights for intellectual property discussed in Minsk by representatives of the expert community during a two-day international seminar

By Olga Korneeva

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Francis Gurry, also took part in the event. We have much to be proud of, since our system of intellectual property protection is developing in line with world standards. Out of twenty-six international treaties whose activity is being co-ordinated by the WIPO, Belarus has joined with seventeen. In 2018 alone, around fifty normative legal acts have been adopted which tackle the issue. However, Belarus earns less than it could on intellectual property as a separate product: last year, the figure stood at around \$65m. However, at the start of the five-year period, this figure was less than a third. In this respect, the State Science and Technology Committee (SSTC) hopes to receive international assistance.

“We’re starting to develop a strategy to 2030 and it’s very important for us to receive expert assessment from world organisations, enabling our legislation to meet the most contemporary international standards,” the Chairman of the SSTC, Alexander Shumilin, said. “Otherwise, it will be difficult to trade beyond the country’s borders and even harder to protect our rights.”



Saule Tlevlesova, President of the European Patent Office of the Eurasian Patent Organisation:

“I believe that Belarus has a big future in the sphere of inventions and innovation development. The most important thing is that this area was commercialised and has brought benefit to the economy. As far as I know, you’ve already passed the legislative phase and have almost completed the administrative stage, now only commercialisation is left.”

Belarus hopes to establish its own centre, with WIPO assistance to regulate issues of intellectual property protection. A similar international structure — the

WIPO Centre on Arbitration and Mediation — has been successfully functioning for a long time. It offers efficient (from the point of view of time and material

expenditures) alternatives to judicial settlements of disputes in the sphere of intellectual property, acting simultaneously as a body to handle complaints and as an organisation offering legal and organisational help.

However, today it is not enough just to create intellectual property and protect it in the proper way; it’s also crucial to learn how to manage it successfully. The Belarusian side has launched a project to join the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Firstly, this will enable an industrial design to receive protection on the world market and, as a result, to considerably reduce the expenditures of our organisations. Secondly, the inclusion of designs in the WIPO database is an advertisement for domestic technologies on the international arena.

“The issue of managing intellectual property is a new area for us around which there is much discussion,” noted Mr. Shumilin, paying attention to the fact that many organisations are interested in this topic, including leading Belarusian universities. “An increase in profits thanks to new approaches to such management is one of the most important tasks for the near future.”

Strategic enterprises not to be sold

During his working trip to Vitebsk Region, Alexander Lukashenko visits the largest Belarusian oil refinery — Naftan JSC

By Vasily Kharitonov

It is obvious that the main purpose of the visit of the Head of State to the refinery and the subsequent meeting was to analyse how effectively and on time previously voiced instructions aimed at the development of the industry are being implemented, as well as to consider prospects in the light of the current uncertain situation in the oil industry.

A comprehensive strategy for the development of the oil refining industry was considered at a meeting with the President in June 2017, where Mr. Lukashenko demanded measures to overcome the decline in oil refining. “There is no need to speak again about the importance of this issue. I said that this is akin to the independence of our state. We must do everything to ensure the energy independence and security of Belarus,” said the President. The implementation of investment projects at Naftan and Mozyr Oil Refinery was discussed in detail. It is planned to complete the modernisation of the plants in 2019.

It should also be noted that, in recent times, Naftan JSC has often been mentioned in the context of the supply of ‘dirty’ oil to Belarus, after Belneftekhim announced a sharp deterioration in the quality of incoming Russian Urals oil on April 19th. The content of organochlorine compounds in oil was ten times higher than the limit values according to the standard. Both Belarusian oil refineries — Mozyr Oil Refinery and Naftan JSC — were forced to reduce capacity utilisation and suffered losses.

During his visit to Naftan, the Head of State was informed in detail about the development of the enterprise and the imple-



Control over operation of all systems conducted at main dispatching office

mentation of major investment projects. Mr. Lukashenko learnt about modern methods of production process control and visited the operator’s facility of primary AT-8 oil refining; where, in 2017, a large-scale reconstruction was completed. As reported to the President, the facility is unique regarding the refining of oil. It has no analogues in Belarus or in the post-Soviet space. It is equipped with all the necessary systems, making it possible to obtain high quality products. It also provides the highest level of industrial safety. Since start-up after the reconstruction, the unit has been operating successfully.

One of the facility’s employees is a native of Pakistan — Khan Nasir Mukhtar. Mr. Lukashenko spoke to him warmly, asked about his family and how he lives in Belarus. “I love the country and local people are very kind. If it was bad, I would have left long ago. I’m fine here,” the man said, add-

ing that the company even provided him with a place to pray, as required by Islam.

The Governor of the Vitebsk Region — Nikolay Sherstnev — reported on the socio-economic development of the region. According to him, the situation here is sta-

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“We must do everything to ensure the energy independence and security of Belarus.”

ble but the indicators could have been higher if Naftan was working at capacity and was more profitable. Much in the region depends on this enterprise.

Returning to the modernisation of Belarusian refineries, the Head of State asked what stage the implementation of

investment projects is at and whether the deadline for the completion of construction and installation works will be met. What results are expected after the completion of the modernisation? What are the plans to ensure effective work under new conditions? What prospects do we all — primarily, the Government — see in the sphere of oil refining for the next ten years? The President raised many questions. In addition, the meeting separately addressed the issue of improving the efficiency of export sales of petroleum products.

The President noted that, in the 1940s, it was more difficult for refinery workers: oil was not directly supplied to the businesses, so it was necessary to dismantle the equipment from the plants and transfer it to other regions of the Soviet Union — for example, to the Urals, to install it and launch production within a few months.

The President urged the management of the domestic oil refineries to solve issues of compensation for losses as a result of the supply of sub-standard Russian oil to Belarus, exclusively in a business-like manner.

It was noted that the contaminated oil reached the refinery in Mozyr, and Naftan managed to react, but the capacity of the enterprise was significantly reduced. “You are a businessman and Head of the enterprise,” said Mr. Lukashenko, addressing Naftan’s General Director, Alexander Demidov. “You need to achieve the maximum effect no matter where it comes from: either through production, or through increased sales prices, at the expense of marketing or using the compensation for damage.” In this regard, Mr. Lukashenko noted that the media reports that some international companies are claiming damage to Russia to the amount of up to \$800m. “However, we suffered the most but are told that Belarusians have actually lost nothing. What is happening?! We must monitor the issue and see why they pay \$800m in damages to Russia, but we only speak of \$20m, although we’ve suffered the most,” stressed the President.

Addressing Naftan’s workers, the Head of State said that the state will continue to contribute in every way to the business. At the same time, he warned, “Of course, we will put pressure on you to the last to make you work effectively. At the same time, we’ll always help you. You know my position: I’ve been talking about it for decades and I will not retreat from it.” Mr. Lukashenko also said that Belarus would not sell its strategic enterprises.

To ensure sustainable development

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Minsk named a good venue for international SDGs events

The Vice Speaker of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, the National Co-ordinator for Sustainable Development Goals, Marianna Shchetkina, has met with the UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus, Alexandra Solovieva, to discuss areas for co-operation and the possible expansion of partnership in achieving SDGs.

Belarus shows interest in developing international co-operation in the area.



Alexandra Solovieva

“Minsk could become a suitable platform to organise large-scale international SDGs events. We are interested in the experience of other countries and are ready to share our best practices,” Ms. Shchetkina said.

At the regional forum in Minsk in February 2018, Belarus put forward an initiative to develop a partner network of national co-ordinators for SDGs. The proposal was supported by the international community. Many countries have already showed interest in the project.

Belarus’ main efforts are focused on the economy, environment, social sector and monitoring. The business community and public organisations are invited to take an active part. Special attention is on projects with youth participation. According to Ms. Shchetkina, work is underway

to set up a so-called laboratory on SDGs to gather innovative technology and projects.

In turn, Ms. Solovieva stressed that such projects and support for innovations overall are interesting for the UNDP. She hailed the progress achieved in the country. “Belarus is a champion in many SDGs areas — regarding experience, the chosen model and the way the corresponding indicators have been nationalised. Your country generates a lot of local ideas and projects which can be useful for other countries,” she said.

In 2019, Belarus and the UNDP will start working on

a new country programme for 2021-2025. “It would be great if the programme is harmonised with the national sustainable development strategy and your efforts on the SDGs,” Ms. Solovieva added.

The parties discussed co-operation within the national action plan for green economy development in Belarus, also discussing the EXPO 2020 Global Best Practice Programme — *Small Steps, Big Leaps — Solutions for Sustainable Impact*. This is a platform to showcase projects that have provided tangible solutions to the world’s biggest challenges.

Much to see at *Belagro-2019*

The *Belagro-2019* International Specialised Exhibition was held at the Globus Park Trade and Logistics Centre in the agricultural town of Shchomyslitsa (Minsk District). It was attended by more than 550 companies from 29 countries, including Austria, the UK, Hungary, Germany, Denmark, Israel, India, Italy, Spain, Canada, China, the Netherlands, Russia, the USA, Turkey, Ukraine, Finland, France, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Sweden.



Belagro — 2019 attracts visitors with its diversity



By Svetlana Savelyeva

Last week, the attention of numerous delegations and guests was focused on Belarusian Agricultural Week, as the exhibition forum sums up the results of developments in the national agro-industrial complex, the progressive international experience in agricultural engineering and the development of agricultural science. In short, the best of the best are united on this site.

Guests began gathering in the morning, coming from all over the country and even from neighbouring states. There is a simple explanation. “In recent years, Belarus has been among the five leading exporters of dairy products in the world. To maintain this position, we need to move forward, look for promising areas and introduce new technologies. *Belagro*, where you can see and summarise the best practices, is the right venue. There are all the necessary conditions for the conclusion of mutually beneficial contracts and exchange of experiences. This is a kind of springboard for strengthening co-operation at international level,” the Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir

Dvornik, said on opening the landmark forum.

The exhibition enabled visitors to get to know the latest achievements in the fields of crop production, livestock, poultry and fish farming, while demonstrating current trends in the processing and storage of agricultural products. The diversity of agricultural machinery is also impressive. This is the result of a kind of triple alliance between industrialists, scientists and farmers.

“One of the key roles in this process belongs to agricultural engineering enterprises. The current exhibition presents more than a hundred pieces of equipment from 14 organisations of the Industry Ministry, because the re-equipment of agriculture is one of the priority strategies of our economic development,” said Industry Minister, Pavel Utyupin.

Many prototypes of domestic equipment have become legendary in the agricultural sector. Without them it is difficult during the sowing and harvesting campaign. There were also vehicles that were seen for the first time. For example, Gomselmash brought a self-propelled combine harvester with a hybrid threshing and separa-

tion system. Its productivity is 30 percent higher than the most popular ‘Polesie’ harvester. The quality rivals analogues of the world’s leading companies but the prices are much more attractive. Furthermore, Minsk Tractor Works presented its new ‘Belarus-5022’, with a capacity of 500HP. This vehicle is now a symbol of the possibilities of Belarusian engineering. Of course, these are only a few examples, the potential of domestic engineering is much wider.

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“The exhibition is relevant and valuable because it is based on the latest achievements in the agricultural sector. Not only foreign companies but also Belarus has something to say.”

Its ‘power’ was clearly demonstrated at the fair. Each exhibited prototype has a special, responsible design approach, since Belarusian agriculture is the main consumer of the equipment. The economy of the agricultural sector directly depends on its quality, advancement and progressiveness. It’s now more important than ever, because agriculture has embarked on a path of reducing costs. Participants at the exhibition spoke about this often and numerous guests agreed.

“The exhibition is relevant and valuable because it is based on the latest achievements in

the agricultural sector. Believe me, not only foreign companies but also Belarus has something to say. Our agro-industrial complex, being export-oriented, has recently demonstrated the stable dynamics of development — fully meeting the domestic needs of the country in food. In the structure of exports, the agricultural sector occupies 16 percent and, as for the production of agricultural products per capita, we occupy a leading position among the CIS countries,” emphasised the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Anatoly Khotko.

At the exhibition, it was possible to see, compare and evaluate experimental varieties of winter wheat, rye and barley which were presented by the Scientific-Practical Centre for Arable Farming at Belarus’ National Academy of Sciences. Varieties of grain crops were sown here in September 2018. “We are engaged in the selection of crops. In total, the Centre has developed more than 400 varieties of cereals, legumes, industrial crops and perennial grasses. Our varieties occupy 80 percent of farmland and arable land in Belarus,” said Fiodor Privalov, the General Director of the Scientific-Practical Centre for Arable Farming. “This experimental field makes it possible to show off our varieties to foreign visitors at the exhibition, quality and productivity. We are now exporting to Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Baltic States.”

In total, about 50 organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus took part in *Belagro*. They presented more than 200 new developments and technologies. In particular, the Flax Institute showed new varieties of flax with high yield and productivity potential. The Institute of Plant Protection demonstrated biological products created on the basis of local strains of microorganism-antagonists. The Scientific-Practical Centre for Animal Husbandry presented the latest biotechnology in livestock breeding, and the NAS’ Institute of Fisheries brought technological equipment of a new incubation plant for the reproduction of fish planting material. Meanwhile, the Scientific and Practical Centre for Potato Growing and Horticulture showcased new varieties of potatoes — unique in yield, marketability and storage properties.

Every year, *Belagro* is a major platform for business negotiations. The recent show was visited by more than 30 official delegations from different countries. A wide range of issues on ensuring the competitiveness of agricultural products, the use of land resources in terms of environmental and economic efficiency, the prospects for co-operation of Belarus with countries both near and further abroad in the production of innovative technologies in the field of agriculture, as well as other topical issues, were in focus at the thematic conferences and seminars.

Everyone should feel comfortable and safe in the European house

Belarus needs the EU to be a united powerful geopolitical player, Belarus' Foreign Minister — Vladimir Makei — said at the *Eastern Partnership at 10: Results and Ways Forward* expert seminar



Participants of Minsk meeting

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The minister expressed the hope that the EU would not lose interest in the *Eastern Partnership* after the 2019 European Parliament elections. In his words, Belarus would like it to remain a priority for the EU.

Mr. Makei also stressed, “We would like the European Union to overcome as fast as possible its inner turbulence, including financial problems, migration and Brexit. Here, in our region, we need the European Union as a united powerful geopolitical player which could be a very important and reliable partner for us. I believe that then co-operation in the *Eastern Partnership*

will remain in place and grow.”

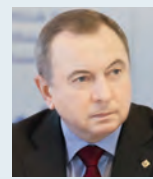
According to him, Belarus remains committed to the issue and would like to develop the closest ties with the European Union, including within the framework of the *Eastern Partnership* and beyond. “You can rest assured that we will always be a reliable partner for the EU,” Mr. Makei stressed, adding, “We do not know what will happen in 10-15 years, nobody does. However, I don’t exclude the possibility of different developments. Let us do everything possible to overcome, as quickly as possible, the great confrontation that we see in our region and to work on a more unifying agenda of our co-operation.”

The minister believes that it is high time to extend the practice of holding high-level meetings to the EU neighbouring countries. “This is necessary at least to ensure that, in this part of Europe, the *Eastern Partnership* ceases to be some otherworldly, incomprehensible, and even alarming concept. Minsk could become a very comfortable platform for this as a crossroads of integration projects and transport routes, an island of stability with fresh experience of holding major international forums,” he added.

In general, Belarus stands for strong and united Europe. “Trust and removal of barriers are key factors of stability in the region. Therefore, Belarus also stands for a stable Eurasian-Atlantic partnership, including in the military-political sphere. And we are taking practical steps in this direction,” said Mr. Makei.

The minister also noted that Belarus, being a member of the CSTO, at the same time restored military co-operation with the UK, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the United States. “We are establishing co-operation with neighbouring NATO member states in the field of information exchange. Co-operation with US law enforcement agencies, including

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According to **Vladimir Makei**, Belarus remains committed to the issue and would like to develop the closest ties with the European Union, including within the framework of the *Eastern Partnership* and beyond. “You can rest assured that we will always be a reliable partner for the EU”.

the State Border Committee, the Investigative Committee and the Interior Ministry, is successfully developing. We are interested in concluding agreements with the United States on economic issues, including the avoidance of double taxation,” the official said.

According to the minister, the path of bipolar confrontation, differentiation of spheres of influence and block thinking is a dead end. “If events develop along this trajectory, then soon all global issues will again be solved by a narrow group of countries, and the voices of all the others will be ignored. Belarus is categorically against this approach. We believe that the voices of all countries should be heard. Small and medium-sized states also play a role in world politics,” Mr. Makei noted.

He believes that plans to strengthen the US military presence in Belarus’ neighbouring countries, primarily Poland,

are deeply erroneous. Such a military presence will upset the balance of forces in the region, believes the Foreign Minister. “What is its purpose? Is it to reflect the threat? It is inconceivable that, in the 21st century, with the current level of accumulated armed potential in the region, anyone would dare to provoke a direct military clash,” he stressed.

An alternative to an increasingly dangerous situation in the region is rooted in a broad dialogue between all parties, following the model of the Helsinki Process of the 1970s. According to the minister, it is necessary to discuss threats and their different perceptions by the parties, to agree on mechanisms of de-escalation and confidence-building. This topic has been repeatedly voiced at previous meetings of the *Minsk Dialogue*. Vladimir Makei is confident that the discussions with the participation of experts, diplomats and politicians will continue.

Partners expand sphere of fruitful co-operation

Centre of Belarus Study opens at Nanjing University of Science and Technology in China

By Vladimir Mikhailov

A photo exhibition devoted to the resistance to fascists in the occupied territory of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War, and the *Belarus Through My Eyes* photo project — in which Belarusian and Chinese photographers reflect the beauty of our country’s rich natural and cultural heritage, while capturing vivid moments of holidays and people’s emotions — have become the first of the Centre’s activities. There are further plans for co-operation between the Belarusian and Chinese higher education institutions. These include the development of joint international research projects on a wide range of linguistic issues, the organisation of scientific seminars, conferences, exhibitions, colloquiums and other events, the exchange of teachers and internships of students, un-

dergraduates and graduate students. The parties plan to jointly create textbooks and manuals on linguistic and literary disciplines.

Another area of activity is the organisation of scientific and educational tourism and educational programmes during the summer and winter holidays — for teaching staff, students, undergraduates and graduate students from Belarus and China. The participation of creative teams in competitions and festivals held in the two countries, organisation of days of culture and cinema and co-operation in the field of museum business are expected.

The establishment and opening of the Centre is the result of long-term co-operation between Gomel’s Frantsisk



Skorina State University and the Nanjing University of Science and Technology. Starting with links in the field of scientific research, interaction gradually expanded — covering areas of education and culture. Belarusian-Chinese scientific laboratories have been based at the universities for over seven years and high-tech developments by Gomel scientists are exhibited in Nanjing annually. Since 2017, the Confucius Institute has worked at Gomel university and, last year, a joint graduate school for training specialists in the field of physical chemistry opened. In addition, the Centre’s opening is part of a programme of co-operation in the field of education between Belarus and China for 2016-2020.

Market situation seems favourable



By Natalia Yemelyanova

Belarusian linen companies eye Austrian market

Marketing and market trends in Austria have been discussed at a meeting between Belarusian manufacturers and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to Belarus, Aloisia Worgetter.

“Both Austria and Belarus treat flax as part of an economic and cultural legacy from past generations. As we are working towards sustainable development, switching to natural products, healthy lifestyles, and the development of cultural traditions, the image of flax in Austria has gained new significance,” the Embassy noted.

Aloisia Worgetter and the Austrian Commercial Office in Minsk have organised the first information event to attract Belarusian companies that manufacture linen products to the Austrian market. The event brought together representatives of nine companies of different ownership forms and from different regions of Belarus. The participants of the meeting also touched upon the state of bilateral economic co-operation, Austrian market trends and direct marketing to promote Belarusian goods on the Austrian market.



Interactive map helps people find their way around

Interactive animated map — ‘Open Minsk’ — presented in Belarusian Telegraph Agency’s press centre: its online launch is timed to coincide with International Children Protection Day

By Olga Korneeva

The map is based on the printed version ‘Minsk. Map for Kids’ and offers information about over 200 places of recreation and entertainment in the Belarusian capital: theatres, parks and sports complexes. Every place has a description, photos and directions. Some of them even offer a virtual tour, a 3D panorama, audio and video clips. The data is systematised in a way to allow kids to easily find the place they need. The colourful animated UI will make studying the city and planning the trip a captivating experience for children and adults.

Creators of the map — Belkartografiya — and representatives of the company that developed the software, talked about capabilities of the inter-

active map. Belkartografiya’s Editor, Lyudmila Soldak, explained that all the places have their own category: interest, sports venues, culture and additional education, recreation and entertainment. The objects are represented by pictures or images and symbols depending on their category. A general description of a place of interest is followed by the place’s advantages and peculiarities such as free parking, entrance ramps and power outlets for charging gadgets.

The user interface is available in Belarusian, Russian and English. The first stage of work on the online map is complete. The second stage provides for interaction with kids, who have volunteered to assist in the project and will submit their ideas and comments.

Konstantin Petrashko, a representative of the software development com-

pany, said — to participate in the project, feel free to register, as a mobile app is in development. It will soon be available from Google Play and AppStore free of charge. The application contains virtual reality and augmented reality modules. For instance, the developers suggested setting up ‘portals’ to Minsk in small towns across the country. A similar ‘door’ has been installed in Mogilev’s downtown. If you wear VR glasses and go through the door, you will see yourself next to the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre in Minsk.

The app also allows the user’s smartphone to access other maps made by Belkartografiya. For instance, if a user aims a mobile phone or a tablet at a region of the world in a zoology atlas, they will see a 3D model of the animal that lives there.

Based on the author’s personal story

Belarusian book about military medics to be shown in London and Brussels

By Alexander Pimenov

A book by Belarusian author Vladimir Tulinov — *Hippocrates’ Guards* about doctors who saved hundreds of lives during the Great Patriotic War — will be presented in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

The English version of the book was published by the Hertfordshire Press Publishing House as part of the *Eurasian Creative Guild* (London) series and will be presented at the ECG Literary Week in London on October



1st-6th and at the Open Eurasian Literature Festival & Book Forum that will take place in Brussels on November 14th-17th.

The book describes the hard work and incredible self-sacrifice of thousands of doctors and nurses who risked their lives to save the sick and wounded during the war. It was inspired by the story of life of the author’s mother, who was a combat medic during the war. In summer 1942, a graduate of

the Ivanovo State Medical Institute — she joined a medical corps of a rifle division. Her reminiscences made their way into the book.

The publishing of the book in the United Kingdom is a remarkable event for Belarusian military literature. “Thanks to the English version of the book, millions of potential English speaking readers around the world will be able to learn more about the Belarusian people and heroes of the Great Patriotic War,” ECG representative Angelina Krasnogir said.

Vladimir Tulinov has engineering and military education. He started writing poems and articles at 27 and has authored such books as *My Language is My Friend*, *Pink Pegasus*, *Single Victory for All*, *On Point*.

Life goes on

By Olga Korneeva

Belarusian lady with liver and kidney transplants gives birth to second child

In Belarusian medical practice there is a unique case: a woman — after a combined liver and kidney transplant — has become a mother for the second time. According to Oleg Rummo — the Director of the Minsk Scientific-Practical Centre of Surgery, Transplantology and Haematology, this is the only case in the world when a patient was able to give birth to two perfectly healthy babies after such a complex operation.

In an interview with BelTA, the woman said the operation was carried out four years ago — on April 1st, 2015. The first boy is now 2 1/2 years old. A daughter was born recently and is now 4 months old. The woman herself feels healthy and lives a full life.

With the development of transplantology in Belarus, successful pregnancies ending with the birth of a child occurred in 41 women who had previously undergone kidney transplantation, and in five women who had liver transplants.

In total, more than 200 organ transplants have been performed this year. Mr. Rummo noted that there are no age restrictions on such operations today. There is a case when a kidney was transplanted into a 76-year-old patient.

Watching the badgers

Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park launches round-the-clock video surveillance of badgers



By Svetlana Savelyeva

“With the onset of the active period, badgers have fallen under the scrutiny of scientists: round-the-clock video surveillance has been launched to observe the settlements of these nocturnal predators. On average, a sett is observed for 5-7 days. Video cameras are installed alternately on all the animals’ known habitats,” say staff of the Park’s scientific department.

Last year, 41 badgers were registered in the National Park. Inspection of dens with the help of video cameras will provide more accurate data on the number and structure of the population. Video surveillance will continue all summer.

The badger is listed in the Red Book of Belarus. The animals lead a sedentary and semi-underground way of life. Most of the time is spent in setts and, in the winter, the animals hibernate.



World's biggest firms foresee \$1 trillion climate cost hit

More than 200 of the world's largest listed companies forecast that climate change could cost them a combined total of almost \$1 trillion, with much of the pain due in the next five years

Even so, the findings by charity CDP suggested many companies still underestimated the dangers as scientists warn that Earth's climate system is

on course to hit catastrophic tipping points without rapid cuts in carbon emissions.

"Most companies still have a long way to go in terms of properly assessing climate risk," said Nicolette Bartlett, CDP's Director of Climate Change.

Founded in the early 2000s, CDP — formerly known as Carbon Disclosure Project — is a respected voice in a growing

coalition of pressure groups, fund managers, central bankers and politicians who believe global warming poses a systemic risk to the financial system.

By pushing chief executives to confront risks to their operations, advocates of greater disclosure hope to spur enough investment in cleaner industries to cut carbon emissions in time to meet global climate goals.

In its latest study, CDP an-

alysed survey data from 215 of the largest companies, ranging from Apple and Microsoft to Unilever, UBS, Nestle, China Mobile, Infosys, Sony and BHP.

The companies anticipated a total of \$970bn in extra costs due to factors including hotter temperatures, chaotic weather, and pricing of greenhouse gas emissions. About half of these costs were seen as 'likely to virtually certain'.

Many companies also saw a huge potential upside if the world can de-carbonise in time to avert the bleakest climate scenarios, which scientists see as an existential risk to industrial civilisation.

The companies in the CDP study saw potential opportunities worth \$2.1tr, spanning faster-than-expected demand for electric vehicles to investments in renewables.

Why some countries are shipping back their plastic recyclable waste



A growing number of countries are taking a stand and demanding that nations take back their waste

Many wealthy countries send their recyclable waste overseas because it's cheap, helps meet recycling targets and reduces domestic landfill. For developing countries taking in the rubbish, it's a valuable source of income.

The European Union is the largest exporter of plastic waste, with the US leading as the top exporter for a single country.

But only a tiny fraction of all plastics ever produced has been recycled. Often, materials that can't be recycled end up

being burned illegally, dumped in landfills or waterways, creating risks to the environment and public health. Worries about receiving such waste have forced countries to act.

The Philippines has just shipped back tonnes of rubbish to Canada that it said was falsely labelled as plastic recycling in 2013 and 2014.

This month, Malaysia sent back five containers of plastic waste to Spain after it was found to be contaminated.

Malaysia says up to 3,000 tonnes of rubbish will soon be returned to the UK, US, Japan, China, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, Saudi

Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Norway and France.

Until January 2018, China imported most of the world's plastic waste. But due to concerns about contamination and pollution, it declared it would no longer buy recycled plastic scrap that was not 99.5 percent pure.

Global plastic waste exports fell — dipping by almost half by the end of 2018, compared with 2016 levels, according to Greenpeace analysis. There were reports of plastic waste ready for export piling up, and some was diverted to other countries.

Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea, Turkey, India and Poland all took up the slack.

Malaysia took a major share — the plastic waste it imported from 10 countries in just the first six months of 2018 was nearly as much as the total it received in 2016 and 2017. But the rubbish arriving in these countries wasn't sufficiently recyclable, and it has caused problems.

"What the citizens of the UK believe they send for recycling is actually dumped in our country," said Malaysian Minister Yeo Bee Yin.



KLM to fund development of fuel-efficient Flying-V plane

The development of a V-shaped, fuel-efficient airplane design known as the Flying-V is getting a boost with the announcement that Dutch national carrier KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will help to fund it

Intended to improve the sustainability of air travel, the Flying-V was conceived by Justus Benad, then a student at the Technical University of Berlin, and developed by researchers at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, also known as TU Delft.

Its futuristic design incorporates the passenger cabin, fuel tanks and cargo hold into the wings.

It's claimed the plane will use 20 percent less fuel than the Airbus A350-900 while carrying a similar number of passengers — the Flying-V will seat 314, while the Airbus A350 seats between 300 and 350. The design also mirrors the A350's 65-metre wing-

span, enabling it to use existing airport infrastructure.

"In recent years, KLM has developed as a pioneer in sustainability within the airline industry," Pieter Elbers, CEO and President of KLM, said. "We're proud of our progressive co-operative relationship with TU Delft, which ties in well with KLM's strategy and serves as an important milestone for us on the road to scaling-up sustainable aviation."

TU Delft project leader Roelof Vos said such innovation was needed as a stepping stone to greater efficiency while technology was still being developed to create large-scale electric airplanes. "Aviation is contributing about 2.5 percent of global CO2 emissions, and the industry is still growing, so we really need to look at more sustainable airplanes," he said.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Portraits of our contemporaries are expressive when set against the transience of time

Over the last few years of his creative career, People's Artist of Belarus, Vladimir Tovstik, has been focusing on the most precious thing of all — people — by creating a wonderful gallery of portraits which encourage us to look, wonder and contemplate. The opportunity to do just this was given to viewers at the recent personal exhibition by the author



By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition, entitled *A World of Portraits. A Close View*, dedicated to the artist's 70th birthday, showed around thirty works from the collections of the National Art Museum, the National Centre of Contemporary Arts, and the archives of the Belarusian Union of Artists, including portraits from the latest *Close View* series from the artist's own collection. The definition of this series is the title for the painter's personal exhibition, as most of the characters captured in the portraits belong to the community of people close to him in spirit, revealing the connection of the author's art with 'circumstances of place and time' and being contributors and eyewitnesses to the development of his artistic process.

Vladimir Tovstik has nurtured the idea of capturing images of his friends and fellow painters for many years. Frequent meetings and discussions about art motivated the author to create portraits of Leonid Shchemelev and Svetlana Shchemeleva, Valery Slauk, Vasily Sharangovich and Natalia Sharangovich, Georgy Skripnichenko, Gavriil Vashchenko and many other famous figures of Belarusian culture.

All the characters in the series are portrayed in a distinctively personalised atmosphere, in a kind of artist's 'spiritual' space, and their interpretations are enriched with many additional metaphorical details.



Artist's exhibition focuses on the human image

In his portraits, Mr. Tovstik doesn't rely merely on natural interpretation and the depiction of physiological similarity. His characters are interesting in their mental essence, with personal stories and delicate emotional states being portrayed.

The series is completed by Vladimir Tovstik himself. He is the only one not looking straight at the spectators, being drawn working on a large unpainted canvas. This is simultaneously both exclusion and reflection, and eloquent testimony that the *Close View* series is constantly being enriched with new works, capturing characters of various ages and creative aspirations, including those who have already passed away and current 'acting characters' of the Belarusian artistic stage.

The essence of this project is not to create a rating of the best and most worthy, but in the poetry of the close observation of a person, and in preserv-

THE MT REFERENCE:
People's Artist of Belarus Vladimir Tovstik was born in 1949 in Minsk and graduated from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts' Easel Painting Department, as well as creative workshops of the USSR Academy of Arts in Baku. He is a laureate of the State Award of Belarus, a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists (since 1978) and a Professor of the Academy of Arts.

ing a principal connection with the great cultural traditions of the past. While searching for the elusive nature of time, Vladimir Tovstik has focused on the most precious thing of all — people.

"I have visited the National Art Museum since childhood, and it is a mystical space for me. I'd like to thank the museum's Director, Vladimir Prokoptsov, who helped organise the exhibition," noted Mr. Tovstik. "Everyone has their own close circle; these are people with whom we work and live near-

by, as well as those who have an influence on us. The idea came to me that not only should the works of painters and of my friends be in this museum but also their portraits, and this is my *Close View*. Some have already passed away while others are alive and well. Of course, to create all this took considerable time, it's a project of my whole life."

A portrait is a serious genre in pictorial art, but some people have a dismissive attitude towards them, believing that making a portrait is as easy as



taking a photo. A true portrait, however, is multi-faceted and complex, revealing an image of the person from various angles. Mere similarity is not enough. Moreover, when one creates many portraits, they acquire historical value, becoming a cross-section of society and time. People have passed away, but they remain with us, captured in time and seen by others' eyes. This is also very important.

Three dozen canvases at the exhibition are portraits of contemporaries. All those shown are close to the master in spirit and have devoted all their lives to serving art. To paint them all, the artist didn't have to travel far. He knew or knows well all the subjects of his canvases, meeting them many times, observing them, talking about life and arguing about art...

"The idea to depict my contemporaries — friends, comrades and colleagues — originated long ago," said Mr. Tovstik. "However, only in recent years has it acquired an internal logic and turned into a big project — unfolded in time."

We all enjoy a bit of rock

Playwright Konstantin Steshik shares his views about modern and classical theatre and a new kind of art which reflects the time



Konstantin Steshik: 'I only ask a director not to rewrite my text'

By Svetlana Mazurova

There is a boom in modern Belarusian drama these days and Konstantin Steshik is its vibrant representative. Performances of his plays are being staged in Moscow, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhny Novgorod, Tyumen and Yekaterinburg. St. Petersburg Youth Theatre has just released the premiere — *Matches*, based on Mr. Steshik's play and directed by Artem Ustinov.

Which of your plays have set records in terms of staging?

It's probably the 'Flying Swing'. I've been trying to keep track of the productions, but there's been so many of them lately. 'Matches' is among the record breakers. 'Muddy' is still in demand and 'A Bird Trap' is gaining momentum. Some plays become popular immediately and time is needed for others. Each has its own story.

Do you have any plays that you

like but can't understand why they are not performed?

Yes. Among them is 'We'll Live with You'. 'Matches' has been neglected for a long time but suddenly the play was staged in Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg (last year, at the Erarta Museum) and at the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre; there is also an audiobook. I guess the interest in it is because it is quite 'emotional', more human than provocative — unlike my other plays.

Do the audience want to see modern plays in the theatre today?

As far as I know, they do. It is understandable and natural for people to go to performances about themselves and their friends, to 'look into a mirror'.

A new kind of art is being born, to reflect the times. Modern theatre has a status like that of rock music in the 1980-90s. Young directors and playwrights say that people are interested in learning about themselves.

The classical theatre is a little bit conservative, like classical music. It's a different pleasure, inspiring other emotions. In turn, oxygen exchange matters in the modern theatre and children get answers to questions: what we are, why, what makes us as we are?

It is difficult for a novice playwright to get onto the stages of Moscow and St. Petersburg. What about a Belarusian stage?

I have only two official productions: 'Matches' at the Kupala Theatre and 'Flying Swings' at Gomel's Youth Theatre (Belarusian actors and a director are involved).

Do the St. Petersburg and Belarusian audiences differ?

They do: those in St. Petersburg are more relaxed, while Belarusians are cautious — due to their mentality. People in Belarus are less interested in modern theatre. There is a certain elite group of young people, and the majorT-

THE MT REFERENCE:

Konstantin Steshik lives in Minsk but was born in Soligorsk, in 1979. He is a founder of the Belarus Free Theatre. In 2005, Konstantin was a winner at the Eurasia International Award, with his *Man — Woman — Revolver* play. He is a finalist and winner of competitions and festivals of drama: *Free Theatre*, *Lyubimovka*, *First Reading*, *Remark* and others.

Mr. Steshik authored the script for *Dialogues* — directed by Irina Volkova (Moscow) — which took part in the *Kinotavr* Film Festival in 2013.

ity prefer cinema. Although my show in Gomel enjoyed a good reaction.

Where are the new Volodins, Arzubovs and Vampilovs?

They're probably still maturing. Writers in Moscow, throughout Russia and Belarus are engaged in new drama. They are testing the theatre for tenacity. An 'adolescent' abandoning old attitudes and the birth of a new art form, genre and characters is observed. As a result, new forms and playwrights appear. Everything is changing, drowning, dying or transforming. Experiments are everywhere. The process is continuous and heterogeneous.

What topics are in demand today? Who is the hero of our time?

It is difficult for me to answer this question. I'm a little reserved — so as not to be influenced by my colleagues. I don't want to get in the general stream. This is my decision.

When your play is being staged, do you visit rehearsals and get involved in the process?

I try not to attend rehearsals at all. A playwright must not interfere. A director has the right to interpret the material to their own liking. I only ask them not to rewrite the text.

See the world from an unexpected perspective

By Alexander Pimenov

History Museum at Vitebsk's National Art College hosts exhibition of one of the most famous founders of constructivism, the 'father' of design and advertising in the USSR — Alexander Rodchenko

The photo exhibition by the famous artist has come to Belarus for the first time, having previously toured Russia, Argentina and Italy. The exposition features 103 pictures captured by the author's camera. They feature representatives of the creative professions, views of Moscow, scenes of the everyday life and industry of city residents.

Alexander personally printed, exhibited and published in the

publications of the 1920s-30s. The curator of the exhibition — Yevgeny Berezner — stressed the importance of the fact that photos by Alexander Rodchenko are exhibited in the iconic building of the former Vitebsk National Art College where famous artists worked. "I have organised exhibitions in many countries. Of course, there are more spacious places, but it rarely happens that you meet such love and tenderness aimed at preserving and exhibiting something created 100 years ago," he stressed.

The Chairman of the Vitebsk Regional Council of Deputies — Vladimir Terentiev — said that he would come to the exhibition of the iconic photographer if only to see his portrait of May-

akovsky. There are more than 100 works here. "I'm impressed by Mr. Rodchenko's photos. It's quite possible that the exhibition will become the cultural event of the year in Vitebsk," he added.

The main genres of the most famous photographer from the USSR embrace portraits and reports, technical reproductions and staged still lifes, photo experiments, photos of friends and family members and sports competitions. All the pictures promote the culture of photography.

"Alexander Rodchenko taught others to observe, to see the world from new points of view, to experiment. At the same time, while teaching the young, he studied himself," a Candidate of Art Studies and a great-grand-



At Alexander Rodchenko's show

daughter of the artist — Yekaterina Lavrentieva — noted. As part of the exhibition project, she held a master class for children and also lectured.

The *Alexander Rodchenko: Photos from VHUTEMAS* exhibition will continue until the

end of July. It was organised by Vitebsk's FotoKrok Photo Foundation, the *Russ Press Photo* cultural project and the Vitebsk Centre of Modern Arts. The *FotoKrok — 2019* International Photography Festival presented the exhibition.



Moments of bright victories

Highlights of Olympic history presented at BelTA and NOC photo exhibition

By Svetlana Savelyeva

The exhibition features photos of Belarusian athletes who became Olympic champions in Soviet times, as well as champions and prize-winners of the Olympic Games of the modern period. A total of 188 photographs are shown, 138 of which are made by BelTA correspondents. One of BelTA's iconic photos

dates to 1972; it features Olympic gymnastics champions Antonina Koshel, Tamara Lazakovich and Olga Korbut.

Many athletes have come to recall the victories captured in the photos. Among them were the Olympic champions Sergey Makarenko, Yelena Belova, Antonina Koshel, Alexander Karshkevich, Andrey Barbashinsky, Kamandar Majidov, Yanina Provalinskaya-Karol-

chik, as well as Darya Domracheva, Nadezhda Skardino and Dinara Alimbekova.

Visitors to the exhibition can see Yulia Nesterenko's 'golden' Olympic race in Athens, the victory of Maxim Mirny and Victoria Azarenko in London, the triumph of Darya Domracheva in Sochi and the women's biathlon quartet in PyeongChang in 2018. There is also a

photo of Alexander Medved at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium, with the 1980 Olympics torch.

The acrobatic skills of Olga Korbut and Nelly Kim, the success of gymnasts in the individual and team championships, medal-winning swims by Alexandra Gerasimenya and Sergey Kopylov and 'gold' freestyle jumps and rowing races are vividly presented at the show.



No reason for sensation

By Mikhail Veremeev

Belarus' national football team lose for the third time in the qualifying tournament of the European Championship: in Borisov, the Belarusians were defeated by the German team with a score of 0:2

After two away defeats in matches against the Netherlands (0:4) and Northern Ireland (1:2), the Belarusian footballers began their performance at home in a lively fashion and were equal to the visitors for the first ten minutes. However, the Germans then firmly took the initiative and Alexander Guttor saved our several goals. Sadly, he proved to be powerless when Leroy Sané came into attack: the latter opened the score in the 13th minute. Somehow the hosts found their confidence and even created two dangerous moments at the opponents' goal but, in the 29th minute, Stanislav Dragun failed to score from an advantageous position and then Nikita Naumov's pass was deflected by Germany's experienced goalkeeper — Manuel Neuer. After half-time, the Germans' advantage seemed overwhelming but

only one of the many scoring chances was realised. In the 62nd minute, Marco Royce approached the goal unchallenged to score his second.

As for Igor Kriushenko's trainees, they went into their opponents' half on only a few occasions and it was almost the end of the match before they gave the visitors any trouble.

For the German team, the match against Belarus was the second in the current qualifying cycle. At the start, they beat the Dutch team in Amsterdam (3:2). On the same day, another match was played in Group C: in Tallinn, Northern Ireland celebrated their third victory as they beat the Estonians — 2:1. In their first match — held in Belfast, the Northern Irish won with a score of 2:0.

The tournament positions in Group C are as follows: Northern Ireland — 9, Germany — 6 (2; 5:2), Netherlands — 3, Estonia — 0, Belarus — 0. The two top teams from each of the 10 qualifying groups will participate in the 2020 European Championship. In addition, four tickets will go to winners of the playoff of the UEFA League of Nations.

It will be beautiful at Minsk-Arena

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Belarusian rhythmic gymnasts preparing a complex programme for 2nd European Games

Compared to the 1st European Games in Baku, where the Belarusians earned awards in this sporting discipline, the line-up of the team has changed.

"The coaching staff decided that Yekaterina Galkina will be performing at the 2nd European Games in the individual competitions, though Anastasia Salos, Alina Gornosko and Yulia Yevchik are also preparing thoroughly. The group exercises will see Arina Tsitsilina, Anna Gaidukevich, Anna Shvaiba, Anastasia Rybakova and Karina Yermolenko performing at Minsk-Arena. We have ambitious plans for the



domestic event, with a complex and interesting programme prepared for the team exercises, especially the set with five balls. As a coach, I see the performance every day but each time it arouses positive emotions," said the senior coach of the national team, Lyubov Cherkashina, in the press centre of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House.

The rhythmic gymnastics tournament of the 2nd European Games will bring together the strongest gymnasts, with the number one athletes from Russia, Ukraine, Israel and Bulgaria performing. The coach believes that there will be serious competition for medals. "Tickets for the gymnastics enjoy high demand, I don't think the spectators will regret coming to Minsk-Arena," added Ms. Cherkashina.

During the 2nd European Games, from June 22nd-23rd, eight sets of medals in rhythmic gymnastics will be played for at Minsk-Arena.



ARENA



● **Jumper Karina Taranda wins Motonet GP international tournament in Finnish Lahti**

The Belarusian athlete initially took the bar at a height of 1m 92cm, while her second attempt saw 1m 96cm, enabling her to make the qualification for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. She did later attempt unsuccessfully to jump 2m.

The resulting 1m 97.6cm ranked Karina Taranda second in the world rankings for

the current summer season, which she shares together with Ukrainian jumper, Yaroslava Mahuchikh. The Belarusian athlete also re-wrote the national youth record (U23).

● **Belarus has increased its representation on UEFA committees**

UEFA Executive Committee approved, at its latest session, new committees and groups for 2019-2023. Belarus' representation has expanded from three to five representatives.

The Chairman of the Belarusian Football Federation, Vladimir Bazanov, was included in the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee. The First Deputy Chairman of

the Belarusian Football Federation, Yuri Vergeichik, made part of the UEFA HatTrick Committee, while the Director of the International Legal Department of the Belarusian Football Federation, Sergey Ilyich, joined the UEFA Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee.

In addition, the Technical Director of the Belarusian Football Federation, Dmitry Kasenok, was included in the UEFA Development and Technical Assistance Committee and the Deputy Director of the International Legal Department of the Belarusian Football Federation, Svetlana Grinkevich, joined the UEFA Women's Football Committee.





Rally of the week

Over 50 vintage cars drive through Minsk as part of the Oldtimer Rally last Saturday

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS
20 Lenin Street
Until 21st June. *Two Worlds of Russian Icon Painting: 17th century monuments from Russian Icon Museum (Moscow)*
Until 30th June. *Salvador Dali*
Until 3rd July. *Games*
Until 8th July. *Travelling Along Rhine*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM
12 Karl Marx Street
Until 24th June. *Surrealistic Vision of Georgy Skripnichenko*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS
116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 11th August. *Fantasy Land*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS
11 Sovetskaya Street
Until 27th June. *Impressions*
Until 2nd August. *Killed Strongmen of Belarusian Land*

VILNIUS GALLERY
55 Kalinovsky Street
Until 10th August. *Yakub Kolas and Vilno*

TROITSKY SUBURBS
7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 2nd August. *Live Singing Birds*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY
12 K. Marx Street
Until 1st September. *Dangerous Beauty*

FIRST RSDRP SESSION HOUSE-MUSEUM
31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 7th July. *Miraculous World Under Microscope*

DREAMLAND
8 Orlovskaya Street
Until 15th September. *Festival of Sand Sculptures*

VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR
14 Starovilenskaya Street
Until 28th June. *Robo Art*

LOSHITSA ESTATE
8 Chizhevskiy Lane
Until 27th October. *Belarusian Diamond in Crown of Palladium Orthodox Icons*

VANKOVICH'S HOUSE
33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 10th July. *Images of Epoch in Works by Czeslaw and Stanislaw Moniuszko*

LIBRA
37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th July. *Marc Chagall*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE
1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
14.06. Night of Romance
17.06. Don Quixote
18.06. Macbeth
19.06. Swan Lake / Russian Romance Night
20.06. Yevgeny Onegin

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE
5 Volodarsky Street
14.06. Hot Mothers
18.06. Bridal Shower
19.06. Oscar and Pink Lady

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS
13 Pobediteley Avenue
13.06. Battlefield
14.06. A Very Simple Story
15.06. Pygmalion
16.06. The Same Place Next Year
17.06. Wolves and Sheep
18.06. Midnight Robbery
19 and 20.06. False Note

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE
44 Kropotkin Street
13.06. Three Giselles
17.06. Ticket to Brest Train
18.06. Wisdom Measurer
19.06. Medea's Syndrome
20.06. Revenge

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE
7 Engels Street
13.06. Jeweller's Jubilee
14.06. Pinsk Gentry
16.06. Inspector
17.06. Pan Tadeush
18.06. Tolerance
19.06. Seagull
20.06. Paulinka

YOUTH THEATRE
17 Kozlov Street
13.06. Trickster Club
14.06. Love of Three / Pieta
18.06. Love to Unconsciousness
19.06. Hotel of Two Worlds
20.06. Caught by Love

MUSICAL THEATRE
44 Myasnikov Street
13.06. Jane Eire
14.06. Tristan and Isolda
16.06. Cleopatra

NEW DRAMA THEATRE
16 Liza Chaikina Street
13.06. Bonus Session of Psychoanalysis
18.06. How I Became...
19.06. Mad Money
20.06. Important to Be Serious

OK16
16 Oktyabrskaya Street
14.06. Locals
17.06. Song of Songs
18.06. We'll Live Here