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INTERNATIONAL

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Mikhail Grin, a schoolboy from Minsk, is preparing to spend time in a recreation camp

Get ready for active summer!

Today is International Children's Day. This is not only one of the most joyful holidays for children, but also a reminder to adults that children need constant care and protection and that it is adults who are responsible for them.

It's time for the holidays, which means it's time to think about rest and health improvement of the younger generation. What is interesting and safe to do with a child during the summer holidays? The best option is to productively spend time in a children's recreation camp. The sanatorium-resort complex of our country is ready for the beginning of the summer season. The highest demand is expected. Summer shifts in children's recreation camps started on May 27th. The children have already managed to feel the taste of summer — noise, children's laughter, outdoor games — no one can be found indoors.

In total, 5,900 recreation camps of various profiles will operate in our country in the summer. It is planned that 377,000 children will have a rest in them.





Economic union without barriers or restrictions

At the summit, the leaders of the states first discussed the agenda items in a narrow-format meeting in the format of the five EAEU member states. Then an expanded-participation meeting took place with the participation of the Heads of the observer States to the EAEU and invited distinguished guests. Among them was Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, who attended a session of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council for the first time. Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon joined the summit by a video link. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez delivered a welcoming speech through video conferencing.

CIS Secretary General Sergei Lebedev, SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming, and State Secretary of the Belarus-Russia Union State Dmitry Mezentsev were also invited.

At the summit, Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed the opinion that the Eurasian Economic Union should become one of the world's decision-making centres,

"Today's world is on the brink of major changes, it is entering an era of large-scale transformations and strategic development. There is a growing awareness that the unipolar world order should be replaced with new decision-making centres that will take on board the interests of all participants in international relations. The attention to the events taking place in Moscow today clearly suggests that the Eurasian Economic Union should become one of such centres."

The President of Belarus named areas in which the parties could act faster.

"We are moving slowly and with difficulty on some important issues of the internal agenda of Eurasian integration. First of all, this pertains to the development of common markets of gas, oil and petroleum products, the implementation of digital agenda and liberalisation of the transport market.

Creating a genuine economic union remains a priority task for all of us. Everyone notes progress in this matter but I stick to my previous position: there must be no barriers or restrictions whatsoever! It is the underlying principle for building our union and we should reach the goal very soon," the Head of the Belarusian State concluded.

There must be no barriers or restrictions whatsoever in the Eurasian Economic Union. This important principle was voiced by the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, at a session of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Moscow on May 25th.



Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the great work done on the formation of a common market for public and municipal purchases, "The market of public purchases works albeit not without problems. However, an agreement on mutual recognition of bank guarantees during government procurement and rules on mutual recognition of digital signatures need to be signed and come into force as soon as possible if we want the market to develop..."

Our response to the sanctions is stepping up cooperation with the SCO, BRICS and ASEAN, new trade agreements as well as constructive and mutually beneficial contacts with everyone who is ready to be our friends and partners... Due to the turning of our export flows to the southeast, it is necessary to reach out to countries of this region through joint efforts. It is a bottomless market for our goods."

At the same time it is necessary to enable equal access to the existing infrastructure and emerging infrastructure in

order to avoid unpleasant situations in the future. The export of timber via territories of EAEU member states to third-country markets was mentioned as an example.

The President also believes it is advisable to revisit the matter of liberalisation of transportation by road to third countries without the need to obtain special permits.

The Head of the Belarusian State touched upon a relatively new, but very relevant aspect of Eurasian integration — the EAEU climate agenda.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the European Union has been actively preparing for trade in the current conditions for a number of years. The mechanism of cross-border carbon regulation being developed by the European Union will become a serious tool for influencing international trade.

"The European Union will have an additional room for manoeuvre. Goods recognised as 'clean' will be allowed to the market and those that are not in demand in their market will simply be blocked.

They know how to do it," the Belarusian leader noted.

In this regard, the Head of State urged to unite efforts within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union and develop their own approaches and measures to respond to climate challenges. We need to move towards the structure of the economy which is dominated by industries and technologies with low greenhouse gas emissions.

Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident that the experience of the Union State can be in demand in the development of the EAEU.

At the end of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, the leaders of the countries signed a dozen and a half different documents, including a protocol to amend the provisions of the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty on funding joint projects in the manufacturing industry, as well as a package of amendments to the EAEU Treaty — the so-called III Big Protocol.

Traditionally, a lot of attention from journalists was riveted to the President of Belarus. Before the start of the summit and after it, media representatives asked Aleksandr Lukashenko to answer a number of topical questions.

The Head of State commented on the statements in Poland about the alleged uprising in Belarus, "We are keeping an eye on these people that this confused Polish general was talking about. They say they are putting together regiments or battalions. At least they proclaim that they are doing this. But in fact... We know where they are. We know them by name. We're ready. Let them come... Unfortunately, they do not hear what I say. A few months ago I said that they were preparing an uprising, a revolution... whatever. We have known for a long time that they are up to something, perhaps preparing another revolt."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also shared the details of his brief exchange with the President Vladimir Putin at the Eurasian Economic Forum the day before as Kazakhstan leader Kassym-Jomart Tokayev made a remark about "nuclear weapons for two" with regards to Belarus and Russia.

At that point, the leaders of Belarus and Russia

smiled, had a brief exchange and shook hands. The Head of State was asked to tell what was discussed, "That's easy. When the speech came to a remark about nuclear weapons, I, to be honest, didn't catch it due to the acoustics in the hall. Vladimir Vladimirovich turned to me and said that a decision had been made to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. That was what he told me. I said, 'Thank you!' That was it. That's that on that."

The President of Belarus later answered the same question to another group of reporters, "He told me he had signed a decree on our actions concerning the deployment of nuclear weapons in Belarus. I mean a concrete document was discussed. A decision had been made in furtherance of a verbal discussion. We had to prepare storage facilities and the rest over there [in Belarus]. We've done all of that. This is why the relocation of nuclear munitions began."

The Head of State was also asked a question concerning efforts to ensure the security of nuclear weapons.

"It is even out of the question. You know that we are punctual, accurate, and businesslike peo-

ple as you say. This is why don't you worry about nuclear weapons. We bear responsibility for it after all. It is a serious matter. Everything will be fine here, too," Aleksandr Lukashenko assured.

Reporters asked the President about possible provocations from the Polish territory and whether the border of Belarus and the Union State of Belarus and Russia is safely locked in this direction, "You don't have to worry about that. Listen, if infiltrators have to penetrate your or our territory, there are many ways of doing it inconspicuously today. I mean, it can be done without crossing the actual no man's land. I am saying it as a professional. This is why talks claiming that infiltrators can penetrate our territory if the border is not secure are unprofessional... Infiltrators use other ways. None of the infiltrators we have apprehended in Belarus had to go across our border. Therefore, there is no need to worry about border security."

Let us remember that on the eve of the EAEU summit, Aleksandr Lukashenko, together with his colleagues, took part in the plenary session of the 2nd Eurasian Economic Forum in Moscow.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Lukashenko met with Bank of Russia Governor to discuss reserve currencies, digital Rouble and work under sanctions

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with the Governor of the Bank of Russia, Elvira Nabiullina

Aleksandr Lukashenko set the tone for the meeting immediately, “Elvira Sakhpizadovna, I would like to learn something from you, to ask a number of questions that many Heads of State are now talking about. You see it in our speeches.”

The President noted that his colleagues often raise the topic of reserve currencies and related issues, though they do not quite understand when and how it will develop. “Therefore, issues of the kind are of great interest to me. [I am interested] in your point of view and the point of view of your specialists,” he addressed the guest.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, there are no questions regarding the work of the Interbank Currency Council of the Central Banks of Belarus and Russia. “I often refer to the words of you and of the Chairman [of Belarus’ National Bank Board, Pavel Kallaur] at the level of Heads of State, when creation of a single currency and other issues are discussed – saying that this is not an easy process and probably not of today, as we agreed with the President of Russia. Nevertheless,

some of our patriotic people in Russia and Belarus often raise this issue. I would like to hear your point of view now,” the Belarusian leader said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that even our enemies admit that Elvira Nabiullina very quickly dealt with economic issues and currency problems in Russia, especially under sanctions, “I have almost quoted our enemies. Therefore, I would also ask you to focus on the issue of the digital Rouble: what is it, how we will develop in this direction. A reserve currency is still the most important point for me. De-dollarisation of the international economy is underway. How much has this process progressed? Naturally, new reserve currencies will be launched. What [can you say] about their timing and speed of introduction? I keep inspiring my colleagues to all time move forward in order not to be late. Should we run? Or is it a long-lasting process? There are also a number of issues that we earlier talked about on the phone. I would be happy to listen to your view on the problems that the central banks of Belarus and Russia face. Tell



Russia's Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina and Chairman of the National Bank of Belarus Pavel Kallaur

me please, if there are any problematic issues. We will work to lift them.”

Elvira Nabiullina started the conversation by sharing her first impressions of her stay in Belarus, “I arrived yesterday

some time in advance. We took a little drive. Of course, it’s amazing! We looked at your fields. Everything is very well maintained, very beautiful. Everything is sown, and everything works. Amazing!”

Elvira Nabiullina arrived in Belarus to participate in a meeting of the Interbank Currency Council of the Central Banks of Belarus and Russia and the Advisory Council on Foreign Exchange Policy of EAEU Central (National) Banks. On May 29th, the Interbank Currency Council the Central Banks of Belarus and Russia discussed the economic situation in both countries, the results of the banking systems’ operation in Q1 2023, the implementation of the Union State programmes, as well as a draft agreement between the governments and the central banks of Belarus and Russia on co-operation and exchange of information, including confidential, in the field of supervision and (or) financial market control.

On May 30th, the Advisory Council on Foreign Exchange Policy met, gathering central bank heads from Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the deputy head of the central bank of Armenia, representatives of the regulators of the EAEU financial markets. The meeting participants discussed the current economic situation and the implementation of monetary policy in the EAEU member states, issues of mutual recognition of ratings, further directions of work on the formation of a common financial market.

Belarusian Marina Vasilevskaya included into main crew for ISS mission

Belarusian cosmonaut Marina Vasilevskaya has been included into the main crew for the flight to the International Space Station, the Embassy of Belarus in Russia reports in its Telegram channel

Based on the Cosmonaut Training Centre data, cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky will become the commander.

In addition, NASA astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson will fly to the ISS as a flight engineer.

“Cosmonaut Ivan Vagner, Belarusian paediatric surgeon Anastasia

Lenkova and NASA astronaut Donald R. Pettit have been appointed as backup crew members,” the source said.

Marina Vasilevskaya is a flight attendant-instructor of Belavia Airlines, working as part of the crews of Boeing and Embraer aircraft. Marina was professionally engaged in ballroom dancing for 15 years before joining the airline. The lady is fond of interior design, going to the pool, doing aerobics, playing badminton and tennis in her spare time. Upon returning to the ground from the airspace, Marina goes straight down to her garden, where she grows vegetables and herbs with pleasure.

Anastasia Lenkova is a paediatric surgeon at the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre for Paediatric Surgery. Anastasia graduated from the Belarusian State Medical University’s Paediatric Faculty and later passed internship in the ‘paediatric surgery’ specialty. The lady has authored about two dozen scientific papers. She was a participant and finalist of various international competitions and conferences in Europe. In 2021, Anastasia was award-

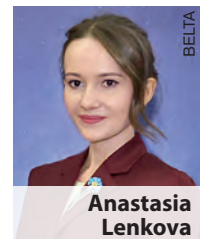


Marina Vasilevskaya

ed the medical qualification of a radiologist, and she has received the second qualification category of a paediatric surgeon this year.

Roscosmos has also reported that the main crew of the 70th and 71st long-term expeditions include Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub, as well as NASA astronaut Loral O’Hara. They will go into orbit in September 2023 on the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft. It is planned that Loral O’Hara will return to Earth on the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft in March 2024, while Kononenko and Chub will remain at the station until September – to return on Soyuz MS-25.

The main crew of the 21st visiting expedition includes cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky, the Belarusian lady and NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson. They are scheduled to fly to the station in March 2024 on the Soyuz MS-25 spacecraft. It is expected that, after a short expedition to the station, Novitsky and the lady will return to Earth on the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft together with O’Hara, while Dyson will continue the flight to the ISS until September 2024 and land together with Kononenko and Chub on the Soyuz MS-25 spacecraft.



Anastasia Lenkova



The Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Centre in Zvezdny Gorodok (Star City)



Threat to all living things

What is considered as a threat to the biological security of Belarus according to the National Security Concept

A new aspect has appeared in the National Security Concept project — biological security. This term refers to the state of protection of the population, animals and plants, the environment from the impact of hazardous biological factors, which ensures an acceptable level of biological risk.

By Svetlana Isaenok

Biosecurity is a significant aspect in the policy of any modern state. Biotechnology has long been used as a weapon. At the same time, the threat is posed not only by viruses artificially grown in laboratories (some countries, contrary to international agreements, conduct far from transparent military biological activities), but also, for example, infectious diseases that appear due to natural processes and human activities.

Although the WHO officially declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic on May 5th, the risk of biological emergencies at the national, regional and global levels remains high. More and more researchers state that terrorist groups are adopting biotechnology. Since modern technology allows one to get information about the creation of various viruses almost at home. In this situation, it is extremely important to build a barrier system against this type of threat.

HOWEVER

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus approved the Concept of the National Biosecurity System. Five strategic directions for counteracting dangerous biological factors have been identified:

- human biosecurity
- animal biosecurity
- plant biosecurity
- genetic safety
- control of invasive (alien) species of animals and plants

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"In the context of the growing relevance of biological security problems we suggest organising a session of the relevant coordinating council of authorised bodies of the organisation's member states in Belarus. I am talking about biological security and about the organisation of an appropriate event in Minsk, but we have to honestly say something to each other after all. We often talk about biological labs. I think only Belarus and Russia don't have them, but they exist in some CSTO countries... Biological security is no joke. We try to persuade each other while American labs or labs of other countries exist in some countries. Just like several labs have been found in Ukraine."

During a plenary session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in Yerevan on November 23rd, 2022

REFERENCE

In Belarus, there has been a stable situation with regard to dangerous infectious diseases over the past few years. Especially dangerous infections recorded for many centuries (plague, cholera, typhoid and typhus) are under control, smallpox has been eliminated. Effective vaccine prophylaxis has made it possible to reduce the incidence of a number of vaccine-preventable infections to threshold levels. Enormous funds have been spent to suppress the spread of HIV and parenteral hepatitis.

IN THE WORLD

American entrepreneur Bill Gates recently said that he believes the next major threat we should be wary of will be bioterrorism. On this occasion, Interpol issued an official statement stating that individuals, terrorist groups and criminals have both the ability and the intention to use biological agents to harm society, the damage from which can reach unimaginable proportions, as well as sow panic among all humanity.

OPINION

Igor Zavalei, a member of the House of Representatives,

"As technology advances, modern weapons become more aggressive. Biological supplies are also moving onto the stage of hostilities. Suffice it to recall the news about the publication of US biological laboratories on the territory of Ukraine. In addition, the Anglo-Saxons conduct biological research in other laboratories almost all over the world. Of course, we must see this and respond in a timely manner. In addition, the essence of the origin of the COVID-19 has not been put to rest. You can put forward as many hypotheses as you like, but in this situation, the statement of the President of Belarus about the global redistribution of the world and the place that we, as a country, will take after, sounds relevant. Therefore, in my opinion, the inclusion of biological security in the National Security Concept confirms the high level of modern risks, challenges and threats and corresponds to the latest trends."

The main national interests in the biological aspect are:

- ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population, preventing unacceptable losses of agricultural animals and plants from infectious diseases and pests;
- development of controlled biotechnologies, ensuring compliance of food and plant products with national and international sanitary-epidemiological, veterinary-sanitary and phytosanitary requirements;
- regulation of the distribution and abundance of aggressive alien (invasive) species of animals and plants;
- strengthening international and regional biosecurity mechanisms.

Internal sources of threats to national security in the biological aspect are:

- sources of pathogens of infectious and parasitic diseases of humans, animals and plants;
- natural foci of infectious and parasitic diseases of humans and animals;
- products obtained through genetic engineering, synthetic biology and pathogens;
- organisations or other entities engaged in economic activities, research in biological, medical, veterinary, biotechnological, genetic engineering and other areas where leakage of pathogenic biological agents potentially dangerous to humans, animals, plants and the environment is possible;
- resistance to antimicrobial, antiviral and antiparasitic drugs.

External sources of threats to national security in the biological aspect are:

- emergencies associated with the emergence and spread outside the country of infectious and parasitic human diseases, animal and plant diseases, including new, rare, previously not encountered and (or) again returning to the territory of the Republic of Belarus;
- placement in neighbouring countries of facilities for carrying out work using pathogenic biological agents, opportunistic and pathogenic genetically engineered organisms, as well as fields for their cultivation in the territories bordering the Republic of Belarus;
- cross-border movement of people, goods with animals, plants, products of animal and plant origin, feed and biological products, genetically engineered organisms;
- import and (or) intentional distribution of invasive and quarantine species of animals and plants into the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

The agreement on the creation of a research and production cluster was developed and signed in June last year as part of the implementation of the President's decree 'On the Development of Mogilevkhimvolokno'. The expediency of creating such a cluster in Mogilev is due to the fact that a school of chemists has been formed here — educational institutions that train dedicated experts for the enterprise.



fezmogilev.by



Utility operator Igor Kozlov

A powerful fusion of knowledge and experience

The research and production cluster for the development of the chemical and petrochemical industry was created on the basis of Mogilevkhimvolokno

By Yelena Kukshinskaya

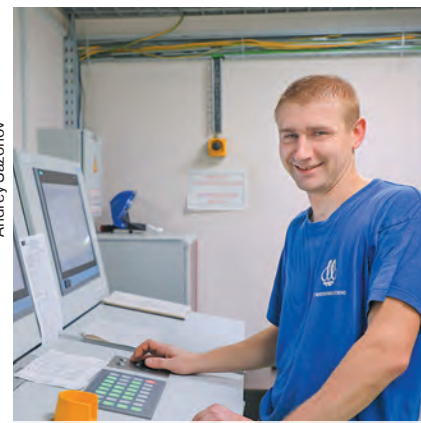
Mogilevkhimvolokno is the industrial core of the innovative structure. The cluster also includes the Mogilev City Executive Committee, the Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies, the Belarusian State Technological University, and the Mogilev State Industrial College.

According to Director General of Mogilevkhimvolokno Vladimir Markov, the company is working with scientific institutions on projects for the further development of the petrochemical industry, with the focus on import substitution, "The company is embarking on a new stage of modernisation, which is impossible without innovative technologies and building mutually beneficial co-operation between partners. Personnel training, scientific research will allow us and our partners to be more sustainable. We plan to include commercial organisations that are in the value chain of goods in the cluster. Mogilevkhimvolokno is part of FEZ Mogilev: vacant production areas can be used by cluster members."

The purpose of creating a research and production cluster at Mogilevkhimvolokno is defined by its participants as follows: the consolidation of the production, scientific, educational, and administrative potential of the participants, aimed at developing the chemical industry. One of the important tasks is to promote the development of scientific, industrial and organisational co-operation within the cluster, the transfer of technological innovations according to the 'science-production' scheme. An in-



Andrey Sazonov



Subforeman Roman Gerasimov controls the technical process

crease in the export of science-intensive products with high additional cost is the expected economic effect.

The Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies is one of the cluster members. Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor, and Vice-Rector for Research Aleksandr Akulich believes that the scientific potential of the teaching staff of the university should be involved in solving production problems, "Our main profile is educational: we train personnel for Mogilevkhimvolokno. However, on the other hand, we are also engaged in science, so we would like to have contracts from the enterprise to carry out research within our skill sets with the condition of financing on an economic contract basis. We already have experience of such interaction with other organisations in the country. The sec-

ond point is to strengthen the material and technical base for scientific research."

The branch of the Chemical Technology of Macromolecular Compounds Department operates on the basis of Mogilevkhimvolokno, the training of chemical engineers-technologists is practice-oriented. The Head of the Department, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate Professor Leonid Shcherbina is convinced that the role of science in the development of the petrochemical industry is dominant, "It is crucial to develop your own technologies and build enterprises in order to be absolutely independent in today's economic realities. There is everything for this, many technologies are capable of mastering and developing themselves, but financial resources are required. We must be

able to try, as any innovative technology goes through a thorny path, to be more courageous in attracting funds from the innovation fund. We practically do not have our own petrochemical raw materials, hence the need to develop unique, science-intensive, high-tech products. More attention needs to be paid to the orientation of the industry towards biorenewable, carbohydrate-containing raw materials. Today, the whole world is moving towards the creation of composite materials based on carbon fibres. We have a powerful polyester complex in the Mogilevkhimvolokno

An increase in the export of science-intensive products with high additional cost is the expected economic effect

branch, where we could also work in terms of creating new products. Foremost, it is important to invest in science. At each enterprise, it is necessary to create an industry centre or conduct centralised research."

The Mogilev State Industrial College has been preparing personnel at the level of vocational technical training for the company for more than half a century. Director Olga Chumakova emphasises that the masters of industrial training should be aware of all the know-how at the chemical giant in order to prepare personnel ahead of the curve, "Utility operators we train are directly the people who produce the products. These professions are unique, only we are able to prepare them in our country. If training workshops are the classics of training in vocational technical training education, then our training is structured in such a way that our students go to the enterprise with industrial training masters literally from the first day. Inclusion in the cluster is an opportunity to keep abreast of innovations for us."

Work has been actively carried out to form clusters in the Mogilev Region in recent years. The Mogilev Regional Development Agency became the coordinating organisation of the IT cluster. A tourist cluster is being created in Bykhov, Kirov and Slavgorod Districts, Gorki District represents an agrotechnological cluster, while Krichev District represents a construction cluster. Clustering is called one of the most important driving forces for the development of economies today. The main idea of cluster formation is to create commercial mechanisms for bringing the industry to a higher level based on scientifically sound and technologically feasible solutions. The formula for success lies in the close integration of science, education and production.



Andrey Sazonov

Dark bishop move

Africa strengthens its position in the big geopolitical game, while a new window of opportunity opens for Belarus on the Dark Continent

For more than a decade, economists have been predicting an economic boom for the African continent, comparable to that experienced by Southeast Asia not so long ago. So far, the development of the continent has been held back — at first by the consequences of the Arab Spring and the fall in oil prices, later by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, Africa's potential is undeniable and enormous. Belarus is gradually strengthening its presence in the most promising world market. This is a global trend — to participate in the heyday of the African economy. The Belarusian motive is intertwined into the world party of interaction with the continent: Nigerian Abuja, Egyptian Cairo, Pretoria in South Africa, Kenyan Nairobi, now Zimbabwean Harare are the main strongholds of our country in Africa. What does the world need in Africa, and what does Africa expect from the world?

By Maksim Korotkin

'There are piles of gold there, and they all belong to me'

A gigantic amount of natural resources attracted colonialists from all over the world to Africa. The red rocks of Africa, its savannahs and lakes with minerals hidden in them were sawed actively, with taste and with reference to the credo of each conquistador — a collection of articles about democracy and human rights.

However, there was and is something to fight for: even today, Africa represents 30 percent of the world's mineral reserves, 17 percent of the world's population and six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world.

Perhaps, the most serious potential is hidden in demography: already now there are almost 1.5 billion people living in African countries (these are actually three Europes), and 1.7 billion people will live there by 2030. At the same time, the continent is still sparsely populated, especially in the interior regions. The low population density in the vast and habitable areas confirms the accuracy of the forecasts of enormous population growth in the coming decades. By 2100, 40 percent of the world's population will be registered in Africa, and these will be predominantly young people.

The history of the colonisation of the continent began to wind down in the 20th

century, including after the entry of the Soviet Union. The basis of the USSR's policy on the continent was the support and protection of the interests of the newly independent African states. With this approach, close relationships were built with the new governments of the young African states. Since the 1960s, the Belarusian delegation, as one of the founders of the UN, has been participating in the discussion and solution of African problems. Thus, the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid proposed by the USSR and Guinea was adopted in 1973. Actually, little has changed in the Belarusian position on the African issue since then.

It is clear that political interaction with the continent is only a gateway to entry into African economies for the world's leading players. For the economic giants, politics runs in parallel with the global financial outlook.

Big African game

The White House clearly outlined a course to strengthen the position of American business in the markets of the continent at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, which took place in mid-December 2022. This task has two main goals for Washington: strengthening its own economic presence and blocking Chinese expansion.

However, the traditional liberal formula of 'investment in exchange for democratic reforms' turned out to be strongly moved by competitors. China, for example, is investing heavily in Africa, placing a strong emphasis on social projects.

Indeed, the pragmatic Chinese offer tied loans to buy their materials and work with their contractors. But from 2000 to 2015, China invested almost \$100 billion in various African countries: railways, housing, and even entire cities. At the same time, China does not require Africa to follow the manuals of this or that ideological system as the main condition for receiving money.

India has chosen a similar approach to the Soviet approach towards the continent. Initially, Delhi acted in two main ways: supporting anti-colonial liberation movements and the struggle against apartheid, as well as using ethnic Indians in Africa as a 'soft power'. From the middle of the 20th century, India began to position itself as a representative of African developing countries in international organisations.

Russia traditionally solves two parallel tasks in its relations with African countries: the development of political co-operation based on ensuring the stability of the continent, as well as economic co-operation.

Africa as a geopolitical entity simply does not exist or the collective West, and very special opportunities open up for those who see African countries as equal partners.

Türkiye, Japan, and Brazil are now groping for their ways of working on the African market. This is why summits according to the 'one country — all Africa' formula are so popular in the world. The competition of world powers for the African market is reaching its climax: it is quite obvious that entering projects with the countries of the continent will

begin to bring serious dividends in the early 2040s.

Belarusian approach

The competition for investment in the African economy is now such that even giant countries are concentrating on individual industries. For example, American experts admit that U.S. companies cannot compete with Chinese firms in the construction of roads and bridges. They are offered to focus on co-operation in healthcare, financial technologies and renewable energy sources. In such conditions, it is appropriate for Belarus, on the one hand, to look at Russia's experience in building relations with the continent (fortunately, many ambassadors of African countries in the Russian Federation work part-time with our country), and on the other hand, to focus on the five main partner countries, developing both political and economic co-operation.

Belarusian Ambassador to Russia Dmitry Krutoi held about a dozen meetings with the ambassadors of African countries this year alone and sees a good response to Belarusian initiatives,

"All of Africa for us is \$280 million of exports over the past year. Sure, they don't have a big economy now, they don't have big finances, but they have big resources and great opportunities."

In order to concentrate (we are not Russia, which, of course, works with every country out of 55 in Africa, and they, by and large, have no prioritisation), our President says: we need to work successfully and expand with those countries with which we are getting interaction and

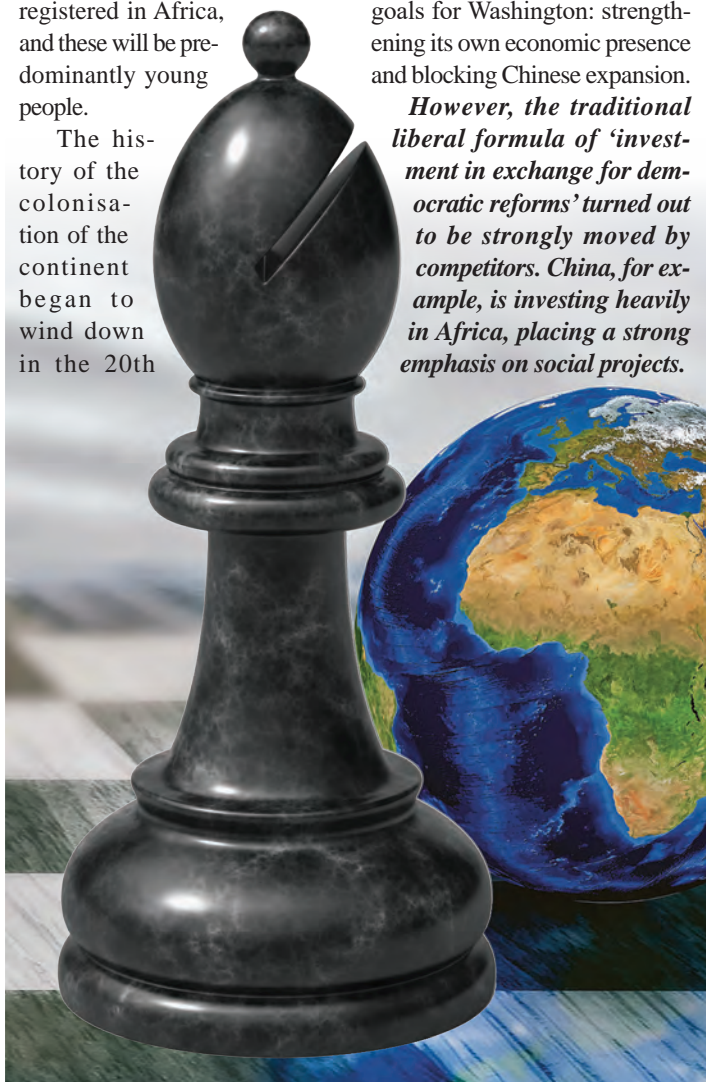
The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"Africa woke up a long time ago. The world has no future without Africa. Here are resources, here people are becoming more educated every year, and here are the latest technologies. Without Africa, there can be no development... Therefore, all the powers-that-be are here: the United States, China, Russia, the UK, the entire European Union and so on. The future belongs to Africa... We came to visit friends. We negotiate with them in the name of our peoples. We are a peaceful nation. We are not coming here the way the colonialists once did. Furthermore, we are bringing technology and training specialists."










During the talks with the Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa on January 31st, 2023

with whom we have made good progress in recent years. There are five such countries: Egypt, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Angola and Nigeria. However, this does not mean that we should concentrate only on these five countries. Therefore, of course, my task at meetings with African ambassadors is primarily the economic agenda and new projects. The projects that are now on our 'African table' are a classic supply of equipment, primarily agricultural. In addition, assembly productions of a small format are underway.

Processing, classical engineering and pharmaceuticals are three areas that we could seriously promote in Africa. Moreover, if in the near future we reach \$1 billion in exports to Africa, it would be very cool. Because now whoever stakes out in Africa until 2030 will then simply skim off the cream of co-operation," Dmitry Krutoi concluded.



AFRICA'S SHARE OF WORLD RESERVES

-  **14 percent** of arable land
-  **65 percent** of unused arable land
-  **10 percent** of renewable fresh water
-  **30 percent** of mineral resources
-  **7 percent** of gas
-  **8 percent** of oil
-  **30 percent** of bauxite
-  **40 percent** of gold
-  **90 percent** of chrome and platinum



Former British colonies claim compensation for centuries of British rule

The new ruler of the United Kingdom has finally been crowned. This significant event took place in London on May 6th. The ceremony was accompanied by a number of funny and not very incidents. Either a grim reaper with a scythe at the ready flashes behind the back of the solemn procession, then the pampered guardsmen fall unconscious on the floor, then the escort horses go berserk, then some muddy personalities walk around next to the heir to the throne as if in their own area. It seems that fate itself hints to the monarch, who has chosen an unlucky name, to some fatal mistakes of the dynasty.

War on the palaces

anism that would consistently speak about the crimes of colonial empires and work to overcome the consequences of slavery.

In total, from 12.5 to 14 million slaves were taken from Africa to other continents during the heyday of the slave trade. The responsibility for bringing this process to an industrial scale lies precisely with the British Empire, which as early as 1620 legislated its colonies in North America and the Caribbean Sea to impose a state monopoly on the slave trade.

The general demands also include a proposal to support the Vatican's rejection of the 'doctrine of discovery', which became the official moral basis for the colonisation of overseas territories. According to it, the Europeans were endowed with absolute power over the lands and resources of the indigenous peoples of the occupied territories. The Holy See made its step — Pope Francis recognised the damage caused to the colonised countries, and also called for now to abandon the 'mentality of the colonialists' and build relations from now on the basis of dialogue and mutual respect. True, the Windsors have an excellent loophole in this case: the Anglican Church is subordinate exclusively to the king, and the words of the head of all Catholics are not imperative for it.

Empire and other attributes of power. The amazing stone was mined in South Africa in 1905 and presented to King Edward VII on the birthday of the royal person. Meanwhile, the Cullinan is the property of the people on whose territory it was mined, but not the Windsor dynasty.

Much more significant is the struggle to return national relics and the remains of indigenous peoples taken to Britain.

That's it, prim lords from the banks of the Thames River used to make collections of human remains, treated in a special way. At the same time, many collections are still quite accessible for viewing by everyone with an exact indication of where the mortal remains of a Maori, Indian or African came from.

colonialists, ended in the last century. However, in many ways, the release turned out to be formal. The countries received freedom, but they did not wait for any apologies or compensation from the destructive yoke.

Wealth and artefacts, taken out by tens of thousands to the metropolis and settled there, did not return to the former owners. In addition, colonial thinking itself has not disappeared, although corporations have taken the place of the old empires.

Therefore, the letter received by Westminster, in which representatives of both small and large influential states of the Commonwealth of Nations act as a united front, marks a new milestone in relations between London and the former colonies. On the ground, they realised



By Anton Popov

Unexpected letter

The current King Charles is only the third in British history to adopt this name. Both previous Charleses lived in the 17th century, and the reign of both ended not very well. Charles I, a convinced absolutist, became the culprit of a bloody civil war and was executed by a court in London in 1649. Although his son Charles II was able to return to his homeland, he did not achieve outstanding successes after the Stuart Restoration: during his reign, London was devastated by the plague, and then by the Great Fire, and the king himself, assessed by historians as a weak and reactionary ruler, died childless, which already three years later led to a new revolution.

It's up to you to believe in signs from above or not. But the official letter received by Westminster shortly before the coronation, signed immediately by 12 countries of the Commonwealth of Nations, is a reason to think. The content of the message for the monarch and the entire royal family, to put it mildly, is quite unpleasant.

Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, New Zealand, Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines officially demanded that Charles III recognise the policy of genocide and colonisation, publicly apologise and make amends for the damage caused by the British invaders.

Some excerpts from the letter were published by the popular *Newsweek*, thanks to which we can learn more about what the indigenous peoples accuse the Windsors of and how the colonialists are offered to make amends for centuries of guilt.

To start, the signatories want King Charles to recognise 'the appalling consequences and legacy of the genocide and colonisation of indigenous and enslaved peoples'. The thesis about the need to start a conversation about the 'enduring influence of slavery' is inseparable from this requirement. Despite the general wording, this is an important clarification, since the modern West has never created a single public mech-

'R' stands for repatriation

In addition to general theses, the published letter contains many specifics. It can be seen that the compilers did not set out to waste their breath, they are really concerned about the position of the ruling dynasty and want the triumph of justice. Perhaps they should be listed in their entirety — they affect the characteristic features of British colonialism painfully.

So, it is proposed to redistribute the wealth underlying the crown back to the peoples from whom it was stolen. And the thieving monarchs hid a lot of gold and jewellery in their bins.

For example, the legendary Kohinoor diamond in the queen's crown says a lot — it was taken out of India in the middle of the century before last and firmly settled in the storerooms of Westminster. The situation is similar with the huge South African Cullinan Diamond (aka 'the Star of Africa') weighing an amazing 3.1 thousand carats. Part of the giant adorns the royal sceptre with a cross, smaller fragments are inserted into the crown of the British



For example, one of the largest 'ethnographic' collections is still on display in Oxford. It contains the remains of more than 2,000 natives of New Zealand, Australia and South America. The museum was founded in 1884 by General Augustus Pitt Rivers on the basis of a personal collection. At first, he collected primitive weapons and household items, and then were hooked on scarier curiosities. As a result, dried human Shrunken heads from the upper Amazon, tattooed Maori heads and limbs, and other 'rarities' turned out to be in a terrible collection.

The Pitt Rivers Museum is working with indigenous people to repatriate stolen relics for the sake of objectivity. However, if things are somehow moving with human remains and the descendants of those tortured by the colonialists get the opportunity to provide the last shelter to their ancestors, then the British refuse to give other relics, no less important, but not the remains.

Anti-colonialism 2.0

The letter addressed to Charles III is an important step towards a new stage of decolonisation. The first period, during which the peoples of South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania overthrew the dominion of the white

that it is difficult to fight for their rights alone and much better if they do it together.

A new generation of anti-colonialists sees a very good chance to get rid of the attributes of the slave past and return at least some of their relics and values in the split of British society and the decline in the authority of the Windsors.

In this case, London will not be helped even by the theme of the change of the ruling person, exaggerated on the sidelines. The closest contender to the throne, Prince William, is also not very respected outside the UK. During last year's Caribbean tour, the heir called slavery 'disgusting' but never condemned British colonial policy. This caused a sharp rejection in Jamaica, which was especially affected by the slave trade. In addition, the scene where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge deigned to greet the Jamaicans only through a wire fence completely infuriated the local population and politicians.

The result of the Jamaican part of William's visit was the intensification of work on holding a referendum on the island to establish a republican form of government and withdraw from the Commonwealth of Nations. Great trip, Prince!



Prices under control



By Polina Konoga, Vladimir Volchkov

Thanks to the set of measures adopted in Belarus, annual inflation in the country reached 12.8 percent at the end of last year, instead of 19, as originally predicted.

However, the trend towards a slowdown in annual inflation in the country continues. Compared to our neighbours, only Russia showed the best result (11.9 percent). For the rest, the success was much worse: for example, in Poland, prices for consumer goods and services in December 2022 compared to the same month of the previous year increased by 16.6 percent, in Latvia — by 20.8, in Lithuania — by 21.7, in Ukraine — by 26.6 percent. Overall, 2022 has been a challenging year for the entire world, with double-digit inflation facing most Euro-zone countries.

Belarus has one of the lowest inflation rates in Europe



The European Union cannot yet boast of price stability. And if the 'old members of the union' — France, Germany — were able to stay at a more or less decent inflationary level (5-6 percent) in April, then inflation on the outskirts of the EU is going through the roof. In Poland, Lithuania, Latvia is indecent 14-15 percent.

Strictly speaking, there is nothing surprising. The energy crisis has not disappeared. Yes, it lost a bit of drama and sharpness. But there is a shortage of energy in the Old World. Last year's bursts of quotations for gas, coal and other energy carriers then transformed into an unprecedented industrial inflation. And now the old problems are gradually being broadcast to the consumer market.

The Europeans are beginning to gradu-

ally rage from the high cost. If the indigenous inhabitants of developed countries still make ends meet due to a higher standard of living, then the same migrants find themselves on the sidelines. And splash out their resentment through crime. Crime is growing exponentially. Theft breaks all records.

In a word, the energy crisis provoked the economic one. The decline in the standard of living of the population results in social friction. However, even European politicians, perhaps, do not know how they will get out of this situation.

MEANWHILE

According to the IMF forecast, global inflation will decrease in the coming years: global consumer price growth is expected to be 7 percent in 2023. The UN gives another figure — 5.2 percent.

US debt drama

White House and Republican negotiators reached a tentative deal to raise the US debt ceiling and avert a default that threatened to send tremors through the global economy

In early 2023, the United States exceeded the legal debt ceiling of \$31.4 trillion, after which the US Treasury was forced to use emergency measures to continue financial operations. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned that the administration could run out of emergency measures as early as June 1st if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling. Then the estimated US debt default deadline was shifted to June 5th.

Meanwhile, Democratic President Joe Biden has struck a deal with top congressional Republican Kevin McCarthy on Saturday, that should avert a debt default looming and bring relief to the global economy and financial markets.

Biden and McCarthy reached the in-principle agreement following days of tense

round-the-clock negotiations between the White House and Capitol Hill that sought to break the fiscal stand-off gripping Washington.

The deal will raise America's \$31.4 trillion borrowing limit for two years, until after the next presidential election in late 2024, and will include caps on government spending over the same period.

But the compromise legislation still needs to pass both chambers of Congress in the coming week, and is likely to face resistance from some lawmakers in both the Republican and the Democratic parties.

Until then, there will still be uncertainty over the potential for a default in the world's largest economy that could rattle markets, raise borrowing costs and damage labour markets around the world.



NYC is sinking

New York City is sinking in part due to the extraordinary weight of its vertiginous buildings, worsening the flooding threat posed to the metropolis from the rising seas, new research has found

The Big Apple may be the city that never sleeps but it is a city that certainly sinks, subsiding by approximately 1-2mm each year on average, with some areas of New York City plunging at double this rate, according to researchers.

This sinking is exacerbating the impact of sea level rise which is accelerating at around twice the global average as the world's glaciers melt away and seawater expands due to global heating. The water that flanks New York City has risen by about 9in, or 22cm, since 1950 and major flooding events from storms could be up to four times more frequent than now by the end of the century due to the com-

bination of sea level rise and hurricanes strengthened by climate change.

"A deeply concentrated population of 8.4 million people faces varying degrees of hazard from inundation in New York City," researchers wrote in the new study, published in the Earth's Future journal.

The authors added that the risks faced by New York City will be shared by many other coastal cities around the world as the climate crisis deepens. "The combination of tectonic and anthropogenic subsidence, sea level rise, and increasing hurricane intensity imply an accelerating problem along coastal and riverfront areas," they wrote.



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China ink in living colour



The University of Culture Art Gallery in Minsk is a landmark platform not only for Belarusian artists. This is also a rare opportunity for viewers to see expositions with the participation of foreign guests and friends of Belarus. The art of China, Pakistan, Iran and Venezuela — over the past ten years, the University of Culture has accumulated a solid collection experience. It is noteworthy that both eminent masters and novice authors can exhibit their works here — they are no less welcome in the gallery. Yang Liuqing, a 24-year-old Chinese artist, is one of those recent discoveries. Her personal exhibition called *Images of China* is both an easy-to-read nostalgia for the homeland and an homage to traditional monochrome China ink painting, which is appreciated in China as much as oil painting.

By Yuliana Leonovich

Let's go to the garden

Yang Liuqing has embraced classical art behind contemporary art. She has been studying painting for almost nine years. In China, she graduated from the Art Department of the Henan University of Economics and Law, and chose the master's programme already in Belarus — she studies at the Belarusian and World Art Culture Department at the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts. Liuqing recalls, "I learned about Minsk thanks to a relative who has been

here for a long time. He recommended me to come and apply. He said that, firstly, Belarus has a very high quality education, which is valued in China. Secondly, it is a beautiful (which is important for an artist!) and comfortable country for life. In addition, I really feel calm and comfortable in Minsk. Nevertheless, I still miss my home... I embodied this slight longing and nostalgia for the Motherland in the *Images of China* series of works."

China in the artist's view is a real Garden of Eden: chrysanthemums and bamboo leaves, birds and tea houses,

mountain rivers and peaks drowning in clouds. Moreover, Liuqing works in a rare technique that has more than a thousand years of history:

"All materials (and these are brushes for writing, China ink and Xuan paper) were brought from China. This type of painting uses specific Chinese tools and materials, which, alas, cannot be found in Belarus. It is also important that the direction I have chosen has a pronounced national character and is a whole system — this is also a tribute to my native country. I always work at home alone, but not, say, in a crowded workshop or

The Xuan paper technique used by Yang Liuqing is included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. They still use hand-made technology, which appeared more than 500 years ago in Anhui Province, the homeland of Xuan paper.

on the street: it is important for me to tune in to contact with the tools. Once I made this style a priority in my work and didn't even try anything else," the artist adds.

Take one's way

Olga Verbitskaya, a senior lecturer at the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, is very proud of her master student. Olga Ivanovna hopes that, among other things, the knowledge and emotions Liuqing received in Belarus helped the girl create not just one or two works, but prepare a full-fledged series.

"Art is able to erase the borders between countries, gives us the opportunity for dialogue. Liuqing and I speak the same language — the language of professional art — which definitely contributes to the mutual enrichment of our cultures. The great Confucius wrote: the noble man seeks what he wants in himself; the inferior man seeks it from others. I think Liuqing

already found it," Olga Verbitskaya is sure.

Director of the University of Culture art gallery Marina Tatarevich, in turn, notes that the art of representatives of other countries and friends of Belarus always finds a warm response from Minsk residents and guests of the city, "Good attendance proves the correctness of the strategy we have chosen in the field of intercultural co-operation. Yang Liuqing has already achieved some success at home. So, let's say, with her works, she participated in the first exhibition of contemporary art in Zhengzhou. I hope that the exhibition in our gallery will be another achievement in her creative biography."

By the way, before returning to China, Yang Liuqing plans to capture images of her beloved Minsk on Xuan paper, "I really want to keep its main symbols: graceful temples and (especially!) the railway station. I know not everyone can appreciate its majestic beauty, but I just adore it!"



Belarusian enlighteners

By Sofia Arsenyeva

Francysk Skaryna

Philosopher, educator, humanist, doctor and, of course, the pioneer printer! This ‘son of the glorious city of Polotsk’ studied at Krakow, Padua and Bologna universities. There were legends about him all over Europe, and kings and nobles were glad to see him as their guest. Francysk Skaryna dared to publish a book in one of the Prague printing houses back in 1517, on the first page of which there was a Biblia Ruska [Russian Bible] inscription. This was the beginning of East Slavic printing.

Today, the legacy of Francysk Skaryna includes 520 books, which are located in more than fifty countries of the world. In Belarus, state awards were established in honour of the pioneer printer — the Order and Medal of Francysk Skaryna, which are awarded for contribution to the development and enhancement of the spiritual and intellectual potential, the cultural heritage of the people.



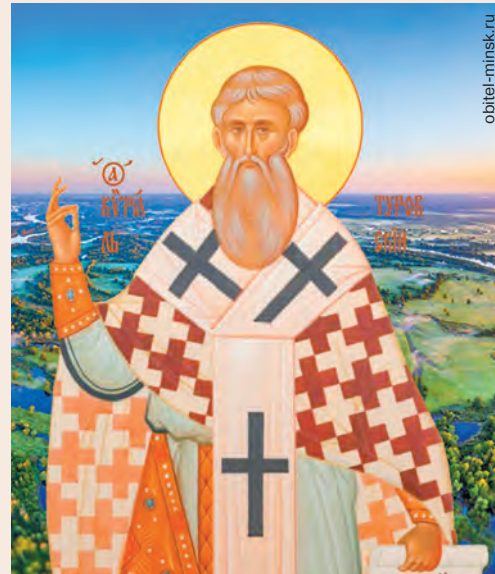
One of the most famous monuments to the pioneer printer Francysk Skaryna is located in front of the National Library of Belarus

Day of Slavic Writing and Culture was celebrated on May 24th. The glory and honour not only of our nation, but of the entire Slavic people are represented by the names of the Belarusian enlighteners — personalities, thanks to whom the printed word, culture and enlightenment spread throughout the Belarusian land.

Kirill of Turov

‘Chrysostom, more than all those who shone in Rus’ — this is how his contemporaries called him. It was for that: Kirill Turovsky is one of the most famous and prolific writers of his time. In the 12th century, when he lived, almost all literature in Rus’ was translated from the Greek language. He also wrote a huge number of prayers, liturgical texts, sermons and epistles, parables and poems.

Despite the fact that St. Kirill was born and lived all his life in Turov, he was known from Novgorod to Kiev, from Polotsk to Moscow. And the literary significance of his texts was so high that they were published even in the USSR during the period of hard atheism. One of the most famous is *The Blind Man and the Lame* parable. He wrote it when the Vladimir-Suzdal diocese was occupied by the ‘false bishop Theodoret’, who wanted a church schism. Kirill of Turov denounced the heresy and helped preserve the unity of Orthodoxy in Rus’.



Monk Kirill of Turov is canonised as a saint

Spiridon Sobol

17th century. The population of the territories that are part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is forcibly Polish. The Belarusian language is being squeezed out of written use... In these difficult times, the *Bukvar* [alphabet book] of the Slovenian language by Spiridon Sobol was published in the Kuteinsky Monastery near Orsha. It immediately became a bestseller in the territory of modern Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. The circulation of the book for ‘teaching children who begin to read from the beginning’ amounted to 35,000 copies. It was an incredible breakthrough for an era of illiteracy.



It is known that Spiridon Sobol used Ivan Fyodorov's printed boards in his work

One of the few surviving bukvars by Sobol is today kept in the Historical Museum in Moscow. Judging by the handwritten notes in the margins of the folio, this book travelled extensively in Europe and was in the hands of the British and Germans.

Vasily Tyapinski

In the 1570s, a serviceman of a horse company from Orsha organised a printing house at his own expense in the Tyapino estate near Polotsk. He has a noble goal — to publish books in their native language, as opposed to Polish, which was planted by the authorities. He changed his armour to a printing press without unnecessary regrets.

Interestingly, Vasily Tyapinski relied on the Old Slavonic translations of the Bible of Cyril and Methodius. He also advocated the opening of schools where education would be in Russian ‘for the sake of sloppy reasoning’, so that ‘kids somehow prepared their meanings, made jokes’. The result of his efforts today can be seen in the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg and in the Arkhangelsk Museum of Local Lore.



The life's work of the translator Vasily Tyapinski was to spread the word to the masses

Pyotr Mstislavets

Exactly 460 years ago, in the spring of 1563, Ivan Fyodorov's printing house started operating in Moscow. It was there that the first printed book in the Tsardom of Russia was published — the famous *Apostle*. Few people know that Ivan Fyodorov worked not alone, but with a partner — a native of the Belarusian lands Pyotr Mstislavets.

Over the publication they tried for almost a year — they cast letters, created engravings, wrote a preface. However, it was not possible to wait for enthusiasm from the masses: people accustomed to handwritten books condemned the mechanical reproduction of sacred texts using a printing press. Fyodorov and Mstislavets were accused of magic.

Despite the support of the sovereign himself, the printers had to leave Moscow. But even in foreign lands, they did not give up their business — together they continued to publish books in Church Slavonic in Zabludovo and Ostrog, and then separately in Lvov and Vilna. The cost of that very first *Apostle* today reaches a million dollars at auctions.



The editions of Pyotr Mstislavets were designed using special fonts, which became widespread in the church press

On a voluntary basis

More than 900 people will become volunteers at the 2nd CIS Games, which will be held in Belarus in August

Young people from all over the country applied to participate in the programme. As a result, not everyone was included in the final list, but only those who meet the high requirements for working at a sporting event of this level. Irina Golovan, Deputy Head of the Republican Volunteer Centre, said that the guys who passed the selection had already completed the first stage of training at the centre.

By Svetlana Isaenok

“I saw an announcement about a recruitment for volunteers on the Internet. Our deputy dean for educational work told about how to get into the programme. Volunteering is a hobby for me. I’ve been doing this since school. At the university, we also have our own squad called KhvostUshi, which helps four-legged friends,” says 2nd year student of the Belarusian State Medical University Timofey Tolochkov.

Timofey says that during the first



Anastasia Kiseleva and Timofey Tolochkov

training sessions for volunteering during the competitions, he and other children were introduced to what the 2nd CIS Games is, they were told about the symbols, principles, the code of volunteers, the sites where the children will work, “We

also worked on some situations that could happen.

For example, what to do if riots start. Or how to act when finding an indefinite object.”

Sport has always occupied a special place in the life of a student. He is sure that holding such competitions in our country is a great event,

“This is a great way to promote the tourism potential of our country. It is also a very patriotic event that will definitely evoke patriotic feelings in everyone. And I am very proud that I can help our country in its implementation.”

Timofey will have to go through test competitions, which will be held in early June.

“Competition venues will be located in different regions. The children will have to undergo training already on the spot in order to get acquainted with the peculiarities of holding the event directly at the place of their volunteering,” Irina Golovan explains.

The specialist is sure that such an experience will be useful for the guys. After all, voluntary assistance develops leadership and communication skills in young people,



Aleksandr Kulevsky

and allows them to feel their involvement in a large-scale event. Anastasia Kiseleva, a 3rd year student at the Faculty of International Relations, purposefully looked for an opportunity to participate in volunteer activities in Belarus. Her choice fell on the 2nd CIS Games. The girl sent an application in an electronic form, and then took an educational course at a volunteer centre.

“Such events allow Belarus to present its culture and its peculiarities, as well as to exchange cultural characteristics with other countries. I am sure that the competitions will open up new opportunities for co-operation between countries and demonstrate the achievements of Belarus at the international level,” the student answers diplomatically.

Fight with details

Belarusian taekwondo fighters participate in the World Championship

The World Taekwondo Championship started in Baku on Monday. President of the world federation for this sport Choue Chung-won said the day before that the tournament will be special as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the organisation, “With the participation of 150 countries, as well as a refugee team, this will be an event that will showcase not only the best of the elite taekwondo, but also the globality and inclusiveness of our sport.” Russian and Belarusian athletes were admitted to the World Championship. Earlier, the World Taekwondo Federation listened to the recommendations of the IOC on the return of athletes of the two countries to international starts, subject to a number of conditions, and presented an approved list of neutral athletes who can compete in the tournament. It included 14 Russians and 9 Belarusians.

By Tatiana Litvinova

Our team went to Baku with the following athletes: Ali Radvan, Artsiom Plonis, Ivan Paulouski, Maksim Bandarevich, Georgy Gurtsiyev, Yahor Kazlou, Uladzislava Sarokina, Valeriya Smychkova and Vitaliya Lazuta.

Chairman of the Belarusian Taekwondo Federation Vyacheslav Berzhets says, “All the athletes we submitted were admitted to the World Championships — they did not receive refusals from the World Taekwondo Federation. We hope for the successful performance of the guys, although the competition in the tournament is huge. The

smallest number of participants is in one of the women’s weight categories — 62 athletes compete in it. Men in different weights have 87 people each. That is, to reach the prize-winning place, you need to win at least five fights.”

For almost two years, our athletes did not compete at international competitions, and during this time a lot has changed, including the rules. According to the updated Belarusians competed only with the Russians. It is not ruled out in our federation that there may be a somewhat biased attitude towards Russian and Belarusian athletes. Nevertheless, Vyacheslav Berzhets notes: our taekwondo athletes will try to do



In 2021, Maksim Khramtsov (left) became the first Russian Olympic champion in taekwondo

everything possible to show the highest possible results.

“The World Championship is not a qualification for the Olympic Games. The six best athletes

in each weight category according to the world ranking will be selected for the main competition of the four-year period. It is almost impossible for us to get

to the Games in this way: all the time that we did not compete in international competitions, the athletes did not earn points in the rating. Even those who were in the top 30 and top 40 rolled back for the first hundred. In addition, qualifying tournaments will be held on each continent. Only the finalists will receive licenses for them — two people in each weight,” Chairman of the Belarusian Taekwondo Federation explains.

Vyacheslav Berzhets draws attention to the fact that it is too early to talk about the prospects of playing at the continental qualifying tournaments, “By decision of the World Taekwondo Federation, we are only admitted to the World Championships. The issue of further participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in any international competitions will be additionally determined.”

Unlike our team, after a three-stage check, the Russian team missed several athletes. So, for example, Olympic champions from Russia Maksim Khramtsov and Vladislav Larin will not perform in Baku. They did not pass the verification of personal accounts in social networks.

PRO AND CON

Since the International Olympic Committee recommended that Belarusians and Russians be allowed to compete in a neutral status and subject to a number of conditions at the end of March, many federations have decided to listen to the recommendations. Some, however, did so even before the IOC’s announcement. Let us remember that the International Boxing Association (IBA) lifted all sanctions from athletes back in October last year, and representatives of the two countries have already performed at the world championships under their own flags and with their anthems. This did not suit everyone: a number of countries boycotted the women’s and men’s tournaments, and some of them even volunteered to create an alternative organisation to the International Boxing Association.

Shortly before the March verdict of the IOC, the admission of Russians and Belarusians to international starts was also approved by the International Fencing Federation: athletes were allowed to return to the World Cup stages from April. True, after that, more than one scandal erupted in this sport. They continue to this day. Recently, the Belarusian Fencing Federation sent a letter to the IOC President Thomas Bach, in which he stated about the unacceptable decisions of the FIE. The commission for determining neutral athletes allowed to participate in FIE competitions sent the final lists of athletes and coaches on 16 May. Of the 103 people on the list submitted by the federation, only 48 were approved. Even children born in 2010 and students in high school were

excluded from the list,” the letter says.

Belarusians and Russians were also given the green light in table tennis and wrestling. In a neutral status, representatives of cycling, modern pentathlon, rowing and canoeing, judo, and skateboarding received admission.

Many federations still oppose the return of athletes from the two countries. One of these is athletics. European Athletics President Dobromir Karamarinov stated recently, “After the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, Thomas Bach was the leader who motivated all world sports federations to ban the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in competitions. Now he has slightly changed his position and opened the door to the international headquarters, who want

to see in their competitions athletes from all countries without exception, including Russians and Belarusians under a neutral flag. The European and World Athletics Federations have the opposite, firm and categorical position, which has not changed – in the current situation, there are no chances for participation in competitions of Russian and Belarusian athletes of any status, as well as coaches, official persons and service personnel. Our position is firm and unchanged.”

The Executive Committee of the International Gymnastics Federation also upheld the suspension of athletes from the two countries from competitions under its auspices. True, they promised to return to the issue of the possibility of admitting Russians and Belarusians.

Dar'ya Titova



Photo of the week

Cows on a pasture in the village of Chervichy, Borisov District, Minsk Region

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



June 1st is Global Day of Parents. It was proclaimed at the 66th session of the UN General Assembly (resolution 66/292) in September 2012.

Parents are the core of the family, and the family is responsible for the upbringing and protection of children, for ensuring that the full and harmonious development of their personality necessarily takes place in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

On June 2nd, 1955, the Baikonur Cosmodrome was founded. The construction of the first stage of the cosmodrome was completed in record time, and already in May 1957, the first launch of the R-7 intercontinental ballistic missile designed by Sergei Korolev was made from the test site. The first ever artificial satellite was launched from Baikonur in 1957, and the first spacecraft with a man on board in 1961.



June 3rd is World Bicycle Day. It was declared by UN General Assembly Resolution of April 12th, 2018. Since the bicycle is the most environmentally friendly



mode of transport, its use contributes to respect for the environment, maintaining health and promoting sports. However, all this is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015.



On June 5th, 1783, French inventors brothers Joseph Michel and Jacques Etienne Montgolfier launched a balloon filled with hot smoke for the first time in the city of Vidalon-lès-Annonay.

June 5th is World Environment Day. It was established by the decision of the UN General Assembly on December 15th, 1972. The holiday is one of the main ways to draw the attention of the world community to environmental issues, as well as to stimulate political interest and relevant actions aimed at protecting the environment.



On June 5th, 1981, a new disease, AIDS, was registered. American scientist from the Centre for Disease Control M. Gottlieb first described a new virus that deeply affects the human immune system. Doctors and scientists have not yet found a way to completely cure the disease.



June 6th, 1984, is considered the birthday of Tetris — the first computer version of this game appeared. Its author is the Soviet programmer

Alexey Pajitnov. He dealt with the problems of artificial intelligence and speech recognition at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. He often used puzzles in his work, one of which — pentomino, where it was necessary to correctly place geometric figures in a box, suggested to the scientist the idea of creating a new, more exciting game.

On June 6th, 1903, Aram Khachaturian was born (1903-1978), a world famous Soviet composer, conductor, teacher, People's Artist of the USSR. He is the author of the *Gayane*, *Spartacus* ballets, music for the *Masquerade* drama by Mikhail Lermontov, *Macbeth*, *King Lear* performances, as well as music for films. He is the laureate of the Lenin and State Prizes of the USSR.



On June 6th, 1833, construction of the Brest Fortress began. The fortress was located on 4 islands formed by branches of the Mukhavets and Western Bug Rivers and a system of canals. On March 3rd, 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed in the



White Palace of the fortress. On June 22nd, 1941, the garrison of the Brest Fortress received the first blows of the Nazi invaders and held the line for more than a month. It was released during the Lublin-Brest operation on July 28th, 1944. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR awarded the Brest Fortress with the honorary title of 'Hero-Fortress' by Decree of May 8th, 1965. The Brest Hero Fortress Memorial Complex was opened in 1971.

June 6th is Russian Language Day. It was established by the UN in 2010. It is celebrated on the birthday of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin as part of a programme to support and develop multilingualism and cultural diversity. One of the goals of this programme is to maintain the equality of all six official languages of the UN: English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and French.



On June 7th, 1958, the construction of the first-ever Belarusian petrochemistry facility, the Naftan Refinery, began. Thanks to it, the city of Novopolotsk appeared on the map of Belarus. The Naftan Oil Refinery is still an important element of the country's industrial complex. It was here that the first Belarusian gasoline was obtained. And for half a century, more than 700 million tonnes of oil have been processed here.

