



Belarusian equipment on the verge of fantasy was presented at the international exhibition INNOPROM

4



Everything is ready for the 2nd CIS Games — Belarus is waiting for guests

11

INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 27 (985) ● THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023 ● WWW.SB.BY



Triumph of speed and spirit: Sergei Vyazovich's crew with MAZ is the best in the world!

Off-road conquerors

The Belarusian crew of the MAZ-SPORTauto team of Sergei Vyazovich became the winner of the Silk Way Rally, which finished in Moscow. According to the results of the rally-raid, Sergei Vyazovich's crew showed the best result — 24 hours 22 minutes 14 seconds. The second and third place went to the drivers of the KAMAZ-master team.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, congratulated the MAZ-SPORTauto team on the victory at the Silk Way Rally. Sergei Vyazovich said, "This is really a big event not only for me, the team, but for the whole country. There aren't many big competitions right now. We have been trying to conquer the Silk Way for many years, and now, finally, we succeeded."

Belarusian crews first took to the start of the Silk Way Rally in 2010 and now for the first time became its winners. Before that, only the crews of the KAMAZ-master team won. This car marathon has been running since 2009. In different years, its route passed in Russia, as well as in the countries of Central Asia and China. This year's event was launched in Kazan on July 6th, passing through 13 Russian regions and covering a total distance of over 5,200km.



9 771991 297007 2 30 27

Important mission of art

From year to year, gathering under the dome of the Vitebsk amphitheatre, both Belarusians and guests of the *Slavianski Bazaar* create peace. This is the main mission of the festival. This was stated by President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, during the opening ceremony of the 32nd International Festival of Arts *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*.

According to the Belarusian Head of State, for a third of a century the festival has been making the beautiful city on the Dvina a place of attraction for real talents and true connoisseurs of art.

“We, Belarusians, do not call Vitebsk the cultural capital for the sake of pathos. This status is predetermined by history. And a thousand years ago, when the path from the Varangians to the Greeks passed here, and today the city has been and remains a crossroads of national cultures and traditions of different peoples. The rhythm of creative ideas and designs has always beaten here,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

new traditions are born, new talents are discovered — the history of modern art is being created.

“This story is written by you — our favourite artists, painters, composers, poets, craftsmen. I sincerely thank everyone who gives our holiday a piece of their soul. We hear it in songs, we see it in theatrical performances, dance numbers and street performances, in unique decorative items. All of us, participants, organisers, guests, create here an amazing atmosphere of true, real art that unites peoples and states. Art, which is beautiful with its national colour, which is truly high, always rising above political games and intrigues,” emphasised the President.



perform on this stage. Coming to us, they say no to all artificially created barriers between peoples and countries, to all imposed stereotypes and opinions about our countries...

From year to year, gathering under the dome of the Vitebsk amphitheatre, together we — both Belarusians and Russians, and, I am sure, there are many Ukrainians here, and our guests — create peace! And this is the main mission of *Slavianski Bazaar*.”

The festival, which has become a hallmark and brand of Belarus, has been held under the patronage of the President since 1995, and Aleksandr Lukashenko also has his own important mission at the event — to present well-deserved awards.

This year, the Head of the Belarusian State presented the Grand Prix to the winner of the 21st International Children’s Music Competition *Vitebsk*, a young performer from Kazakhstan, Sherkhan Arystan. At the opening ceremony of the festi-

them to a great life and to the big stage. To some extent, this ceremony reflects the essence of the policy of our states, built on the principles of continuity of eras and generations.

“We, Belarusians, have great respect for our predecessors, on whose shoulders we rely, strengthening and developing our statehood. And we do everything to become a reliable support for our children and grandchildren. We have always been an island of safety and a reliable support for all peace-loving people. Believe me, Belarus will always be like this,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President wished that the history of *Slavianski Bazaar* and Belarus would be eternal, that the best melodies and voices of not only Belarusian masters of art, but also those close to Russia, Ukraine, neighbouring Slavic and many other peoples always sound on the festival stage. The President also expressed the wish that peace and creation remain the main goals of modern and future generations.



Grand Prix of the 21st International *Vitebsk Children’s Song Contest* was won by Sherkhan Arystan of Kazakhstani

The President recalled that at the beginning of the last century, innovative art forms were created in the creative workshops of Malevich, Chagall and other avant-garde artists. Now they are recognised as world classics. In our time, the Vitebsk Region has become the birthplace of large-scale creative festivals, competitions, forums of the republican and international levels. Here

The Head of State added, *“The motto of the festival ‘Through art to peace and understanding’ has never been as relevant as it is today. Slavic unity, the unity of all reasonable people, is again being tested for strength. But here, in Vitebsk, from year to year we see how it only gets stronger. And we have more friends. Artists from the farthest corners of the planet*

A significant contribution to the strengthening of spiritual ties between the Slavic peoples

The International Festival of Arts *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* makes a significant contribution to the strengthening of spiritual ties between the Slavic peoples, to the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. This is stated in the congratulatory telegram of the President of Russia Vladimir Putin addressed to the participants and guests of the festival, the text of which was heard today at the opening ceremony of the musical festival.

The head of the Russian Federation stressed, “This large-scale and truly extraordinary international forum has been enriching the cultural life of many countries for decades, making a significant contribution to strengthening the spiritual ties between the Slavic peoples, to expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. *Slavianski Bazaar* is famous for its good creative traditions, the atmosphere of friendship and creation, and fully implements its motto ‘Through art to peace and mutual understanding.’”



“You gave me wings!”

Yelena Spiridovich thanked the President of Belarus for the award ‘Through Art to Peace and Understanding’, “Dear Aleksandr Grigoryevich, you just gave me wings! This is a great honour and great trust. And I know that I will do everything possible and even impossible to justify this trust. Thank you for doing this here, in Vitebsk, on the sacred stage for me... I know that the world we live in is ruled by love. And everything is very simple: you need to love the work that you do, the people for whom you live, and love your country. This is how I have lived until today, and this is how I will continue to live!”



Aleksandr Lukashenko told how he saved the festival in Vitebsk at the dawn of his presidency

After presenting the special award of the President of the Republic of Belarus ‘Through Art to Peace and Understanding’ to the Honoured Artist of Belarus Yelena Spiridovich, the Head of State told how, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, individual businessmen offered to hold the *Slavianski Bazaar* in different cities and countries. Only a few people opposed this approach, including Yelena Spiridovich.

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled the history of the festival at the very beginning of his presidency and spoke about his first steps on the Vitebsk stage, “You know, in what state a person goes out in front of a huge audience... This is 7 thousand here (in the Summer Amphitheatre — editor’s note), millions are watching. And I’m coming up to our top presenters. And it seemed to me that such a young girl (today already an adult) is trying to throw out some information to me right away, realising that it would be difficult to meet with the President, especially in those days. I listen to her word by word. And I recall Alena’s phrase: ‘Aleksandr Grigoryevich, please save the *Slavianski Bazaar*!’”

According to the Belarusian leader, there were difficult times then. And it was not the collapse of the Soviet Union or the lack of finances, “The fact is that the skilful businessmen who appeared at the forefront of our society tried to move this *Slavianski Bazaar* through cities and towns. Only a few people, including Alena, felt that there would be no festival, that it would dissolve and perish. When I returned from this first event, I understood it all!” The President fundamentally indicated that he spoke about this not in order to emphasise his role, “And so it is emphasised... What I did, did not do, bad, good ... Such is the fate of the presidents. But I want to say that there were quite a few — three or four people, maybe five, who, having become attached to our festival in their souls, clung to it with a stranglehold and asked everyone they could to save it. We gave this prize to Yelena Spiridovich not in vain. Maybe a little too late. Therefore, Alena, do not be modest. You deserve this award...”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

The truth about genocide: remember so that it does not happen again

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, received a report from Prosecutor General Andrei Shved

At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of State listed three main blocks of issues on which he would like to hear information. Firstly, it is supervision over the observance of the rule of law in the troops and law enforcement agencies, approaches to organising effective work in these matters. Another topic is the ongoing investigation into the facts of the genocide of the Belarusian people. Aleksandr Lukashenko also focused on the third block — the role of the Prosecutor General's Office in monitoring and revealing negative facts in important areas of economic activity, such as agriculture and industry.

"This is not the first time that the issue of control, prosecutorial supervision over the situation in the Armed Forces has been raised. Compliance with laws and so on. At what level are we today?" asked the Belarusian leader. "There are a lot of proposals, including the creation of some kind of system of military prosecutors. I say 'some kind of system' because we are not talking about a return to that Soviet practice. But there must be some elements."

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that there are many points of view on this issue. He asked what justified, in particular, the position of Andrei Shved.

"The fact that we need to strengthen, perhaps, control over compliance with the law among the military is a fact. I have already told you about this, that the prosecutor's office somewhat distanced itself from the power bloc at one time," emphasised the President. "Everywhere the eye of the prosecutor should be."

The Head of State noted that it is not only about the army, because shoulder straps are also worn in many other law enforcement agencies, including the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Security Committee.

"The second issue concerns genocide. A number of proposals are being crystallised not only for a more serious consideration by our society of the facts of the genocide of the Belarusian people in the Great Pa-

triotic War, but also for the promotion of this issue, especially among young people. To let the youth know what happened. For what? To prevent this from happening again," stressed the President.



Andrei Shved

Aleksandr Lukashenko asked how the relevant work is being carried out at the moment and in the future.

The third topic of the report is also significant, the Head of State pointed out, "The issue of instructions to the Prosecutor General on important issues in the economy. Let's say for agriculture it is the loss of livestock. Including the payment of wages. You are always looking at this issue. Security and so on."

In the same vein, the prosecution authorities are faced with the task of countering and preventing manifestations of corruption.

"This is typical primarily for the system of industry. How are things in this area in the Gomel Region? There were many claims at the time. How is the new governor dealing with these issues?" the Belarusian leader outlined the questions.

As noted by the Prosecutor General, the



The task will be completed

As you know, in April 2021, the Prosecutor General's Office opened a criminal case on the fact of the genocide of the population of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period. The decision was based on information about the deaths of millions of Belarusians and other persons as a result of the atrocities of the German occupiers and their accomplices. The criminal process launched by the Prosecutor General's Office to investigate the facts of the genocide is aimed at identifying specific individuals from among the German invaders and their accomplices, who managed to avoid responsibility for the murders of civilians, bullying and torture in concentration camps and ghettos, and mass deportation of the civilian population into German slavery.

After the report to the President, in an interview with journalists, Andrei Shved announced a number of figures, "At the moment, we have identified more than 2.5 thousand previously unknown

settlements that were destroyed, including at least 80 that shared the fate of Khatyn. 17 thousand witnesses were interrogated. In addition, a lot of work has been done to perpetuate the memory, work is actively carried out with young people."

The most important point that the Prosecutor General drew attention to during the report to the President, **"It is extremely important that the results of the investigation of the criminal case on the genocide, that the truth about the genocide be brought to the attention of every citizen of our country, especially our children. In this regard, it was reported on certain aspects of the introduction of the results of the investigation into the educational process and ideological work. Specific instructions were given by the Head of State on the preparation of educational material, which should be in every school from September 1st this year. This task will be completed."**



law enforcement unit and the prosecutor's office are actively working to eliminate negative phenomena, including in the field of agriculture. Andrei Shved spoke about the emerging positive trend associated with a reduction in the loss of livestock, "This is the result of two years of work of the entire law enforcement unit and authorities and administration. But at the same time, I think that so far no optimistic conclusions can be drawn. It is necessary to draw an objective conclusion based on the results of the year."

The intensity of verification activities of the law enforcement unit will not decrease, since there are still a lot of shortcomings, mismanagement and criminal manifestations. The President was also informed about the revealed facts of violation of the law in the implementation of land reclamation, 14 criminal cases were initiated.

"It has been established that in almost all regions there are cases of theft of money... In addition, about one and a half thousand hectares, in which budget money (more than 9 million roubles) were invested in the course of land reclamation, have not yet been involved in economic turnover," stated head of the oversight agency.

In this regard, Andrei Shved addressed all local leaders, "We will strive to ensure that everyone who committed a crime is held accountable for it. I appeal to the heads of all enterprises: please do everything necessary to ensure that you work according to the law."

The Prosecutor General described the general criminal situation in the country as follows,

"We now have the lowest crime rate in the last five years."

There are 1,000 fewer crimes registered this year than in the same period last year. Less robberies, burglaries. Violent crimes against a person were committed by 12 percent less. These are grievous bodily harm, murders and so on. Significantly fewer people suffered from crime. In general, the situation is stable."

On the same day, Aleksandr Lukashenko signed the law 'On Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Belarus'. The document is aimed at ensuring the inevitability of liability for genocide, other grave crimes and the restoration of historical justice.

Creation of Main Military Prosecutor's Office to be discussed in Belarus

Following the report to the President of Belarus, Prosecutor General Andrei Shved commented on this topic to journalists. One of the issues during the event with the Head of State was the control and prosecutorial supervision over the situation in the Armed Forces. According to Andrei Shved, it was about reforming the system of prosecution bodies and creating the Main Military Prosecutor's Office, **"This is due to a number of objective circumstances, including the overall situation that has developed around our country. The Head of State studied these proposals, and instructed to separately once again discuss this issue in a narrow circle with the heads of relevant law enforcement and other state bodies."**

As a reminder, since September 1st, 2014, the Belarusian Military Prosecutor's Office and 11 intergarrison military prosecutor's offices have been liquidated in the country. The powers to oversee the implementation of legislation in the Armed Forces, other troops and military formations of Belarus, state bodies in

which military service is provided, are vested in the Prosecutor General's Office and territorial prosecutor's offices.

Andrei Shved fundamentally emphasised, "This is not a return to the old practice. The Belarusian Military Prosecutor's Office was liquidated in 2014. Then there was a completely different situation. Including the military component was completely different. We are not talking about recreating in that guise, but about creating the Main Military Prosecutor's Office in a truncated version, the number of which is several times smaller than the Belarusian Military Prosecutor's Office. If such a decision is made, the military prosecutors will be exclusively in charge of supervising the observance of the law in the troops at different times. And the decision on this will be made only on the basis of the results of an additional meeting with the Head of State."

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Belarus has been participating in the international industrial exhibition in Yekaterinburg for more than ten years, but this year for the first time the republic received the honorary status of the main partner of the forum and immediately impressed with the scope and quality of the exhibitors. The total area of the Belarusian part of INNOPROM occupied over 3,000sq.m, and more than 120 enterprises from our country were located on it.



Quality mark

Tractor bolide, virtual reality and unmanned vehicles: Belarusian equipment on the verge of fantasy was presented at the international exhibition INNOPROM



By Tatiana Kazantseva

On the first day of the INNOPROM exhibition, the Belarusian pavilion was visited by the Prime Ministers of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan. Roman Golovchenko, Mikhail Mishustin and Alikhan Smailov examined the developments of domestic specialists and assessed the relevance of the introduced new products: INNOPROM is, after all, primarily about innovation. The Belarusian side paid special attention to the formation of booths with an emphasis on new projects and practical orientation. Seven main sectors of the economy were represented here, not only classical engineering and petrochemistry, but also light industry, which presented innovative developments in materials for workwear and fabrics for special purposes, as well as industrial cooperation that is super relevant today.

The exposition of Belarus was as great as ever (more than 420 exhibits) and arranged with special ingenuity. What is the cost of a vehicle assembled from LEDs at the stand of the Belneftexhim concern. This is a real symbol of Belarusian-Russian cooperation: wheels from Rostov, tires from Bobruisk.

Of course, not only tires are presented at the booth of one of the main industrial concerns of Belarus. The 12 largest enterprises in the industry brought samples of their products — from polyester yarns and polymer composite materials to a super-fast electric filling station. New contracts have already been signed for the supply of polyethylene, paints and varnishes, fiberglass, polyester threads to Russia. Belneftexhim enterprises signed contracts worth more than 2 billion Russian roubles at the INNOPROM exhibition.

The designers of the Minsk Tractor Works demonstrated their high professionalism. The creative new product of the Minsk Tractor Works — a racing car assembled from parts for tractors — was highly appreciated by all visitors. The model is only for presentation, but it is quite working. They say that the ‘racing version of the tractor’ can accelerate to a record speed of 320 kilometres per hour.

However, ordinary Belarusian exhibits, especially ‘full-scale samples’, also impressed the visitors. The Gomselmash harvester with a power of 530 hp surprised even in static mode. The sight of giant cone-shaped ‘fingers’ stopped the movement of an entire delegation from China. Indeed, it is difficult to resist slapping such a ‘horse’ on the sides and taking a photo as a keepsake...

Other visitors were struck not by the size, but by the information on the plate near the grain harvesting giant. It was carefully studied by two Russians in business suits.

“It is written: the level of localisation of the EAEU countries is 90.4 percent. Engine, bearings, automatic centralized lubrication system are Russian. Tires, plastic products, high-pressure hoses are Belarusian. Air conditioning and hydraulics were made jointly by Russia and Belarus.”

FIGURES

INNOPROM has exceeded all expectations of the enterprises of the system of the Ministry of Industry of Belarus: the amount of contracts exceeded **\$240 million**

In 2022, against the backdrop of Western sanctions, trade between Russia and Belarus rose to a record **\$43.4 billion**. And the set pace is maintained. In January-March 2023 alone, the volume of mutual trade between the two countries increased by **22 percent** compared to the same period last year.

Belkommunmash, the leading manufacturer of urban electric transport, was already represented at last year’s INNOPROM, but then there was no equipment there. Now the Belarusians have shown the goods in person. The handsome trolley bus arrived at the pavilion straight from work — it is already cruising around the Ural capital along with its other brothers.

“A contract was signed with Yekaterinburg for the supply of 49 trolleybuses. 18 of our trolleybuses have al-

ready entered the routes. We produce trolleybuses practically on a turnkey basis with 80 percent of localisation. Our, Belarusian, body frame, electronics, battery — the key components are made at our enterprise. We buy part of the equipment from a Russian manufacturer,” Svetlana Rusak, Deputy General Director for Marketing and Sales of Belkommunmash, listed.

As for the cooperation between Belarus and the Sverdlovsk Region, its level is unprecedented — last year the trade turnover reached \$700 million. The plans for this year are to reach a billion in turnover. The key direction is industrial cooperation.

Minsk Automobile Plant for the first time brought to Yekaterinburg a new mainline tractor equipped with a more powerful engine of Euro-6 environmental class and a robotic gearbox. In addition, the exposition included fire trucks developed as part of the union programme and high-capacity tourist buses, the production of which was organised in 2023. Minsk Automobile Plant has a good time now: there is a great demand for equipment in the Russian Federation, from which the ‘big seven’ of European manufacturers have left. Therefore, the chassis and buses from the Belarusian company are now in trend.

“The plant has prepared a new contract for the supply of equipment to the Russian Federation — more than 900 units of equipment, the contract amount is about 3.7 billion Russian roubles,” said Vladimir Yanushko, Deputy General Director of Minsk Automobile Plant.

Natalya Kurash, Director of the Belinterexpo Exhibition Company of the BelCCI, specified that the domestic industry was represented at the exhibition on a particularly large scale, “From the first day of the

exhibition, unmanned tractors, which were demonstrated in the open area, aroused interest. The products of Minsk Tractor Works are interesting both for the private user and for professional use. Gomselmash and BELAZ have their own clients who come to them individually, and they are preparing for big contracts. The Russian regions showed great interest in AMKODOR communal equipment. Separately, there is great interest in MAZ buses, Belkommunmash trolleybuses and, of course, the MAZ-MAN tractor car and snow and swamp vehicle.”

The representative ‘scientific sector’ has always been a significant part of the Belarusian exposition. Samples of microelectronics, laser technology and even drones were presented at the current INNOPROM. Moreover, both these and other developments of scientists were distinguished, in their words, by ‘practicality, an increased level of innovation and readiness for implementation’.

Scientists are conducting one of the directions within the framework of the Belarusian-Russian Rusbelgaz project. The production of ultrasonic gas meters has been launched — from principal to household ones. Samples were on display, experts with explanations were nearby.

Despite all the difficulties in launching joint programmes, things are moving forward. Within the framework of the Union State, 60 scientific programmes have already been implemented.

The Belleprom concern, one of the pillars of the Belarusian light industry, unites about 70 largest Belarusian enterprises that co-operate with 66 regions of Russia. The booth presented clothes for firefighters, a suit with protection from an electric arc — for nuclear and power engineers. And visitors to the exhibition were attracted like a magnet by racks with business clothes made of linen, wool and other materials.

By the way, the feature of this exhibition was the replacement of ‘postcard and glossy’ communication with a frank business conversation. This was discussed not only by ordinary INNOPROM participants, but also by the heads of business missions.

Welcome to the Aircraft Club!

Entering the production of the Belarusian-Russian aircraft will be twice as short as the traditional period

One of the most intriguing statements of the current international exhibition Innoprom-2023, which took place in Yekaterinburg, was undoubtedly the statement of the Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko that Belarus could soon be rightfully classified as an aircraft manufacturer. At the main strategic session, *Sustainable Production. Upgrade Strategies*, he announced the implementation of a project for the serial assembly of a twin-engine aircraft in Belarus, and a little later, he shared the details.

By Olga Anufrieva

At the plenary session, the head of the Belarusian Council of Ministers said that our country is already fulfilling a number of orders for the Russian aviation industry for the manufacture of parts, assembly units, services, “Having worked in this area, having better understood each other’s capabilities, we came to a joint decision that it is necessary to expand the horizons of partnership.”

And here it is worth saying that a comprehensive programme of cooperation between Belarus and Russia in the field of aircraft manufacturing was signed within the framework of the exhibition, which, in the opinion of the Belarusian Prime Minister, will give even greater impetus to this work.

He also informed the session participants that the parties had decided to implement a joint project in Belarus for the production of a twin-engine light multi-purpose aircraft, “This major project will mark the transition of our country to the club of aircraft manufacturing countries with the support of Russia.”

Roman Golovchenko shared the details of the implementation of this project in an interview with RBK television, “Building an airplane is always a long and troublesome business. But nevertheless, we all want to do it quickly,” he intrigued everyone by the timing, and also told how the idea of serial assembly of aircraft was born in our country. “In fact, the republic has never had its own production of aviation equipment, but for decades we have had very large aircraft repair enterprises for military and civil purposes: the Minsk Civil Aviation Plant repaired the entire line

of Tupolev aircraft, respectively, the Baranovichi Aircraft Repair Plant — a large family of Sukhoi, Mikoyan aircraft etc.”

The Prime Minister stated that serious competencies in this area were developed quite a long time ago, “And when the Russian Federation made the right decision to concentrate its efforts on the development of its own aviation industry, of course, the help of technology partners

Visiting at the head of the government delegation Kazan, Ulyanovsk aircraft plants and similar production in Ufa, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, a package of orders was actually accumulated, “And now we have become one of the manufacturers of equipment for Russian military and civil aviation. But then we thought: ‘Why don’t we go further?’ After all, the task now facing Russia is



During the interview

Russian colleagues, “We are ready to provide the Russian aviation industry with technical and technological assistance, and at the same time to realise our long-standing dreams of becoming a full-fledged aircraft manufacturing power. We are

buy a license: Belarusian and Russian designers will jointly develop the aircraft. In parallel, we will report to the Head of State and seek funding sources for the construction of an enterprise that will be engaged in the serial production of the aircraft.”

In conclusion, Roman Golovchenko expressed confidence that in four years the first Russian-Belarusian aircraft would take off into the sky of the Union State.

Denis Manturov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industrial Development and Trade of the Russian Federation, agrees with this optimistic forecast. Answering the question of Belarusian journalists about how much time, in his opinion, it would take to release a joint product, he explained, “The creation of any aircraft depends on what stage the technological level is at, whether there is a school. Today we can say that Belarus has developed a technology for the production of components and elements. There is a school in Russia, including schools for the production of all systems and engines. Therefore, together we will be able to reduce the terms from the traditional 8 to 4—4.5, maximum 5 years.”

As for the interaction of the parties in the space segment, the parties are working on all aspects — from sending a Belarusian cosmonaut into space to joint production of satellites, a microelectronic component, what is in demand today, the head of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade noted, “Piotr Aleksandrovich (Parkhomchik, Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus — editor’s note) and I have consolidated a new direction — machine-tool building.”

It should be noted that within the framework of the business programme under the auspices of the Government, in addition to a comprehensive programme of co-operation in the field of aircraft manufacturing, an agreement on co-operation in the field of machine tool industry was also signed.

“Without own fixed assets it is impossible to talk about the development of the manufacturing industry. It is the basis for all industries. Therefore, we will actively develop this joint project,” he concluded.



was required (because the task is very ambitious and it was necessary to seriously increase the capacity).”

The Head of Government said that Belarusian enterprises (having certain competencies in this area) are actively involved in the programme for the production of units, assemblies, components for Russian aircraft manufacturing enterprises.

the creation of a huge line of aircraft (from the MC-21 to small aircraft of the Baikal type, which will soon be mass-produced in Yekaterinburg).”

According to Roman Golovchenko, the proposal on the readiness of the Belarusian side to participate in an ambitious programme for the development of aircraft manufacturing was announced to the

ready and willing to produce our own aircraft, developed in cooperation with Russian partners, and the Russian side is actually outsourcing, so to speak, its development. Therefore, now we are in the active phase of developing the so-called business plan in this area.”

The Belarusian Prime Minister also said that the aircraft would be developed jointly with specialists from the Ural Civil Aviation Plant,

“We set ourselves the goal of completing development work in three years, including the manufacture of four prototypes and the start of flight tests.”

He clarified that the aircraft will not be developed from scratch: it will use the developments of Russian aircraft manufacturers as part of the Baikal and Ladoga aircraft, so many components will be interchangeable.

Roman Golovchenko drew attention to another important detail of the project implementation, “We are entering the experimental design, i.e. we do not

LIST IS OPEN

Piotr Parkhomchik on investment projects with Russia, “17 projects have been prepared for implementation, four more are under development”

Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Parkhomchik spoke in more detail about the implementation of investment projects within the framework of a \$1.5 billion loan allocated by the Russian side at the Innoprom international industrial exhibition.

The Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister reminded the participants of the business forum Industrial Dialogue: Russia — Belarus, which was held as part of the international exhibition Innoprom-2023 in Yekaterinburg, that the Russian Federation has provided a credit facility in the amount of \$1.5 billion, and our country has prepared to the implementation of 17 investment projects, the data sheets for which are agreed with the Russian government, “These investment projects are being implemented on the scale of the Union State and address issues of mutual co-operation, import substitution and technological sovereignty.” We are talking about the implementation of joint projects in the field of agricultural engineering, aircraft manufacturing, quarry equipment and others.

However, the list of projects is still open. In a conversation with journalists, Piotr Parkhomchik said that four more promising projects, which are in a high degree of readiness, are under development with the Russian side, “This process (achieving technological sovereignty — editor’s note) is necessary for both the Belarusian and Russian sides, and we find mutual understanding.”

Modern Vitebsk Region is a highly developed industrial region. The city with an eleven-century history is attractive at any time of the year. The Vitebsk Region is unique and has a rich historical, cultural and spiritual heritage. This is the birthplace of Euphrosyne of Polotsk and Francysk Skaryna, writer-publicist and teacher Simeon Polotsky, the creator of the first drawing of a multi-stage rocket Kazimir Semenovich and aircraft designer Pavel Sukhoi, artists Marc Chagall and Mikhail Savitsky. Tourists will definitely not get bored here.



Vitebsk is celebrating its 1050th anniversary next year

Risen like a Phoenix



Anton Stepanishchev

By Andrei Yuriev

Proud of the deeds of the defenders

The northernmost region of Belarus, due to its geographical location, has always been at the centre of historical events. Like the whole country, it courageously passed the tests of the Great Patriotic War and, like a phoenix, was reborn from the ashes. The Victory Square, the largest in Belarus, reminds of the heroic events of the bloodiest war of the 20th century. It is 380 meters in length and 190 in width. At the famous Three Bayonets monument, the Eternal Flame burns in honour of the feat of those who liberated the city from the Nazis. There is an exhibition of military equipment and a cosy park nearby.

The region near Dvina is proud of the deeds of previous generations who defended their homeland from fascist invaders. The events of the war years are inscribed in a special line in the annals of the region. In the occupied territory, 59 partisan brigades and two regiments repulsed the enemies.

Today, multiplying the historical and cultural traditions of the past, the city retains its originality and flavour.

The products of Vitebsk enterprises are well known and appreciated abroad. The regional centre sets the tone for the innovative development of the industrial sector. The city produces dolomite powder, linen fabrics, shoes. Vitebsk producers are trading briskly with 73 countries.

Romance squared

In the twenties, Marc Chagall opened the Folk Art School in Vitebsk, where he, together with Kazimir Malevich, turned the students' ideas about creativity 'upside down'. All this is told by the exposition of the Museum of the History



Three Bayonets Memorial on Victory Square in Vitebsk

of the Vitebsk Folk Art School. The design of the museum is made in the spirit of UNOVIS — the creative association for the exploration of the new art — stylish, modern, minimalistic.

On Pokrovskaya Street, a red brick house built by Chagall's father over a hundred years ago has been preserved. Now here is a museum, which presents household items from the turn of the 19th — 20th centuries, copies of archival documents telling about the life of the artist and his family.

Not far away, on the other side of the Western Dvina, is Chagall's art centre. Etchings, a unique series of illustrations for Gogol's *Dead Souls*, a cycle of colour lithographs and other works are carefully stored here.

Our own carpets

Local craftswomen create stylish 'outfits' for the home.

The collection of the famous Vitebsk Carpets enterprise has been replenished with new products. The enterprise is really creative. Last year,

Vitebsk was completely destroyed during the war years, but now it is, without exaggeration, one of the main industrial and cultural centres of the country



Aleksey Stolyarov

Cornflower — a symbol of the *Slavianski Bazaar*

DIRECT SPEECH

Vladimir Andreichenko, First Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly,

"We, Vitebsk residents, are very proud of our unique nature, traditions, names of educators, artists, poets. The Vitebsk Region contributes decisive importance to the development of the country's economy. Such giants as the Orsha Flax Mill, Lukoml State District Power Plant, Belvest and Marko shoe factories, which have become a brand of Belarus and the Vitebsk Region, work here. The Vitebsk broiler poultry farm, the Yubileiny agricultural complex, the Vitkonprodukt private enterprise, the Mayak Braslavsky agricultural enterprise and many others are successfully operating."

the plant presented products based on masterpieces of world art.

This time they present an exclusive collection with recognisable views of Vitebsk. The canvases depict fascinating views of the Summer Amphitheatre, the Town Hall, Three Bayonets, the domes of the Holy Assumption Cathedral, landscapes from the Dvina. Such a

creative move is a gift for the 85th anniversary of the Vitebsk Region. Works are compact, 80 by 120 centimetres, and fit perfectly into any interior. Saturated colours cheer up and bring harmony. With such beautiful works on the wall, you can, without getting up from the sofa, be transported to the cosy streets of the ancient city.



Monument to Marc Chagall on Pokrovskaya Street in Vitebsk

In Vitebsk, you can not only watch a performance or listen to the stars sing. Here, the artistic component is at a high level.

By Valentina Stepanova

Two estates, two fates

In the museum-estate of Ilya Repin in Zdravnevo, the Russian Academy of Arts presented a project dedicated to the artist's two famous estates — Penates near St. Petersburg and the artist's holdings near Vitebsk. And the Moscow Leo Tolstoy State Museum brought the exposition Manor Culture in the Work of Tolstoy and Repin. The great Russian writer and the famous artist were friends, their correspondence and sketches of meetings have been preserved. The exhibition presents photographs, artworks and documents that tell about the unique places associated with the life and work of the artist and

Watch and admire



Brazil invites everyone on a date



At the Faces of Pakistan exhibition

writer: Yasnaya Polyana and Zdravnevo. The bright exhibits of the exhibition are reproductions of two paintings by Ilya Repin: a self-portrait of 1894 and a portrait of Leo Tolstoy in an armchair of 1909. All this can be seen sixteen kilometres from the city. A nice bonus is that the museum has extended its opening hours for the convenience of guests.

Where: Museum-Estate of Ilya Repin in Zdravnevo

When: July 11th-August 12th

Sunny greetings

The embassy of the country of beaches and coffee shows its project *Rendezvous with Brazil* in the art museum. It came to *Slavianski Bazaar* straight from Minsk. Fourteen Belarusian authors conducted their mini-research and shared what impressed them in the culture and history of this country, in the language of painting, drawing, art object, installation, digital art and animation. It turned out to be a collectively created portrait with the view is from Belarus. Presentations of samba, capoeira, batucada, Brazilian poetry, tastings, thematic master classes will help to reveal the exotic culture for us. Come, you won't be bored for sure.

Where: Art Museum, 32, Lenina Street

When: July 12th-August 27th

Chipsans and shur-shars

The Regional Museum of Local Lore also hosts an interesting exhibition *Komi. Folk Musical Instruments*. Over the decades of its existence, the festival Vitebsk seems to have welcomed guests from all over the world. But this is the first time we get to know Komi so closely. After all, it is through music that the most intimate is transmitted — the soul of the people. Rare musical instruments were brought from Komi. Idiophones, syrgans, pu-drums, mallets, shur-shars, chordophones, sigudoks, brungans, chipsans — try to pronounce it first. And to

from the Imperial Porcelain Factory, a set of commemorative medals in honour of the bicentenary of the Patriotic War of 1812, and much more. All exhibits are from the funds of the Museum of Modern Belarusian Statehood. The geography of gifts is almost the entire globe. Azerbaijan, Venezuela, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, China, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, USA, Tajikistan, Ukraine. Everything is here! Rare awards are available — the Person of the Year award, which was awarded to Aleksandr Lukashenko for establishing the EurAsEC and the Customs Union, the highest award of the Serbian Orthodox Church — the Order of St. Sava,

bronze figurine of a bird from Slovenia, miniature book editions, photographs.

Where: City Hall, 36, Lenina Street

When: July 6th-July 31st

Birch bark amulet

For a long time, birch bark has been popular. Elastic and pliable material, capable of withstanding heavy loads, was ideal in everyday life. It was used to make kitchen utensils, caskets, storage containers, bast shoes, bags, boxes and baskets. And it substituted the paper too. Russian craftsmen loved wood for its flexibility and durability. The original style in artistic processing was called 'Prokopyevsk birch bark'. This school is characterized by a harmonious combination of the traditions of Russian birch bark with artistic elements of the peoples of southern Siberia. At the exhibition-fair, the Prokopyevskaya Birch Bark folk group presents products of arts and crafts. You can buy everything and take it with you as a keepsake. Souvenirs made of birch bark, charm bracelets, decorative pendants, caskets, birch bark rattles 'shur-shars', panels Signs of the Zodiac, nodular charm dolls, paintings and much more. In the best traditions.

Where: Art Museum, 32, Lenina Street

Fascinating Pakistan

The exhibition project *Faces of Pakistan* is organised by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the Republic of Belarus. It has already become a good tradition for residents and guests of Vitebsk to meet with the amazing, beautiful and fascinating culture of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the days of the International Festival of Arts *Slavianski Bazaar*. At the exhibition *Faces of Pakistan*, each viewer will be able to discover this wonderful country once again. The wealth of Pakistan is its history, traditions, spiritual heritage, the beauty of nature and, of course, the people who love and protect this wealth.

Where: City Hall, 36, Lenina Street

When: July 13th-August 13th



Festival guests



Works of art from birch bark amaze with their subtlety

add to the enjoyment, the *Gulyanochka* folk ensemble will present their republic.

Where: City Hall, 36, Lenina Street

When: July 14th-August 14th

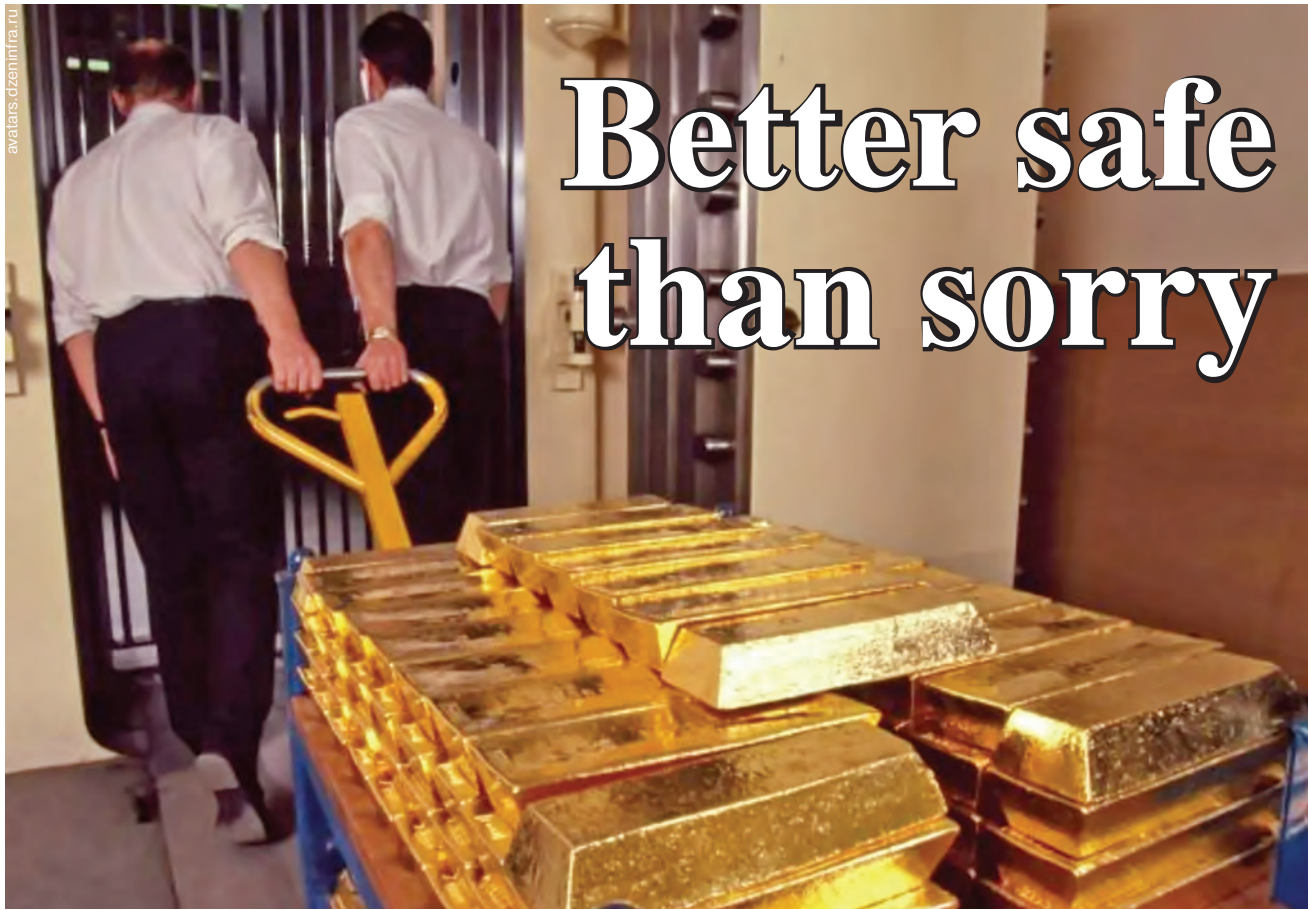
High-status gifts

The exhibition *With Love for Belarus* gives an opportunity to see representative gifts from heads of state, diplomats and public organisations to the president, government and the Belarusian people. Presents from Vladimir Putin are also here: the Moscow Kremlin bone tea set

the Order of the Holy Cross of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, 1st degree. There are also memorable souvenirs: a fragment of the hull of the Kursk submarine from Russia, a symbolic 'golden' key from the mayor of the city of Hialeah (from Florida, USA), models of a space satellite and a ship from China, a golden disk depicting a fragment of a drum of the Dong Son culture from Vietnam, bust of Mahatma Gandhi. As well as works of art: paintings, panels with copies of Scythian jewellery of the 4th century BC from Ukraine, a stylised



Museum-estate of Ilya Repin Zdravnevo



Better safe than sorry

An increasing number of countries are repatriating gold reserves as protection against the sort of sanctions imposed by the West on Russia, according to an Invesco survey of central bank and sovereign wealth funds

The financial market rout last year caused widespread losses for sovereign money managers who are ‘fundamentally’ rethinking their strategies on the belief that higher inflation and geopolitical tensions are here to stay.

Over 85 percent of the 85 sovereign wealth funds and 57 central banks that took part in the annual Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management Study believe that inflation will now be higher in the coming decade than in the last.

Gold and emerging market bonds are seen as good bets in that environment, but last year’s freezing of almost half of Russia’s \$640bn of gold and fo-

rex reserves by the West in response to the Ukrainian conflict also appears to have triggered a shift.

The survey showed a ‘substantial share’ of central banks were concerned by the precedent that had been set. Almost 60 percent of respondents said it had made gold more attractive, while 68 percent were keeping reserves at home compared to 50 percent in 2020.

One central bank, quoted anonymously, said, “We did have it (gold) held in London... but now we’ve transferred it back to own country to hold as a safe haven asset and to keep it safe.”

Rod Ringrow, Invesco’s head of

official institutions, who oversaw the report, said that is a broadly-held view.

Geopolitical concerns, combined with opportunities in emerging markets, are also encouraging some central banks to diversify away from the US Dollar.

A growing 7 percent believe rising US debt is also a negative for the greenback, although most still see no alternative to it as the world’s reserve currency.

Nearly 80 percent of the 142 institutions surveyed see geopolitical tensions as the biggest risk over the next decade, while 83 percent cited inflation as a concern over the next 12 months.

First week in July set to be world’s hottest on record

Extreme temperatures break records as scientists warn El Niño is set to get worse

The beginning of July was the hottest week on record for the planet as a whole, according to the World Meteorological Organisation. This year had already seen the hottest June on record, the UN body said, driven by climate change and the early stages of an El Niño weather pattern.

It is the latest in a series of records halfway through a year that has seen a drought in Spain and fierce heatwaves in China as well as the US.

“The world just had the hottest week on record, according to preliminary data,” the WMO said in a statement, adding that temperatures were breaking records on land and in the oceans, with ‘potentially devastating impacts on ecosystems and the environment’.

“We are in uncharted territory and we can expect more records to fall as El Niño develops further and these impacts will extend into 2024,” said Christopher Hewitt, WMO Director of Climate Services. “This is worrying news for the planet.”



Notre-Dame de Paris: renovators rush to complete refit

After a devastating fire in 2019, the Paris landmark is scheduled to start welcoming visitors once again in December 2024

It’s been four years since a fire ripped through Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris on April 15th, 2019. Reconstruction efforts on the 12th-century monument are well underway, with plans to reopen to visitors and churchgoers alike next year, French officials told the Associated Press.

“My job is to be ready to open this cathedral in 2024. And we will do it,” General Jean-Louis Georgelin, the army general leading the restoration project, told the news agency in March 2023. “We are fighting every day for that and we are on a good path.”

In the days following the fire, French President Emmanuel Macron set a five-year restoration deadline, in time for the

2024 Paris Summer Olympics. In 2019, experts familiar with medieval restoration work said it could take about 15 to 20 years to rebuild the roof, spire, and parts of stone vaulting that fell through to the main sanctuary. Thankfully, the current deadline is closer to Macron’s vision.

Although the cathedral plans to reopen for both church services and tourist visits in December 2024, the full restoration won’t be complete until 2025, Culture Minister Rima Abdul-Malak said.

While the stained-glass rose windows, rectangular towers, and priceless Christian relics all survived the blaze, extensive reconstruction work is necessary before the cathedral can reopen.

South Korea welcomes birth of first giant panda twins

A giant panda at a South Korean zoo has given birth to the country’s first twin cubs

The palm-sized female pandas were born at the Everland Resort theme park southeast of the capital Seoul, the zoo said in a statement.

The twins’ birth is considered rare — there’s less than a 50 percent chance of pandas giving birth to twins — and in the wild, they struggle to survive as mothers can often only care for one of their cubs.

Both the mother and her offspring are in good health, the zoo said in a statement, with staff providing postpartum care based on their experience helping the now 9-year-old deliver her first cub, Fu Bao, three years ago.

“I am very happy that twin baby pandas were born for the first time in Korea,” said Kang Cheol-won, a zookeeper responsible for setting up the panda enclosure at the park. “I will continue to take good care of them so that they can become a panda family that will deliver hope and joy to the public.”

The mammals, known for their penchant for bamboo, are native to China and deemed a ‘national treasure’.

For decades, Beijing has been sending them abroad as ambassadors to show goodwill in what is known as ‘panda diplomacy’.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

The NATO summit in Vilnius a month later gave rise to rumours, intrigues, fakes and diplomatic demarches. And this was due not only to the prospects of Ukraine's membership in the alliance and blackmail by Zelenskyy, but also to stuff about a possible explosion at the ZNPP and high expectations from the so-called counteroffensive with further justifications from Kyiv and some Western politicians before its actual failure. Added to this were the public burnings of the Koran in Sweden, as well as the positions of Turkey and especially Hungary on the membership of this Scandinavian country in NATO.

Ukraine outside NATO

The fatefulness of the summit in Vilnius, about which the Western media so zealously talked, turned out to be a soap bubble. Instead of the expected invitation to NATO, the members of the alliance offered Kyiv an abstract declaration on the path of entry, which stipulates that Ukraine cannot count on membership until the end of hostilities. Moreover, the alliance has replaced the common action plan for all candidates for NATO membership with special requirements that were presented exclusively to Kyiv.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy touchily commented on the results of the summit as 'a trade in Ukraine's membership in NATO in negotiations with Russia'.

At a press conference, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg constantly shied away from specifics, answering the question of what requirements the alliance made for Kyiv's membership in NATO. Only on the fourth attempt did the journalists succeed in persuading the Secretary General to at least slightly lift the veil of secrecy of the demands. It turned out that they affect not only the full transition of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to NATO standards, but also numerous political issues, painful topics for Kyiv, the fight against corruption and reform of the management system.

Since 2014, these requirements have become an opportunity for the United States to build structures under its control inside Ukraine. This is how the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine appeared, which is actually an organ of American influence on the personnel policy of Kyiv.

Requirements for joining NATO will only strengthen and finalise the external management of Ukraine.

At the same time, Kyiv has been implementing management reforms and the fight against corruption on paper for more than one year. In reality, the regime turns out to be one of the most corrupt not only in Europe but also in the world. All this makes Ukraine's accession to NATO even more elusive.

On the second day of the summit, the Senior Director of the US National Security Council for Europe, Amanda Sloat, added 'democratic reforms' to the list of demands, thereby acknowledging

the Kyiv regime's real problems with democracy.

A tougher stance was taken by US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller, who said that 'Ukraine's entry into NATO during the conflict would mean a war between the United States and Russia,' and then added that 'there will be no entry under President Biden'.

His colleague, White House National Security Council strategic communications coordinator John Kirby, confirmed that Ukraine's accession to NATO is unlikely in the near future.

Even the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, despite all the militaristic hysteria, said that the invitation of Ukraine to NATO is possible not earlier than in a few years. And this is understandable. The powerful anti-Russian hysteria unleashed by the Polish media failed to convince the Poles of the need for such an entry. The Polish newspaper Rzeczpospolita has published sociological data that says that the Poles are against the current entry of Ukraine into NATO (47.7 percent of those polled are against, 40 percent are in favour).

What did Kyiv get?

So what did Kyiv get as a result, if not NATO membership? Here we should dwell on the weapons that the countries of the alliance are ready to transfer to Ukraine. Let's start with the US, which has promised to transfer only about 30 Bradley IFVs to Kyiv, which is a replacement for what the UAF has probably already lost in the so-called counter-offensive in the south.

That is, the main country of the alliance did not go to increase the supply of armoured vehicles, not to mention the Abrams tanks, and even more so fighters. Promises to supply cluster bombs are forced due to the depletion of ammunition depots and the lack of real capacities to produce them in the required quantity.

And Germany is in no hurry to transfer equipment, limiting itself to 25 Leopard 1 tanks of the mid-twentieth century, 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles, two Patriot anti-aircraft missile systems and 20,000 155-mm shells. No new Leopard 2 tanks and cruise missiles that Kyiv expected from Berlin will be delivered.

France has limited itself to transferring 50 long-range SCALP missiles, which are the same British Storm Shadows that Kyiv has been using for more than a month, which was likely to deplete their stocks.

The icing on the cake was the signing by Kyiv Defence Minister Reznikov of a memorandum on the creation of a coalition to train pilots and technical personnel of F-16 fighter jets with 11 NATO colleagues. However, the transfer of technology itself is not discussed.



Recognition of the Union State

A completely new point for the alliance was the recognition of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. This is how one should interpret the fact that the summit included a separate line mentioning the military integration of Belarus and Russia as a negative impact and a challenge to 'NATO's regional stability and defence'. Thus, the alliance recognised the combat effectiveness of the united group of troops of the Union State, as well as the

fact of deploying tactical nuclear weapons.

All this indicates that Minsk and Moscow jointly do not provide an opportunity to change the balance of power in the region in favour of the alliance, which is what they are striving for.

Cold War with the collective East

The Eastern European direction was one of many discussed at the summit.

And if Türkiye's membership in NATO was a matter of Erdogan's bargaining for the supply of modernised F-16s, then the rapprochement between Russia

and China, the strengthened position of Iran, the growing popularity of the SCO and BRICS among developing countries make the alliance agonise and actually fight the integration of the entire collective east. The task of the alliance is to go to Southeast Asia, where to cooperate more closely with the US allies, as well as an attempt to militarise space under the plausible slogans of ensuring security there as well.

Reading the statement of the Vilnius summit, one can state that there has never been such a large number of declared threats to NATO. Moreover, the authors of the statement argue that most of them are of a value nature. That is, NATO is ready to fight those states whose values do not correspond to the alliance.

Forms of struggle against these countries will be of a hybrid nature, which is already evident in Ukraine. Their main goal is not to enter into direct confrontation, especially with nuclear countries, and to maintain channels of communication.

The NATO summit declared a new cold war, more complex, embracing the entire globe and even space. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has already rightly noted that the United States and its allies are imposing a new bloc confrontation on the rest of the world.

For Belarus, the results of the summit demonstrated the correctness of the decision to deploy tactical nuclear weapons as an instrument of deterrence, which makes NATO respect, albeit through gritted teeth, our sovereignty. As an ally of Russia and a strategic partner of China, according to NATO, we are declared its adversary along with other countries seeking to establish a multipolar and more just architecture of international relations. And here one cannot but agree with the alliance's statement about the value confrontation. But what values does the West oppose to the values of a just world order? The question is rather rhetorical.

NATO: fight to the last...

The North Atlantic Alliance considers arms supplies to Ukraine more important than security guarantees for itself

A clever tongue can get you all the way to China

Both adults and schoolchildren study Chinese at Polotsk State University

The Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, or, as it is also called, Confucius Point, was opened on the basis of PSU named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk six years ago. Since then, more than 500 students, schoolchildren and ordinary residents of Polotsk and neighbouring Novopolotsk have become its listeners.



Kira Muryndina and She Danhui

By Anna Naumova

Eastern interest

In a cosy office, everything is made in Chinese style. At the entrance, the 'wind music' amulet sets you up for positive, there are bright Chinese lanterns around, and pictures with hieroglyphs on the walls... language volunteer. The class is led by Associate Professor of the Department of Economics, Management and Economic Theory of PSU Li Junhua and the charming She Danhui, who arrived from China six months ago as a language volunteer.

We are talking about the fact that both children and adults are welcome in the centre with Li Junhua, who teaches at the Polotsk university and at the same time at the Belarusian State Economic University. A 33-year-old native of Henan province has been in Belarus for 13 years old, seven of them in PSU. He jokes that he almost became Belarusian, "Here I have friends, colleagues, hobbies (football) and, of course, the opportunity to popularise the Chinese language and culture, to help strengthen business ties between our countries."

In addition to his main job, Junhua, by the way, an economist by education, leads Chinese language groups at the university, and also performs translations. For example, technical documentation for the construction of a residential building as part of the 'Construction of Social Housing' Belarusian-Chinese project, legal negotiations through the Taxes and Duties Ministry, seminars with representatives of the Industrial Park Great Stone... Junhua is sincerely glad for such interaction,

"The friendship between Belarus and the People's Republic of China in various fields, including the economy, is only growing stronger. More and more Belarusian children show interest in education in China."

Among those who dream of a trip to the PRC, Roman Afanasiev is a tenth-grader of gymnasium No. 1 named after F. Skorina, with whom PSU and the Weihai Higher School of China have signed a trilateral



Roman Afanasiev and Li Junhua

co-operation agreement. One of the best students, Li Junhua, won the Chinese essay contest in the 'Beginning Sinologist' category, "I hope to visit Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou to get acquainted not only with the Mandarin dialect that we study, but also with other dialects."

Bridges of friendship and co-operation

At the origins of the Polotsk Centre for Chinese Language and Culture was its current head Inga Zenkova. She is also the head of the Department of Economics, Management and Economic Theory at PSU.

"The idea of the centre was born at the 2nd Forum of the Association of Science and Technology Parks, Silk Road High and New Technology Zones. During the event, we met with Li Junhua and representatives of the Belarusian National Technical University. In the latter, in 2014, the world's only Confucius Institute for Science and Technology was opened. In fact, our centre is the 'child' of BNTU, and today it operates in four main areas: education without borders, scientific and technical exchange and engineering business, development of entrepreneurial initiatives, cultural exchange and social responsibility," says Inga.

PSU has a specialty with an in-depth



Polotsk State University is located in the buildings of the Polotsk Jesuit College, founded in 1581

In Polotsk, even grandmothers learn Chinese. This opportunity came to 25 activists of the golden age thanks to an agreement between PSU and the Committee on Labour, Employment and Social Protection of the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee.

er'. For convenience, the students call her Aurora, the girl smiles, "Since childhood, I have been fascinated by your region, so when I entered the specialty 'Foreign Languages and Religious Studies' there was not even a shadow of doubt. By teaching courses at PSU, I improve my own Russian. When applying for a job, his knowledge will be very useful to me, it will help me find a more prestigious job. I am in Polotsk for another four months, and then to my hometown of Hami, which is known as the 'house of sweet melons'."

The volunteer admits that her favourite writer is Pushkin, and immediately surprises us by reciting the classic's poems by heart. The girl also likes to sing. 'Apple and pear trees blossomed...' Aurora's sonorous clear voice is heard. And then she remembers Victory Day, "During this holiday they sing *Katyusha*, and I really like this song. Like the Belarusians, the Chinese are sure that the most important thing is peace on earth, diligence and creativity."

Under the supervision of Aurora, the students of the gymnasium No. 2 of Polotsk diligently draw on the board in hieroglyphs 'The Year of Peace and Creation'. Chinese is not an easy, but very beautiful, melodic language, fifth-grader Kira Muryndina shares her emotions, "I have been learning it since this autumn. At the everyday level, I already understand something."

Her classmate Platon Klemyato picks up, "A lot of people are interested in Eastern culture today. After learning about the courses at PSU, I went to my parents for advice, and they said, 'Go ahead'."

Language courses at PSU are attended not only by students, schoolchildren, but also by employees of Naftan and other enterprises. So, Anna Tsybulskaya from Novopolotsk hopes to master Chinese at a technical level. The leading engineer of the local branch of the Grodno Research and Design Institute of Nitrogen Industry and

Products has been studying the language since 2017. She saw an announcement about the recruitment of students at PSU and had a craving, "Twice a week I come to classes in Polotsk. With Chinese, unlike English, I have 'love at first sound', and what is interesting is always absorbed easier and faster. Immediately after the first year of study, I was lucky to visit Shenyang and Beijing, in the summer school of the Chinese language. Emotions and impressions are a sea, so in my case you can change the saying: the language will bring you to China."



Inga Zenkova

study of the economy of the Middle Kingdom and the Chinese language. Such knowledge will definitely come in handy in the modern labour market and not only in the China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone companies.

By the way, the head of the park attended the opening of the centre for start-ups and entrepreneurial initiatives on the basis of PSU, who highly appreciated the contribution of the university to business development, the exchange of scientific results between the two countries. The Polotsk university is part of the innovation-industrial petrochemical cluster, it also has a Belarusian-Chinese company, which means that one cannot do without competent translators who build bridges. The Chinese New Year is held very warmly at PSU, acquaintance with the traditional cuisines of our countries, photo contests, the participants of which share their views on Belarus and China...

The name of She Danhui, a 24-year-old graduate student at Shenyang Northeast University, with whom PSU has a co-operation agreement, translates as 'red flow-

Countdown

Everything is ready for the 2nd CIS Games — Belarus is waiting for guests

Yegor Yermilitskiy



LOGO OF THE GAMES

The original symbol of the 2nd CIS Games reflects a number of elements characteristic of Belarus — an ornamental star blossoms into a dynamic bright cornflower. The eight-pointed star has great mythological depth, and the cornflower is one of the unofficial symbols of Belarus. The role of the cornflower is significant in Belarusian folk mythopoeics and literature. In this dynamic stylisation, the cornflower is a symbol of hospitality and friendliness. The addition of flying petals in the colour of the Olympic rings symbolises that we support the centuries-old Olympic principles and traditions, preserve them and create our own.



By Sergey Kanashits

Each new day brings us closer to the main sporting event of this year — the 2nd CIS Games, which will be held from August 4th to August 14th in 11 cities of Belarus. Winners and runners-up will be determined in 20 sports, and the total number of participants and guests promises to approach ten thousand people.

The organisers report: we can start right now — everything is ready: arenas are waiting for spectators and athletes, hotels for numerous guests, various tourist routes and locations for inquisitive guests, as well as medals for winners. The awards were presented to the public this week during a large-scale presentation that began with mass bike rides, continued with the launch of the countdown to the start of the Games and ended with a demonstration of medals, a new sports uniform for the Belarusian delegation, volunteers and medical staff, as well as the presentation of the Guest Card — a plastic credit card giving its owner a lot of preferences and discounts.

First Deputy Minister of Sports and Tourism Aleksandr Dorokhovich said that each medal would be packed in a stylish wooden box, and the main value is measured not in the amount of precious metals in its composition, but in the perseverance, willpower and spirit that athletes will show in order to win the award. Each medal will also be accompanied by a plush Rysia the Lynx. All representatives of official delegations will also receive a mascot toy. By the way, everyone will be able to dress in the colours and style of the 2nd Games: the

MASCOT OF THE GAMES

The original Belarusian Rysia the Lynx became the mascot of the upcoming holiday. This is an agile and fast beast with intelligence and a sharp mind. All the qualities that a true champion needs. Our Rysia is also mischievous and original, attractive, charming and cheerful. With her strong character, Rysia is designed to inspire everyone to a bright game.

first branded products of Bellegprom went on sale already at the republican festival *Alexandria Gathers Friends*. Other 'souvenirs', as the organisers assured, will also be in abundance throughout the country. The general sponsor of the Games was also announced: it is Belarusbank, and Darida became the drink provider.

The Head of the Main Department of Sports and Tourism of the Minsk City Executive Committee Maksim Voropai spoke about the 'guest card'. This trendy item, also stylishly packaged in a wooden frame, will give attendees and guests of the festival access to the best museums, hotels, shops and restaurants. Card holders will receive tempting offers for moving between cities and discounts in more than 500 establishments across the country.

The current Games in general will differ in many ways from the debut competitions that were

held two years ago in Kazan. **Firstly**, by their scale: they are not localised in one city, but scattered with throughout the country, in every corner of Belarus, people will be able to feel and enjoy their indescribable atmosphere. **Secondly**, by the format: 2nd Games have the status of an open competition and will bring together participants not only from the CIS, but also from many other countries — from Cuba to Mongolia. **Thirdly**, the competitions will get rid of the cliché of an exclusively youth forum: in sambo, weightlifting,

SLOGAN OF THE GAMES

'Strong in Spirit, Strong in Game!' In this short and capacious form, the very essence of sport is encrypted: without a strong character, perseverance and will, it is impossible to win. It is these qualities that make any competition uncompromising and unforgettable.



rhythmic gymnastics, beach football and field hockey, national teams will be represented — the strongest athletes will gather. **Fourthly**, a traditional visa-free regime has been introduced for participants and guests. **Fifthly**, visiting all arenas and competitions will be free without exception.

The list of peculiarities and exclusive features of the upcoming Games can go on for a long time. But it is better, as we all know, to see once than to hear a hundred times. There is almost nothing left before the start — just some 16 days. We are looking forward to it.



DIRECT SPEECH

Sergei Kovalchuk, Sports and Tourism Minister,

"I am sure that the 2nd CIS Games will be held at a high organisational level and will become a real holiday for Belarusian fans, participants and all guests. For us, this is a very important and significant event. At the moment, more than 20 countries have confirmed their participation in the Games, more than three thousand athletes and coaches have been registered. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the start of the competition. We are also waiting. I will not hide, with some pre-launch excitement, but this is normal — it is always present. We represent the country, and this is a big responsibility."

ARENA

● Czech tennis player Markéta Vondroušová wins Wimbledon for the first time

In the women's singles final, Vondroušová, 42nd in the world ranking, beat planet No. 6 Ons Jabeur from Tunisia in two sets — 6:4, 6:4. In the semi-finals, Jabeur outplayed Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka.

After winning the Wimbledon tourna-

ment, the Czech Markéta Vondroušová, who previously occupied the 42nd line of the WTA rating, entered the top ten for the first time. The best of the Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka remained in second position.

In the final match of the men's singles world ranking leader Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz outplayed the second racket of the planet Serb Novak Djokovic — 1:6, 7:6 (8:6), 6:1, 3:6, 6:4. The match lasted 4

hours and 45 minutes. For the 20-year-old Alcaraz who won the US Open last year, this is the second Grand Slam title.

● Belarusians won 35 awards at the second stage of the Commonwealth Cup in water skiing in Brekhovo near Moscow

In total, the Belarusian team has 15 gold, 13 silver and 7 bronze medals. Af-

ter two stages of the Commonwealth Cup in the all-around, Vasily Mazurkevich (46 points) is in the lead, Stepan Melnik is second (33), Russian Kirill Sinitsyn (25) is in third place. The women's ratings are led by Belarusians Yelena Parkhomenko (46), Sofia Gvozdeva (36) and Maria Belskaya (30). The third and final stage of these competitions is planned to be held on August 24th—27th in Zaslavl.

Photo of the week



On the streets of festival Vitebsk

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



July 20th is International Chess Day. It is celebrated on the day of the founding in Paris (1924) of the

International Chess Federation (FIDE). India is the birthplace of chess. Chess is one of the oldest intellectual and cultural games that combines sports, scientific thinking and elements of art. As an accessible and inclusive activity, this game can be played anywhere. Everyone can play chess, overcoming language barriers, as well as differences in age, gender, physical abilities or social status.

July 20th is International Cake Day. The holiday was established by the Milanese club 'Kingdom of Love', which brings together enthusiastic creative people. The holiday is dedicated not only to a sweet delicacy, but also to friendship and peace between people, countries and peoples. Its motto is I CAKE YOU.



On July 21st, 1878, Swedish polar explorer Nils Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld set off on the steamer Vega on an Arctic expedition, during which he was the first to pass through the Northeast Passage from

the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean (with wintering en route) and returned to Sweden through the Suez Canal (1880), thus for the first time bypassing the whole of Eurasia.



On July 22nd, 1894, the world's first automobile race started in Paris. This run was supposed to demonstrate the capabilities of a new type of transport — self-propelled carriages.

The participants had to pass by their cars a given route — Paris-Rouen — in 12 hours. 28 cars were allowed to start — 14 with gasoline and 7 with steam engines. Only 17 cars managed to reach the finish line. The highest speed (more than 22 km/h) was developed by a 20-horsepower steam car.

On July 23rd, 1963, the Minsk Motor Plant was put into operation.

In the very first year, the production of the D-50 tractor engine with a resource of 2,500 hours was mastered, and almost 12 thousand engines were produced for the new MTZ-50 tractor. Now MMZ is the leading manufacturer of modern diesel engines among the CIS countries and ranks first in terms of the number of tractor and combine engines produced. Its products are in great demand and compete with European and American counterparts.



July 23rd is World Whale and Dolphin Day. On July 23rd, 1982, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ban on whaling came into effect

after 200 years of merciless extermination of whales. The ban is still in effect today and means that all over the world whale hunting, as well as the trade in whale meat, is prohibited.

July 25th is Fire Service Day in the Republic of Belarus. The basis for choosing the date of the holiday was a historical event — on July 25th, 1853, the Minsk provincial government and the Minsk City Duma, having considered the issue 'On the creation of a fire station in Minsk', approved the cost estimate for the maintenance of a fire station consisting of 51 people. It is from this moment that the history of the professional fire service of Belarus begins.



On July 26th, 1951, an archaeological expedition led by Professor Artemy Artsikhovskiy discovered the first birch bark manuscript during excavations



in Veliky Novgorod. The very first ancient Russian birch bark is a small letter written by a commoner who lived in the 15th century. Soon birch bark manuscripts were found at excavations in Moscow, Pskov, Smolensk, Staraya Russa, Tver, Torzhok, as well as in the Belarusian cities of Vitebsk and Mstislavl and in the Ukrainian Zvenigorod. Today there are more than a thousand such manuscripts.

July 26th is Esperanto Day, the world's first constructed language. This semiotic system was created by the oculist Ludwig Markovich Zamenhof. Communication with people of different nationalities prompted the young man to create a language that could be understood by any person on the planet. It was on July 26th, 1887, that Ludwig Zamenhof published a textbook on Esperanto, the so-called Unua libro (First Book). Esperanto is currently spoken by about 2 million people.



On July 27th, 1921, Canadian physiologist Frederick Banting gave a talk on getting insulin. For this revolutionary discovery, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1923. Frederick Banting solemnly shared the prize with his assistant Best, with whom they had worked together to develop a vaccine against diabetes. Shortly thereafter, the production of insulin on an industrial scale began.