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Playing by the rules

Belarus demands proper sportsmanship

By Alexander Pimenov

Meeting the Secretary General of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Patrick Baumann, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko stressed that Belarus will prove a great host for the 2018 FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup. He expressed his hope that the country will be trusted with other international basketball events, saying, "I can assure you of fans' keen interest in any event held within the framework of your federation. I think the Head of the Belarusian Basketball Federation has already told you about our capacities and available logistics. Rest assured, if we take something on, we handle it at the highest level. Government agencies and structures are always involved and any tournament is of nationwide importance. This is part of our youth policy, promoting a healthy lifestyle and sport. Don't worry about the conduct of events that we run."

Our country has received the right to host the FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup for the first time in its sovereign history. Clearly, FIBA isn't regretting the decision. On meeting Mr. Lukashenko, the organisation's leader expressed gratitude to Belarus for its worthy organisation of the tournament, which was held at a very high level. "I'm really impressed," said Mr. Baumann. "All the teams are delighted



Patrick Baumann



2018 FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup successfully finished in Minsk

as well. They say that they're very well taken care of and are very pleased. All sports facilities are in immaculate condition."

Mr. Baumann knows what he's talking about. At one time, he not only played basketball but acted as a coach and judge. He currently heads the Global Association of International Sports Federations and, as a lawyer, deals with legal issues for the International Olympic Committee. His meeting with the President of Belarus was not limited only to the subject of basketball, as they talked more widely about problems in world sports.

As Head of the National Olympic Committee, Mr. Lukashenko voiced his stance on key issues of global sport. "We're for good sportsmanship, with full transparency from international organisations, including the International Olympic Committee. We're in favour of protecting athletes, especially those

who are 'clean'. We believe that every athlete should bear personal responsibility for doping and other unsportsmanlike behaviour. We're for transparency of international sports committees and, primarily, the IOC."

Mr. Lukashenko added, "We hear a lot of complaints regarding the International Olympic Committee. I believe that this organisation is not just bureaucratic but sometimes irresponsible. As Head of the National Olympic Committee, I'll have to raise this issue at the next international sports event." The President is convinced that 'it's inadmissible to make sport part of dirty politics'. "We're absolutely against it. Sport should be clean; athletes should perform their sport and everyone should be treated equally," he stressed. "As far as I know, you also advocate for clean sports, supporting clean athletes, and the efficiency of international sports organisations. If so, consider me your friend."

The FIBA Secretary General thanked the Belarusian leader for the meeting and noted that it was a double honour for him, saying, "I'm meeting

not just with the President of a good country but also with the Chairman of the National Olympic Committee." Mr. Baumann also expressed gratitude to Belarus for its good organisation of the 2018 FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup, which was recently hosted by Minsk. In his words, the competition was held at a very high level and was successful.

The FIBA Secretary General agreed with the Belarusian President regarding sports development in general, saying, "We must protect clean sport and clean athletes. I'm absolutely confident that our position on sport development matches completely."

Minsk's 2018 FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup gathered the world's top sixteen teams, with Belarus participating as the host country. During the tournament, FIBA unveiled its new cup, exhibited at the Palace of Sports in Minsk. The Belarusian Basketball Federation and local designers developed a unique set of medals for the championship, with elements of unique branding.

Enhancing the prestige of state service

By Vladimir Velikhov

In recent years, the country has been working hard to optimise the number of state officials, reducing their number by 25 percent, to slightly exceed 37,000: almost the lowest figure worldwide

Reducing numbers of state employees has enabled salaries to be raised and, as the President of Belarus noted recently, there are moves to address the length of time it can take to select candidates for vacant positions (months and even years). Naturally, the state wishes to employ the most experienced and able managers, since their responsibilities are so great. The country depends on their successful implementation of major projects. As Mr. Lukashenko underlined, "These should be broad-minded specialists, able to determine strategic tasks and to correctly evaluate the consequences of decisions." He added that it's necessary to have the 'highest moral



principles, without even a hint of corruption'. "There's nothing new in what I'm saying; I've spoken about this constantly. It's a corner stone of my presidential campaign."

Previously, positions within the civil service used to have status and be

sought after but today's situation is rather different, with many local authorities struggling to find suitable candidates to head departments, or to serve as deputy chair of district and city executive committees. Naturally, when taking on a huge burden of responsibility, employ-

ees wish to receive adequate remuneration but, from the point of view of the state, salaries must be earned!

In moving forward, a civil service code is envisioned, as Natalia Kochanova, the Head of the Presidential Administration, explains. "State service is similar to military service. To enhance the prestige of state service, we need to be stricter in our requirements, stressing honesty, decency, responsibility and good problem-solving skills." She emphasises that civil servants are, primarily, serving their country.

Speaking of changes to the law regarding civil service employment, Ms. Kochanova notes that a special working party is being established to elaborate measures designed to enhance the prestige of this line of work. She asserts that the working party will prepare the new civil service code, formulating requirements which will encourage those 'eager to take responsibility for the adoption of decisions and ready to work effectively'.

Want to spend a whole month in Belarus without a visa? No problem!

Visa-free term for foreign citizens extended to thirty days

By Vladimir Mikhailov

Many have been awaiting news of the visa-free term being extended from five days, but the decision has come unexpectedly, and is very welcome. In line with the recent decree signed by President Alexander Lukashenko, the term of visa-free stay for foreign citizens in Belarus has been extended to thirty days, provided they enter and leave via Minsk National Airport. This is far more than the hoped for ten days. In addition, the decree updates the list of states whose citizens have the right to visa-free entry and exit: it excludes countries with which Belarus has concluded bilateral agreements on the mutual abolition of visas.

To gain visa-free entry to Belarus, foreign citizens need to have a valid passport or a document substituting for travel abroad, as well as sufficient money (no less than two basic values or fifty base units, if the stay is for thirty days, for each day of stay, in Belarusian Roubles or equivalent currency). They must also have a medical insurance policy valid for Belarus (of no less than 10,000 Euros). For citizens of Vietnam, Haiti, Gambia, India, Lebanon, Namibia and Samoa, a valid multiple entry visa for the EU or Schengen states is also mandatory, with a note of entry into their territory, as well as air tickets with confirmation of departure from Minsk



Chinese tourists have long become frequent guests to Belarus

National Airport within thirty days of date of entry.

With regard to Chinese citizens, the new terms of visa-free entry into Belarus will be applied until August 10th, after which a bilateral agreement on mutual visa-free entry will come into force for holders of ordinary passports.

The procedure for visa-free travel through the airport does not apply to persons flying into Belarus from Russia, or planning

to fly to Russian airports, since these flights are classed as internal, without border control. The visa-free regime also does not apply to foreign citizens travelling to Belarus for employment, business or training the duration of which exceeds thirty days. The term of visa-free stay is calculated in whole calendar days. The first day corresponds to the date of arrival; the last is the date of departure (regardless of the time of arrival or departure). In

this case, the period of visa-free stay cannot be extended beyond the established thirty days.

Foreign citizens planning to stay in Belarus for more than five working days will have to register with the internal affairs bodies at their place of stay in the country. When staying in hotels, hostels, sanatoriums and other collective accommodation facilities, registration by the administrations of these institutions will take place during check-in.

Experts and observers have already concluded that the decree will support the Belarusian tourism industry, encouraging sanatorium and medical tourism in Belarus: generating income for the country's economy and Belarus' involvement in world economic relations. It will also strengthen the country's position as a convenient platform for hosting international forums, conferences, festivals and sports competitions.

Active interaction in human rights

By Alexey Fedosov

European Union and Republic of Belarus hold fifth round of bilateral Human Rights Dialogue in Minsk



Co-operation between Belarus and the EU in human rights came under discussion, including in the context of implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan and recommendations as part of the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council. The meeting also saw consideration given to the observance of human rights in Belarus and in a number of EU member states.

The Belarusian delegation was led by Oleg Kravchenko, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus. Meanwhile, Dirk Schuebel, the Head of the Division for Bilateral Relations with Eastern Partnership Countries of the European

External Action Service led the EU delegation. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, and representatives of ministries of foreign affairs, justice, interior, education, labour and social protection, as well as by members of the Central Election Commission.

The EU delegation included officials from the European External Action Service, and the European Commission, alongside representatives of EU member countries (as observers). Representatives of Belarusian non-governmental agencies also offered their thoughts on some issues from the agenda.

Mutual benefit is apparent

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarus co-operating with China's Liaoning Province

Belarus' Deputy Economy Minister, Pavel Utyupin, recently met with a delegation from the Chinese Liaoning Province, in Minsk. The brief presentation by the Chinese included expression of interest in buying Belarusian foods, and promoting Belarusian products online, as well as co-operating within the framework of the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian

Industrial Park.

Belarus is ready to establish and advance interaction with companies located in the Liaoning Province, including selling shares in Belarusian companies. The Liaoning Province is the most economically developed and richest in China's northeast, sometimes referred to as the 'Golden Triangle', for its important geographical position. It boasts a well-developed petrochemical industry, metallurgy, food industry, textile industry, pulp and paper industry, and machine building.

Taking actions is crucial

By Svetlana Savelieva

Belarusian Foreign Ministry liaises with Israeli partners to settle denial of Belarusian entry to Israel

The Foreign Ministry recalls that an agreement on visa-free entry has been in force for several years between our countries. However, 2017 statistics show that

there has been a significant increase in refusals to Belarusian nationals seeking entry to Israeli territory. "Of course, this situation causes concern, which we're taking to our Israeli partners. We've held a number of consultations at various levels, to find solutions. However, a specific solution largely depends on our Israeli partners," the Foreign Ministry comments.

Information support for export supplies

Belarusian diplomats are to be withdrawn from service if they fail to meet export goals, warns the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrey Yevdochenko

By Olga Zdanovich

The heads of our embassies abroad have spent a whole week in Minsk at an annual conference, with economic issues high on the agenda — including the need for diversification and the raising of export volumes. Meeting ambassadors a year ago, President Lukashenko said that economic indicators will be used to measure the effectiveness of Belarusian missions abroad.

Mr. Yevdochenko announced that, in the first five months of 2018, Belarusian exports grew by almost 22 percent in value, but less regarding volume. The Foreign Ministry is concerned that some prices are falling on world markets, requesting that diplomats report back promptly on any such trends within their assigned countries. Ambassadors who fail to meet forecasts for export growth without good reason will be recalled after a two-year period.

Valery Sadokho, the Director of the National Centre for Marketing and Price Study, explains that a constructive approach is needed. “If pricing conditions change, diplomats might be asked what action they’ve taken in response: organising targeted business meetings; reporting on those changes and local market demand; and assessing the competition. We depend on our embassies, so it’s important that they keep relevant ministries and agencies up to date on trends. For example, the EAEU’s recent free trade agreement with Vietnam has raised the competitiveness of Belarusian goods on the Vietnamese market, since fees have been reduced or abolished on various products. We want

to know if our exports have increased to this country, and how this relates to the new conditions. If they’ve not increased, then we need to look at why not, and how we’re failing to make best use of this possibility.”

Mr. Sadokho notes that embassies

aren’t just being encouraged ‘to sell something’ but to provide ‘information support’ regarding exports. The Foreign Ministry

calls upon diplomats to work closely with the chamber of commerce and industry and businesses. To stimulate small and medium-sized

enterprises on foreign markets, the Foreign Ministry has suggested new tools of financial support, with the state covering half of all business expenses to participate in exhibitions abroad and to gain product certification.

Assistance in exhibition participation is already subsidised, as Mr. Sadokho explains. “A major exhibition in Shanghai —

the China International Import Expo — is gathering importers from China, to see what can be bought from abroad. Our Government will finance Belarusian participants’ exhibition stands: the latter will be free for enterprises, with construction overseen by businesses. By September, our national stand will be ready, with enough room for seventy-two companies (most representing the meat and dairy industries). We’re sending a

large Belarusian delegation, which is preparing to hold a business forum with Chinese partners.”

By 2020, Belarus plans to diversify its foreign trade according to the ‘three thirds’ formula: exports will be distributed in approximately equal parts between the EAEU, the European Union and other countries. At present, about 70 percent of Belarusian exports are sold to just five countries.

New technological services for customers

By Vladimir Velikhov

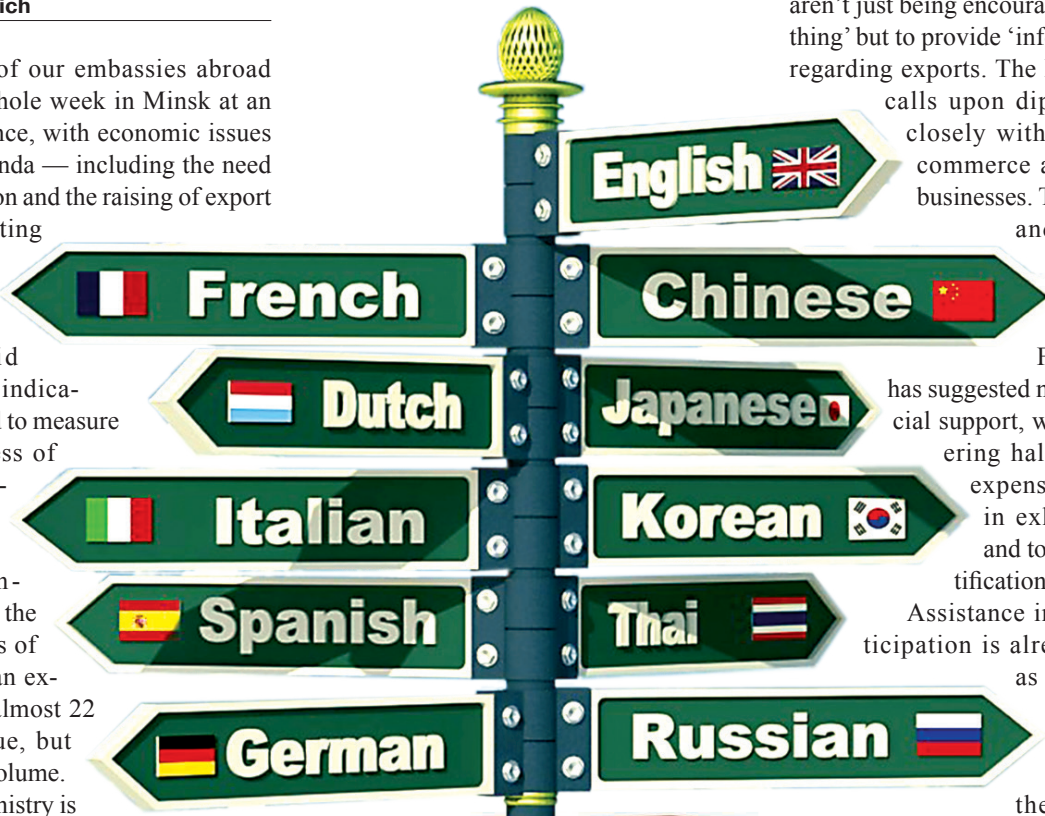
Dump truck ‘digital double’ app being developed for BelAZ

BelAZ JSC is joining SAP CIS in developing intelligent industrial solutions based on cloud technologies, machine learning, artificial intelligence and digital transformation projects. The aim is to help BelAZ’s internal business processes: of planning and managing the production of finished products and semi-finished products, as well as managing production costs and quality.

An application is also planned to collect telemetric data for BelAZ customers, enabling a ‘digital double’ concept for dump trucks and an intelligent ‘digital quarry’ for extractive companies.

“Our dump trucks are equipped with hundreds of sensors that generate terabytes of real-time information per year; this allows us to track the quality of a mining dump truck anywhere in the world. The data, combined with predictive analytics and machine learning technologies, will enable us to provide our customers with completely new intellectual services for increasing efficiency in operating quarry dump trucks, with predictive analytics and transition to servicing on demand,” comments General Director Piotr Parkhomchik, of OJSC BELAZ, the Management Company of BELAZ-HOLDING.

BelAZ JSC undertakes industrial production of career and specialised transport using innovative technologies. During its seventy years of operation, it has produced over 500 modifications of quarry dump trucks and special-purpose vehicles and 146,000 units of equipment, sold to seventy-eight countries.



Promoting eco-vehicles to consumers

By Inna Kabysheva

Encouraging sales of electric vehicles by removing taxes

Drivers eager to buy an electric car will be delighted to hear that such vehicles are to be exempt from road tax in Belarus; nor will imported chargers for electric vehicles be subject to VAT.

Decree No. 273, signed recently by the President, aims to encourage those still in doubt as to which car to buy, promoting their choice in favour of environmentally-friendly electric vehicles. State Production Association Belorusneft is to be the state operator of the nationwide

charging network.

E-car dealer Grigory Sargsyan, who is also the Director of Technology Zone, which produces charging stations for electric cars, exporting them to the USA and European countries, tells us, “Such a measure should encourage purchase of electric cars, which is great. Drivers in Belarus aren’t buying electric vehicles because the infrastructure hasn’t been developed. Meanwhile, infrastructure is lacking due lack of demand for these cars.”

He estimates that there are around 300 electric cars countrywide but notes that Belarus doesn’t keep a record of such vehicles, so it’s hard to say. In



E-vehicles prove useful

neighbouring Lithuania, electric cars have an ‘EV’ sign, and REGITRA (the Lithuanian version of our Driver and Vehicle Licensing Division) has figures on the number registered. About a year

ago, Vilnius City Council introduced free parking for e-cars, to encourage their use. Meanwhile, Europe has designated lanes and the US offered a tax deduction of \$7,500 for the first 200,00 elec-

tric cars sold.

Mr. Sargsyan believes that this may be the next step, “We could completely abolish import duties, say, for the first 30,000 cars, with a prohibition on resale for five years (to avoid shady dealing). We’d need a charging network, which requires financial support, of course. In the UK, the state is covering up to 70 percent of infrastructure costs. A team of knowledgeable professionals will be essential. Not so long ago, employees at a petrol station told me that their electric car charging station had been used only fifteen times in a whole year! A device able to charge only one specific car brand had been installed.”



Affordability driving sales

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Pavel Solodovnikov, the Director of Luxury Motors Plus automobile salon, which sells Geely cars, noted in an online interview that the state loan system to encourage purchase has made a huge difference. He comments, "Our preferential credit programme has definitely played a role. Up to 98 percent of sales involve a bank loan. We've even had the situation of customers wanting to buy cars when we've run out of stock. There's a high probability that the credit programme for Geely cars will be extended for another year."

Production of cars at the plant near Borisov is still in its initial stage, with allied enterprises being established to produce radiators, seats and engines. They're creating a reliable basis for the expansion of the range. In September, two more models are expected: each less techni-

In the first half of 2018, sales of Geely-Atlas crossover cars tripled (compared to 2017). The BelGee Plant, making Chinese cars in Belarus saw an uptick of 311 percent: a market record. Buyers purchased 746 Geely-Atlas crossovers. Both individuals and companies were among the customers for the innovative vehicle, which offers great value for money and the latest specifications. Atlas sales overtook those for similar models by such giants as Kia, Nissan and Volkswagen, reaching ninth position among the top thirty selling models. Not bad for a newcomer!

cally advanced but also cheaper. Next year, the BelGee range will expand, with the brand expected to become popular nationwide.

Seeing sales results from the past six months (prepared by the Belarusian Automobile Association), the famous Soviet slogan comes to mind: 'life has

become better, life has become merrier'. The country sold almost 23,200 cars over this period (70.5 percent more than in the same period of 2017 and double that of H1 of 2016). Of course, previous years' statistics need to be viewed with consideration for the number of cars

imported from Russia. Now, it's more economical to buy the domestic version. Within the next six months, virtually every family will have bought a new car. It's incredible!

There has been three-digit growth in sales over the past six months, by the five lead-

ing automobile brands. LADA has shown the highest increase in sales volumes. According to Russian data, it sold 4,206 cars: second only to the traditional leader, Renault. The latter's Logan sedan and crossovers Sandero Stepway, Duster and Kaptur all sell very well but other brands are close behind. The newly debuted Vesta, by VAZ, has confidently taken second place.

The Deputy Director for LADA Importer Development in Belarus, Denis Skorobogaty, believes two main factors are responsible: the emergence of a new importer in Belarus rapidly developing LADA's sales network (meeting new standards in sales and service) and new models at affordable prices.

Of course, owning a car remains a luxury. As such, it's wonderful to see families deciding to purchase their own vehicle, since it shows their faith in a steady economy and positive financial situation.

Bilateral interest in interaction

Plans to build logistics centres for Belarusian products in China's Guangdong Province

By Alexander Pimenov

Wang Enpei, the Director General of Guangzhou Xinjinlai Import and Export Trade Company, tells us that a logistics centre in Guangzhou is handling Belarusian products. "We intend to build similar facilities in other cities across the province by 2019. The logistics centre also advertises Belarusian goods in China, on various platforms." Wang Enpei has praised the quality of Belarusian products, which sell well in China. His interest in co-operation is mutual.

Vladimir Mashero, the First Deputy

Chairman of the Agriculture and Food Committee of Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee, notes that work is in progress to sign contracts with Chinese partners on selling Belarusian products on the Chinese market. China's interest in certain types of Belarusian products has been determined, with representatives of Vitebsk regional administration having met a Chinese delegation led by Wang Enpei, at premises owned by Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee. It isn't the first time that the Chinese businessman has come to Belarus. The delegation also included businessmen interested in co-operation in civil engineer-



Logistics optimises supplies of produce

ing, and joint manufacturing of LED products and medical equipment. Agreements of intent were signed during the previous visit to Vitebsk and a Belarusian delega-

tion visited China afterwards. It's hoped that the current visit will bring the signing of a contract to sell Vitebsk Ganna Broiler Poultry Factory goods to China.

Celebrities are to become ambassadors of the Games

What connects Darya Domracheva and circus trainer brothers Zapashnye? Biathlon is sometimes called a 'snow circus', in which Darya has broken records, and she's certainly 'tamed' her own tiger, in the shape of legendary Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjørndalen. In fact, four-time Olympic champion Darya and world-famous tamers Edgard and Askold Zapashnye are to become star ambassadors of the 2nd European Games, taking place next year in Minsk.



Four-time Olympic champion Darya Domracheva becomes star ambassador of the 2nd European Games

By Sergey Kanashits

Minsk's hosting of the major event is one in a long line, with the capital currently welcoming seminars and congresses, with main officials from the European Olympic committees arriving, alongside heads of delegations and journalists. The newly

relaunched Dinamo Stadium will be filled with international diversity, looking to the flame of the Games. Naturally, such sports encourage our patriotism and inspire so many emotions. To see the heights to which athletes aspire encourages our own sense of purpose and courage.

In these months leading up

to the event, it feels rather like waiting on the airstrip runway, hearing the engines of the plane firing up. As before any major holiday, the anticipation almost rivals the excitement of the event itself.

The Directorate of the 2nd European Games Foundation recently announced the launch

of *Star Ambassadors of the 2nd European Games*, featuring famous people admired and respected worldwide, to help promote a positive image for the Games, in Belarus and abroad. Georgy Katulin, heading the Directorate of the 2nd European Games Foundation, explains the goal of the ambassadors, who'll

be working to raise awareness of the Games and encourage audiences to follow sports.

Hero of Belarus Darya Domracheva was the first to receive her certificate, looking rather shy but obviously proud. Smiling, she declared, "Alongside my fellow ambassadors, I'll try to prove myself worthy, helping the world learn about this super sports event. I believe that Minsk will host the 2nd European Games at the highest level, allowing tomorrow's sporting stars to recollect our capital as a city where they first achieved great successes. They'll tell others about this, which will be a very important contribution to promoting our country."

The media will be promoting the Games with various television programmes and documentaries. The Belarusian Republican Youth Union has also signed an agreement with the Games' Directorate. The 2nd European Games will take place in Minsk from June 21st-30th, 2019, at twelve sports venues, bringing together more than 4,000 athletes from fifty countries.

Sunbathing is fine in moderation

We hear a great deal about both the benefit of sun exposure and its harm, so I'd like to hear an expert opinion.

(A. Nikiforov, from Brest)

Years ago, having a darker shade of skin was felt to coarsen the appearance, indicating time spent outside, labouring. Sunburn was a symbol of masculinity, with the art of ancient Egypt, Pompeian frescoes and Renaissance paintings often showing men as tanned and women fair-skinned. This remained true until sometime into the 20th century.

Undoubtedly, the sun's ultraviolet rays help our body to utilise vitamin D, which is necessary for the absorption of calcium and phosphorus. It helps in strengthening muscles and bones and healing wounds. However, to maintain the required level of vitamin D in the body, it's enough to expose our hands and face just two or three times a week for 5-15 minutes during the summer months. Elderly people can find that sunbathing alleviates muscle and joint pain.

UV rays stimulate most of the processes in the body: breathing, metabolism, circulation and the endocrine sys-

tem. The volume of antibodies in the blood increases significantly under the influence of UV rays, raising our resistance to bacterial and viral diseases. Meanwhile, UV rays are successfully used in the treatment of various skin diseases, such as eczema, psoriasis and acne. Time in the sun lifts our spirits and helps fight stress.

Some people are sensitive to ultraviolet radiation, especially during childhood. We all know that brunettes tend to tan faster than blondes or redheads, whose skin is more delicate and burns more quickly. If your skin is very pale, sunbathing isn't recommended.

If you do wish to spend time in the sun, I suggest you remember the following:

- In hot countries, such as Spain, Italy or Bulgaria, or on the African continent, limit sun exposure to 5 minutes at first, then gradually increase, to allow your skin to adjust.
- No one should sunbathe for more than an hour.
- The safest times to be in the



Necessary to be careful in the sun

sun are from 9am to 11am, and 4pm until sunset. Avoid the sun from noon until 3pm, when rays are strongest.

- Before you go to the beach, avoid using soap or cleansing gel as these remove your skin's natural oils, which provide protection.
- Don't apply body lotion or toning waters, as they increase skin sensitivity to ultraviolet rays, which can lead to pigment spots.
- It's fine to wear lip balm but avoid other cosmetics, as these can also lead to excess pigmentation.
- Be sure to cover your head, to avoid sunstroke. Sunglasses

and a hat with a brim are essential, as ultraviolet rays can damage your retinas.

- Water reflects the sun's rays, so be careful when standing on the beach or sitting near the waterfront.
- For an hour and a half before going to the beach, avoid sunbathing and don't swim immediately after a meal or on an empty stomach (you may get dizzy or have nausea). It's best to have a snack well in advance.
- Use sunscreen. The SPF (Sun Protection Factor) on your sunscreen shows how many times you can increase your length of time in the sun.

Use about 30ml (or 6 teaspoons) of cream to ensure an adequate layer of protection against ultraviolet radiation.

- Apply your SPF lotion about half an hour before going out in the sun, to allow it to absorb and act.
- Reapply your SPF lotion through the day, at least once every three hours and after any bathing. Pay special attention to the shoulders, neck, décolleté and knees, as well as your ears and sensitive skin around the eyes: these places burn most quickly.
- If you have skin problems or an allergic reaction to ultraviolet light, seen in a red rash, itching and flaking, or if you have a lot of moles, it's best to refrain from sun exposure. Avoid sunbathing while taking antibiotics or some other medicines.
- Awnings and canopies are great for providing shade at home or on holiday, while a hat and loose-fitting, light clothing will give some protection from UV rays.

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

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Amazing art of top flying

Lipki airfield near Minsk hosts FAI World Helicopter Championships

By Alexey Fedosov

It was the first event of its kind in the history of independent Belarus: the grand opening of the 16th 2018 FAI World Helicopter Championships took place at Lipki airfield, at Minsk aero-club.

Opening the championship, the Prime Minister of Belarus, Andrei Kobyakov, recalled, “Belarus has always been famous for its flying traditions. During the Great Patriotic War, trainees of Belarusian aero-clubs made a significant contribution to the fight against the enemy. Among the graduates of Minsk’s aero-club alone, fifteen pilots were awarded the title of ‘Hero of the Soviet Union’; their names are immortalised at the memorial recently opened on the territory of the Minsk club.”

He adds, “Profound Belarusian pilot-cosmonauts Vladimir Kovalenok and Piotr Klimuk, who were twice heroes of the Soviet Union, alongside Hero of Russia Oleg Novitsky, and Hero of Russia Yevgeny Frolov (an outstanding test pilot) made significant contributions to high achievements in flight skills. I’m confident that the new generation of Belarusian pilots will pass on the baton of subjugating the ‘fifth ocean’ and will adequately represent their homeland at international competitions!”

Among the participants of the championship was famous TV presenter Leonid Yakubovich, who jointly piloted a Mi-2, with a USSR helicopter sports master, a bronze medallist of the USSR Championship and a silver prize-winner of the Russian Helicopter Championships. He declared, “Let’s fly!”



Belarusian team looked worthily at the championships

Mr. Yakubovich was impressed by aviation equipment presented at Borovaya airfield, commenting, “I’ve visited almost every country around the world and, wherever I’ve been, I flew almost everywhere. However, I’ve never seen such a museum. Its exhibits are not only in excellent condition but show the history of the country in which we’ve all lived and grown up. The history of the victor-country stands in front of you here.

What’s also impressive is that nowhere else has such aircraft on open view. I watched the children who came here on Sunday, looking around the aircraft cabins. It’s important. Nothing is more precious than our historical memory; here it’s alive.”

During the solemn opening, the national aerobatic team flew Yak-55 airplanes owned by Mogilev aero-club. The concert programme included the Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Armed Forces of Belarus. Surprisingly, the black clouds looming over Lipki airfield during the championship didn’t transform into



Judges have much work

rain. The audience was delighted, which was hardly surprising. The last world championship among helicopter pilots was hosted by Belarus only in 1978.

During the first days of the competition Belarusian helicopter pilots took the first gold of the World Championship. The Vitebsk aero-club crew won one of the most complex disciplines: the parallel delivery of cargo. Pilot Vladimir Bugaev and operator Andrey Rogonov took the prize, while third place went to Belarusian duo Nikita Laptev and Vladislav Kurs.

The struggle for first place was fierce, with eleven crews scoring the maximum number of points. In the end, the winner was determined by time, with the Belarusians declared fastest. “Until the last moment, they were neck

and neck with the Russian crews, separated only by a split second. It was this which finally brought us victory,” comments pilot Vladimir Bugaev.

The Belarusian national team occupied second place at the 2018 FAI World Helicopter Championships in Minsk, with one of the Belarusian crews claiming a medal in the individual standings for the first time: the best performance by a Belarusian helicopter team to date.

In the team standings, Russia took gold, having also won all previous events, while Poland finished third.

In the crew standings, Maxim Sotnikov and Oleg Puodziukas of Russia defended the championship title. Silver went to Russia’s Andrey Orekhov and Vadim Sazonov, while bronze

medals were collected by Belarus’ Alexey Mochansky and Anton Danchenko. The Belarusians also did well in individual disciplines. In particular, the crew of Vladimir Bugaev and Andrey Rogonov — who train with Vitebsk aero club — clinched gold in parallel fender rigging. “The Belarusian national team did very well at the championship. At the previous tournament, we only took one medal, in the team standings; now, we also boast awards in personal standings. It takes time to become a champion in helicopter sports, but we’re developing, with Minsk and Vitebsk pilots showing themselves to be among the best helicopter aviators worldwide, demonstrating good results across all disciplines,” stressed the Secretary General of the Belarusian Federation of Air Sports, Anton Bystrov.

Russian pilot Oleg Puodziukas noted the high level of organisation of the event in Minsk. “Helicopter sports are well developed in Belarus,” he said. “Russia and Belarus are from the same school. We’ve also taught the Poles, who offered tough competition, so our sporting family is increasing in number. We’re trying hard to share our best practice with other countries.



Sofia Kurshbadze — a member of the Belarusian helicopter sports team



Search reveals more casualties in Greece

Rescuers intensified a grim house-to-house search for more casualties from a deadly forest fire outside Athens, as the country's military said it was using footage from US combat drones and surveillance aircraft to try to determine whether arsonists were behind the blaze and stop future attacks

Joint patrols of the Fire Service, army personnel, and volunteer rescuers discovered more bodies in the gutted homes near the port of Rafina east of Athens, raising the death toll to 81.

Nikos Giannopoulos stood with his wife and two children outside the destroyed home of

his 88-year-old mother, waiting for news as rescuers searched each room. They found her charred body in the bathroom.

The fire forced hundreds to sprint to sea for safety, swimming out into the rough waters to avoid the suffocating smoke until they were picked up by

boats after nightfall. Divers and coast guard patrols were still searching for bodies at sea.

The Mayor of the fire-ravaged Marathon area, Ilias Psinakis, said many residents only had a few minutes to save themselves. He described losing his own home. "We could smell

something burning. Then everything was gone in minutes. The wind came, then moved away, then came back again," he said after a meeting in Athens with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, regional government leaders and public safety officials to discuss the relief effort.



Blood moon seen around the world

People in many countries have caught a glimpse of a 'blood moon' for the longest lunar eclipse of the 21st century

Most of the world got to see a spectacular event in the sky last Friday. The moon turned 'blood red' in a total lunar eclipse for an hour and 43 minutes — the longest of the century.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth passes between the sun and the moon, casting a deep shadow over the moon's surface. It wasn't visible in the US, but it could be seen from places like South America, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

With no regards for bor-

ders, spectators gazed at the same moon in Gaza, Israel and Egypt. Folks peered through telescopes in Johannesburg, and saw a brilliant show in the sky over Jakarta.

Of the 7.4 billion people on Earth, about 7 billion people could — in theory — see the eclipse, except for those in North America and Greenland, where time of day didn't allow.

The ancient Inca were said to have believed a red moon meant it had been mauled by a jaguar, and the Mesopotamians thought it was a warning their king would be attacked.

But it's science — orbiting planets in perfect alignment. That's less whimsical, perhaps, but no doubt, spectacular.

Zimbabwe rivals promise victory in pitch for votes

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa and his rival Nelson Chamisa held final election rallies and both vowed to rebuild an economy shattered by Robert Mugabe's long rule

This vote is the first since Mugabe was forced to step down in November after a de facto coup and, as such, is a major national test. Mnangagwa is favourite although the latest opinion poll said the race was too close to call.

The run-up to the presidential and parliamentary election has been peaceful compared to previous polls but there are reports of intimidation and coercion in rural constituencies, and state media is biased towards the ruling ZANU-PF party.

A run-off will be held in September if neither candidate wins outright.

Tens of thousands of MDC supporters in the party's red colours converged in downtown Harare in a carnival atmosphere,



dancing to music denouncing ZANU-PF.

"Today we are celebrating. Change is inevitable, victory is certain. If we miss our chance on Monday we are doomed for life," Chamisa told supporters and urged them to stay at polling stations to prevent vote fraud.

A few miles away, ZANU-PF supporters met at the national stadium in green, yellow and red party regalia as the party tries to win in the capital for the first time since 2000.

Little separates the two men's policies but Mnangagwa is 75 and represents the war generation, while Chamisa, a 40-year-old lawyer, embodies the hopes of many young people.

South Korean firm backtracks on \$130 billion 'treasure ship' gold claims

A South Korean company that claimed to have found the wreck of a Russian warship holding \$130 bn in gold said it has not verified the existence of any gold, while a financial watchdog said it was probing possible unlawful stock trading

Shinil Marine said it had recently discovered the wreck of the Dmitrii Donskoi, a Russian armoured cruiser sunk in 1905 after fighting Japanese warships off South Korea's Ulleung Island.

However, the company backtracked on those claims on Thursday and apologised for having cited unverified news.

Oil rises after Saudi Arabia suspends shipments through Red Sea lane following attack

Brent crude led oil prices higher, extending gains after Saudi Arabia suspended crude shipments through a strategic Red Sea shipping lane and as data showed US inventories fell to a 3-1/2 year low

Brent crude futures had risen 66 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$74.59 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were up 22 cents at \$69.52 a barrel, after climbing more than 1 percent in the previous session.

Saudi Arabia said that it was 'temporarily halting' all oil shipments through the strategic Red Sea shipping lane.

Asian stocks inch up after Trump, Juncker pledge cuts to trade barriers

Asian stocks edged higher, taking comfort from gains on Wall Street after US President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker agreed to work toward eliminating trade barriers on industrial goods

In a news conference following the meeting, Trump said he and Juncker had agreed to work to lower industrial tariffs on both sides and to increase European imports of liquefied natural gas and soybeans from the USA, among other measures.



Speaking with audience in eloquent language

By Vladimir Mikhailov

Minsk's Palace of Arts hosts commemorative exhibition in honour of National Artist of Belarus and laureate of State Award, Gavriil Vashchenko

Gavriil never planned on becoming an artist. A child of the war, born in the Bragin District, he came to Gomel to study as a railwayman, until he came across an advert for Kiev's School of Applied Arts.

Many years have passed since then. Gavriil Vashchenko has lived a long life, creating many masterpieces and encouraging many students. In June, he would have turned 90. Alas, in 2014, he passed away.

The present exhibition is organised by the Belarusian Union of Artists, featuring about a hundred paintings: landscapes, portraits and mystical paintings. Mr. Vashchenko painted many such pieces. "Gavriil Vashchenko was a great Belarusian artist," comments the chairman of the Union of Artists, Rygor Sitnitsa. "I say this without doubt. The more time that goes by, the greater his legacy will appear." Mr. Vashchenko was known as a monumental artist with large-scale thinking and majestic canvases, pondering eternal questions and the past of his native land.

Polesie — where he was born and where he spent his childhood — was especially dear to him, inspiring his work. He painted people with calloused hands, deep blue lakes, horses in meadows, and the graceful silhouettes of storks... "Their slow soaring above and the clarity of their lines are my inspiration. Without them, I can hardly imagine my native Polesie. They're invisibly present in my works, even if they aren't drawn there," the master wrote.

He enjoyed acknowledgement, being a People's Artist of Belarus: the highest mark of talent and civic position. His canvases demonstrated the power of national roots and his depth of feeling for his land, in history and in the present.

I met the artist several times but it was on our last meeting that he revealed something new to me, showing me his desire to depict his homeland with real emotion. Now that he's no



Much to ponder in Gavriil Vashchenko's wonderful pictures

longer with us, I must rely on the answers left on my recording machine.

Do you find each canvas 'hard work'?

Pictures are like poetry: some are born easily, while others aren't. Sometimes, I can paint a picture in a single breath but, in another case, I repaint endlessly. My 'Battle of Grunwald' (2x4m), featuring many figures and weaponry, took me a great deal of time, and necessitated long research, in libraries and looking through albums. When I'd collected everything necessary, it took six months to draw the picture.

It seems that, in Belarusian painting, form leads over content. What do you think of this? And does this lead to a 'loss' of something?

There's always something in art which characterises a particular era and artist. Most often, it's form. I think it's just a means of expression for the artist's ideas. If the form fails to express thoughts, then it's formalism: form for form's sake or the art of nothing. When ideas dominate form, or when artists simply search for new forms, this can happen. Some artists do this to express their



K. Vashchenko reveals a great deal about his father

thoughts, while others believe that each painting is primarily a form, texture and colour. We can't ignore this approach. Sometimes, you might fail to complete work at a certain stage but you're laying a brick for further thoughts. Other generations will take this and create a building.

What has most influenced you? A particular time?

People? Or your personal thoughts?

As is probably natural for all, my childhood experiences were foremost, followed by poetry, music, literature and meeting people. In Kiev, I studied at the College of Decorative-and-Applied Arts and later became a student at Lvov's Monumental Painting Department. It was a time of national

consciousness being formed. I began to ponder my identity, my abilities and what I'd work upon.

Your artistic path is rich. You've created many works, also becoming a People's Artist of Belarus. Do you feel yourself to have been a success?

Self-assessment is a challenge but I'm thankful to God for my longevity; 80 years is a great age. I'm happy to have realised all my plans. As regards my contribution to Belarusian art, I'm primarily proud of having established the Monumental Painting Department at the Academy and having trained over 200 students. They're now leading masters of fine arts in Belarus. Of course, I'm pleased that my personal works have gained recognition — both domestically and abroad.

Do you understand young artists? How do you perceive their work?

I accept some and may dispute with others. This is the law of life which we cannot escape.

Do artists have the opportunity to realise themselves today?

It seems to me that the national idea should always inspire in art. If it's present, then great works are created.

Does art reflecting reality appeal most to you, or do you prefer associative art? Realistic or figurative?

I don't believe that any of us paint for ourselves alone. I'm looking to share my thoughts with others, wanting to communicate. To do so, I need to find a language that others can understand. In order to talk, we need to learn to speak.

What do you mean to talk about?

The history of my people and my homeland.

Even though time has passed, I still find these answers relevant, conveying not just his musings as a talented artist but a man with great life experience and devotion to his motherland. He believed that we are always linked to our past: it's a philosophy I can respect.

Crystal tomorrow for our cinema is seen even today

This summer will probably see the launch of a new phase in Belarusian cinema, thanks to the sensational premiere of Darya Zhuk's *Crystal Swan*, being shown at the film festival in Karlovy Vary, and of *Tomorrow* by Yulia Shatun, in Marseille. Minsk *Listapad* Film Festival has produced hopes for a brighter outlook for Belarusian filmmakers, following the signing of a memorandum on co-operation in Shanghai with thirty other members of the major festival alliance.

By Irina Zavadskaya

Igor Sukmanov, the director of the feature film programme at Minsk's International Film Festival, explains that *Listapad* has long been liaising with alliance colleagues, and continues to forge new contacts — in particular, with governmental film organisations and film institutions in New Zealand and the Netherlands, and via the Shanghai International Film Festival.

Our domestic film industry is going from strength to strength, with film festivals eager to screen our works, bringing wider recognition for *Listapad* and our national cinematography. Mr. Sukmanov tells us more...

Do you watch all the films that apply for the festival? Last year, the figures were very impressive: about 500 films and almost a thousand hours in front of the screen...

All true and it's very nice that, sometimes, we receive applications from films which haven't yet been shown at major festivals. I can't tell you the exact figures yet but, via the Cannes and Berlin film markets, we've received about 300 applications, in addition to others entered independently. In early autumn, we're expecting a large inflow of applications from Belarusian filmmakers, as tends to happen. We only received the application from Yulia Shatun — the winner of last year's 'Listapad' — in October. However, we immediately knew it was promising.

What do you think of *Crystal Swan*, by Darya Zhuk? Many think it's been nominated for an Oscar but, in reality, it's only been proposed to the National Oscar Committee for consideration.

It needs to pass several formalities...

August will see the film's national release and I've no doubt that — in the



Igor Sukmanov

wave of all the Oscar hype — people will rush to cinemas...

The film has a chance at the Oscar list, with no particular competitors. Thanks to our American partners, it has a chance to be screened in the US. 'Crystal Swan' is the only modern Belarusian film to have received such wide international recognition. It really shows that co-production brings results. Four countries took part in its production; it's virtually impossible to enter an A-class festival alone now. Films with international distribution can win more easily, including impressing festival audiences. The film evidently has not only the professional industry behind it but public popularity.

Yulia Shatun managed to do well though, with her *Tomorrow* documentary, screened at the International Film Festival in Marseille.

Yulia had already won a prize at 'Listapad', which is part of the alliance of international film festivals.

In September, Yulia's film will go on national release in Belarus: the same full-length version as was presented in Marseille.

"As regards our competition programme of documentary films, we're selecting feature-length films, so that they can compete on relatively equal terms," adds the director of *Listapad*'s documentary programmes, Irina Demyanova. She explains that a documentary about

Russian rhythmic gymnastics (selected to participate in *Listapad*) inspired the largest cinema in Tallinn to organise additional screenings for the Estonian public. In fact, the film isn't Russian, being co-produced with Poland and Germany.

"In modern cinematography, the competition is not between countries and flags, as in sports, but between authors, personalities and individuals," notes Mr. Sukmanov. "If a film is to gain recognition internationally, it seeks to be created in co-operation with other countries. It's hardly possible to survive without co-production — including for Belarusian cinematography. Even Emir Kusturica shot his Serbian films using French money."

Exploring cultural space

By Olga Bogacheva

Exhibition in Vitebsk dedicated to Bella Chagall

Bella Chagall. Portrait of the Artist's Wife is dedicated to the anniversary of the birth of the famous painter, on July 6th. The exhibition features copies of photos documenting the life of the Rosenfeld family (Bella's maiden surname), as well as graphic works by Marc Chagall from the museum's collection, household items from the early 20th century, and copies of Bella Chagall's book, *The Burning Lights*. A lithography of Marc Chagall's *The Birthday* is on show for the first time.

The event reveals the role of Bella Chagall in Marc Chagall's



life, within a broad historical and cultural context, and offers little-known facts relating to the history of Vitebsk and its Jewish community. Bella Chagall is presented not only as a muse of the outstanding artist but as a

self-sufficient person. She was a well-educated and independent woman who was ahead of her time but with a firm sense of her roots. She had sharp intelligence and wit, as well as literary talent.

Several awards for documentary

By Svetlana Savelieva

Belarusian film — *Tomorrow* — wins four prizes at Marseille Film Festival

The full-length debut by director Yulia Shatun has been presented at the international competition's contest of debut films, as organised by French cinema association GNCR. The film was named 'best debut', receiving the Renaud Victor prize. It also received special mentioning of actor Georges de Beauregard and the Hope of Marseille jury.

Tomorrow has received several awards at the Interna-

tional Film Festival in Marseille this year. In 2017, it was recognised as 'best feature film' at Minsk's *Listapad* International Film Festival, becoming the first Belarusian film to enter the international competition of film debuts: *Youth on the March*.

Tomorrow tells the story of a former English teacher from a small town. He has a wife and a son, who is studying in the Belarusian capital. While undertaking house repairs, he contemplates his lottery ticket, which gives him a chance to dream for a few moments.



Two wins and one draw

Belarusian football clubs play their matches of Europa League second qualifying round

By Denis Krymov

Dinamo Minsk has claimed victory in the first match of the Europa League second qualifying round. Playing away against Slovak team Dunajská Streda, Minsk opened the score in the 24th minute, with the Slovaks equalising fifteen minutes later,

thanks to Roman Begunov realising a penalty. In the second half, Alexander Makas scored for the Belarusian team and, before the final whistle, Uros Nikolić left the score at 3:1 in Minsk's favour.

Soligorsk's Shakhtyor faced Polish Lech, resulting in a draw. Shakhtyor took the lead early in

the second half, thanks to Elis Bakaj but Poland equalised in the 89th minute.

Dinamo Brest defeated Atromitos at home, with a score of 4:3, Dinamo halfback Pavel Savitsky claiming a hat trick. The Brest squad led 4:0 until the 70th minute, when their rivals slipped three goals into the net.

All the Belarusian clubs are holding return matches on August 2nd, hoping to reach the Europa League third qualifying round. BATE Borisov will play Finnish HJK in Helsinki in the Champions League qualification round, prior to that date, having already seen a 0:0 draw in Belarus.

Time to move

By Svetlana Savelieva

Finnish forward Teemu Pulkkinen to play for Dinamo Minsk HC

The club has already reached an agreement with the well-known Finnish player, concluding a contract for the coming season. Minsk's Dinamo claimed Teemu Pulkkinen during the KHL draft in 2009; in 2010 (during the NHL draft), he was elected by Detroit in the fourth round, under number 111. However, he spent three seasons with Jokerit, where he was the team's foremost scorer. The sportsman played for Detroit for the next three years but failed to gain a foothold with

the Red Wings.

Last year, Teemu played for the AHL's Chicago Wolves, claiming 65 points (29+36) across 75 games, taking to the ice alongside Beau Bennett, who is also heading to Dinamo.

In the NHL, Teemu has played 83 matches, scoring 22 (13+9) points and earing 32 penalty minutes. His more impressive statistics are within the AHL: 284



Teemu Pulkkinen

matches, and 257 (135+122) points. Pulkkinen is a double bronze medallist at the U18 World Youth Championship. At tournaments in Minsk and Bobruisk, in 2010, he was the top scorer, with 15 (10 + 5) points across 6 matches, giving him the honour of being acknowledged the best forward. In addition, Teemu was a silver medallist at the 2016 World Championships.

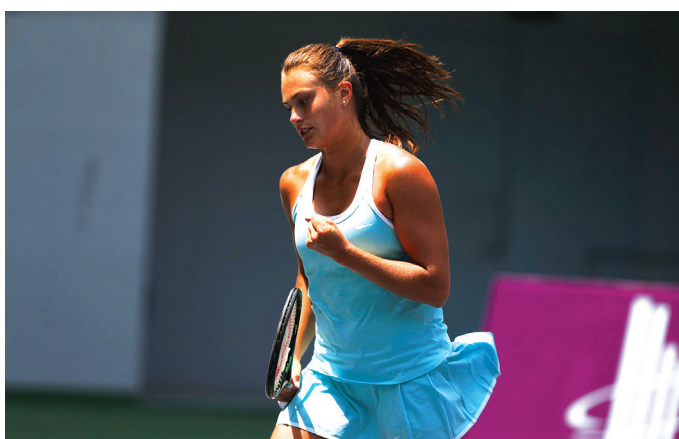
After the game, into the bath

By Yegor Vetrov

Arina Sobolenko breaks her way to the top. Experts say that soon, this fair-haired Minsker will sweep aside everyone on the court, like Maria Sharapova in her best years.

This sportswoman is gaining momentum: a couple of years ago, she was in the second thousand of the world rankings but is now 47th globally. 19-year-old Arina is confidently winning tournaments.

Arina does not spare herself, pushing herself to the limit. Unsurprisingly, after the match with Holland in the Federation Cup, Arina was awarded the prestigious Fed Cup Heart Award. The Open Heart



Arina Sobolenko doing her best

Award is given to athletes who show outstanding courage on the court and dedication to the team.

Arina, how did you get into tennis?

My father is a former hockey player. When I was born, he apparently decided that the

puck and stick were not for a girl; he decided to take me to the tennis school. I really liked it, I was literally fired up by tennis. Then came a period when things were going wrong and I even wanted to give up tennis. However, I was afraid to upset my parents and con-

tinued training. I'm happy now that I did not give up then.

Do you remember what your first professional fee was spent on?

Of course. I spent it on myself! I bought a lot of dresses and different blouses, everything that makes a girl a little happier [smiling].

Are there any sportsmen whom you wish to look up to?

In my childhood, I was a fan of Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenko. Actually, I try not to copy anyone. I must have my own style. After all, my sports career is just beginning.

What is Arina Sobolenko outside the court?

I try to be a cheerful and life-loving person. I also have a great sweet-tooth: I can't deny myself this pleasure.

● London has hosted the draw for the first round of the Federation Cup World Group. Belarus' women's national tennis team is to play Germany in an away match on February 9th-10th, with the winner going through to the semi-finals and the loser competing for a place in the strongest group. The Belarusian tennis team lost to the Germans in the Fed Cup 1/4 finals, in February, 2:3. In other first round World Group matches, the Czech Republic is to play against Romania, Belgium faces France, and the USA will play Australia.

● American basketball player Darrin Govens has moved to Tsmoki-Minsk, having previously played for the university team of St. Joseph, and then the American Reno Bighorns. Darrin Govens most recently played for clubs in Iceland, Greece and Hungary, and received Hungarian citizenship. He now joins the national team of Belarus. Yegor Meshcheryakov, the sports director of Tsmoki-Minsk, tells us, "Darrin Govens is a leader in every respect. We're taking him into the position of combo-defender: playing not only in attack but in defence."

● Midfielder Nikita Korzun has returned to Minsk Dinamo, following release by Kiev Dinamo until the end of this season. The Minsk team line-up is receiving two more players: Alexey Gavrilovich (moving from Brest Dinamo due to disagreements with coaching staff) and Georgy Navalovsky from Tbilisi Dinamo (who has previously played not only for Georgian clubs but for those in Azerbaijan, Greece and Russia). Last season, he played for SKA-Khabarovsk, which has dropped out of the Russian Premier League.

Wild card for tournament in Montreal

By Sergey Anisimov

Belarusian Victoria Azarenko receives special invitation to play at prestigious Rogers Cup tournament in Montreal, Canada

The last time Victoria Azarenko played in Montreal was in 2015, when she reached the third round. Victoria, turning 29 on July 31st, joins American Serena Williams, 36, at the Rogers Cup. Both celebrated tennis players are returning to the world tennis forum after the birth of their children: Victoria Azarenko became a mother in December 2016, while Serena Williams had her baby in September 2017. Both are former number one seeds.

Festival of the week



Big-Mini Festival of Street Art held in Grodno

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 31st August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress*

Until 5th September. Gavriil Vashchenko's exhibition: *Land Under White Wings* Until 15th September. *ABCs from Around the Globe*

Until 31st January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale horror*

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street

Until 26th August. *Equos. Kon. Horse*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 5th August. *Netania-Minsk* Until 25th August. *Questoria*

HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street

Until 26th August. *Hello from Minsk*

GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue

Until 13th August. *Piotr Masherov: His Heart Beats for People*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 2nd August. *Live Dragons*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street

Until 14th October. *Life with Cold Blood*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

11 Sovetskaya Street

Until 3rd September. *War Chronicle in Mikhail Ptashuk's Films*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 8th September. *The Artist and the City: open air exhibition of Georgy Skripnichenko's pictures*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street

Until 31st August. *Summer Season at Cat Museum*

VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street

Until 5th August. *Following Harry Potter*

TSENTRALNY CINEMA

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 12th August. Outside photo exhibition

THEATRES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street

02.08. House Upside Down 2

05.08. Barmaley

06.08. Time to Couple

07.08. House Upside Down

08.08. Love and Pigeons

09.08. Comedy about Penny

Pincher

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street

26.07. Featherhead 02.08. Trench

Shelter 07.08. Reconnaissance in

Apartment No. 5 08.08. Night at Hotel

CENTRAL HOUSE OF OFFICERS

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street

07.08. Backers-Up, or Just in Case

EVENTS

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street

03.08. Disco of the 1980-1990s

04.08. Disco of the 1990-2000s

BOROVAYA AERODROME

04.08. Rock for Bobrov Festival

MINSK TOWN HALL

2a Svobody Square

04.08. Classics by Town Hall

YEVGENY VLADIMIROV'S JAZZ CLUB

1 Oktyabrskaya Square

02.08. Jazz-soul: UK diva Renae Rain

LILY

1 Kalvariyskaya Street

03.08. Disco Friday

04.08. Disco Saturday

PRIME HALL

65 Pobediteley Avenue

09.08. 30th Anniversary of Korol i Shut

(King and Fool)

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square

07.08. Timur Sergeen's *Encore Concert*

NEMO DOLPHINARIUM

40 Tashkentskaya Street

Until 31st August. Daily shows

FIRST MAFIA CLUB

17 Karl Marx Street

Daily. Mafia game

POBEDY PARK

Pobediteley Avenue

08.08. Active outdoor holiday:

#Followminsk