



Belarusian tennis player has won WTA Premier singles title in New Haven — first in her career

In the finals of the tournament in New Haven Arina Sobolenko, ranked 25th by the WTA, faced Carla Suárez Navarro of Spain, ranked 30th. The Belarusian easily defeated her rival in two sets — 6:1, 6:4, ensuring a win in a WTA Premier tournament. Arina Sobolenko has moved up to the WTA top 20 ahead of the 2018 US Open Tennis Championships — for the first time.

Arina Sobolenko was approaching victory regardless of experience and ratings of her rivals

Convenient place to discuss important topics

Sochi hosted meetings between presidents of Belarus and Russia

By Vladimir Mikhailov

It's well-known that Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin agreed to the meeting during their telephone conversation. The heads of state have agreed to continue mutual efforts in the interests of preserving the positive dynamics of interaction. In the presidents' words at the beginning of the Sochi meeting, inter-state relations remain efficient.

Alexander Lukashenko noted that, undoubtedly, problems do exist in the dialogue which is normal for any working process. However, it's important that any conflicts don't increase, and no new problems arise. The President of Belarus addressed his Russian colleague by saying, "We have indeed something to talk about. But I wouldn't say that problems are piling up. We have problems, which are dealt with swiftly or take a long time to resolve. But, fortunately, no new problems have been emerging recently as I see it. Nevertheless, these cannot be resolved without us. Some issues we must deal with are not ours. Therefore, we indeed have something to talk about. I'd be glad if you add to my knowledge regarding international relations, your meetings, your impressions, and joint actions on the international scene."



Meeting in Sochi

Mr. Lukashenko thanked Vladimir Putin for the invitation to take his mind off presidential problems a little. "I come here every year. There's a corner of Belarus here. At every opportunity I try to come here to get away from problems, which always pile up, for 3-4 days. These problems are the same everywhere. You have them, too, only on a larger scale."

Welcoming the honoured guest, Vladimir Putin noted he was glad to meet with the President of Belarus and discuss in private matters concerning the

advancement of bilateral co-operation and interaction in various integration formats, as well as problems on the international agenda.

"You and I meet with each other regularly, nevertheless, each meeting is significant and very important for us," the President of Russia told Mr. Lukashenko.

It's well-known that before this, the heads of state outlined a wide range of issues in developing Belarusian-Russian collaboration, interaction in integration association. The presidents paid

special attention to promoting integration in the Eurasian Economic Union, implementing the previously reached agreements between the EAEU member-states, having also discussed organisational issues connected with the session of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, held in St. Petersburg in July. Russian-US relations have been discussed in detail, including the results of the recent negotiations between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump in Helsinki. During the meeting, attention was drawn to issues of control

over armament and prolongation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms which expires in February 2021.

After the negotiations, the heads of state exchanged gifts. Alexander Lukashenko presented Vladimir Putin with an icon of the Guardian Angel while the Russian Head of State presented the President of Belarus a picture on cloth, created by master craftsmen from the Urals.

President of Estonia expresses interest



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Estonia, H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Kachanov, presents credentials to the President of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid

By Alexander Pimenov

The Belarusian diplomat informed the Estonian Head of State about key aspects of Belarus-Estonia relations, bilateral trade prospects, accomplished and scheduled high-level visits and forthcoming international conferences in Minsk. From her side, Kersti Kaljulaid

emphasised the importance of expanding Belarus-Estonia dialogue at an official level and the level of civil society. She drew particular attention to prospects for bilateral interaction in information technology and digital government. The Estonian President also voiced interest in closer trade and economic ties and cultural contacts between the two countries.

Truly important component of European security

By Alexey Fedotov

Belarus-NATO interaction in Science for Peace and Security programme discussed in Brussels

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Belgium, Belarus' Permanent Representative to NATO Alexander Mikhnevich met with NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges Antonio Missiroli, representatives of the Belarusian diplomatic mission in Brussels told BELTA.

Alexander Mikhnevich and Antonio Missiroli discussed topical items on the bilateral agenda and promising formats for Belarus-NATO interaction. Close at-

tention was drawn to the potential of the NATO programme *Science for Peace and Security*.

Belarus is in favour of maintaining and expanding constructive co-operation with NATO on the basis of mutual respect. While pursuing a multiple-vector foreign policy, and stepping up participation in international security institutions, Belarus has resolved to make its own contribution to preserving peace and hitting a strategic target — the creation of indivisible Euro-Atlantic security. The history of Belarus' relations with NATO began in 1992 when the country joined the North Atlantic Co-operation Council, which became the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in 1997.

What do we know about the American diplomat

By Vladimir Velikhov

New Charge d'Affaires of the United States to Belarus Jenifer H. Moore has arrived in Minsk, we learned from the website of the US Embassy in Belarus

The Embassy informed us that Jenifer H. Moore is a career member of the US Foreign Service. Before arriving in Minsk, she was Deputy Director of the State Department's Office of Southern European Affairs, responsible for US relations with Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. Ms. Moore has extensive European experience with much of her career having focused on international security co-operation and security sector reform. She previously served as Deputy Director of the State Department's Office of Peacekeeping, Sanctions, and Counterterrorism, was Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs at US Embassy in Tirana, and has worked in political, political-military, and economic positions in US embassies in Ankara, Sarajevo, Baghdad, and Jakarta. Ms. Moore also worked as a Watch Officer in the State Department's Operations Centre and as Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs.

For peaceful space

By Vladimir Mikhailov

Belarus takes part in developing recommendations on preventing an outer space arms race

A session of the UN group of governmental experts on preventing an outer space arms race took place in Geneva. The group includes representatives of 25 UN member states. During the session, Belarus was represented by Nikolay Ovsyanko, Head of the International Security and Arms Control Department of the Central Office for Multilateral Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus.

The main purpose of the group of governmental experts is to work out recommendations regarding substantial components of the international treaty on preventing an arms race in open space and facilitating the launch of negotiations as soon as possible. The development and approval of the treaty will be an important step in ensuring the security of nations and their space installations. It will also allow international peace and security to be boosted.



During the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Strasbourg

Prospects for mutual collaboration with accent on innovation

Minsk preparing to host Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

By Alexey Fedosov

It is expected that on September 11th-12th, we'll be welcoming guests from 47 countries. It is the first time Belarus has hosted this large-scale international forum, so the experience of other states, particularly Poland, is of great importance. The topic was discussed at the meeting between the Chairman of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, Mikhail Myasnikovich, and the Marshall of the Senate of Poland, Stanislaw Karczewski. Of course, they also tackled bilateral collaboration. Though trade turnover increased by more than 20 percent last year, there are still

considerable reserves, stressed Mr. Myasnikovich, expressing confidence that the session of the inter-governmental commission of the two states (that will also take place in autumn) will give a new impetus to the development of Belarusian-Polish contacts.

Meanwhile, German investors from Saxony enjoyed the experience of Belarus in the sphere of the digital economy. In order to bring intentions into concrete business, Minsk has been visited by the State Minister of Justice of Saxony, a deputy of the Landtag (Land Parliament), Sebastian Gemkow. During the talks with the guest, Mr. Myasnikovich suggested discussing the development

of contacts between the High-Tech Park and Information and Communication Park Silicon in Saxony, "We pay a great deal of attention to the digital economy. These are principally new opportunities and we can achieve good results for both businesses and state authorities."

Mr. Gemkow was pleased to respond to this proposal, "We'd like to combine efforts to produce computer equipment in the Silicon Saxony with software that is produced in Belarus, thus offering ready-made solutions for various branches."

Germany is traditionally among the top five countries investing in the Belarusian economy. Mutual trade is also expanding and the Great Stone

Industrial Park opens up new prospects for German businessmen. Mr. Myasnikovich invited German companies to make active use of this venue.

The meeting also tackled prospects for co-operation in the sphere of state preparation and in developing inter-parliamentary contacts. It's known that last year, the city of Mittweida hosted the 1st Belarusian-German business forum. The second event is to take place in November in Germany, while Mr. Myasnikovich suggested organising the third forum in Minsk in 2019. Mr. Gemkov supported this idea and invited the Belarusian parliamentary delegation to visit Saxony.



Marianna Shchetkina

"We plan to sign contracts worth more than \$500 million. We are working on all areas," noted the Deputy Chair of the Council of the Republic, the Chair of the Organising

Ambitious but real plans

Belarus and Russia plan to sign \$500m of contracts at 5th Forum of Regions

Committee of the 5th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia, Marianna Shchetkina.

This year's forum will feature the first meeting of the Business Co-operation Council. Ms. Shchetkina is confident that the dialogue will make a considerable contribution to the development of bilateral collaboration. "We plan to discuss problematic issues. These are equal rights of economic entities, markets free of exemptions and restrictions, and other matters," explains the Vice Speaker.

According to Marianna Shchetkina, the

participants of the forum plan to discuss joint projects in science and youth policy. Belarus hopes that new proposals regarding joint projects and programmes in the Union State will be voiced during the forum.

The 5th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia is due to take place in Mogilev on October 11th-12th. The event will be organised by the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia in co-operation with the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee.

Mechanism became worn-out and obsolete, so was replaced

Most experts believe that the abolition of mandatory foreign currency sale has positively influenced the country's economy



By Vladimir Mikhailov

In a bid to liberalise foreign currency relations and stimulate business activity, the President of Belarus has signed the Decree 'On the Abolition of Mandatory Foreign Currency Sale'. This is an important event, but not unexpected. Since 2016, the norm for mandatory foreign currency sale has been constantly reducing in the country and, as a result, reached a modest 10 percent. The final abolition of this obligation is the result of a successful financial-economic policy. The 'sending' of this instrument of regulation and control of the foreign currency market is another testament to long-term macroeconomic and financial stability.

It should be noted that mandatory foreign currency sale by businesses is an instrument — tried and tested all over the world. It's clear that, as with any other restrictive-mandatory measure, it doesn't arouse sympathy among most exporting companies, but we must admit, during difficult economic times it was an ef-

ficient mechanism of foreign currency regulation.

In Belarus, this measure appeared at the start of our sovereignty. It has existed for more than twenty years, though is much criticised in the entrepreneurial environment. However, today, even most confirmed sceptics admit -

strengthening of the financial system, the importance of the instrument was gradually reducing. According to Sergey Kalechits, the Deputy Chairman of the National Bank's Board, in recent times, enterprises were selling almost

House of Representatives, is confident that liberalisation of foreign currency legislation testifies to successes in de-dollarisation of the domestic economy. Opportunities to use foreign currency for internal payments are gradually reducing. Accordingly, businesses, including exporters, show

legislation concerning the circulation of foreign currency.

"Additional impairments with procedures reduce investment attractiveness of the country," Sergey Dubkov, the Chairman of the Board of BPS-Bank, pointed to an important aspect. "The abolition of mandatory sale shouldn't arouse any changes on the foreign currency market, but operating costs will definitely reduce among businesses."

Mr. Dubkov explained that it's an expensive and painstaking process to technically ensure the requirement on mandatory sale, as it's necessary to scrupulously monitor all foreign currency earnings, to observe the established terms for foreign currency sale and to employ special staff for this, as there are punitive sanctions for violations of foreign currency legislation.

Abolition of mandatory sales is good for all participants of the market and though this decision is of a technical nature, it confirms positive changes in the economic and monetary policy of the state.



Market tools were created, and now they need to work

By Oleg Bogomazov

Gross domestic product is growing faster than forecast, and all major indicators of socio-economic development are being met. Such conclusions were made at a meeting of the Council of Ministers where the economic results for the first half of the year and measures to fulfil the tasks for 2018 were considered.

The Government expects that the economy this year will grow by 3.9-4.1 percent with an annual forecast of 3.5 percent. This creates prerequisites for increasing the incomes of the population.

For state employees, salaries will move within the framework of instructions of the Head of the State and budget possibilities. The ratio of the salary of state employees to the national average is already 78.8 percent. In the fourth quarter of this year,

half of their foreign currency earnings though the mandatory norm of 10 percent. Economic justification for additional regulation disappeared.

Valery Borodnya, the Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Budget and Finances, at the

growing demand for Belarusian Roubles and they provide the supply of foreign currency via the usual way, without additional pressure. International obligations of the country also envisage a range of measures on liberalisation of



Among other challenges, the problem of enterprise debts were also mentioned, as many state enterprises count on the budget, which is fundamentally wrong. Thus, the necessary market instruments for financial

recovery of economic entities have been created. Furthermore, everything depends on ministries, concerns and enterprises which should more actively use the opportunities provided, including attracting investors.

Passengers to receive signals

By Anton Kostyukevich

The impression of our country among participants and guests of the 2nd European Games next year will be composed of various details — including sports results, the preparation of arenas and the infrastructure. Reliable communication is no less important: a steady roaming signal and a good Wi-Fi network are important for foreigners as, overseas, people rarely use the mobile Internet.

It would be possible to use wireless Internet even while traveling by rail. Not long ago, a combined solution combining free Wi-Fi Internet access and mobile 3G communications was introduced by one of the mobile operators in a five-car train of regional business-class lines. It is important that all passengers without exception can connect to wireless Wi-Fi free of charge. Until next summer, the service will appear in 17 trains of regional business-class lines, as well as city lines.

There will also be changes in servicing of passengers of Belarusian Railways. For directions where trains with Wi-Fi will run, time restrictions concerning the sale of travel documents via the Internet may disappear. At present, online sales complete an hour before departure: it is necessary to make lists of those who've completed electronic registration. If the connection is along the way, then all these operations can be performed online.

To improve communications on the railway lines, about 50 new base stations will be built. In addition, mobile coverage is expected to improve significantly along key highways and local roads, border crossings, and infrastructure facilities: training bases, hotels and other locations.

“All this is done to ensure that guests and participants of the Games are provided with a super-precise voice connection and a stable Internet connection, regardless of their location,” said Alexey Karnitsky, who heads the radio network planning department of the official telecommunications operator of the 2nd European Games.

Upon arrival in Minsk, guests will also have Internet access: a network of free access points is being developed in the city. There are already about 115 of them and, by the beginning of the Games, more will be launched. Moreover, areas with most people are in focus: railway stations and shopping centres. In test mode, Wi-Fi is already running in the metro at the Kupalovskaya / Oktyabrskaya interchange station and, in the future, wireless Internet will appear at other stations.

The Head of the Marketing Department of the official supplier of free Wi-Fi at 2nd European Games of 2019 — Evelina Rachkovskaya — notes, “Our free Wi-Fi network will cover stations, but we hear from users that the signal appears at the entrance to the platform, in the tunnel. Probably, not all passengers of the subway know about the new service. We are ready to connect more users: the test operation has proved successful. Already, our access points are branded in the



SERGEY LOZYUK

New communication horizons for 2nd European Games



SERGEY LOZYUK

ENGINEERING SOLUTION

How does the new technical solution for passenger trains operate? Each car has a router designed to meet the specific needs of transport. To connect to the wireless Internet, you just need to enter your phone number and then receive an SMS with an access code. The routers themselves are integrated into a single network and connected to a powerful antenna on the roof. There is also another antenna; it amplifies the mobile network signal for subscribers. It looks like a gray fin device designed for use in difficult conditions and can withstand not only the temperature drops from deep minus to hot, but also the drop of the contact cable. In the latter case, the discharge does not fall into the interior, where a special signal-amplifying cable is laid under the ceiling.

stylistics of the 2nd European Games.”

New access points will also appear in buses connecting Minsk with the National Airport, as well as on some

city routes. Details will become known as the services are launched. There is some time ahead: the 2nd European Games will take place in 10 months.

About concrete projects and strategic partnership

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarusian editions go on show at Beijing International Book Fair

Following the official opening of the Belarusian stand, visitors and participants of the exhibition learnt about the best internationally recognised fiction and encyclopaedic literature, popular science and educational publications, as well as books and magazines for children. Speaking to China's SSTV, Belarus Deputy Information Minister and head of the delegation, Igor Buzovsky, noted that over the past few years, some two dozen books about Chinese history, culture and literature have been published in Belarus.

Journalists have shown special interest in the participation of Chinese representatives in the events held by the Information Ministry of Belarus. The Belarusian delegation also took part in the solemn Special Book Award of China ceremony. Agreements were reached with the award winners, participants in the Beijing exhibition on specific projects and the strategic development of contacts. An agreement was reached with one of the owners of a large trade book network in Poland to study the issue of distributing Belarusian book products in the country.

During the meeting with the representatives of the China State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, the head of the Belarusian delegation suggested considering the possibility of Belarus' participation in the next Beijing International Book Fair in 2019 as a guest of honour. Chinese publishers have shown interest in the portfolio of art editors, illustrators, and designers of Belarusian publishing houses. This is a new niche in the export of services and goods for the state publishing sector.

Africa is interested in Belarusian goods

In 2018, MAZ plans to expand the supplies of automobile machinery to African states by 10 percent, notes Anton Kozlovsky, who heads the Export Department to Africa and Latin America

In February, MAZ opened assembly production in Egypt and in the near future, an opportunity to establish assembly manufactures in Angola, Algeria and Nigeria will be studied. “In 2017 and in the first half of 2018, around 700 vehicles — worth more than \$37m — have been supplied to the non-CIS states. The African continent is the most promising. An important task for the plant is also the provision of after-sales and warranty service of our goods in any region,” said Mr. Kozlovsky.

“We have a great interest in Belarusian manufacturers,” noted the Director General of the Nigerian Dangote Industries Limited, Alake Marcus Olakunle, during his visit to MAZ JSC. “We're interested in the techniques used for the extraction of mineral fertilisers, tractors and MAZ automotive equipment. Belarusian machinery is competitive on the market both in terms of price and the level of quality. A big advantage for us is that we're given an opportunity to manufacture specifically to meet the needs of a particular consumer.”

The configuration of the machinery for African consumers differs because of climatic conditions in the region and includes tropical tyres, special wiring, more powerful air conditioners in cabins and engines — easier both for working purposes and for repair.

Meetings in Minsk's orbit

In less than a month, the 31st ASE Plenary Congress will be held in Minsk and the fact that our capital is hosting such a significant forum proves once again that the world community has appreciated the achievements of our country in the development of outer space. The Deputy Chairman of the NAS Presidium — academician Sergey Kilin — tells us about the upcoming event.

By Veronika Artemieva

Tell us what space legends can we expect to see in September?

This event is organised and hosted by the Association of Space Explorers (ASE). To date, it has more than 400 members from 37 countries. Unsurprisingly, the representation will be numerous and multinational. About 90 cosmonauts — participants of the ASE from 20 countries — will arrive with accompanying guests; they have already registered. Approximately the same number of participants was at the previous congress in Toulouse. Representatives of several space agencies of Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and other countries will also take part in the congress.

Among the registered cosmonauts there will be many cosmic legends: i.e. Sergey Krikalev — an ex-champion in terms of time spent in orbit and, according to some media, the most famous cosmonaut after Yuri Gagarin. He has launched into space six times, having spent in orbit a total of 803 days! Mr. Krikalev is now the Executive Director of Roskosmos State Corporation, overseeing manned space programmes. There will be a second woman in the world after Valentina Tereshkova, a female cosmonaut — Svetlana Savitskaya. She was the first among women to go to outer space and is twice a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Among foreign participants of the congress are Jerry Lynn Ross — an American astronaut researcher, the first person to perform 7 space flights with a total duration of 58 days 1 hour 1 minute 24 seconds and 9 spacewalks.



Cosmonauts O. Novitsky and P. Klimuk (centre) at the exhibition of sci-tech space goods at the Academy of Sciences of Belarus

Yang Liwei will also be here; he is the first cosmonaut of the PRC. Arne Christer Fuglesang — a Swedish physicist and the first astronaut of Sweden — is also coming, in addition to many other legendary conquerors of the cosmos. At the centre of attention, no doubt, will be three of our countrymen: Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok and Oleg Novitsky.

What will be the agenda of the congress? What space problems concern Belarus?

The congress will have one thematic and four technical sessions. The thematic session — which takes place on the opening day — will reveal the main motive of the congress which is defined by its slogan: 'Creating the future of space'. We are the modern gen-

eration of people living on Earth. It's not only cosmonauts and astronauts but also people of other specialties, actively mastering new opportunities that imperceptibly penetrate our daily life with the development of space technologies.

At the four technical sessions of the congress, we will review crew reports on the results of the last expeditions to the ISS, programmes for preparing future manned flights beyond low near-earth orbits, preparing a person for a long stay in the conditions of such flights, questions of their technical safety, interoperability, potential danger of objects near Earth, and so on.

As for Belarus, along with the full load of the newly created sys-

tem of remote sensing of the Earth and the creation of the next spacecraft, the issues of international co-operation, the entry of our country into international projects, including the development of the Moon, are on the agenda. For Belarus, participation in the construction of the lunar station would be a symbol of the significance of domestic achievements in the field of space research.

Does Belarus have any plans to surprise its guests?

The main events for them are scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th. This day will be probably the most difficult and important for the organisers. The cosmonauts will meet schoolchildren, students and the military. In total, about 70 (!) such meet-

ings with young people are in the programme. Establishments have been chosen to welcome cosmonauts on this day: our guests will visit Minsk and district schools and close to the capital, four universities, the Suworov Military School, the Military Academy and other organisations. Groups of students will also come from each region to speak with the cosmonauts. Our goal is to make meetings for young people as accessible as possible. On September 14th, our guests will lay an Alley of Cosmonauts in the Botanical Gardens of the Academy of Sciences. The programme also includes a visit to the DOSAAF aviation club, BelAZ, the National Opera and Ballet Theatre and a trip to Nesvizh.

Basic training organised for IT specialists

By Dmitry Ampilov

Forty IT specialists are to join our Armed Forces this autumn and another twenty in the spring, undergoing military service with the new IT detachment. There's already significant interest, with the Military Academy organising an open day for representatives of the High-Tech Park (inviting staff to become potential servicemen).

The Head of the Military Academy, Major General Victor Lisovsky, tells us that fewer young people with higher IT education are eager to join the army these days, which has inspired the creation of the special detachment. "We want young men to develop their professional skills



Lessons to train military IT specialists

while giving their service." He notes that this will not only benefit military security but will allow them to develop their highly-paid qualifications. "We've given great consideration to the matter, finally choosing the Scientific-Research Institute of the Armed Forces to host the detachment." He adds that the Military Acad-

emy 'has all the necessary infrastructure'.

Of course, the Belarusian Defence Ministry and the State Military Industrial Complex rely on the latest technologies. Major General Lisovsky notes that experts are engaged in projects to simulate military operations, and looking for recruits who know

several programming languages, as well as profile programme products and have experience of mobile application development for Android and iOS. Moreover, since this is the army, all applicants must be in good health.

"There will be several forms of co-operation," adds Major General Lisovsky. "First of all, recruits will perform tasks in the interests of the Academy and the Armed Forces. However, if one of the specialists we recruit from the HTP is involved in an international project or a large value contract, we'll work with them to allow them to pursue both avenues — even where it requires the employee to make contact at strange hours of the night, with an absolutely different time zone. We'll treat each case individually

and will provide the latest equipment and software. We're selecting commanders able to clearly articulate goals and tactical-technical tasks and whose way of thinking is similar to that of their subordinates. New recruits will be tasked with making a mathematical study of projects and direct programming."

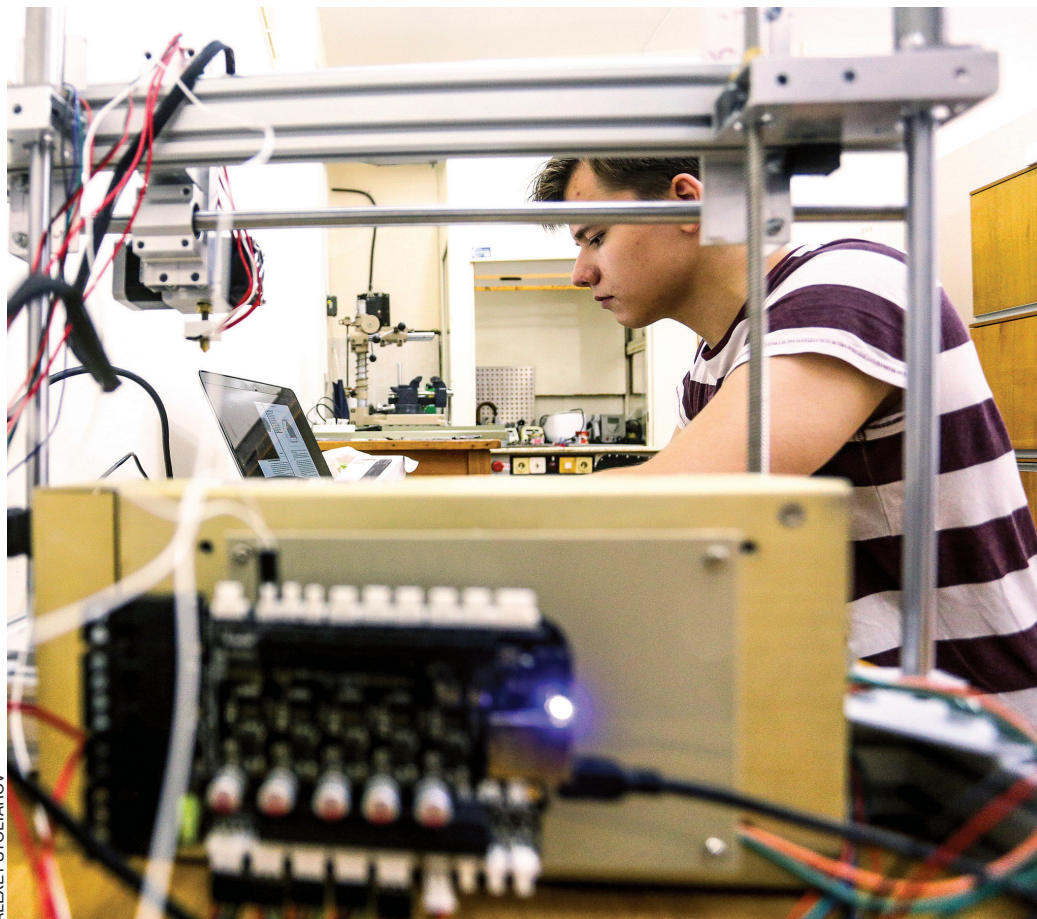
During training, recruits will follow the general army schedule, waking up at the same time as their fellow servicemen and taking part in sports, cultural and recreational activities. Speaking of their combat training, Mr. Lisovsky stresses that they'll undergo initial military training, as all young soldiers undertake; meanwhile, every three months, they'll receive top-up training to reinforce their military skills.

To grow a neural network in vitro and develop a unique 3D-bioprinter for live cells is not a fantasy for researchers of the Department of Biophysics of BSU and the Laboratory of Neurophysiology of the Institute of Physiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. To find out how the brain functions — which is a large neural network, how it processes and remembers information, and to recreate its structures in the form of computer models is one of the main tasks for science. The interest in this respect is not only medical — it applies to new approaches to recovery after injuries and strokes. Understanding of how our ‘grey matter’ works will become a new stage in the creation of artificial intelligence.

“There is a great interest in this problem now — especially, taking into consideration that the brain is very difficult to study. European scientists, for example, have joined forces in the global *Human Brain Project* to understand how certain areas of the brain function. We take smaller objects and deal with neurons and neural networks. After all, for solving applied problems we need a very deep understanding of how they work,” Andrey Denisov — the Head of the Research Laboratory of Cell Engineering and Nano-biotechnologies of BSU and a leading researcher at the Laboratory of Neurophysiology of the Institute of Physiology — comments.

At first glance, the device on which a neural network is grown — a planar sensor — is an ordinary square of thin transparent glass. However, in a certain plane, if it catches the reflection of a lamp, it’s possible to see that it literally ‘fuses’ the whole infrastructure. Contacts are placed on the edge and transparent conductive tracks rush into the centre of the glass. Here, electrodes with a diameter of 30 micrometres are found. They register the activity of neurons, which are also located exactly in the middle, because it is here that the mini-incubator is attached to them.

“All the necessary conditions are created in this container; neurons can live here for weeks. We firstly put them in an incubator in the form of a cell suspension, and they sink to the bottom — tens,



ALEXEY STOLYAROV

Taming neurons

Belarus creates a 3D printer for bio-cells

REFERENCE

To cultivate a neural network in vitro (outside a living organism), cells of newborn rats are taken. 2-3 weeks are needed to form an active network in a system consisting of an incubator and a planar sensor. Researchers don’t hide the fact that this process is extremely difficult.



hundreds of thousands cover an area of several square millimetres... In the first stage, they settle down as separate cells. Later, sprouts begin growing; these are neurites which connect with each other, form synaptic contacts and a neural network. It then begins to generate activity which we register with our electrodes,” adds Mr. Denisov.

To cultivate a neural network in vitro (outside a living organism), cells of new-born rats are taken. 2-3 weeks are needed to form an active network in a system consisting of an incubator and a planar sensor. Researchers don’t hide the fact that this

process is extremely difficult. Neurons are capricious. They need very accurately chosen conditions: the temperature, the concentration of the gas composition, the surface coverage on which they can attach... Under favourable conditions, the neural structure can exist for up to a year, but it takes three weeks to conduct experiments.

One of the main tasks for researchers is to stimulate neurons and train the network in a given direction. In the scientific world, it is still considered unsolved, since an object consisting of tens of thousands of neurons is very complex. The expert explains,

“If, say, we take a microelectronic circuit consisting of tens of thousands of transistors, then each transistor will be identical in it — it has a certain known behaviour, and it obeys specific laws. In the case of neuro-net, each cell is individual, has its own behaviour and each time can give a different response to the stimulus.”

However, scientists have ideas on how to tame this system. One of the solutions lies in the ordering of the neural network, the creation of conditions in which it would grow not randomly but in the form of a given structure-islands or clusters. It is

assumed that working with them and getting a more predictable response to an external stimulus will be easier.

A variant of this approach is ‘growing’ not a flat, two-dimensional but a three-dimensional structure. This is the focus of research for a student of the BSU’s Physics Department — Dmitry Krivenchuk; the young man is working on a 3D-printer for bio-cells which is unique for Belarus. It is expected that it will help print a three-dimensional construction in which neurons could grow, supported from all sides. “So, we will make a more realistic model of brain tissue, because now, on the glass, the network is flat,” Dmitry explains. “Since our bio-printer is designed to work with cells, it will work with an accuracy of about a dozen micrometres. We plan to complete work on it in six months: the design is almost ready but creating software and adjusting the parameters will take time.”

Not long ago, Andrey presented the results in Stuttgart, at the MEA Meeting 2018 symposium where experts in the field of neural networks from all over the world gathered. The development of our scientists — growing the network on planar sensors — aroused great interest, since it is a fairly simple system that can be recreated in a student laboratory. This is valuable because it makes it possible to make the study of neural models in vitro available to many universities. After all, commercial analogues are extremely expensive.

Moreover, artificial cultivation of neural networks is increasingly having a practical solution. Requests come from the pharmaceutical industry which uses these models to test new drugs — i.e. to treat epilepsy. After all, in vitro makes it possible to model various effects — including epilepsy activity, to observe how drugs suppress it. Moreover, while studying the principles of the artificially grown neural network, researchers get new knowledge about how information is processed. This can then be used in more complex artificial structures. It’s no secret that to create artificial intelligence systems — machine vision, pattern recognition — many principles are taken from biology.

Watch from the Titanic: Vitebsk time

By Alexander Ivanov

A watch belonging to one of those who died as the Titanic sank and featuring Hebrew letters has been sold at a US auction for \$57,500. Sinai Kantor was one of 1,496 people who perished during the shipwreck. His wife Miriam survived and kept the watch all her life. The family passed it from generation to generation for 106 years. The auction received the rarity from a descendant of the Kantors who decided not to reveal his name.

Sinai and Miriam Kantors were born and grew up in Vitebsk where they also graduated from the university. When the

young people decided to emigrate from the Russian Empire to America, Sinai was 34 and Miriam 24. In 1912, they bought tickets for the Titanic to bring to life their American dream. They boarded in Southampton, England, paying 26 Pounds Sterling for a second-class ticket — approximately \$3,600 in modern money. In Vitebsk, Sinai worked as a commissioner trader and he took on board expensive furs to sell in New York, hoping to use this money to start their living. Sinai was going to study medicine and planned to take night courses, so he would be able to work in the daytime. His wife wanted to continue her education to become a dentist.

On the morning of April 15th, the Titanic crashed into an Atlantic iceberg.

When evacuation of passengers began, it was women and children who were saved first. It was clear that there wouldn’t be enough boats for all. The biggest ocean liner at that time was carrying 2,208 people. Miriam was taken into life-boat #12 which was the last to reach the Carpathia ship which helped those shipwrecked. The Titanic completely sank in just 2 hours and 40 minutes. Only eight days later, the Mackay-Bennett ship arrived at the site of the tragedy to gather the bodies of those who had died. Sinai Kantor was taken from icy water and his



body was marked with a plaque ‘body number 283’ and was embalmed on the ship. Miriam buried her husband at the cemetery in New York’s Queens.

Miriam was returned the watch together with the remaining items from her husband only a month or so after the tragedy. The mechanism was corroded because of the salt water and almost nothing was left of hands of the clock while the face

was covered with spots. Nevertheless, the watch survived and lived longer than many people.



Typhoon Cimaron slices through western Japan

A powerful typhoon sliced across western Japan, dumping heavy rain before heading out to sea and turning towards the northern island of Hokkaido after reports that three students were swept out to sea

There were scattered reports of damage and significant transportation delays but the region appeared to have escaped the devastation and mass casualties it experienced in floods in early July. The cen-

tre of Typhoon Cimaron was estimated to be about 210km northwest of Wajima city in Ishikawa prefecture at 9am and heading north, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Three college students were

thought to have been swept away by high waves from a beach in Shizuoka.

The students' sandals, backpacks, smartphones and wallets were found on the beach. Evacuation orders were issued in areas

including Wakayama, Hyogo and Osaka prefectures and train and plane services were disrupted. The directive was lifted in many areas but about 45,000 households had lost power in western Japan, it said.



Swiss festival has alerted police

A Swiss festival has called the police after 28 Burundian artists, who were scheduled to perform at the event this month, gradually disappeared without a trace

The Fribourg-based RFI festival had invited *Ruciteme*, a well-known African troupe that had appeared at other festivals, to show at the week-long event, in which eight to ten groups from around the world perform cultural music and dance. But on the first day only 16 of them

turned up, and over the course of the week, less than a handful remained.

The group had travelled to Switzerland on a three-month Schengen tourist visa, which was issued by the Belgian Embassy in Burundi, in east Africa.

When festival organisers found most of the group had disappeared, they confronted the remaining members. They were told that they would be breaking the law if they stay after their visa expires.

Berlin forest fire: many forced to evacuate

Hundreds of people were evacuated from their homes as around 600 firefighters battled a blaze in a forest strewn with unexploded ammunition south of Berlin and a pall of acrid smoke hung over the city

Attempts to fight the fire were complicated by the presence of the ammunition thought to date from the Soviet Army's activities in former East Germany.

The blaze, about 50km (30 miles) southeast of Berlin, spread rapidly overnight to cover an area the size of 500 football fields, aided by the parched conditions after one of Europe's hottest summers in living memory.

"I have huge respect for the firefighters who are out there right now, risking their lives. We know there is ammunition lying around in the forest," said local politician Guenther Baaske, adding that some ex-



plosions had been heard.

The summer has seen forest fires across much of eastern Germany, but this blaze, so close to its largest city, led authorities to activate emergency alert systems telling Berliners to shut their windows.

Helicopters dropped water on flames near the village of Treuenbrietzen firefighters were spraying water in a blackened

Siemens denies report that it may cut 20,000 jobs

German engineering giant Siemens denied a report by German monthly Manager Magazin that said it could cut 20,000 jobs as part of its 'Vision 2020' strategy

"We do not follow the reasoning behind the figures named in the magazine article. No statements of this kind were made," Siemens said in a statement.

Manager Magazin had said Siemens aimed to reap cost savings from slimming down administrative costs in personnel, legal and finance, and at its shared services division.

Zuckerberg admits 'Cambridge Analytica data leak' is his mistake

Mark Zuckerberg has admitted his company failed to take a broad enough view of its responsibility which led to the information of up to 87 million members being improperly shared with a political consultancy firm

The figure is 37 million more than previously reported by Facebook which was buried at the end of a blogpost by the company's technology officer, Mike Schroepfer. "It's clear now that we didn't do enough," Mark Zuckerberg said. "We didn't focus enough on preventing abuse and thinking through how people could use these tools to do harm as well."

Drawing a picture with delight is a true skill

Minsk's Artel Gallery hosts Vyacheslav Kubarev's exhibition which is well worth visiting

By Veniamin Mikheev

Vyacheslav Kubarev is a cinema artist. After graduating from the All-Union State Institute of Cinematography's Faculty of Art in 1963, he moved to Minsk to start working at the Belarus-film Studio — which he later connected to his creative life. As an artist-director, he participated in the production of 35 feature and TV films.

In addition, the artist worked in the genres of landscape, still life and narrative painting. Starting from the 1960s, he participated in art exhibitions. At present, Mr. Kubarev's pictures are displayed at the National Art Museum, the National Centre of Contemporary Arts, the funds of the Belarusian Union of Artists, the Museum of the History of Belarusian Cinema, as well as in private collections in Belarus and abroad.

The present show at the Art Gallery features about thirty paintings Vyacheslav Kubarev has drawn throughout his artistic career. Among them are story-themed pictures, sketches for movies, landscapes and drawings which he, according to relatives, made in any free moment; they all confirm the artist's great talent and high level of skill. "He was a God-sent artist," recalls his widow Anastasia. "If there were even a couple of minutes during the shooting, he always hurried to his easel..."

This artist is said to be a servant of two arts: painting and cinema. His works in the cinema are widely known for films that are significant in Soviet cinema: *The Alpine Ballad*, *Oginski's Polonaise*, *The State Border*, *Time Does Not Wait*. As regards painting, Mr. Kubarev was engaged in it spiritually. Therefore, while he was alive, this facet of his talent remained in the shadow of his cinematic fame.

Ironically, the production designer from Russia, along with his classmates — VGIK graduates Yevgeny Ignatiev and Vladimir Dementiev — created films that became classics of Belarusian cinema. Representatives of this profession are rarely paid attention to in the titles but it's



Exhibition at Minsk's Artel Gallery is a tribute to the memory of the unique Belarusian painter and cinema artist, Vyacheslav Kubarev

their eyes through which filmmakers first look at the film — followed by the cameramen and then the audience.

It's amazing how Vyacheslav Kubarev managed to combine the intense filming process, where he was required to draw and render the storyboard of every episode of the film every day, with the painter's equally intensive work. However, he was never parted from an easel and paints during filming: he drew nature and people in a soft manner natural for Russian impressionists. During his relatively short creative life, Vyacheslav drew over a thousand paintings, most of which are now kept in museums and private collections in Germany, the United States and Israel. In Italy, the name of Mr. Kubarev is as popular as of Marc Chagall's; his works are constantly exhibited in sections of Belarusian painting in Milan, Venice and Florence. According to Peter Nobles — an art gallery owner from Amsterdam, Vyacheslav Kubarev's works adorn his collection. Several paintings were once purchased by the Tretyakov Gallery and Mr. Kubarev's *On the Minsk Sea* is an asset of the National Art Museum of Belarus.

People's Artist of Belarus Mai Dantsig:

We miss good painting, we've yearned for it. Even Picasso said that he was not interested in the search: he was interested in discoveries. Unfortunately, we must state that there are many searches but few discoveries. This is common for our time. As for real painting, we have not seen it at exhibitions for a long time. Mr. Kubarev's painting is like a good

meal. I knew him personally; he was a charming man who, as they say, radiated a magnificent aura. I think that was his essence: benevolence and an abundance of positive emotions. These qualities were reflected in his work — in painting, in particular.

People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemelev:

Vyacheslav Kubarev was a very modest man. However, as an artist he was very refined. His works have something that enables us to assert that he is a Russian artist and a Belarusian artist at the same time. He saw Belarus in his own way and expressed what he saw. Yes, he worked a great deal in the cinema, but he was a true landscape painter: Vyacheslav delicately felt the beauty of the landscape and its spirit. In general, his works are very human.

People's Artist of Belarus Georgy Poplavsky:

Vyacheslav Kubarev was like a servant of two hosts: he was a film-maker and a member of the Union of Artists. It's possible to see now how he worked. There was an exhibition in the Small Arena in Moscow from the collection which was acquired by the Interstate Fund for Devel-

opment, Education and Art. It featured etudes of Vyacheslav Kubarev which were never exhibited. They radiate the warmth of the past.

I am very happy when someone remembers people who were once not very kindly received. Mr. Kubarev's contribution to the cinema has been appreciated. This was his main professional work. However, his pictorial legacy is not yet well studied. Vyacheslav mainly painted landscapes. He visited the places which not every painter could reach. In this respect, we always envied film artists that they suddenly went to Transbaikalia to shoot an episode for three or five minutes, or suddenly went to the Baltic States. Vyacheslav was very valuable since he revealed to us a new world. As an artist he was professional. I like such artists who do not look at their art simply as a means of earning. Someone once wisely said, "If you consider your profession only as a means of earning money, then you are not in the right place." In this sense, Vyacheslav Kubarev was an artist truly in love with painting.

Film director Vladimir Ponochevny:

I was lucky to work with Vyacheslav and I can call him

Slava in a friendly way — as we were friends. We communicated closely — working together on such difficult serials as 'The State Border' and 'The Black Stork'. How did Mr. Kubarev work? We called him Slavushka or Kubik sometimes. 'Kubik' combined our care and respect for this wonderful person. When we were on expeditions, no matter how many people went — at eight o'clock in the morning — we could look out of the hotel window to see that Kubik was already going somewhere with his easel. An hour or more later, he used to come to me, saying, "Look, Volodya, this is painted with oil. Look, this is fog and dewdrops on fir-trees. I'll take watercolours tomorrow — trying to paint the silence." Once he lamented, "It's so hard to be an intellectual in the first generation, but I must try." He was doing his best and achieved intelligence throughout his life and through all his works. For me, Slava is an example of serving the arts.

Vyacheslav Kubarev became widely known in the world of cinema as a brilliant artist after the success of *The Alpine Ballad* (1965) — a film adaptation of Vasil Bykov's novel. By

that time, he was already a member of the painting section of the Belarusian Union of Artists and worked in the cinema daily (according to memoirs of his fellow filmmakers, he worked almost hourly) — to polish his skill of painting. Hundreds of sketches, along with hundreds of drawings for films, were made in a single creative impulse. Thanks to this professional tone (during shooting, he sometimes managed to draw up to 6-7 full-scale sketches per day), his compositional decisions of some shots made the latter truly artistic independent works.

Excellent colour qualities, artistic precision of strokes are combined in his works with a special compositional sharpness, honed by daily work in filmmaking. Thanks to his travels for film shoots, Mr. Kubarev-landscape had an opportunity to see mountains and seas, forests and deserts, the nature of the north and south. He was inspired by a variety of picturesque situations. The artist inimitably disclosed everything he saw with a masterly style which is so attractive today.

Vyacheslav Kubarev died 23 years ago but his artistic heritage is alive. It's possible to get closer to it at Minsk's Artel Gallery.

Yevgeny Bychkovsky may be young but he already has a diverse biography, having initially planned to become a doctor, then a psychologist and handicraft teacher for girls. During his third year at the university, Yevgeny spent most of his free time at a small workshop and then gave up his studies, to pursue his hobby. At the age of twenty, he opened a store and began promoting his own brand of amazing handbags. Here, he shares the secret of his success.

From Emilia to Ragneda

I've never owned a Bychkovsky handbag but — after thorough investigation of his website — I've decided to buy one! His elegant transparent Ragneda, refined Emilia and presentable Kuchuk are all gorgeous. He likes to name them, like children, using the names of his friends, relatives, clients and modern celebrities.

"I spent my childhood at a sewing factory, as my mother worked at its health centre. I often did my homework there and chatted, while the sewing machines clattered," he recollects. Initially, his heart was set on entering the Medical University. He worked with tutors in chemistry, biology and Russian language from his ninth year at school. However, before registering for centralised testing, Yevgeny changed chemistry for mathematics. He explains, "I didn't know how to tell my mother that I didn't want to take the chemistry exam and wouldn't become a doctor. My parents had spent so much money on my tutoring. Instead, I randomly took the maths test and then found a speciality which I could enter with the points I earned: a course to become a psychologist and a handicraft teacher for girls, at Baranovichi State University."

Yevgeny began working with a sewing machine for the first time, learning how to stitch. He decided to sew a bag for himself and it was much admired. "I realised that it was unique, not being for anywhere else," he says. The bag was a classical knapsack, in denim, with pockets and a rotary valve.

Status change

At university, Yevgeny was known as an A student and truant simultaneously. In his spare time, he thought



Cooler than Gucci

Yevgeny Bychkovsky, 24, from Baranovichi, becomes successful designer



only about sewing and having his own workshop. By the third year of studies, he realised what he wanted, and applied to leave. "I realised it would be pointless to be a bad student; better to remain decent until the end, simply changing my status. It was initially frightening, as I had little idea of what to do next. I felt in a state of paralysis. However, my self-determination won through, and I realised my role in life."

His first workshop was situated in the basement of the apartment building where he lived with his parents. Family belongings were put in the corner and all unused things thrown away. From time to time, he heard the rats scuttling nearby and, eventually, accepted that it was impossible to work under such conditions. "I had little money but learned how to work with filler and drywall plaster," he recollects. "Our neighbours came to see the repairs and admitted that my basement looked more beautiful than their apartment!"

Initially, he had only a few orders and had trouble sourcing fabrics. He even used his old coat and some old leather. He'd been borrowing his friend's mother's sewing machine, but eventually needed to buy his own, going to Minsk to find an industrial machine. He sold his phone and some clothes to pay for it. At first, it operated so fast that he had to learn sewing anew but it enabled him to open his first branded shop. He now employs around a hundred people and hopes to expand.

Following your heart

Mr. Bychkovsky's company sells bags and leather accessories worldwide, although most orders come from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. In coming years, he plans to expand his network of outlets to fifteen (he currently has three shops: in Baranovichi, Minsk and Grodno).

"It's vital for a designer to understand the principles of beauty. We look at a car and understand whether it's beautiful or not. The same is true of bags," Yevgeny explains. "I don't want to be limited to bags and am now focusing on a collection of clothes. I'm attracted by so many ideas. Actually, Gucci also started by working with bags..."

When fame brings no advantages

By Alexander Pimenov

Young artists from 20 countries will attend the Junior Eurovision-2018 Song Contest in the Belarusian capital in November. The participating countries are currently approving their candidates, and the process of preparing a large-scale show is already underway. Belarusian Radio and TV Company has auditioned potential hosts.

The youngest candidate is 10 and the oldest is 36. Well-known media celebrities and young talents — participating in the casting for the first time — have submitted a text in English. The requirements to candidates have been announced by the Chairman of the Belarusian Radio and TV Company — Ivan Eismont, "Charisma, energy and good English matter. We've been searching for hosts worldwide,

receiving over a hundred applications — including some from the USA and Ukraine. However, only 30 candidates are through to the audition stage. Among them are many well-known media representatives, but their fame does not provide any advantages. We've specially invited director Gordon Bonello to join the jury; he does not know which of these people are popular TV hosts and who are not. We'll make a joint decision, but he should express his opinion." So far, there is no agreement yet on how many hosts will be chosen, or of what age. During the audition, Gordon Bonello got to know each of those who came to the studio. In addition to the text in English —

which candidates had to read with artistic skill, they answered his questions and asked their own. Gordon supported each person, praising the level of their Eng-



lish and their image. This was a great help since almost all were nervous: professionals and young stars alike.

Anastasia Vinnikova was brave enough to open the audition. Belarus' representative at the Eurovision-2011 adult show admitted later that she was very

nervous but never gave up. Ksenia Sitnik — whose triumph at the Junior Eurovision-2005 was a grand event for Belarus — also worried, though she would like to continue her history at the competition as a host. After all, the event played a significant role in her life many years ago. She has connected her life with journalism now, but music is still of major interest to her. Among other candidates are Helena Meraai and Ruslan Aslanov who represented Belarus at Junior Eurovision.

Famous Belarusian TV presenters — Dmitry Kokhno and Yevgeny Perlin — also applied. Yevgeny admitted that he likes to try something new and was happy to take a chance to become

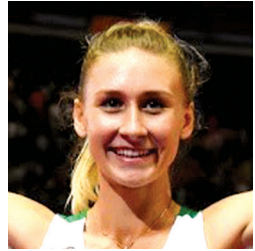
a Eurovision host. However, despite his experience — including as a Eurovision commentator, he believes the selection will not be easy. TV presenter Yekaterina Tishkevich — a former English teacher — decided to try for a new experience. She noted the high quality of the candidates, including children. A charming 10-year-old star — Arina Rovba from Minsk — was among the applicants: the girl pleased everyone with her energy, while answering Mr. Bonello's questions. Arina runs a video blog. She knows English thanks to her mother who helps her daughter with her study of the language.

The decision about who will appear on the Minsk-Arena stage on November 25th will be made in a few weeks. No doubt, this time will be full of anxiety for all contenders, since waiting for a response is always very nerve-wracking.

Hurdles competition

2018 European champion in Berlin — Elvira Herman — wins women's 100m hurdles at International Memorial of Kamila Skolimowska in Polish Chorzów

The Belarusian finished in 12.87 seconds, followed by Ricarda Lobe from Germany (12.97 seconds). Third place was taken by Klaudia Siciarz from Poland (12.99 seconds). One of the favourites in the 100m hurdles — Pamela Dutkevich — was disqualified.



E. Herman

Belarusian athletes perform successfully every year at the International Memorial of Kamila Skolimowska. In 2017, first place in the shot put was taken by Alena Dubitskaya.

Youth is not far behind

Yevgeny Korolek and Denis Mazur claim medals at the 2018 UEC Junior and Under 23 Track European Championships in Aigle, Switzerland



Y. Korolek

One of the leaders of the Belarusian national team — Yevgeny Korolek — clinched bronze in the U23 Men's Elimination

Race. The event was won by Belgium, with Russif taking silver. Denis Mazur also claimed silver in the U18 Men's Elimination Race. Belgium took gold.

For experience in OHL

17-year-old defender, Vladislav Kolyachonok, signs contract with London Knights of junior Ontario Hockey League (OHL)

In late June, Vladislav Kolyachonok was elected by the club with the 102nd number — during the KHL import-draft. “We are



V. Kolyachonok

very pleased to have signed a contract with Vladislav and expect that he will spend the next season with London. Vladislav is a great gain for our team and will be a help not only in defence but also in attack — which he will oversee on the blue line,” Knights' general manager Rob Simpson says.

At the 2018 Junior World Championship, Vladislav Kolyachonok was ranked among the three best players of the national team of Belarus, which maintained its place in the elite division of the world event.

In summer, the sportsman concluded a trial contract with Minsk Dinamo and played 4 matches at the Nizhny Novgorod Governor's Cup. The coaching staff of the Minsk team were pleased with Vladislav's performance, but he decided to try his luck in North America.



BATE-PSV match at Borisov-Arena

The strong squad should never give up

Defeat by PSV is not a sentence: BATE still able to get into the Champions' League Group Stage

By Kirill Karin

The match at Borisov-Arena started with the hosts' attack in the 9th minute, BATE's Finnish legionnaire — Yasse Tuominen — opened the score after Igor Stasevich's pass. The Borisov footballers had several more opportunities to show their mettle but failed to score. Gradually, the guests seized the initiative and, in the 35th minute, received a penalty: Gaston Pereira brought the score to 1:1.

Soon after the break, the Dutch champions played even more actively, in the 61st minute, Lozano scored — 2:1. The Belarusian coach — Alexey Baga — tried to substitute players to change the situation and, as a result, Alexander Hleb equalised in the 88th minute. However, the draw didn't last long: just a minute later, the guests took the lead when — after a mistake by the central defenders — Donell Mullen scored (3:2).

In the remaining time, the result remained unchanged. After the match, Mr. Baga said that, despite the home defeat, his team will try to take revenge in an

away match, to enter the group stage of the Champions' League.

BATE's performance was not slow: our champions played confidently. This is great to see, and we hope to see the continuation of it. The team overall and its individual players have prospects — even Alexander Hleb looks promising though he is already 37. Under Mr. Baga's leadership, Alexander — who seemed to be tired — is reviving: it's once again interesting to see him play. The sportsman has improved his motivation and his physical shape. It's as if he's become even younger. In turn, goalkeeper Shcherbitsky can't perform worse than Thibaut Courtois: in each match of the recent draw, he made some great saves and in the match against PSV he coped even with 'dead' balls. In this regard, it is not clear why he is absent in the list of candidates of the national team for the forthcoming matches of the League of Nations. Why should we keep him at a junior level which he has already outgrown? Gutor, Gorbunov, Chernik and Klimovich — who've received a call from Igor Kriushenko — will play

no better than Shcherbitsky even if they join forces. Striker Signevich also has dynamite potential. It's important to decide what to do with him to ensure his strength is well used. Sadly, he is not lucky: he uses only a single chance out of a dozen of scoring moments. Finn Tuominen — who played instead of Nikolay in the match against PSV — was much less noticeable but showed results after a single touch. BATE has room to grow; it is the perfect material for growth from which a team able to defeat Bavaria could be made. However, not everything is over in its confrontation with the Dutch: though, objectively speaking, the possibility of joining the group stage of the Champions' League now looks fantastically difficult. If not for that goal missed in the last minute and not for the penalty, our mood would have been much better. However, there's no need to sprinkle ashes on our heads: we feel no shame for BATE. Moreover, if PSV wins in Borisov with a score of 3:2, then why not a win for BATE in Eindhoven with a score of 3:1? All is not yet lost...

Time to return!

By Igor Grishin

Andrey Sidorenko becomes chief coach of Belarusian national ice hockey team for second time since his 1994-1996 role, when mobile phones were yet to become common and there were so many players from which to choose

Tasks

I've signed a contract with the Federation for a year but with the opportunity to extend. It's clear that this will depend on the fulfilment of my duties: returning the club to the elite. We need to



Andrey Sidorenko (centre)

build a team in a very short period of time, by attracting the strongest players, combining youth and experience.

We do have some problems across several positions: in attack and near the net. We have a calendar of friendly matches, with the first European tournament games scheduled in Belarus in November. In December,

our national squad will meet the national team of Slovakia instead of Slovenia. In February, we'll have an away game in Norway and, in April, we plan two matches, against Lithuania and Hungary. Directly before the World Championship in Kazakhstan, we have another match. However, this calendar was compiled without my partici-

pation and I'm not altogether happy with it, so will try to make corrections where possible.

System

My training system is tailored to suit the players' needs. Team work is vital, of course. Our motto should be 'When we're together, the impossible becomes possible!'

Show of the week



Historical and cultural complex near Minsk hosts car wars competition — *Battle of the Machines-5*

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

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

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 2nd September. *Motherland. Reconstruction* Until 9th September. *Minsk: Real and Virtual*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street
Until 14th October. *Life with Cold Blood*

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. *Primers from Around the Globe* Until 1st October. *Coloured Days* Until 31st October. *Project: Small Homeland — Novel of Times* Until 31st January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale horror*

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*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

117 Kazinets Street
Until 31st August. *Safari Park exhibition of exotic animals*

LEONID SHCHEMELEV ART GALLERY

10 Revolyutsionnaya Street
Until 16th September. *Minsk. Photo. History. News*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 4th September. *Unreal in Modern Belarusian Art* Until 9th September. *Promenade along Helsinki*

THEATRES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
30.08. House Upside Down

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
04.09. Mixed Feelings 05.09. #13

OK16

16 Oktyabrskaya Street
05.09. From College

EVENTS

BELARUSIAN STATE PHILHARMONICS

50 Nezavisimosti Avenue
30.08. In the End of Summer: Tamara Starchenko (piano forte) 06.09. Con Anima piano duet: Yulia Arkhangel'skaya and Alexander Polyakov

FIRST MAFIA CLUB

17 Karl Marx Street
Daily. Mafia game

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
01.09. Peshekhodka

GIPPO TRADING CENTRE

2 Goretsky Street
31.08, 01.09 and 05.09. Sirius Circus

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
30.08. Fourth Planet 31.08. Taming of the Shrew 02.09. Private Lives 04.09. An Ideal Husband 05.09. Circle of Love 06.09. How to Become Rich

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
05.09. Doctor Raus' Career 06.09. Medea Syndrome

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street
30.08. Svoi: Krasavchiki, 2morrow2late, Kitchen Staff Only 31.08. Tribute Mummi Troll

DREAMLAND

80 Orlovska Street
01 and 02.09. Vulitsa. Ezha Festival of Street Food

NEMO DOLPHINARIUM

40 Tashkentskaya Street
Until 31st August. Daily shows

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
30.08. RASA 31.08. Disco of 1980s/1990s 31.08. Puppets