



The society was presented with a draft of the updated National Security Concept of Belarus

4



Exhibition of paintings by Chinese artist Han Yuchen is held at the National Art Museum

10

INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 15 (973) ● THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 ● WWW.SB.BY



Anton Stepanishchev

Housing and municipal services workers and residents of the microdistrict on Molodezhnaya Street in Novopolotsk went on a subbotnik to arrange courtyards. A resident of the microdistrict Aleksandr Kuznetsov, a student of the Gorodok State Agrarian Technical College.

Pure thoughts and deeds

We have long been accustomed to the cleanliness of our streets and yards, cities immersed in greenery, well-groomed recreation areas, historical and cultural attractions. With the advent of warm weather, it is time for everyone to actively engage in arranging their native land.

The months of cleanliness are in full swing, and April 22nd, the nationwide subbotnik (voluntary labour day), is ahead. It is one of our best traditions, preserved since Soviet times and uniting people in joint work. Half of the money earned on the day of the subbotnik is planned to be directed to the reconstruction of the memorial complex for the prisoners of the Ozarichi death camp. The second half will go to the creation of a republican centre for patriotic education of youth on the basis of the Kobrin Fortification of the Brest Fortress.



9 771991 297007 2 3 0 1 5

IT product for the national economy

The President of Belarus signed decree No.102 'On the Development of the Hi-Tech Park' on April 12th. The decree is aimed at enabling conditions conducive to further promising development of the Hi-Tech Park through reliance on modern technological tendencies and essentially opens up a new page in the history of Belarus' information technologies industry.

The decree provides for setting up a managing company as part of the Hi-Tech Park. The managing company will focus on intensive strategic development of the Hi-Tech Park. It will represent the Hi-Tech Park during interaction with foreign partners and will assist the park's resident companies with expanding their export, penetrating new markets, and raising foreign investments.

Meanwhile, all the business operation terms the Hi-Tech Park offers — legal framework, taxation, financial conditions — have not changed at all. The Supervisory Board of the Hi-Tech Park will retain its authority in full. A secretariat will be set up to facilitate its operation.

The day before, the draft of this decree, along with other measures to develop the IT industry, were discussed at a meeting with the Head of State.

"It is necessary to give a new impetus to the development of the industry, to provide the most favourable working conditions (we agreed on it) in the area. This should be done not only for HTP residents, but also for all domestic IT companies, in general, for all IT specialists. Everyone should create a product for the needs of the national economy and, of course, for export. The task is a difficult one. We, however, have not had easy tasks in recent years," Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

The President drew attention to the fact that today the Belarusian HTP, which has long been called by authoritative specialised publications 'a paradise for programmers' and 'the Silicon Valley of Eastern Europe', is being strangled economically.



"Such attempts are being made. We are used to such challenges and respond to them with dignity. If they do not want to see us in one part of the world, we, naturally, go to the other. I have received the draft legal acts on the development of the HTP. The approaches they suggest are unconventional. But this sector almost always requires creative solutions.

It's about the new lease on life and the new horizons that were previously inaccessible for the park and the entire Belarusian IT industry. We need to tap into new markets, replace Western investments with Asian ones. In general, a good product will always be in demand. It will be bought no matter what obstacles, fences and obstacles there may be," the Head of State noted.

At the meeting, all proposals were discussed in detail and agreed to bring the regulatory framework in line with the decisions made. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko demands to speed up the work as much as possible and get a specific result, "I would like to

warn (and I spoke about this in the Address) the government, the leadership of the Hi-Tech Park and all those who are related to this: it's just not possible to sit it out somewhere today! If there are no results, no explanations or conversations will be accepted as an excuse.

The proposed innovations to the Head of State were outlined in report of First Deputy Prime Minister, Head of the Supervisory Board of the Hi-Tech Park Nikolai Snopkov. He noted that the developed documents are an example of the implementation of a tough presidential order to create structures for proactive opposition to the sanctions policy against Belarus, "Hi-Tech Park is, first of all and most importantly, the preferential conditions created by the President, solely thanks to which the growth of HTP made our country one of the record holders in IT exports not only in the region, but in the whole world."

After the meeting, Director of the Hi-Tech Park Administration Vsevolod Yanchevsky told reporters that all the proposed solutions were fully supported by the President, "The Head of State once again (as it was every

year, every five-year plan) expressed support not only with words, but with deeds and decisions to our IT sector, Hi-Tech Park. The President went forward and supported us."

Vsevolod Yanchevsky stated that the Belarusian IT sector is currently facing various challenges and risks, including sanctions pressure. On the other hand, the global IT industry is also experiencing a crisis. We see a huge decrease in capitalisation of many companies. There are massive staff layoffs even in IT corporations and so on.

Detractors have also 'buried' the Belarusian HTP many times, referring both to the outflow of

companies and specialists, and to sanctions. But contrary to all sceptics and forecasts, Hi-Tech Park lives, works and makes a significant contribution to the economy, GDP and exports of Belarus. Vsevolod Yanchevsky cited a very revealing and curious fact, "Despite all the crisis phenomena, understandable and objective, not only in our IT sector, but in the global IT sector as a whole, HTP companies paid more taxes than last year (for the same period) for several months of this year."

By the way, last year the companies of Hi-Tech Park paid Br750 million in taxes, while exports amounted to \$2.5 billion.

Hi-Tech Park was established in 2005 and developed thanks to the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko. In a short time, HTP has become the leading IT cluster in Central and Eastern Europe. The first stage of the Park development (HTP 1.0) lasted until the end of 2016. During this period, outsourcing (the creation of software products according to the technical specifications of the client with the transfer of all rights to this product to him or her) was the main model of IT companies. And already in December 2017, the President signed Decree No. 8 'On the development of the digital economy'. This event kicked off the HTP 2.0 era. The decree formed the conditions for the product business model: IT companies create their own products and promote them to a wide range of consumers.



By law and justice

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has bestowed government awards upon 12 judges of the Supreme Court on April 14th. The solemn ceremony took place in the Palace of Independence on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Supreme Court's establishment.

"The state pays serious attention to the court system, is interested in its constant development, and notices all the accomplishments and successes of the judicial staff. Events of the last few years became another serious trial of the tenacity and endurance of the entire court system. For the first time in modern history Belarusian courts faced unprecedented informational and psychological pressure. This pressure has not disappeared and still continues. The key purpose of all of it was to destabilise the operation of courts, introduce misbalance into the unity of the judicial staff," Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

The President stressed that

the judges who were present during the award ceremony had honourably endured these trials and had remained true to the law and the profession.

On the same day Aleksandr Lukashenko met with heads of foreign supreme courts. The delegations came to Minsk on the occasion of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Belarus' Supreme Court. They included representatives of Russia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

"Our countries co-operate closely in various areas, including within the international obligations under the Commonwealth of Inde-

pendent States, the Union State of Belarus and Russia, and the Eurasian Economic Union. We actively develop our presence in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation. The life itself confirms the validity of the aspiration of the peoples of the former Soviet countries for closer co-operation. It is particularly relevant in the current difficult time. Our country is always open to dialogue," the President of Belarus noted.

According to the Head of State, when reforming the judicial system in Belarus, all decisions were made deliberately and without copying of the unnecessary foreign experience.

"We have carried out several stages of judicial and legal reforms. Judicial reforms are reflected (after certain tests that we carried out at the legislative level) in our Constitution. By continuously improving the judicial system, we first tested everything at the level of laws and by-laws. And then, when we made sure that they work we formalised them in our Constitution," the President said.

In turn, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus Valentin Sukalo noted that the experience of Belarus and its national model of justice have their own characteristics and may be of interest to

foreign partners. The Chairman of the Supreme Court said that the country has already completed the third stage of judicial and legal reform. Since 2014, a unified system of courts of general jurisdiction has been functioning in Belarus, headed by one supreme judicial body — the Supreme Court. The system of courts of general jurisdiction is three-tiered and consists of 157 courts, including the Supreme Court, regional and Minsk city courts, economic courts of regions and Minsk, as well as 142 district and city courts.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

What is the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour known for?

- The construction of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour in Shklov began at the end of the 18th century, and was completed in the second half of the 19th century thanks to the financial assistances of local resident, devout Christian Agafia Sidorova, who is considered the founder of this church. The temple remained active during the years of atheism and the Great Patriotic War. 2014 marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the temple.
- The temple complex includes the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour itself, the building of the Sunday school and the parable house.
- The Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour has a cruciform shape, with four turrets along the edges and a massive octagonal light drum in the centre. It is a monument of eclectic architecture, made in pseudo-Byzantine style with Art Nouveau features. Different heights of the volumes of the temple give the building a vertical orientation and sophistication. All facades are made with pronounced symmetry. There are three entrances to the temple, in the southwestern tower there is a staircase to the bell tower. In front of the main entrance is a brick gate built in the 20th century.
- The Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour is a historical and cultural value of the third category. The capacity of the temple is up to 500 people.
- The most revered icon of the temple is a copy of the icon of the Mother of God Assuage My Sorrows, the original of which disappeared without a trace after the revolution.
- There is a Sunday school at the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour.
- Archpriest Andrei Rybakov has been Rector of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour since 2015.

Easter is widely revered by Belarusians — it symbolizes the victory of life over death, when Christ, crucified on Golgotha for the sins of people, rose from the dead. According to the Gospel, Christ himself spoke of the resurrection on the third day after the end of earthly life, so the Jewish high priests asked to put guards at the entrance so that the disciples could not secretly carry out the body of the teacher. After the Sabbath rest, the myrrh-bearing women came there. Before them, an angel descended to the tomb and rolled away the stone. There was an earthquake: the guard was thrown into fear, and the angel told the women that Christ had risen. Then Christ appeared to his disciples, and soon the good news was heard throughout the world. Easter has its own traditions. One of the main attributes is a red-colored egg, which is considered a symbol of the Holy Sepulcher and the Resurrection. The red color symbolizes the blood of the crucified Christ. According to legend, St. Mary Magdalene, while preaching in Rome, gave Emperor Tiberius a chicken egg with the words "Christ is Risen!" The all-powerful monarch doubted this. Then the white egg in his hands immediately turned red.

Preserve peace on Belarusian land

The Belarusian Head of State met the bright holiday of Easter in his small motherland. The President visited the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour in Shklov. Aleksandr Lukashenko lit a candle in the church, donated an icon to the parish, addressed warm words to those present, and through them to all compatriots.



"Today is a special day for me. Either returning from a long business trip from the east or coming here, I always look at this land with great love. You are special people to me, you know that. This all began with you, your parents. First of all, for me. Once, you put your trust in me, a very young man, and sent me off on a long journey. I want to tell young people (I didn't realise it at the time) that you become very homesick with time. Sooner or later, we all come home. I am always excited to visit this place. As you noticed, I rarely stayed in Shklov. Maybe it was because of these strong feelings that were affecting me. But there comes a time when you are especially drawn home, your hometown. They say if you often dream about something, you have to go there. This is why I have come to you, my dear good people. Thank you for

what you have done in my life, I will not say it was dolce vita. But we have what we have, for the faith you gave me years ago," the President said, speaking of his small motherland.

Aleksandr Lukashenko has a special attitude to Easter. The President stressed that Easter is a holy and kind holiday, filled with special expectations, just like the New Year, "All our holidays, both religious and secular, are very precious to us, to our people. Well, who can say that Victory Day is not a dear holiday for us?.. Here, from this old temple I want to congratulate our Belarusians.

I wish you peace and health. We will find everything else. If we don't find it, as I often say, we'll buy it. You can't buy health. You see what is happening around you, and it costs us tremendous efforts to preserve peace in

our land. If all of us do our jobs (one's own things), we will do the impossible. In this situation, we will preserve peace on this land, at a time when things around us are changing at an astounding pace. Many, being uncertain, are not planning their long-term future, as they do not understand what will happen tomorrow. Everything will be fine tomorrow. Be sure of it."

Addressing all Belarusians, the Head of State once again stressed: live peacefully and calmly.

"Good luck to you, especially your children. You know, if something is wrong with a child in your family, then you don't want to live at all. Therefore, you need to have a strong family, and most importantly, that children be healthy in order to want to live," the Belarusian leader added.



Aleksandr Lukashenko presented the *Lord Almighty Icon* to the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour. The author of the work is Priest Sergiy Nezhbort, head of the icon-painting studio of the Saint Elisabeth Convent in Minsk.

"It is precious for me because it was made by the hands of a Belarusian. If you need anything else, just tell me. I have been presented with so many icons over the past ten years. They are in the Palace of Independence, so we can bring them from there," the President stressed.

The *Lord Almighty Icon* is one of the most ancient and revered images of the Saviour. Here the Saviour appears in the image of the universal King and Judge, who rewards each of us according to faith and deeds. This is the personification of the Higher law and justice — severe and incorruptible, but merciful and all-forgiving. The icon shows glimpses of divine light pouring from within the Lord, thereby the author shows not only the physical state, but also the spiritual essence, and therefore reveals the divine principle

of Jesus Christ. The *Lord Almighty Icon* helps to get rid of various difficulties, gain stronger faith and comfort.

The rector of the church, Archpriest Andrei Rybakov presented the *Resurrection of Christ Icon* to the Head of State.



"I wish this Resurrected Christ to protect you, so that all your efforts bring peace to our country. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to celebrate this Easter holiday under a peaceful sky today. We would like you to know that in this church, during the liturgy, a prayer is said for the Belarusian people and for your entire family. Centuries-old history shows that the state stands firmly on its feet when it is in harmony with God and the Church, taking care of the spiritual and materi-

al unity of the whole people. The Lord always blesses with peace, prosperity," Archpriest Andrei Rybakov said.

The icon is made in the technique of miniature enamel painting. The images are separated from each other by filigree — with the help of jewellery technology, using an openwork or thin wire pattern soldered onto a metal background. Along the perimeter of the icon are small images describing the main twelfth feasts, the twelve most important annual church holidays after Easter, which are associated with the Gospel history and the history of the Church and are dedicated to the events of the earthly life of the Saviour and the Mother of God. The *Resurrection of Christ Icon* depicts the event for which the feast of Easter is timed, when the crucified Saviour rose from the dead on the third day after the cruel execution. The resurrected Christ is depicted in the centre of the canvas in a shining robe. Behind the Saviour is a medium blue sphere as a symbol of God's grace. Under the feet of Christ, fragments of the destroyed walls of the underworld are depicted as a symbol of the fact that there are no barriers for the almighty Lord. Below, on the sides of Christ, the first sinners, Adam and Eve, are depicted, turning their pleading eyes to the Saviour with a silent request for forgiveness. The Lord absolves them of their sins and takes the repentant by the hand.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Foundation of our peace

What are the features of the new National Security Concept of Belarus and why updating such documents is a natural and logical process

The society was presented with a draft of the updated National Security Concept of Belarus. It consists of five sections. What is the focus?

THE NINE MAIN AREAS THAT FORM THE BASIS OF OUR SECURITY

Political security — the state of protection of the political system of the Republic of Belarus from internal and external threats, ensuring the implementation of an independent state policy, the harmonious development of society and the state, the preservation of the traditional fundamental values of the Belarusian people, the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of the individual.



Economic security — the state of protection of industries and sectors of the economy from the impact of threats that impede the sustainable socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus.



Scientific and technological security — the state of protection of scientific, technological and educational potentials from threats that impede the development of scientific activities, the creation and implementation of innovations and advanced technologies in the real sector of the economy and other areas.



Social security — the state of protection of the individual, society and the state from the impact of social threats, ensuring the preservation of life, health and welfare of citizens, spiritual and moral values of the Belarusian people.



Demographic security — the state of protection of the individual, society and the state from the impact of demographic threats, ensuring the stabilisation of the population, the development of the country's human potential, the preservation of family and intergenerational ties.



Biological security — the state of protection of the population, animals, plants and the environment from the impact of hazardous biological factors, which ensures an acceptable level of biological risk.



Information security — the state of security of the information space, information infrastructure and information resources from external and internal threats in the information sphere.



Military security — the state of protection of the national interests of the Republic of Belarus from existing and emerging military threats.



Environmental security — the state of protection of the environment, life and health of citizens from threats arising from anthropogenic impacts, as well as factors, processes and phenomena of a natural and man-made nature.



By Svetlana Isaenok

Social demand

Any concept of national security, in one way or another, is designed to meet the needs of society. At the end of last year, the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences conducted a sociological survey on the topic 'Ensuring the National Security of the Republic of Belarus in the Assessments of the Population' commissioned by the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research. The respondents (1000 people) were asked what current processes threaten Belarus?

Political aspect

63 percent of the respondents answered that this is 'outside interference in internal political processes'. That is what is reflected in the submitted draft of the National Security Concept.

Social aspect

The largest number (**62 percent**) of those surveyed believe that this area is threatened by an unjustified difference in wages. **55 percent** of those polled voted for the danger of losing moral value among young people.

Economic aspect

58 percent identified the outflow of qualified specialists as the main challenge. **52 percent** — obsolescence of technologies, low quality of products. "Citizens, even those who do not have a deep understanding of the topic of national security, somehow feel all the existing threats. And the government listens to them. Therefore, the public demand and those provisions that are reflected in the concept of national security correlate with each other," Belarusian analyst Andrei Chernobai is sure.

EXPERTISE

State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Aleksandr Volfovich,

"Today there are a lot of risks, challenges for national security that border on a threat. Above all, I really want that thunder does not break out on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, that is, guns do not start to rumble. And for this, it is necessary to timely turn on levers, mechanisms for responding to those risks and challenges in order to prevent disaster in the long run. Therefore, the National Security Concept is an algorithm for the work of state bodies in all spheres in order, first of all, to secure the country, secure the population, and protect our national interests."

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"We must clearly and openly declare our priorities, we must show the world the transparency of our policy, the reliability of Belarus as a responsible partner. But our partners must also know that Belarusian peacefulness is not synonymous to willingness to sacrifice. As I have said more than once, in the event of any aggression, the response will be fast, tough and adequate."

On the draft of the new National Security Concept at the Security Council meeting on February 20th, 2023

FACT

For the first time in history, the National Security Concept will be adopted at the Belarusian People's Congress

Global trend

The concept of national security is a derivative of the concept of national interests. In a broad sense, it is an expression of the common vision of the citizens of a particular state, its role and place in the world community. The main components of the concept of national security depend on the basic setting of the state's foreign policy tactics for confrontation or, conversely, for co-operation. Recently, in connection with tectonic shifts in the world order, more and more countries are going to change the concepts or strategies (each country calls it differently) of national security.

THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT AFTER THE CONSTITUTION

The developers of the concept said that it was redesigned by 70 percent. This is due to significant changes that have occurred outside our state. In addition, the provisions of the updated concept included novelties from the Constitution adopted at the referendum.



In 2023, Vitebsk Carpets intends to increase the production of carpet products to more than 17 million square metres, conclude new contracts and expand sales markets. The company pays special attention to import substitution, 75 percent of their products go to the Russian Federation. Now they are working on a project to install their own technological equipment for the production of backing cloth. This will be a novelty not only for Belarus, but also for Russia, where the plant has good growth points: since the beginning of the year alone, contracts have been signed with ten new business partners — from Moscow to Yekaterinburg. And the capacity of the Russian carpet market allows us to further expand the geography of sales. We talked with the new head of the enterprise, who once started his career here after graduating from the Vitebsk State Technological University.



vitebsk.by

The best investment for tomorrow

‘We are not dependent on the whims of the West’ — sanctions have become an incentive for Vitebsk Carpets to work more actively and successfully



Pavel Bogush



Anton Stepanishchev



Pavel Bogush



BELTA

The best investment for tomorrow

Artem Lokhankin, a native of Vitebsk, has been appointed Director General of Vitebsk Carpets since February, having worked here for 10 years as a process engineer, and for the last three years as the head of a new branch of Brest Carpets.

“I came to the Brest branch in a difficult period. Employees were worried about what awaits them as part of their original competitor. Versions went different, up to the fact that the equipment will be taken away, and people will be put out on the street. Pessimistic forecasts did not come true. Instead of a collapse, the enterprise opened up new prospects. Over the past year, the branch worked with a net profit,” the young director is satisfied.

Today, the company produces products of the luxury segment. The demand for luxury goods is and will always be. As well as other products of the plant that meet world trends. Among the popular novelties of last year are carpets with anti-slip backing. The line for applying such a coating was purchased in China.

The plant rightly perceives modernisation of production as the best investment in tomorrow. At the end of last year, a modern carpet weaving machine and a new sewing machine were installed here. An extruder is one of the most important acquisitions of recent years. Now threads for carpets are produced by themselves, and not imported from abroad. There are no problems with raw materials for the extruder: about 90 percent of it is purchased in the Russian Federation, the rest — in Türkiye and other countries.

The company pays special attention to import substitution. Now we are working on a project to install our own technological equipment for the production of ground cloth. This will be a novelty not only for Belarus, but also for Russia. And the idea to replace the jute from Bangladesh with the Belarusian version has already been implemented. An alternative was found in a similar, only synthetic thread from Svetlogorsk-Khimvolokno.

New opportunities

The plant annually supplies up to 1.7 million square metres of products to the domestic market. More than 75 percent of manufactured products go to the Russian Federation. Belarusian carpets are known in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — only in the last three months the plant has signed several new contracts with customers from these countries.

There is a positive mood, Artem Lokhankin shares his feelings, “Geopolitics affects the economy, we have lost part of the European and Ukrainian market. In order to develop and live, not survive, one cannot do without expanding the range and business contacts. We expect to increase our presence and sales in Russia.

We are heading for new markets. Furthermore, we are negotiating with the Tajik Kayrakkum Carpets. Representatives of the company have already visited Vitebsk. There is an option to create a joint production.”

The Azerbaijani market, where carpets are more than just a piece of furniture is another promising direction. In February, a delegation of a Belarusian enterprise flew to Baku — representatives of local busi-

nesses became interested in the proposals of Vitebsk residents, noting that they had never heard of carpets from Belarus before. This is a green light and an opportunity to carve out a niche.

What the eyes like, the hands do

People are behind the success of the company — both experienced employees and promising young people. There are many dynasties at the plant. Mironovs is one of the brightest example. The head of the family, Vladimir, who manages the production of woven carpet products, surprises with such coincidence, “My ancestors lived in the village of Kovrovoe, Dubrovno District. Once upon a time, sheep were kept there in almost every yard, which means that carpets were also woven — an indispensable attribute of comfort in a village hut. My grandmother was famous for rugs woven on a loom that my grandfather made for her. Original, somewhat reminiscent of jacquard products. This is our home heirloom.”

Vladimir Mironov works at the enterprise for already 35 years. His wife Tamara also has a single entry in her workbook. Having earned preferential experience as a weaver, she could have gone on a well-deserved rest, but she decided otherwise. Now he works as a storekeeper in a workshop where thin, but very strong threads are born from the smallest polypropylene granules, which form the basis of carpets. Tamara says with a smile, “My husband and I are also bound together by the strongest thread. We met at our company. We are glad that there is someone to continue the family business. The eldest son Dmitry recently moved to Zhlobin, before that he was the head of the weaving workshop. The younger Sergei is a shift supervisor in the finishing shop of a tufted carpet factory.”

50 people work under the leadership of 26-year-old Sergei Mironov. Like his brother, he is a graduate of the Vitebsk Technological University, “I like the plant. My eyes like everything here, and my hands do it. I want to develop, grow in my direction. It is important that management sees and supports this.”

We look into the workshops with the Mironov family. The looms are knocking rhythmically, buzzing, winding on hundreds of spools and threads... At one of the sites, we see the European machine Alpha 500. It was purchased before the rampant sanctions and launched in January 2022. Vladimir Mironov notes,

“Such equipment is tailored for the production of modern coatings, including double-sided ones. But even a smart machine without professionals will fall silent. This one is served by three weavers, and the work of each, consider jewellery. The slightest failure is equal to defect, so knowledge, a trained eye and speed of reaction are must-have.”

Recognition for hometown

The technological capabilities of the plant allow them to weave works of any complexity. An inspiring example is the new collection dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the Vitebsk Region. On the carpet-pictures there are recognisable sights of the city over the Dvina River: the Town Hall, the Three Bayonets, the domes of the Holy Assumption Cathedral, the Summer Amphitheater... Lyubov Mikhailova, head of the carpet design bureau, under whose supervision the designs were developed, clarifies, “The landscapes are created on tufted carpets by printing on a one-colour canvas, the size of the works is 80 by 120 centimetres. This series is our declaration of love for our native city and a fresh look at exclusive souvenirs.”

Relax in a neighbourly way

Mutual tourist flows between Belarus and Russia are growing: what is in the top demand

The current situation in the world contributes to closer co-operation between Belarus and Russia in various fields. Tourism is one of them, the most important component of union integration, a key element of cultural co-operation and public diplomacy. After all, people are looking for closer and more accessible vacation options amid logistical restrictions and rising travel costs. However, they open a lot of new nearby. What are the prospects for the growth of mutual tourist flow, and what needs to be done for this?



Selyava Lake in the Minsk Region

By Maria Druk

Welcome guests with wide open doors

Deputy Sports and Tourism Minister Oleg Andreichik notes a trend that is pleasant for the regulator, “The number of foreign tourists visiting Belarus is approaching the level of 2019. In 2022, despite transport restrictions, not only Russians came to us — they were the vast majority, but also representatives of 73 countries. Indeed, objectively speaking, logistics affects tourist flows, especially with EU countries. But at the expense of Russia, we get an influx. The export of tourism services amounted to \$180 million, 97 percent of which is income from Russian guests.”

Perhaps, they say in the Sports and Tourism Ministry, there will be more. After all, our country is constantly developing relations in the field of tourism with Russian regions. Thus, we have developed a strategy for the development of travel for citizens, signed agreements on interaction between business circles and government bodies over the past three years, with more than 90 percent of the subjects of the eastern neighbour. The work continues today. Logistics, lack of language barriers and difficulties in calculations play into the hands.

The Russian tourist appreciates our beauties and historical sites. The launch of flights to Belarus from Kaluga, Ufa, Nizhny Novgorod and other cities of Russia contributes to the fact that tourist flows between our countries are constantly growing.

Guests have already appreciated it

But most of all — sanatorium treatment, health improvement and rehabilitation. It was this type of recreation that brought about half of the export of tourist services last year. The Deputy Minister

cites the following data: in total, 934,000 people visited our sanatoriums in 2022. Of these, 149,000 are foreigners, 138,000 of which are Russians. An expert in the field of tourism, Chairman of the Board of the Republican Union of Tourism Industry Philip Huly explains the interest in the following way, “In Russia, this service is conceptually lacking in the volume and quality that have been preserved and developed in our country. I believe that this direction should be improved further: in general, the population on the planet is aging. In addition, middle-aged people are increasingly beginning to deal with their health issues. So, not only in the Union State, but also in our newly created region, in the future we will be leaders in sanatorium and resort treatment — we need to quickly resolve emerging issues, for example, staffing. Sightseeing tours in bus tours and independent travel are in second place in popularity among Russians. Weekend tours are in third place, we saw this on the example of Minsk. The task is to attract guests to the capital in the off-season, to develop infrastructure for receiving tourists in regional centres. So, in Mogilev there is a modern hotel with a spa complex — and tourism is developing there.”

Ecotourism is on the rise. True, here, according to Philip Huly, it is worth pushing: to work out priority and promising places for the interested departments. The local population should be more actively involved in the process through training and funding. For example, as guides or to provide rental services for various equipment. Agritourism, industrial and gastronomic tourism are the next in popularity. Patriotic and religious tourism is in trend. By the way, we have identified more than 20 types of tourism in total, and for each of them there was an increase in foreign interest last year.

“The farther a person is from large settlements, the more interested he or she is in sights and historical sites. Citizens are looking for ways to recuperate and relax in nature. Residents of megacities like weekend tours,” Philip Huly summarises.

At the same time, the regulator will pay close attention to the issues of mandatory



At the Rest-2023 international exhibition-fair of travel services



classification and certification of accommodation places in the near future: our neighbours are urgently asking for this, both to unify legislation and to clarify the expectations of tourists. After all, according to statistics, 2.7 million tourists stayed in our hotels in 2022, 48 percent of them were foreign guests.

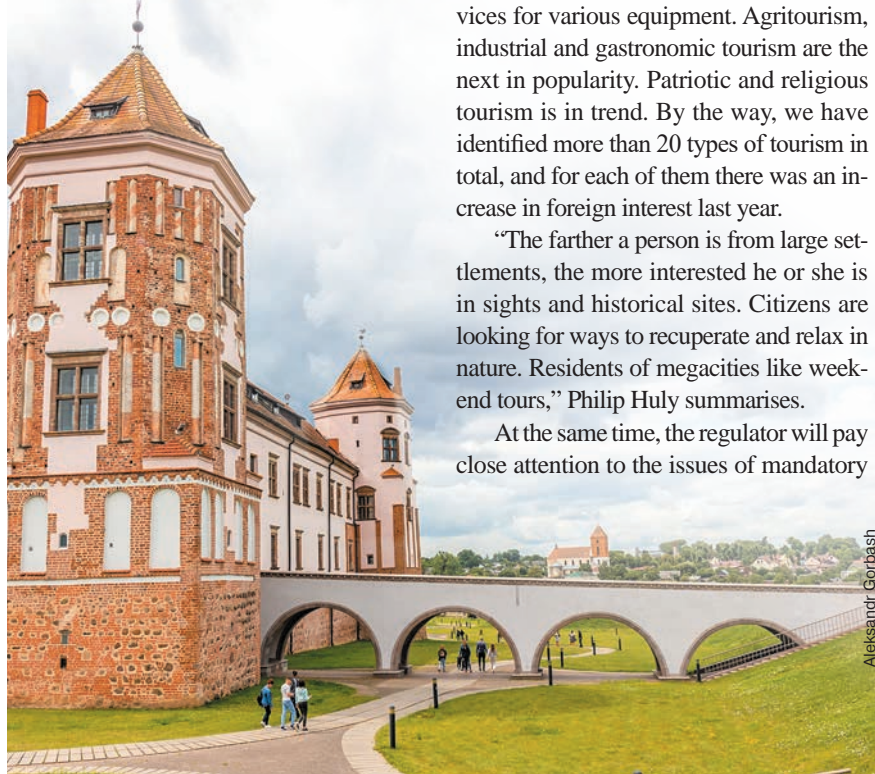
Go and see

But what is interesting for Belarusians in Russia? And how many such travellers are? It is difficult to answer the second question, Oleg Andreichik admits: there is no border with Russia, and it is difficult to fully calculate the movements, the figures are approximate. At the same time, mutual tourist flows are growing before our eyes — this cannot be taken away. According to representatives of our tourist market, both Belarusian in Russia and Russians, we had about half a million tourists in 2022. Trips to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Karelia are

You could be convinced of the demand for rest from each other at the 25th Rest-2023 international exhibition-fair of travel services, which was held last week in Minsk. The first Russian-Belarusian tourist congress took place on its fields. Interest from the regions of the neighbouring country to the forums is unprecedentedly huge. Moreover, the guests not only talk about their products and show them to our tourists and business partners, but also solve pressing issues, remove the remaining barriers in the dialogue with the Belarusian side, and jointly look for solutions that suit everyone. So that, ultimately, mutual tourist flows grow even faster, and travellers easily and affordably discover new places for themselves.

in the top of the interest of our citizens. Group tours, for example, along the Yenisei River, Altai, northern Russia are shaped for lovers of the exotic, Philip Huly lists, “We expect that Belarusians will be interested in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk this year — these are good places to start traveling around the regions. Flight programmes to Perm, Ufa, Nizhny Novgorod are also sure to captivate. It must be admitted that Belarusians have little idea of how vast and diverse Russia is, how different its regions are in economic and cultural terms. And we are looking for what to offer, so that our tourists would be affordable in terms of price, transport and not overlap with our vacation options.”

By the way, the solution of logistical issues, the expansion of transport links are driving force for the development of tourism. Experts agree that Russia with its low-cost airlines will be a key player in this process. At the same time, interest is growing in neighbouring regions of Belarus and neighbouring regions: Smolensk, Kaluga, Bryansk, Pskov Regions. However, as well as their inhabitants want to rest with us. Plus, this gives impetus to the development of border tourist routes.



Mir Castle is a masterpiece of Belarusian defence architecture of the 16th century



At the Energetik sanatorium, Grodno Region

It has leaked

The leak of secret Pentagon documents has been the loudest sensation of recent weeks. More like a leak, actually. There are still rumours about what happened. Meanwhile, high-ranking military and politicians around the world are feverish from what happened. The scandal erupted on April 7th. However, the first documents began to appear on the global network in early March. The number of photocopies of classified American files is gradually increasing. Now there are more than a hundred of them, but they continue to publish more and more. Basically, these are analytical notes, the so-called briefings — brief reports with an assessment of the situation. There are also larger files. On the other hand, the details contained in them affect sensitive aspects of both the international situation and the domestic politics of very many countries.

By Ph.D. Vadim Gigin

Overseas managers

Initially, attention was drawn to the details of the fighting in Ukraine. The discussion was aroused by the numbers of losses of the parties given in American documents at the end of 2022: 16,000-17,500 dead Russians and 61,000-71,000 from the Ukrainian side. In the public space, representatives of the Pentagon cited completely different data, much larger and not at all in favour of Russia. After some confusion, they began to justify themselves, other documents immediately appeared, where the statistics had already changed in a mirror opposite. And then everything started up, incrementally.

It turned out that the US military is not only informed about the military situation on the Ukrainian fronts, they actually carry out all command and control and operations planning.

At the same time, the level of competence of the generals and officers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is very critically assessed. There is a lot of scepticism about the supply and technical condition of the Ukrainian army. In particular, there is a shortage of missiles for the S-300 systems, which threatens the entire air defence system of Ukraine. A lot of details are given, up to the combat schedule of individual brigades.

It turned out that several groups of Ukrainian military with a total number of up to 60,000 people are being trained at NATO bases in Europe.

Moscow's reaction followed immediately. Russian President Spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented on the leak of secret Pentagon documents on Ukraine, "We do not even have slight doubts about the direct or indirect involvement of the United States and NATO in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The degree of their involvement in this situation is gradually increasing. We are fol-



lowing this process. Of course, this complicates the whole story, but this will not affect the result of the special operation."

Under the microscope

From bad to worse! It turned out that Egypt, one of the key US partners in the Middle East, is considering the possibility of supplying weapons to Russia.

The leaked documents contain indications that members of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad were involved in organising mass protests against judicial reform. And this means that the United States keep even the closest allies under the microscope.

Publicly, assurances have been heard more than once that the American special services are not engaged in operational activities on their territory. And this is backed up by relevant agreements. However, non-compliance by US intelligence with these agreements has already been confirmed earlier. Let us recall at least the high-profile scandal of 2015, when it turned out that the National Security Agency was listening in to the entire leadership of Germany, including Chancellor Angela Merkel.

There is something interesting about Belarus as well. Namely, about the sabotage in Machulishchi. In gen-



Double-dealing, provocation and hypocrisy have become an integral part of Washington's political style. Actually, in Minsk they knew this before. Now the whole world can see it.

eral terms, the Belarusian version of what happened is confirmed. True, with a small caveat — supposedly some initiative officers of the SBU turned everything around, without informing their leadership.

But how much can we trust this leaked information? Who is behind the leak? Now the answers are sought all over the world. The initial scepticism of security experts is replaced by growing confidence that most of the published documents are original. But there are different hypotheses about the organisers of the leak.

Firstly, the Americans themselves could have done this in order to shift the responsibility for the hostilities in Ukraine onto the Ukrainians themselves. Say, they helped them, supplied them, and they are simply crooked. At the same time, wag a finger at allies: we see everything, we know everything, we follow everyone. Secondly, this may be the most successful Russian intelligence operation in recent times. Still, the documents of the United States, a frank opponent

of Russia, leaked into the network. There are also quite exotic assumptions, such as the fact that this is the work of the SBU.

Of course, the truth will come out sooner or later. But even now we can say that there is little benefit for the Americans from the leak. The reaction of their official representatives testifies to confusion.

Leaks and provocations

A senior U.S. intelligence official called the leak 'a nightmare for the Five Eyes', referring to the United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada (the so-called Five Eyes countries) who share intelligence extensively. One way or another, the US Department of Justice launched an official investigation.

Now the Americans are making efforts to minimise the resulting negative effect. Thus, their sources claim that the nature of the leaked information indicates the presence of agents at the very top of the Russian political and military leadership.

The scandal surrounding the leak of secret documents from the Pentagon dealt a serious blow to the prestige of the United States. It became even more obvious that this country cannot be trusted.

Although most of the documents were clearly obtained using technical means, that is, by wiretapping and hacking computer networks. It is even stated that after a large-scale leak, the Armed Forces of Ukraine are forced to revise the plans of their widely publicised counter-offensive. But this may already be evidence that the leak itself is part of a large campaign to mislead the enemy.

This is now being actively pursued by both Russia and the opposing coalition led by the United States. The main task is to hide your own plans and opportunities and provoke the other side into hasty and reckless steps.

In this context, we can also consider the recent provocation with the interview of the China's Ambassador to the European Union Fu Cong, published on April 5th by *The New York Times*. They presented the case as if Beijing did not support Moscow at all. Experts immediately raised doubts about this. Indeed, in fact, the diplomatic worker disavowed the entire official line of the President of the People's Republic of China

At the same time, Western propaganda immediately began to spin the 'news', thus ensuring the visit of Emmanuel Macron and Ursula von der Leyen to China. This campaign was not stopped even by an official denial by the Chinese delegation to the EU. In fact, American journalists deliberately distorted ('misinterpreted', in diplomatic terms) the words of the PRC diplomat. And all this with one goal — to split the Russian-Chinese relations.

For sure, such information stuffing will continue. This is an integral part of the military-political confrontation. And yet, whoever was behind the leaked documents, this scandal dealt a serious blow to the prestige of the United States. There was another and very convincing confirmation that this power cannot be trusted in anything.



Patients can't wait

It's becoming increasingly difficult for patients in hospitals and clinics to receive timely medical care across some European countries

Junior doctors across England have launched a four-day strike over pay that is likely to cause unprecedented disruption to the health service, leaving up to a quarter of a million appointments postponed.

Tens of thousands of junior doctors — qualified physicians who make up nearly half of the medical workforce — are striking for pay rises better aligned with inflation, in the latest disruption to affect the state-funded National Health Service (NHS).

The British Medical Association (BMA), the union representing doctors, wants a 35 percent rise, arguing that members have suffered a 26 percent real-terms cut in pay over 15 years. But the government says that is an unreasonable request.

Meanwhile, the situation in Spanish healthcare system also leaves much to be desired, with hospital waiting lists hitting record levels. Six months ago, 17.6 percent of patients spent more than six months before getting surgery. As of today, it's grown to 22 percent.

"Looking at the waiting times, it is obvious that the situation in Spain is quite bad. We have not been able to get back to the numbers we had before the COVID-19 pandemic," says Marciano Sánchez-Bayle, President of the Spanish Association for the Defence of Public Health.

"The problem not only lies in surgery waiting lists. It's also about medical appointments with family doctors and specialists. This is unacceptable", he adds.

Sánchez-Bayle points out that delays in each step of the process towards surgery add up and in the end lead to a very long wait.

What worries him most are the consequences for the patient, "This long delay makes people's previous situation and health problems worsen. Some may even die while waiting."

Health personnel across Europe take to streets, demanding better wages, improved working conditions, and more resources.

Meanwhile, health sector unions in the Netherlands have secured pay increases after a strike in early March and a threat of further action, according to the press service of the European Civil Service Union.

Czechia against poverty

Thousands of Czechs demonstrated in Prague's central square, calling on the government to quit as they protested over high inflation and energy prices

Police did not give estimates of the size of the protest, named *Czechia Against Poverty*.

The protest, like a similar demonstration in March, was organised by non-parliamentary political party PRO, which has criticised the centre-right government of Prime Minister Petr Fiala for its handling of the energy crisis that has hit Europe since Russia's conflict with Ukraine more than a year ago.

PRO has also blasted the government for hurting freedom of speech as part of efforts to counter disinformation, and has called on it to push for peace in the Ukraine war, while denying being a pro-Russian party.

"Collect the last remnants of your honour, realise that you are not up to the job, and resign," protest organiser and PRO leader Jindrich Rajchl told the crowd which filled half of Prague's Wenceslas Square, according to news website iDNES.cz.

The Czech Republic, like other countries in Europe, has been hit by rising inflation that has soared into double digits in the past year and high energy prices that are cutting into household budgets.

While Fiala has sought to ease the burden on families and firms, it has also sought to rein in high budget deficits and drew smaller protests recently for slowing an inflation-linked rise in state pensions.

Recent polling from Kantar for Czech TV saw support for the five-party government slipping, with the main opposition party, ANO of former Prime Minister Andrej Babis, extending its lead over Fiala's party to 29 percent compared with 20 percent.

Glut of cheap Ukrainian grain sparks farmers' protests

Farmers in central and eastern Europe protest against the impact of cheap Ukrainian grain imports, which have undercut domestic prices and hit the sales of local producers

Protesters blocked traffic and border checkpoints with tractors along the border between Romania and Bulgaria, in an effort to prevent Ukrainian trucks from entering their country, according to local news outlets.

Local producers say they cannot compete with the price of Ukrainian grain and have demanded compensation from the European Commission.

Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of the European Farmers' Association Copacogececa, told the media that "the EU needs to address the severe consequences that open borders and unmanaged imports of some agricultural goods have caused to

the bordering EU member states'.

"We call for stabilising import volumes to match our EU capacity to absorb the inflow of goods," he added.

Anger grew after the European Commission announced a draft decision to extend duty-free and quota-free imports of Ukrainian grain until June 2024, prompting Polish Agriculture Minister Henryk Kowalczyk to resign from his post.

It has recently become known that Poland, Hungary and Slovakia decided to ban imports of grain and other food from neighbouring Ukraine while Bulgaria is currently considering the possibility of introducing a temporary ban on grain imports.



Italy declares state of emergency over 'migration congestion'

The measure will last for six months and include the redistribution of migrants across the country and repatriations

Italy's cabinet has announced a state of emergency on immigration following a 'sharp rise' of migrant arrivals along the country's southern shores, a statement said, in a move aimed at better management of arrivals and repatriation facilities.

The state of emergency will last for six months and will be backed by initial funding of 5m Euros, according to the statement issued.

"Let it be clear, we are not solving the problem; the solution can only depend on responsible intervention by the EU," Italian Civil Protection Minister Nello Musumeci said.

The statement said that this measure was necessary 'to carry out with urgency extraordinary measures to reduce congestion' at an overwhelmed migrant shelter on a tiny Italian island in the Mediterranean.

The government also said that the funds for this temporary emergency scheme will back 'new structures, suitable both for sheltering as well as the processing and repatriation of migrants who don't have the requisites to stay'.

A government source told Reuters that this emergency measure will now allow Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing government to more quickly repatriate those not allowed to stay in Italy.



Polish farmers block a street during their protest against what they call a flood of Ukrainian grain, which, they say, has depressed domestic grain prices, in Szczecin, northwest Poland, April 3rd, 2023



Destroyers of the future

What is the danger of the ideas of the childfree movement

A personal choice that affects the whole world. Experts are sure that ideas like childfree (promoting an unwillingness to have children) are planted intentionally, and the movement itself threatens the future of all mankind.

By Svetlana Isaenok

New challenge to the world

For the first time, childfree as a single movement was assessed in the 1970s after the publication of a large study by Canadian sociologist Jean Veevers. She studied families who consciously refused to have children and presented them as a kind of phenomenon. And, as often happens with any new idea, the philosophy began to take root and acquire fans.

Today, this movement has acquired a threatening global demographic scope.

“It is possible that in the future many more people will voluntarily remain childless, and we will have a sustained low birth rate,” Deputy Director of the Vienna Institute of Demography Tomasz Sobotka says.

“European society faces a new challenge — childfree movement. They create communities on the Internet, communicate on forums and chats, distribute articles in the electronic media that promote the ideology of voluntary childlessness and describe the benefits of childfree. It is obvious that the spread of such an ideology causes indignation and protest on the part of a society that preserves traditional family values,” the Doctor of Sciences from Spain Tobias Macho writes in his scientific work.

According to the Spanish researcher, the relatively new phenomenon of ‘maternity regret’ also contributes to the development of the childfree ideology and supports it, “Many believe that the spread of ideas of voluntary childlessness can significantly affect the formation of youth values and cause demographic crises in Europe and other countries.”



Length of maternity leave around the world	
Belarus	3 years
Lithuania	2 years
Canada	18 month
Italy	15 month
China	6.3 month
Portugal	6 month
UK	6 month
Australia	5 month
USA	3 month

Issue that divided America

The close correlation between childlessness (mostly conscious and deliberate, based on the primordial American love of individual freedom) and high population density created essentially two different Americas. One is aimed at children and offers affordable neighbourhoods and urban centres, the other over the past 30 years has become increasingly expensive and settled by the childless. Almost half of all households in Manhattan are now single. According to statistics, over the past decade in San Francisco, Boston, New York and other major cities, there has been much fewer children’s laughter. Seattle, once known as a robust family city, is now home to many more dogs than children.

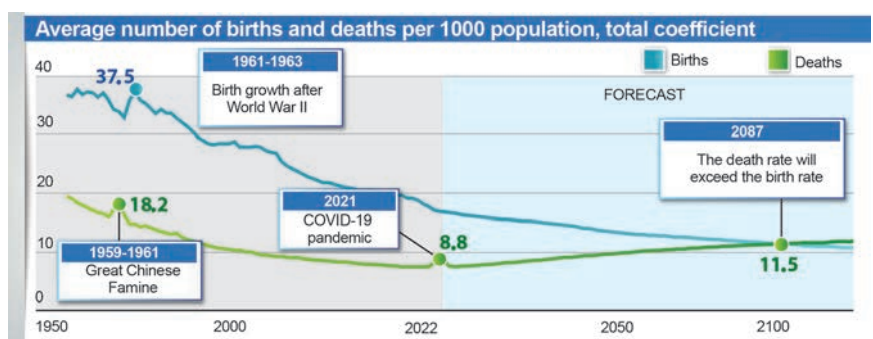
“Amid this shift, the childless and even the partnerless life has gained something of a cultural cachet, with some suggesting they represent not just a legitimate choice but a superior one,” the American researcher Chris Leinberger concludes.

Single and childless couples are America’s emerging household of the future,



says demographer Wendell Cox, “This has led to calls for creating ever-smaller apartments intended for single professionals, an impulse that has gained the support of mayors including New York’s Michael Bloomberg.”

A new Pew Research Centre survey shows a growing por-



tion of American adults who are not yet parents say they are unlikely to ever have children. Their reasons range from simply not wanting to have children to fears about climate and environmental change. In this case, it is not entirely clear who and how will provide, for example, the old age of those 14 million Americans who, according to *Neurology* magazine, will suffer from Alzheimer’s disease by 2050. After all, the cost of their treatment, according to experts, can exceed \$1 trillion.

However, while some American politicians are adjusting to the whims of the childless, others, call for paying more attention to stimulating the birth rate in the country, realising the danger of such a phenomenon.

In addition, in Europe, scientists are beginning to timidly declare a threat to democracy that comes from the childless. Sociologists have found that people who do not have children are less likely to take part in elections.

This fact, coupled with a decline in European interest in participating in political processes, can significantly complicate the situation in the future.

Threat to the financial system

The economic aspect is of great importance in this matter. If the childfree movement continues to develop, there is a risk of a demographic hole.

The smaller the population, the more difficult it will be for the economy and the government to cope with obligations to citizens. After all, an increase in the number of pensioners and a decrease in the number of working-age citizens will lead to an increase in the amount of taxes that those same working adults will have to pay.

And this, in turn, can cause an economic collapse. Governments in all countries are also thinking about this. By the way, experts say that demographic problem is already visible, including in the economic problems that Germany and Japan are experiencing today.

President Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“The Western childfree trend. Any popularisation of the ideas of childfree families in our information and cultural space should be suppressed. Any such veiled appeals, as well as all non-traditional trends, is nothing but an attempt to depopulate and weaken the state. No less. Such ideology should be outlawed. The cult of a full-fledged family with two or more children should be the lifestyle of Belarusians. There should be much more of us, Belarusians. This is the most important condition for sovereignty.”

From the annual Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly on March 31st, 2023

From China with love

Exhibition of paintings by artist Han Yuchen is held at the National Art Museum

When you look at the huge bright canvases of the original painter Han Yuchen within the walls of the National Art Museum, you realise how boundless the friendship between the Chinese and Belarusians is. Only the transportation of large-scale paintings from Beijing to Minsk probably took more than one month of preparation. The work of the artist from Greater China has won many awards around the world, including the medals of the Salon d'Automne in Paris and the Lorenzo il Magnifico Special Award at the 12th Florence Biennale International Exhibition of Contemporary Art and Design. Han Yuchen's works were exhibited at solo exhibitions in the best museum halls in China and Russia.

By Inna Gorbatenko

The Belarusian viewer also has the opportunity to get acquainted with the majestic landscapes of the master. Especially for *SB* readers, a great artist and successful businessman (however, Han Yuchen heads a large retail company in China) is presenting his best paintings.

"I brought 42 paintings to Minsk, but the area of the National Art Museum gallery allows us to present no more than 30 paintings. You know, officially there are 56 nationalities in China, Tibetans are one of them. Tibet is located on a high plateau, and the landscapes there are completely cosmic, as is the unusual and mysterious culture of this region with its thousand-year history. In my opinion, Tibet has the cleanest air on earth and the cleanest water in the rivers. In addition, it seems to me that the people who live there are the most extraordinary. I have been to the 'roof of the world', as Tibet is also called, at least 20 times. I lived there for a long time in ordinary Tibetan families, collected cow dung in the morning,

cleaned the sheepfold, grazed cattle, threshed barley, and at the same time took photographs, drafts, painted sketches. As you may have guessed, this region inspires me a lot," Han Yuchen starts a tour.

Sacred Sangju Lake

— I painted this picture in 2011. The lake is a special place for Tibet, the locals believe that the lake water can grant cleansing, healing, and even predict the future. Sangju is located at an altitude of 5000 metres above sea level. Once I was admiring the landscape on the shore and saw how a woman scooped up water from the lake with a bucket in the rays of the setting sun and slowly returned home, shimmering in some ultramarine, almost surreal colours. I had 15 minutes to capture this extraordinary glow of nature and then convey all the riot of colours on canvas.

Han Yuchen became interested in oil painting at the age of 14, but did not have the opportunity to receive a classical academic education. However, whenever possible, he did not miss drawing courses from famous masters. So, once he was lucky enough to become a student of Professor Su Gaoli. By the way, Su is a student of the Soviet artist Konstantin Melnikov. "I still clearly remember how during the whole course young Han asked a lot of questions about art, his want for learning made a deep impression on me," Su Gaoli recalled. Han Yuchen considers the famous painter Zhang Wenxing, who is a follower of the Soviet master Konstantin Maksimov, to be his second teacher.

"We all learned from the Soviet Union at that time," Han Yuchen says with a smile.



Brother and Sister

— Tibetan children collect bull dung to dry and use instead of brushwood for cooking. In my opinion, this pair of children is a pure example of harmony in nature.

I dedicated this picture to all the people of labour who live a real life every day.

The Images of China exhibition will run at the National Art Museum until May 1st. Everyone who dreamed of visiting Tibet, but did not have time yet, will find a piece of their dreams in the works of the Chinese artist. Each large-scale painting by Han Yuchen reflects the clear spiritual world of the Tibetans, their beautiful measured life. Perhaps, after this exhibition, the problems of the modern metropolis will seem to you somewhat far-fetched, and life in the city — a little bland.



Nima

"I want to donate this work called Nima to the collection of the National Art Museum as a token of my great gratitude for today's exhibition in Minsk," Han Yuchen says.

— In Tibet, there is the Ali Region — the most colourful natural area, which is even higher than all other parts. Just look at the smile of this woman Nima, I painted her portrait in 2011. Her smile symbolises my friendly and respectful attitude towards Belarusians.



Endless Beautiful Grass

— Autumn in Tibet is a gorgeous time that gives the look a golden colour without impurities. Once, at dawn, I spotted this shepherdess with her flock and suddenly realised: reality is so beautiful that it does not even need to be constructed. They are the perfect combination on their own.



On the Worship Way

"This family of Tibetans walked to the temple for half a year, overcoming various hardships on their way. But every minute they praised their gods. The woman in the centre of this painting asks a higher power to save her mother from illness. Through this story, I want to tell people that true faith helps us overcome any obstacles and sanctifies our path, no matter how difficult it may be," the artist sincerely admires their strength of faith.

By the way, it was this painting that won the bronze medal at the Salon d'Automne in Paris in 2014.



Portal to the world of sports

Belteleradiocompany launched a new global project

Today it seems that Belarus 5 TV channel has always been there. Over ten years of work on the air, managers and journalists of specialised sports TV have turned from modest but ambitious debutants of broadcasting into seasoned pros and real masters of their craft: author's programmes, live broadcasts from the world's largest tournaments, creative projects — the content is huge and fits every taste. But there can never be too much sport, Belteleradiocompany decided and presented another powerful idea: a new Internet portal SPORT5.BY was launched a week ago, the goals and objectives of which are to become the main news aggregator and supplier of exclusive information for fans not only in our country, but also abroad.

By Sergei Kanashits

The idea of the project was clearly outlined by Chairman of the Belteleradiocompany Ivan Eismont, "We have a large sports editorial office at the Television News Agency, we have the well-known Belarus 5 TV channel with a solid broadcast volume. However, having a gigantic amount of filmed and listened to material, a huge amount of interviews and exclusive information, to our great regret, we could only give a small part of all this. So the idea arose to create a specialised sports Internet portal. Everything will be represented on SPORT5.BY. This will enable fans to get a huge amount of a wide variety of information."

The world does not stand still, but flies forward at an incredible speed. Remember the classic saying: 'Over time, television is going to change the world and in twenty years there will be no books or theatre or movies, only TV'. With some adjustments, this is approximately what happened, only 'only TV' gradually spilled over into digital format: now it is watched not on large screens and in easy chairs, but literally on the go — on tablets and phones. SPORT5.BY keeps up with the times in this respect.

A significant advantage of the new website over other similar ones is the ability to receive unique video content for free: two built-in players allow one to watch Belarus 5 TV channel and Belarus 5. Internet TV channel broadcasts.

This is an important, but by no means the only trump card of the emerging media resource. There are others. Information content, for example. The abun-



Chief Editor of the SPORT5.BY website Nikolai Stulo

dance of exclusive materials, insiders and reliable facts promises to become a recognisable feature of SPORT5.BY.

"An editorial team has been created, there are specialists who are exclusively involved in this project. But this, of course, is not all. About forty commentators and journalists work on the Belarus 5 TV channel, and a dozen more in Television News Agency sports



Director General of the Belarus 5 TV channel Pavel Bulatsky and Chairman of the Belteleradiocompany Ivan Eismont

news. In total — fifty professionals regularly attend competitions, have unique information and insiders! But there was no way to broadcast it all, because there was not enough format. Now the guys will be full-fledged SPORT5.BY journalists. Not on a permanent basis, but in the form of exclusive news providers, blog authors, and so on," Ivan Eismont shows the

A huge network of professional correspondents, which works at almost all sports grounds and press conferences, records long interviews and brief first-hand comments on hot topics — an undeniable advantage of the new resource over competitors. Chief Editor of the website Nikolai Stulo is confident that SPORT5.BY will become a platform that will bring together all the voluminous sports potential of Belteleradiocompany. The logistics of the website is well thought out, it is convenient and simple — everything is in sight, you will not get lost. Here the programme guide is at hand, and the rubricator for sports: football, hockey, biathlon, Olympic and other sports. Many exclusive interviews, there is an international agenda. Another amazing bonus for visitors is archived video. Belteleradiocompany's reserves

of this information treasure are truly inexhaustible — a great opportunity to plunge into the past and once again recall the best and brightest moments in the history of Belarusian sports. It is unlikely that you will be able to get such content anywhere else. Or, to be more precise, nowhere at all.

Polls, contests, statistics — all this will be gradually built into the structure of the website, it will grow, improve and develop in real time. And the three pillars of modern high-quality journalism will be at the forefront: efficiency, reliability and exclusivity.

As Ivan Eismont noted, news on SPORT5.BY will often appear earlier than on television. So welcome to all the fans: come in, read and find out. Thus, another great player has appeared on the Belarusian media market.

Strong character — bright performance!

The main competitions of next summer have a logo and a mascot

By Sergei Kanashits

The 2nd CIS Games, which will be held from August 4th to August 14th, will become the main sporting event of this year for Belarus. The opening and closing ceremonies of the sports forum will take place on Minsk Arena, and competitions will be held throughout the country — tournaments in 20 sports will be hosted by 11 cities: in addition to the capital, these are Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Mogilev, Borisov, Soligorsk, Orsha, Molodechno and Zhlobin. About 5,000 athletes are expected in Belarus alone, and there will also be coaching staff, attendants, journalists and fans

from different countries. Thus, a grand forum is coming.

In most of the sports represented at the Games, youth and the nearest reserve of the main teams will perform. The audience will have a unique opportunity to see a huge scattering of talents in one place and at one time. However, fans will also be able to see true stars. Sambists Aleksandr Koksha and Anfisa Kapayeva, weightlifters Eduard Ziaziulin and Yauheni Tsikhantsou, charming graces Alina Harnasko and Anastasiia Salos will excel. For sure, the beach soccer team of Belarus will give you a sea of adrenaline and drive — it is a sparkling and bright team.

There are more than three

months before the start of the 2nd CIS Games left, but the preparations are already in full swing. According to Deputy Sport and Tourism Minister Aleksandr Baraulya, the mascot and logo of the Games have been developed with the active participation of the NOC of Belarus and are now being presented to the public. The cornflower is clearly visible in the stylisation of the logo — our national flower, a symbol of hospitality and friendliness. The following expression was chosen as the motto of the future stadiums: 'Strong in Spirit, Strong in Game!', after all, any victory gives unforgettable emotions, but is impossible without the manifestation of an iron will.



The mascot of the Games was an original Belarusian lynx named Rysia. An agile and fast beast, possessing intelligence and a sharp mind — all the qualities that a true champion should have. The introduced design solution is also noteworthy — the patterns on the body of the lynx are made



in the style of Malyavankas.

There will be free entrance to all arenas, which, you see, is also an important factor. It has long been known with what cordiality Belarus is able to receive guests. So this time there is no doubt: it will be noisy, interesting and very sincere.



BELTA

Photo of the week

Spring day. Starlings

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

April 22nd is International Mother Earth Day. It was proclaimed by the resolution of the UN General Assembly on April 22nd, 2009. The Earth and its ecosystems are our home. They provide life for humanity. Therefore, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and planet Earth in order to achieve a fair balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of current and future generations.



On April 23rd, 1793, the central part of the Belarusian lands was reunited with Russia as a result of the second division of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Minsk Governorate was created by decree of the Senate. It ceased to exist in 1921, when part of the territory of the governorate, except for Bobruisk, Borisov, Igumen, Minsk, Mozyr, Slutsk Uyezds, became part of Poland.

April 23rd is World Book and Copyright Day. It was proclaimed at the 28th session of the General Conference of UNESCO on November 15th, 1995 in memory of the three geniuses of world literature: William Shakespeare



(1564-1616), Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616) and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. (1539-1616). The decision to establish this Day was made with the aim of enlightenment, the development of awareness of cultural traditions, and also taking into account the fact that books are the greatest means of disseminating knowledge as well as the most reliable way to preserve it.



April 23rd is UN English Language Day, commemorative date of the United Nations. It was established during the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995.

The United Nations has allocated six days in the calendar — one for each of the official languages. The purpose of the new holidays is to strengthen the traditions of multilingualism in the world. The date of the celebration of the English language — April 23 — was the birthday of William Shakespeare — the great English poet, writer, the most famous playwright in the world.

On April 24th, 1903, a Belarusian architect Lev Matskevich was born. Among his works are: general layouts for Orsha, Polotsk, Yakub Kolas Square

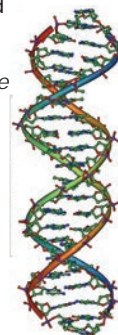


in Minsk, Independence Avenue, a detailed planning project for Minsk until 2000. He died in 1968.



On April 25th, 1883, Semyon Budyonny was born (1883-1973), a Soviet military leader, Marshal of the Soviet Union, three times Hero of the Soviet Union. Member of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. During the Russian Civil War, the commander of the cavalry corps and the 1st Cavalry Army. During the years 1941-1942 of Great Patriotic War — Commander-in-Chief of the troops of the South-Western and North Caucasian directions, commander of the Reserve and North Caucasian Fronts.

April 25th is DNA Day. That day in 1953 scientists James Watson and Francis Crick, together with Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin, published the results of a study of the structure of the DNA molecule in the *Nature* journal. The discovery of the DNA helix was revolutionary for science. Thanks to the discovery of DNA, the code of heredity was revealed, the genetic risk was identified, the formation of the programmed properties of the body began, heredity is being healed, and genetic engineering technologies are being created.



April 25th is World Penguin Day, calling on people to remember the need to preserve the animal diversity of our planet in general and the diversity of its individual regions and representatives in particular. The penguin can be safely called one of the symbols of Antarctica.



On April 25th, 1792, execution by guillotine was introduced in France. There is a belief that its inventor is the French doctor Joseph Guillotin. But he only achieved the introduction of a new form of execution instead of a more cruel one. The use of the guillotine was banned only in 1981, when the death penalty was abolished in France.

April 26th is the Day of the Chernobyl tragedy in the Republic of Belarus. It is a national day of mourning. On April 26th, 1986, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant became a symbol of the largest man-made disaster in the history of mankind. At the fourth power unit of the station there was a powerful explosion, equivalent to 500 Hiroshima bombs. There was a radioactive contamination of the territory of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation with a total area of more than 200,000 square kilometres.

