



Improvement  
of the remote-  
controlled  
BELAZ  
trucks  
continues

8



On the eve of the  
century of the birth  
of Mikhail Savitsky,  
we recall the main  
works of this  
legendary master

9

INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 7 (917) ● THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 ● WWW.SB.BY



Hanna Huskova brought Belarus the second medal of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games, winning a silver medal in Women's Aerials

## Flying up like a rocket

The final score of 107.95 is fantastic! The delight! The miracle! Hanna Huskova turned out to be a real magician, an artist, a professional with a capital letter, giving the country a miracle that not everyone believed in. Her decisive jump was beautiful, and it was not even the fine skill of the athlete that impressed us more, but her character and iron will. A backbone that allowed her to go through with honour and dignity all the difficulties and injuries that have befallen her since the triumph in Pyeongchang-2018, where Huskova won the gold medal. Our freestyle is again with a medal: starting from Nagano-1998, Belarusian freestylers have constantly climbed the Olympic podium — seven Games in a row! → 11



9 771991 297007 2 20 07



# ‘The people will make the right choice’

On the eve of the referendum on amendments and additions to the Constitution, tremendous work has already been done. It was honest, transparent, and open. Now it is up to every citizen to come to the polling station and express their final opinion. It was the preparation and holding of the referendum that became the main topic on the agenda of the Security Council meeting. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, *“I am sure that the people will make the right choice, a thoughtful and wise choice, in the upcoming referendum. It will be up to the people to decide. We have conveyed the essence of the amendments to the people and put the country’s fate in the hands of the Belarusian people. Let them make a choice.”*

## Safety is a top priority

Speaking of the referendum procedure, the President emphasised the importance of the institution of a referendum for the formation and strengthening of the Belarusian statehood and stressed,

*“In the history of sovereign, independent Belarus, it played a crucial role three times. The time has come now to strengthen the Basic Law with provisions that will ensure Belarus’ development in the face of new challenges and threats to our statehood. Moreover, new dangers will be constantly arising.”*

In confirmation of his words, the President recalled the recent events in Kazakhstan — naming them another alarm signal for us, Russia, other post-Soviet countries, and others.

The upcoming campaign will not be an exception.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that pressure on Belarus in various areas won’t stop, “They planned a ‘colour revolution’ in the centre of Europe but received a failed rebellion. American experts and political scientists (who have any authority there) called it ‘an unsuccessful attempt at an unconstitutional coup’.

*“By the way, huge money was invested in this ‘unsuccessful attempt’. According to our calculations alone (what we were able to track), the sum is over \$6 billion. This is an exorbitant price for Belarus. Those who have failed to work off this money will try to shake up people again.”*



day shouldn’t worry. We don’t have the situation today that we had in 2020, and we can protect everyone. This is our sacred duty. God forbid, they touch at least one person — you know what will happen.”

The President noted that the provocations may also be staged

*stability and further development of the country are the personal responsibility of each person for the fate of the country and collective immunity to the manipulation of public consciousness.*

Undoubtedly, the vertical of power, the economic bloc, and law enforcement agencies need to take additional measures to ensure the safety and peaceful life of people in the coming period.”

I do not think that innovation will affect a significant number of our citizens. Apparently, these are only a few of the so-called ‘fugitives’. Unfortunately, there are such people. There will be something to think about for those who intend to harm their country, people, economy, and then to hide abroad.”

\*\*\*

Head of the Belarus President Administration Igor Sergeenko later in a conversation with journalists noted that at the meeting considerable attention was paid to security issues at all stages of preparation and holding of the referendum. Igor Sergeenko emphasised, “Commissions have already been formed and started their work in accordance with the Central Elections Commission calendar plan. Constructive and calm work is underway.

*Today we feel the feedback, the interest of the majority, the overwhelming part of the population in the referendum, in its results, and in personal participation. To cast your vote means to give it for the future of the country, children, and all fellow countrymen.”*



The Head of State drew attention to the fact that even before the plebiscite was held, the West did not like its possible outcomes in advance, “You are well aware that all referendums and elections were not accepted there even before they were held. Just remember how it was in the past: we hadn’t launched a campaign yet, and they had already crossed it out. They didn’t like anything. It will be exactly the same now.

The President made a special emphasis on the fact that members of election commissions of various levels become the main target of destructive forces.

“We agreed that these people should be protected in every possible way and the law enforcement agencies received the corresponding instructions. Recently, our Interior Minister spoke about this. Those who are engaged in state affairs to-

aiming to expose our country to additional sanctions or even blackmail via military means, “It has already begun. Helicopters, drones, shooting at border signs, crossing our border on foot. The deployment of NATO troops in Europe — previously declared as temporary — has already become permanent. This buildup is even expanding.

*Under these conditions, the main means of ensuring*

## Themis knows no boundaries

The Investigative Committee proposes to introduce into the criminal process the so-called trial in absentia for criminal cases against defendants who are beyond the border of Belarus. This issue is on the agenda of the Security Council meeting and the innovation is supposed to be extended to those who have committed or are committing especially dangerous crimes provided for by the national legislation of Belarus. Addressing the participants of the meeting, President Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “Such approaches have long been practiced in many countries, including European states.

# Reshuffle

Andrei Ivanets, former Chief Scientific Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, was appointed Minister of Education. He is 37 years old, however, according to the President, age is no obstacle.

“They say, ‘young’, ‘young’... I became President at almost the same age.

*Today, we live in compressed times, you have to be on the go. And this mix — the experienced and the young generation — tomorrow, they will take over the country, lead it and be responsible for all processes. Therefore, minister by 40 is normal.”*

Igor Brylo (former First Deputy Minister) was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Food. The President gave him important advice — not to adapt to anyone.

“Our governors are very strong ‘whales’. Their corps is now stronger than ever. First of all, you will have to work and share powers and responsibilities with them [with this or that governor]. You already know this very well — what is yours and what is theirs. So, the requirements must be strict and fundamental.”

Former Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces — Chief of the Central

## The President made a number of important personnel decisions: in Belarus, there are two new ministers and updates in the executive power system, in the diplomatic corps, and in the media

Operations Office Pavel Muraveiko also got a promotion. He was appointed First Deputy State Secretary of the Security Council. As Aleksandr Lukashenko said, he will have to exercise serious control over the activities of the army.

Speaking about the current situation on the external contour of Belarus, the President expressed confidence that there would be no hot war.

“On everyone’s lips now, there is ‘military’, ‘military’, ‘military’... Maybe, they say, we have gone too far with these military terms. Well, why should we remain silent? So that later, if something sudden-

ly happens, the people would ask us where we had been and why we had not told them...

*I am just convinced that there will be no hot war. We are too used to comfort. And getting out of your comfort zone and going to a war... If some crazed Nazis in Ukraine do not organise a provocation, we will not fight; we have not arrived at this war.”*

Aleksandr Lukashenko appointed new ambassadors to Hungary, Georgia, and Vietnam.

“I am not going to tell you what global tasks we have to solve. I will only say that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seri-

ously owes the country... Therefore, the task has been set that we, God forbid, never stumble over these things again.”

The President agreed to the appointment of Sergei Aleinik as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Yuri Ambrazevich and Igor Nazaruk became new deputies of the head of the Foreign Ministry.

Aleksandr Osenko, former Director of the Novopolotsk Cable Television ‘Vector’, was approved for the position of Director General of CJSC ‘Stolichnoye Televideniye’.

**Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by**



# Serious reforms ahead of the Ministry of Emergencies of Belarus



The Ministry of Emergency Situations will become a full-fledged power structure. Its functionality will be optimised. Main results of the report to the President on reforming the structure of the Ministry of Emergencies.

In acute situations, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus can be involved in the direct protection of the state and society. Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that the personnel of the Ministry of Emergencies demonstrates a high level of professionalism and training.

*“The officers of the Ministry of Emergencies are strong guys. And not only guys. I have very serious respect for them. Wherever they are, no matter how they try to show themselves, they are one of the best. If not the best.”*

“All officers of the Ministry of Emergencies, especially headed by the current minister, want to be a security agency. To enter a security agency. And we consider them as such. But to be a power officer, one must be proficient with weapons,” the President added.

Speaking about the prospect of arming the officers of the Ministry of Emergencies, Aleksandr Lukashenko said,

*“My order was that we decided which unit of the Ministry of Emergencies would be armed. Who are the guys and girls there to carry firearms and be exceptionally trained?”*



The President explained the need for this decision, “We cannot have 200,000–300,000 Armed Forces in a small, compact country. We cannot — permanent ones. We agreed that the strength of our Armed Forces would be 65,000. This is where we stopped.

*“But if a conflict or, God forbid, war occurs, will the strong and reliable officers of the Ministry of Emergencies stay away? No. They will not only put out fires. They are rescuers, and their second function is to stand up for the defense*

*of our Motherland in an emergency (H-hour). To do this, one needs to be able to handle weapons.”*

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the attitude towards reforming the Ministry of Emergencies should be balanced,

*“The reforms must be approached rationally and thoughtfully. It is necessary to remove the functions that have become obsolete, that we do not need.”*

Later, Emergencies Minister Vadim Sinyavsky told reporters about arming

the officers of the Ministry of Emergencies in more detail. The Ministry began to work on this issue last August when the President set the relevant task. During this time, the necessary changes to the legislation have been introduced; the personnel is being trained, and buildings and structures for storing equipment and weapons are being prepared.

According to Vadim Sinyavsky, the number of emergency rescue units of the Ministry of Emergencies will not change,

*“We are talking about additional training of people. In every district, in every region, we are forming reserves that will be trained to act in situations associated with riots in peacetime. In wartime, they will be trained to act in situations associated with the elimination of problems that may arise.”*

In peacetime, the reserve formed will, if necessary, act together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs; in case of a military threat, it will act together with the military personnel of the Ministry of Defence.

Based on materials of [sb.by](#) and [belta.by](#)

## Children and women were cruelly killed

Details of the shocking press conference of soldier Emil Czczko

**“On the territory of Poland, in the dead of night, hundreds of refugees, including women and children, were shot. They begged for mercy, but their cries were an empty sound for the Polish border guards,” Polish soldier Emil Czczko, who fled to Belarus in December last year to tell the world about the inhuman acts of his former colleagues said at a press conference in Minsk. The young Pole gave many names and facts, listed testimonies and details.**

By [Darya Gotovko](#)

### First mass shooting

On June 6th, 2021, on the orders of Colonel Mateusz Kuyavsky, Emil Czczko appeared at his military unit, where the commander of the 2nd division held a brief training with Emil and his colleagues, during which he said that he and other military personnel would be transferred to the border to help patrol the territory. Emil and his colleagues were ordered to take weapons and equipment. Together with the Polish soldier were his comrades: Kamil Karwowski, Martin Popyak, and Tomek Rojek. Emil says, “There was nothing, no warning. There were no preconditions of the events that happened to me later. The border guards treated us kindly. Soon we stopped at a gas station, where the border guards offered us a beer — I was surprised, but did not pay attention to this.”

According to Emil, soon after returning to the camp, one of the border guards said ironical-

ly: ‘Are you in a good mood? You won’t have it for long.’ Therefore, on the morning of June 8th, one of the border guards showed Czczko an ID of the military counterintelligence service. It was this department, as the soldier later realised, that led the mass executions.

Soon, Emil and his colleagues saw a man who was running through the forest, they were ordered to catch him. He brought the man to their SUV. When Emil was taking his gun from the back seat of the car, he heard a sharp sound, a gunshot. According to Emil, the border guard killed this man, then brought out a roll of cash from the refugee’s pocket and took the money.

*Then the border guard shouted at Emil and his comrades and ordered to dig a hole for the dead, 125-150 meters from the road. When he dug up the hole and returned to the car, he saw how the border guards were pulling some kind of bag. The young man saw that it was a corpse.*

Emil also spoke in detail about his first mass execution, where he was directly involved, “On June 9th, I took part in the first mass execution. When it got dark, our Land Rover stopped in the forest. One of the border guards ordered us to go towards the light of another car, where we saw a group of migrants. They stood around the pit while a truck was parked near it. My colleagues from the military unit were standing next to the vehicle. The border guards, aiming at our heads, ordered us to shoot people. After we shot the first group, we were ordered to shoot the second group. Afterward, we got into our Land Rover and left for some point of the border guards, where we were told that we needed to clean our weapons. Then we returned to our location.

*The refugees could be divided into two groups: those who meekly accepted their fate and were silent before being shot, and those who, after what they saw, begged not to kill them. They were scream-*



Emil Czczko

*ing and begging for mercy. Nobody was listening.”*

### Why is the European community ignoring the situation?

The next days of this hell, as Czczko said, were no different from the previous ones. Every day till June 18th, he had to shoot groups of refugees of 20 people each, and then they were treated to 6-8 cans of beer. Already on June 19th, Emil saw that there were clearly more people in the next pit than they had shot before.

*Emil tried to talk about it with his colleagues in the unit. During their conversation, a colleague claimed that one pit could accommodate up to 72 people. Up to 700 people might have been killed in the course of 10 days that Emil was on the border.*

After these events, Emil felt a strong emotional shock, because not every person’s psyche is able to withstand all that horror, “I will never take up arms again in my life. If we talk about

further experiences and consequences, then after that I began to drink a lot.”

The situation in which Emil found himself is still openly ignored by the European authorities, in particular the Polish government — Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. However, Emil is sure that they knew about what was happening at the border, but did nothing, which means that they are the same killers as everyone who took part in the executions.

In addition, at a press conference, human rights activist Vusal Jafarov announced that now there is a complete blockade by Western media, “The Czczko incident is a sensitive nerve for international organisations. If they continue to remain silent, it will be a real disaster. In addition, we have information that the British and American media have been banned from talking about it. Now we are trying to break through the blockade through other media, including Turkish ones.”



# Updating the Constitution

The Draft Basic Law incorporates the best and most relevant, while at the same time designed for the future perspective

By Maksim Osipov

There are 10 days left before the main political event of the year and less than a week before the start of early voting,

which is traditionally used by part of the country's population. More than 50 responses and opinions reflected in the pages of our newspaper leaves no doubt:

Belarusians are fully aware, of not only the political importance, but also the historical significance of the upcoming referendum. Therefore, today we will look back and re-

call which proposals by citizens are taken into account in the draft Constitution, submitted for a referendum, and which have so far been recognised as inappropriate.

During the nationwide discussion, the text of the draft Constitution (from December 27th, 2021 to January 20th, 2022):



• was viewed **227,044 times** on the National Legal Internet Portal



• was downloaded **10,189 times** for viewing on mobile devices

The content of the draft caused:



• **8,919 opinions** and suggestions



• **20 letters** from labour collectives (from the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, the MAZ trade union, employees of the National Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian State

Archive-Museum of Literature and Art, the Klimovichi regional organisation Belarusian Public Association of Veterans and other structures)

Thematic blocks around which the generalised additions and changes made to the Constitution are grouped:

• preservation of the identity of the Belarusian people, its value matrix and historical memory



• preservation and development of the foundations of the welfare state

• formation of a socially responsible society



• ensuring political stability in the conditions of development of the political system and its institutions

• creation of constitutional guarantees of social and technological development for the benefit of people, society, and the state



President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:

*"I decided to go for a large-scale discussion of the proposed amendments in order to get feedback, an opinion of experts, company executives, ordinary people, including civil servants, labour collectives and organisations. I have been told that the proposed amendments raised keen interest. The very process of the constitutional reform and the forthcoming referendum is of interest to the public. People from all walks of life got involved in the dialogue."*

(January 18th, 2022 during a meeting following the nationwide discussion of the draft amendments to the Constitution.)

## IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

• In article 18 of the draft, it was decided to retain the provision **on the exclusion of military aggression from its territory against other states**. This provision consolidates the status of Belarus as a country adhering to a peaceful foreign policy.

• **The deletion of the neutrality clause** should be considered in the same context. In times of growing geopolitical confrontation, which is of a long-term sustainable nature, it has become obvious that achieving a neutral political status in the short term is unrealistic.

• **The provision on the non-nuclear status of our country has been excluded**. In the light of the commissioning of the Belarusian NPP, the planned further active development of nuclear energy, this item has lost its relevance.

• There was a proposal to formulate article 24, which

enshrines the right to life, as follows: **'Abolish the death penalty or introduce a moratorium and replace it with life imprisonment'**. However, the majority of the population does not share this idea: according to a large-scale opinion poll conducted at the end of 2021 among more than ten thousand employees of enterprises, institutions, and organisations, only about seven percent support the abolition of the death penalty.

• It is decided that article 32, which defines marriage as the union of a woman and a man, **should not be specified with the wording 'by birth'**. There is a position of the legal and medical community, according to which in our country citizens who have proven the need to change their sex for relevant medical reasons have the right to do so. Such surgeries are exceptional, with only 22 surgeries performed in five years.

## Polling station opening hours:



Early voting — from 22nd to 26th February

Voting on referendum day — 27th February



The referendum is held by universal, free, equal, and secret ballot



• Citizens of Belarus who have reached 18 years of age have the right to participate in the referendum

• Each referendum participant votes in person



For the referendum there is only one question :

'Do you accept amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus?'

There are two answers on the ballot:

FOR  AGAINST



# More than 100 international observers accredited to monitor the referendum



As of February 14th, 101 foreign (international) observers have been accredited to observe the course of the Republican referendum. This information was provided by the CEC. The CIS observation mission consists of 92 observers, of them 14 observers were sent by the CIS

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and 8 observers were accredited by the central election commissions of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Tajikistan, moreover, 1 observer was sent by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Domestic observation is organised

similarly to the previous election campaign. Up to 40,000 people with a reserve will work as observers during the Nationwide referendum. They will be traditionally coordinated by the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus. The process of sending observers is still ongoing.

## First cases of threats against members of election commissions registered in Belarus

**The first cases of threats against members of election commissions have been registered in Belarus — as BelTA was reported by the Central Election Commission (CEC)**

The police officers are conducting an investigation.

“We already went through this in 2020, when members of polling stations, ordinary teachers, doctors, and labour teams received threatening

messages. The actions of our western opponents during this electoral campaign were quite expected. It was just a matter of time when they will start to cross the red line and run into the same trap. All these threats are sent with one

aim: to put psychological pressure on the members of the election commissions and prevent free expression of citizens’ will during the voting in the referendum,” said CEC Chairman Igor Karpenko.

### OPINION



**Igor Lutsky: only patriotic people able to preserve sovereignty of the country**

At the recent collegium of the Culture Ministry, Deputy Head of the Belarus President Administration, Igor Lutsky, paid special attention to the fact that all candidates for career advancement, state awards or incentives, alongside professional competence, must have an

**impeccable character and a strong civic position while ensuring healthy employee morale in the teams entrusted to them**

“Only patriotic people can preserve the sovereignty and independence of the country. You see how the situation is being escalated along the outer contours. Even for me — a person who has been working in the information sphere for more than a dozen years — this pressure is unpleasant. No one intimidates anyone, but if we do not instil a sense of responsibility, involvement in what is happening in the country among young people, nothing good will happen. Young people will pack up and leave. And there will be no what we have been fighting for all these 25-30 years: our Belarus,” he underlined.

“You should remember that we are working for the benefit of the country. Therefore, I urge once again to carry out work in labour teams dealing with the forthcoming referendum. We must unitedly respond to all challenges and threats by participating in voting and adopting amendments and additions to the current Constitution.”

**‘To the question of the President about the readiness to pay for the security of the state, my personal answer is simple: I am ready’**

**As always, the sincere and emotional Address of the President this year is different in that the Head of State asked the Belarusian people three questions that were not rhetorical, but the most topical. It is impossible not to answer them if you are a citizen and patriot of your country. Sergey Shesternev, Head of the Gorodok District Inspectorate of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection admits,**



“As a father of two children, the question of the Belarusian leader about whether citizens are ready to pay for the defence of the state could not leave me indifferent. My personal answer is yes, I am ready! First of all, because I want to sleep a peaceful sleep, turn on the news without an anxious thought: ‘What if war comes tomorrow...’ Today, when the overall geopolitical situation is extremely tense, it is important to know that real professionals stand guard over our borders and interests. If necessary, they are able

to give a tough response to all hostilities. Thanks to this, I am sure that my family and loved ones are always under reliable protection. The peaceful sky is priceless! And this should be understood by each of us.”

**Gennady Davydko: referendum to demonstrate the unity of Belarusians**

The referendum on amendments to the Constitution will be a demonstration of the unity of the Belarusians, Gennady Davydko, Chairman of the Belaya Rus public association, told ONT TV channel, BelTA reports

“The point is not even that we will come and vote for our newest history, for our new future. The point is how joyfully we will come, and how we will feel an act of unity, voting for this Constitution This will demonstrate our unity, and not just the adoption of a new document,” said Mr. Davydko. In his opinion, people are ready to vote for the amendments to the Basic Law, because it enshrined the main value of the Belarusians: a strong sovereign and socially oriented state. “These are just gold bars that every person understands not on paper but in real life,” underlined the Chairman of Belaya Rus.



**‘Early voting is a good tradition for my family’**

The nationwide referendum, which will adopt amendments and additions to the Constitution, is scheduled for February 27th. Igor Soroka, the Chairman of the Board of the Dribin District Consumer Society, is one of those who are ready to express their position before the generally established date.

“During the elections, I am responsible for the organisation of trade at the polling stations; there are eleven of them in our district. My daughter — also an employee of the district consumer society — will work at the site

in the agro-town of Ryasno. Therefore, we will vote early,” Igor Soroka explains his decision. “Early voting is already a good tradition for my family. In 2020, I also made my choice in advance, as I was an observer at a polling station in the agro-town of Pudovnya. In general, I am sure that it is everyone’s duty to come to a referendum and make a choice for an updated Constitution. We talked about this during dialogue platforms, and I never feel tired of reminding my colleagues about this. We all understand that amendments to the Basic Law are dictated by the time itself and are vital. I stand for the preservation of historical truth and the memory of the heroic deed of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War, for patriotism, and for the fact that Belarus excludes military aggression against other states. We are a peace-loving nation, but if aggression is shown against us, the response will be symmetrical and adequate; we will defend our independence and sovereignty. I stand for further development of our socially oriented state. I stand for the fact that, as the President noted, the updated Constitution ‘will reveal the reserves of creation in all spheres of our public life’.





# External aggression will be resisted

What is the purpose of the West escalating the situation near our borders and what will be the response of Belarus and Russia

By Yevgeny Kononovich

On February 10th, the joint Belarusian-Russian exercises Allied Resolve 2022 started in our country. They will last until February 20th and will be the culmination of the test of the regional response force of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, which began in mid-January. What is the peculiarity of these manoeuvres, what forces and means are involved in them, and what do the military and experts think about these exercises?



**Aleksandr Lukashenko:**

**Our army is compact, manoeuvrable, combat-ready. We will strengthen its power. Rocket production, the creation of unmanned aircraft, small arms and ammunition, modern means of communication and automation, military optics, and other products of the Belarusian military industry have already been produced en masse. We will buy the missing because this is especially important amid current events.**

*(From the Address to Belarusian People and the National Assembly, January 28th, 2022)*

Near the borders of the Union State, flights of NATO strategic bombers have become more frequent, and these are not one-off incidents. Up to 30 such flights are recorded daily. According to experts, this means that the NATO Air Force is testing the potential use of cruise missiles, including those with nuclear warheads.

*There are already talks of the deployment of nuclear weapons carriers in neighbouring states.*

Overseas eagles and their accomplices in Europe frighten people with mythical threats from the East. And under this pretext, an accelerated militarisation of the region is being carried out. They have especially succeeded in Ukraine, where they have already delivered more than a thousand (!) tonnes of weapons. The country is deliberately dragged into the NATO hornet's nest under loud statements about Russia's allegedly impending invasion of Ukrainian territory.

They organised a special operation *Polesie* on the sly in Ukraine, moving up to 10 thousand military personnel to the Belarusian borders. Moreover, Kyiv shamelessly arranges extreme provocations against our country. The incident with the Ukrainian recon drone that violated the state border on January 24th and was performing a flight mission in the area of the Brestsky training ground was the third since November 2021.



## Chief of the General Staff of Belarusian Armed Forces, First Deputy Defence Minister Viktor Gulevich:

*In the course of working out the scenario of the readiness test we took into account an analysis of the events, which happened around our country in 2020. We took into account all the unfriendly messages and the unjustified concentration of troops as well as the development of the crisis situation in Kazakhstan. The recent events in Kazakhstan demonstrated the increased role of collective military and political unions in ensuring the national security of countries. **The exercise, which will be held as part of the test, will be purely defensive and will present no threat to the European community as a whole and to neighbouring countries in particular.** It will allow improving the procedure for jointly using the defensive infrastructure in practice and will allow checking the readiness and the ability of designated forces to carry out missions.*

## Tensions simmer

What has been happening in recent months on the western and southern borders of Belarus defies any explanation. The aggression of the US and its satellites in Western and Eastern Europe is off the scale. According to the latest data, more than 30 thousand military personnel are concentrated in Poland and the Baltic countries near the Belarusian borders. And this is not the limit.

*Recently, the United States began the transfer of additional troops to Europe. Earlier, the Pentagon announced its readiness to send about 1,000 troops from Germany to Romania and about 2,000 more to Poland.*

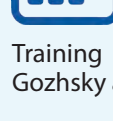


Egor Ermalitskiy

## MILITARY EXERCISES ALLIED RESOLVE 2022



**Date**  
from February 10th to 20th



**Location.**  
Training grounds: Obuz-Lesnovsky, Osipovichsky, Brestsky, Gozhsky and Domanovsky

**Airfields:** Baranovichi, Luninets, Lida, and Machulishchi

### THE EXERCISE WILL DRILL



• reinforcing state border sections in potential areas of illegal penetration of armed groups into Belarus



• shutting down channels of the supply of arms, munitions, and other means that can be used to destabilise the situation in the country



• searching for, blocking, and eliminating outlawed armed militants and enemy subversive and reconnaissance groups in the designated areas of responsibility

• special issues of post-conflict settlement



### PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES

Various units of the Belarusian army, as well as units of the Eastern Military District of the Russian Federation, the Aerospace Forces, and the Airborne Forces of the Russian Federation, will take part in the joint manoeuvres. In particular, air defence squadrons armed with the S-400 Triumf missile systems, Su-35 aircraft, and Pantsir-S missile-artillery systems arrived in Belarus.



## MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVOLVED IN THE ALLIED RESOLVE 2022 EXERCISES

Dozens of types of modern military equipment are used in manoeuvres on the territory of Belarus. Let's talk about some of them.

### S-400 Triumph missile system

An anti-aircraft missile system of a new generation was created on the basis of the existing Russian S-300 systems, while the tactical and technical capabilities have been significantly improved. It is outwardly similar to the previous model so that the enemy could not recognise which system was opposing it. The S-400 air defence system is capable of effectively hitting strategic and tactical aircraft, ballistic missiles flying at speeds up to 4.8 km/s at various altitudes, and other air attack weapons at ranges up to 400 km. This system has no analogues in the world today.



### Su-35 aircraft

Its distinctive features are a new avionics complex based on the OLS-35 infra-red search and track system. The new radar station is capable of detecting targets at a distance of up to 400 km and tracking up to 30 air targets simultaneously. The aircraft also received new engines with increased thrust, a rotary thrust vector, and is capable of speeds up to 2,500 km/h. The Su-35S aircraft can carry air-to-air and air-to-surface guided missiles, unguided rockets, and aerial bombs of various calibres. Flight range — 3,600 km.



### Su-30SM aircraft

The most modern and powerful combat aircraft in the Bela-



rusian Air Force and Air Defence Forces. Supermanoeuvrability is the main distinguishing feature of the Su-30SM, which is capable of performing impossible turns and literally hovering in the air. A powerful radar allows it to simultaneously track 15 or more air targets and is also capable of detecting stealth aircraft of the fifth generation.

### Polonez Multiple Launch Rocket System

This multiple launch rocket system is the pride of the Belarusian military-industrial complex. Polonez can hit troops and armoured vehicles with high accuracy at a distance of up to 300 km. The power of this weapon is really impressive. A battery of six combat vehicles is capable of hitting 48 targets in less than a minute. A few states have similar complexes, in particular Russia, China, the USA, and Israel.



### Pantsir-S missile-artillery system

This anti-aircraft missile and the gun system are designed for air defence of small-sized military, including mobile, and administrative-industrial facilities and areas from aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, and high-precision weapons, as well as to strengthen air defence groups when repulsing massive strikes means of air attack. Each combat vehicle can carry up to 12 anti-aircraft missiles with a range of up to 20 km. NATO recognised Pantsir-S as the best system against drones.



### Tor missile system

The Tor-M2 anti-aircraft missile system is designed for air defence of military and government facilities from attacks by aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, anti-radar, and other guided mis-

siles, glide and guided bombs, and unmanned aerial vehicles, within the engagement range of the complex day and night in a complex meteorological and interference conditions. One battery of missile systems can simultaneously track up to 48 targets flying at a speed of 600 m/s at an altitude of up to 10 km.



### BTR-82A

The latest armoured personnel carriers are distinguished by the increased power of weapons and propulsion system, modern means of communication. BTR-82A is capable of destroying ground targets at ranges up to 3,600 m, low-flying air targets (helicopters, drones) — at altitudes up to 2,000 m. Maximum speed on the highway — 80 km/h, afloat — 9 km/h.



### T-72B3 tank

The upgraded vehicles are equipped with a more powerful engine of 1,130 horsepower, as well as an improved weapon system. The tank received a new 125-mm cannon with increased barrel survivability, a new VHF radio station, and a new Sosna-U multi-channel gunner's sight of the Belarusian production of Peleng OJSC. The changes also affected the armour of the tank, which is reinforced with side hull screens with a set of removable modular protection. The new guided weapon system guarantees a high probability of destroying a target from a standstill and on the move at a distance of up to 5 km.



## China against NATO's expansion

**The Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union opposes NATO's expansion and views its efforts that allegedly aim to ensure global security as useless, according to a statement published on the mission's website**

"Thirty years after the end of the Cold War, NATO continues to expand its geographical scope and the range of operations and engages in bloc politics and confrontation. This is not conducive to global security and stability," emphasised the statement.

"We call on NATO to abandon the Cold War mentality and ideological bias, respect the sovereignty, security, interests as well as the diversity of civilisations, history and culture of other countries," continues the document.

It noted that 'NATO is a Cold War remnant', adding that 'China believes that regional security should not be guaranteed by strengthening or expanding military blocs'. According to the statement, NATO should 'do more to increase mutual trust among countries and maintain regional peace and stability'.

Before that, at a press conference in Brussels, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that a joint statement issued by China and Russia following the Beijing meeting of the two leaders should be viewed as an attempt to deny sovereign nations the right to make their own choices, stressing that the alliance's doors remained open.

## Sanctions mean no good

Farmers around the world say they are curtailing production, which means global hunger could worsen on the planet. The rise in prices is dictated by global energy costs, as well as the sanctions of the European Union and the United States against Belarus, which is a major exporter of potash, writes the American newspaper *The Wall Street Journal*.

The price increases stem partly from global energy costs, with the average natural gas price in Europe for the October-December quarter 10 times as much as that for the year of 2020, according to World Bank data.

Major fertiliser producers including China, Turkey, Egypt and Russia also curbed exports in the second half of 2021, further pushing up global prices.

A more recent factor is European Union and US sanctions on Belarus, a major exporter of potash, which is a key ingredient of mineral fertilisers.

"Belarus represents 20 percent of the global production of potash, so clearly they are a significant supplier. If

that part doesn't make it out of Belarus then I don't see anyone ready to turn up the volumes," said Svein Tore Holsether, CEO for Norwegian fertilisers group Yara International ASA, which is one of the world's largest fertiliser producers. Industry experts say fertiliser production in Europe is likely to be constrained as long as natural gas prices remain high there, with shortages in parts of the developing world amplified by trade restrictions in other major fertiliser exporters.

Farmers in the US are also feeling the pinch, with some shifting their planting plans. But the impact is expected to be worse in developing countries

where smallholders have limited access to bank loans and can't pay up front for expensive fertiliser.

"Lower fertiliser use will inevitably weigh on food production and quality, affecting food availability, rural incomes and the livelihoods of the poor," said Josef Schmidhuber, Deputy Director in the Trade and Markets Division of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation.

As the pandemic enters year three, more households are having to cut down on the quantity and quality of food they consume, said the World Bank, noting that high fertiliser prices were adding to costs.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# Giants run on autopilot



Remote-controlled BELAZ trucks have already reached the speed of a mining dump truck with a driver. Improvement of the smart vehicle continues.

Without exaggeration, the Intelligent Quarry project can be named the most technological novelty in the country in the last year. In the middle of 2021, the President was presented with the technologies of crushed stone mining and unmanned operation of domestic mining transport at the Sitnitskoye deposit of Granit RUPE in the Luninets District: 90-tonne BELAZ-7558R dump trucks independently transported tens of tons of rock thanks to artificial intelligence and the fifth-generation mobile communications. It is expected that in the near future, domestic development will change the paradigm of work in quarries, reduce the mining costs and even let reach places where mining was previously considered unprofitable.

## A project with billions of dollars' potential

Autonomous projects with the participation of mining dump trucks and

course, there is no talk of complete independence, but the projects are not so far from it.

In our country, machine-building companies are also actively entering the era of artificial intelligence competition. The Intelligent Quarry project for the use of unmanned mining dump trucks at the Sitnitskoye deposit in the Luninets District has been implemented for a long time. This joint development of BELAZ OJSC — Management Company of BELAZ-HOLDING, Granit RUPE and Belarusian Cloud Technologies JLLC is truly unique. It is a technically challenging and ambitious project that is already demonstrating excellent results.

Thanks to a combination of software, the genius of Belarusian engineers and fifth-generation mobile communications, the unmanned BELAZ-7558R mining dump truck can independently

an accuracy of about two centimetres.

Head of the Department of Intelligent Quarry Management Systems Dmitry Yeliseyev comments that last year, the unmanned mining dump trucks were actively tested with drivers: it was necessary to understand how efficiently the complex works with a person in order to later compare it with the autonomous mode. At the same time, they managed to reach the speed of a truck with a driver in autonomous mode, and now they are actively preparing to overcome it.

“When working on the project, we set up the optimal modes of the brake systems of mining dump trucks and loaders that work with them. At present, comparative tests of manned and unmanned mining technologies are being carried out, optimal operating modes have been formed, travels to form ‘reference’ ones have been traced,” said Dmitry Yeliseyev.



Dmitry Yeliseyev

sible to identify the need to improve the 7825D loader drive software to adapt it to soil conditions. We tested eight operation algorithms. Now, traction in loose soils has improved significantly.”

In addition, during the project implementation period, a large amount of information was transmitted from the on-board devices of the two mining dump



BELTA



Aleksei Vyazmitinov



trucks for further processing and analysis on the company's servers using an intelligent mining transport monitoring system.

“Based on these data, multifactorial mathematical models of typical states of dump transport have been developed — filling, loading, movement with load and movement without load. The technical condition is constantly monitored. Together with the testing of robotic equipment, pilot operation of a module to detect anomalies in the data stream is underway. This module will be the basis for a predictive analytics module to start the transition from scheduled maintenance to on-demand maintenance.”

Dmitry Yeliseyev explained that, based on data from various sensors, such as 3D LiDAR sensors, LEDDAR sensors and radars, work has been done to improve the detection of obstacles along the route of robotic vehicles.

“Currently, the debugging of the software continues,” the Head of the Department of Intelligent Quarry Management Systems concluded.

without the participation of drivers are a fairly new direction in the development of industrial engineering. However, such eminent giants as Caterpillar, Komatsu and Scania have already actively entered the competition. Each of them managed to release its own robotic complex that currently, despite the fact that it is under development, practically does not need people in its work. Of

move and unload the rock mass. With no driver, the vehicle travels uphill well and turns quite smoothly. Therefore, it is possible to significantly reduce the travel time, and, as is known, time is money. 3D LiDAR sensors, LEDDAR sensors and radars help the truck be accurate — they analyse the space around the vehicle and the distance to objects. The truck also has a GPS module with

## Debugging of the complex continues

Also, according to him, BELAZ OJSC — Management Company of BELAZ-HOLDING has developed a programme for testing the complex in manned and unmanned mining technologies.

“The initial debugging of the unmanned mining technology made it pos-





Mikhail Savitsky

By Sofia Arsenyeva

### See the numbers of horror

At the age of twenty, Savitsky joined the front. In 1942, he was taken as a prisoner near the Chersonese Lighthouse. He tried to escape twice, both times unsuccessfully. Düsseldorf, Buchenwald, Dachau... He miraculously survived — he was found already unconscious in the concentration camp in the victorious spring. Only in the 70s, the artist reflected the tragic experience of his life in captivity on canvases. *The Numbers on the Heart* series is a unique phenomenon in the world of painting. It's very honest, even scary. Makes a deep impression once and for all.

"I had to re-live the past once again, to voluntarily return there, to the very bottom of hell. My health, broken by



Prisoner 32815 — self-portrait of Mikhail Savitsky

the war, did not allow me to do so. Sometimes the wound felt so tormenting that my hand could not hold my brush," Mikhail Savitsky shared his feelings. It is in this series of works that we can see his only self-portrait — *Prisoner 32815*.

# Belarus through the eyes of Mikhail Savitsky

The scale of his talent is obvious. In addition to numerous awards and recognition in the world, this artist has the title of Hero of Belarus. On the eve of the century of the birth of this legendary master, we recall his main works.

### Admire the Partisan Madonna

He was born in Vitebsk Region. One of the most vivid childhood memories: endless fields, blue skies, and a foal with which little Misha played all day long. Remarkably, the impressions of his youth did not lie on the canvas. Unfortunately, dark tones and sharp lines have forever become part of the painter's recognisable style. The Great Patriotic War is the reason for this. As an artist, Savitsky became world famous for the *Partisan Madonna*. The painting was bought by the Tretyakov Gallery almost immediately after it was finished, however, millions of its reproductions were sold around the world. The eternal symbol of life in the middle of the war, skillfully shown by the artist, put him on par with Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. In the image of a partisan mother, one can feel an unbending will, sublime sadness, or true femininity.



Partisan Madonna by Mikhail Savitsky

### Get to know the Bible Series

The evolution of creativity towards the end of his life naturally led the master to the appearance of a biblical series of works. Coming from a peasant family, he was a deeply religious person and repeatedly recalled how in the 60s party workers reprimanded him for the title of the painting, "Madonna? You are spreading religion!"

Only when atheistic trends were left behind, he freely got to work with

canvases dedicated to the earthly life of Christ — *Carrying the Cross*, *The Lamentation*, *The Miracle of the Bread*, *Holy Mother of God*. Through plots with two thousand years of history, the artist tried to reveal the eternal themes



In his works, he expressively revealed historical and contemporary themes



Miracle of the Bread by Mikhail Savitsky

### Find out about Chernobyl

The master did not have forbidden topics in art. Some respected him for this, others criticised him or even envied his courage. A year after the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, the artist presented the first picture of the *Chernobyl* cycle. Thus, he wanted to demystify the consequences of the tragedy and draw the attention of people around the world to the man-made disaster. One of the most brilliant pictures of the *Chernobyl* cycle is *Requiem*. It is a kind of picturesque cry for the earth, which for many years, or maybe forever lost human care. There will be no ploughed land, no children's laughter, no serene old age.

### Taste the bread of life

Savitsky was considered the 'painter of the harsh truth'. Despite this, throughout his career, he had one favorite peaceful theme — bread. He depicted it in the field, in his hands, on the table. He saw it in the basis of everything on which the work of a person rests, on which all life depends.

"I am deeply committed to the trend called socialist realism," the artist emphasised until his death. "Detractors say, 'Soviet power in Belarusian art...' But I am convinced that socialist realism is the highest achievement of realism. It has nothing to do with any political system."



Portrait of Mikhail Savitsky by Lev Gumilevsky, 1983

and problems of modern society, and called the Bible 'a brilliant concentration of life experience, the quintessence of human destinies.'





# A lesson of courage and bravery

Belarusfilm presented the film *Fire Under the Ashes*, whose authors were instructed by officers of the Anti-Mine Centre for the Armed Forces

By Yuliana Leonovich

A year and a half of extremely complex filming, documentary chronicle of the late 1940s and comprehensive support from the Ministry of Defence. The first screening of the new feature film *Fire Under the Ashes* was held only for members of the production team, journalists and other interested persons. However, if everything works well, the new release will be televised on domestic TV channels by February 23th. The story tells of volunteers who were engaged in demining Minsk and its surroundings, by the way, the director Ivan Pavlov managed to neatly associate the historical plot with modern times. The second storyline — is about those who defuse the shells of the Great Patriotic War in the line of duty today. Part of the filming was held on the territory of the Anti-Mine Centre for the Armed Forces.

Not only filmmakers but also specialists from various departments of the Ministry of Defence were involved in the complex staging process, where everything rumbles and explodes, said Vladimir Karachevsky, Director General of Belarusfilm,

*“The film accurately captured our time and raises such an*



*important topic as the interest of preserving peace and security for present and future generations. This sounds especially important in the Year of Historical Memory.*

This is a film about life and of continuity of generations, heroism and memory, a heroic past and a peaceful future. We would also like to dedicate this film to the 105th anniversary of the Belarusian army, which will take place in 2023.”

The screenplay was written by Lyudmila Peregudova and Yulia Leshko, who, among others, had already worked together on the popular domestic TV series *Oh, Mommy!*

Vyacheslav Dunaev became the director of photography, and Ivan Pavlov was chosen as the film director. It should be noted that Ivan easily found a common language with the military, since he himself served in the army.

*Just imagine: specialists of the Anti-Mine Centre discovered*

**The medal ‘For Courage’ that viewers can see in the film is real. One of the officers was awarded the medal for exceptional bravery**



*and defused more than 25,000 ammunition in 2021. The figure is spectacular — you can even see it in the credits for the film.*

“Moreover, there are so many shells in the Belarusian ground that it will take at least another five years to finish the work,” said Ivan Pavlov, “and we must understand that all these guys are professional soldiers. That is, in fact, they continue the work of those volunteers who joined the ranks of the Society for the As-

sistance of Defence, Aircraft and Chemical Construction (Osoavakhim) after the war and were engaged in demining Minsk and its surroundings in order to contribute to building a peaceful life in Belarus.”

Together with the production team, the Bobruisk Fortress returned in 1945, where part of the exterior shooting took place. Darya Karpechenkova, the actress of the Cinema Actor’s Theatre Studio, played a medical

student Lenochnka — one of the main characters of the post-war storyline, however, it was her first big film role. Anastasia Krishtapovich, the last year’s graduate of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, and now the actress of the Belarusian State Youth Theatre, played the main role in a modern times storyline.

People’s Artist of Belarus Aleksandr Tkachenok turned into her cinematic grandfather, and Maxim Ponimatchenko, an actor of the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama, played her father. According to the plot, he is the grandson of one of the post-war sappers, serves in the Anti-Mine Centre and is engaged in humanitarian demining.

The art cinematography was supplemented with a documentary chronicle showing the destroyed Minsk and hundreds of people involved in the reconstruction of the city, often at the risk of their lives. Contemporaries continue their noble legacy.

*“There are two time lines in the film, but people do the same work. You know, it is believed that the war is not over until the last soldier is buried. We have a slightly different view: the war is not over until the last shell is found and destroyed,” added Ivan Pavlov.*

# From miniature to giant

**The majestic walls of the ancient Lida Castle have seen a lot in their long history. Now it attracts visitors with numerous exhibitions held here.**

By Vladimir Kozyrev

For example, the exhibition of bricks from the private collection of a local resident Aleksei Chistyakov is now of great interest to the guests of the ancient and at the same time eternally young Lida. It is located on the 5th floor of the south-western tower of the Lida Castle (the so-called Gediminas Tower). Those who were not too lazy to climb up the steep steps were certainly not disappointed!

For more than 10 years, the resident of Lida has been meticulously collecting bricks, from which, over the centuries, our ancestors built castles, fortresses, palaces, stadiums, places of worship, houses, fences... There are absolutely miniature bricks, and ‘giants’ weighing 7 and even 9 kilograms in the extensive collection of Aleksei Chistyakov. There are specimens from Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Sweden, the USA, England, and even Japan, but the main focus is made on domestic product samples.

Aleksei Chistyakov himself admits

that his passion began with an accidental discovery. Let’s hear this story firsthand, “It was May 2010. I walked near the walls of the Lida Castle — this is my favourite place to rest. It was the eve of the republican festival Dazhynki: the city was being reconstructed on a large scale, repaired, cleaned up... I watched how the builders cleaned the lake adjacent to the castle. And then I noticed an unusual



brick in a pile of garbage removed from the water... Looking closer, I noticed a clearly traced letter K on one of its surfaces. I took the find home. I had to sit on the Internet for a long time, trying to find the necessary information. It turned out that the craftsmen put a mark on the bricks so that



Aleksey Bibikov

it was clear where this building material came from... Later I began to read encyclopaedias, started a catalogue, began to call up and correspond with other collectors, registered on specialised websites.”

The collection of the former military man, whose biography also includes the fulfilment of international duty in Afghanistan in the mid-80s, is not randomly collected items, but a harmonious system that allows you to track how brick production developed not only in our part of the world but also abroad. The archival memories of eyewitnesses testify that the work of the ‘brick masters’ was hard and extremely time-consuming. Aleksei Chistyakov says that not everyone could handle such work, “The first step was to

find suitable clay. Then to mine it, which is a highly labour-intensive process! Then powder it finely and sift through a sieve to remove stones and impurities. Then knead to the desired consistency with your hands and feet. In addition, the master pressed a large piece of clay into a certain shape ... And so on. It was necessary to have a good physical shape, steady nerves and, extreme patience... (he smiles). Usually, a moulder could produce 80-100 bricks per shift.

By the way, visitors can watch the master class and even make their own brick at the exhibition.

... An interesting fact: the research work of the collector from Lida has allowed to establish that the brick factory at the Brest Fortress is a year older than previously thought.

The exhibition of the collector Aleksei Chistyakov will last until March 1st. Hurry up to see bricks in the Lida Castle!



# Accuracy is a kingly virtue



Biathlete Anton Smolski brought the first medal for the Belarusian team at the Olympic Games in Beijing. He finished second in the individual race after hitting all 20 targets.

**We've made a start! Biathlete Anton Smolski opened the scoring for the Belarusian team at the Olympic Games in Beijing, winning a silver medal in the individual race. The President congratulated Anton Smolski on his successful performance in the most difficult race. "This season you burst into the elite of the world biathlon and climbed the podium at the main competition of the four-year period. An Olympic medal won in an uncompromising struggle against the strongest athletes on the planet is a great success for you personally, for the team, and for the whole country," reads the greeting.**

**Aleksandr Lukashenko wished the athlete sound health, good luck, and new victories.**

By **Tatiana Pastushenko**

... Anton Smolski is 25 years old, and the Beijing Olympics are the second in his career. In the four years that have passed since the debut Games in Pyeongchang, the biathlete managed to become not only the leader of our national team but also a serious competitor for elite athletes in the World Cup, where he became the bronze medallist in individual races three times this season. However, the Olympic Games are a completely different story compared to the cup races, and hardly anyone considered the Belarusian a favourite in the very first individual race.

20 out of 20 — a perfect performance on the shooting range was the main advantage of Smolski in the 20 km race.

In addition to him, only Kazakhstani biathlete Vladislav Kireyev could accurately cope

with the shooting, but he was not able to compete with the leaders in speed. Anton made no real secret: he learned from the individual performance of Dzinara Alimbekava, who was deprived of gold the day before by a single miss in the final standing. As a result, Smolski is on the podium, surrounded by the finest athletes! Next to him is the winner of the race and the leader of the current World Cup, the Frenchman Quentin Fillon Maillet, who made two misses and 'granted' Anton 14.8 seconds at the finish line. On the third step of the podium is the owner of three Big Crystal Globe trophies — the Norwegian Johannes Thingnes Bø. Well done, Anton!

\*\*\*

*After the race, Anton Smolski took part in the traditional Olympic Choice project. The biathlete chose the*

**Representatives of the men's biathlon team have not had such success at the main competition of the four-year period for a long time. More precisely, since 2010, when Sergey Novikov won a silver medal in the individual race, climbing one step of the podium along with the legendary Norwegian Ole Einar Bjørndalen.**

*Kopyl Specialised Children and Youth Olympic Reserve School: it will receive free*

*financial assistance in the amount of Br20,000 (about \$7,800) from the Presidential*

*Sports Club, of which, by the way, Anton was a scholarship holder.*



# She's kept her word

**Hanna Huskova is the silver medallist of the Olympic Games!**

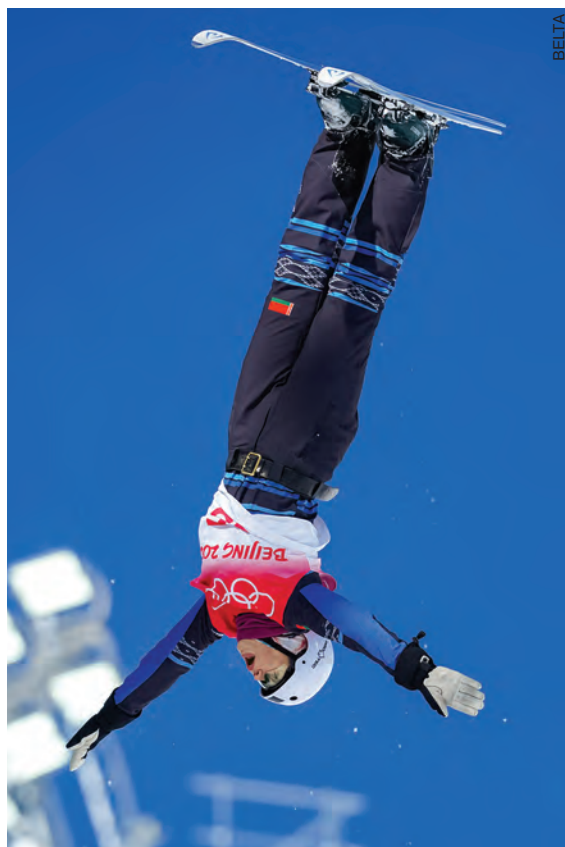
By **Tatiana Pastushenko**

"We will show and prove that the Belarusian team can achieve better results!" said Hanna Huskova after performing in Mixed Team Aerials at the Olympic Games, where our freestylers took sixth place. She's kept her word. Despite the highest competition, despite the postponement of the start of the competition, she climbed the Olympic podium again. Hanna has a silver medal!

Competitions in the individual programmes in Zhangjiakou were supposed to start on Sunday. The weather affected the schedule: the organisers decided to postpone the qualification and hold all stages — from the selection to the superfinal — on the same day due to gusty winds and a snowstorm.

During the qualifications, Hanna Huskova only had one attempt to reach the final. On both attempts in the finals, where there was a selection for the top six, our freestyler chose the jumps that were far from the most difficult ones and advanced to the decisive round from the last, sixth place.

Unlike the early stages of the competition, *the freestylers have no room for error in the superfinal. There is only one attempt, only one chance to get to the podium and Hanna Huskova took full advantage of it.* She was the first to go up the slope. She did an



excellent Back Lay-Full-Full and landed confidently. The referees rated the performance of the Belarusian at 107.95 points — this was the best score of the entire competitive day. It remained only to wait for the jumps of the rivals, however, not everyone coped with their task. American Ashley Caldwell, who has performed jumps of the highest complexity more than once this season, failed to land. Chinese Kong Fanyu, like Australian Laura Peel, just hit the ground... Only China's Xu Mengtao received the most points — 108.61, and the bronze was won by Megan Nick from the USA with a score of 93.76 points.

"When I got to my feet after the decisive jump, I realised that I had done everything in my power. I want to note that the last time I performed this jump was in Pyeongchang, four years ago, that's why I was overwhelmed with emotions. The decision to perform such a difficult jump was already made here, on the slope, when after the second attempt I realised that I had to go for broke. I'm an extra-class athlete, I have to take risks. I was confident in my abilities. Of course, it was difficult to perform this jump, since it was only in my head. I'm glad it all happened this way today!" said Hanna Huskova after the solemn ceremony of awarding athletes.

Hanna Huskova was only 0.66 points away from gold. Nevertheless, both she and Xu Mengtao are in history after this superfinal. The girls became the first freestylers who twice climbed the Olympic podium in individual competitions: at the last Games in Pyeongchang, Hanna was triumphant, and Xu Mengtao won her first Olympic silver award eight years ago in Sochi — then she lost to our Alla Tsuper. After the end of the competition, the freestylers embraced, and both had tears in their eyes — these were happy tears...





The Director of the Lida Historical and Art Museum Olga Lukyan-Pilipchuk

## DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On February 17th, 1600**, at the verdict of the Inquisition Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake in Rome's Campo de' Fiori. His last words were: "To burn is not to refute." The reason for

the arrest was not as much the very idea of the infinity of the universe and the plurality of inhabited worlds, but the very fact of ridiculing the foundations of the faith. The eight-year imprisonment did not change his mindset, the torture did not break his faith in the correctness of his judgments. Giordano Bruno preferred the fire to renounce his beliefs.

**On February 19th, 1577**,

Meletius Smotrytsky was born (1577—1633), a Belarusian and Ukrainian controversial writer, public and church figure. His pedagogical activities resulted in the book Slavonic Grammar with Correct Syntax, which made the author name to go down in history, not only in the Slavic countries but throughout Western Europe. The work of Meletius Smotrytsky became a role model for the creation of grammar in Serbia, Croatia, Romania, and Bulgaria.



**February 19th** is the World Marine Mammal Protection Day or World Whale Day. On February 19th, 1986, the International



Whaling Commission declared a commercial whaling moratorium. The day is celebrated to attract the attention of the public, government officials, and all humanity of the protection of this unique animal species and, in general, all marine mammals. Only 119 species have survived on our planet so far.

**On February 19th, 1878**,

an American inventor Thomas Edison patented a device for the mechanical recording and reproduction of the sound, which he named the phonograph. This invention was the beginning of the era for audio recording. The main merit of this device was that the sound recorded on the foil could be reproduced. The first recordings were indentations on the surface of the foil, made with a moving needle. The foil was placed on a cylinder that rotated as the sound was played.



**On February 21st, 1947**, Mikhail Finberg was born, a conductor, Honoured Worker of Culture of Belarus, People's Artist of Belarus. Since 1987 — art director of the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus. He

promoted the music of Belarusian composers. Organizer, art director, and chief conductor of many national and international festivals. Laureate of the Lenin Komsomol Prize of Belarus, the State Prize of Belarus. Awarded with the Order of Francysk Skaryna. Died December 11th, 2021.

**On February 21st, 2012**,

for the first time Belarusian surgeons performed a simultaneous heart and kidney transplantation. The operation took place in the State Institution Republican Scientific and Practical Centre 'Cardiology'. It lasted 11 hours, and was performed by two teams of surgeons.



**February 21st** is the Day of workers of land management and cartography-geodetic service in the Republic of Belarus. Geodesy and cartography are one of the oldest services in Belarus. Without this service it is impossible to imagine the work of geologists and land surveyors, geographers, and historians.

**February 21st** is the International Mother Language Day. At the 30th General Conference of UNESCO in November 1999 it was proclaimed to promote linguistic and



cultural diversity and multilingualism. It has been celebrated annually under the auspices of UNESCO since 2000. The initiative aims to recognise and encourage the use of native languages, especially the languages of national minorities.

**February 21st** is the International Tourist Guide Day. It was established by the World Federation of Tour Guides Associations (WFTGA) to raise awareness of the general public about the importance and significance of the work of guides. It is not possible to say exactly when this profession appeared, but it is obvious that it is connected with the development of interstate relations. It has become difficult for people to do so without the help of professional guides, ever since people began travelling actively and visiting different cities and countries.



**February 23rd** is the Day of Fatherland Defenders and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus. This is the day of memory, courage and heroism of all generations of defenders of the Fatherland, who defended the independence of their native land.