

INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

ISSN 1991-2978



**Socio-political Weekly**

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 10 (728) ● THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018 ● WWW.SB.BY



Near German stand at 25th Minsk International Book Fair

## **Ardent readers and literary authors meet at exhibition**

Around  
30,000  
people visit  
25th Minsk  
International  
Book  
Fair → **7**

# ‘Women’s mission is to beautify the world, while men should defend the world and women’

By Alexey Fedosov

**Simultaneous celebration of Fatherland Defenders’ Day and Women’s Day at state level is a tradition in Belarus, with the Palace of Independence recently hosting a ceremony dedicated to these two holidays, offering state awards and shoulder insignia for generals**

The event combination has special meaning, since men are often inspired to courageous service in their pursuit of protecting the women of their country. As the President said, “This is a sign of deep respect and recognition of the vital role of women in our society. Thanks to them, our life on Earth continues. Maternal love, care and attention are vital, and a chivalrous attitude towards women is important for men. Our strength and courage, happiness and peace of mind, joy, and inspiration rely on you. Like the season of spring, you present us — men — with warmth, and with the desire to live and improve ourselves. Women, in their tenderness and vulnerability, awaken noble feelings in us, alongside a desire to defend and guard.”



Participants of solemn ceremony bestowing state awards

He added his belief that women’s mission is ‘to beautify the world’, while men ‘defend the world and women — without whom our world is virtually impossible’. He commented, “Whatever social roles we take on, it’s important for everyone to remember their main mission, and maintain the harmony of relations in society.”

The President recalled that the holiday of March 8th was established over 160 years ago, as an international

movement in defence of the civil rights of women. In our modern times, the date is a national holiday and, as Mr. Lukashenko believes, encourages a new sense of reverence for women, who embody beauty and tenderness, kindness and sensitivity.

Mr. Lukashenko presented state awards to women across various spheres, recognising their years of fruitful work and exemplary achievements, including sporting results and contributions to development

in health protection and education. PyeongChang Winter Olympics gold medallist Anna Guskova received the Order of Fatherland of the 3rd Degree, and the honorary title of ‘Honoured Master of Sports of the Republic of Belarus’.

Besides receiving state awards and generals’ insignia, guests toured the Palace of Independence, seeing an exhibition of costumed dolls and the Alive Pictures show, as well as enjoying a welcome reception.

## Need for co-ordinated approach and joint action

By Alexey Fedosov

**Belarus consistently supports nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, notes Deputy Chairman of House of Representatives, Boleslav Pirshtuk, at special session of PA OSCE General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**

The session highlighted issues relating to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in the OSCE area. The Vice Speaker noted that Belarus is a consistent supporter and participant in the processes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and recalled that, in February 2018, Belarus marked twenty-five years since adopting the historic decision to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Mr. Pirshtuk expressed regret that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force, since this is detrimental to the global non-proliferation regime.

The Belarusian delegation took part in the winter session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which also featured a discussion on arms control. MPs took part in key events of the session, including the meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. Mr. Pirshtuk stressed the need for a co-ordinated approach and joint action by all OSCE countries and partners in counteracting transnational challenges and threats to security. He called on members of the assembly to effectively implement existing confidence-building measures, and to act in line with OSCE commitments, to complement the efforts of the UN.

The Vice Speaker expressed his hope that resolutions adopted at the 26th annual session in Minsk, on such issues as responding to the emergence of new psychotropic substances, and the prevention of sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, will drive forward co-operation between OSCE states in the field of information and communication technologies.

## Qualities of a reliable partner

By Denis Alexandrov

**European Olympic Committees pleased with Minsk’s preparation for European Games**

On meeting the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, EOC President Janez Kocijančič shared his impressions with delight, saying, “We’re very pleased with your preparations for the European Games. Your employees are doing their job brilliantly and professionally. We’re already at the final stage of the preparation process and the organising committee and all workers are



Janez Kocijančič

fulfilling their work at a very high level.”

The guest admitted that he expected nothing less from Minsk. “This is what we were expecting to see; we knew that it would be this way, because Belarus has so much experience in organising sporting events,” noted Mr. Kocijančič.

The EOC Head congratulated Mr. Lukashenko on the successful performance of the Belarusian national team at the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. He believes that those high results confirm the solid level of Belarusian sport. The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Minsk continues to prepare for the major event, as is

easy to see, with sports facilities being renovated, alongside other elements of infrastructure: from the main stadium, to trade and public catering outlets. Various organisational tasks are of no less importance, including catering for guests and participants, medical services, information work and training of volunteers. Belarus has proven time and again that it’s able to welcome guests in the appropriate fashion but it still has some surprises to reveal.

## Deputies have received powers

By Yevgeny Kononov

**Central Election Commission sums up results of elections to local councils**

The Central Election Commission (CEC) has announced the final results of elections of deputies to local councils of the 28th convocation. The CEC has declared the political campaign efficient and successful, with a good turnout of those aged under 30, and candidates raising more funds for their campaigns

than usual, particularly in districts with fierce competition.

These factors facilitated a high turnout, as the Chair of the CEC, Lidia Yermoshina, commented, saying, “Such figures are within usual parameters, which is both the result of local authorities’ efforts and indicates increased interest from voters.”

Some citizens appeared disgruntled with the organisation of the elections, despite them being conducted calmly and

with transparency. For example, some citizens sadly failed to locate their designated polling station. On that score CEC Secretary Yelena Dmukhailo promoted the ‘I’m Voting!’ mobile application, in Minsk and Grodno, which provided information on candidates, as well as directions to polling stations, using a GPS navigator.

Some European structures criticised the conduct of the elections, to which Ms. Yermoshina responded, “The Eu-

ropean Union didn’t observe the elections, so its assessments are hardly appropriate.”

Regarding electoral legislation reform, Ms. Yermoshina underlines that such decision is adopted by a subject of legislative initiative: the President or the Parliament. “Definite proposals are now under consideration. In time for the next local elections, within four years, amendments are likely to have been introduced into law,” she stresses.

As to when the next election campaign will take place, the parliamentary and presidential elections of 2020 are due to almost coincide, so one will surely take place next year. Ms. Yermoshina tells us that institutes empowered to conduct elections will make the final decision on dates. “The Central Election Commission is ready to conduct any election campaign. In autumn, with the President, I’ll agree the next elections to take place in our country.”

# Palace for graces — pearl of Pobediteley Avenue

## Republican Centre of Olympic Training in Gymnastics solemnly opens in Minsk

By Vasily Kharitonov

President Alexander Lukashenko recently cut the traditional red ribbon, jointly with Olympic champions Marina Lobach of Belarus and Russian Alina Kabaeva, the Chair of the Belarusian Association of Gymnastics, Yelena Skripel, and Minsk's Mayor, Andrey Shorets.

It was an elegant present on the occasion of International Women's Day, since there is no more subtle or graceful sport than gymnastics. The national team has long lacked space in its former centre. Moreover, gymnasts from abroad often desire to train in Belarus, lacking a venue to organise training classes and share experience.

The President agreed to the construction of the new facility in 2015, signing a corresponding decree, and has personally contributed to the process, taking on jobs at the site during the working Saturday last April. Eventually, on the eve of March 8th, 2018, the facility opened its doors and the President thanked its builders, saying, "You're great. Less than a year ago, we agreed to present this wonderful palace to our graces and their parents, as well as to all those involved in callisthenics, no later than March 8th. We've achieved our goal!"

Our young women members of the national team prepared a demonstrational performance for the launch ceremony, receiving much applause. Our graces can surprise even the most experienced and demanding audience, so it was interesting to watch Alina Kabaeva, who attentively followed the performances, smiling at our Belarusian sportswomen's moves.

Before the performance, Mr. Lukashenko toured the Centre, which is rivalled by only two buildings in the CIS: the educational-training centre in Russian Novogorsk, and one in the capital of Azerbaijan, in Baku. Minsk's facility is a stylish four-storey building, covering almost 15,000 square metres. The façade is amazing, seeming to be embraced by a twirling gymnastic ribbon. There are two large halls, with four gymnastic carpets, for training sessions, for use not only by the national team, but by youngsters in training and



During opening of Palace of Gymnastics

visiting groups. One hall is equipped with seating for 340, enabling it to host children's competitions (the demonstrational performances took place there as well). Meanwhile, two other halls have a single gymnastic carpet each, for initial training sessions. There are also four choreographic halls, a medical unit containing two massage rooms for physiotherapy, and a sports and recreation unit, with a swimming pool and gym. There's even a canteen and accommodation for athletes, promoting the training process at the highest level.

The Centre will be used for the 2nd European Games, as a training base, being able to provide simultaneous classes for Belarus' national and junior teams and early training groups. Up to 150 people can train at the same time. The President did not hide his emotions, saying, "I have no regrets in injecting funds into the construction of this beautiful building." He spoke of how Belarusian gymnasts long ago asked him to build at least one room with a high ceiling for training, which became the hall in which many of our champions 'grew



Republican Centre of Olympic Training in Gymnastics

competition in Brazil didn't see them do so well and I wondered why I'd made the promise if our performances only worsened. However, I had no other choice, as promises must be kept. In only the last year, we built this Centre."

The President asked gymnasts and coaches to use the building to its full potential, saying, "This is your home. It's not only for working. I know how hard you train, from my own experience, and I know how difficult it is. Like your peers, you want to surf the Internet, go outside and feel free and relaxed. However, you're stretching by 7am, before doing choreography and training, and have another training session in the evening. With this in mind, I want you to have the opportunity to relax here, using the spa and sauna."

The President said, "Live peacefully and with friendship: work, train, relax. We'll be supporting you. I have a single wish: let God protect you against severe injury. This is the key. If you

avoid straining yourself, mentally and physically, you'll become champions, at Olympic and world level. Perform as you do during training, keep focused and show your very best. Once again, I wish you to have a good mental attitude: of self-sacrifice and courage, in this female yet fearless sport."

Afterwards, the President gave a piece of advice, saying, "I always tell young people that it's important to keep to a schedule. This won't be easy, since much work needs to be combined: your sport and educational classes. With this in mind, we've established classes here and will invite the best teachers, so you receive a good education."

At the end of the solemn ceremony, the young gymnasts presented the President with the *Dreams Come True* picture, drawn in gold dust quickly, easily and gracefully — during their performance. The picture features the Palace of Gymnastics. Parallels are obvious: in sport and art, masterpieces are created after a long and arduous path of hard training. Our graces now have all conditions for this, and we expect new victories from them.

up'. "You've trained there for almost two decades. On meeting representatives of callisthenics, one day, I told them that, if they performed well I'd build this hall. The

### INTERESTING CONVERSATION

After the solemn opening of the Republican Centre of Olympic Training in Gymnastics, the President met Russian Olympic champion in rhythmic gymnastics Alina Kabaeva. Their ninety-minute long meeting took place at the

Palace of Independence, with Mr. Lukashenko chatting to Ms. Kabaeva about the latest developments in sports, with an emphasis on callisthenics. A short tour of the Palace of Independence was also organised for the sportswoman.

# Food atlas of the world

Within just a few years, Belarusian exports have risen 3.5-fold, with agricultural products selling to seventy countries worldwide

By Yelena Prokina

## Goal-2020

As regards production of milk, eggs and meat per capita, Belarusians lead among post-Soviet countries and even surpass such European leaders as Germany and France. Exports and harvests are growing, with Belarus producing around \$9 billion of food in its fields, farms and greenhouses last year. Most of this is sold abroad, generating \$5 billion last year in foreign sales (beating the 2016 record of \$4.2 billion). If we compare figures from the last decade, exports have grown 3.5-fold, inspiring the Government to aim for \$6.2 billion of food exports by 2020.

Volumes have been growing and so has quality. In the early 2000s, Belarusian farmers could sell only raw materials abroad, which foreigner customers bought cheaply, for onward processing. "Over the past five years, our commodity export structure has changed significantly, with high added value finished products to the fore," explains the Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food, Leonid Marinich. "As a result, profit has doubled."

## Geography of the future

Seventy countries now buy Belarusian milk and meat products, with eighteen states joining our sales network in



BELTA

Modern milky rivers: at a Belarusian plant line



PAVELCHUIKO

Delicacies under the 'Made in Belarus' brand enjoy great demand

2017, including Bahrain, Yemen, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Finland and Norway.

Traditional markets have grown, with foreign customers recognising the quality of Belarus-made products. Turkey has increased its imports 100-fold, while

Georgia has almost tripled its purchases, and sales to Africa have risen 11 percent. Customers in the USA have nearly doubled their purchases, while Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Hong Kong and Vietnam now buy over a million Dollars' worth of Belarusian foodstuffs annually.



Alexey BOGDANOV

"In 2018, we'll expand our range, promoting cheeses and finished dairy products," comments the Head of the Central Office for Foreign Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Alexey Bogdanov. "By mid-2018, certification of poultry will be passed. China is a very large market, and there's stiff competition. However, Belarus is worthily represented, with our milk and meat meeting China's high quality and safety requirements."

## Peking duck

Belarus is among the five world leaders regarding exports of dairy products and is among the top twenty for meat. Demand is ever growing and China is among the major buyers. Our partnership with the country began with a pilot supply of UHT and powdered milk, whey, cheese and butter. Being well-received, last year, exports to China grew 7.5-fold, and Chinese businessmen are now negotiating with Belarusian meat-packing plants. Two companies have received certification to sell beef to China.

# Sock diplomacy has been sent to Canada

## Unusual present from Brest Stocking Mill to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

The Canadian Prime Minister is known around the world for his brightly-coloured socks, which he often wears to official events. With this in mind, Brest residents decided to send a parcel to Mr. Trudeau: a set of exclusive socks featuring the cartoon dog Snoopy.

"The idea for the present came after a sleepless night," explains company Director, Sergey Zhevnerovich. "He loves original socks and we've been working to develop some. Not all are a success or enjoy great demand but we are keeping coming up with new designs. Our main goal is to inspire talk about Belarus so we

wrote to him that our countries have much in common. A large Belarusian diaspora lives in Canada, while world-known ice-hockey player Wayne Gretzky has Belarusian roots [in the early years of the 20th century, his grandfather emigrated to Canada from the Grodno Province]. Why did we choose Snoopy? As a child, Justin Trudeau received this toy from the wife of US President Richard Nixon, as his father,



Socks from Brest for Canadian PM

Pierre Trudeau, was serving as Canadian Prime Minister and met Mr. Nixon. The American couple gave their good wishes to the boy, saying they hoped he'd become prime minister of Canada one day!"

Not long ago, the Brest factory re-

ceived a letter from Canada, signed by the PM's Aide. It reads that the parcel was safely delivered and the socks with Snoopy will definitely be given to Mr. Trudeau. "On his behalf, I wish to thank you for this touching gift," the Aide writes. Interestingly, Mr. Zhevnerovich is also applying a creative approach to choosing his socks. He believes black socks are boring, saying, "We're creating fashion. Though socks are a very narrow segment of the fashion industry, they attract attention, enabling you to stand out from the crowd."

# Code to update account

## Operations with cryptocurrency need to be regulated

By Valeria Gavrusheva

Online money seems to have penetrated everywhere. Last year, an apartment was put up for sale for digital coins for the first time in Belarus, while some companies are now prepared to take payments in cryptocurrency. Even BelAZ is studying the possibility of selling its dump trucks for bitcoins. Heated discussions continue on what has seemed, until recently, no more than a skilful marketing ploy. However, Decree #8 (legalising digital money) has changed the situation, bringing the digital future closer. What does this mean for us?

Yevgeny, 32, from Minsk, became interested in cryptocurrency several years ago and, in 2018, decided to focus on mining. He bought the necessary equipment for several thousand Dollars; computers perform complex calculations, bringing Yevgeny's virtual purse an income. It's important to choose what to 'virtually mine' but Yevgeny seems to have the right recipe. He explains, "I've equipped a mining farm at my garage and don't regret the decision. I have my main job, which pays for my daily needs, while the income generated from my cryptocurrency activities is my savings."

Decree #8 will come into force on March 28th, allowing Belarusians to legally mine cryptocurrency: buy it, accept it as a present, change it into Belarusian Roubles, foreign currency or electronic money, or exchange it for other tokens. Such actions will not be viewed as entrepreneurship and, for the five coming years, all income generated as a result of such operations will be exempt from income tax.





Yevgeny is delighted, commenting, "Over the years, I've accumulated a good sum in cryptocurrency. I've been planning to buy an apartment but worried how to report my income to tax agencies. Now, I'll be able to spend my earnings without fear."

Companies also have freedom, with the decree likely to lead to mining farms appearing in Belarus, in addition to cryptocurrency exchange offices and exchanges — not only as part of the High-Tech Park. Belarus is the first country to fully legislate for cryptocurrency operations, leading to foreign investors demonstrating interest.

Mikhail Keizerov, the Director of Vitebsk's Law and Order small business incubator, notes a boom in requests in January, saying, "We've received inquiries from Russia and the Baltic States: from existing mining firms and from people wishing to launch from scratch. A great number of young people are engaged in this activity at home. However, they're now coming to us, anxiously wondering how



### E-cash under control

 <b>UK</b> Cryptocurrency is treated as a foreign currency or private money. Transactions are respectively taxed.	 <b>Estonia</b> Cryptocurrency is considered as an alternative means of payment. To commit any trade operation, it's necessary to pass an identification procedure.	 <b>China</b> Digital currencies are viewed as virtual goods. Operation between citizens are not limited. However, the ICO is prohibited. Moreover, since last autumn, all cryptocurrency exchanges have been closed. Access to foreign sites is also to be blocked.	 <b>Kazakhstan</b> Cryptocurrencies' legal status remains undefined. Miners need to pay an income tax of 10 percent.
---	---	---	--

to legalise their work, and join an incubator."

One of the HTP's principles is its extraterritoriality: a company can be situated in any corner of our country. Incubators — apart from being convenient — receive legal assistance. To become an HTP resident, you need only register your company in Belarus, submitting your business plan and other documents.

Mr. Keizerov predicts that in future interest in mining is sure to rise in Belarus. "Virtual money earners need electricity. For example, a large Russian company we recently registered needs to use 1 megawatt. After the Belarusian nuclear power station is launched and the cost of electricity falls, power will be much in demand. Apart from mining virtual money, trade and exchange of digital coins is also growing popular. Cryptocurrency market capitalisation is estimated to be worth about \$400 billion. There's no reason why some of this shouldn't pass via our country. Bitexbook crypto-exchange has already expressed its desire to become an HTP resident, legalising its presence in EAEU countries and strengthening its position on the international market."

Belarus has begun training specialists for online currency trading, at the Belarusian National Technical University and at Gomel's Skořina State University. In early 2018, the bitcoin rate dropped

### FIGURES

In Japan, bitcoins and other cryptocurrencies were recognised as means of payment last April. Things are going well: according to analysts, cryptocurrencies may contribute about 0.3 percent of Japanese GDP growth this year. In the future, taxes may be introduced to the cryptocurrency business, to a possible sum of about \$9.2 billion.

significantly, leading sceptics to say it's a pyramid which will soon collapse. However, Prof. Leonid Zheltonogov, who heads the Organisation and Analysis of Business Processes Department at the Belarusian National Technical University, believes these are not fraud schemes but a promising market.

He explains, "Bitcoin has all the attributes of digital gold. The precious metal is trading in futures markets and bitcoin is now trading too. Gold is

usually kept at national banks and used for gold and foreign exchange reserve. In turn, bitcoin is being kept in large volumes in electronic purses. We can continue asserting that, owing to the futures market, it's now possible to sell or buy gold which is not yet mined. The same is true of the main cryptocurrency. Importantly, there is an interrelation between the value of gold and bitcoins. There is demand for the

precious metal, since the market has faith in it — despite the fact that bullion simply lays in the bank vaults. There is a reflexive connection between gold and demand. The same is natural for bitcoins now."

Legalisation of cryptocurrencies opens great prospects for us. We might become the centre for online money emission and a major marketplace. Prof. Zheltonogov says, "We need to organise crypto-platforms under the jurisdiction of our country: to create a Belarusian Hong Kong. This will bring significant inflow of capital; in addition, such sites will make real money in the form of commission."

Those dreaming of a bright digital future should be cautious, however, as the Director of Europol, Rob Wainwright, has announced that approximately \$4.1 billion to \$5.5 billion has been laundered in the EU via cryptocurrencies. The situation is complicated by the fact that — even on detecting these illegal transfers — it's impossible to freeze money, as can be done with banks.

Speaking of whether problems could arise, Andrey Karpunin, the Chairman of the Financial Directors Club, asserts that Belarus won't become a centre for money laundering. He explains, "We have the relevant national legislation, relating to US and European regulations. We're exchanging information to combat tax evasion and, if we fail to keep to these requirements, strict measures will be taken towards us. We're a very disciplined country so I'm sure we'll ensure control as part of all adopted legislative procedures. Another issue is that cryptocurrency is a new phenomenon. Many countries are still pondering whether to prohibit or allow it. We've moved forward. Accordingly, should be among the first to develop control measures."



ECONOMY

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
March 15  
2018

5

# Mastering the science of protection

## Belarusian Army receives most modern weaponry

By Yevgeny Kononovich

If someone had said, two decades ago, that Belarus would not only possess high-tech weapons but would be exporting them to generate foreign currency, people would have scoffed. However, facts speak for themselves. Last year, sixty-nine countries bought equipment from the Belarusian defence industry and, according to experts, our army is perceived as among the most efficient in the region.

For centuries, the world has respected the strong. A state is worthless if it cannot protect itself. Accordingly, Belarus has never stinted on investing in its safety, and never will.

Defence Minister Andrey Ravkov says, "In coming years, due to targeted modernisation, modern weaponry will rise to represent half of all our inventory. After a complex of measures, immediate reaction and rapid deployment forces will be well-equipped and highly-mobile, ready to tackle terrorism and protect against sabotage."

21st century weaponry is highly intelligent, incorporating radar, communications and electronic warfare, unmanned aircraft and high-precision weapons. Not long ago, the latest salvo fire rocket — 'Polonez' (produced



'Kaiman' (Cayman) armoured vehicle

under the 'Made in Belarus' brand) — was presented during a military parade. Originally able to hit a target from 200km away, just one year later, we've created an upgraded version; launched in the Gomel Region, it reached its target from a distance of 300km,

with a trajectory of over 50km, to hit the target almost vertically, at a speed five times greater than the speed of sound. Nothing exists that can hit this rocket. "We've once again proven that we can produce weapons capable of defending the country," notes the

Chairman of the State Military Industrial Committee, Oleg Dvigalev. "Impressively, 95 percent of all component parts are made domestically; absolute localisation is difficult to achieve even for the most industrially developed countries."

A new 'Kaiman' (Cayman) armoured vehicle has also been welcomed by the army, being designed to cross any territory, from rivers and open quarries to mud-locked roads through forest. Only a handful of countries are producing such equipment, but Belarus is among them. Modernisation of military equipment is another Belarusian focus and our specialists have managed to improve the 'Buk' anti-aircraft missile system. "The depth and extent of its modernisation is enabling us to create a new national anti-aircraft weapon system," explains Vladimir Lavrenyuk, from the State Military Industrial Committee. "Over a hundred new units and devices have been produced, as part of the modernised complex. It can work with all types of modern automated management systems and digital radar systems. Meanwhile, absolutely new technical solutions have made it possible to increase the radar detection range by thirty percent. The Belarusian version of the 'Buk' is already receiving interest from states in Central Asia (including Kazakhstan), Africa, Latin America and the Middle East."

Mr. Dvigalev underlines that the country has entered the global top-20 for arms exports, "In 2016, fifty countries purchased Belarusian arms exports, rising to sixty-nine states in 2017. We're expanding co-operation with Western European countries, tasking ourselves, this year, with exporting our multiple launch rocket systems to CIS countries. We're seeing good developments, including a contract with the United Arab Emirates."

## Army and its stamp

By Dmitry Ampilov

**Among 1,244 stamps issued during our years of sovereignty is the first dedicated to the Belarusian Army**

On February 23rd, the Belarusian Army celebrated its 100th anniversary. On the eve of the holiday, a special commemorative stamp was issued, as a first day cover, presented at an event attended by the Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Andrey Ravkov, and the Minister of Communications and Informatisation, Sergey Popkov. The stamp features the emblem of the Armed Forces of our country, with 60,000 cop-



ies released, each 52x29.6mm. The nominal value is that for the cost of a non-priority in-

ternational stamp for written correspondence weighing up to 20 grams.

# Surely, health is no joking matter

**Winter may be retreating, allowing spring to make itself known, but we still need to guard against influenza and viral diseases**

According to experts, vaccination is the most effective measure against influenza and its severe consequences. Pharmaceutical manufacturers say that commercially available influenza vaccines are updated every year, designed to tackle the three strains of influenza virus most likely to emerge. It's recommended to be vaccinated against flu annually, and in good time, since it takes 2-3 weeks to develop immunity after vaccination.

In the season of viral diseases, it's a good idea to wash your hands regularly and wipe gadgets which may accumulate germs. When someone falls ill in your family, other members should keep rooms well aired and 'wet clean',

since a virus can live up to five weeks in ambient dust.

Citrus fruits help give the body a Vitamin C boost, while honey is not only soothing, but good for supporting the immune system. Even potatoes contain vitamin C. Vitamin D [found in sunlight] helps deter the flu and colds, commonly found in oily fish. Take fish oil tablets if you prefer.

You may begin with a runny nose and a headache but those symptoms can lead to serious problems. We often self-medicate but do be careful, as it's easy to 'overdose' on medication. If you take too many paracetamol, for example, it can have irreversible consequences. Nose drops can also be dangerous when overused.

Virologists are constantly working to modify vaccines but there are things we can do to help keep flu at bay. First of all, it's good to know the symptoms: a sharp rise in tempera-



ture, to at least 38 degrees (as not seen with a common cold); muscle pain; joint pain; weakness and fatigue; dizziness; severe headaches (like migraine); nausea and vomiting; and loss of appetite. Some, or all, of these symptoms may appear within a few days.

If your temperature remains high, complications may develop — including acute pharyngitis, laryngotracheitis, bronchitis or pneumonia. The likelihood is that you'll need antibiotics to fight these developments. However, do remember that antibiotics kill only bacteria,

not the original virus!

You may only suffer mildly, feeling weak, with occasional headaches and decreased appetite, but with a temperature of 38 degrees. In cases of moderate flu, your temperature might reach 39 degrees, while your mucosa swells and becomes inflamed. You may have a runny nose, a sore throat or a dry cough. In severe cases, you may have a temperature of 40 degrees, a fever and severe nausea.

A hypertoxic form is one of the most severe: after the emergence of catarrhal symp-

toms, haemorrhagic syndrome emerges within a few hours, bringing epistaxis, vomiting, flushing and a rash. The respiratory system fails to function properly and the brain can be affected.

At the first sign of flu, do consult your doctor. If you're experiencing one or more of the above-mentioned symptoms, ask the doctor to visit you at home, to avoid spreading your virus to others. Moreover, don't return to work, as you risk infecting your colleagues, and developing complications. Staying in a bed and, if your temperature remains around 40 degrees for several days, invite a doctor to visit you at home or call an ambulance. Timely and proper treatment can help patients quickly recover from the disease and avoid serious complications.

**By Tatiana Zhukova,** doctor of the highest category, a Candidate of Medical Sciences

# Bringing together writers and ardent readers



At 25th Minsk International Book Fair



Near the Chinese stand



Near Kazakhstan's stand

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The jubilee exhibition was dedicated to international co-operation between Belarusian writers and those from abroad, with thirty-two countries in attendance. Collections of books were presented by more than three hundred exhibitors; Serbia was the honorary guest country, while Kazakhstan was a central exhibitor. Both offered interesting programmes of creative meetings, discussions, round tables and presentations, as did many other stands. The national stand of Belarus hosted meetings with authors, publishers, and illustrators, as well as displays of books, round table discussions and autograph sessions.

Winners of the national *Art of Book* contest and winners of the contest for young authors also received congratulations. The international literary symposium *Writer and Time* featured writers from twenty-one countries and over two hundred events took place in all, within the forum.

The 25th Minsk International Book Fair erases all boundaries in a flash, showcasing books written in various languages, including novels, non-fiction and poetry by foreign authors translated into Belarusian. Projects by the largest book corporations neighboured those released by small presses in Belarus.

The ancient printing machine of Francysk Skaryna was working near the centre of the exhibition, gathering a fascinated crowd, who pondered the writer's work in our age of digital technologies.

The President of Belarus sent his greeting to everyone at the 25th Minsk International Book fair and those attending the 4th International *Writer and Time* literary symposium. Read by the First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Maxim Ryzhenkov, it stated: 'What a sight for sore eyes! Despite the development of technologies, printed books remain very popular, indicating



Serbia as honorary guest of the exhibition

the intellectual development of society'. The State Secretary of the Serbian Culture and Information Ministry, Alexander Gajovic, added his observation that books 'are a solid foundation and a bridge between nations'.

For many Belarusian readers, interest in Serbian literature begins with Goran Petrović. In the morning of the opening day of the exhibition, crowds gathered to claim his autograph,

while the evening of the same day saw Minsk's House of Friendship hosting a Serbian literary evening, with many readers acquiring new 'cult-heroes'.

Books exist outside borders and time, as is proven by numerous editions released last year, dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing: reproductions, encyclopaedias and artistic works. The Grand Prix Triumph of the national *Art of Book* contest was awarded this year to an edition entitled *World Heritage of Francysk Skaryna*.

Mr. Ryzhenkov would like to see more Belarusian books translated into foreign languages. In particular, at the German stand, he noted that classical writers of German literature are well-known and enjoyed, while underlining, "Germany should learn more about Belarusian literature — modern and classical." The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Belarus, Peter Dettmar, agreed.

Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House, jointly with the Publishing House of the Beijing Foreign Studies University, is launching a major printing project, as envisaged by an agreement signed at the 25th Minsk International Book Fair. A series of books is to be released in Belarusian very soon, entitled *Terminology of Chinese Ideology and Culture*. More than a

hundred specialists from China and Europe have worked on the series, for release in twelve countries. The Belarusian language translation will be made in Belarus, while the book will be printed in China.

Belarusian and Chinese book publishers have also planned publication of classical literary works between now and 2020. The Information Ministry of Belarus met with representatives of publishing organisations from the People's Republic of China attending the 25th Minsk International Book Fair, discussing how best to translate and publish classical literary works from Belarus and China over the coming couple of years.

Feedback suggests that participants of the fair see it as a valuable forum for discussing issues of concern to authors from around the world. Belarus' Information Minister, Alexander Karlyukevich, views the symposium as an important event in the country's cultural life, becoming famous far beyond its borders. It has already acquired a worthy reputation. Mr. Karlyukevich presented certificates of gratitude to some authors, noting their contribu-

tion towards strengthening ties between writers internationally. Among those recognised was translator and poet Dajana Lazorevic, from Serbia, and Russian writer and publicist Yuri Shcherbakov.

Over the years, the symposium has become a significant international project, strengthening humanitarian ties between writers from CIS and non-CIS states. The number of translations of Belarusian literature into foreign languages is increasing, particularly into Turkish, Spanish and Lithuanian.

There were presentations of new Italian novels and collections at the book fair, with the Italian Embassy in Minsk preparing a strong programme of events. Italy always takes an active role in the exhibition, testifying to our strong cultural ties, and the mutual influence of language and literature. Books by four Italian authors were on show. Belarusian readers took part in various meetings at the exhibition, and at educational institutions. Meanwhile, the Dante House of Italian Language and Culture held publishing conferences with the Belarusian State University's Philology Department.



A visitor inspects a car on display at the Volvo stand, during the 88th International Motor Show in Geneva

# Electric atmosphere at Geneva Motor Show

The Rimac hypercar, Jaguar I-PACE and Morgan EV3 showcase the electric trend at the Geneva International Motor Show

There's an electric atmosphere at the annual international Geneva Motor Show. The show gives car manufacturers the chance to showcase their latest models and concepts, with Croatia's Rimac electric hypercar stealing a lot of attention with its 412km/h top speed and 1.97 0-100km/h time.

Fans of internal combustion powered supercars are also spoiled for choice, with a new Bugatti revealed for those who have a cool 2.65 million Euros in the bank and the desire to spend it.

Porsche has something a little more affordable on offer. Prices start at almost 200,000 Euros for their 911 GT3 RS, one of the most photographed and blogged cars at the event. The Geneva show version would be tricky to lose in the car park as it's so bright, but one suspects it's possible to change the colour.

Morgan are making an electric car for the first time ever. The firm's 1930s design cues are intact in the EV3, which features brass switches and a bakelite drive selector, albeit with an internal electric reboot for a trending

market. Jonathan Wells, the Head of Design at Morgan Motors explained the decision, "Any company today, especially in the automotive world, can't ignore electrification. It's happening at a global scale, we need to think about what we're doing to our planet obviously. So it's something very important for Morgan to consider." Geneva has a special place in the car-lover's heart, because it features some of the smaller German and Italian performance brands and tuners that are seldom seen at other shows.



# Europe struggles with yet more snow

**Snow storms from Siberia blasted Britain and Ireland with the worst weather since 1991, trapping several hundred motorists on roads in Scotland, closing thousands of schools, grounding planes and halting trains**

With up to 90cm of snow and temperatures as low as minus 10.3 Celsius in Scotland, Britain and Ireland issued their most severe red warnings which advise people to stay at home as travel is too dangerous.

Dozens of people were trapped in their cars on the M80 motorway between Glasgow and Edinburgh, with several hundred having been stranded on the road overnight.

Flights and trains were cancelled across both Britain and Ireland — with similar transport problems in continental Europe.

More freezing snowy weather was forecast as Storm Emma approaches from Portugal and France, with warnings of treacherous weather across southern England and Ireland.

# Taxi drivers go to protest against Uber 'invasion' in Greece

**Hundreds of taxi drivers marched in central Athens to protest at what they called an 'invasion' by Uber, and attacked passing cars they thought were being used by the ride-hailing service**

The drivers say the services are taking their business. They have also accused the Greek government of holding up legislation to regulate booking apps such as Uber and the locally-developed app Beat.

"We will not co-exist with them," said Yorgos Souitsmes,

one of the protesting drivers. "It's a multinational that wants to steal the bread of Greeks."

Uber did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Banners held up by protesters read 'Uber No Thanks'. Crowds kicked and punched or hurled coffee at least three passing cars they said were driven by Uber drivers.

SATA, a regional union representing taxi drivers, called a nine-hour strike against 'every innovative platform robbing taxi drivers and our country'.



# Saudi women take the wheel

**In a few short months, women in Saudi Arabia will be allowed to take the wheel, but first they have to obtain a driving licence**

Female-only universities across Saudi Arabia are expected to offer women full driving courses. For most of these young women the hour long training is the first time they've ever sat in the driver's seat and the move will bring some much needed independence.

"It's such an empowering step towards empowering women," says Joanna al-Fattani who is learning to drive ahead of the lifting of the ban. "It's such an important announcement... now is the right time to do it."

# German automakers gain ground in South Korea, outselling GM for first time

**Mercedes and BMW both sold more cars in South Korea than General Motors for the first time last month, helped by the growing popularity of German premium brands and as consumers shied away from GM after it announced a major restructuring**

BMW saw the biggest jump with February sales nearly doubling to 6,118 vehicles, industry data showed. That was just a tad behind Mercedes which led the imported car rankings with 6,192 cars, up 12 percent from the same period a year earlier.

South Korea last year became the sixth biggest market for Mercedes, climbing from eighth place.

# Berlusconi pledges to back League's Salvini as Italy's next PM

**Silvio Berlusconi will support the leader of Italy's eurosceptic partner the League in attempts to form a government**

In a personal defeat for Berlusconi, the far-right League surpassed his Forza Italia party in last Sunday's elections, winning about 17 percent of the vote to 14 percent for Forza Italia. The four parties in the centre-right coalition agreed during the campaign that the leader of the party that won the most votes would head a government.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# Designers are keen to promote their expertise

## Italian Design Day celebrated in Minsk, with Belarusian and Italian designers discussing more than just contemporary trends

By Veniamin Mikheev

Speaking at the launch, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Stefano Bianchi, stressed that it was the second year in a row that the National Centre of Contemporary Arts in Minsk had hosted the event. Mr. Bianchi underlined that Italian Design Day aims to promote interaction of design and sustainable economic, social and ecological development. The event aims to promote the country's design expertise, organised with help from the Italian Foreign Ministry.

*The Timeless Design: Determining the Classics of Tomorrow* panel discussion drew great interest, held as part of the meeting, organised by the Italian Embassy to Belarus. Aiming to familiarise Belarusian specialists with Italian production and design and to facilitate business connections, it was held at the same venue as the *Stol (table)* art project, which presented the Belarusian pavilion at the *Venice Biennale* in 2017.

Contemporary industrial Italian design was showcased, as a major component of the 'Made in Italy' concept, with focus on national exports. The curator of the project, famous painter Roman Zaslousov, took part in discussion, expressing confidence in projects aiming to strengthen international collaboration between Belarus and



Participants of the meeting greeted by Italian Ambassador Stefano Bianchi (R)

foreign states, including Italy.

The panel discussion in Minsk was attended by two young but already famous specialists: Paolo dell'Elce and Denis Guidone. Around the world about a hundred 'ambassadors' of Italian designs — architects, designers, academicians, businessmen and critics — have been taking part in various conferences, exhibitions and meetings.

Paolo dell'Elce graduated from the Polytechnic University of Milan and trained in Oslo, liaising with Danese Company (part of the Artemide Group of Companies). He now heads the Interior Design Department of the David Chipperfield Group of Companies, and holds numerous awards, including *Premio Camcon 2008*, *Red Dot Award 2011*, *XXII Compasso*



'Made in Italy' design items

*d'Oro ADI 2014* and *Premio Oikos 2017*. Many of his designs have been published in well-known design magazines and have found a place in connoisseurs' collections.

Denis Guidone graduated from the Polytechnic University of Milan's Architecture Department and from the architectural school in Porto. He

holds numerous prestigious international awards in the sphere of design, including the *IDA International Design Award* from Los Angeles, *Adam'o Eva*, *Idot*, *Premio Bruno Munari*, and *ADI Index 2010*. He was recognised at the *Young Design Award 2011* contest and received the *Amazing Design* special prize, at the *Young & Design 2012*



Stol (table) installation

event. He now lives and works between Milan and Japan.

After the welcome speech by the Italian Ambassador to Belarus, Stefano Bianchi, the 'ambassadors of Italian design' in Minsk, Paolo dell'Elce and Denis Guidone, took the floor, leading discussion on the theme of *Timeless Design: Determining the Classics of Tomorrow*.

In particular, the guests noted that relations between design and sustainable development are key elements in 'Broken Nature', reflecting the concept of the *Milan Triennale-2019* international exhibition. The leading topic is to be our relationship with nature and the environment, with design playing an important role, being able to suggest a strategy to improve these relations

Discussions, ideas and proposals at the Minsk meeting tackled the current state of the environment, as well as possible solutions to humanitarian problems, while promoting culture and national languages.

# Leaves trembling in the wind are frozen in ceramic

By Veniamin Mikheev

**Ceramist Olga Ugrinovich is inspired by nature, as proven at her personal exhibition, hosted by the National Art Museum**

Olga works in various media, most preferring porcelain, with which she creates tiles and dishes, in her own style. For centuries, ceramics have



Plants in porcelain

been viewed as noble, mysterious and whimsical. "Fragile and responsive to the touch, it

requires close attention to create forms and to bake effectively in the kiln," Olga explains.

Joy and warmth fills our houses when we display decorative vases, pretty milk jugs and graceful dining sets. Olga decorated

her first plate at the age of five, though telling us, "It was only during my third year of studies at the Academy of Art that I realised that ceramics were in my blood." Her studies at the Depart-



Olga Ugrinovich's inventory of creativity

ment of Ceramics, combined with her love for Belarusian history and folk legends helped Olga choose her artistic path. She finds china clay a refined and rewarding material to work with, allowing her to convey her ideas with delicacy. The National Art Museum's exhibition features porcelain and paintings by Olga, inspired by her love of nature. She admits, "Nothing rivals nature; the closest we can come is to

imprint leaves on plates and cups — so that we see them as if they are upon the ground." Speaking of her inspiration, she stresses her belief that nature cannot be reproduced to be any more beautiful than it already is but her desire is to capture a depiction of nature, through her own vision, creating a unique flavour and unity of content and form. This is how her *Created by Nature* show was born.

"Every day, we tear off a calendar page and turn over a new page in life," Olga says philosophically. "This is how the image of layered porcelain was born. It resembles botanical notes in a yellowed calendar, where a page of memories, aromas and impressions is torn. Each artist perceives the world with their heart, conveying colours and textures, as you can see in the plant imprints in my works."



Scene from *Swan Lake*, staged by National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre

# Meetings expected to be warm

*Swan Lake* by National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belarus tours Mexico, enjoying standing ovation each time

By Olga Korneeva

The tour in Mexico is already in full swing and will finish on March 25th. In six weeks, 35 performances are staged countrywide and this is Belarus theatre's second visit to Mexico. Belarusian ballet

dancers are looking forward to their meeting with the local audience, as they were warmly welcomed during their first tour (performing *Don Quixote*).

Recently, the Belarusian Opera and Ballet Theatre toured both Germany and Austria, staging *Swan Lake* and *The*

*Nutcracker*, or *Another Christmas Story*. The shows were a great success, although it was the seventh tour of Belarusian artistes to these countries. The ballets — based on Tchaikovsky's works — traditionally attracted full houses at even the largest theatres. During their

stay, the Belarusians staged 29 performances in Berlin, Bremen, Frankfurt, Hannover, Leipzig, Stuttgart, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg and other cities.

In late January, the *Vytautas* national ballet went to Vilnius. Specially for the show, its organisers installed a ballet stage

in the Siemens Arena (able to seat several thousand fans). Belarusian artistes enjoyed a standing ovation. Previously, the performance toured Moscow: in June 2016, the choreographic legend was staged at the historical stage of the Bolshoi Theatre.

# City of youth holds the baton

By Olga Kruchenkova

## Novopolotsk becomes cultural capital

In June, the city of petro-chemists is celebrating its 60th jubilee. It is branding itself as a place for young people, both enterprising and creative. This year is a great opportunity for the youth teams of the city to proudly declare themselves and gain countrywide recognition.

It all began with a victory in the Republican *City of Culture* competition: in 2016, Novopolotsk won the 'Best City of Regional Subordination' nomination. Following that success, the local city executive committee decided to compete for the title of cultural capital; where eventually, they defeated Pinsk in the category.

This year, over 230 cultural events will be held in Novopolotsk. Culture Minister Yuri Bondar believes they will all be exciting and interesting. Speaking at the solemn ceremony, he noted. "Novopolotsk was not chosen accidentally. This is a young major industrial centre. Though being unable to boast ancient sights, it has managed to create a rich social and cultural sphere over recent decades. The decision to name Novopolotsk the cultural capital of Belarus was made with certainty that the city could maintain and develop the best traditions of this popular Republican campaign. I wish city residents success this year and hope as many guests as possible will take part in your festival and competitions."

The main project of the year — *Lines of Friendship* — will bring together creative teams, museums and libraries, attracting also twin-cities (there are two dozen of them). Schoolchildren and students from CIS and beyond will get to know traditional Belarusian culture. Many Novopolotsk projects are widely known in the country and abroad. Among them are the *Kids Couture* competition of children's fashion, the *September Palette* festival of na-



**REFERENCE**  
In 2017, Bobruisk was Belarus' cultural capital, and, in previous years, the title belonged to Polotsk, Gomel, Nesvizh, Mogilev, Grodno, Brest and Molodechno

tional culture, the *Musical Lily* contest of young piano players (attracting musicians from Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus), the *Dvina Area Palette* open air workshop devoted to Ivan Khrutsky and, the most famous contest of young pop song performers — *Hali-Halo*. Previous winners of this festival included Piotr Yelfimov, Natalia Podolskaya, Valeria Gribusova, Alexander Minenok, Anna Trubetskaya and Kirill Yermakov.

The diverse areas of the work and achievements of Novopolotsk's cultural establishments have recently been presented at the 'Piggybank of Creativity' exhibition, while the best artistic troupes of the new cultural capital performed at the Naftan JSC Palace of Culture. It was a

challenge to find those appearing on stage: 35 artistic teams with the titles of 'Honoured', 'People's' and 'Exemplary' are registered in the city. As a result, the audience applauded the *Komariki* troupe, the *Yunost* circus, the *Subboteya* song theatre and the Pridvinskije Rossypi ensemble. A series of concerts, campaigns and exhibitions are planned. Booklets on folk art masters and the *Artists of Novopolotsk* album will be published, while the Novopolotsk State Musical College will celebrate its 50th birthday.

The cultural life of the city is at the beginning of its journey. All its participants know that the *Cultural Capital* campaign lasts not just for a single year: the title may come and go, but the cultural benefits remain for many years.

## Among two thousand rivals

By Olga Korneeva

The short feature film by Belarusian film director and script writer, Nella Vasilevskaya, *My Brother*, received the 'Best Foreign Film' Award at the 2nd Chinese International Short Film Contest *Golden Kite*

The event took place in Weifang in the Shandong Province. The contest was arranged by the organising committee of the Asian Short Film Festival. It saw over 2,000 films from Belarus, China, Bulgaria, Colombia, Cuba, Spain, the USA, Uruguay, France and other countries, compete for victory in 19 categories, including 'Best Screenplay', 'Best Director', and 'Best Film'.

*My Brother*, a short film by the young Belarusian director Nella Vasilevskaya, is about the relationship between two cousins. The father takes his son to his sister's village, where he gets to know his cousin. The summer becomes a difficult test for both of them, linked with love and jealousy.

# ‘I couldn’t ease up after the Olympic Games’

## Darya Domracheva wins sprint race at IBU World Cup Biathlon stage in Finnish Kontiolahti

By Oleg Samsonov

At the first shooting range, Domracheva hit every target, though missed her final shot when standing. Nevertheless, her speed in the sprint brought her half a second ahead of German Franziska Hildebrand, who hit every target at the shooting ranges. As a result, the German biathlete finished second, followed by Italian Lisa Vittozzi.

Alongside Ms. Domracheva, Irina Krivko, Nadezhda Pisareva and Dinara Alimbekova also performed for the national squad of Belarus. Skardino and Pisareva earned credit points, hitting all their targets, finishing 11th and 15th respectively.

“After the Olympics, I haven’t been able to ease up, as the season isn’t over yet. I was in competitive spirit at the



Darya Domracheva at shooting range during women’s 7.5 km sprint in Kontiolahti

start in Kontiolahti. My trip home was pleasant, enabling me to ‘recover my breath’ for a few days, and I felt positive about the sprint,” notes Darya.

According to Ms. Domracheva, conditions in Korea brought unexpected results. “It was important not to give up, to keep my chin up and to hope that weather conditions and luck would be on my side. It wasn’t easy to deal with

difficulties each day but it was vital that I broke through my wall of failures.” She adds that victory in the relay at the Olympic Games demonstrates the motivation of Belarusian biathletes. “I’m delighted at the effect our Olympic victory has had on our girls. They’re now very motivated, which will encourage them to train harder and more willingly.”

The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has congratulated Darya Domracheva on her victory in the sprint race at the seventh stage of the World Cup in Finnish Kontiolahti. His greeting reads: ‘During the season, you’ve gained perfect form, enabling you to firmly stay at the top of the biathlon Olympus. It brings special joy to many of your fans’.



Hammer thrower Anna Malyshchik

## Hammer throwing gold and three silver medals

By Yegor Vetrov

### Belarusians claim four medals at European Throwing Cup, in Portuguese Leiria

On the final day of the competition, hammer thrower Anna Malyshchik claimed gold, thanks to her third attempt, of 72.62m. French Alexandra Tavernier took silver (71.2m), followed by Malwina Kopron of Poland (69.54m).

Ms. Malyshchik’s gold

joined three others in the medal box of the Belarusian team. Alena Dubitskaya took silver for her shot putt of 18.47m (behind famous Hungarian shot putter Anita Márton (19.12m). Meanwhile, in the under 23 (junior category), silver went to Belarusian Victor Trus in the discus (58.66m on his first attempt) behind Martin Markovic of Croatia (63.24m). Anna Tarasyuk took the under 23s javelin silver (56.48m), behind Eda Tuğsuz of Turkey (60.92m).

## Among professionals

### Belarusian boxer Kirill Relikh wins World Boxing Association (WBA) world championship title, defeating Cuban Rances Barthelemy, in super lightweight under 63.5kg category, in American San Antonio

In the 12-round struggle, judges gave preference to the Belarusian sportsman, who won on points. The famous Cuban said that his heart is broken, since he was eager to claim his third world title. Nevertheless, Mr. Barthelemy gave credit to the Belarusian boxer, saying, “I accept the defeat, as Relikh deserves this victory.”

Speaking of his defeat by British Ricky Burns in 2016, for the championship title, Kirill Relikh comments, “Last time, I wasn’t ready, having failed



Kirill Relikh (R) provides convincing victory

to train sufficiently. However, today, with new coaches, I was ready. I’m very happy, having waited twenty years. I’ve worked hard to bring my dream to life.”

Previously, in this weight category, WBA champions have included such famous

boxers as Kostya Tszyu of Russia and Ricky Hatton of the UK. The next fight for the Belarusian boxer from Baranovichi will see him face Miguel (Mikey) Angel Garcia, who is a super lightweight International Boxing Federation (IBF) world champion.

## World competition’s results

### Belarus’ national team ranked among top ten strongest, after 2018 UCI Track Cycling World Championships, held in Dutch Apeldoorn

Yevgeny Korolek’s gold medal in the scratch has ensured the Belarusian squad eighth position. This is Belarus’ first medal in the scratch, since the discipline launched at world tournaments in

2002. Korolek, aged 21, is a pioneer, upon whom we are pinning hopes for the European Games in Minsk. In the scratch, all participants start at the same time, with men covering 15km and women 10km. The winner is the first to cross the finish line.

Korolek’s victory at the World Championship is no surprise as, last year, he won the World Cup stage in this

discipline. He underlines, “I enjoy what I’m doing. It’s my addiction!”

Twelve Belarusian athletes (eight men and four women) performed at the world cycling forum in the Netherlands, competing for twenty sets of medals. The next UCI Track Cycling World Championships will take place in Polish Pruszków, in 2019.

## Competitions of the week



Around 100 dancers from Belarus and Russia gather at Vitebsk Open Cup for Eastern Dance

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 25th March. *Form Sublimation*  
Until 25th March. *Harmony*: graphics by Vladimir Vasyuk and ceramics by Tamara Vasyuk  
Until 1st April. *Relax* art project  
Until 15th May. *Serving to the Homeland*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 30th March. *My Ikigai*  
Until 1st May. Exhibition of Salvador Dali's graphics: *Divine Comedy*

#### GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

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

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 15th April. *Fiodor Yastreb's Poetic Palette*

#### STATE MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street  
Until 16th April. *Timkovichi: Treasury of Inspiration*

#### CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30th June. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950th Anniversary*

#### YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street  
Until 16th April. *Awaken Zhaleika*

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 2nd April. *Nikas Safronov: Spring of Impressions*

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 25th March. *Female Image in Porcelain*

#### TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 1st April. *Through Mother's Eyes* photo exhibition

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street  
Until 31st March. *Ramūnas Danisevičius: Living in Time*

### THEATRES

#### NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street  
15.03. Figaro's Wedding 16.03. Kashchey the Immortal. Scheherazade 17.03. The Flying Dutchman 18.03. Firebird. Scheherazade 20.03. The Tsar's Bride 21.03. Nutcracker. Masterpieces of Belarusian Classical Romance 22.03. Carmen

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
15 and 16.03. Mashenka 17 and 18.03. Ghost with a Motor; White Acacia 19.03. Casanova 20.03. Jane Eyre 21.03. My Wife Is a Liar 22.03. Spring Colours

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
15.03. Double Eternity 16.03. Bridegrooms 17.03. Circle of Love 18.03. Divers 20.03. Innkeeper 21.03. Oedipus; Truth Is Good But Happiness Is Better 22.03. Zoika's Flat

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
17.03. Adventures of Pin Pan 18.03. Morozko 20.03. Why Are People Getting Older? 21.03. Silk 22.03. Mann Ist Mann

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
15.03. Jeweller's Jubilee 16.03. Evening 17.03. Not Mine 18.03. Inspector 20.03. Pan Tadeusz 21.03. Pinsk Gentry 22.03. School of Taxpayers

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
15.03. Wolves and Sheep 16.03. Merchant Yepishkin's Theatre 17.03. Who Laughs Last 18.03. Anna Snegina 19.03. Master and Margarita 20.03. Night of A. Chekhov's Miniatures; Proposal; Jubilee 21.03. An Unnamed Star 22.03. Even a Wise Man Stumbles

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
15.03. A Two Dogs' Tale; If No Tomorrow 16.03. People's Love 17.03. Golden Heart; Grandfather 18.03. Pelican 20 and 21.03. Concrete 22.03. Lift

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
15.03. Yard as Vanishing Scenery 16.03. Lesson of Love: Kościuszko's Story 17.03. Tectonics of Feelings; A Man from Podolsk 18.03. Sasha, Take Garbage Away; Dowerless 20.03. Family Weekend