



Roman Petrushenko and Vadim Makhnev — Olympiad-2012 silver medallists

Our boats finally sailed to victory

Belarus plans to impose a fine on the International Canoe Federation for illegal disqualification of our canoe team

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne has lifted a one-year ban from the Belarusian men's canoe and kayak national team imposed by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) last summer because of accusations of violating anti-doping rules. It was for

this reason that Vladimir Shantarovich's squad watched the Olympic Games in Rio on TV. It's now official that this nightmare disqualification was ill-founded. The Court of Arbitration for Sport allowed the Belarusian appeal because of insufficient evidence of guilt from the ICF.

The head coach of our national canoe and kayak team, Vladimir Shantarovich, radiated inspiration in his comments, "We were expecting that the decision regarding our case would be adopted on January 27th; however, the CAS decided not to prolong the issue. Even if the

French Anti-Doping Agency, the major initiator of this case, recognised our innocence, what else could the CAS do? The accusations against us were simply not true and now justice has been done."

Weighty approach towards optimisation is necessary

By Vladimir Khromov

The crime situation in the country is gradually improving and this tendency is a reflection on the number of law enforcement bodies

The Interior Ministry system should be optimised but a weighty approach must be used. This is one of the major conclusions of the working

meeting between the President and Belarus' Interior Minister, Igor Shunevich. Mr. Lukashenko has guaranteed to preserve the current level of financing while the money saved will remain at the disposal of the Interior Ministry. This saving can be spent on additional encouragement of employees and to strengthen the material and technical base. Budgetary assistance

can also increase and this is a good stimulus for further improvement of the quality of militia work. The President noted, "You should be addressing this without compromising your service. There must be no thoughtless personnel reduction. We should take care of good employees. If they deserve to continue their service and are needed, they should not be fired. Those

who do not want or cannot serve well must be relieved of their duties. Therefore, we need rational optimisation."

According to the report, all planned issues were successfully addressed by the Interior Ministry throughout 2016. The establishment of the Republican system of public security monitoring was proposed to increase efficiency. The essence of this



Security comes first

project is to bring together various local systems of video surveillance. Of course, it will require some normal and legal acts and a range of technical issues to be solved. Meanwhile, the most impor-

tant thing is that the idea was timely and much in demand. In line with the President's instruction, a session will be held in the near future to discuss in detail all aspects of the suggested model.

Good prospects for real collaboration

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus plans to continue maintaining traditionally warm and friendly relations with India, noted Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, at a reception celebrating the Day of the Republic of India

The presence of the Foreign Minister at the official reception is testament to the high status that is given to relations with India at



state level. This was confirmed by Vladimir Makei's speech.

"We're proud of the fact that a highly promising partner in South

Asia such as India invests its efforts in maintaining our friendly relations and mutually beneficial co-operation," said the Foreign Minister. "2017 marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our countries.

Since 1992, Belarus and India have been steadily expanding collaboration across a wide range of areas and strengthening mutual understanding

between the two nations. We have been advancing our bilateral relations in every area and at all levels."

Mr. Makei emphasised that the two countries have regularly exchanged high-level visits. Belarus and India have also established a mechanism of bilateral consultation and co-operation. In June 2015, the Indian President Pranab Mukherjee paid an official visit to Belarus. Later, Mikhail Myasnikov, the Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of

Belarus, visited India.

According to the Foreign Minister, the exchange of visits raises bilateral ties to a new level. The Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs is confident that 'the Belarusian-Indian strategic partnership based on time-tested traditions of friendship, equality and mutual respect will continue strengthening to contribute to the development of a better future for all the nations and the building of a peaceful and harmonious world order'.

On January 25th, 1992, France's Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, visited Minsk to sign a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries — envisaging an exchange of missions at embassy level. France became the first to recognise Belarus as an independent state.

The Belarusians and French are united by a long history originating in the mists of time. 25 years ago, we began to write the history of our relations independently. The heads of the Belarusian and French diplomatic missions shared their views on the development of bilateral relations:

Strong co-operation between two countries

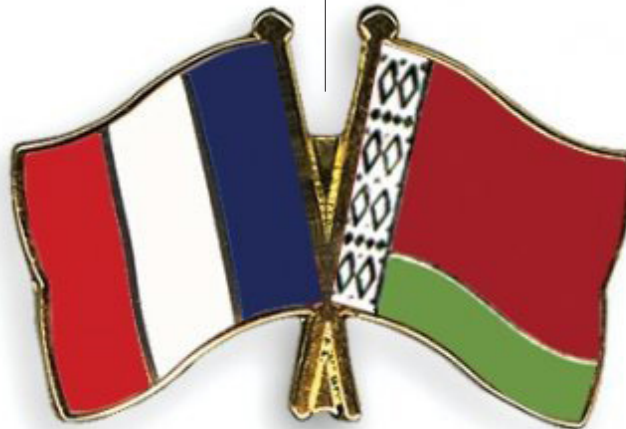
We believe that, at international level, our countries should unite to meet serious international challenges such as the fight against terrorism and global warming, environmental protection and compliance with the obligations of the Paris Agreement which came into force on November 4th 2016.

Belarus occupies a privileged geographical position in the heart of Europe which naturally defines its mission: to become the place to meet. France supports Belarus in its efforts and is striving to expand economic and political relations. We continue consultations with Belarusian authorities on all matters affecting our common interests and support the initiatives taken by the European Union in accordance with the Eastern Partnership programme — namely, the strengthening of contacts, good governance, the development of small and

medium-sized enterprises, strengthening of energy ties and transport networks.

One aspect yet to be improved is our economic bilateral relations which are currently failing to meet their potential. Their development should become a priority. Both France and Belarus have their own strengths and we can leverage sectors such as agriculture, innovation and high technology. These opportunities exist and we should maximise them by removing restrictive barriers to the development of industrial co-operation, mutual trade and the flow of tourism. We have established a bilateral economic commission to deal with these issues.

To get to know each other better, direct contact between citizens of our two countries is important. We should become more familiar with each other's cultural heritage. That's why we continue to fully support the cultural exchanges and inter-university co-operation which is the



flagship of the French-Belarusian Centre for European Studies. Student exchanges and French language studies continue successfully.

Belarus can rely on France's support, based on the principles of full respect for its sovereignty, approval of its European identity and realisation of aspirations to freedom and prosperity of its people.

French-Belarusian friendship should grow stronger!

Didier Canosse,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Belarus

Solid foundation for intercultural links

Radziwill in the 18th century; decorated in 'the Versailles fashion', it staged plays by Moliere and Voltaire (translated by Urszula Radziwill).

French choreographers Louis Dupré (who was especially active in Slonim and Nesvizh in the 1750s-1760s) and François Le Du (who worked in Grodno and Postavy in the 1780s) are known as the 'fathers' of Belarusian ballet.

The activity of Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Michal Kleofas Oginski was also connected with France and its ideas of the Enlightenment Age. In the mid-19th century, our famous countrymen Adam Mickiewicz, Ignat Domeyko and Napoleon Orda lived and worked in Paris.

In the early 20th century, a galaxy of talented artists and sculptors, born in Belarus, worked in France; among them were representatives of the Parisian School — Marc Chagall, Chaïm Soutine, Ossip Zadkine, Leon Bakst and Michel Kikoïne.

In modern times, we continue to strengthen Belarusian-French relations. Co-operation between twin cities is developing: Lyon and Minsk, Gomel and Clermont-Ferrand, amongst other Belarusian and French cities. In our view, this contributes to the development of bilateral co-operation and cultural integration.

The Days of Belarusian Culture in France are already a tradition. In the last three years, the Embassy has organised approximately 110 cultural events well attended by about 350,000 French people.

Without exaggerating, we can assert that an important foundation for intercultural contact between Belarus and French has been established. This is probably one of the major achievements in the last 25 years. We should continue building further on Belarusian-French relations.

Pavel Latushko,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to the French Republic

Belarus has always been an integral part of the European economic and cultural region. Our relations with France have a long history. Many architectural monuments in Belarus — especially those dated 15th-16th century, such as the Mir Castle, the Nesvizh Palace and Park Estate — reflect the influence of French architecture.

Speaking of the century-old cultural ties between our two nations, we should recall the establishment of a court theatre by Michael Kazimierz

Alexander Lukashenko: 'We cannot but promote our beneficial bilateral co-operation'

It is essential to join our efforts and co-operate, to survive and develop in modern complicated and sometimes unpredictable conditions — President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, said on meeting the Serbian Prime Minister, Aleksandar Vučić, who recently paid his first official visit to Minsk

By Vasily Kharitonov

The Head of State noted that Belarus has never stopped co-operation with Serbia and plans to continue in the future. "We see the way the world is developing today: there are dangerous and unpredictable processes." He stressed that the main trend is that the world is becoming more and more globalised so processes in the economy are following. "We cannot but promote co-operation to survive and develop in this turbulent world for the benefit of our states and nations," believes Mr. Lukashenko.

Belarus and Serbia have a long history of relations development. At the same time, the President noted that Belarus and Serbia are in different situations today despite the common trend. "In any



Alexander Lukashenko meets Aleksandar Vučić

case, we will not lay claims to Serbia if it develops in its own way because, perhaps, we are also responsible for the fact that Serbia is in such a situation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, we had to focus on building closer relations," Mr. Lukashenko said. He emphasised the need to build and support bilateral relations.

The President stressed that Belarusian-Serbian trade turnover, which is the basis of relations, has shrunk in recent times. In his words, it is important to address topical issues and find the ways to restore bilateral trade. "We must do our best to at least reach the previous volume of trade," said the Head of State. It made \$250m in 2015 and trade turnover almost halved in 2016.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that there are no forbidden topics in Belarusian-Serbian co-operation. "We have always supported you even in the most difficult

times, although sometimes it was not beneficial for us. We had a principled position, including on the unity of your state. Therefore, you can count on Belarus. You should know that we will do everything we can for Serbia," assured the President.

Aleksandar Vučić emphasised that Serbia is relying on a significant increase of trade with Belarus. He thanked the Belarusians for their great support in preserving the integrity and sovereignty of Serbia. He expressed the opinion that it is necessary to do everything possible to increase Belarusian-Serbian co-operation in politics and the economy. Mr. Vučić believes that Belarus and Serbia will double their efforts to achieve the goal of increasing trade turnover. These issues were actively discussed during his Minsk visit and are now outlined in concrete agreements.

Belarus and Serbia have signed a roadmap for the de-

velopment of co-operation in 2017-2018. The two countries agreed to organise the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Serbian Commission on Trade and Economic Co-operation and conduct business councils on co-operation between chambers of commerce, while fa-

ilitating the organisation of mutual deliveries of popular food products. Overall, the roadmap includes over 50 events.

In addition, our two countries will continue their work on the establishment of an international holding of car components — based

Roadmap to facilitate development

By Vladimir Velikhov

Belarus' Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov negotiates with his Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vučić

During the meeting, the Head of the Belarusian Government underlined that he hopes to develop trade relations with Serbia. "Serbia is one of the leading countries on the Balkan Peninsula and an important partner for Belarus. It is our fraternal nation, one of the leading trading partners in the region. We hope that the



current visit will boost the development of trade-economic relations," said Mr. Kobyakov.

The PM expressed confidence that, with the current

on Belavtogaz and Petar Drapšin. Belarusian partners also expressed their readiness to supply Mogilevlift-mash products to Serbia, in addition to MAZ-ETON trolley buses.

The two countries are eager to co-operate more closely in agriculture and science, while setting up joint innovation projects with technological parks. Development of inter-regional co-operation will be backed by twin-city agreements between Belarusian and Serbian towns: Polotsk and Sremska Mitrovica, Soligorsk and Jagodina, Krusevac and Novopolotsk, Zhlobin and Smederevo.

Moreover, Belarus and Serbia plan to liaise in the field of oncology, providing high-tech medical aid to citizens of both countries and organising internships for Serbian specialists in Belarus. The two sides are now considering the possibility of registering Belarusian medicines as dietary supplements in Serbia. They will also expand co-operation in the field of natural resources, petrochemicals, education, sports and tourism.

level of mutual relations, Belarus and Serbia will continue developing their friendship and co-operation while emphasising Belarus' readiness to discuss the bilateral agenda.

In his turn, Aleksandar Vučić thanked the Belarusian side for their warm welcome and hospitality. "I hope we will have an opportunity to develop economic relations. Belarus is a friendly country for us. Our good political relations will promote mutual trade. This is our goal," noted the Chairman of the Government of Serbia.

This year's forum will highlight new technologies, advanced innovations and the information society

By Eduard Pivovarov

Russia is determined to continue its stance on building bridges between the regions of Russia and Belarus noted the Vice Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Rus-

sian Federation, Yuri Vorobiev, during the first session of the organising committee at the 4th Belarus-Russia Forum of Regions in Moscow

The meeting of the organising committee took place at the Belarusian embassy in Russia. "It is not just a sign of our close relations with

Belarus. It also shows our determination to continue our policy of building relations between Belarus and Russia," noted Mr. Vorobiev.

He reminded the delegates that such forums are annual events where representatives of the two countries discuss important economic and political issues. According to the Vice

Speaker of the Federation Council, this year's forum will highlight new technologies, innovations and the information society. "These are currently very important issues. They need closer co-operation between our nations, new approaches and joint solutions," he said.

The 4th Belarus-Russia Forum

of Regions will be held at Moscow's Expocentre on June 29th-30th. According to Mr. Vorobiev, the company will host an exhibition that will showcase this year's theme in detail. He also suggested that participants of the forum visit innovative companies, modern laboratories and hi-tech centres.

IAEA experts are obviously pleased with the work done

Experts of international standing in Minsk assert that Belarus is constructing its first nuclear power plant using the highest safety standards

By Vladimir Yakovlev

This is the conclusion made by an authoritative team of IAEA experts during the SEED-mission after having thoroughly studied the impact on the environment of the nuclear power plant currently being built near Ostrovets. The mission used the opportunity of BelNPP's construction to consider the worst possible outcomes or emergencies.

Grzegorz Rzentkowski the Head of the IAEA's Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, asserted, "We've concluded that the project of the Belarusian NPP considers external influence and security issues. Steps have been taken to prevent (if necessary) the development of worst case scenarios. We've also discussed the provision of security, taking into account lessons from the disaster at Fukushima. The open and helpful approach of the Belarusian side has enabled us to conduct a successful mission."

Such an assessment is very important, since IAEA is the world's leading agency in the sphere of nuclear energy development. Belarus has been checking each step with IAEA standards from the very beginning of the decision-making process. A further international team has conducted an on-site seminar dealing with



View on the construction site of BelNPP in Ostrovets

issues of spent fuel and radioactive waste management. All this enable Belarus' Energy Minister, Vladimir Potupchik, to assure the guests that, "Belarus has decided to develop nuclear engineering and to construct its nuclear power plant in full compliance with international commitments. Today large-scale works are being conducted at almost all facilities of the station. I'd like to underline that these comply with IAEA standards and consultants and experts of this organisation are also constantly involved."

This year, according to data from the Foreign Ministry, at least one more IAEA mission will be working in our country. Work is now in full swing at the construction ground near Ostrovets to accept the reactor shell, main circulation pumps and other major equipment. In the near future, the assembling of the first energy unit will follow and we are at great pains to ensure that everything is done seamlessly, reliably and safely for many decades to come.

Openness in the issue is always welcomed

By Alexander Pimenov

A joint Lithuanian-Belarusian agency for post-project analysis of the Belarusian nuclear power plant (BelNPP) is under discussion, notes Belarus' First Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Iya Malkina

According to the First Deputy Minister, Belarus is open to discuss any issues related to the construction of the BelNPP and continues its efforts to improve dialogue with Lithuania. Consultations were held in June and September 2016 to discuss scientific and technical aspects of the BelNPP construction project. A wide range of issues of interest to Lithuanian experts were discussed.

Following the consultations, the Belarusian

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection sent an invitation to the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment on December 23rd, 2016, confirming its readiness to continue the dialogue at expert level.

The main issues under discussion include the establishment of a joint body that would consider issues related to the environmental, nuclear and radiation safety of the nuclear facilities, the development of a joint system for radiation monitoring of the nuclear power facilities located on both sides of the Belarusian-Lithuanian border and the establishment of a joint agency for post-project analysis of the Belarusian nuclear power plant. Belarus is also ready to continue work on the draft of the bilateral agreement for implementation of the Espoo Convention.

Operational life extended

By Olga Korneeva

First Belarusian space apparatus to stay in orbit until late 2018

"The lifespan of the first Belarusian space satellite (BKA-1) is five years and it expires in mid-2017. We are constantly monitoring the state of its on-board systems. In practice, the degradation of these systems has been below our projections. Hence the decision to extend operational life to late 2018 has been made," notes Sergey Zolotoi, Director of R&D enterprise Geoinformation Systems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The decision was made by the manufacturing company in 2016. "A draft decree on extending the operational



At Flight Control Centre

life of the satellite has been prepared. It has gone through all the approval steps and is now in the Belarus President Administration," adds Mr. Zolotoi.

The state of the on-board systems of the first Belarusian satellite for Earth remote sensing will be evaluated once again in mid-2018. "If the satellite is still in work-

ing condition and the projections are positive, the operational life may be extended once again. The satellite has enough fuel to last until 2020," said Mr. Zolotoi.

Good driving with recharge

By Yevgeny Bogomazov

Belarusian electric car to undergo tests by end of this year

One of the Belarusian institutes is currently working on the rechargeable car project. The Belarusian electric car will be based on a BelGee vehicle. "We should have a prototype by autumn and have it trialed in Belarus. I hope that by late 2017 we'll have the results of the testing," noted Alexander Kilchevsky, Chief Scientific Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The exploration of new scientific prospects, including the development of Belarusian electric vehicles, will become

more feasible once the Belarusian nuclear power station is in operation.

"This is a landmark event for Belarus. One of the tasks of the Academy of Sciences is the provision of scientific support. Just imagine that after the Belarusian nuclear power station is launched the country's supply of electricity will increase by 50 percent. This means that we'll be able to use cheaper electric energy. We'll be able to start the development of one of Belarus' first houses that will function almost completely using electricity. On the one hand, this will save gas consumption while, on the other hand, we'll need to build heat pipelines and other infrastructure," explained the scientist.

No lack of interest

Export potential of Belarusian forestry presented in Poland

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus' forestry export potential was presented in Poland during business talks on ways to expand exports of Belarusian forestry and woodworking goods and develop co-operation between the corresponding companies of Belarus and Poland.

A significant interest in the topic of the meeting was confirmed by several its participants. Partaking in the event were more than 130 representatives of forestry and woodworking companies of Belarus and Poland. The companies specialise in the production of timber, wood boards, floor covering, parquet, laminated wood structures and wood processing equipment, as well as timber trade. The forum was also attended by heads and representatives of Poland's biggest associations of entrepreneurs: the Polish Economic Chamber of Wood Industry, the Wood Based Panels Producers Association and the Ministry of Development of Poland.

Belarus was represented at the event by the Forestry Ministry, Bellesbumprom Concern and a range of other



VMG Industry enterprise working in Mogilev free economic zone

woodworking companies.

During the negotiations, the parties discussed the opportunities of selling Belarusian forestry and timber materials abroad through exchange auctions. Moreover, industrial co-operation

and plans for joint wood production projects in the Mogilev free economic zone were high on the agenda. The event also included a presentation of the potential of the national mechanical engineering products de-

signed for the forest sector and wood industry. They also tackled possible areas for investing and discussed sites to build industrial facilities with access to local raw materials.

The event also high-

lighted co-operation prospects with Poland and joint projects in forestry and the wood industry. The participants of the meeting shared contact information and determined further steps for the collaboration.

Scientists have a lot to offer

By Olga Korneeva

More than 500 new scientific achievements on show at an exhibition dedicated to the Day of Belarusian Science at the National Academy of Sciences

This large-scale exhibition includes the achievements and most important outcomes of the sci-tech and innovation activity of Belarus. Scientists and researchers from the country's 78 organisations demonstrate their latest developments, including from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the ministries of Education, Industry, Health, Agriculture and Food, the State Military-Industrial Committee and the Defence Ministry, as well as from innovation enterprises and techno parks. The developments of young scientists were presented separately.

As part of the exhibition, a forum of the scientific community was also held, dedicated to the Day of Belarusian Science and

3D illusion really appeals

By German Moskalenko

Belarusian Kino-Mo project in USA Today's top ten best developments

Journalists of the popular US media outlet visited the CES 2017 Expo in Las Vegas, featuring more than 20,000 new gadgets from all over the world and picked their top ten. The *Kino-Mo* project by Artem Stavenko and Kirill Chikeyuk of Belarus is on their list.

The device designed by the two Belarusians produces incredibly colourful 3D visuals floating in mid-air. Such displays are cost-effective as the devices can be networked and controlled remotely, and enable the wireless transfer of images. The project of Artem Stavenko and Kirill Chikeyuk won the contest by Virgin Media, founded by billionaire Richard Branson. Later the company of Belarusian designers concluded one more investment contract with billionaire Mark Cuban whose investment portfolio includes more than 50 companies.

Great hope pinned on flax

Using flax industry capacities may bring in a considerable contribution to Belarus' economic growth, said Belarus' Prime Minister, Andrei Kobyakov. He was speaking at a session of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers focusing on progress made in the implementation of orders placed by the President and the Government to enhance the efficiency of the national flax industry.



Various structures of fabrics developed at Orsha Linen Mill

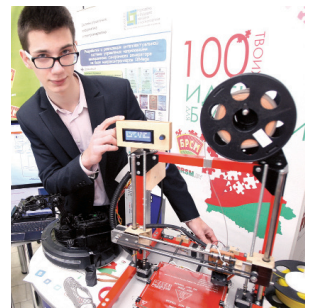
By Alexey Fedosov

According to Mr. Kobyakov, Belarus has always been one of the world's top flax fibre producers. Our favourable climate for flax cultivation is an objective competitive advantage for the country. In his words, using the potential of the flax industry can make a substantive contribution to the country's economic

performance, thanks to the increasing demand for flax products on the foreign market.

The Belarusian Head of Government also stressed that the national flax companies have been recently modernised to achieve higher processing efficiency. The cutting-edge high-performance equipment was acquired for this purpose. In 2016, flax

straw was processed at 29 flax mills which have 54 (including 10 high-performance) technological lines for flax processing. The major goals being addressed in the national flax industry today are to improve the quality of flax fibre, reduce its prime costs and increase the flax processing depth to produce finished goods with a high added value, noted the Prime Minister.



At the exhibition of ideas

the Year of Science, with the best scientists and researchers of the country being given awards. The National Academy of Sciences awarded winners of the contest 'Top 10' results of scientific activity for 2016, featuring works from the National Academy of Sciences in the sphere of fundamental research.

The Day of Belarusian Science is celebrated annually on the last Sunday of January, with scientific conferences, exhibitions and welcome days being held in scientific, scientific-production organisations and higher educational establishments. Moreover, awards are bestowed upon representatives of academic, university and sectoral sciences who have made a significant contribution to the development of scientific, sci-tech and innovation activity.

Each patient is to have their private account

Last year saw a breakthrough for Belarusian medicine, as World Bank allocated \$65m for global informatisation, aiding progress

By Lyudmila Kirillova

The transition to electronic records began in our country ten years ago. However, while the process has moved on rapidly in Minsk, embracing electronic prescriptions and appointment, progress is slower in the regions, due to insufficient funding.

The Department of Organisational-Methodical and Systematic Support of Informatisation for Public Health Services, at the Belarusian Centre for Medical Technologies, Computer Systems, Administration and Management of Health, aims to remedy the situation. Semen Polyakov, who heads the department, explains that re-



Minsk's polyclinic #39 has already moved to giving out electronic recipes

gions are being targeted, with a list of participants drawn up. The goal is for at least 70 percent of medical institutions to have joined the electronic public health system by 2021.

The aim is to create a uniform central information platform, joined by a huge server, allowing doctors to access medical data:

from our blood type to past treatments. Meanwhile, patients will be able to receive electronic prescriptions, and electronic appointments, as well as online access to their records, and the chance to leave feedback. Russian and foreign developers will probably be involved in creating this unique information database. Many countries have

taken this path, with 99 percent of prescriptions being given electronically in Estonia these days.

Doctors are keen to preserve paper records, planning to duplicate electronic prescriptions with paper versions for Minsk patients, for the coming year. Polyclinics also plan to launch bar codes, facilitating appointment-making with doctors.

Preventative measures are preferable but the advice below may help in case of illness

Prevention is always better than cure but if the worst happens, which is the correct way to cure acute respiratory infection at home?

(A. Matusevich, a resident of the Gomel Region's Dobrush)

The spread of the flu virus in Belarus is currently assessed as low, mostly thanks to the large number of Belarusians — approximately 40 percent — who have been vaccinated. The more people are vaccinated, the greater the collective immunity; this also allows unvaccinated people to fall ill less often. It's important to remember however, that vaccination does not protect against viruses in general but only against flu.

What can be done when illness strikes?

On feeling the first symptoms of a cold (tiredness, cough, runny nose, sometimes fever), it's sometimes best to spend a



Active way of life is the best remedy

couple of days at home in bed to keep warm and save energy which is better spent on fighting the virus.

Take care to monitor your temperature regularly: if it does not rise above the normal 38 degrees, then no antipyretic drugs should be taken: the fever will destroy viruses and microbes. Antipyretic medicines are necessary for treating colds only in cases when the temperature

is above 38 degrees. Most specialists recommend drugs containing ibuprofen and paracetamol to treat fever while avoiding aspirin as it enhances the risk of complications.

In case of respiratory disease, **a patient should drink more liquids:** hot tea, rose hip infusion, cranberry juice or warm milk. Liquids will help remove viruses and toxins from the body. To cope with the

chill, one should wear cotton underwear with warm layers on top. Firstly, these layers retain heat better, and secondly, they can be easily adjusted depending on the body temperature.

Before going to bed, if suffering from a runny nose, you should add an additional pillow or raise the bed head. This will facilitate the flow of mucus, helping to prevent the cough and runny nose from

disturbing your sleep. Doctors also recommend inhaling with essential oils that have anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties. Among these oils are juniper, eucalyptus, clove and peppermint. Experts recommend combining them for maximum preventive effect. Recently, more drugs are being produced containing essential oils.

If a person has no appetite while suffering from a chest infection, they should not be forced to eat. Yogurt, kefir and fermented baked milk are perfect cold treatments: bacteria in milk products helps fight off colds. Such immunomodulators as garlic, onion and fresh lard also work, in addition to baked onion (as distinct from fresh).

Meanwhile, we'll speak about medical treatment of acute respiratory infection in the next issue.

By Tatiana Zhukova,
Doctor of higher
category,
M.D. Ph.D.

Information for tourists

By Alexander Pimenov

Once Minsk regional ethnographer Vladislav Khilkevich came up with the idea of making a guide to Minsk for children, the plan was implemented, and now a new colourful edition has appeared in bookstores

It was Vladislav's daughter Yelizaveta who realised his dream. When she was 11 she began working on the guide, and completed it at the age of 14. During the first half of the year she collected information from her rich home library and on the Internet, processed it and visited museums and landmarks. One day, her parents remember, during one of her trips with her school class, Liza surprised the classmates sitting next to her in the bus with stories about the sights outside the window.

The first of Yelizaveta's articles was about the National Library. "It consumes a lot of energy. So, in order to save energy, light-reflecting panels hang inside the building, and there is also a transparent glass floor which can hold a weight of several tonnes, you can jump on it as much as you want!" she wrote. Afterwards the text was abbreviated, and it was the only thing that Vladislav changed in the guide. For the sake of the experiment, he decided not to interfere with the work



Guide through the capital

of his daughter. When the text was ready, there was a question over the illustrations. The publishing house asked Liza to illustrate the book herself, although the creation of pictures took over a year.

The guide will answer the questions of young Minsk citizens, their parents and, of course, foreign guests. For example, they will learn where ancient Minsk was located, what street is the shortest and what is the narrowest, how old is the oldest of the surviving churches of Minsk, what is the height of the Town Hall, about the famous Count Czapski, under which Minsk square a ferocious dragon lived and a lot of other interesting information.

Yelizaveta is now ready to create guides for other cities. In the meantime, she paints famous Minsk buildings which she connects with world landmarks. For example, she combined the 'Gates of Minsk' with the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Old city with glorious history

Zaslavl is the closest suburb to Minsk. Many residents of this small town work in the capital but live virtually on the sea shore. According to chronicles, Zaslavl is an ancient town — founded in the late 10th century by Duke Vladimir Svyatoslavovich.

By German Moskalenko

Learn Rogneda's history

According to legend, Kiev's Duke Vladimir married Rogneda (a daughter of Polotsk's Duke Rogvolod) by force. Being the bride of his brother Yaropolk, she refused Vladimir's offer of his 'hand and heart'. The duke did not forgive her. He captured Polotsk, killed Rogneda's parents and married her. Later, Rogneda tried unsuccessfully to kill her unloved husband on many occasions. The duchess was saved from death by her small son Izyaslav (an older brother of Yaroslav the Wise). He stood between his mother and father and Vladimir saved the life of his obstinate wife — sending her and the son to Polotsk's lands — the city, named after the son: Izyaslav. Here, proud duchess Rogneda-Gorislava spent her last days. In the early 1990s, a 'Rogneda and Izyaslav' monument was erected in Zaslavl.

Living history

Zaslavl is a museum-town. It's a paradise for lovers of antiquity. This is a rare place where two ancient settlements have been preserved: Zamechek (Zamochek) — the remains of the 10th-12th century city ramparts, and the castle mound — Val fortress from where, after a major 14th century fire, the city was built anew. Val has another main attraction: The Transfiguration Church. It was built in the mid-16th century as a Calvinist church and later became the Roman Catholic Church of Archangel Michael; at present, it operates as an Orthodox church. Initially, it was simultaneously a church and a defensive structure — having slits in the top and on the 30-metre-tall tower. The Transfiguration Church



A monument to Izyaslav — the founder of the Polotsk ducal dynasty

is not only an architectural pearl of Belarus; it is also a visual image of the country's history, indicating its antiquity and uniqueness. Moreover, Polotsk also has the Roman Catholic Church of the Nativity of Virgin Mary, built in the Vilno Baroque style.

Getting acquainted with home spirits

The local Mlyn ethnographic complex enjoys great popularity among city guests; it unites several 19th century buildings — such as a steam mill, a barn and a blacksmith's shop. The rich Pshezdet-sky family — who owned the site for several centuries — built a magnificent palace and park complex with a manor in Zaslavl. Only fragments of the complex remain, in addition to some barns, ponds and a park. The most valuable 'exhibit' is the building of the Palace Hermitage in the Upper Park; it now houses the



Mlyn ethnographic complex

House of Children's Art, in Engels Street. Children enjoy the Museum of Mythology and Forests. There is also a section of the forest with stuffed rabbit, grouse, raccoon and other animals and birds. Moreover, the site offers an exhibition of sculptures of fairy-tale characters: a vampire, a forest host, a home spirit and a water spirit. Belarusian culture and lifestyle is also widely represented at the local museum which displays archaeological finds, works of local artists and a collection of musical instruments: accordions, dulcimers, violins, pipes and drums. Live music is also played.

Visiting Stalin's Line

The Stalin Line Historical and Cultural Complex is one of the most impressive fortifications in Belarus. The open-air military-historical museum is situated 10km from Zaslavl,

on the site of Minsk's Great Patriotic War fortified area. The museum is worth visiting as it demonstrates two machine-gun bunkers, an artillery semi-caponier and part of the fortified border strip. Where else can you see all kinds of trenches, anti-tank ditches, dugouts and 'hedgehogs'? Tanks, self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, cannons, armoured vehicles and rocket engineering are placed on observation grounds in lines and anyone can touch them and even sit in them. The experts at the museum complex are restoring the vintage military equipment, while conducting unique historical reconstruction.

Dipping into the Minsk Sea

Zaslavl is one of the most environmentally friendly suburbs of the capital, bordering the Minsk Sea which is Zaslavl's reservoir. It is surrounded with numerous health resorts and clinics: sanatoriums, holiday houses, farmsteads — all popular among Belarusians and Russians. Anyone can find a place to their taste: with and without medical treatment, with fishing or mushroom gathering, horse riding and surfing. There are also exclusive places: Alexander Lukashenko's residence and the large village of Laporovichy are situated on the bank. A summer residence of the famous Soviet *Pesnyary* band singer, Vladimir Mulyavin, was also to be found. The house, which boasts interesting architecture, could have become a museum of the genius musician had his heirs not sold it to be demolished to make way for the new owner's mansion.



Sailing regatta on Zaslavl water reservoir (Minsk Sea)



Panorama of Zaslavl



The Transfiguration Church



Fire is seen along a road in the town of Hualane during a big forest fire, on the outskirts of the Curico city, south of Chile

Deadly wildfires in Chile destroy the entire town

An entire town has been completely destroyed by flames, as the worst wildfires in Chile's modern history continue to consume large swathes of the country's territory

Some 1,200 homes in St. Olga, the biggest of several communities in the central Maule Region, have been reduced to smouldering ash. Most of the town's 6,000 residents amazingly escaped unharmed, but one death has been confirmed and two people are still missing. The extent of devastation has shocked

many.

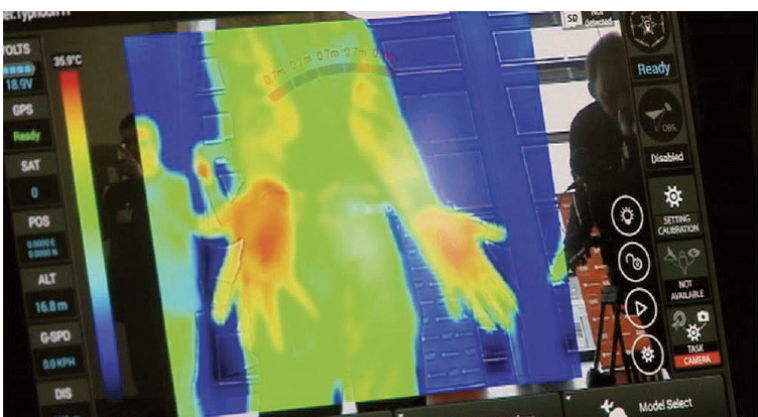
"The flames razed everything to the ground. We were fighting the flames with the neighbours for two days, making firewalls all around the area," said one man. Fanned by strong winds, searing temperatures and a prolonged drought, nearly 100 separate fires

have been recorded over an area estimated to be about twice the size of New York.

"The fire has destroyed more than 300 hectares, a bird farm, and 25,000 chickens that were ready to breed," one farmer owner said. Authorities suspect some of the fires were started deliberately.

At least 10 people are thought to have been killed by the wildfires, the majority of those firefighters.

International aid has started arriving in Chile. The US and Russia have sent super-tanker aircraft capable of extinguishing the fires, while France, Peru and Mexico have also contributed to the effort.



CeBIT technology trade fair: more digital world

The transformative power of digitalisation is the theme this year at CeBIT, the world's largest technology trade fair

At a preview for the show — which launches in March in Hanover, Germany — organisers explained cyber spying and alleged political manipulation are very much in focus, and among the events there will be a live talk, via Internet, with Edward Snowden.

Oliver Frese, Managing Board member with Deutsche Messe, not-

ed, "Security is one of the central issues at CeBIT. On the one hand we will have more than 300 exhibitors that offer security solutions for businesses, but we will also debate the topic in different forums, and at the CeBIT Global Conference."

CeBIT's partner country this year is Japan, which has over 120 companies participating and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attending. The show runs from March 20th to 24th with 3,300 exhibitors from 70 countries.

German government approves autobahn tolls

Germany's government has approved plans to impose tolls on its previously free autobahns

The move comes after Berlin finally reached an agreement with the European Union which had criticised its original proposals. Germany said the new charges will shift the financing of roads to the user.

Berlin has tweaked plans for the road toll scheme to make it compliant with EU rules. All cars will pay the tolls but German registered cars will get tax relief. For foreigners short-term tax discs will be available. The toll will be cheaper for environmentally friendly cars. Germany has imposed a toll on trucks using its roads since 2005, but it is currently one of the few European countries to allow car drivers to use its highways at no extra charge.

However, the cost of maintaining Germany's extensive autobahn network has increased pressure to charge drivers. Germans pay for the upkeep of the autobahns through their taxes, and there has been grow-



ing resentment that foreigners can use the roads for free.

Meanwhile, 11 EU countries under the leadership of Austria have objected to the toll scheme. They claim it discriminates against foreign registered vehicles and aim to form an alliance for a possible joint court case. The charges are set to take effect after Germany's federal elections in September.

Trump wants swift Republican legislation as Philadelphia protests

American President Donald J. Trump addressed Republicans in Philadelphia to hammer out a legislative agenda with the party in control of the White House, Senate and House of Representatives

Trump called on Congressional Republicans to move quickly to build the Mexican border wall, agree tax cuts and scrap Obamacare. Trump broke with tradition, again when he avoided the usual question-and-answer session with elected representatives.

As Trump held centre stage at the Lowes Hotel thousands took to streets of Philadelphia, a Democratic stronghold, to demonstrate against the Trump presidency. Protesters made their feeling plain on a number of issues including the environment, abortion and Obamacare.

One protester asserted that, "It's really empowering. I think it shows that we as Americans and as Philadelphians care about each other, we care about immigrant lives, we care about education, and it's really important that we feel we need to make our voices known."

Police say the protests have been peaceful.

New Year goes dark in China

The Beijing city government has told officials not to set off fireworks or firecrackers to welcome the Lunar New Year

The Chinese New Year holiday is normally marked by riotous pyrotechnic displays. They are thought to bring good luck and ward off evil spirits. The government has tried to limit the use of fireworks in recent years. The government said officials must 'take the lead by not setting off fireworks or firecrackers'.

"Pro-actively guide family members and friends not to let off or to limit the letting off of fireworks and firecrackers, improve air quality together and get into the action of ensuring blue skies for the capital," the statement reads. The government has already limited firework sales in Beijing. Only 511 firework stalls have been approved this year, compared to 719 last year.

Efforts to clean up the skies in China's northern industrial heartland, which includes Beijing, are being thwarted by coal-burning industry and indoor heating. Both increase during the winter months, especially in the bitterly-cold north.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Solemn exhibition opening at National Art Museum

Talented figurative language — wonderfully musical in character

Exhibition of Vitebsk engraving schools opens at National Art Museum

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition is being organised with the participation of the National Art Museum, Vitebsk Regional Local History Museum and Vitebsk Art Museum. Alongside works from the collections of these institutions, the exhibition also showcases graphical pieces from the collection of the engraving workshop at the Art and Graphics Faculty of Vitebsk's State University (named after P.M. Masherov) and from private collections.

Vitebsk is well known as a centre of avant-garde art in the 20th century, as well as home to the Vitebsk art school. It has also played an important role in the development of Belarusian engraving. In the last century the development of Vitebsk engraving was represented by two related graphic techniques — engraving on wood (xylography) and carving on linoleum (linocut).

The current exhibition displays around 50 works by representatives of the Vitebsk engraving school.



At the exposition

The first part of the exhibition displays engravings on wood made by Solomon Yudovin (1892-1954), Yefim Minin (1894-1937), Zinovy Garbovets (1897-1979) and Alexander Akhola-Valo (1900-1997).

The second part showcases linocuts from the 1960-1980s. During this time linocuts became particularly important to Vitebsk artists. Their graphical pieces are noted for their expressiveness, delicate and

poetic composition. Soft outlines combined with dynamically developed spaces are distinct features of the Vitebsk school. The exhibition displays work by Grigory Klikushin and his pupils, including Nikolay Gugin, Victor Danilov, Nikolay Taranda and Vyacheslav Shamshur.

A range of Vitebsk artists — graduates of various educational establishments of the former USSR in the 1960-1970s — became keen on

the technique of linoleum engraving. These include Boris Kuzmichev, Isaak Borovsky, Georgy Kiselev, Anatoly Ilyinov, Gennady Shutov, and Yuri Baranov whose works are also on show.

Symmetrical organisation of compositions dominated by picturesque effects play an important role in the engravings of Vitebsk artists, attention to detail adds to the integrity and harmonisation of the com-



There was plenty to see for spectators

positional structure.

The experience and traditions of the Vitebsk school of linocut in the 1980-1990s and in the early 21st century was supported by the heads of the engraving workshop at the Art and Graphics Faculty of Vitebsk's State University, which awarded diploma works and creative pieces; a sample of these is represented in the exhibition by the pieces of N. Azarenko, A. Nikiforov, V. Shilko and Ye. Boitsova.

Today, at a distance from the last century, it can be clearly seen that the two stylistically similar techniques of engraving — wood engraving and linocut — had their own development in Vitebsk art in the 20th century and at the same time contributed to the formation of an integrated school of graphics, in which several generations of Vitebsk artists clearly showed their talents.

Good ability to please everyone

Independent international experts enjoy NAVIBAND's song which won the national selection round for the Eurovision-2017 International Song Contest, to be held in Kiev

By Alexander Pimenov

In line with the results of voting by TV viewers and the professional jury, the NAVIBAND scored the maximum number of points — 18. The group won by a large margin of votes from the international jury, conducted by Belteleradiocompany on the eve of the national selec-

tion round's finals.

The judges were representatives of TV companies from Eurovision participating states who achieved good results at last year's international contest: Poland, Greece, Malta, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Australia, Italy, Armenia and Israel. Members of the international jury listened to audio versions of

contest songs by finalists and saw videos from the casting session at the website of the media holding before awarding scores from 1 to 10. As a result, the NAVIBAND received the maximum number of points from international experts — 72. Second place was given to Alexander Tkach, followed by the singer Iyul.



Naviband to represent Belarus at Eurovision

This year, Eurovision will take place in Kiev from May 9th-13th. The Belarusian TV and Radio Company

(as the country's only member of the European Broadcasting Union) has organised the national selection round

and will prepare the Belarusian entrant for the Eurovision-2017 International Song Contest.



Permanent exposition at the National Art Museum has lots of works dedicated to Minsk

Glorious city is presented in all its grandeur and beauty

Minsk through the Eyes of Painters — a joint socio-cultural project of the Culture Ministry, the Trade Ministry, the Minsk City Executive Committee and the National Art Museum of Belarus — is dedicated to Minsk's 950th anniversary and aptly describes the city

By Vladislav Veremeev

A city means its residents, their homes, the chilly metro, slow-moving buses, noisy cars, silent parks, narrow streets and wide avenues... Everyone has their own image of it. The organisers of this joint socio-cultural project showed Minsk through the eyes of painters.

The project aptly describes the Minsk of the 20th century. Old but sparsely populated streets, the young micro-district of Zeleny Lug, ancient Nemiga and



other wonderful sites of the city can be seen through the year in pictorial form. It's significant that many works used in the project

aren't available in the current exhibition catalogue of the National Art Museum, as they are usually kept in store.

Minsk through the Eyes of Painters project is a successful example of collaboration between the city administration and the museum, confirming that art is very useful when applied. Of course, not all canvases dedicated to the city are included in the project, but many truly outstanding pictures by famous Belarusian painters have been waiting for spectators in the exhibition halls



In the exhibition hall

of the museum. An interesting excursion was organised for guests of the presentation, familiarising them with works which capture the most attractive parts of Minsk in various historical periods.

In summary, the *Minsk through the Eyes of Painters* project will run for the whole of 2017 and begins a range of large cultural events and activities dedicated to Minsk's jubilee.

Admiring the luxury of the past

An exhibition of fashion and accessories from the age of Romanticism, from the collection of passionate collector Igor Surmachevsky, on show at Wankowicz House. Culture and Art of the First Half of the 19th Century Museum

By Alexey Fedosov

Collector Igor Surmachevsky is a passionate collector of works of pictorial, decorative-and-applied arts, as well as photos, documents and ancient items connected with the history of Belarus. Ancient wardrobes, antique clothes and accessories occupy a special place in his collection. The rarities primarily come from Western Europe, America and Russia. The exhibition in the Wankowicz House. Culture

and Art of the First Half of the 19th Century Museum showcases fashionable outfits which once belonged to fine ladies of the 19th and early 20th century: luxurious ball dresses, mantles for visits to the opera, outfits for various visits, wedding gear and promenade costumes.

The exhibition is divided into two sections: a ladies' salon and a gentleman's cabinet. The first displays luxurious dresses and delicate accessories which were used by women of fashion to



With a catalogue describing the exhibition

attract the attention of their followers. Even the interior of the rooms reminds you that a ball is to start soon and you imagine that the mannequins will turn into beautiful ladies and will start waltzing with their gallant partners.

A spirit of courage reigns in the men's cabinet: subdued lighting, a walking

stick, dominoes, the forgotten top hat tell us that a dignified owner has just left and may return to his favourite room at any moment.

In a word, visitors to the Wankowicz House. Culture and Art of the First Half of the 19th Century Museum have a very rare opportunity to admire the luxury of past ages.

Winners to be determined soon

By Olga Korneeva

Winners of the Lira National Music Award to be announced on February 9th

The finals of the *Lira* National Music Award will take place in the Palace of the Republic, determining winners across 14 categories.

Winners in some categories will be decided by the contest jury with recommendations by the selection committee and interactive Internet-voting from the viewers and spectators: 'Best Performer' (female vocal), 'Best Performer' (male vocal), 'Best group', 'Best Song in the Belarusian Language', 'Best Song of

the Year' and 'Best Music Video of the Year'.

Winners in other sections are determined by the contest jury with recommendations of the selection commission only: 'Best Writer of Music', 'Best Writer of Lyrics', and 'Best Arranger'.

The organisers will be advised by the jury of the winning nominations for the categories of: 'Opening of the Year', 'Style of the Year', and 'Our Music Abroad'. The organising committee will decide the winners of the 'Patron of Arts of the Year' and 'For Contribution to the Development of Pop Music Art in the Republic of Belarus' categories.

Our boats finally sailed to victory

Belarus plans to impose a fine on the International Canoe Federation for illegal disqualification of our canoe team

By Yuri Bakerenko

Mr. Shantarovich is extremely pleased that the innocence of our team was acknowledged. However, he believes that we shouldn't rest on our oars in the struggle with the International Canoe Federation. The decision adopted by the CAS should not be seen as the end of the scandalous story but as a pause. The General Secretary of the National Olympic Committee of Belarus, Anatoly Kotov, shares the same opinion, "The whole men's team, coaching staff, doctors and officials have been recognized as innocent. We have a plan for further action to bring a lawsuit before the court in Switzerland for compensation for moral harm suffered by our team because of denial of access to the Olympic Games and unreasonable disqualification from training processes and international competitions for almost six months."



Press conference dedicated to the abolishment of disqualification

The Belarusian team will also bring an action before the court for compensation of expenses

spent for the preparation of the squad for the Olympic Games for four years. "Since the very begin-

ning, this issue was personally controlled by the Head of State, who outlined the protection of the

rights of Belarusian athletes as a priority. Now, we'll be preparing claims for compensation for material and moral harm. Belarusian specialists from Danilevich & Volozhinets Attorney Bureau are acting as legal consultants; we will also involve Swiss lawyers in the case."

The Belarusian side was absolutely confident in the innocence of the national men's canoe and kayak team. This was noted during the press conference, dedicated to the decision on the lifting of a one-year disqualification of the team by Alexander Bogdanovich, an Olympic canoe champion, Alexander Dubkovsky, Belarus' Deputy Sports and Tourism Minister, Anatoly Kotov, the General Secretary of the National Olympic Committee, and Vladimir Shantarovich, head coach of the national canoe and kayak squad.



MAZ at the start of one of the rally's stages

Among the most stylish vehicles

By Semen Bondarev

Vehicles of MAZ-SPORTauto team acknowledged as among the most stylish at recent Dakar-2017 Rally

"During the South African race, the MAZ team enjoyed a great deal of attention from both competitors and media representatives. Our vehicles were covered almost daily by TV news and photos of our trucks were placed on social networks. At pit-stops, mechanics from other teams came to ask how certain elements had been installed. We received extremely positive feedback, our rivals are looking to learn something from us," said Sergey Vyazovich.

The team's popularity is also growing in Belarus. According to Mr. Vyazovich, the Minsk Automobile Plant receives letters from experienced drivers wishing to join

the team. "We are very flattered by the attention, but it's not always enough to have two decades of driving experience for this challenging race. Schooling is vital. We are very happy with how our third driver Alexey Vishnevsky debuted in the Dakar. He is young but is already a three-time champion in drifting, also winning many carting competitions in the past," said the head of the team head.

Alexander Vasilevsky's team was placed sixth in the Dakar-2017 overall ratings. Sergey Vyazovich's MAZ finished 13th, while Alexey Vishnevsky came 21st. The Minsk Automobile Plant's team was participating in the prestigious rally-raid for the sixth time. The 9,000km race covered three countries: Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Fifty truck teams participated, though only 42 of them crossed the finish line.

Hot emotions vs weather

Belarusian Winter Swimming Championship is being held in the capital for second time

By Alexey Grishin

The address of the most recent impressive event was simple: Minsk, Svisloch River embankment. The 2nd Open Belarusian Winter Swimming Championship gathered fans and participants. The number of people in swimming suits was unprecedented. No ordinary summer's day would have gathered so many. Excited fans applauded and shouted endlessly as the ice-cold open air swimming pool attracted both professionals and healthy lifestyle supporters. 250 participants from Belarus, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Belgium, France and Austria demonstrated their skill, incredible will power and love of life in 25, 50, 100, 250 and 450m distances. The youngest swimmer, Minsker Ellina Pilshchikova, was a mere 12 years of age; she was placed third in the 25m crawl for the under 30s. In contrast, Valentin Tolkachev was the oldest, recently celebrating his 77th birthday.

The Chairman of the Belaru-

sian Winter Swimming Federation, Vladimir Shulgan, noted that the first championship last year was not open: it was held for a narrow group of participants. Many foreign visitors had no idea know what would be happening this January. It took four days to prepare a 25x18m competition swimming pool on the Svisloch ice.



During competitions

Just as in ordinary swimming, winter swimming sportsmen compete for the best time. They start simultaneously and swim a common distance. Judges register the times, while volunteers from the Belarusian State University of Physical Culture take clothes to the swimmers coming out of the water.

However hardy a sportsman is, they need to get warm as a matter of urgency after leaving an ice-hole. To

help them, travelling banyas and a warm pool (with water temperature of 33 degrees) are situated nearby. Staff of the Belarusian Red Cross Society work in the warming centre which is equipped with a hot air blower to dry clothes quickly and warm the air. Everyone has access to free hot tea. Two ambulance teams work on the spot, in addition to an emergency service car, diving team and doctors from Minsk's OS-VOD Organisation (Society for the Development of Water Transport and Passenger Safety).

"Of course, the organisation needs perfecting but the authorities have been very helpful," the Vice President of the International Water Swimming Association, Alexander Yakovlev, said. "The doctors and lifeguards are vital for such an extreme sport as winter swimming. If Belarusians manage to hold national open championships regularly at this level, the country would have a great chance of hosting one of the six stages of the World Winter Swimming Cup in the future."

Rally of the week



PAVEL CHUIKO

Vitebsk Region hosts a tractor race — Parizh-Mosar Rally

EXHIBITIONS

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September 2017. In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 19th February. Time of Mute Stars. From Black-and-White to Red
Until 28th February. Time of Miracles: Winter Holidays and Entertainments
Until 1st June 2017. From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble

BELARUSIAN STATE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 26th February. Weapon of Victory

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 1st March. Paris, Ahead! Europe Seen in Windows

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 18th February. 19th-21st Century Dollars of the World
Until 23rd February. Iliotropion (Sunflower)

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street
Until 5th February. Russian Pictorial Art of 19th-20th Century

MUSEUM OF MODERN BELARUSIAN STATE

38 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st March. Belarus and China: 25 Years of Successful Co-operation

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 12th March. Birds in Winter

LEONID SHCHEMELEV CITY ART GALLERY

10 Revolyutsionnaya Street
Until 19th February. Japanese Spring

BELARUSIAN STATE CIRCUS

23 Nezavisimosti Avenue
04 and 08.02. Show of Giant Fountains. Amazing City

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY'S ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 5th February. From Lisbon to Vladivostok via Minsk

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street
Until 5th February. Diary of Travels

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
02.02. Eugene Onegin
03.02. Spartacus; Snowstorm literary-musical composition
04.02. The Flying Dutchman
05.02. Sonnets. Small Death. Six Dances.
07.02. The Tsar's Bride 08.02. Vytautas
09.02. Iolanthe

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
02.02. Giselle 03.02. Jane Eyre
05.02. Adventures of Kay and Gerda (Snow Queen); Gypsy Baron
07.02. Blue Cameo 08.02. My Fair Lady
09.02. The Swan Lake

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
02.02. Kolyady Night 03.02. Pinsk Gentry
04.02. Office 05.02. Paulinka
07.02. People of the Marshes 08.02. Not Mine 09.02. School of Taxpayers

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
02 and 09.02. Testosterone 03.02. Pane Kokhanku 04.02. Intimidate Apostle
05.02. Stars of the Seventh Sky; Pygmalion 07.02. Woe from Wit
08.02. Ninotchka

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
02.02. Abduction of Yelena 03.02. Robbery at Midnight 04.02. Battlefield
05, 07.02. #13 08.02. Even a Wise Man Stumbles 09.02. Forgetting Herostratos

MODERN ARTS THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
04.02. House Upside-Down

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
02.02. Heat Exchange 03.02. Adel
04.02. Portrait 05.02. Three Giselles
07.02. Feint-Kruase 08.02. The Broken Nest 09.02. White Angle with Black Wings

BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street
02.02. Taras on Parnassus
04.02. My Little Enchantress
05.02. Thumbelina
09.02. An Intimidated Apostle

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
02.02. Women Are Cure for Insomnia
06.02. Mefisto, or Ideal Lover
08.02. Comedy
09.02. Thank You, Margo!