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# Words reign in Polotsk

## Teachers, in your name...

On the eve of the annual Day of Knowledge, the best employees from the education system gathered in the Independence Palace. These are people who shape moral and spiritual values of our generation, cultivate the love of honest values and pass on their knowledge.

By Veniamin Mikheev

They facilitate the formation of an educated, cultural and hard-working nation and this awards day in the President's schedule was dedicated to them. The event began with a memorable trip to the palace and sincere speech from the President, "The bestowing of state awards on the eve of Knowledge Day is the recognition of your personal merits, as well as a sign of great respect for the profession of teachers."

Those awarded included the best

representatives of higher and secondary schools, lyceums and colleges from Vitebsk, Ivatsevichi, Krichev, Minsk, Mogilev and Pinsk. Honorary titles and Gratitude from the President were bestowed on rectors and teachers of the Brest, Polotsk, Belarusian National Technical, Belarusian State Economic, Belarusian State Universities and the Academy of the Interior Ministry. It's difficult to overestimate their contribution to the development of our education system and the strengthening of the international image of our country.

The words of the geography teacher at gymnasium #1 from Zhodino, Irina Pichugina, awarded 'For Labour Merit' resounded in the Independence Palace, "I'm proud that the names of our pupils were heard in the USA and India, Indonesia and other countries. I'm proud that our flag was raised in their honour and the Belarusian national anthem was performed."

Congratulating all those with honorary titles, Alexander Lukashenko noted, "Teachers don't only bring many new and important



President bestows awards on best employees of education system

emotions to the lives of our children. They take care of the growing generation, cultivating respect, friendship and patriotism. Let your work

bring joy and a reason to be proud of one's own pupils and let the new academic year be successful and fruitful!"

## Words reign in Polotsk

Day of Belarusian Written Language solemnly celebrated

By Oleg Bogomazov

At the opening ceremony of the holiday, Deputy Prime Minister, Vasily Zharko, read a greeting to the guests of Belarusian Written Language Day, from the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko.

Deputy PM also addressed the guests personally, welcoming those who have come from other states to enjoy the event.

Mr. Zharko noted that the event is almost a peer of sovereign and independent Belarus, "When celebrating the Day of Belarusian Written Language, we acknowledge to all those who have created our statehood, culture, education and the high level of national art," he said.

The Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of all Belarus, Pavel, in his turn, expressed the opinion that the current holiday is a reason to consider the historical past of the Belarusian nation and to think what it would be like if it hadn't been thanks to the Equal-to-the-Apostles Kirill and Mefodiy and the first printer Francysk Skaryna. "It's difficult to imagine but this is a reason for contemplation," he believes. According to him, these people have made such a weighty contribution into Belarusian history and culture and have generated an enormous boost which continues to inspire others for great creative deeds today.

The Chairman of the Polotsk District Executive Committee, Nikolay Shevchuk, added that the current



A bronze boat on Zapadnaya Dvina bank — a symbol of Belarusian statehood

year is landmark for Polotsk and expressed hope that guests of the event would take best impressions with them and would obligatory want to return again.

Representatives from over 20 countries of the world gathered in Polotsk to mark Belarusian Written Language Day, noted Belarus' Information Minister, Lilia Ananich, who took part in the festive events in Polotsk.

"Today Polotsk has brought together representatives from more than 20 states of the world, including diplomats, figures of culture and participants of the international *Diplomacy of Word* round table discussion," said

the Minister. Ms. Ananich underlined the importance of the sculptural composition which was solemnly opened in the capital of the Written Language Day. "Polotsk — The Cradle of Belarusian Statehood" sculpture is a magnificent artistic work," she commented.

The solemn unveiling of the sculpture was one of the key moments of the programme. The memorial sign was installed on the bank of the Zapadnaya Dvina River, close to St. Sophia's Cathedral.

Polotsk can and should be in the UNESCO World Heritage List, said Belarus' Culture Minister, Boris Svetlov, who

also took part in the celebrations.

"Separate sites in the city, also have great value and can join this list first. Primarily, these include the 12th century Holy Transfiguration Church which is now undergoing intensive restoration and is currently in the UNESCO Tentative List. A film and a presentation album have been already prepared. In 2018, we will again introduce the Holy Transfiguration Church as a nominee and then all the remaining sites," explained Mr. Svetlov. The holiday began with a bright theatrical performance and concert, dedicated to the 1155th anniversary of Polotsk. A round table discus-

sion also took place, featuring Belarusian and foreign literary experts, *Diplomacy of the Word: Francysk Skaryna in the Global Humanitarian Space*, dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing, as did a scientific-practical conference, *Polotsk Readings*, the finals of the Republican creative contest of young readers, *Live Classics*, and numerous exhibition projects and concerts.

The project involved best creative bands of the country, including the State Symphony Orchestra, as well as popular performers. The holiday finished with mass singing of the *My Dear Homeland* and a laser show.

## Visa-free term to increase

By Alexander Pimenov

**Belarus plans to increase the duration of its registration-free stay for foreigners from 5 to 10 days, notes the First Deputy Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department, at the Interior Ministry, Vitaly Naumchik**

"The Interior Ministry has drafted a bill on amendments and additions to the law on the legal status of foreign citizens in Belarus. The bill will extend the period of registration-free stay in Belarus from 5 to 10 days," notes Mr. Naumchik.

There are also plans to extend the validity period of temporary residence permits for some groups of foreign nationals. "This concerns investors, primarily, aiming to create a favourable investment climate. As of today, the total maximum validity of temporary residence permits is one year. We'd like to extend this (for this group of foreigners) to two years," he says.

The bill contains amendments regarding temporary residence for foreign students in Belarus. "The list of permissible reasons for applying for a permit to study in Belarus is being expanded, to boost the export of our educational services," explains Mr. Naumchik. The bill was submitted to the Council of Ministers in June and will be sent to the House of Representatives in September. According to Mr. Naumchik, relevant amendments to the law on the legal status of foreign citizens in Belarus will come into effect in December 2018-January 2019.

## Important work continues

### Belarus is keen on successful implementation of joint projects with Sudan, notes the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, as he met the Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan, Ibrahim Ahmed Omer

By Vasily Kharitonov

According to the Head of State, the level of the Belarusian-Sudanese interstate co-operation has recently improved. In the past six months Khartoum was visited by a number of Belarusian high-level delegations, with the two countries considering collaboration in power engineering, oil and gas, natural resources and geology, agriculture, woodworking, light industry, construction and inter-banking co-operation.

“This was the stage of outlining joint projects and an extensive discussion of the ways to implement them. Today we need to start the implementation of the plans we outlined,” underlined Mr. Lukashenko. “Belarus is ready for the implementation of joint projects with Sudan in the abovementioned areas. We hope that your country has the same approach and that the Sudanese MPs will support these plans.”

The President noted that an eventful programme has been prepared for the Sudanese delegation that also includes representatives of the government and the business community. The programme includes meetings with the Belarusian officials and tours of the country’s major industrial, agricultural, scientific and production enterprises. “We hope that you will fully get familiar with the economic, industrial, scientific and cultural potential of our country. I am confident that your current visit to Minsk will open new prospects for the Belarusian-Sudanese co-operation,” said the Belarusian leader.

Mr. Lukashenko remembered with great fondness his visit to Khartoum and the fruitful talks with



During the meeting

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and other members of the government of the country. “I’m grateful to the Sudanese MPs for sincerity and support that I felt during my speech in the National Assembly of Sudan. We consider this visit of the high-level delegation as a continuation of the bilateral dialogue that we started in January 2017. It is very important that the agreements reached then are implemented successfully,” said the President.

The Head of State noted that he repeatedly drawn the attention of the heads of the Belarusian ministries, regions and enterprises to the need to enhance interaction with Sudan. “We want our constructive political relations to reflect in trade and economic co-operation,” he stressed.

In turn, Ibrahim Ahmed Omer

thanked the Belarusian President for the hospitality and warm welcome and conveyed the greetings from the President of Sudan. “We believe that your visit to Sudan was historic. Your meetings with Omar al-Bashir were very successful and laid the foundation and framework for further development of relations. We also see your speech before the members of the National Assembly of Sudan as historic. Your words were very clear and understandable both for MPs and for the Sudanese people. We felt that you are a true leader who is willing to develop relations with the Republic of Sudan,” he added.

Ibrahim Ahmed Omer also said that the Sudanese Parliament is doing a great deal of work to develop co-operation with Belarus. “Parliament is ready to continue to work

together with the Sudanese government and other stakeholders to implement the agreements that were reached during your visit. We strive to build relations with Belarus in various areas,” the Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan said.

The establishment of joint companies is a topical goal for Belarus and Sudan, noted the Chairman of the Council of the Republic, Mikhail Myasnikov, as he met Ibrahim Ahmed Omer.

“No doubt, trade is vital. But if we set up economic entities and enable proper business environments for them, this will ensure stable long-term relations and lay the groundwork for solid prospects,” underlined Mr. Myasnikov.

The Speaker noted that ‘Belarus has generated knowledge and know-how in virtually every

branch of the economy. The country is ready to transfer them on the agreed terms’. Mr. Myasnikov cited medicine, engineering, natural sciences and the food industry as examples.

The two sides also discussed the prospects of expanding the bilateral legal framework. Sudan is now considering a number of the most crucial documents, among them several agreements on economic co-operation. Mr. Myasnikov expressed confidence that both parliaments can provide the conditions for encouraging political, trade, economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian co-operation. He brought forward a number of proposals to intensify inter-parliamentary interaction. The Speaker assured the delegates that Belarusian MPs are ready to be active partners in the effort to create conditions for Sudan’s development and Belarus-Sudanese collaboration. According to Mr. Myasnikov, science, technology and education are viewed as advanced and high-priority fields.

Moreover, Belarus also believes it is reasonable to discuss interaction between banks. “Trading capital should be merged with the financial one to build up industrial potential that forms the main part of the added value,” emphasised the Head of the Upper Chamber of the Belarusian Parliament.

In turn, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan said that he is leading a large delegation comprising MPs, representatives of the government and the business community. This shows that the great effort initiated by the Belarusian and Sudanese presidents during Alexander Lukashenko’s visit to Sudan in January 2017 is underway.

## Minsk and Cairo: actions suited to talk

### The beginning of the President’s previous working week was marked with an international focus

By Yevgeny Kononovich

Firstly, the Independence Palace was visited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shoukry. It’s difficult to believe that in 25 years of diplomatic relations, this is the first visit to Belarus by the Head of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Alexander Lukashenko regretfully

able to spend time in Minsk, but we’re pleased that you are here now.”

There is no doubt that the meetings in Cairo have given a powerful impetus to the activation of economic interaction between our countries. The results have been quickly seen as trade turnover has increased by half this year. Joint projects are being worked on in the spheres of industrial co-operation, agriculture, wood processing and waste processing. An

assembly production line of MTZ tractors is already operating in Egypt, with joint manufacture of MAZ vehicles being next in line. The President made it clear that this is only the beginning, “Your visit is an important landmark, as it gives timely stimulus to our agreements. I would like to assure you that we will fulfil our promises and hope you will do similar. We can build our presence in Egypt as soon as you wish.”

Mr. Lukashenko con-

veyed the invitation to his Egyptian colleague to visit Belarus at any convenient time.

In turn, the Egyptian guest conveyed good wishes from the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, to Alexander Lukashenko and added, “We are full of admiration for your efforts in dealing with the development of Belarus, establishing stability and creating favourable conditions for progress in the state and the



Sameh Hassan Shoukry

region in general. I must mention your influence also on the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts. Relations with Belarus are important

to us and we would like to use the advantages of these relations for the sake of the development of the Egyptian economy.”

## New techno-park to be set up

Minsk will acquire a new techno-park, BelBiograd — established to support start-ups in the sphere of nano-technologies, pharmaceuticals and other science-intensive branches. All that is now required is to attach ‘national’ status, with all that it entails.

By Olga Sarukhanova

Minsk already has its High-Tech Park, which generated enough IT mega-projects over several years: world famous game World of Tanks, messenger Viber, MSQRD application and a range of others. Some are already worth billions of US Dollars. The success of the techno-park inspired the National Academy of Sciences to create its own incubator for promising areas.

### Nano-industry!

BelBiograd project has been presented at the Nanotechnology Week, dedicated to the Year of Science in Belarus. The official opening of the new techno-park is due to take place very soon. “Now, BelBiograd has been registered without special preferences. I believe that we won’t achieve any success if we won’t do the same as was done for the HTP. A corresponding Presidential Decree is already ready,” notes Belarus’ First Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Semashko. “In this case the effect from the work won’t be less. There’re groundworks in the sectoral science which should be realised in laboratories while also brought for industrial production.” According to the deputy director of the would-be techno-park,



One of the Union State’s projects — lactoferrin production in the NAS’ Institute of Microbiology — could become a resident of the would-be business incubator, ideally fitting in profile

Alexander Kravtsov, they have already chosen thirty projects from scientific organisation and business representatives, involved in the spheres of microbiology, pharmaceuticals and nano-technologies. They will become the first residents. If they are given the promised privileges BelBiograd’s projects will reach solid

exports — \$175m — over five years of work. Moreover, BelBiograd will create 1,200 jobs.

### Science — not for shelf

“Meanwhile, in order to manufacture goods as part of the BelBiograd it’s not obligatory to have production facilities on its territories or

in Minsk,” explains Mr. Kravtsov. One of the projects of the would-be techno-park is a peat deep processing factory, implemented by the Institute for Nature Management at the National Academy of Sciences. There’re plans to produce 2,500 tonnes of organic granulated fertilisers over five years. According to Mr.

Kravtsov, the project should quickly pay for itself, since the demand for organic fertilisers is rapidly increasing in the world, as mineral fertilisers have a negative impact on soils. If necessary, BelBiograd is even ready to search for an investor. Actually, this is the goal of the techno-park — to help bring to life scientific developments and introduce them on the market. Vladimir Gusakov, the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences, said that science should work for the benefit of economy rather than ‘simply lying on the shelf’.

The search continues to look for BelBiograd’s residents, as well as infrastructure and investors, with Russians, Israelis and Germans already taking interest. However, they aren’t in a hurry waiting for the issue with tax preferences, customs duties and logistics to be solved. The building has been already found; the techno-park will be located on the premises of the Physical-Technical Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, in Kuprevich Street. The square is sold, covering more than a thousand square metres, including administrative part, laboratories and spacious offices. All necessary conditions have been created for inventions, their launch and gaining of profit.

## Bill for millions of oil barrels

Following in footsteps of South American Venezuela, Ecuador welcomes Belarusneft, to launch oil production at Armadillo mine

By Violetta Dralyuk

Five years ago, Belarusian specialists came to Ecuador after signing a contract with the local state oil company, Petroamazonas. Geological research, design and construction of engineering communications have resulted in the recent discovery of a new deposit of Ecuadorian oil. Based on data obtained after processing a 3D seismic survey, Belarusneft specialists have recommended



drilling three wells. The Deputy General Director for Geology at Belarusneft, Piotr Povzhik, tells us, “During construction of the Armadillo-2 well, at Volcanica reservoir, a steady industrial inflow of anhydrous oil has been obtained. Over 10 million barrels are expected to be mined as a result of this project.”

## Beneficial projects in focus

By Anna Kurak

### The Indian Chokhani Pharma Company has proposed establishing joint production of a drug to combat hepatitis in Belarus

This was recently discussed at a meeting in the Council of the Republic, attended by the Speaker of the Upper Chamber of the Belarusian Parliament, Mikhail Myasnikov, the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences, Vladimir Gusakov, and the Direc-



tor of the Indian company, Lalit Chokhani.

Chokhani Pharma is closely liaising with Academpharm, created on the premises of the National Acade-

my of Sciences of Belarus. Vladimir Gusakov told us that the Indian side has suggested a new interesting project — the creation of a range of contemporary medications for hepatitis, including Sofosbuvir. At present, such drugs are almost 100 percent imported, primarily imported from Egypt. According to Mr. Gusakov, Academpharm believes co-operation with the large Indian manufacturer will be beneficial. He added that they also plan to establish the production of medications both in the form of pills and aerosols.

## Transportation distances may fall significantly

By Oleg Bogomazov

### Belarus and Iran plan to activate interaction in North-South transport corridor

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Iran, Yuri Lazarchik, recently met Iran’s Deputy Roads and Urban Development Minister, Davood Keshavarzian, to discuss

stepping up Belarus-Iran interaction, to create a North-South international transport corridor.

Establishing a Belarusian-Iranian Committee on Co-operation in Transportation should help in ensuring efficient work towards creating the new corridor. The Committee’s first session is set to meet in Tehran, if all plans come to fruition.

The North-South transport corridor will enable faster movement between the Baltic States and India, via Iran, reducing the transportation distance many-fold, in comparison with travelling by sea, via the Suez Canal. In addition, the cost involved in transportation will reduce significantly, aiding the development of trade, to everyone’s benefit.

## Lego designed for adults

Belarus offers another original tourist product: tours of its major factories, and the chance to help assemble a tractor

By Dmitry Umpirovich

### Quality above all

In early July, the first group of international guests joined the tour of Zhodino and MTZ, including visitors from the USA and Switzerland.

Californian Heinz Heimburger is fascinated by vehicles, so was thrilled to be able to see BelAZ trucks being made before his eyes, and tractors moving along the conveyor belt. Under the watchful eye of staff, he helped assemble part of the steering column.

“This is a first for our country,” admit MTZ staff. “Previously, only US car assembly plants offered this sort of tour. Now, anyone can come to us to try their hand. You just need to book in advance. Every visitor receives detailed instructions on how to assemble a tractor, and then a certificate stating the serial number of the tractor upon which they worked, together with the country where the ‘iron horse’ will be sold.”

Customers need not worry, since all vehicles undergo strict control by the quality department.

Heinz tells us, “It was most challenging to get into the cab and assemble the steering wheel. I’m too large for that small space!”

### Fashion reigns

All-knowing Google states that ‘industrial tourism’ began in the mid-19th century, thanks to the founders of American bourbon factory Jack Daniel’s. In Belarus, we’re only just beginning on this path, with tours of Minsk Tractor Works launched around six months ago. Initially, nobody was allowed to approach the conveyor. Over



American Heinz Heimburger takes away fond memories in assembling a tractor

1,500 people from 28 countries have now toured the plant, including some from Australia.

The company well understands what’s needed to enhance its image. “Our factory is still widely perceived as a Soviet legacy, which brings with it quality recognition in such countries as Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. It’s a ‘time-tested’ stamp. However, we’re doing more than just honouring traditions; we’re also following world trends. How else can we inform potential buyers of our policy of openness? There are many commercial secrets which we’ll keep to ourselves, but there are aspects of new technologies we can share,” explain staff.

Some time ago, the facility was attended by guests from Estonia, representing local government.



They paid close attention, and were impressed. It’s not yet known whether the visit will transform into a state contract for the purchase of equipment but the Estonians admitted to viewing Minsk’s vehicles as an excellent alternative to those

from the West. They were surprised to find that the Minsk plant (associated only with Soviet classics and Belarus-82 tractors until recently) is assembling a wide range of equipment. In fact, every tenth tractor in the world comes from Minsk.

## BelAZ ready for anything

By Veniamin Mikheev

**Manufacturers of the world’s largest mining dump trucks are expected to seriously engage in industrial tourism: as soon as tours to BelAZ were launched, guests began lining up**

Three years ago, the famous Zapashny brothers (representing a circus family) were invited to drive a 280-tonne truck, as part of a promotional campaign for BelAZ. Some time later, Honoured Artiste of Russia Stas Mikhailov drove a 130-tonne quarry dump truck. BelAZ began attending national folk holidays, and BelAZ’s Father Frost has been visiting children. Meanwhile, on February 14th, for Valentine’s Day, sweethearts have purchased their loved one the chance to drive a giant vehicle.

## Provaletto with taste of summer

By Boris Orekhov

**Some people are bemused by the idea of what goes into the making of a sausage but local companies are now inviting us to tour their plants, to find out for ourselves**

Anyone can go to Turov to see how ricotta, mascarpone and provaletto are made. Meanwhile, in Grodno, Molochny Mir welcomes guests and Minsk’s bread, confectionery and beer factories have opened their doors. You can also tour the Krinitza and Olivaria breweries, to see their bottling lines, and take part in tasting. There are tours entitled ‘Courses in Brewing’ and ‘Guiding Aromas’, with eight beer varieties to sample.

## Investors: this sounds really promising

From next year, our citizens will be able to buy shares in large international ‘blue chip’ companies, via the Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange. The move testifies to the economic stability of Belarus. Moreover, international experts note that an investment boom is likely to happen in the coming years.

By Andrey Maximovich

During a recent online conference, the Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange (BCSE), Andrey Aukhimenya, revealed BCSE plans, saying, “We’re working on non-residents gaining access to purchase of shares from our stock exchange.”

Yuri Arkhangelsky, who works for one of the CIS’ largest broker companies, KIT Finance Broker, explains, “Even after an average of 25 percent growth, in 2015 and 2016, share prices remain cheap. Support

will be provided by economic revival, and growth of public interest, while reducing the profitability of other instruments (including saving accounts) and currency stability.”

The reduction of the refinancing rate, to 12 percent, has resulted in falling interest rates on bank deposits. Accordingly, investing in shares has become a good alternative for our citizens. Economy Minister Vladimir Zinovskiy believes that further work on inflation may lead to the refinancing rate being reduced to 7-9 percent.

The stability of the Belarusian

financial market has its role to play, as does recognition of this stability abroad. According to the latest data of the National Statistical Committee of Belarus, over the first six months of 2017, foreign investors injected \$4.9 billion into the private sector of the economy (excluding banks). Primarily, these were Russian legal entities (accounting for 39.6 percent of all investments), while 28.3 percent came from the UK, and 7.4 percent from Cyprus. Direct foreign investments accounted for \$4.1 billion.

Low prices and seeming lack of prospects for some enterprises



in releasing shares means little. An American analyst conducted a curious investigation, to see how various assets behaved after a long-term fall. The results were astonishing, since shares which were loss-making for

three years, immediately grew by 35 percent within the first year, and those which had fallen for four years recovered by 57 percent. Meanwhile, those falling in value for five years or longer increased by 65 percent.

# Who dares build a floating house?



If we listed the most unusual homes in Belarus, the floating house built by young Minskians Piotr Yemelyanov, Vlad Rusin and Maxim Bulkin would be sure to make the cut



By Oleg Bogomazov

Construction of buildings on water has become their hobby. Piotr recalls their first inspiration, viewing pictures online. "For the first time, I saw a water dacha, in Poland, and decided to build something similar."

Interestingly, Piotr has no training in construction. He built his first house on pontoons, working through his mistakes, experimenting as he progressed, guided by

foreign experience and instructions found online. Fortunately, his friends began helping: one an engineer by trade, and, together, they were successful.

This summer, they've been floating on the waterways of Minsk's suburbs. Their house is only 10.5 square metres but has a comfortable veranda. Its pontoon covers 36 square metres.

Piort says, "We have all we need to spend the night and to cook food. You can sunbathe, fish or dive from

the veranda. It's easy to move the house, if you want to swim in the middle of the lake. It successfully combines outdoor recreation with home comforts."

Not long ago, the guys decided to sell their house, wanting to build a larger house-raft. The money raised from the sale will pay for materials for the new water cottage. Piotr admits that they have plans to build several such homes, each larger and using different construction technologies. "Our first house

has bar walls but we plan to use carcase walls this time. We've no plans to increase the number of floors. We've discussed the possibility of building another deck but, after investigating variants online, we think it will take away some of the cosiness. We've many plans, even launching our own website, where we plan to post our ideas. I think many will be interested, since it offers the opportunity to come closer to the beauty of nature. Our country is truly picturesque," he adds.

## Portrait of a writer from calendar's cover, released in Buenos Aires

By Alexander Pimenov

### Previously unknown portrait of Yakub Kolas on show in Minsk

The portrait of the People's Poet is from the cover of the 'Belarusian Illustrated Calendar' for 1944, as released in Buenos Aires. The portrait forms part of the exhibition entitled *Hurry to Meet the Poet...*, which opened at the Yakub Kolas State Literary Museum on August 14th, honouring the classical writer of Belarusian literature. The exhibition is part of the museum's *Words and Items: Unknown Collections* project, dedicated to the 135th anniversary of the birth of Yakub Kolas.

Portraits created by famous Belarusian painters Valentin Volkov, Georgy Poplavsky, Vladimir Sulkovsky and Svyatoslav Fedorenko are on display.

In June 1940, while Kolas was attending the 'Decade of Belarusian Art' in Moscow, young Belarusian painter Zenon Pavlovsky created his portrait. In 1942, during celebrations for Yakub Kolas' 60th birthday, Russian artist Tatiana Zhirmunskaya created another unique portrait of Kolas, in Tashkent, reflecting Kolas' deep feeling for his Homeland and the fate of the Belarusian nation, as experienced by Yakub Kolas during the years of the Great Patriotic War during evacuation.

The exhibition includes photos taken during Zair Azgur's creation of a bust in his studio. His monumental work was later installed in the Minsk square bearing the name of the People's Poet.

Yakub Kolas died on August 13th, 1956, having embodied the spirit of national literature. He was a master of words, a true intellectual, and a bright thinker.

# Find lays claims to being a real sensation

By Alexander Pimenov

## A fragment of a construction drawing, supposedly from the 11th-12th century, was discovered during archaeological and restoration works on the Saviour Monastery of St. Yevfrosiniya

Scientists have called the discovery a sensation. "No-one has ever seen the 12th century construction drawings," notes senior research officer of the State Hermitage, Yevgeny Torshin. "The earliest of the currently known medieval drawings date back to the late 13th century; even Byzantine drawings haven't been preserved, only their descriptions."

According to the leading research officer of the scientific and

restoration department at Polotsk's Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve, Alexander Soloviev, it was previously believed that architectural drawings appeared in Belarus only in the 14th century, but the newly-discovered drawing refutes this information.

The find was unearthed on the site of the excavations of an ancient church-burial vault. On the late 11th-early 12th century narrow plinthos brick (part of the ancient construction) a fragment of the drawing is depicted, supposedly of the church-vault itself. The drawing has the correct proportions of the size of the building and reflects the width of walls and other clearly drawn details. The plan is shown in the same way as a drawing by a modern architect. Scientists believe



11th-12th century construction drawing

that the depiction was made by a highly-qualified master, who probably headed the construction of the church-vault. It's supposed that the narrow plinthos brick with a full

depiction of the plan was at least 30cm. It is likely that the drawing was made by a (a thin stick) on natural clay after which it was burnt.

The finding opens up a com-

pletely unknown page of the activity and creativity of builders in late 11th-early 12th century because, until now, no drawing from the 12th century has been preserved. Archaeologists doubted whether builders used drawings at that time. The previously discovered drawings were more like schemes, as for example during archaeological digs of the foundations of the Church of the Dime.

The artefact was unearthed by a student of the Historical and Philological Faculty of Polotsk's State University during an archaeological internship. This section of the monastery was investigated several times by archaeological expeditions in the 1950-1960s, but it is only now that the drawing has come to light.

# Greatly enjoying time in Motol

Our *MT* reporter visits a delicious festival in Belarus

By Anna Kurak

## Gogol fair

A large market was organised for centuries in this area after the harvest. *Motol Delicacies* is one of the most original festivals in Belarus. The local atmosphere resembles Gogol's *Sorochinsky Fair*.

I came to Motol as a guest — joining another ten thousand people arriving from all corners of Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and even Israel. The major venue of the festival — held in the Brest Region's agro-town — is crowded but everything is tasty and smells wonderful.

Long trading counters offer products for every taste and purse: clay and wooden utensils, homespun cloth, wicker baskets and honey barrels... It's impossible to list everything offered for sale. Moreover, everything here is handmade: grannies weave, old men sew sheepskin cloaks, young masters and apprentices help weave baskets... The demand for handmade items is huge — especially among foreigners.



Motol Delicacies Festival in the Brest Region's Ivanovo District



## Do you like sausages?

To understand the true taste of the festival, you need to try 'Motol delicacies'. These delicious sausages are the local speciality; cooked according to old recipes from the best meat. No artificial additives are used.

Apart from the state facility, two private workshops operate — run by a dynasty of Motol sausage-makers. These local delicacies were

known as a Belarusian brand even in the early 20th century. The names of Minyuk and Shikolaev stand for success among residents of the area. Unsurprisingly, major queues gather at the butchers' shops. No-one seems to be buying sausages for a single dinner; everyone is purchasing them on an industrial scale.

'Give me three sausages of different kinds, 'What is the mouth-watering type on

the left? Wrap a kilo of it' — these words are heard by every other customer. Among the most popular varieties are 'Dzerzhinskaya', Teshchina', 'Yevreiskaya' and 'Motol'skaya'; it would be great to find some of them in Minsk's shops. However, Motol locals say that it's impossible to find them in large cities. Tasty sausages are produced in small batches and are sold out in several hours.

The locals say, "Once you try them, you'll never forget the taste and it will not be confused with anything else!"

## Amazing beverages

Thirst is also satisfied with local drinks: adults chose kvass, mead and krambambulya while the children preferred home-made lemonade, infused with fresh lemon balm and mint.

In recent years, the festival of delicacies has expanded significantly. In the past, there were concerts in Motol but they were organised spontaneously, without a special programme. Currently, artists come to Motol from neighbouring countries; welcomed by the residents. Among visitors, the word 'motylyat' stands for having a great time. Everyone sings and dances with Smolensk girls dressed in colourful sarafans and with Volyn guys in blue bloomers. Hearing the Gypsy and Cossack tunes, hosts and guests alike start dancing vigorously.

## It's all about the genes

Motol was established in the 15th century but gained world recognition a century later thanks to the wife of the Rzecz Pospolita's King — Italian Bona Sforza. It was she who, in 1553, gave the Magdeburg Charter to this place — transforming a not particularly remarkable village into a large trade and craft centre. Following Bona's order, Italian masters built an amazing palace which the Queen liked to visit in summer. Sadly, the building has not been preserved. However, the Italian traces in the history of Motol can be recognised in local surnames: Palto, Shikolay, Kulbeda, Kuzyur, Bazan. Apparently, their ancestors were those same Roman and Neapolitan masters who were taken to Polesie by the Queen.

Local Motol residents are also unique. Modern Belarusian villagers tend to move to cities while, in Motol, people are building their common home. Many work as individual entrepreneurs — developing production, trade and the service sphere. Two schools, two hospitals, a veterinary clinic, a hotel, many cafes and shops have been built. Young people leave to study but then return to continue their family business or start their own.

Why this has become possible in an ordinary Belarusian village? There are many explanations: some speak of Italian genes, Bona Sforza's legacy and even the century-old neighbourhood with a major Jewish community. Interestingly, Chaim Weizmann — the first president of Israel — was born in Motol!

# Revival of rare books

Gospel with signatures from 1600 being restored at National Art Museum, for presentation in September, at exhibition dedicated to 500th anniversary of Belarusian printing. Visitors are able to see other rare old books from the museum's collection.

By Irina Ovsepyan

"Our collection is definitely not as significant as that kept by the National Library," admits the General Director of the National Art Museum, Vladimir Prokoptsov. "Nevertheless, it numbers 192 editions, including hand-written

books, and volumes from the 16th-early 20th century, printed in Latin and Cyrillic fonts, in Belarus, Ukraine, Moscow and St. Petersburg. Most are liturgical and have religious-moral content."

The Gospel printed by the Mamonichi brothers' printing house, in Vilnya, has four illustrations

of the Evangelists, decorative headpieces and baroque-style elements. It is the oldest of fifteen Belarusian publications kept at the National Art Museum. In 1942, it was rebound and is now framed with metal plates and corner pieces from the 19th and early 20th century. Restoration of the unique



book has been overseen by well-known restorer Andrey Krapivka, who has worked on publications of Francysk Skaryna previously. The binding is reconstructed using modern technologies, using authentic sizes and materials.

The exhibition prepared by the National Art Museum will also feature other rarities by famous printing houses of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: editions from the late 18th century, for Old Believers.

# UK team races to stop disease in Sierra Leone

As families desperately clawed through red earth and debris that had buried their communities within just a few hours, another fear was already taking hold

Gushing muddy waters had poured into poor communities, killing at least 500 people, leaving many more homeless and wrecking what were already very basic water and sanitation systems. Although tragedy has already struck, things could get a lot worse.

"The floods and landslides have caused damage to water and sanitation systems in affected areas thus resulting in contamination of open water sources, and also created possible breeding sites for vectors like mosquitoes," World Health Organisation Sierra Leone officer in charge, Dr. Alexander Chimbaru, said.

Large displaced populations, limited clean water supplies and no or unhygienic places to go to the toilet, all create the perfect conditions for deadly diseases to spread fast. Within four days of the disaster, the Sierra Leonean government had called on the new UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) to deploy to Freetown and help them prevent a major outbreak of disease.

The team is made up of top ex-



perts, who commit to jumping on a plane within hours of a disaster anywhere in the world. It was created in response to the world's tardy reaction to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Little did the team know

that one of its first deployments would be back to one of the worst Ebola-hit countries.

"We got the call and I was on a plane within three days," said epidemiologist Maria Saavedra-

Campos. "It's unfortunate we need to come back again in these circumstances. But it's clear how resilient Sierra Leoneans are." Their job to help local governments stop major outbreaks before they start.

Thousands die in floods in Africa and Asia as climate change worsens

**With the media focus on the chaos wrought by Hurricane Harvey in the US, floods have killed many more people in Africa and Asia this year, as climate change worsens extreme weather worldwide**

More than 1,200 people were killed in India, Bangladesh and Nepal with some 40 million more affected by the floods. The worst floods in a decade struck Nepal killing 150 people and destroying 90,000 homes. Monsoon floods submerged more than a third of low-lying, densely populated Bangladesh, causing more than 130 deaths and widespread crop damage.

UK factories move up a gear, hinting at stronger growth

**Britain's factories grew a lot more strongly than expected in August as work flowed in from home and abroad, a survey showed, suggesting the economy might be picking up speed after a slow first half of 2017**

The Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) jumped to 56.9 from 55.3 in July. Manufacturing accounts for only around 10 percent of the British economy. But Rob Dobson, a Director at IHS Markit, said the strong performance last month, after a good July, should help support overall growth in the third quarter.

Toyota to make fast charging long electric car

**Toyota is reportedly working on an electric car powered by a new type of battery that significantly increases driving range and reduces charging time to just a few minutes. Thus overcoming one of the largest obstacles still facing the fast developing market. Not on sale until 2022, eyes will be the competition for their next moves.**

Craig Erlam, a markets analyst sees a huge change coming across the whole industry, "There's going to be a number of stronger competition from other brands over the course of the next five to 10 years. And I think what Toyota is doing is trying to get itself back in the game and even possibly a step ahead."

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



## Modi's \$87bn river-linking scheme to end flood woes in India

**After years of foot-dragging India will begin work in around a month on an \$87bn scheme to connect some of the country's biggest rivers, government sources say, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi bets on the ambitious project to end deadly floods and droughts**

The mammoth plan entails linking nearly 60 rivers, including the mighty Ganges, which the government hopes will cut farm-

ers' dependence on fickle monsoon rains by bringing millions of hectares of cultivatable land under irrigation. In recent weeks, some parts of India and neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal have been hit by the worst monsoon floods in years, following two years of poor rainfall. Modi has personally pushed through clearances for the first phase of the project despite opposition from environmentalists, tiger lovers and a former royal family.

## Afghanistan celebrates Eid al-Adha holiday amid calls for peace

**Afghanistan celebrated the annual Eid al-Adha holiday with animal sacrifices and calls for peace and an appeal by the president for insurgent groups to lay down their arms and open talks with the government**

The second of two annual Eid celebrations, Eid al-Adha is being celebrated in a mood of apprehension in the capital, Kabul, following a string of suicide attacks that have killed more than 200 people since the beginning of the year. Eid al-Adha is held at the end of the yearly Haj pilgrimage and marks Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his own son to God. Traditionally marked by the slaughter of animals, whose meat is shared with family members and the poor, it is also known as the Feast of Sacrifice. "I've come here to sacrifice a sheep for the sake of God," said Ahmad Parwiz, a Kabul resident standing at a roadside market as butchers



cut the throats of cows, sheep and goats brought in for slaughter. "This is a religious custom of our Islamic religion and everyone who is wealthy can sacrifice a sheep or other animals for the sake of God on this day," he said. In his celebration address, President Ashraf Ghani called on the Taliban to accept peace.



## Beauty of harvest-time apple captured on canvas

The Republican Art Gallery of the Belarusian Union of Artists, on Minsk's Kozlov Street, presents *Apple Taste* international exhibition project, dedicated to the Saviour of the Apple Feast Day, traditionally celebrated in Belarus in August

By Veniamin Mikheev

The project involves painters from Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Ireland, with apples as the theme. For centuries, the fruit has symbolised inspiration and life for artists. Of course, the apple features in the Biblical story of Adam and Eve as the major object of discord. Orthodox Apple Feast Day, annually celebrated in mid-August, is connected with this symbol. In the folk calendar, the holiday marks the first harvest, and denotes the end of summer, with autumn beginning.

The *Apple Taste* exhibition explores the artistic image of the harvest apple.



## Fruitful cultural August

Residents of French Burgundy offered an opportunity to familiarise with Belarusian culture

By Alexander Pimenov

The *Belarusian Cultural August* project took place in Burgundy, attended by the Ambassador of Belarus to France, Pavel Latushko. He held meetings with representatives of regional authorities, the association of French-Slavic friendship, and French people who have been providing humanitarian assistance to Belarusian healthcare facilities for more than twenty years.

France's Tonnerre played host to the opening of an exhibition by contemporary Belarusian artist Svetlana Ryzhikova,



who dedicated some of her works to that French city.

The *Belarusian Cultural August* project featured eleven concerts by the *Vedrytsa* musical band, under the baton of Yelena Tsyga-

nok. It comprises teachers of Belarusian musical education establishments and has previously performed in France, with great success.

*Vedrytsa* always gathers great crowds, while show-

ing audiences the best of Belarusian music and international classical works, thanks to its high mastery.

The cultural programme also included an exhibition of photography, showing works dedicated to Belarus and France. A teacher from the Belarusian State Music Academy, Yevgeny Gridyushko, meanwhile, gave a guitar concert.

The *Belarusian Cultural August*, held for the second time, has been organised on the initiative of a representative of the Belarusian diaspora, Marina Bleshchik, in co-operation with the Embassy of Belarus to France and local authorities.

## True art from postal stamps

Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya mosaic, comprising 31,000 postal stamps, graces the Day of Belarusian Written Language, in Polotsk

By Olga Korneeva

Not long ago, Polotsk District Executive Committee received an email from Minsk collector Victor Yaznevich, suggesting the exhibition of a huge mosaic, depicting St. Yevfrosiniya, and made from 31,000 used postage stamps, to help in celebrating the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. The mosaic has already been on show at an exhibition of stamps in Mogilev, dedicated to the 750th anniversary of

the foundation of the city, and went on display at the international *Belphila-2017* exhibition. The exhibit is made from old, used postage stamps and measures 4.3m x 3.3m.

Mr. Yaznevich works for a Minsk firm which receives a great deal of postal correspondence, so it's been relatively easy for him to collect stamps over the years. "It seemed a pity to throw them away, so I collected these stamps and thought of a way to use them," he explains.

# Singing in Manhattan

Ilya Silchukov has performed in Warsaw, Israel, Estonia, Serbia, Italy and Russia this season, while participating in Bolshoi Theatre shows. The year has been busy and summer seems to be an ideal season for recuperation of strength. At the height of the holiday, our famous baritone went to Portofino, not to enjoy the sea and the beauty of the Italian Riviera but to take part in an international competition. He won third prize, receiving a decent money award, and returns home pleased, sharing his impressions and plans.

By Natalia Stepuro

**Ilya, why does a 35-year-old established artist need to participate in competitions. As a rule, at this age, contests are in the past...**

Competitions give the opportunity to find employment. I went to Italy purposefully, meeting jurors I've met before, and reminding them of my existence. There are age limits for contestants: 36 years for men and 33 for women. Truly, my train is leaving but I had a couple of free weeks in July. Actually, I went not to win an award but to enable others to hear me. Usually, you go to a certain theatre on your own, heard by a single director. In Italy, six were present.

**What did they tell you?**

My main focus was the Director of the Vienna Opera, Dominique Meyer. We've known each other for over six years. In 2011, an audition was planned but it failed to take place. This time, I managed to talk to him and have a photo taken. He's very open, loves young singers and I hope that, this time, everything will go well.

I've already worked with the Belgian Royal Opera but went to Italy to remind its director of my availability; he was also a jury member. Pleasingly, he recognised me and said that he had something to talk about with my agency. There were several more proposals from jury members but it's too early to talk about them.

**It seemed to me that the Great Opera TV project advertised you for many years to come. Have you established any contacts as a result?**

Yes. They're mostly unconnected with opera: concert programmes and TV projects, such as for the Russian Culture Channel, which has several times invited me onto its programmes. Recently, I was asked to participate in the 'Opera Ball of Yelena Obraztsova', at the Bolshoi Theatre.

This TV project has a pitfall. Opera is very wary of working with a microphone: it's a red rag. I know some singers from Great Opera who've signed good contracts with opera houses. However, these are an exception.

*In any case, this project is a good advertisement for the artist. After my participation, I've attended several concerts in Russia: its halls and philharmonics were full.*

**It's now fashionable to open a private school. The process involves directors, artistes and singers without established names and special experience. Have you thought about this?**

I've no such plans. It's not so simple. You need to stay at home to control everything, or have a talented assistant to pass affairs to.

**You do have a talented wife, Tatiana...**

Yes. However, she's now an intern at the theatre and is engaged in her own career. In addition, our children need attention. Actually, I love the idea of my own school.

**What are your plans for the coming year?**

I can tell you for sure about the Dubai Opera, in the United Arab Emirates. There's a wonderful opera house there. After my successful debut in 'Eugene Onegin', in Warsaw, I received the opportunity to go with their theatre to this distant country.

I'll be second in the line-up, warming up for the star, Artur Ruciński: a very titled Polish baritone who once 'warmed up' for Dmitry Hvorostovsky. I'll have the opportunity to sing at one of the performances, which is a great honour.



Ilya Silchukov gathers full houses around world

**Is that all?**

This year, several contracts have emerged absolutely unexpectedly and at the last moment. I've had a tough theatre schedule, with my appearance in Tel Aviv questionable for a long time. I even had to pass on an interesting trip, as we were rehearsing a premiere in Belarus.

**Is world opera experiencing a crisis?**

I can't call this situation a crisis but some countries — such as those in Southern Europe — have cut their budgets. Certain problems are common for performances being staged throughout the season. At the same time, I see the huge success of summer festivals in Germany, Austria, Spain and Italy; sponsors are allocating funds without problems. Since opera is alive, I have no fear that it will disappear in the coming fifty years.

We've observed the spread of mass culture and pop music. Nevertheless, our theatre halls are almost always full. The public likes to go to the Nesvizh festival and I'm happy to observe what's taking place on weekends near Minsk Town Hall. We can say that we're experiencing a certain renaissance of the classics.

It's not easy to accustom the ear to good music; it's like encouraging a child to eat spinach after a cheeseburger and French fries. Time is needed to generate good taste. The same

situation is true of classical music. It's not immediately 'palatable' but, on trying it, you experience immense pleasure.

**What will you do if your children say that they want to go into pop music?**

I don't consider any modern genre shameful. A person must do what brings them joy. My daughter now likes the classics. She learns ballet dancing and, hearing music, raises her hands and feet.

It doesn't work to just listen to classical music in the background; it requires attention. Olivia and Luka listen to it when they come to see me at work. My son is now in the fourth class of the lyceum at the conservatory, and sings in the boys' choir, where I began my career. He likes it and we've even performed together at the Palace of the Republic.

**My final question tortures everyone who knows that your parents have lived in the USA for almost twenty years. Why didn't you leave with them? It seems the path to the Metropolitan Opera — the dream of any singer — is much shorter there...**

I deliberately decided to stay in Belarus, as I've had the best education here, under Adam Murchiz and Piotr Rideger. I'm very grateful to them. It's not so easy to gain good education over there.

It's not difficult to find a coach who'll teach you how to perform music in different styles, and who'll explain all nuances. However, it's problematic to find someone who will 'establish' your voice, in your own style. When I met my teachers, I didn't want to change anything. My first successes only strengthened me in this thought.

I don't know how my destiny in America would have turned out. Americans often go to Europe, where there are more opera houses. Even so, competition is high. There aren't enough places in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. In Germany, there are three times more opera theatres than in the USA; that's why they're drawn to Europe.

By the way, the first prize at Portofino was won by a girl from the United States. She had a chic mezzo-soprano, and works in Belgian Antwerp.

Speaking of the Metropolitan Opera, it's important for me to do my job well every day. If God allows, I'll sing there as well!



KPBY

**ILYA SILCHUKOV:**

**It's not easy to gain an ear for good music; it's like encouraging a child to eat spinach after a cheeseburger and French fries**

# Minsk and EOC sign contract for the conduct of 2nd European Games

Minsk and the Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) have signed a contract to host the 2nd European Games in 2019

The competition programme will include 15 sports: badminton, 3x3 basketball, boxing, freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's wrestling, track and road cycling, gymnastics (artistic, rhythmic, acrobatics, aerobics, trampoline and tumbling), canoeing and kayaking, judo, karate, athletics, sambo, archery, shooting sports, table tennis and beach football. 189 medal events will be held in 23 sporting disciplines.

Several sports will be held as qualifiers for the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. These are badminton, boxing, cycling, canoeing and kayaking, judo, karate, athletics, archery, shooting and table tennis.

The 2nd European Games will be held at Minsk-Arena (acrobatics, aerobics, track cycling, artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline), Dinamo Stadium (athletics, as well as opening and closing ceremonies), Chizhovka-Arena (judo, karate), the Palace of Sports (sambo,



freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's wrestling), the rowing canal in Zaslavl (kayak and canoe competitions), the Palace of Tennis (table tennis), Uruchie Sports Centre (boxing), Falcon Club (badminton), Marshal Timoshenko Sports Centre (shooting), Olympiysky Stadium

(beach soccer, archery), Sporting Club (clay target shooting) and Palova Arena at the Sports Palace (3x3 basketball).

Belarus was chosen to host the 2nd European Games in 2019 after a vote at the 45th General Assembly of the European Olympic Commit-

tees in Minsk in October 2016. The Belarusian capital is expected to host more than 4,000 athletes for the Games. The 1st European Games were held in Baku, Azerbaijan from June 13th-28th, 2015. Belarus was placed 7th, claiming 43 medals (10 gold, 11 silver and 22 bronze).

## Dinamo Minsk HC suffers shootout loss to Spartak Moscow

By Semen Bondarev

**Dinamo Minsk players defeated away by Spartak Moscow in a series of shootouts — 0:1**

After the unsuccessful game in Bratislava where Minsk were defeated by Slovan — 2:4 — head coach Gordie Dwyer reshuffled the starting line-up. Charles Linglet took the place of Rob Klinkhammer in the first forward line. However, the 'bisons' couldn't take advantage of the changes. Dinamo Minsk hockey players tried to play a disciplined game in the first period. In the sixth minute, they received a numerical superiority (in two players) but failed to capitalise on the power play. In the first twenty minutes Gordie Dwyer's trainees considerably outdid the hosts in attacks and this was reflected in the number of shots on goal. Then Spartak players improved the situation and began to 'hassle' the Minsk goalkeeper, Jhonas Enroth, more often. Meanwhile, no pucks were delivered in either regular or extra time. Spartak Moscow proved stronger in a series of shootouts, beating the Minsk goalkeeper three times. Dinamo suffered its fifth defeat in a row.



## Claiming gold in pommel horse finals

**Andrey Likhovitsky of Belarus wins Varna Challenge Cup in the pommel horse finals**

For the Belarusian gymnast, the performance in Varna is the start of the new season. He posted a third in the qualification round and received the highest number of points amongst eight athletes — 14.600. Second place went to the Frenchman Cyril Tommasone (14,100) while bronze was claimed by Jakov Vlahsek from Croatia (13,900). Belarusian Pavel Bulavsky also performed

in the men's floor finals and was placed sixth (earning 13,650 points). Victory was celebrated by the Chilean Tomas Gonzalez (14,700). Ilya Yakovlev and Pavel Bulavsky took part in the vault finals and finished second and third accordingly. Andrey Likhovitsky also finished seventh in the men's P-Bars finals and fourth in the high bar finals. The FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships that is due to take place in Canadian Montreal from October 2nd-8th will be the main start of the season.

## World Championships silver medal to inspire new victories

By Kirill Karin

**Yekaterina Galkina of Belarus wins silver at 2017 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in the Italian city of Pesaro**

The Belarusian athlete was placed second in the club category with 18,050 points. Dina Averina secured gold for Russia with 19,000 points while bronze went to her sister Arina Averina (17,800 points). Meanwhile, Alina Gornosko of Belarus finished 7th in the team finals with 15,500 points.



No Belarusians managed to reach the top eight in the ribbon

class. The silver medal is the first in an individual event of the World Championships for Yekaterina Galkina. In 2015, she was second in the team standings in Stuttgart. The sport forum then continued with the individual all-around final, with Yekaterina Galkina reaching the final stage in fifth position (67,650 points) and Alina Gornosko — in tenth (64,950). The FIG 2017 Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in Pesaro finished with team performances and the traditional gala-performance.

## Alina Kabaeva to arrive for centre's opening

By Alexey Grishin

**Olympic champion and nine-times world champion, Alina Kabaeva, will come to Minsk to attend the opening of the Rhythmic Gymnastics Centre, she announced to the Press Service of the Belarusian Gymnastics Association**

"I feel great pleasure for the coaches and sportswomen that Minsk will have a centre that will help develop this sport and the Belarusian team will have new opportunities for preparation. I'm often asked about the secret of Russia in rhythmic gymnastics. We have good coaches and gymnasts but everything starts from the regions. There're 82 federal sub-

jects in the Russian Federation and 70 of these have gymnastics schools of state importance. Many children attend these sections. Belarus boasts its own good coaching school under the guidance of Irina Leparskaya and the girls deserve to have their own centre. I will be pleased to attend the opening ceremony, noted Alina Kabaeva.

# 12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, September 7, 2017

## Festival of the week



Vulica Brasil Art Festival in Minsk finished with a colourful carnival

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* Until 20th September. *Masters of Polish Drawing* Until 24th September. *Mikhail Blishch: Dedicated to 100th Anniversary of the Birth* Until 1st October. *City. Architecture. We*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 9th October. *Anatoly Dribas: My Minsk*

#### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

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

#### STATE MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street  
Until 29th September. *The Land of Anatoly Kaplan's Places* Until 23rd September. *The Nation of the Books. Statute of 1588 and Black Letter Books* Until 1st October. *Lermontov in Moscow* Until 29th December. *Kandrat Krapiva: from Childhood to Maturity*

#### VANKOVICH HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 1st October. Exhibition of alternative photography by Victor Zhuravkov

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 10th September. *Pictures and High Fashion* Until 23rd September. *Leaving Nature*

#### VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybitykaya Street  
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

#### VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street  
Until 17th September. *Minsk is 950*

#### KOMSOMOLSKOE LAKE

Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 17th September. *Art-Islands* project

#### CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30th June 2018. *Legacy of Belarus: Devotion to Minsk's 950th Birthday*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN FOLK ART

Raubichi village  
Until 17th September. *Miraculous Samarkand*

#### YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9th September. *The Artists and the City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Painting*

### THEATRES

#### NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street  
08 and 10.09. *La Traviata* 12.09. *Carmen* 13.09. *Orr and Ora; Zarzuela* 14.09. *The Magic Flute*

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
14.09. *Jane Eyre*

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
07.09. *The Black Lady of Nesvizh* 08.09. *Art* 09.09. *Local Cabaret* 10.09. *Pinsk Gentry* 12.09. *Pan Tadeusz* 13.09. *Office* 14.09. *School of Taxpayers*

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street  
13.09. *Love as Militarism*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
07.09. *He and She* 08.09. *Tours of Magnitogorsk's Drama Theatre: La Discreta Enamorada* 09.09. *Tours of Magnitogorsk's Drama Theatre: Dark Alleys* 10.09. *Tours of Magnitogorsk's Drama Theatre: Winter* 12.09. *Pane Kokhanku* 13.09. *Innkeeper* 14.09. *Testosterone*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
07.09. *The Mechanical Man* 08.09. *Robbery at Midnight* 09.09. *Pygmalion* 10.09. *My Dear* 11.09. *Buto Dance in Minsk theatre project* 12.09. *Two Arrows* 13.09. *...Forgetting Herostratos!* 14.09. *An Unnamed Star*

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN ARMY

44 Kropotkin Street  
07.09. *Doctor Raus' Career* 09.09. *Kobro* 11.09. *Three Giselles* 12.09. *Syndrome of Medea* 13.09. *Adam's Jokes*

#### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
07.09. *The Mechanical Man*

#### CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street  
14.09. *Veronika Decides to Die*

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
14.09. *There's No Such Country as Holland*

#### ZAIR AZGUR MUSEUM-STUDIO

8 Zair Azgur Street  
07.09. *Anti[gone]*

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