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INTERNATIONAL

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Living Memory of Grateful Generations memorial sign has been solemnly unveiled in Brest

New family heirloom

On July 28th, on the day of Brest's liberation, a solemn ceremony marking the unveiling of the memorial sign *Living Memory of Grateful Generations* took place on the territory of the Republican Centre for Patriotic Education of Youth at the Kobrin fortification of the Brest Fortress.

On the occasion of this remarkable event, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has sent a letter highlighting that this is the second memorial sign of the planned trilogy of monuments in Minsk, the Brest Fortress and Moscow.

"The memory of the Great Patriotic War has no statute of limitations. It lives in our hearts, teaches us to appreciate freedom and peace, unites millions of people who proudly call themselves the heirs of the winners. It lives despite unprecedented attempts to erase the historical truth. This memory has long been a part of the national idea of Belarusians," the message reads.

Now this memory is embodied in the symbolic image of the tree of life, the crown of which — breaking through the metal — symbolises the peoples standing firmly on their native land, striving for peace and creation. Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed gratitude to more than half a million families from Belarus, Russia, the CIS and non-CIS states, who joined the initiative to perpetuate endless gratitude to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War.

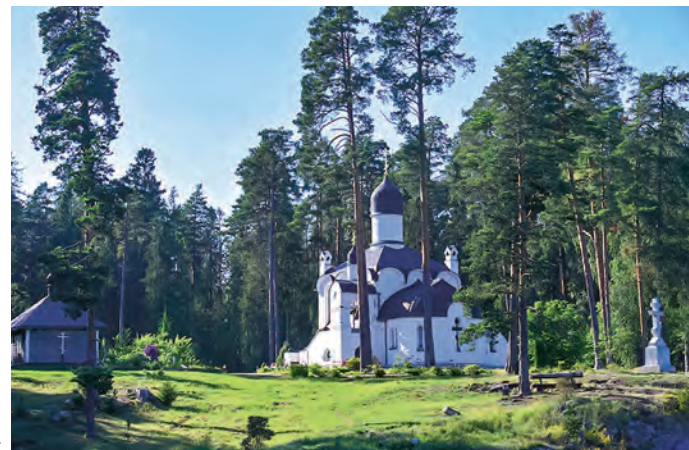


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Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin had a lengthy conversation in a closed format on the Island of Valaam

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has paid a working visit to the Russian Federation



The Belarusian plane number one landed at St. Petersburg airport, where the Head of State was welcomed by the governor of Russia's northern capital, Alexander Beglov. They had a substantive conversation on a number of issues right at the ramp, after which Aleksandr Lukashenko went by helicopter to the Island of Valaam on Lake Ladoga in Karelia.

This location is renowned not only for its unique natural beauty, but first of all for being one of the main spiritual Orthodox centres of Russia, where the Valaam Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour is located.

The Valaam Monastery on Lake Ladoga in Karelia is a place where a special grace reigns. Here, among the Orthodox shrines and the breathtaking beauty of nature, one can draw strength and find solace for the soul. It is here that monks pray day and night

The heads of Belarus and Russia have previously visited the Island of Valaam together on two occasions. Last year — also in July — they visited the Valaam Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour located on the island. For the first time, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin visited Valaam together in July 2019.

for peace, which we all need so much today.

The places on Valaam are quiet, beautiful, secluded and sacred — perfect to calmly discuss in an informal setting mundane affairs that are also important for strengthening the spirit of the two countries' nations and fostering co-operation between them. This is probably why Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin traditionally visit these holy places for the third time in July.

After their meeting on Valaam, the presidents visited the Church of the Smolensk Icon of the Mother of God on the terri-

tory of the Smolensk skete, and then went to the Chapel of Holy Royal Passion-Bearers.

That is how the presidents' informal communication began, free from ties and business suits.

Hieromonk David, the head of the Smolensk skete and the precentor of the Brethren Choir of the Valaam Monastery, welcomed the two leaders and noted, "We are glad that visiting our holy monastery has already become a good tradition for you."

After that, the presidents continued their communication in a closed format. The heads of Belarus and Russia also spent the following day on Valaam.

The discussions centred on the international and regional agenda, as well as Belarusian-Russian co-operation. The leaders of the two countries engaged in extensive and detailed conversations.

However, only a few minutes of video footage capturing informal communication between the presidents have been released to the media. From the brief video fragments, it appears they also talked about climate changes and the weather, which was unusually warm this time even in Russia's north (although not the extreme). The leaders of the two countries also spoke

about the beauty of the local nature. "It is beautiful! You were right to say [to the monks] that they live in paradise," Vladimir Putin addressed his Belarusian counterpart.

However, this is only what was captured on camera. The face-to-face discussions were held in a closed format. Nonetheless, the topics addressed were undoubtedly the most relevant. It is possible that the presidents will soon share some details with the public, but for now we dare to assume that the situation in Ukraine was among the subjects of their conversation.

First Lady of Zimbabwe issued potato growing challenge to Aleksandr Lukashenko



Auxillia Mnangagwa

The First Lady of Zimbabwe, Auxillia Mnangagwa, has been given potatoes from the personal farmstead of the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, BelTA reports with reference to the *Pul Pervogo* Telegram channel.

"On behalf of the President, a representative delegation of Belarusian women handed over potatoes from the personal farmstead of the Belarusian leader to the First Lady of Zimbabwe. These are the two most popular varieties — Pershatsvet and Manifest — which were appreciated by Auxillia Mnangagwa during her visit to Belarus," the resource reports. In the video, Auxillia Mnangagwa says that there are no such varieties in Zimbabwe and at least some of the potatoes will go to the kitchen for cooking. "When I dish up this to the President [Emmerson Mnangagwa], I will say that this is from Belarus' President Aleksandr Lukashenko," the First Lady of Zimbabwe noted.

Moreover, Auxillia Mnangagwa also issued a potato growing challenge to Aleksandr Lukashenko.

"Tell him it is going to be a competition where potatoes grow up better," she said, accepting the gift.

As stated in the Telegram channel publication, the First Lady of Zimbabwe is confident of her victory.

Auxillia Mnangagwa also spoke about promising areas of co-operation with Belarus in her talk with the *Belarus 1* TV channel.

The First Lady of Zimbabwe visited the *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Festival of Arts and said that she definitely enjoyed the food she tasted in Belarus — for example, sweets.

"Everything I tried in Belarus was very tasty and I really liked it. I think the people of Zimbabwe will like it too," she stressed.

The First Lady added that the main strategic product of Belarus — potatoes — is also important for Zimbabwe, especially taking into account the climate changes around the world. "We also need your expertise across various areas. It is also knowledge evaluation. For example, we primarily need your technology and expertise in agriculture, textile manufacturing and processing. All this will be useful for our women. Your knowledge and skills in mining will also be required," Auxillia Mnangagwa noted. Zimbabwe is also keen to share information and traditions.

"We cook food and groceries a little differently, but at the same time, food and groceries from Belarus can come to us. We can introduce your

traditions, and ours can enrich your culture," the First Lady of Zimbabwe stressed.

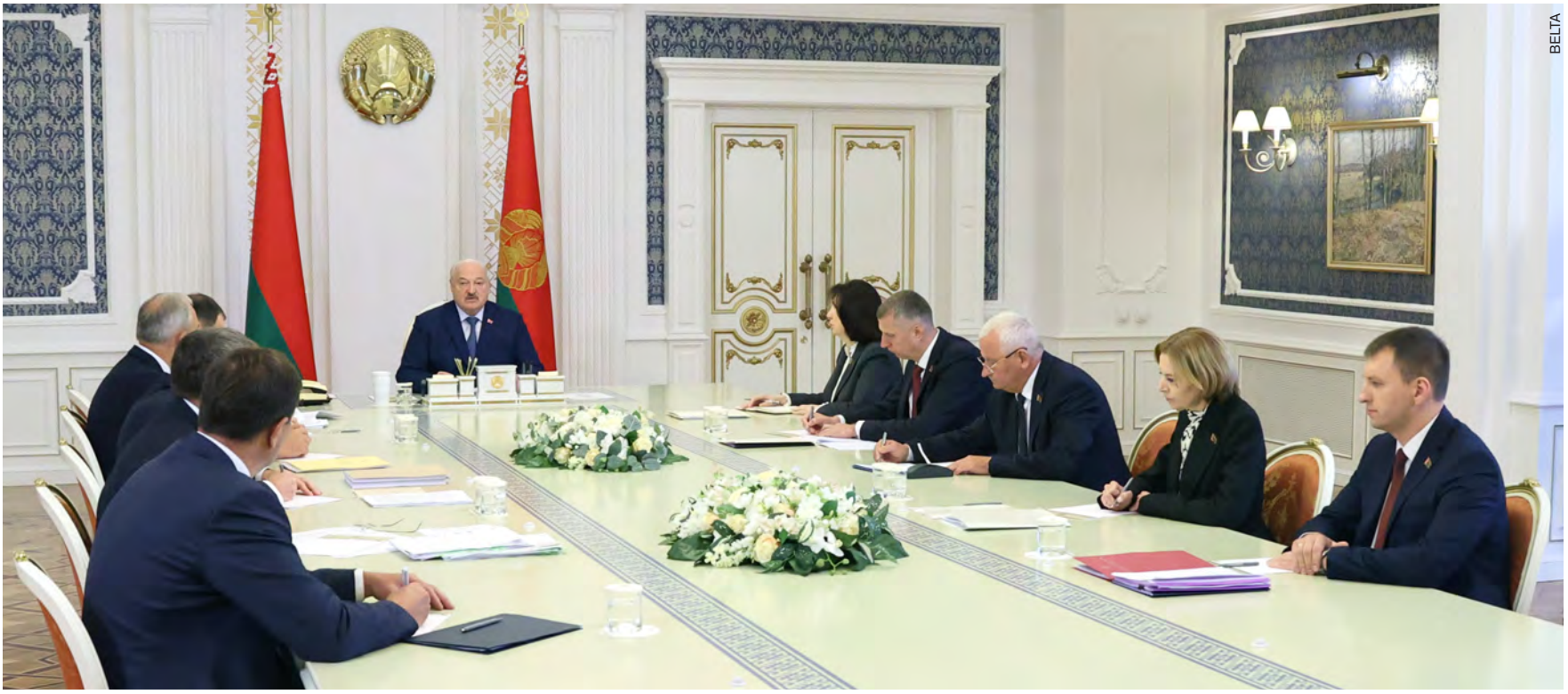
Healthcare is another area for co-operation mentioned by Auxillia Mnangagwa.

"We would like to improve the skills of our medical staff. Belarus boasts a high level of medicine in general. Pharmaceutical safety and the provision of medicines are also important to us. We would really like to receive Belarusian medicines, as we have a large number of people with disabilities and elderly people with various diseases. An important aspect is training and skill enhancement for pharmacists. In other words, we have many interests in the field of medicine," Auxillia Mnangagwa said.

She also added that women in Zimbabwe are engaged in agriculture, growing fruits, vegetables, grain, and other agricultural products, which helps strengthen the well-being of families. "By supplying fruits to Belarus, we will develop agriculture and improve the welfare of our country," the First Lady of Zimbabwe noted. According to her, Belarus and Zimbabwe have great prospects for interaction.

"As part of the international women's conference, a large number of different possible projects were discussed, opening up wide prospects for us. I am convinced this co-operation should actively work. We have no right to fail. We want to see how actively the interaction and liaisons of our countries are being strengthened," Auxillia Mnangagwa concluded.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



‘No tourist trips! There must be a result’

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has held a meeting to discuss international issues

The Head of State noted that the international agenda remains extremely intense. The schedule of international meetings has been quite busy lately. All this requires utmost focus on the past and upcoming events.

Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that Belarus is doing the right thing by expanding co-operation with foreign countries and building long-term partnerships. At the same time, the President criticised the government for the lack of efficiency and persistence in implementing certain agreements reached at the highest level.

“Let’s agree that the role of the President is to open a window of opportunities, to lay groundwork, to pave the way for agreements between members of the government and prime ministers. The government, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the supervision of the Belarus President Administration, must implement these agreements. Not to mention the arrangements reached by government members during their trips,” the Head of State said outlining the tasks.

“There should be no tourist trips. No tourism. There must be a result,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised. The purpose of the meeting, according to the President, was to compare notes, thrash out short-term plans to implement the agreements reached during visits to individual countries.

The President commented on the talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the Island of Valaam.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that his job is to build a solid foundation for relations with Russia, resolve both strategic matters and tactical issues. The government is tasked with developing co-operation and negotiating on various aspects.

The President noted that there were three main issues that remained unresolved at the government level and that were discussed at the meeting with the Russian President: a new oil pricing formula, recycling fee and prepayment for oil. “As is usually the case, you have left some issues unresolved together with the Russian government: the oil formula (new pricing formula), the recycling fee and the prepayment for oil,” the President said as he addressed the participants of the meeting.

“We have discussed all these issues with President Putin. We have agreed that today or tomorrow — depending on how soon you prepare it — I will send him a letter, outlining our position on these three issues,” the Head of State explained.

As for the prepayment for oil, which is mainly supplied to Belarus by Rosneft, the Russian President got even frustrated with this issue. “What kind of prepayment? We have been working without prepayment all

our lives and we can continue to work this way,” the Belarusian leader shared the reaction of his Russian colleague.

Security issues were central to the agenda of the talks. “These issues are not discussed in public,” the President noted. “All security, law enforcement and defence agencies, and ministers are involved, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — on certain issues.”

“This is the essence of these negotiations. I emphasise once again: mutual understanding has been found on all issues. We are on board with each other on all issues,” the Head of State summarised.

“In the autumn, in the run-up to the 25th anniversary of the Union State Treaty, Minsk will host most important events: a meeting of the Union State Council of Ministers and a session of the Supreme State Council. We have agreed with the President [of Russia] that we settle all outstanding issues by that time: both the issues in the remit of our Security Councils [the agreement on security guarantees] and in the remit of the governments,” the Belarusian leader underscored.

Addressing Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, the President pointed out, “In addition to the current agenda — recycling fee, localisation of passenger cars, oil refining — you should keep an eye on the strategic tasks in terms of new industries and competencies for the Belarusian economy: aircraft building, microelectronics, machine tool building.”

“You remember the agreements we reached with President Putin during his latest visit to Minsk. Back then he said and I quote ‘Belarus should be an independent, self-sufficient country with a sustainable economic basis,’” the Head of State said. Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Parkhomchik, new ministers and the ambassador to Russia will report on the status of economic interaction with Russia.

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew special attention of the participants of the meeting to the concrete results that the Union State has generated for ordinary people by its 25th anniversary landmark. The President recalled the assignment to the Standing Committee of the Union State to analyse all aspects regarding equal rights of citizens and urged to pay more attention to solving everyday problems that citizens of Belarus and Russia still face. This is what the Standing Committee under the leadership of Dmitry Mezentsev should be focused on, the President is convinced.

“A lot has been done, but the problems are still many,” the Head of State said and named some of them: inspections at airports, roaming that has not been cancelled so far, unavailability of rail tickets on holidays (due to lack of train services). “Who is responsible for solving these issues?” the President addressed the meeting.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also touched upon the project to set up a media holding company of the Union State, noting that this work should be significantly intensified.

The Head of State recalled that in July 2024, Belarus took part in the SCO summit in Astana in a new status — as a member of this organisation. A number of bilateral meetings have been held. “Those meetings were good. Specific agreements were reached there. Let’s bring them to fruition,” the Belarusian leader noted.

“We must immediately draw a strategy to move towards the goals we have outlined. We should not waste time. Enormous prospects are opening up — first of all, additional opportunities to get access to a huge market of goods and services, exchange expertise and knowledge, attract investments, diversify logistics and payments, reduce political risks. I set out all Belarusian initiatives in Astana,” the President said.

The Head of State recalled that Belarus was invited to attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Kazan. This serious organisation has the world’s power players in its ranks. BRICS member states account for more than 40 percent of the world’s population, as the President noted. “We are interested in joining integration processes in this area. BRICS can help us maintain balance and economic stability,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to draft a plan for Belarus’ participation in this platform and its bilateral meetings.

South Africa is one of the members of BRICS, and the Belarusian Head of State believes that co-operation with this country holds a lot of promise. The President remarked that South Africa could be added to the list of Belarus’ partners on the African continent. These include, for example, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria in the west of the continent, Kenya in the east, Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the south.

“We do not need to spread ourselves too thin across all continents. I want to reiterate: we do not have the kind of economy to have presence all over the world. We need to set priorities right and get laser focused on them,” the Belarusian leader emphasised.

Speaking about the BRICS summit, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled the initiative of delegates of the Belarusian People’s Congress to prepare an appeal for peace on behalf of the Congress and submit it to BRICS for consideration. “Study it and report back,” the President said.

“Belarus is preparing to host a number of important visits. As you know, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Li Qiang will visit us soon,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko held a telephone conversation with his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev

The Head of State congratulated his Uzbek counterpart on his birthday. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Shavkat Mirziyoyev discussed the implementation of the agreements reached during the Belarusian leader’s visit to Tashkent in February 2024. It was noted that effective work is currently underway in several areas.

In January – May, mutual trade reached nearly \$245 million, while the growth rate stood at 105.3 percent compared to the same period last year. The two countries continue to co-operate, and have started implementing a number of new joint projects.

The institution of presidential power has firmly entered the political system of Belarus, has become an essential part of the Belarusian statehood and national security as well as an instrument for the effective development of the Belarusian state and society. This is primarily due to the fateful people's choice of 1994 and the personality of the country's President, Aleksandr Lukashenko. That was the pivotal idea of the distinguished round table on *The Institution of Presidential Power in Strengthening Belarusian Statehood and National Security* dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the institution of presidency in Belarus, held on Thursday, July 18th, at the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences.



Development of state and society as a major criterion

Scientific analysis has confirmed the effectiveness of the institution of presidency in Belarus

By Maksim Osipov

We have a lot to be proud of

The institution of presidential power has firmly entered the political system of our country, has become an essential part of the Belarusian statehood and national security, as highlighted by the Chairman of the Presidium of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences



(NAS), Academician, Doctor of Economics, Professor **Vladimir Gusakov.**

"That is why the 30th anniversary of the institution of presidency in Belarus is a landmark event and a landmark date. We have a lot to be proud of, and Belarusians have a lot to say about the achievements made over the last thirty years. They are obvious in all spheres. Let us

recall that in 1994, most of our enterprises, including the GDP-forming giants, did not function. Barter was used in mutual settlements between business entities, and workers had to go on enforced leaves. Mass unemployment was real, and there were long-term delays in wages of up to six months or more. Officials were busy drawing up urgent plans for wholesale privatisation... Young people were leaving science due to the absence of salary, many institutes worked simply under their own inertia," Vladimir Gusakov stressed.

The Chairman of the NAS Presidium underscored,

"It is no coincidence that the priority for the elected Head of State was not wholesale privatisation but the co-ordinated work of all branches of government in order to lead the people and the country away from the abyss. And the President has fully succeeded in doing that. In fact, today we have a completely different, new country — powerful, safe, comfortable, and confidently developing."

President's strength lies in unity with people

During the thirty-year period of the formation of the presidential power in Belarus, a fundamentally new political system of the Belarusian statehood has been established, premised on the experience of previous generations, as noted by Academician-Secretary of the Department of Humanities and Arts of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences, Doctor of

Historical Sciences, Professor **Aleksandr Kovalenya.**

"The dialectic of society's vital activity bears evidence to the fact that personality plays a huge role in the development of the state. It is known that the historical process is nothing else but the activity of certain people. In the recent history



of Belarus, there were many leaders who claimed to be national prophets. However, most of them did not receive the trust and broad support of the Belarusian people," Aleksandr Kovalenya pointed out.

Experience provides strong evidence that in order to become an outstanding figure, it is necessary to have talent, willpower,

and an extraordinary desire to serve the people with the greatest benefit. It appears that the Belarusian political leader, Aleksandr Lukashenko, possesses precisely these qualities. Most importantly, the President comes from the people and there was no one behind him except for ordinary people. Note that most of his supporters (and even opponents!) agree that the strength of the President of Belarus lies in unity with the people.

Belarus is lucky to have a strong leader

The role of personality in history is of great importance, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives on Education, Culture and Science, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor **Vyacheslav Danilovich** is convinced. He recalled that during the Soviet period, there was a lot of talk about the ability of the people to solve their problems on



their own. However, the practice of historical studies has shown that this is far from being the case, "It is enough to recall the Soviet Union and the fact that the union republics held referendums, where the majority of the population voted to preserve the renewed Union. Nevertheless, the ruling elite led by Gorbachev did not meet the wishes of the people — and we know the result perfectly well."

Therefore, the role of personality in history is truly significant. This

is particularly so in the history of Belarus, given the country's location at a geopolitical crossroads, through which thousands of wars and military conflicts have swept. Forming an effective state here is only possible providing that there is a forceful, strong leader for whom the interests of the people and the state come first. In this regard, Belarus is lucky to have such a leader — Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The parliamentarian and scientist drew special attention of the round table participants to the crucial role of the President of Belarus in the establishment of effective parlia-

mentarism in Belarus. Vyacheslav Danilovich voiced an important key message, "Being a deputy is not some kind of sinecure. It involves real work with people, with voters, who determine the development of our society and our state. After all, as stated in our Constitution, the people are the source of power."

The people have repeatedly confirmed the mandate of trust of our President — Aleksandr Lukashenko — which is a clear indicator that the Belarusian leader pursues truly people's policy aimed at reflecting and supporting the interests of the majority of our citizens, our society and our state.

Taking care of history and contemporaries

In addition, Vyacheslav Danilovich drew the attention of the round table participants to the attitude of the Head of the Belarusian state to the historical past,

"I have repeatedly witnessed that when asked what tasks are set for historical science, Aleksandr Lukashenko has always replied: there is only one task — give an objective picture of the historical past. This attitude is worth its weight in gold. There are very few leaders in the modern world who set such a task for the historians of their

country. This is the greatest wisdom of our President. After all, it is only by having an objective historical picture of the past that it is possible to draw a lesson from it and ensure the normal existence and development of the people, society and the state."

The fact that the development is very effective is objectively indicated by sociological research. The Director of the Institute of Sociology of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences, Candidate of Sociological Sciences,



Associate Professor **Nikolay Myslivets** stated, "According to the results of the research that we have conducted since the very beginning of the 2000s, it should be noted that the assessment of the socio-economic situation in our republic obviously demonstrates positive dynamics. According to the assessment of the well-being of one's own family, the dynamics over the past 20 years are visible to the naked eye. Another indicator of the effectiveness of the institution of presidency is the level of public satisfaction and trust in public

administration. This level has also increased significantly."

Based on numerous sociological studies, the Director of the Institute of Sociology observed,

"We live in a peaceful country, where we are guaranteed the opportunity to work peacefully. The Year of Quality puts forward new requirements — it is necessary to work as efficiently and competently as possible. In this regard, the Belarusians' feeling of absolute security is one more important positive dynamics, being another indicator that testifies to the effectiveness of the institution of presidency in Belarus."

Ilya Shved

Domestic-made wheels roll better

Food trucks for catering, ambulances and cash-in-transit vehicles — MAZ-Kupava has successfully mastered the production of import-substituting machinery

A Belarusian vehicle for transportation of valuable goods has been unveiled to the general public for the first time during the 2nd National Security. Belarus-2024 International Security Industry Exhibition held in Minsk recently. This is a brainchild of MAZ-Kupava — a leading manufacturer of commercial vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, refrigerators and vans in the Republic of Belarus. The vehicle boasts a second-class armoured protection while its interior is equipped with semi-hidden armour. In addition to the driver, it can accommodate three cash-in-transit service employees. The machinery has been developed to replace imported cash-in-transit cars in our country with domestic ones.



By Vladislav Sychevich

Technological response

This is not the only novelty that has been developed by the enterprise recently. Due to the sanctions pressure, many types of special vehicles have stopped being supplied to the Belarusian market, including those for emergency aid. Previously, our doctors often used products from the German automotive industry. Now they rely only on Belarus-made cars. Since 2022, a social project to upgrade the fleet of emergency medical vehicles has been implemented in

MAZ-Kupava. “The ambulances we produce today stand out in terms of interior and exterior. In addition, in co-operation with a Belarusian company, we have mastered the production of medical gurneys for these vehicles. Both gurneys and receiving devices used to be purchased in the Czech Republic and Italy. The domestic equivalent meets all the technical regulations of medical professionals and has received good reviews. Last year, we supplied 250 vehicles equipped with the gurney. This is our anti-sanctions response. We also produce an evacuation chair for the car.



the country. Over the past two years, medical institutions from each region of the republic have already received 44 new cars. At the end of June 2024, 22 new ambulances appeared in health facilities in Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Dzerzhinsk, Kopyl, Lida and other Belarusian cities. All cars are of domestic production, assembled at MAZ-Kupava — subsidiary of JSC MAZ [Minsk Automobile Plant’s brand].

“New cars are fitted with solid equipment and meet all necessary requirements,” noted Vitaly Yakubov, Director General of

The ambulance is almost entirely assembled and fitted with Belarusian components. All equipment inside the ambulance is also produced in our country. Doctors have indicated their wishes, our designers have taken into account all the requirements and come up with several options. Thus, already in 2024, we will produce another innovation, made entirely to meet the needs of ambulance workers.”

It will reach everyone

The domestic manufacturer of commercial vehicles and semi-trailers participates in

other social projects. In April of this year, during a working trip to Kostyukovich District, the President of Belarus was shown a new travelling shop of Belkoopsoyuz [Belarusian Republican Union of Consumer Societies], which is another development of the Minsk-based enterprise. “This is a completely Belarusian product. The car clearance is 265 centimetres, which suggests excellent cross-country ability. The load capacity is 5.5 tonnes,” Director General of MAZ-Kupava provided the details. “Belkoopsoyuz travels to all villages, dacha settlements [summer house outside the city with a fruit and vegetable garden] and gardeners’ associations. Thanks to the large load capacity, the travelling shop can follow the route without additional loading.”

The travelling shop is 85 percent Belarus-made, the rest of the components are Russian. All details in the car have been carefully thought-out, and each centimetre inside is used efficiently. The vehicle interior features a number of shelves adjustable at different angles. The counter height is optimal for both sellers and buyers. “Belkoopsoyuz is now actively buying travelling shops. The basic model, which was demonstrated to the President, costs Br244,000. Since this is a social project, we have frozen this price until the end of the year. Moreover, this is not the product that we earn money from. This is a contribution to the economic security of the country. We provide the country with ambulances, mobile first-aid stations, travelling shops — this might be as well our company’s contribution to the economic security of the country.”

Delicious solution

In April 2024, the first mobile fast food restaurant opened. Today, this mega format food truck travels all over the country enjoying popularity. MAZ-Kupava managed to implement the ambitious project in less than six months. The vehicle fits the entire kitchen of the restaurant — a grill, deep fryer, ice cream machine. Its complex envisages everything not only for work but also for the recreation of employ-

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,
“Belarus can create competitive machinery using domestic materials and components. There is nothing to prove here. We can. It is necessary to take measures to ensure maximum technological independence and create conditions for the sustainable operation of the economy that does not depend on any sanctions. This is a strategic task for our industrial complex.”
During the meeting to discuss the state of and tasks for industrial development, on April 9th, 2024

ees. A separate module contains showers, a sanitary room, a place for eating. “This project is unique, it has no analogues in our country or in the post-Soviet space,” Vitaly Yakubov emphasised. “When we were approached with a proposal to develop a full-service mobile restaurant that would function as a stationary one, we immediately appreciated this idea. We have been making food trucks for many years in different configurations and different lengths, the maximum of which reached six metres. However, we had not made a 13.5-metre semi-trailer, so it

The general director of the company confirmed that the award was well-deserved, “Our main trump card is quality. It all starts with the design engineer. If the specialist has good knowledge, experience, competencies and professional equipment, the whole process will be of high quality. After the design engineer, the development goes to the technologist, who will make the product technologically advanced. Last but not least, professional workers on the assembly line will assemble and release a solid product. If you miss even one



was very interesting. It took us six months to fulfil the idea, although initially we assumed nine months. Our company’s in-house design engineers and assembly people ensured the project turned out great. Now we can mass-produce it.”

Quality is at the core

Recently, nine Belarusian enterprises have won the CIS Award for achievements in the field of product and service quality. The title of diploma holder was conferred on the MAZ-Kupava Automobile Trailers and Bodies Plant.

detail in this chain, it is useless to expect high quality. This is our production philosophy. We are optimistic about the future. We constantly carry out modernisation and try to purchase new equipment annually.

By the way, every three years the enterprise has been successfully confirming the status of a diploma holder of the Government Award for achievements in the field of quality for more than 20 years. The plant also claims to receive a State Quality mark.



ECONOMY

The Minsk Times
Thursday
August 1
2024

5

New Prospects on the Silk Road

Belarus' involvement in the SCO, which has gathered major global players, opens up new avenues for developing trade and economic relationships and expanding investment potential. This is expected to have a positive impact on the operations of the Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park since it can attract more investors to the country, particularly through this project. Kirill Koroteyev, First Deputy Director General of SZAO Industrial Park Development Company, has revealed what expectations the Great Stone has regarding Belarus' participation in the SCO and how the project is developing today.

By Illya Kryzhevich

Paramount message to Great Stone residents

Kirill Koroteyev is convinced that Belarus' accession to the SCO will instil even greater confidence in the Great Stone residents and investors regarding the development of projects on the Silk Road. This strategic move will also have a positive impact on the influx of new companies in the industrial park, "Confidence is of paramount importance in attracting investments in the current situation. Our country has joined a new union that comprises global players such as Russia, China, and India. From an investor's perspective, Belarus has become more appealing in its new status, even despite potential sanctions-related risks. It is well known that investors today, especially foreign ones including those from China, are very careful about project implementation. This is reflected in the trends regarding the registration of new residents in the Great Stone — these are predominantly Belarusian and Russian companies. This is the objective reality.

However, Belarus' participation in the SCO demonstrates to potential investors that by joining the Great Stone, they gain the opportunity to interact with global players.

This will undoubtedly attract new residents from a broader range of countries. Belarus' role in the international arena has undeniably increased, which will significantly affect the Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park and its participants."

The First Deputy Director General of Industrial Park Development Company also noted that Belarus's accession to the SCO automatically connects it to various economic processes. This includes, for instance, harmonised logistics, streamlined transborder crossings, an agreement to increase settlements in national currencies and simplify settlement payments, as well as digitalisation and the prospective establishment of an SCO fund. "Consequently, investors in the Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park can also gain tangible advantages from these processes as they create new opportunities, open up new markets, and provide new additional economic benefits," Kirill Koroteyev clarified.

Speaking about the forecasts for attracting residents, Kirill Koroteyev remarked that by the end of 2025, the number of new

Belarus' accession to the SCO enhances investor confidence — the top manager of the Great Stone has updated on the project's development



industrialpark.by



Aleksandr Kulevsky



NUMBERS AND FACTS

- Total number of orders on Doujin: 954,119.
- Total number of customers on Doujin: 685,063.
- Total number of orders on Doujin in 2024: 270,549.
- Total number of customers on Doujin in 2024: 178,054.
- Total sales across all platforms (13.06.2022—07.07.2024): more than \$8.27 million.
- Total sales for the period of 01.01.2024—07.07.2024 across all platforms: more than \$2.5 million.
- Total number of subscribers across all platforms: 2.618 million.

companies in the park was expected to amount to 170. In addition, over 5,000 jobs will be created, the actual total investments in the implementation of the Industrial Park projects are anticipated to reach \$1 billion, while the annual export of goods and services by the park's residents should hit \$360 million. "The project's implementation will also attract 270 residents by 2030, create 11,000 jobs, achieve \$1.5 billion in investments, and generate \$500 million in annual exports of goods and services," he highlighted.

Moving on to the second stage

Overall, the construction of key infrastructure in the Great Stone continues today. The Industrial Park is actively expanding, materialising previously planned projects, and preparing to accept new companies into its ranks. Kirill Koroteyev emphasised that all interstate and internal procedures for the park's engineering and transport infrastructure were at the final stage, "This year we will commence a large-scale construction for the second stage of the park's development, covering just over 400 hectares. We are going to develop the continuation of Peking Avenue — the territory closer to the airport. There will also be a railway terminal, which is already under construction. I think we will launch active construction of the second stage in the coming months. Currently, we are finalising all documentation, and the contractor has been determined. The need for industrial rental infrastructure



Aleksandr Kulevsky

continues to grow. Ten production buildings have been erected in the park — that is approximately 90,000 square metres of space — which are now fully leased."

"It is worth noting that the main trend of last year — the demand for ready-made production areas — remains unchanged," the top manager underscored. "This suggests that the market for medium-sized capital-intensive projects is currently actively developing. Indeed, there are objectively fewer large-scale production projects now compared to the pre-sanctions period. However, medium-sized businesses feel confident. Belarusian and Russian projects currently dominate this trend. Therefore, we will continue to construct similar multipurpose production facilities."

Kirill Koroteyev also unveiled that a one-storey building covering an area of 12,000 square metres for industrial production is expected to be commissioned by the end of autumn. "Nearly 80 percent of the space has already been leased. Demand in this segment of real estate outstrips supply. Simultaneously, we are designing another building with a larger area of 20,000 square metres, with construction set to begin at the start of next year," he specified.

Regarding other important infrastructure projects, Kirill Koroteyev noted that a new 150-room hotel was commissioned this year. It will start operating soon. Recruitment, training, and retrofitting of the room stock are currently underway. In addition, the Fakel (Torch) facility — a platform for research and technical co-operation, and innovative developments — has already begun its operation. "Earthworks are being completed as part of the con-

struction of the Wildberries distribution centre. After that, the foundation will be laid and piles will be sunk. The work is going on vigorously. This site represents a vast logistics area equivalent to 38 football fields," the interlocutor stressed.

Conquering Chinese marketplaces

The National Pavilion of Belarus — a Belarusian-Chinese e-commerce project — continues to thrive. At the moment,

SZAO Industrial Park Development Company sells Belarusian products through a specially established entity, Hangzhou Jubaopen Technology Co., Ltd, as well as develops Belarus' National Pavilion across 11 major trading platforms in China: JD.com, Douyin, Weibo, Xiaohongshu, Tmall, Bilibili, Kwai, China Merchants Property Operation & Service, Tencent, PinDuoDuo, Taobao.com. The total number of subscribers across all platforms exceeds 2.5 million. "The product range of Belarus' National Pavilion is constantly expanding," Kirill Koroteyev pointed out. "Currently, about 140 types of products are sold in such categories as fresh and powdered milk, chocolate, biscuits, linen products, crystal glasses, juices, alcoholic beverages. The share of direct purchases from Belarusian factories is steadily increasing, with new goods for the National Pavilion being purchased directly from manufacturers. Over 25 Belarusian factories are engaged in this process. Brand marketing is constantly being enhanced, and the pavilion's own logo has been developed. Since the beginning of the pavilion's operation, the total sales volume across all platforms has surpassed \$8.27 million."



Kirill Koroteyev

March of shame

On July 17th, 1944, the Hitlerite Nazis captured during Operation *Bagrati* were made to march through Moscow

By Oleg Usachev

Great Waltz. How it was

The morning of July 17th, 1944, began unexpectedly for Muscovites — it was reported on the radio that traffic would be restricted in some areas of the city. A huge horde of almost 60,000 captured fascists was delivered from Byelorussia. The commanders of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Byelorussian Fronts participating in Operation *Bagrati* were given secret instructions to select strong and healthy Germans for their subsequent transfer to Moscow. The Hitlerite Nazis were mentally saying goodbye to their lives being sure that they were taken to a mass execution.

In total, Moscow received 40 echelons of defeated fascist soldiers, including 19 German generals. Upon arrival, it turned out that the captured fascists were to become participants in the Parade of the Vanquished.

The shameful march of the despicable remnants of the Wehrmacht's defeated Army Group Centre went down in world history as Operation Great Waltz.

The film epic *Liberation: Direction of the Main Blow* features a reliable episode: having listened to the report of the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Army General Aleksei Antonov, on the defeat of fascist troops in Byelorussia, Joseph Stalin said, "You capture prisoners but neither enemies nor allies believe you. Do not hide your prisoners, show them — let everyone see."

The name *Great Waltz* was invented by Stalin. More precisely, he borrowed it from his favourite American comedy. The Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union believed that the overseas allies should watch this film in the Soviet version. One can admit that it would definitely not hurt the current Anglo-Saxons, like many others, to look at the 80-year-old march of the 'chosen Aryans'.

Legendary march covered by Sovetskaya Byelorussia in 1944

The newspaper *Sovetskaya Byelorussia* did not ignore the landmark event, especially considering the fact that the participants of the shameful parade became prisoners specifically in Byelorussia. Here is a fragment from the material *Convoy of German Prisoners of War through Moscow* dated July 19th, 1944:

On the morning of July 17th, endless columns of captured German soldiers and officers were moving through the streets of Moscow. There were 57,600 of them. However, this is only a part of the huge mass of prisoners of war who were captured in less than a month by the advancing troops of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Byelorussian Fronts. They follow through Moscow to the prison camps.

The parade also showed those who were caught in the pockets near Vitebsk, Bobruisk and Minsk, who in impotent rage rushed from one pocket side to another everywhere bumping into an impenetrable curtain of fire and, finally, realising the senselessness of further resistance, laid down their weapons and raised their hands up.



They expected to be given a treat of lead but were offered porridge with butter instead

Hundreds of thousands of Muscovites lined the Leningrad Highway, Gorky Street, Sadovoye Koltso (Garden Ring) and other streets, along which columns of prisoners were sent to be loaded into trains and further to the camps. There were especially many women among the public, who were looking with hatred and contempt at this miserable and dirty rabble.

"Here you got to Moscow!" ironic exclamations of Muscovites could be heard from the sidewalks.

It is no coincidence that newspaper correspondent N. Kozev used the expression 'miserable and dirty rabble'.

The fact is that the Germans were to appear before the eyes of Muscovites in the same form as they were captured.

Thus, the fascists had to walk through the streets of Moscow looking dirty and ragged. The exception was made only for officers. *Sovetskaya Byelorussia* revealed the details:

There are 19 German generals at the head of the column. All of them, as stipulated in the terms of surrender, were left with the full general's uniform, insignia and orders. The generals are walking with downcast eyes. It is clear that the pavement, on which they were going to prance like conquerors, is burning their soles. The generals are followed by an officer column that includes senior officers, captains, and lieutenants. Each of them has their own insignia, many have orders. The stripes indicate that some of them are tank crewmen, others are infantrymen, artillery men, signallers, cavalrymen — all kinds of broken German weapons are



A group of 19 German generals was conveyed in front of a column of thousands of soldiers and officers



Muscovites are indignant at the sight of captured German Nazis marching by

As a result of the Byelorussian offensive codenamed *Operation Bagrati*, there remained only 10 of the 38 divisions of the Wehrmacht's Army Group Centre. German historians have estimated their losses at almost 400,000 people, half of whom were killed and 80,000 captured. Our historians believe that there were twice as many prisoners.

Moscow does not believe in tears

Let us return to Moscow and, more precisely, to the publication in *Sovetskaya Byelorussia* 80 years ago:

As the column of fascist prisoners of war was marching by, the public was cheering and greeting the Red Army enthusiastically. There were also numerous anti-fascist shouts: **Death to Hüller! Death to fascism! May these bastards die! Muscovites were looking at those ragged and dirty 'conquerors' with smouldering hatred and deep contempt.** They knew that those were the murderers of our brothers and sisters, robbers, arsonists, rapists. However, thanks to the organised nature and discipline of the Soviet people, exceptional self-control and exterior quietness prevailed along the entire route of the columns of captured fascists. No incident took place nor a single attempt to give vent to the feelings of anger and indignation that overwhelmed everyone.

It should be noted that the first minutes of the Parade of the Vanquished were marked by heavy silence. Moscow residents and guests of the capital were watching the Germans without making a sound. Eyewitnesses shared later that there was an unbearable suffocating sweat odour emanating from dirty fascists as they were marching along the street.

Absolute order reigned in Moscow on July 17th. In particular, it was due to the fact that Stalin had banned any misconduct towards prisoners of war the day before to ensure that the demonstration of the Red Army's success was not marred with mass lynching. Who knows how history would have turned out if it had not been for 4,500 NKVD [People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs] officers and 12,000 soldiers guarding the marching fascists.

After the *Great Waltz*, a big cleaning took place — watering machines with disinfectant passed behind the columns with the Nazis. This was important not only from a hygienic point of view. It was necessary to remove the rotten stench of the fascist evil spirits...

represented here, in this massive officer column. Columns of soldiers are moving behind it in an endless stream. It is significant that most of them have a satisfied look on their faces as if to convey an idea: we have had enough; we are through with fighting! They managed to raise their hands up in time, and it is clear that they are incredibly happy about this.

There were enough pockets for everyone

It can be added that the Hitlerites were pleased not only because they were not subjected to mass execution but also because they had had a hearty lunch before the parade. The menu consisted of porridge with butter and bread with сало [salt-cured slabs of pork fat with thin layers of meat; traditional Belarusian food]. Among those who tucked into Soviet porridge while waiting for the Parade of the Vanquished was Lieutenant Colonel Litzmann, captured near Vitebsk. That is how *Sovetskaya Byelorussia* wrote about him:

Lieutenant Colonel Litzmann, who commanded the regiment, was captured near Vitebsk, and Sergeant Major Wonneberger was captured near Bobruisk. However, what they are telling seems as like as two drops of water — the same scenario unfolded near Vitebsk, near Bobruisk, east of Minsk, in the area of Polotsk, and in Vilnius, as well as in a dozen other large and small pockets into which the advancing Soviet troops drove German military groups and garrisons.

"Before the start of the Soviet offensive, my regiment numbered 2,000 people," said Lieutenant Colonel Litzmann. "By the time of the surrender, there were no more than 500 left. Our situation was hopeless, there was no connection with the High Command, all its promises to come to help turned out to be a lie. The remnants of the defeated regiment wandered around in the woods for seven days without food or rest, and finally I gave the order to lay down their weapons and surrender."

Sergeant Major Wonneberger repeated the same story word for word about the Bobruisk garrison.



Anton Stepanishev

Canadians don't have enough money to live on

Canadians do not have enough money to live on, and the head of the Cabinet of Ministers, Justin Trudeau, does not have the last word in the issues of governing the country — as noted by brother of the Canadian PM Kyle Kemper, RIA Novosti reports

“My brother is an official representative of the Canadian government, or the Prime Minister. However, I don't feel like he is the person who has the last word. He is part of the global management class,” Mr. Kemper noted.

According to him, Canada should deal with its own problems, since many residents of the country want change, not everyone has enough money to live on.

“I'm worried about the structure of Canadian politics and society, integrity, and happiness quotient. People are scared, they are poor, they do not have the means to live. The situation is becoming very desperate for many,” Kyle Kemper said.



‘Belarusian model’ deserves deep study

The ‘Belarusian model’ deserves deep study, being an example of how it is possible to prosper with the broad participation of the state in the economy — a look from across the ocean at the 30th anniversary of Belarus’ institution of presidency

“The ‘Belarusian model’ has had a positive impact on the country, in the sense of minimising the shocks resulting from changes in the economic system (as happened in other former Soviet republics). The opportunity to prosper with the broad participation of the state in the economy deserves deep study,” Brazilian Brasil Grande Internet portal reports.

The transition was particularly dramatic in Russia and especially in Ukraine, with the rapid disintegration of universal welfare, the privatisation process conducted in an opaque manner, and corruption.

President Aleksandr Lukashenko has chosen a completely different path for his country. Several sectors are still almost completely controlled by the state in industry and agriculture.

Despite the fact that Belarus is under sanctions from the US and the EU because of its friendship with Russia, the Belarusian political leader was perfectly able to use the geopolitical position of his country — a ‘bridge’ between the West and Russia — to gain advantages from both sides throughout his terms, especially during periods of crisis.

Actually, Belarus has a very low level of poverty, with healthcare and education being public and free. The republic is ranked among the countries with the highest level of human development.

Brazil, in fact, is one of the main consumers of Belaruskali products, a state-owned company that accounts for 20 percent of all potassium produced on the planet. There are plans to produce Belarusian MTZ tractors in the country. The largest trucks in the world — BelAZ — are also manufactured in Belarus, and food products are among the best.



NASA/Roscosmos

ISS is approaching retirement

The International Space Station (ISS) is starting to show its age. NASA and SpaceX have recently unveiled their plan for its retirement.

Continuously occupied for just under 24 years, the International Space Station (ISS) is facing retirement. But what form that takes has been debated.

A solution has been decided with SpaceX charged with using a powerful, souped-up capsule to shove the ISS out of orbit once time is up for the sprawling lab.

NASA and Elon Musk's company outlined the plan to burn the space station up on re-entry and plunge what's left into the ocean, ideally at the beginning of 2031 when it hits the 32-year mark.

The space agency rejected other options, like taking the station apart and bringing everything home or handing the keys to someone else.

NASA gave SpaceX a \$843m contract to bring down the station — the biggest structure ever built off the planet.

The space station is already showing signs of age. NASA estimates the station will last until at least 2030. The goal is for private companies to launch their own space stations by then, with NASA serving as one of many customers.

That strategy — already in place for station cargo and crew deliveries — will free NASA up to focus on Moon and travel to Mars. NASA could decide to extend the station's life, too, if no commercial outposts are up there yet.

The aim is to have an overlap so scientific research is not interrupted.

Microsoft says EU to blame for the world's worst IT outage

Up to 8.5 million Windows devices were affected by recent IT outage after CrowdStrike's antivirus update went awry

Microsoft says the European Union is to blame for the world's biggest IT outage following a faulty security update.

A 2009 agreement insisted on by the European Commission meant that Microsoft could not make security changes that would have blocked the update from cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike that caused an estimated 8.5 million computers to fail, the Big Tech giant said in comments to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Thousands of flights were delayed or cancelled, leaving passengers stranded at airports worldwide, the UK's NHS service was affected and contactless payments failed to work.

The problem was triggered by a defective update for CrowdStrike's Falcon system which was designed to prevent cyberattacks. It has privileged access to a key part of a computer known as the kernel.



REUTERS

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

They are going underground

Why a new mass psychosis — a bunker one — is being imposed

One might think that a bunker psychosis is all down to the scorching summer sun that struck the heads. But not to that extent!.. The essence behind what is happening must be different. Let us try to figure it out.

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

Information curtain

Once you start reading about all those bunkers and related statements by European Union politicians, Internet search engines quickly lead you to the expected result — the construction of shelters by the example of the main Nazi criminal of the planet. Allegedly, the present day villains on a global scale also want to go underground until better times, after which to undergo a plastic surgery — and run off. That is unlikely, though, since Washington has other plans for them. Moreover, it is easier to write them off than to spend money on service staff.

In general, so far the level of politicians — those who advocate for the euro — is to intimidate their population and come up with implausible horror stories that Lukashenko and Putin are about to attack and take away Lithuanian and Polish lands. No matter how many times we have stated that we abide by peaceful policy and are not going to attack anyone, Western propagandists have distorted all the statements, turning them into a militaristic agenda in order to create a terrifying picture for European information consumers of our countries almost marching in orderly rows to Warsaw or Vilnius. This is the kind of hoax that is fed to European society without further ado. Just a little more — and our countries may be accused of being on the point of occupying the NATO headquarters any day now... Meanwhile, we are not even aware of that. The Western propaganda 'geniuses' might as well claim that we secretly grow dinosaurs and drink tea with aliens. Joseph Goebbels would be jealous of how Europeans are brainwashed.

There are several explanations for the West's hysteria. First of all, its hostile rhetoric is part of the systematic and methodical work against Belarus, when our country is demonised in the eyes of Western society. The information curtain is needed to achieve specific tasks. Thus, under the guise of information glut, Poland alone has increased the number of its military personnel to 200,000, plus the NATO contingent deployed in the region, and so on, and so forth. Secondly, it involves blatant graft.

Shelters in private homes

Let us move on to the examples now. Poland is no stranger to digging near Belarus' borders. Recently, Poland's Defence Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz has proposed to build a 'line of defensive bunkers, trenches and ditches' along the border with Belarus and Russia's Kaliningrad.

Warsaw then announced its intention to build shelters in private homes and underground infrastructure under the control of the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Defence, as Rzeczpospolita reported. Poland wanted for this purpose approximately z150 billion, which is equivalent to about \$12.5 billion.

It has been estimated that the country does not have enough shelters — 300,000 for 1.1 million people — and all of them are in a deplorable state. Poland's police have even prepared a bill supposedly 'on the protection of the population and civil defence'. By the way, there is a high probability that the population will finance this project. So save a penny, neighbours.

Could it happen that Brussels will have a fit of generosity? Apparently the money allocated for border fences, which were supposed to 'protect the EU from migrants', has long gone into pockets and been spent. At that time, Polish Defence Minister Kosiniak-Kamysz forced up the price like this, "We are mending the barrier on the Polish-Belarusian border, we are strengthening this barrier. The spending on these purposes is the highest in history." Now, it is the time of bunkers... In this regard, Brussels is increasingly asking the question: Doesn't the Euro cow give too much milk? Regarding the fence on the border with Belarus, which cost €400 million, Polish Defence Minister Kosiniak-Kamysz has admitted that it is absolutely meaningless and 'could be crossed in just 25 seconds'. Alternatively, this big money could have been earmarked for a good cause — medicine, education, culture, and increased pensions and benefits...

Defence Minister Kosiniak-Kamysz has admitted that it is absolutely meaningless and 'could be crossed in just 25 seconds'. Alternatively, this big money could have been earmarked for a good cause — medicine, education, culture, and increased pensions and benefits...

Just a business

The Lithuanian and Latvian authorities are following Poland's suit. Estonian political figures do not lag behind either, calling out for the construction of shelters on the border. However, Estonian Ministry of Defence revealed that for now bunkers would be used for... storing potatoes. Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur has remarked that the

construction of 600 military bunkers on the border is not associated with the preparation for war at all. They are just a kind of vegetable storehouse, you know... According to the chief Estonian military officer, this is like the planned purchase of howitzers. And yes, the land for bunkers is supposed to be rented from local residents.

In one interview, Pevkur was asked why the authorities have €60 million for bunkers but not €10 million for raising teachers' salaries. Let us remind you that teachers were on strike in Estonia at that time demanding to increase salaries. The official replied with an air of finality that the funds for the bunker line are allocated within the defence budget, which amounts to €1.3 billion, whereas each ministry in Estonia must provide for its own needs.

Let us cite another Estonian big wig, Kadi-Kai Kollo, head of the infrastructure department at the State Centre for Defence Investment, "We have signed a contract with an enterprise that is supposed to produce three different prototypes of bunkers for us. In September, we plan to start testing them. After the tests, we will be able to choose which type of bunkers will be used in the future."

Our officials, of course, comment on all of this briefly, "Nonsense".

In the meantime, the trend for the construction of underground shelters is spreading, or rather being spread, across all Europe. Billionaires who believe they are paying for personal security could not resist, either. However, the real threat is on the surface, very close — the one that is sitting in cosy armchairs of spacious EU offices.

Let us not forget that all this 'security', like the concept of 'eternal life', is just a business.

Experienced marketers urge in their commercials, "Protect those you love." Thus, under this slogan bunker builders from a Swiss office sell billionaires giant luxury shelters under their own palaces. Those who are even richer prefer to hide in inconspicuous godforsaken places without a soul around. The bunker can look almost like an entire underground city adorned with diamonds inside. The world of shelter can have a more modest size, of course — depending on the financial possibilities. Following the logic, where are those who have no money supposed to hide?

In this regard, the idea suggests itself — it is likely that those who inflict fear in the European information field and promote bunkers might be in business. Surprisingly, they do not learn anything from history.

Security and confidence in the future are achieved in a different way — through joining efforts in pursuing a peaceful policy, mutual respect, a desire to develop and grow stronger, not to the detriment of other nations.

PRICE OF SHELTER

The Internet is now full of information that many residents of Europe are looking for an underground shelter. Thus, real estate buyers in Germany now want a bunker instead of a swimming pool or a garage. Prices for underground shelters start from \$85,000. In addition, the Association of German Cities and Municipalities has called on the country's government to spend billions on the construction of such structures, urging the German authorities to allocate at least a billion euros per year for this project over ten years 'in order to protect the country and its population in the event of a possible military conflict'. Earlier, German government spokesman Wolfgang Büchner stressed that the conversation between Bundeswehr officers about an attack on the Crimean Bridge leaked online did not indicate Berlin's preparations for war with Russia.

BY THE WAY

With the beginning of the coronavirus psychosis, the elite around the world began to prepare to go down into their underground bunkers at a signal and hide for at least six months there. It was not a nuclear war anymore that they were allegedly afraid of, but a deadly virus, as well as the threat of mass riots, when people could start fighting over food and toilet paper. Despite the fact that the construction of such bunkers cost millions of dollars, this business flourished.

From an office chair to a cross-country motorcycle

Zhanna Makarova from Minsk is a programmer by profession but in her free time, she is a motocross racer. According to the results of last year, she is the fourth in the top of novice athletes in Belarus and the best among girls. We have learnt how the IT specialist has moved from static virtuality to extreme reality. And why?

By Violetta Dralyuk

There is only you, the track, the motorcycle and the opponents'

July, heat, Vetka [Gomel Region]. Even mobile phones refuse to work at +40C. The national motocross competition has been held on the race track — the only one in Gomel Region — for the second year. Among the riders in the Beginner class, Zhanna Makarova is one of the few amateur girls in Belarus who are passionate about this sport. By the way, ladies have to compete with men, because there are simply not enough girl athletes to participate in the women's race.

Among the cohort of almost equally equipped athletes, we spotted Zhanna by her blonde pigtailed sticking out from under the helmet. The motorsport conversation took place in between the races, under the deafening roar of engines. To the question why she chose not a typical street motorcycle but a racing cross-country one, Zhanna responded without hesitating, "For the sake of emotions. Imagine: before the race, the heart starts beating very fast, and as the starting gate falls — that's it, you get into another world where there is only you, the track, the motorcycle and your opponents. It is an indescribable feeling."

You want it more than you are afraid of it

The Beginner class at the Vetka stage of the national motocross competition turned out to be the most massive, with 15 novice athletes participating. Hard acceleration off the start line, tight turns, breathtaking jumps from springboards... It is clear to any layman — passing this race is not a piece of cake. You need to be in shape, even if you are an amateur.

Zhanna is not a fan of illusions in this regard. She has always been friendly with sports and was professionally engaged in basketball, and did amateur weightlifting, which she still has not given up until now. According to the girl, it would be difficult for her in motorsport now without such a strength reserve. "It is unlikely that you will be able to change your office chair for a cross-country motorcycle without a good physical shape. Otherwise, you will drive for five minutes and that's it — you will be exhausted. Taking up motorsport was a spontaneous decision, but I am in favour of a professional approach in everything. So I enrolled in the DOSAAF Republican Sports and Technical Centre, the Enduro Legion School for motocross and enduro. Coach Aleksei Aleksandrovich Moshok instilled a love both for motocross, which is cross-country motorcycle racing on a closed track, and for enduro — off-road motorcycle competitions that involve overcoming obstacles and challenges. I remember my first training session. They explained to me basic things, like where the gas and the brake are. I got on the bike, made one move — and it took off at breakneck speed! It was stressful and very exciting at the same time, like on the rides, where you scream, you are afraid but want to relive this experience again and again. Since then, my life has been divid-

ed. One part is work, the other is motorsport. This is the balance I have."

"Do you seek adrenaline in sports?" the question was meant to find solid arguments in favour of extreme sports. "Speed, competitiveness, overcoming, atmosphere — that is what motorsport gives me. However, there is also enough adrenaline in my work. IT and motorsport are similar in key ways. When you design some system, write code, you need to know every detail of what, where and how it works in order to get the desired result. After all, any seemingly little mistake can lead to uncontrollable negative consequences. The same applies to motorsport. When preparing a motorcycle for a race, it is crucial to double-check whether everything functions well. If a breakdown happens during the race, you will not just miss the prize-winning place but you can also fall and get injured," the motor lady clarified.

Extreme is never too little

Watching the motorcycle racing, it is impossible to keep calm — dizzying speed, flying jumps from a springboard high above the ground look mesmerising. At such moments, a spectator has one dominant wish in the head for the athletes to avoid falls and stay injury-free. Zhanna agreed that it is a high-injury sport. There is never too little extreme in it. Therefore, it requires good preparation, regular training, proper motorcycle maintenance, professional equipment and a cool head. The girl explained without any bravado, "Of course, everyone has fear. It is okay. If you do not have it, everything can end very quickly. When you practice consistently, gradually master the elements, work them out under the guidance of a good coach, you get another kind of fear — a rational one. Extreme or unexpected situations arise almost constantly, both in training and in competitions."

Zhanna recalled one of those where she and a friend were practicing high jumps at a motorcycle school, "It so happened that we entered the springboard together. At some point I realised that we were flying too close to each other, we even came into contact with our rudders. We were lucky, though. The contact was not very strong, we landed and rode on. Everything ended well for us, but I have seen similar situations at races. The consequences of such collisions can be deplorable."

In two and a half years of studying at the motorcycle school, Zhanna has earned a reputation as a promising beginner. She boasts leadership positions in various competitions. To enter the top novice athletes in motocross is a good foundation for moving forward. The girl does not hide it that she wants to succeed on the track, despite the existing risks, "It is true that motorsport is likely to cause injury. However, the possibility of this decreases as your skill level grows. I take my training and professional development very seriously. Although I do not have big sporting ambitions, I would still like to become one of the leaders among the beginners at the end of the year and rise to the podium."



Ivan Yarivanovich



Seventeen participating countries, competitions in three disciplines, spectacular entertainment for fans — the tournament on gorodki [little towns] that kicks off today, on August 1st, has everything to surprise

By Tatiana Pastushenko

The World Gorodki Sports Championship will be held in the district centre of Minsk Region for the second time. For the first time, a tournament of this scale was held in Molodechno back in 2009. Since then, the infrastructure for the game has been significantly updated. Aleksandr Kulak, Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Gorodki Sports Federation, Vice-president of the International Federation and senior coach of the gorodki sports department at the Molodechno Specialised Children and Youth Sports School of the Olympic Reserve of Trade Unions, shared the insights, “Thanks to the governor of Minsk Region, Aleksandr Turchin, a new modern gorodki stadium has been built in Molodechno near the Ice Palace. This is the best venue in Belarus and one of the best in the whole world. It is ready to host the World Cup.”

The composition and geography of the competitors promise to be diverse. Representatives from over a dozen and a half countries are expected to vie for the tournament’s awards. The participants will be divided into two groups. The strongest teams from Belarus, Russia, Germany, and Kazakhstan will compete in Group A, while Group B will consist of countries that have already begun to develop gorodki sports and plan to continue. Aleksandr Kulak noted that China will be represented by a large team, and athletes from Turkmenistan, Congo, Ecuador, Armenia, Cuba, Ghana, France, Iran, Türkiye, Egypt, Guinea, and Canada will also contend for the championship’s prizes. “Our team will feature a traditionally strong squad, including athletes from different cities — Molodechno, Minsk, Zhodino, Rogachev, Berezovka, Mogilev, Gomel. The leader of the women’s national team will be four-time world champion Galina Zhavoronkova, while the men’s team will be led by world cham-

Knocking out ‘little towns’

Molodechno is hosting the World Gorodki Sports Championship



promised. “By the way, the competitions will be held at two venues: classic gorodki and European skittles will take place at the new stadium near the Ice Palace, while Finnish kyykkä will be hosted at the site on Tchaikovsky Street.”

Gorodki sport has an uneasy history. Although this sport celebrated its centenary anniversary last year — it was in 1923 that its rules were approved — the game actually originated much earlier. It was highly popular in the Soviet Union in the 1950s – 1960s; now, alas, the situation is different. Nevertheless, Aleksandr Kulak is sure that things can change. “Once again, I want to express my gratitude to the governor of our region for



pionship medallist Gennady Sushko. The team comprises both experienced and young athletes,” the specialist revealed. “The championship programme envisages competitions in three disciplines — classic gorodki, Finnish kyykkä and European skittles. We plan to win medals in each of them. However, we understand that it will not be easy — after all, we will have to compete with a very strong Russian national team, and a German team full of ambitions.”

The Russians have recently held the national championship and determined the squad for the World Cup in Molodechno. Aleksandr Kulak stressed that behind each name in the Russian team is a titled athlete. The world and Russian champion, Anastasia Kovleshenko, the winner and

medallist of the world championships, Aleksei Gorbatykh, Aleksei Yeliseyev and Nina Yeliseyeva are getting ready for the tournament. The composition is top-notch! The interlocutor cited another curious fact: at the last World Gorodki Sports Championship, which was held in 2022 in Priozersk, Leningrad Region, the Russians took 11 out of 12 gold medals. Let’s see how it goes this time! Along with that, exciting competitions are not everything that the organisers have prepared for the audience. “Everyone wishing to participate can try their hand at gorodki — playgrounds for this have been set up. In addition, there are retail outlets and a food court available, as well as music bands are scheduled to perform. It will be interesting,” Aleksandr Kulak

supporting gorodki sports. The World Cup will take place at a new venue, with chairmen of the district executive committees of the region invited to attend the tournament, where they can witness the competitions. It is possible that gorodki sites will also emerge in other districts. They do not have to be of the same level as the stadium in Molodechno, but be suitable for holding regional competitions. As far as I know, the construction of a gorodki playground in Kopyl District is under completion, the one in Logoisk District is planned to be commissioned in September; next in line are playgrounds in Zhodino, Soligorsk, Maryina Gorka. I hope that the World Cup and the excitement around gorodki sports will serve as an impetus for its revival.”

Bus will come to our rescue

Neman loves travelling and surprising

Whatever these guys may lack, they definitely have plenty of stamina and perseverance. According to the already established habit, FC Neman Grodno set off to play the European Cup football matches by bus, not intimidated by a long distance or road inconveniences. Furthermore, the Belarusian team did not lose face, giving a fitting rebuff to the Romanian CFR Cluj club in the first match of the second qualifying round of the Conference League. More than 24 hours and thousands of kilometres on the road from Belarus’ Grodno to Romania’s Cluj-Napoca did not diminish the team’s fighting spirit — Igor Kovalevich’s squad fought valiantly and fiercely, preventing the home team from scoring a single goal. A goalless draw opens up good prospects for Neman.

By Sergei Kanashits

CFR Cluj’s head coach Dan Petrescu gave an exhaustive comment on the match, “I knew what kind of match to expect and I talked about it the day before,” stated the Romanian football legend. “Clubs in the post-Soviet space are very well prepared physically, aggressive and well organised. Neman has had the same coach for eight years; they performed very

well on the field, played simply and correctly, without taking unnecessary risks. The first half of the match was balanced. We had our chances, just like them. In the second half, we put pressure, created several chances, and we also had two potential penalties that the referee did not award in our favour. But now we know Neman, we know what will happen in the second match. At the same time, Grodno has no matches, they will

rest. It is going to be a tough match. There is a possibility of extra time and penalties, anything is possible.”

Neman’s chances of a positive outcome could at least double if the second leg were played at their home stadium in Grodno. However, due to UEFA sanctions, Belarusian clubs have long had no right to host their rivals in Belarus, which initially puts them at a disadvantage. Well, let us play



in Hungary, especially since this country has become almost like a home away from home for our teams. Despite all the obstacles, Igor Kovalevich and his team can and should fight

to move into the third round of the Conference League — they have everything to win, including the bus, which they so successfully put on the opponent’s way in the first match.

Photo of the week

Kirill Stasko



National Spartakiad *Health* among media employees has been held in the Staiki Olympic training centre. In the photo: the Publishing House Belarus Segodnya's team during the tug of war competition

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On August 1st, 1939, the grand opening of the VDNH Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy took place in

Moscow. At present, the total area of the VDNH territory is nearly 700 hectares. It is rich in architectural monuments that have appeared over several decades. VDNH ranks among the 50 largest exhibition centres in the world. *The Republic of Belarus* pavilion at VDNH showcasing Belarusian products expects to reach the record level of 1.5m visitors by the end of the year.

August 2nd is celebrated

as Paratroopers and Special Operations Forces of the Republic of Belarus Day. The history of the Airborne Troops begins on August 2nd, 1930, when a unit consisting of 12 personnel was parachuted in exercises conducted by the Airborne Force of the Moscow Military District near Voronezh. Today, paratroopers honourably fulfil their military duty, continue the glorious traditions of their grandfathers and fathers, and remain true patriots of the Fatherland.



August 3rd, 1959 marks the opening of the First Moscow International Film Festival. The film *Fate of a Man* directed by Sergei Bondarchuk won a major prize. In 1972, the



Moscow Film Festival was officially recognised as one of the six largest world film festivals, along with Cannes, Berlin, and Venice. Since 1989, the Golden Saint George statuette has been the main festival prize.

August 4th is Railway Worker's Day in Belarus. The railway linked to the Starinki Metallurgical and Machine-Building Plant of Benckendorf, which operated in the 1840s – 1860s, is considered to be the predecessor of the Belarusian railway system. Grodno became the first Belarusian city to have railway traffic. The first Porechye-Grodno line began operating back in 1862 as part of the St. Petersburg-Warsaw railway. The Belarusian railway today is a modern, well-developed transport system with a length of 5,500 kilometres.



On August 4th, 1944, the Gestapo [Nazi Secret State Police] arrested a 14-year-old Jewish girl, Anne Frank, a native of Germany, who was hiding with her family from Nazi terror in the Netherlands. In hiding, Anne kept a diary



in letters — the now famous *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* — an incriminating document against fascism, translated into many languages of the world.

August 5th, 1844 marks the birth of Ilya Repin (1844-1930), a renowned Russian artist. In 1892-1900, he lived and worked at the Zdravnevo estate near Vitebsk, where he created more than 40 paintings and drawings, including such famous ones as *Autumn Bouquet*, *The Belarusian*, *Moonlit Night*, *Duel*, among others. Many pieces from that period depict the picturesque Belarusian nature and the views of Zdravnevo. While living near Vitebsk, Repin helped many Belarusian artists receive education and hone their skills. The revived Zdravnevo Museum-Estate was opened in 2000 as part of the *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Festival.



On August 5th, 1994, by decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus was established. It serves as the highest constitutional collective co-ordinating and political body created in order to implement the powers of the President of the Republic of Belarus in ensuring national security of the state.

On August 6th, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Titov made the second space flight in history. Aboard the *Vostok-2* spacecraft, he entered low Earth orbit and spent 25 hours and 11 minutes in space, circling the Earth 17 times. Gherman Titov proved that a person can live and work in space. This was the second human space flight, yet the first to extend beyond 24 hours.



August 6th, 1945 is the date when the United States carried out an atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima. As a result, about 100,000 people were killed and missing, about 160,000 people were injured and



exposed to radiation. The overwhelming majority of the dead were civilians. On August 9th, the USA struck another Japanese city, Nagasaki.

On August 7th, 1941, pilot Viktor Talalikhin made a night aerial ramming for the first time in the Great Patriotic War. For this remarkable feat, he was awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union title. He rammed a German Heinkel He 111 bomber on his Polikarpov I-16 during a night air battle near Moscow. After shooting down an enemy aircraft, the wounded pilot managed to get out of the falling fighter at the last minute and landed on the ground on a parachute.