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Custom-made tapestries of the 17th-18th centuries are under restoration at Mir Castle

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INTERNATIONAL



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Gracefully! Effectively! Artfully!

The Belarusian tennis player Aryna Sabalenka absolutely rightly got the glory. After the final match of the Australian Open, all tennis observers agreed that she had the best match of her career. For this, after two and a half hours of struggle on the court, the Belarusian, of course, was rewarded: a strong-willed victory over Elena Rybakina — 4:6, 6:3, 6:4, almost \$2 million in prize money, second place in the world ranking and still sounding toasts in her honour from all over the planet. President Aleksandr Lukashenko was one of the first to congratulate Aryna Sabalenka on her victory. → 11



Those who are ready to live peacefully and create value for their country should not be rejected by society

Protection of legal rights and interests of Belarusian citizens became one of the main issues on the agenda of the meeting to review the social and political situation and the crime rate in the country, which was chaired by Aleksandr Lukashenko

The President touched upon a number of other pressing issues, including maintenance and repair of roads and the operation of sole traders. The Head of State also instructed to more actively promote and demonstrate the achievements of the Belarusian scientists, which are in high demand in society given the great interest in the ongoing Intellectual Belarus exhibition.

es did not falter, did not retreat, and did not fail anywhere. Of course, I take their opinion into account today. The opinion of the people who serve in special units is very important to me. These are the military people who helped return order inside the country. Our internal troops stood strong here. I respect them deeply, and I take their opinion into account.”

so on that came in response to my suggestion to talk to those who realised their guilt and wanted to live in their homeland. They wrote that security forces seized those who tried to return, put them in jail, nearly killed them! This is absolute nonsense. Nobody is rounding up anyone. But why are they acting like that? Because the reason why opposition leaders are given money is

the fact that some of them might take advantage of our conciliatory gesture and inflict some damage. It is also in the interests of intelligence services of foreign states, especially our close-door neighbours who are mean-spirited towards us (they are acting worse than countries that are further away from our borders). Therefore, our task is to apply an individual approach to every-

I don't get it. Therefore, we are forced to react harshly. We have enough problems along the perimeter — both in the airspace and on the ground, the green border. We have enough problems there. Let's hope we cope with all of them. We do not need internal problems. Therefore, the reaction to this internal opposition, which are more like extremists, like cockroaches crawling out of the woodwork, will be tough. They should consider themselves warned,” the Belarusian leader stressed.

Speaking with journalists after the meeting, Prosecutor General Andrei Shved noted that the situation in the country allows us to address the issues of returning to their homeland those people who, for some reason, left Belarus after the events of 2020, but sincerely repented.

“Our country has an absolutely manageable, calm environment. People live a peaceful, calm life. Without fear, at any time they walk along our streets, walk with children. Therefore, the law enforcement unit will continue to do everything necessary to ensure public safety,” he said.



“The topic of today's talk is crime, the crime rate in the country. I ask you to pay special attention to crimes of a terrorist nature. This is very important for us today,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said, emphasising that the main issue is the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

The President continued,

“I would like to discuss with you the ways to address the issue related to those who spoke out against the state (we all remember the year 2020), left the country (some are serving sentences), and have repented today but are afraid to come back, or ask me for pardon. I feel that a certain part of our society is showing an interest in the matter. I have instructed the Administration to consider the issue together with the public and propose a mechanism for its solution.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko explained why he had instructed to study the relevant topic with the participation of the public, “I carry out my duties according to the Constitution of our country. I am in charge of the country as I was before. As for the law enforcement officers, you should agree that they played their role in 2020. They did not fail in general at that time. They performed the tasks that were assigned to them. I followed this topic non-stop, gave the appropriate instructions, and the security forc-

The President added that it is the duty of the military and civil servants, on the one hand, to act tough, defending the country as well as law and order, but at the same time, following the interests of the state, to meet somebody halfway if necessary.

“I said this in the church: we should not create any additional points of tension in our society... Those who are ready to live peacefully and create value for their country should not be rejected by society. This is an axiom. And if we are wise people and the government has signs of wisdom, it should act accordingly. We should not shun those who stumbled and realised it, we should offer a conciliatory gesture. But only to those who will be released from jail or return from abroad and will become even more ardent supporters of Lukashenko than those who already are. There are such people indeed,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

According to the President, the enemy will prevent these people from returning home in every possible way, “We see this. For the self-exiled opposition who uses the interests of the people as a bargaining chip, ordinary people will always be a battering ram to fight against the state and a stable source of personal wealth... You have probably noticed this flurry of hateful reports in Telegram channels, chats and

that there are several thousand people who fled with them. The West knows that it might be able to use these people against our country in the future. And these allegedly 1,500-2,000 fugitives are led by these opposition leaders whose offices receive some funding. We know for sure that these unfortunate 1,500 get one or two cents of this money. The rest stays in the pockets at headquarters, offices.”

The Head of State is convinced,

“Everyone who wants to mend their ways and make amends should have a chance for leniency. Those who deliberately broke the law, endangered human lives, continue destructive activities against our country with the support of Western intelligence agencies will be held accountable.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that there is a lot of work to be done to sort everything out.

The President emphasised, “We should not act indiscriminately, because in this case our supporters will have every reason to change their mind about us, and we will lose them, We, together with journalists, bloggers, those who were on the frontline, will decide what to do with those who have realised what they did, who have repented and made a public statement about it, which is mandatory. But a step forward must be taken. Yet, we should not lose sight of

one and to take fair decisions.”

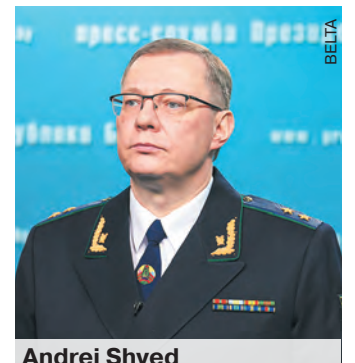
If the Belarusians had not survived in 2020, it would be worse in the country now than in Ukraine, the President is sure.

“Some are lying in wait. Some are very vocal about their positions. We respond harshly. The events of 2020 will not be repeated. It is bad that the situation around the country is such, especially with regard to dear Ukraine.

But that's a lesson for all ten million Belarusians and people who visit us. Everyone has already understood: if we had not survived the 2020 events, the country would have been worse off than Ukraine. Of course, we react harshly to this. We will never allow the events of 2020 to happen again. The pandemic and other issues, pre-election and election issues played their role, but this is not an excuse. We need to rally together now in order to survive, and to avoid war,” the President said.

The Head of State noted that the West has not abandoned its plans for Belarus. Ukraine continues to train militants and extremists.

“I don't know why Ukraine needs this. On the one hand, they ask us not to send troops to Ukraine. They suggest a non-aggression pact. On the other hand, they are preparing this explosive mixture and arming them. Poland and Lithuania have taken leave of their wits whatsoever. Why are they acting like that?”



Andrei Shved

Speaking about the return of the repentant, Andrei Shved said, “Of course, they will definitely have such an opportunity. A fundamental decision has been made. An interdepartmental commission will be created, which will be headed by the Prosecutor General. This commission will include representatives of the public, deputies and officials of state bodies. Those who are abroad, wish to return to their homeland, but are afraid of something, will have the opportunity to apply to the commission and receive an appropriate explanation. This information will be posted in all media.”

At the same time, the applicant will be informed about the possibility of returning, the presence or absence of any claims against him from the state authorities.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Both states are important trade partners of Belarus in the Middle East and Africa. Moreover, in co-operation with the Emirates, Belarus seeks to use not only the opportunities of this capacious market for the export of goods and services, but also the transport and logistics advantages for the supply of its products from the UAE to neighbouring states of the Middle East. As for Zimbabwe, this country can become a gateway for us to new markets in South Africa.

By the way, Aleksandr Lukashenko raised the topic of co-operation with the Emirates quite recently during his visit to the Intellectual Belarus exhibition. The Head of State was particularly interested in developments in the field of artificial intelligence. He had discussed this topic earlier during his meetings with foreign partners, including partners from the United Arab Emirates, a country where artificial intelligence is one of key areas of focus. Furthermore, Aleksandr Lukashenko has always stressed his readiness to assist in the development of co-operation between the Emirati side and Belarusian partners.

In general, trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and the UAE has been steadily developing. Joint interests and prospects of co-operation lie in such areas as investment, industry, agriculture, banking and finance, transport and logistics, education and scientific research, sports and tourism.

The complementarity of the economies of Belarus and the UAE is a favourable factor for the development of trade and economic co-operation. Belarus not only seeks to use the capacity of the UAE market to export goods and services but also uses the transport and logistics advantages for the supply of its products from the UAE to the Middle East and Africa. Belarus counts on reciprocal initiatives of the Emirati business as well.

And if there is nothing surprising in the trips of the Belarusian leader to the Middle East (the UAE is an important trading partner and a significant investor for us, just recall the construction of the Northern Waterfront, the largest modern project in Minsk worth about \$5 billion), then for most Belarusians even the name of the country Zimbabwe itself sounds quite exotic.

The President of Belarus paid a state visit to Zimbabwe — in the language of diplomacy, this is considered the highest protocol status of a visit. The meeting ceremony at the airport of the capital city of Harare perfectly fits it — a guard of honour, anthems, volleys from salute installations. Residents of the Zimbabwean capital greeted the distinguished guest with authentic songs and dances to the beat of drums, chants and applause.

Aleksandr Lukashenko was met per-

Important partners in the Middle East and Africa



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, paid visits to the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe



sonally by President Emmerson Mnangagwa at the gangway of the plane. After a brief conversation, the leaders of the two countries left the airport in the same car. The programme of the stay included talks of the Heads of State in a one-on-one and in an expanded format. On the basis of the Zimbabwe institute of agriculture, with the participation of the Presidents, a ceremony was held to transfer equipment from Belarusian manufacturers as part of the completion of the second phase of the Zimbabwe farm mechanisation programme and the start of the third phase of the programme.

The Belarus-Zimbabwe business forum was opened in Harare on the eve of the arrival of the Belarusian leader. It was attended by dozens of heads of ministries, departments and enterprises of the two countries. Belarus brought its national delicacies to the business forum — a variety of meat and dairy products, and even Belarusian ice cream. The First Vice President Constantino Chiwenga also tasted the sweet delicacy. By the way, it has been made with the use of orange juice made from the fruits grown in Zimbabwe, which is quite symbolic in itself.

The First Vice President noted the existing warm relations between the countries and the gradual strengthening of co-operation, which was facilitated by previous visits at various levels, “The forum is an ideal platform to exchange views, knowledge and information on economic development. There are plenty of opportunities in Zimbabwe to invest in a wide variety of industries. These are agriculture, mining, tourism, energy, transport, education and many others.”

President of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) Mike Kamungeremu stressed that his country has greatly benefited from bilateral relations with Belarus in various sectors, “In terms of economies, Belarus and Zimbabwe are not competitors. We can develop mutually beneficial trade and investment. There are a lot of opportunities in Zimbabwe. Believe me, you will not regret that you decided to do business with Zimbabwe and in Zimbabwe.”



Abu Dhabi — the capital of the UAE

Until 1980, this African state was a British colony and was called Southern Rhodesia. After the declaration of independence, it acquired its current name. In terms of area, Zimbabwe is almost twice the size of Belarus. The country has a unique flora and fauna, and on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia there is one of the natural pearls not only of Africa, but also of the world — the Mosi-oa-Tunya (The Smoke That Thunders) waterfall, also known as Victoria Falls.

In addition, the Zimbabwean land is rich in platinum, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore and other minerals. Rich natural resources are a good start for industrial production. A significant role in the country’s economy is also assigned to the agricultural sector, the modernisation of which began several years ago. In this regard, Zimbabwe has a huge interest in our country, thus, several factors came together here. The President of Zimbabwe initiated a Vision 2030 large-scale plan for the country’s economic development, which involves concrete steps to industrialise, mechanise the national economy of Zimbabwe, improve the quality of education, medical services, and improve the living standards of the population. Belarus has a high level of skill sets and its own developments in all these areas. In addition,

Belarus is perceived as a friendly, even fraternal country, which does not follow the trail of the colonial past.

Belarusian participation in joint projects in agriculture, light and food industries, construction, fertiliser production, energy, exploration, mining, transport, education and medicine is seen as promising. Zimbabwe is a member of the African Continental Free Trade Area which has a market of over a billion people. It is no coincidence that during the visit the creation of a hub in Africa for the trade in Belarusian products was also discussed.

Business communication between the business circles of the two countries resulted in the signing of a number of co-operation agreements. Thus, from the Belarusian side, the documents were signed by the Minsk Tractor Works, Lidselmash, the Minsk Motor Plant, Gomselmash, and Bobruiskagromash. The main exporter of Belarusian products to the Zimbabwean market, the Minsk Tractor Works, supplied more than 1,800 units of equipment to this country from 2018 to 2022.

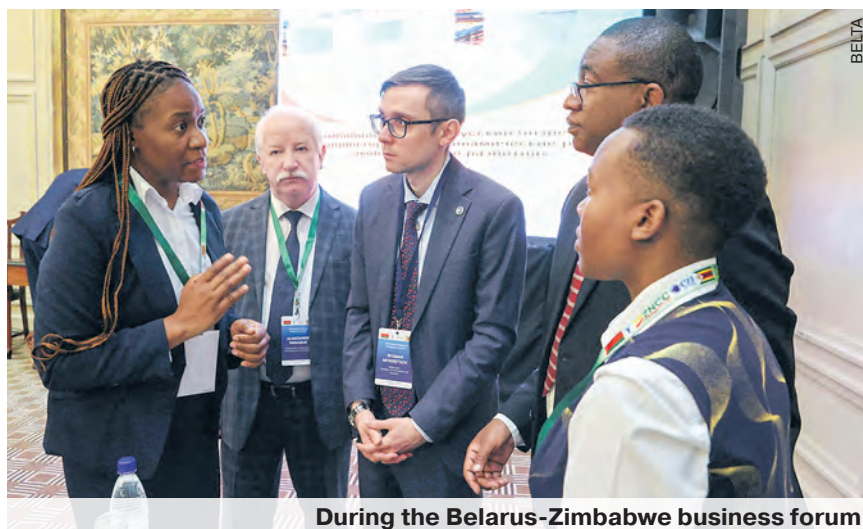
“In the next two years, we plan to double this number [MTZ will supply 3,575 tractors to Zimbabwe in 2023-2024].

Naturally, we and our partners are engaged not only in sales, but also in service. Three service centres have already been opened. Three more will open soon. We expect to be firmly established here,” MTZ Director General Vitaly Vovk shared the details of the future strategy.

The head of the Africa and Middle East Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Yuri Nikolaichik said that our country has been gradually increasing its presence in Africa, “We started with two foreign missions. Those were embassies in Egypt and the Republic of South Africa. Today Belarus has five embassies on the African continent. These strongholds generally cover the key regions of Africa. In West Africa, we rely on Nigeria, which is the economic leader in the region. In East Africa, our foothold is Kenya. If we take the region between South Africa and East Africa, then it is Zimbabwe that is our reference point in this belt.”

We will tell more about the results of the state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe in the next issue of the newspaper.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



During the Belarus-Zimbabwe business forum

In 2021, the trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe amounted to \$25 million, with Belarusian exports of \$16.5 million. In January-November 2022, mutual trade in goods increased to \$38.6 million. Belarusian exports have reached almost \$30 million.

The Council of the Republic of the National Assembly together with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President, the National Centre of Legislation and Legal Research, with the participation of the leadership of the President Administration, the Council of Ministers, the Information, Culture, Education, Sports and Tourism Ministries, educational institutions, public associations and media, representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the House of Representatives of the National Assembly and the Belarusian Orthodox Church held a visiting seminar, which examined the important historical accents of the formation of the Belarusian statehood from its inception to the present stage in detail.

What stages did the Belarusian statehood develop from?

By Svetlana Isaenok, Maksim Osipov, Yulia Demeshko

Moment of truth

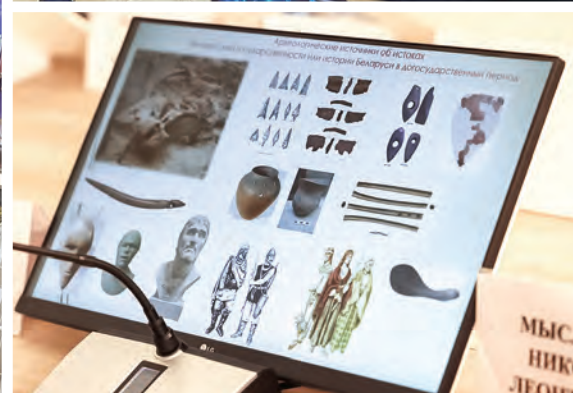
Opening the seminar, Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova noted the special symbolism of the fact that the event is being held at a time when the Year of Historical Memory actually passed the baton to the Year of Peace and Creation, "Summing up the results of the past year, we absolutely clearly see the tasks facing the authorities at all levels, our society and country for this year. This can rightfully be considered another moment of truth in the history of Belarusian statehood. Of course, the search for answers to such fateful questions as: 'Who are we?', 'Where are we from?' and 'Where are we going?' — contributed to all those activities that were carried out within the framework of the Republican plan for holding the Year of Historical Memory."

The spokesperson drew attention to the fact that Polotsk, the cradle of the Belarusian statehood, was one of the three key centres of Ancient Rus' on a par with Novgorod and Kievan and has always been independent,

"Therefore, no one has the right to reproach us, Belarusians, for allegedly not having the right to our own independent and sovereign state. Our own, Belarusian path is truly unique and can serve as an example for many other countries and peoples."

"The Head of State wisely established that we must not only survive, but develop properly and move forward. Our country must be competitive and successful, and this is possible only in an equal, partnership dialogue with states that share our basic values," Natalya Kochanova emphasised.

Who are we, where are we from, and where are we going?



During the meeting, scientists gave answers to a number of fundamental questions



Why is Polotsk land synonymous with Polotsk Rus'?

Of all the ancient Russian principalities on the Belarusian territory, the Polotsk land had bright features of isolation and originality of historical development, said Denis Duk, Rector of the Mogilev State University named after A. A. Kuleshov,

"The humanistic worldview of Euphrosyne of Polotsk and Kirill of Turov contributed to the formation of the Belarusian ethnos and nation and largely determined the civilisational choice of the Belarusian people. The basis of the state ideology of the Polotsk and Turov lands was the immutable truth of Christian morality. The historical heritage of the ancient Polochans in the projection today reminds us of the common East Slavic root of the three fraternal peoples — Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians — and of the common Christian fonts of the Dnieper River, Volkhov River and Western Dvina River."



What is the place of Belarus in the world?

Throughout the history of Belarus, the West has not recognised our country's ability to make independent choices. Sergei Kalinin, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University, recalled that today Belarus exists in times of global crisis of the modern world system,

"In fact, within the framework of this crisis, the core is trying to transfer its problems to the rest of the world, including us. This is either our future sovereign existence in the interests of our people, or disappearing from the map and turning into a zone of trophy economy and wild hunting. Being a peace-loving state that has constitutionally secured the renunciation of military aggression from its territory against other states (part two of Article 18 of the Constitution), and striving to act as a donor of regional and world stability, Belarus is forced to pursue an active policy in the field of ensuring its own security in a broad sense in the interests of its own people and its own territory, which prevents it from acquiring colonial status."



Why are they trying to destroy our historical memory?

History is the most powerful means of mobilising a sense of the collective identity of the people, which can equally act as an instrument of both creation and division. Rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President Vyacheslav Danilovich is convinced of this,

"That is why our ill-wishers in the collective West are so eager to destroy our historical memory. On the one hand, morality is undermined, which, according to their plan, should be levelled, and on the other hand, historical facts and events are distorted and falsified. In particular, a lot of dirt is poured out on the Soviet period of our history. In order to prevent distortions and falsifications of our historical memory, we must evaluate facts, events and personalities objectively, but from the point of view of our Belarusian people."



What have Belarusians managed to preserve through centuries?

The spirituality of the nation and the challenges of modernity became the subject of a bright and heartfelt speech by His Grace Archbishop Theodosius, Honorary Rector of the Parish of the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God 'Unexpected Joy' in Novopolotsk,

"Each century of the historical life of our nation has marked itself with the publication of a handwritten Gospel. This went on from century to century, until the great Skaryna published the printed Gospel and the Bible. And we must think: from every century of our history, from every region, we have a message from our ancestors. The people loved the Gospel, respected the Word of God and its commandments. Thanks to this, our culture, faith, religion and language have been preserved. And we are not talking about this unfounded — there are historical facts. A recent example: the feat of the pilots, who managed with incredible efforts to direct

the fall of an uncontrolled aircraft onto a wasteland. Another example — a teenage boy, risking his life, takes his younger brother out of a burning house. Thanks to Aleksandr Grigorievich for paying great attention to this boy personally. The Gospel says: there is no greater love, if one lays down his life for his friends."



Belarusian know-how: how to resist external threats?

The Chairman of the Board of the Republican Znanie (Knowledge) Belarusian Society Vadim Gigin clearly and structuredly described the formation and development of the Belarusian statehood during the period of independence of the country,

"From 2020, a new period of Belarusian statehood begins, which continues at the present time. But this does not mean that the number of challenges has decreased, some have even worsened. First of all, this concerns the fact that military operations are being conducted south of our borders. The second is an attempt to institutionalise anti-state forces abroad with the support of foreign states, the creation of illegal armed formations near the territory of Belarus, the aggressive plans and statements made by a number of foreign politicians, and the continued sanctions pressure. These factors will persist in the near future — until there is an agreement between the main geopolitical players opposing each other. However, the experience of the development of statehood shows that it is the internal potential, the strengthening of internal political forces and civil society that is the key to stability in the face of any external factors and threats."

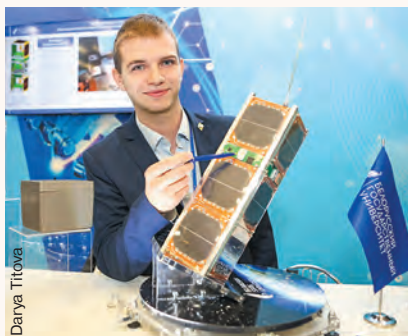
A resolution was adopted following the results of the visiting seminar 'The Republic of Belarus: From the origins to the present (historical path of state building)'. Its text can be found on the sb.by website.

The power of innovation

More than a thousand scientific developments will be demonstrated in the regions after the furore in the capital

The *Intellectual Belarus* exhibition caused a wide resonance. For three days, domestic science attracted an inexhaustible flow of inquisitive visitors to the BelExpo exhibition pavilion in Minsk. The President instructed to extend the work of the exhibition in Minsk, as well as to expand the exposition and add other Belarusian know-how to the already exhibited 400 developments. And soon the *Intellectual Belarus* traveling exhibitions will go to the regions.

The exposition can definitely be called an encyclopaedia of Belarusian science, as developments from almost all areas are presented here. Wise grey-haired venerable designers, doctors of sciences, experienced and honoured people presented their innovations. However, young people are in hot pursuit (in the finest sense of this word): cheerful, perky, with fearless concepts and original ideas, but with scientific justification. They manage to create developments that make their colleagues around the world envy.



Composite screens of Belarusian design and production are considered to be among the best and most reliable in the world. They are made up of different layers and materials. And at each level, radiation harmful to microelectronics is absorbed, reflected and refracted... So tiny microchips are reliably protected even in outer space. It is not for nothing that

the Belarusian protection was used in the Japanese-European apparatus, which recently reached Mercury. Including, and thanks to Belarusian developments.

The Joint Institute of Informatics Problems has created a computer simulation system using artificial intelligence for drug development. Many diseases are associated with a dysfunction of one or another protein in the blood. And according to its 3-D model, one can quickly select a molecule of already known substances or model a new one that can potentially become an effective medicine. Of course, the need for clinical trials remains relevant. But modelling allows one to reduce the number of substances that need to be tested — from several thousand to hundreds, or even tens.

Belarusian science has learned to

develop and produce 'spare parts' for the human body. The exhibition presents a wide range of orthopaedic products. Including artificial joints. The biological valve of the heart is another novelty of this scientific season. The frame is made of nitinol, and the outer shell is animal pericardium. Now the valve is undergoing the necessary clinical trials, after which it will become a reliable heart friend for patients who need it.

The technology of restoration and conservation, mastered by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, makes it possible to restore and preserve archaeological finds so that ancient artefacts can be stored for a long time. Original, thin, technological products of past centuries appear from shapeless archaeological finds.



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"The exhibition stayed open for just three days. This is not right. Then came a flood of requests, including from the regions, to extend the Intellectual Belarus exhibitions in order to draw more young people. They all are glued to their phones, iPhones, etc. and are convinced that nothing is being built or designed in the country. But those who have been to the expo cannot stop gushing being amazed at what the country can design and manufacture. So let's show this to students of colleges, universities, so that they can go and see the future. Therefore, I instructed that the exhibition be extended and held in an organised manner for, first of all, our youth. Let them see what our scientists, specialists, our smart people are doing today. The regions are asking to bring the expo to them. We need to showcase our R&D achievements in the regional centres, large cities. Let them see what our scientists are doing, and what future and perspective our country has."

During a meeting to discuss the social and political situation and the crime rate in the country on January 24th, 2023

A junior researcher at the Magnetic Film Physics Laboratory of the Scientific-Practical Materials Research Centre of NAS of Belarus Oleg Kanafiev studies the security problem in depth. Now he is writing a dissertation on the problem of the influence of constant and low-frequency radiation on electronic equipment. By the way, they are typical for electric vehicles. The same trolleybuses give just such radiation. Oleg Kanafiev knows how to create protection against destructive influence. It seems that the box in his hands looks inconspicuous.



But its walls are covered with a thin layer of nanomaterials. Such a housing protects the electronic components from electromagnetic radiation. And in terms of armour, it is up to a thousand times superior to similar materials that are offered on the world market.

Now the young scientist and his colleagues are closely engaged in the MAZ electric tractor from the point of view of electromagnetic radiation, conflicts and pickups. By the way, our blocks are ahead of the famous Tesla in terms of the level of protection. They use simpler, but less reliable solutions. And here is the question of principle: safety. Our young scientists are guided by the most indestructible solutions. Therefore, if you seek beauty — go to the Americans. If you seek safety — go to the Belarusians.



There is no such thing as bad weather for the development of the junior researcher of the BSU Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Problems Dmitry

Kudryavsky. His polymer-containing liquid mono-microfertilisers are not afraid of the rain or heavy rain.

The polymer additive produced by the Belarusian enterprise Lesohimik retains nutrients in the zone of the root system of plants and is not washed away by storm flows.

A line of effective fertilisers for cereals, corn, rapeseed and sugar

beet has been developed. Farming is becoming more sustainable, fertiliser consumption can be halved.

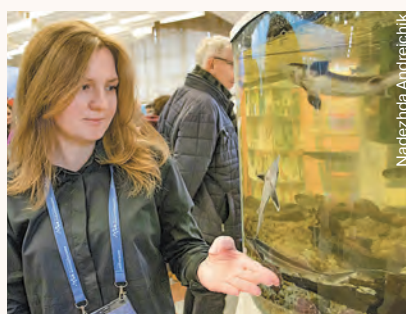
Both cost savings and pressure on the ecological system are reduced. Belarusian farms have tasted the novelty. More than 55 tonnes of fertilisers with a polymer additive have already been produced and sold. It's a relatively small figure, but this is just the beginning.



Among the projects presented by young Belarusian scientists, there are those that until recently many could see only in the cinema. Head of the Sector for Complex Research of Meat Products at the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences Irina Kaltovich is one of the developers of 3D printing technology for products. She is confident that approaches to cooking will change a lot in the next 5-10 years,

"For the first time in the country, we created a direction in the food industry and developed 3D printing of products for personalised nutrition. It takes into account the individual and physiological characteristics of a person. Thanks to our development, it is possible to model the composition of the product and its unique shape, depending on the needs of the body. Similar foreign technologies provide non-natural additives

in such mixtures. We have a natural healthy product. In this regard, we are one step ahead of our competitors."



And at the Fish Industry Institute, they work according to the taste wishes of consumers.

Anastasia Kruk, a researcher at the institute's selection and breeding laboratory, said that scientists are now working on creating a new breed of carp. The process is at the final stage, the new species is undergoing the necessary registration, therefore, apparently, it will soon appear on our table. Carp should become attractive for culinary specialists.

Breeders were able to reduce the number of scales, reduce the head and tail, increase the meatiness... By the way, more than ten species of carp are cultivated in Belarus, combining them into various hybrids.

They are engaged in the institute and the adaptation of foreign breeds to our area of management.

These and hundreds of other developments and know-how of native science can soon be seen and admired in all regions of Belarus. You should definitely come — it will be interesting!

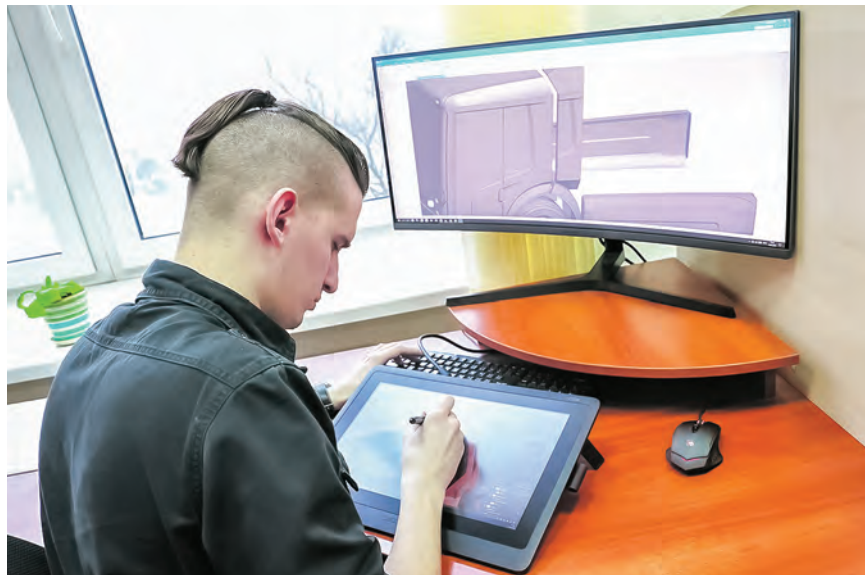
Based on materials of sb.by

Designed and made wisely

From high-speed gearboxes to unmanned vehicles: how the field of mechanical engineering is developing in the country



Today Belarusian scientists and industrialists work side by side in many sectors of the economy. A unique science-intensive product is the result of their co-operation. Mechanical engineering is one of the most relevant examples of such partnership. The Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is a partner of the domestic auto industry. Its scientific developments are always reflected in practice, implemented in machines and mechanisms.



By Vera Arteaga

Close co-operation

Almost all Belarusian-made equipment that drives along city streets and public roads is the brainchild of the institute, said Deputy Director General for Research and Innovations of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the NAS Oleg Yelovoy, “The equipment of MAZ, BELAZ, MTZ, Gomselmash, part of the road construction equipment of AMKODOR — all this was mainly analysed, designed and tested by our institute.”

Calculations, engineering, design of machines make the first direction of the work of the scientific structure. The second is technological support for mechanical engineering. That is, technologies, materials and tools. From lubricants to coatings.

“We are well-known in dozens of countries, our technologies are applied in Russia, China, European countries,” Oleg Yelovoy stressed.

In addition to the main areas of work, scientists also apply their knowledge and power in areas that are not quite familiar, for example, in the field of medicine.

“These are calculations, design and analysis. We had orders for shoulder and hip implants, now we are starting to work in such a direction as jaws and teeth,” Deputy Director General for Research and Innovations emphasised.

He also recalled that the institute is the head organisation for providing the industry that is relevant today — electric transport. This equipment is created within the framework of the ‘Engineering and Engineering Technologies’ programme.

The results are impressive

Summing up the results of the work over the past year, the scientist called the development of a methodology for designing high-speed gearboxes one of its important results, however, this was done for the first time, “They will be used in electric vehicles — both cars and trucks.”

Oleg Yelovoy also pointed out an electric truck that received a vehicle design safety certificate and is approved for driving on public roads,

“At present, MAZ, together with the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the NAS, is working on the creation of ten electric trucks for testing in various logistics centres of the country on behalf of the government.”



The scientist recalled another significant event, but this time in the field of engineering technologies — the creation and implementation of environmentally friendly biodegradable lubricants for forestry processing equipment in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. He also mentioned the development of cladding technology, which is so significant today, “It is used for various purposes — to reduce friction, to increase strength, to extend the life of equipment. The technology was put into production last autumn at the Minsk Automatic Lines Plant named after P. M. Masherov and the Ural Pipe Works.”

In general, the joint work of Belarusian scientists with Russian manufacturers continues. Including AvtoVAZ, ShvabeSpezAvto. Oleg Yelovoy expressed hope that some models of their equipment will operate with a domestic electric drive and its electric versions will be produced jointly.

Summing up the issue of electric transport, Deputy Director General for Highly Automated Electric Transport of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the NAS Alexander Belevich noted that in 2022 three new types of electric vehicles were created — this is a MAZ cargo electric vehicle, an electric car with a frame — panel design with a carrying capacity of up to a tonne and a sports electric car, “It is very important that all of them use the domestic component base — electric motors, power electronics, battery management electronics. Everything is designed with our technology in mind, which allows us to go further to serial production. In particular, for MAZ trucks, this work has already begun, it is planned to transfer to some small series in the near future for other vehicles.”

The Belarusian electric car has something that fundamentally distinguishes it

from imported analogues, Alexander Belevich emphasised, this is the choice of an asynchronous motor, “It is important that we have sufficiently high skill sets in the field of designing electrical machines, which allowed us to design an asynchronous motor, close in characteristics to a synchronous one with permanent magnets. In addition, our choice has another explanation: minimising dependence on an imported component base, which we cannot produce at home. Asynchronous motors are made from materials available in our country and in Russia.”

Stay relevant

The institute also has long term plans. Alexander Belevich recalled: Belarusian scientists have the necessary skill sets to create accumulators from all types of cells. The institute has the necessary equipment for their testing. Moreover, if the cells themselves are not produced in the country, then all electronics and algorithms are of our production. All this helps to solve the problem with spent batteries in the future.

“One need to understand that any battery needs to be replaced after 5–10 years, since it holds only up to 70 percent of the charge. And it will need to either be disposed of or look for a second life for it. And we can use the battery as a stationary source of electricity. This will extend its life by another decade,” Deputy Director General for Highly Automated Electric Transport explained.

There are also considerations among scientists on the subject of a breakthrough direction — the use of hydrogen, although they are convinced that this is a rather distant prospect. The technology of proton-exchange membranes, which is used in such cars, is in Russia.

“We do not yet have this technology, but now it is ineffective. Worldwide progress in this regard is very slow. On the other hand, we understand that an electric car is a kind of transitional stage. The world community is betting on hydrogen, but at the moment there are many unknowns in this matter. However, we are following this trend,” Alexander Belevich noted.

In addition, according to Deputy Director General for Highly Automated Electric Transport, unmanned vehicles are the nearest prospect, because this work has already been started by the institute, although it is still at an early stage.

Such similar Boeings, or Western democracy went to the peak

The time for double standards is behind us. There comes a time of at least two worlds, where rules apply for the members only.

By Andrei Mukovozchik

On January 22nd, 2023, 'a RyanAir Boeing flying from Poland reported a bomb on board.'

'Hungarian and Greek fighters were raised into the air.'

'RyanAir passenger carrier with a bomb on board plane makes emergency landing in Athens'

'Boeing was escorted by two F-16 fighters, which, after landing, returned to their base in Greek Volos.'

Have you read such and similar panic messages in the world press? Have you seen the reports on CNN, BBC, Euronews? Aren't there still many hyped headlines about the barbaric landing of a passenger liner by combat fighters in telegram channels and other news feeds even now?

No, there aren't any.

— that's all. Nothing. Just nothing, you will not find anything else by scrolling through all the world's news feeds.

Even about what the pilots said, how they learned, why they believed, and did not check, whether they called Dublin, to whom and why — no one in the world writes about this anymore. The issue is over. And apparently, it is closed with a rather dense, powerful and influential lid.

Even the arrest of two completely drunk people by the Greek police was not reported. Meanwhile, as the narrators retell, a drunken man was waving something remotely similar

to a Nansen passport and demanded that his slag be returned to him.

"I'm not his slag," a woman with an unpronounceable for the Greek language surname Radziwill shouted indignantly. "He said that he was an anti-crisis rescuer, PalPadlych! Rescuer of entire countries, not just aircrafts! I only drank cognac with him on the plane... and, uh... and Metaxa... You would drink too if F-16s were flying past you and not allowed to reach the land!..." she squealed.

So it was or not, and whether it was at all — we now no longer know. The information agenda of each new day carries us forward, mercilessly erasing everything that is not jumped all over by the NYT, WSJ, AFR and other 'observers'.

In this regard, we would like to return the inquisitive reader to almost two years ago and recommend re-reading the journalistic investigation by A. Mukovozchik and M. Osipov called *Lie in the Name of Truth. The Colonel of the Swiss General Staff is Convinced that the Belarusians are Right* (26.08.21, *SB.Belarus Segodnya*).

Or read the original for yourself: Jacques Beau's book *Turnaround of RyanAir flight FR4978. Lies for the Sake of Truth*. Here is one of the conclusions of the European: 'As a result, our media and politicians are doing exactly what the 'regimes' they are fighting are accused of. While actively advocating European 'values', Western countries often do not follow them themselves. This is essentially gunboat diplomacy.'

What the world does not want to endure anymore.

Belarus, urgently banned Belavia from flying and readily adopted the 'fourth sanctions package'.

The preparedness and synchronism of the movements of May-June 2021, better than anything else, indicates that all these actions were prepared by the West in advance. Just like the hysteria in the world media, on the Internet, in social networks and on platforms, which did not subside for a month, until the end of June 2021.

Meanwhile, the report of ICAO, the only International Civil Aviation Organisation, which, on behalf of the UN, can be the first to give at least some assessment! — was slowly born only at the end of July of the same year (*One Hundred Pages of Shame, 07.22.21, SB.Belarus Segodnya*). Because basically no one needed it.

And when at the meeting of the ICAO Council at the beginning of the next year 2022, a discussion of the streamlined report of the commission was expected, they say, the Belarusians did not violate anything, well, that is, probably, may-

be, but we did not find anything... — then to the federal district court of the Southern District of New York and

four citizens of Belarus were charged with conspiracy to commit air piracy (*Justice of the Peace, 01.22.22, SB.Belarus Segodnya*).

Since then, ICAO has washed its hands. And the case, for sure, lies with the American judges and is idle without any problems. Waiting for its time. The justice of the peace is ready to judge everything that happens in his Anglo-Saxon world. And the world gendarme will carry out any order of justices of the peace, 'even if it is contrary to the interests and values of the American people', — E. Blinken, US Secretary of State.

'The rulers of the world, living in the garden of civilisation' (J. Borrell, head of EU diplomacy), are ready to defend themselves (their 'golden billion'), their rules and their world order from the surrounding jungle (the rest of the world).

That is why Boeings, seemingly similar, will land differently in Minsk and Athens. And they will write about it in different ways — or not write at all. Sanctions against Minsk will be imposed all the way, like the last time, right up to armed intervention. But Greece — no, it was defeated a long time ago and brought to its knees with nothing more than external debt. So it stands in the corner of the garden, white like Athena, with beaten off hands and without a head, does not interfere with anyone.

Nobody will ask ICAO about anything else — from its actual uselessness. Sorry, I just had to rant about that.

That is, not a bit. This story was simply ignored by all the world's leading news aggregators. Precisely based on the fact that they all did it, it can be argued that they ignored it on purpose. Consciously. By order, if you like.

The story itself, alas, is quite familiar to our time. There was a flight from Katowice to Athens. 'A bomb on board of a passenger plane was reported by the crew of the aircraft'. Accordingly, all international protocols for such cases were involved.

Literally the same thing happened with the RyanAir flight, which made an emergency landing in Minsk in May 2021. The only difference is that the pilots reported the bomb on board, but not a bomb threat letter was sent to several airports along the way.

Although no, not only: 'The plane was ordered to change its route and fly over the sea, as required by security protocols for such situations.' What the Belarusians did not do at all, the pilots themselves made the decision to change course to Minsk. Moreover, fighters did not accompany the 'aircraft over the sea' in Belarus, ready to drop it into that sea if it suddenly wants to 'over land', right?

In other words, the Greeks acted harder than we do. But no one even blurted out: neither ICAO, nor the EU, nor the United States. Even the European Parliament and the OSCE/ODIHR were silent, although usually they are just unceasing.

Then everything was, again, according to the protocols. '192 people on board were evacuated.' 'The country's special forces units arrived at Eleftherios Venizelos Airport (Athens).' 'The aircraft was checked for explosives.' 'Passengers and luggage were screened.'

No explosive devices were found

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ON THE SUBJECT

By Aleksei Avdonin, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (aired on the 'Weekdays' talk show on Alfa Radio),

"The problem of air terrorism will only grow in the future, and to solve it, it is necessary to consolidate efforts around the world. Indeed, international security protocols are in force, which the Belarusian side observed in May 2021 during the incident with the RyanAir plane, and all other countries comply. But the question is different. In fact, the entire global air travel industry is facing completely new challenges. You and I, traveling by plane, are not immune from the fact that some kind of signal may come in and the plane will land in another city. In this case, all our plans can be thwarted. Of course, this does not bring anything good for any country. As part of the fight against air terrorism, it is necessary to develop joint international actions, increase the level of interaction, which the Belarusian side has always said: not to go to some kind of confrontation, but, on the contrary, to strengthen interaction in this area."



Thousands protest in France

Hundreds of thousands marched in street demonstrations across France after labour unions unanimously called for protests against government plans to raise the retirement age

Hundreds of thousands went on strike and joined marches across France, halting trains, disrupting schooling and cutting electricity production in a trial for the government as workers oppose a deeply unpopular pensions overhaul.

The changes presented by President Emmanuel Macron's government would raise the retirement age for most people to 64 from 62 and increase the years of contributions required for a full pension.

France's trade unions immediately called for a mass mobilisation, showing a united front for the first time in 12 years when the retirement age was hiked to 62 from 60.

France's Interior Ministry said it had counted 1.12 million demonstrators in France as a whole including 80,000 in

Paris. The hardline CGT union said two million people had marched throughout the country, and 400,000 in Paris.

Around the Bastille area of Paris, radical demonstrators hurled bottles, bins and smoke grenades at police who responded with tear gas and charged to disperse the troublemakers.

Some thirty people were arrested, mostly members of a 1,000-strong radical group called 'Black Blocs' who wore masks, helmets and black clothes, police said, adding they had managed to split off the group from the main demonstration.

The strikes brought much of the capital's public transport to a standstill and halted a large proportion of trains throughout France. One of the capital's

metro lines was closed completely, with another 12 'very disrupted', Paris transport operator RATP said.

The rate of strikers reached 46.3 percent of workers at the state-owned national rail company SNCF.

The Education Ministry said 42.35 percent of teachers in primary education were striking, and 34.66 percent in secondary education. Estimates from teachers' unions placed those numbers between 65 and 70 percent.

Philippe Martinez, head of the CGT, said that the planned pension reform 'bundles together everyone's dissatisfaction' with the government and that the rare united front among worker representatives showed 'the problem is very serious'.

Argentina and Brazil discussing common currency

The two largest economies in South America are in early talks to create a common currency, as part of a co-ordinated bid to reduce reliance on the US Dollar

"Our finance ministers, each with his own economic team, can make us a proposal for foreign trade and transactions between the two countries that is done in a common currency," Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said at a news conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, according to Reuters.

Speaking on his first international visit since taking office, Lula said that the currency would initially be designed for trade and transactions between Brazil and Argentina. It could later be adopted by fellow members of Mercosur — South America's major trade bloc.



Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez said that, while it was not yet clear how the sole currency could function in the region, they agreed that depending on foreign currencies for trade was harmful.

However, some analysts are highly sceptical, dismissing the proposal as 'pie in the sky' because of the discrepancies between the two economies.

Scientists set Doomsday Clock closer to midnight



The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists warned that humanity is facing a time of 'unprecedented danger'

The hands of the Doomsday Clock are closer to midnight than ever before, with humanity facing a time of 'unprecedented danger' that has increased the likelihood of a human-caused apocalypse, a group of scientists announced.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists — a non-profit organisation made up of scientists, former political leaders and security and technology experts — moved the hands of the symbolic clock 10 seconds forward, to 90 seconds to midnight.

The adjustment, made in response to threats from nuclear weapons, climate change and infectious diseases such as COVID-19, is the closest the clock has

been to symbolic doom since it was created more than 75 years ago. "We are living in a time of unprecedented danger, and the Doomsday Clock time reflects that reality," Rachel Bronson, President and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said in a statement, adding that "it's a decision our experts do not take lightly".

The Doomsday Clock was created to convey the proximity of catastrophic threats to humanity, serving as a metaphor for public and world leaders, rather than a predictive tool. When it was unveiled in 1947, the clock was set at 7 minutes to midnight, with 'midnight' signifying human-caused apocalypse.

Colourful splash in Amsterdam

Every year in January, Amsterdam officially kicks off the tulip season during National Tulip Day

Thousands of people gathered in the Dutch capital to celebrate the country's national flower the tulip. For the occasion, tulip growers created a colourful garden made up of 200,000 colourful buds in Museumplein Square.

Dutch tulip growers invite everyone to pick a bunch of tulips for free in a specially constructed picking garden. Together with tens of thousands of visitors, the Dutch tulip growers ensure a colourful start to the new season.

The Amsterdam and Keukenhof Tulip Festival 2023 will take place from March 23rd to May 14th, marking the

start of the spring season in Holland. It's a sight to behold as millions of flowers begin to bloom in the most beautiful colours across the province. Over 7 million bulbs are planted by hand in autumn so they can flower just in time for spring.

Until the end of April (for approximately 100 days), Dutch tulips will be available worldwide in more than 1,000 different varieties. From bright yellow to deep purple, from lily-shaped to fringed and from bicoloured to double-flowered. Over the season, Dutch producers grow between 1.7 and 1.9 billion tulips, which are exported to over 100 countries.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Thread by thread

Custom-made tapestries of the 17th–18th centuries are under restoration at Mir Castle

Few people know that in Mir Castle one can see the largest collection of old tapestries in the country. They were purposefully collected throughout the entire period of the museum's existence, and today there are 18 works of hand and machine weaving. Once upon a time, lint-free wall carpets served to insulate the stone walls of medieval castles, they hung windows and closed holes. Now the cost of some rare specimens can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. How to save 400-year-old rarities from destruction, is it easy to restore the lost and who helps the custodians and restorers in this difficult work?

By Tatiana Vrublevskaya

It is interesting that a long time ago tapestries woven at manufactories in Korelichy and Mir were known far beyond these places. The most famous are associated with the Radziwill family. In our time, the location of the rarities created in Korelichy is known that four of them are in the museums of Krakow and Warsaw in Poland, one is in the Lvov Historical Museum. Alas, similar samples can be found neither in the Mir Castle, nor in the country as a whole. Now the walls of the Mir Castle Complex are decorated with foreign products, which arrived mainly from France. Among them are the *Flemish Hunting* of the 16th century, *The Struggle between Theseus and Taurus before Minos and Ariadne* (1670s), Au-



The artist-restorer Natalya Otsetsckaya in the workshop where *The Triumph of Mordecai* composition is being restored, France, Aubusson, second half of the 17th century

FIGURES

There are 2,291 exhibits in the main fund of Mir Castle and 2,600 materials in the auxiliary scientific fund. 4,891 items in total. 27 employees are responsible for their preservation and restoration.



Alexander at the Battle of the Granicus tapestry, 16th–17th centuries

bussou's *Odysseus and Circe*, dated to the second half of the 17th century, and others.

Head of the Department of Keeper of Museum Stock at the Mir Castle Complex Museum Yelena Denis knows all about picture carpets.

"Tapestry or Gobelin?" I ask the first question to the expert.

"Tapestries is a broader concept. Gobelins are called products created at the manufactory of the Gobelin brothers in France. If we talk about our collection, then we are talking about 14 hand-woven items of the late 16th — early 18th centuries and four machine-made items from the early 20th century. We also have four tapestries of modern production, which were once made at the Borisov

Combine of Decorative and Applied Art named after A.M. Kishchenko. They are located in the conference hall and in the interiors of the hotel," the interlocutor says with a smile.

One of the important issues is the restoration of historical woven products that need repair and special storage conditions. Museum staff approach it very responsibly, "Since most of the tapestries are on display, we periodically remove them so that they 'rest'. The restorer carefully examines them, and sometimes surgical intervention is necessary. Warp sagging, thread divergence and other 'sores' require a careful approach. The problem is that the restoration school is not as developed as we would like



Landscape with a Windmill tapestry, France, Aubusson, mid–18th century

in the country. But, of course, there are wonderful specialists at the National Art Museum: in 2020 they helped restore the *Landscape with a Windmill* tapestry from France, which was purchased at auction by order of the museum."

Yelena Denis offers to walk through the halls to see the very

rarity with our own eyes.

"It is the smallest in size of all those in the castle. However, the restoration took almost a year of painstaking work. Another rarity hangs nearby, which was once confiscated at the border by employees of the Brest customs. This is a *Queen Zenobia in front of Emperor Aurelian* tapestry, dated from the second half of the 16th — beginning of the 17th century," the specialist demonstrates a small canvas.

The size of this sample is 3.50 by 2.70 metres."

Museum curators recently turned to forensic experts for help, who were tasked with examining the threads that make up a piece of decorative art. It was necessary to immediately restore the textile material on the wrong side of the lower edge of the exhibit's border.

"First of all, we were interested in what dyes were used, what was included in their basis, the chemical composition and



Tapestry depicting a multi-figured genre scene from ancient history, Flanders, Brussels; late 16th — early 17th centuries

Currently, the restoration workshop has a valuable copy — *The Triumph of Mordecai* composition, made in France at the Aubusson manufactory in the second half of the 17th century. The artist-restorer of the Mir Castle Complex Museum Natalya Otsetsckaya awaits us in the holy of holies, where the woven panel is "treated", "When dismantling the lining, we noticed pockets where the silk thread collapsed. Linen fabric had to duplicate these areas on the reverse side. As you can see, the tapestry is wound on a machine, which the museum staff once made with their own hands. We saw something like this in France. It has a very convenient turning mechanism, which literally saves, given the lack of space where the canvas could be completely expanded.

thickness of the twist, and so on. This knowledge allows us to more accurately select modern analogues. A total of five samples were handed over. According to the experts themselves, it was a very interesting and unusual work. They confirmed that the tapestry was created from silk, wool and linen, established a unique production technology for the product. It is important to understand that we do not restore losses, but only fix those places where the threads fell out or parted. However, it will still be a long time before the item appears on display again. There are two more tapestries in the Mir Castle funds, which are waiting for their turn for restoration, so that later they can take their rightful place in the halls of the museum," Natalya Leonidovna notes.



The castle complex at the urban-type settlement of Mir in the Korelichy District is one of the most important tourist attractions in Belarus

Heartwarming folk craft of felting

People come from all over Belarus, Russia and even Australia for felt snow boots from Dribin

'Mazherit', 'shkorni', 'shvaretka'... These funny words are not a set of letters, but the real secret language of fullers from Dribin, which was kept in the strictest confidence. Masters communicated with each other on it, so as not to give out the technology of fulling wool. The secret was kept, but the fame of fullers from Dribin spread throughout the country. For almost three decades, the regional historical and ethnographic museum, having revived, preserves the unique traditions of its region. In the season of excitement for handmade shoes, we visited the museum, whose team was awarded a special prize of the President for their great contribution to the development of folk art and the revival of the traditions of fullers.



Master of the Shapoval folk amateur association Vladimir Osipovsky

to children," Tatyana does not hide her emotions.

Today there are 13 people in the amateur association. These are people who not only master the skill of fulling, but also pass it on to others. While working with wool, Vladimir Osipovsky, a member of the Shapoval association, confirms from his own experience that it requires not only skill, but also strength. To full shoes, one need to perform up to 40 operations! 'Mazherit, mazherit and mazherit', which means 'work, work more, work forever', says Vladimir. This process is painstaking, but it is in demand — the master is sure that felt snow boots are a permanent trend, "Feet can always get cold. People come to us from all over Belarus, Russia and even Australia!"



Head of the Katrushnik association Olga Krasnitskaya with pupils Anastasia Kochegarova, Arina Falkova, Evelina Danilovich and Kamilia Ryaposova

The thing is worth the effort

Tatyana Cherepovich, head of the Shapoval (Fuller) folk amateur association at the museum, folk craftswomen of Belarus, meets us in an outfit that is complemented by blue beads and a painted head-dress. Tatyana learned how to make this kind of decorations, as well as toys and felt snow boots in her childhood, "My father Mikhail Artemov initiated me into the skill of fulling. When I was a child, he slowly filled me in. Over time, I mastered all the nuances."

Her husband Yuri also became interested in fulling. Now the spouses are in the same amateur association.

"It seems that Dribin is somewhere far away on the map. But the whole country knows about us. This is the value of our work. It is especially pleasant that we are highlighted at the state level. We become laureates for the second time. This is a great success, and on our part — painstaking

work. According to various estimates, from one to three dozen craftsmen live in Dribin District. But once Katrushniks were in almost every home. The mystery of the craft was kept secret, communicating in a fictitious Katrushniks language. Vladimir Osipovsky speaks it, but, according to him, this is not exactly what a fuller master does: one need to feel and love the material one work with. And also — put one's soul into each pair. Maybe that's why the shoes are so warm in the cold.

"Guess how to tell the right felt snow boot from the left one?" Vladimir finally asks a provocative question.

It turns out that at first the shoes are identical. And only after a few days of wear, their owner himself determines which felt snow boot goes to the right, and which to the left foot.

By Tatyana Sedunova

Not to lose valuables

In 2013, the museum staff was already awarded with a high award at the state level — it became the winner of the Spiritual Revival award. Ten years later — they received recognition again. It was unexpected, but well-deserved, says museum director Zhanna Klimova, "A special prize of the President is recognition of the merits of the current team, as well as those people who stood at the origins of the revival of the traditions of fullers in our district. This painstaking, methodical, targeted work

began in 1995, when it was decided to create a museum. At that time, employees were collecting exhibits, made expeditions to the villages, and communicated with the craftsmen. And the museum received its first visitors already in 2004. Five years later, the work of local masters received the status of an intangible historical and cultural value of Belarus."

Craftsmen and employees are doing everything to popularise the branded craft of Dribin District. Since 2018, a school of fullers has been operating at the museum, where everyone can learn the skills of fulling, "The Head of State declared this

year the Year of Peace and Creation. The key directions in it are military-patriotic education, positioning creative labour as the main condition for the development of the Belarusian state. Our activity is consonant with



Tatyana Cherepovich, head of the Shapoval folk amateur association at the museum, folk craftswomen of Belarus



People come from all over Belarus, Russia and even Australia for felt snow boots from Dribin

these messages. We work with children and educate them in love for our culture, our land and country. As a cultural institution, we continue the traditions of our ancestors, passing on their skills to the modern generation. After all, without such work, you can lose what is valuable, what our nation is rich in."

work. We participate in exhibitions of various levels to demonstrate the traditions of our country, which we carefully preserve. When we started, there were many more masters. But time does not stand still, someone leaves. Therefore, it is very important to pass on our unique feature, authentic craft

Young apprentices

Ten schoolchildren are involved in the Katrushnik exemplary children's amateur association. In the classroom, they master both theory and practice, introduces the head of the association Olga Krasnitskaya, "Children learn the technique of dry and wet felting. We also pay attention to the theoretical aspect. Together with our craftsmen, we tell the story of the origin of an ancient craft that dates back to the Dribin District since the 18th century. It is good to be able to make products with your own hands, but this is the final result of the work. It is more important to convey to children the features of our culture and traditions. From kindergarten, the guys already know that fullers are a showpiece of the Dribin District."

Racket that brings peace

Aryna Sabalenka's victory at the Australian Open rocked the planet

A splendid start to the year by the best tennis player of Belarus and the world No. 2 in tennis, Aryna Sabalenka, received an equally magnificent continuation. Following the win of the WTA tournament in Adelaide, Aryna was unchallenged at the Australian Open, elegantly defeating the representative of Kazakhstan Elena Rybakina in an incredible beauty final — 4:6, 6:3, 6:4 and for the first time in her career winning the main title of the Grand Slam event.

Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated the athlete on her success, "Dear Aryna! From the bottom of my heart, I congratulate you on your first and very long-awaited victory in the Grand Slam final, which is so important for you and for all of us. You are a great athlete, your personal progress is evident, the main thing now is not to stop. The whole of Belarus is rooting for you, wishing you new victories!"

By Sergei Kanashits

However, not only the President and the whole of Belarus sincerely worried and rejoiced at the achievement of our athlete. Among those who congratulated Aryna Sabalenka personally or in all sorts of other ways (from messages on the Internet to personal calls) are thousands and thousands of her acquaintances and friends, as well as ordinary

fans of her talent all over the planet. Her counterparts are no exception, because Aryna is an open and sincere girl, smiling and good-natured, who knows how to make friends and enjoy life. In a word, a real Belarusian! Canadian Bianca Andreescu and Belarusian Victoria Azarenka, Tunisian representative Ons Jabeur and Spaniard Paula Badosa, Frenchwoman Alizé Cornet and American Amanda

Anisimova, representatives of the top 10 world ranking from the USA Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula and many, many others. Kind words also came from the former top players of the world Belgian Kim Clijsters, Serbian Ana Ivanovic, American Tracy Austin... All these prima tennis stars from the heart rejoiced for the representative of Belarus, not remembering politics, because it has no place in this victory. 'Well done, Aryna!' and 'Wow, what an amazing final!' they wrote. 'Deserved win' and 'I'm very happy for Aryna' — this is how they unanimously assessed the victory. "One of the reasons why Sabalenka won today. She practiced with me... Well, at least I like to think that," Ons Jabeur joked. The Croatian Donna Vekić and the Polish Magda Linette, defeated by Aryna in the quarter and semi-finals, also said cordial words. And a living legend from the 1960-80s, American Billie Jean King, who won 39 (!) Grand

Slam events, wrote on Twitter after presenting the main trophy of the Australian Open to the winner from Belarus, "Congratulations to Aryna Sabalenka on her first Grand Slam title! Honored to present Aryna with the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup." Aryna Sabalenka modestly thanked in response, "Thank you so much for all the support during these few weeks, I really appreciate it."

Note: no deceit and causticity. There is no guile, hidden malice or hidden agenda in these words and congratulations — all genuine joy for their counter-

part. The imaginary feeling of hostility towards Russian and Belarusian athletes on the part of the rest of the competitors and fans, allegedly saved from which, the International Olympic Committee suspended our athletes from participating in world competitions, is also far-fetched by political adventurers. The victory of Aryna Sabalenka in Melbourne says better than a thousand words that all this is nonsense and vile provocation, while sport was, is and will be a symbol of peace and a really great unifying principle.



Aryna Sabalenka



Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina

Last week, the International Olympic Committee issued a statement where it admitted the possibility of Belarusian and Russian athletes participating in international competitions. And now the International Skiing and Snowboarding Federation (FIS), which unites cross-country skiing, ski jumping, Nordic combined, snowboarding, freestyle and alpine skiing, announced that it would discuss the issue of allowing our skiers to international competitions at the next meeting of the Council of the organisation. Now World athletics notes that it will definitely talk about Russian and Belarusian athletes in March. Even if the IOC statement contains a bunch of reservations and does not contain any substantive part, what is it, if not the notorious 'the ice broke up, members of the jury'?!

By Kirill Knyazev

What did the IOC say?

In mid-December, the participants of the IOC summit proposed to allow our athletes to participate in international competitions in Asia. Most of the participants of the summit seemed curious about this proposal. On January 17th and January 19th, the IOC held special consultations with International Federations, IOC Members and National Olympic Committees, after which it declared, "No athlete should be prevented from competing just because of their passport. A pathway for athletes' participation in competition under strict conditions should therefore be further explored."

— Athletes would participate in competitions as 'neutral athletes' and in no way represent their state or any other organisation in their country;

— Only athletes who fully respect the Olympic Charter would participate. This means in particular: first, only those who have not acted against the peace mission of the IOC by actively supporting the war in Ukraine could compete. Second, only athletes who fully comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and all relevant anti-doping rules and regulations would be eligible. There must be individual checks carried out for all entered athletes.

In the event of any athlete failing to respect the eligibility criteria or failing to respect the strict participation con-



Hangzhou

The IOC invited the member federations to think about the admission of Belarusian and Russian athletes

Precedent rule

ditions as set out above, the IF and/or the sports event organiser concerned should immediately remove them from the competition, suspend them from further competitions and report the incident to the IOC."

What is the reaction?

Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation Igor Levitin called the IOC statement a success, "The details will certainly be about [IOC] recommendations and we will be waiting when International Federations receive them... We have not received recommendations as of yet and are waiting for International Federations to get them and inform us

afterwards. This is when we will start our work to formulate the proposed recommendations. I believe that this is already a success. The Olympic community realises that the Olympic Games cannot transpire without Russia's participation."

Here is the opinion of the Head Coach of the Belarusian national biathlon team Yuri Albers, "This is not the first statement by the IOC that, subject to certain conditions, athletes may be allowed to participate in international competitions in a certain status. While these are words. I think we need to wait until there is an official statement, which will spell out specific rules."

Indeed, much is still unclear: what

tournaments are discussed in the IOC statement — only about Asian ones or about everything in general; whether the stated idea concerns only qualification for the 2024 Olympics or all international competitions; Will athletes have to apply for neutral status?

In the context of times

It is worth recalling that both the Olympic summit and the current IOC statement are largely due to the position of French President Macron, who at the end of last year unequivocally told IOC President Thomas Bach that he would be glad to see all the strongest athletes of the world in Olympic Paris. Then there was a proposal from the Olympic Council of Asia to invite Russians and Belarusians to their place, and a week ago this idea took shape in an official invitation to Russia and Belarus to take part in the Asian Games, which will be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23rd to October 8th.

Meanwhile, the IOC recalled an important precedent with the admission of some athletes from the former Yugoslavia to the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. At that time, unlike today, Yugoslavia was subject to UN sanctions, which called for 'taking the necessary measures to prevent the participation in sporting events on their territory of persons or groups that represent Yugoslavia'. But even with such sanctions, 'independent athletes' were allowed to the Games in Barcelona. Who ends up in Paris?



Yegor Termalitskiy

Artist from Zaslavl Anastasia Balysh in a creative workshop

Photo of the week

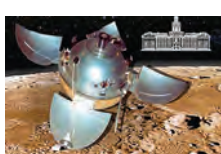
DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On February 2nd, 1943, Soviet troops defeated the Nazi troops in the Battle of Stalingrad. 200 heroic days of the defence of Stalingrad went

down in history of mankind as the bloodiest and cruellest. During the defence of the city, more than a million Soviet soldiers and officers were killed and wounded. The Battle of Stalingrad was the largest land battle during the World War II and one of the turning points in the course of hostilities, after which the German troops finally lost the strategic initiative.

On February 2nd, 1702, a decree of Peter the Great was issued, which laid the foundation for the Baltic Fleet. The main base of the fleet was located in Kronstadt. The Baltic Fleet is famous not only for its victories during military operations. It made a huge contribution to world geographical science with its expeditions, inventions, and discoveries.



On February 3rd, 1966, the Soviet spacecraft Luna-9 was the first in the world to make a soft landing on the Moon. After

landing, the spacecraft operated for 75 hours and gave seven communication sessions. Luna-9 transmitted a television panorama of the area to Earth. These images, taken from a height of about 1 metre, showed details up to 1 millimetre in size.



February 4th is World Cancer Day. This is an annual event organised by the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) since 2005. The purpose of this Day is to draw public attention to this global problem, to remind about how dangerous and widespread cancer is now, and to significantly reduce cancer mortality.

On February 4th, 1808, Vintsent Dunin-Martsinkevich was born (1808-1884), a Belarusian poet, playwright, theatre figure. He was founder of new Belarusian literature, professional dramaturgy and theatre. Until now, his *Idyll*, *Pinsk Gentry*, *Zalety* plays are being performed on the stages of theaters. Furthermore, he created the first Belarusian national theatre.



On February 4th, 1857, Neanderthals were presented to the scientific community for the first time. In 1856, the remains of species that lived about 150,000 years ago were discovered in the Neanderthal



Valley in Germany. On February 4th, 1857, a presentation of the found fossil skull of an ancient man, Neanderthal (*Homo neanderthalensis*), named

after the place of discovery was held at a meeting of the Lower Rhine Medical and Natural History Society in Bonn.

On February 4th, 1944, scientists proved that DNA is the carrier of hereditary information. Thus, on this day, the issue of *The Journal of Experimental Medicine* was published in the USA with an article about one of the most important discoveries in biology. O. Avery and his collaborators K. Macleod and M. McCarthy irrefutably proved in studies conducted in the laboratory of the Rockefeller Medical Institute (New York) that deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is the carrier of hereditary information, the 'material' of genes.



On February 4th, 1945, the Crimea (Yalta) Conference began — the second (after Tehran) official meeting of the heads of the allied states of the anti-Hitler coalition — the USSR, the USA and Great Britain



during the World War II. It was here that the plans for the final defeat of Germany and the end of the Second World War were agreed, as well as the basic principles of a common policy regarding the post-war order of the world were outlined.

On February 5th, 1928, vitamin D was produced artificially for the first time.



The German chemist Adolf Windaus was the first to synthesise this indispensable part of the human diet. In the same year, Windaus was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his discovery.

On February 6th, 1900, a radio distress signal was transmitted at sea for the first time in the world. The Russian scientist Alexander Popov, the inventor of the wireless telegraphy apparatus (radio receiver), transmitted by radio a message to the icebreaker Yermak about fishermen carried away on an ice floe into the sea. This message became the first official Russian radiogram.



On February 8th, 1837, a fatal duel on pistols between the great Russian poet of the chamber junker Alexander Pushkin and Lieutenant Baron Georges-Charles de Heeckeren d'Anthès took place in Petersburg. The duel was provoked by anonymous letters hinting at the infidelity of Pushkin's wife.