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A new chapter is just beginning

Familiar flags of the festival and hosts — who over many years have become as close as friends — welcomed people in the three languages of the founding countries to the 6,000-seat amphitheatre in Vitebsk and the even more numerous television audience for several evenings in a row → **3, 7**



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Oath of loyalty to the country

Evidence of prospect

By Svetlana Savelieva



By Olga Korneeva

Peace and harmony on Belarusian soil are very important amid global military instability, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko said at the ceremony to honour graduates of military universities and high-ranking officers at the Palace of Independence

“You are responsible for keeping peace and harmony on Belarusian soil amid global military instability,” said the President. “In a period when the international security sys-

tem is in danger of destruction you must objectively evaluate and counteract these threats.”

Mr. Lukashenko emphasised that the professionalism of officers, and their integrity and readiness to selflessly defend their native land are the guarantee of the peaceful and creative life of the Belarusian state. “It is you, officers of the Armed Forces, who will improve the image of the army, apply cutting-edge technologies in military training, use state-of-the-art armaments and equipment and train new specialists in keeping with all current trends in the art

of war,” he said. “Your professionalism will be seriously tested during the Belarusian-Russian army exercise, *Union Shield 2019*. I believe you are prepared to demonstrate excellent skills, mobility and the readiness to make the right decisions quickly.”

The main objectives for high-ranking officers remain unchanged: law enforcement officers must protect people, society and our country from any criminal intentions; workers of the emergency services are responsible for people’s lives and safety, the prevention and mitigation of accidents and man-made disasters. The operation of the Belarusian nuclear power plant is also at the centre of attention.

“Border guards must maintain a higher level of combat readiness, and adequately respond to any developments in border protection given the escalation of negative factors involving illegal migration, drug trafficking and illegal trade,” remarked the President.

Addressing security officers, the Head of State urged them to focus on the prevention of any manifestations of terrorism and extremism as well as ethnic and religious hatred in society. He also

urged them to take measures to minimise economic losses for the country.

The President said that the ceremony was held in the year of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Republic of Belarus from the Nazi invasion. “Honouring the great feats of those heroes who defended the freedom of the Fatherland, we are extremely proud of those who continue these glorious traditions and protect our native country, who are loyal to their military duty, maintain peace and ensure the security of our people,” said the Head of State.

On the same day, Mr. Lukashenko presented shoulder boards to high-ranking officers. The best graduates of military universities were also honoured at the ceremony at the Palace of Independence. They received letters of commendation from the Belarusian President. Addressing the graduates, Mr. Lukashenko said that shoulder boards do not make a true officer. The best officers are famous for their honour. “Senior officers promoted to higher positions are an example of valour and honest service to the Fatherland. There are not many generals in Belarus, and the bar is very high,” said the President.

Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus, Andrea Wiktoria, believes that even after the rotation of the heads of EU delegations abroad, constructive dialogue between Minsk and Brussels will continue

“I’m sure that the trajectory towards co-operation, which we have set in the last four years, towards openness and constructive dialogue will remain in place after I leave office here,” noted Andrea Wiktoria, commenting on the new appointment of head of the EU Delegation to Belarus.

When asked about the Belarus-EU visa facilitation and re-admission agreements, Andrea Wiktoria noted that these documents will be signed during the new head’s tenure. “I believe that it will happen whilst my successor is in post. By that time, I will be already in Armenia if my nomination is approved. However, I will follow closely the developments in Belarus,” she added.

As has been previously reported, Dirk Schuebel, who is currently serving as Head of the EEAS Russia Division, has been appointed to head the EU Delegation to Belarus, while Andrea Wiktoria will leave for Armenia. The new nominations will be formally approved once approval is granted.

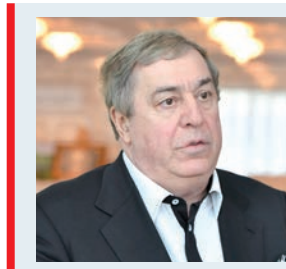
The salt of the earth in the limelight

By Aleksey Fedosov

If we don’t consider the construction of the nuclear power station, the project to build Slavkalyi’s Nezhinsky mining and processing facility is probably the largest investment project in the country. Moreover, it’s completely private, envisaging more than \$2bn of cash injections.

This will be the second enterprise in Belarus extracting potash ore. Considering that when Belaruskali finishes construction of the Petrikovsky mining and processing facility it will launch another, Darasinsky mine, all the potash industries together will bring our country to the leading position on the world potash market. The meeting between the President of Belarus and the President of Slavkalyi’s Board of Directors, Mikhail Gutseriyev, tackled the implementation and joint interests of the state and business. Aleksandr Lukashenko particularly emphasised, “It is very important for us to cement relations between Slavkalyi and the Belarusian Potash Company so that you can enter the market in a coordinated fashion.”

As far as prospects for co-operation are concerned, the President noted, “Once we commission the Nezhinsky Mining and Processing Facili-



“By 2023, within two and a half years, we’ll finish the construction of the factory and will manufacture our first products”

ty and the facility at the River Pripyat [Petrikovsky mining and processing facility of Belaruskali], we will be virtually the world’s top producer of potash fertilisers. In other words, we’ll be able to dictate sales terms.”

It should be noted that alongside commercial projects, Mr. Gutseriyev is also conducting considerable charitable activities in Belarus. This is a superb example of socially responsible business which should be noted by all businessmen. The President spoke with gratitude about this work by the large investor, “I would like to publicly thank you for the charity mission conducted

by you in Belarus. Thanks for the temple [a temple complex in the village of Shershuny of the Minsk District]. No other Muslim has built an Orthodox Christian temple for people. Thanks for the school [a school in Minsk’s Vesnyanka micro-district] that you’ve agreed to construct. Thanks for your support rendered to sport.”

Mr. Gutseriyev characterised the essence of his charity activities by saying that, “People have invented various faiths while God is single. Therefore, it doesn’t matter whether it’s a church or a mosque, or a Buddhist church or a Jewish synagogue. The

most important thing is that this is for the people.”

As far as business prospects are concerned, the investor also thinks on a global scale. He noted that, according to the UN forecast, by 2050, the population of the planet will increase to 10 billion people. It’s necessary to feed people, so the demand for agricultural produce will only rise, leading to increasing demand for fertilisers, as they are objectively present in most goods: both of plant and animal origin. This should be taken into account when planning business, “Belarus has no oil but, fortunately, it boasts potassium. This should be used, new factories should be built, production should be made cheaper, it’s necessary to enter new markets and new states, thus increasing foreign currency earnings for the country.”

Mr. Gutseriyev assesses the effect from the commissioning of the new potash manufactur-

ing plant from the same strategic positions, “This is additional export foreign earnings which will promote the stabilisation of the Belarusian economy and stabilisation of the currency exchange rate. It’s a new foreign currency moneybox. It’s good business for the next hundred years and more.”

As far as tactics and partnership with the state is concerned, the businessman doesn’t see any problems or contradictions, “The price policy of entering the external market will be agreed and there won’t be any competition. Everything will be coordinated.”

Meanwhile, the construction of the processing and mining facility is in full swing and on schedule. Mr. Gutseriyev noted that the volume of investments in the factory’s construction will total 400m Euros this year. The construction of two mines to a depth of 400m and 350m also continues and these should be ready within a year. Terrestrial infrastructure is also being built and on July 22nd, Lyuban will be hosting the first session at the construction office. An office building has been prepared for this; previously, such meetings were held in Minsk. “By 2023, within two and a half years, we’ll finish the construction of the factory and will manufacture our first products,” assured us the entrepreneur.

A celebration of friendship



By Vasily Kharitonov

Aleksandr Lukashenko speaks at the official opening ceremony of the 28th Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk International Festival of Arts

“At this important event I’d like to warmly welcome all those who have come to the *Slavianski Bazaar* International Festival of Arts. This city and the whole of Belarus literally lives for art, resounds with the music of a festival summer and many different languages are heard. We welcome all those who have come to share this beautiful festival — a

true celebration of art, friendship and understanding,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

The Head of State pointed out that the festival was conceived in the early 1990s as a response by the artistic community to the collapse of their great multi-ethnic country. “They joined up to save brotherly relations between the newly independent states. It’s logical, since in difficult times people always turn to art for moral support,” emphasised the President.

He said it was no accident that Vitebsk was chosen to be the cultural capital of the Slavic countries: this city has a special

creative vibe. “It was home to the great avant-garde artists: Malevich and Chagall. They gave the world the black square and the young lovers soaring over the city.”

The President added that the creative atmosphere that has reigned in Vitebsk for half a century inspires vibrant diverse festivals. Many of them already gather the most talented musicians, choreographers, designers and artists from different countries. “We helped to preserve the status of Vitebsk, a city with rich cultural traditions, by supporting the *Slavianski Bazaar* at state level. In due

time we saved the *Slavianski Bazaar* after the collapse of the Soviet Union. And we did the right thing. Every year we host friends from all corners of the globe. The Slavic world, which probably many in the west did not take seriously, has become the nucleus, the centre of attraction for many peoples.”

Today Vitebsk hosts representatives of China, Cuba, India, Israel and the United States of America. We welcome them. Traditionally, in July, Vitebsk is an example of the most hospitable and musical city.

Aleksandr Lukashenko wished all the participants successful festival performances, the jury good judging, viewers the most positive feelings and everybody good weather. He was confident that memories from the festival would be the brightest, the mood festive and the spirit warmed with melodies of favourite songs.

P.S. Numerous greetings were received from the heads of state and government of foreign countries for the 28th Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk International Festival of Arts.

In his greeting, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, called the *Slavianski Bazaar* in Vitebsk a truly extraordinary event which has been enriching the cultural life of many countries for decades. He emphasised that the festival is known for its traditions and atmosphere of friend-

ship and creativity.

The President of Moldova, Igor Dodon, congratulated the festival, underlining that this large-scale event is of great importance for the strengthening of humanitarian co-operation, while facilitating mutual spiritual enrichments and rapprochement between nations.

The Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, addressed warm and kind words to the *Slavianski Bazaar*. In his message he noted that over its years of existence, this event has crossed the borders of the Slavic world and become a venue for international humanitarian dialogue of all continents while giving opportunities to hundreds of talents, both young and old.

The Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Danko, also sent sincere greetings to all participants of the festival and wishes for its successful conduct.

Warm congratulations were also sent to the festival by the Chairperson of the Kazakh Parliament’s Senate, Dariga Nazarbayeva, who noted that the *Slavianski Bazaar* has become a landmark event in the calendar of world cultural events.

Congratulations for the festival were also received from the ministers and other official figures of Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Serbia, Uzbekistan, China and other countries.

Main focus of the programme of action

By Vladimir Velikhov

On the eve of the meeting between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg, the President of Belarus welcomed Grigory Rapota — the Secretary of State for the Union State of Belarus and Russia, in Minsk

During the conversation, Mr. Lukashenko expressed the belief that dialogue at the highest level promises to be very serious and thorough. After all, both strategic and tactical urgent issues are proposed for discussion. However, the basic unshakable principle was defined by the heads of state some time ago. The Belarusian leader said, “The main point is that we have agreed with President Putin not to break the treaty. If we do, we will destroy everything that has been created over time. This is the first point. Secondly, the agreement is not yet fully implemented. It is still relevant today. Therefore, the presidents decided that it is impossible to alter it, but we still need to develop documents and materials. We have called it a programme of action for the further integration of Belarus and

Russia within the framework of the Union State Treaty. We defined the framework, points, milestones, set up the flags — as the hunters say: this is what we have not yet realised.”

Mr. Lukashenko does not hide the problems in Belarusian-Russian dialogue, but also notes his dissatisfaction with the fact that, in the Union State formation, the emphasis has shifted again to the highest level. “Unfortunately, once again I note that many issues are planned to be brought to the level of the presidents — including over the already very detailed conversations related to the work of the joint working group: the Minister of Economy of Russia and the Minister of Economy of Belarus — Mr. Orshin and Mr. Krutoy. The groups are conducting a dialogue under their leadership on the content of the Treaty on the Construction of the Union,” he said.

The dialogue is ongoing, but it is difficult to talk about its effectiveness. Otherwise, the decisions on both fundamental and current issues would not be submitted to presidential level. It’s important to understand that the speedy resolution of controversial issues is also necessary



Grigory Rapota

because delay gives rise to free interpretations of the essence of the relationship between the two countries.

At the same time, Mr. Lukashenko emphasised, “We [with Vladimir Putin] have answered the most important question, which has been asked from all sides: whether Russia will join Belarus or Belarus will join Russia, or neither. We replied that this should not be done at all at the moment. Mr. Putin answered this question, and I have also responded. There’s no need for such a measure.”

According to Mr. Lukashenko, the essence of the agreements between the heads of state is the decision to move forward in building the Union State, “We

have to go step by step — as it’s fashionable to say now, in order to implement the provisions of the Union State Treaty. Of course, there are large fundamental issues that we have decided to reflect in the programme of action for the implementation of the Union State construction.”

There are many current issues in the Belarusian-Russian dialogue today. They are not new. Mr. Lukashenko told Mr. Rapota that he drew his attention to the problematic issues for the Secretary of State to understand them, keep them under control and participate in the negotiations as the head of the apparatus of the Union State. The President also pointed out that the lack of specificity in the information about progress in the building of the Union State generates all sorts of rumours and speculation. Mr. Rapota supported the President in the idea that the Standing Committee of the Union State should join the joint working group to discuss problematic issues of integration.

At the end of the meeting, the President, as the Chairman of the Supreme State Council, ordered the Foreign Ministry to work on the issue of the participation of

the Committee’s representatives in the activities of the Belarusian-Russian working group. Mr. Rapota assured him that the Standing Committee is ready to do everything in its power to develop the Union State in accordance with the Treaty of 1999. “There are significant issues that require development,” he stressed.

The guest believes that the basis of the Union State should be political, military relations and co-operation in the field of foreign policy, as well as the creation of a single structural industrial policy, transport and energy space. At the same time, Mr. Rapota emphasises the need for more practical content in joint activities. Of course, there are examples of major successful projects and the most significant is the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power station. This practice should be developed.

At the same time, the Secretary of State notes that various components are needed to solve any task — political will, mutual understanding and a sufficient level of competence from the participants. Then any issue can be resolved.



Road map of verified plans

In a year, new plants producing fuel pellets could be launched in our country. The Deputy Forestry Minister — Vladimir Krech — tells us more.

By Sergey Muravsky

In recent years, the EU has observed a real boom in the field of clean energy sources. Attempts are being made to abandon the use of coal, peat, oil, gas and to switch to timber. We can make money from this trend...

Our research has shown that pellets are one of the most promising export products. For example, the heads of Germany and France have already said that, by 2030, they will completely abandon coal and peat in favour of biofuels. They lack their own resources and, accordingly, they'll buy from abroad. Why not from us? Studies show some interesting figures. From 2019 to 2021, the world consumption of pellets will increase by 2m tonnes per year and, in the next 5 years, by 11m. To cover future needs, the capacity of European pellet production in the coming years must at least double. If we occupy this niche today, we'll face a promising market tomorrow.

Grass grows, yet the horse starves. By next May, it is planned to build and launch 6 new pellet plants. This is a serious investment. Where will the mon-

ey come from? In general, how difficult are such projects to implement?

We have not advertised our activities in this area before, so few people know: all 6 new plants are not just planned projects but are under active implementation. Equipment is being purchased for some of them. As for investments (which range from 7 to 15 million Roubles for each plant), these are basically from the forestry's own funds.

As business plans show, considerable costs will pay off within 5-6 years. However, it is possible that this period could be significantly reduced. We have recently learnt about the research of a very large international trader of wood products from Sweden. While assessing the situation in Europe, its experts believe that it's now the best time to move to the production of fuel pellets and Belarus is the most promising country for this — given the

availability of raw materials, forestry activities conducted in line with international rules, geographical location and so on.

How much do we earn on the production of pellets today and how much will we be able to generate in the future?

Every year, sales of fuel pellets and briquettes by the Forestry Ministry brings about \$2.5m to the country's budget. After the launch, each of the new plants will be able to make this money. This is just the beginning. After all, theoretically, such production could be launched everywhere given the demand. As for raw materials — low-quality timber, sawmill waste, felling residues, dead and windbreak wood, we have them.

Why have pellets been chosen? After all, low-quality timber can be used in alternative and less costly ways...



Vladimir Krech

Land rich in resources in its own way

By Vladimir Khromov

Enough oil reserves in Belarus for three decades, while potassium salts are likely to run out in 150 years

There are 83 oil fields in the country; 60 are in various stage of development. With the present volumes of production of proven reserves, there will be enough oil for 30-32 years. However, Belorusneft never stops exploring new areas and increasing reserves. The Scientific-Practical Centre for Geology conducts research under the state programme. "We identify the objects and they are then further investigated by Belorusneft. If the deposits are confirmed, then the well is put into operation," comments the Head of the Main Department for Natural Resources at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Vasily Kolb. "The task is to ensure the annual growth of oil by no less than the volume of production. Last year, we achieved this and reached the zero point where the volume of production became equal to the increase."

The expert also described the prospects for shale oil and shale gas production in Belarus. As for shale gas, a concession agreement was signed between the Ministry of



Natural Resources and a certain company to conduct a geological study of the territory. About eight prospective sites in the Brest, Mogilev, Minsk and Gomel regions were identified, studied, analysed and evaluated as compared to European shale gas. However, the economy of this raw material is currently not very profitable, so this project has currently been stopped. At the same time, the topic of shale gas has not been removed from the agenda, although it is not studied and developed in Belarus as much

as in some European countries. Staff of the laboratory of the Institute of Environmental Sciences are engaged in research in this area.

At the same time, special attention should be paid to environmental issues, as to produce shale gas and shale oil, special technology is used, known as hydraulic fracturing. Chemical reagents in this case can penetrate groundwater, which is unsafe. In some European countries — such as Germany and France — a moratorium

on hydraulic fracturing is in place, and hence on the production of shale gas and shale oil. "With this in mind, the issue requires a detailed study," noted Mr. Kolb.

As for potash salts, on the contrary, the area is actively developing in Belarus. Belaruskali is currently working at the Starobinskoye deposit of potassium salts. An investment project for the construction of the Petrikov mining and processing plant in the Gomel Region is being implemented. In accordance with an investment agreement with Slavkaliy JSC, construction of a mine on the site of the Nezhinsky, Smolovsky and Lyubansky sections of potassium salts is conducted. Accordingly, soon, Belarus will have three mining and processing plants.

Proven deposits of potassium salts today exceed 7.5bn tonnes and an average of 50m tonnes is mined annually. With such production volumes, we'll have enough reserves for the next 150 years. Furthermore, there are some deposits and prospective areas which are also rich in potassium salts — e.g. the Otkyabrsky deposit and the Kopatkevichi area. A detail investigation is needed. "We definitely have great prospects for development in this direction," added Mr. Kolb.

Overall growth is clearly increasing

Number of residents of the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park may grow to sixty by the end of the year

By Vladimir Mikhailov

CEO of the Industrial Park Development Company, Hu Zheng, told the Belarus 1 TV Channel, “We have built a modern industrial park from scratch in 4 years, there is nothing of its kind anywhere else. This is the biggest Chinese project abroad. We are satisfied with the pace of its development: investments of 10 countries from around the world are seen here. The number of residents has increased to 55 and, by the end of the year, this figure may increase to at least 60.”

During the Forum on Regional Cooperation and Development held as part of the *Belt and Road* initiative, 11 new resi-

dents were registered at the Great Stone; these will create high-tech production in the Park. One of the new residents is ready to offer a market packaging for cosmetics from biomaterials and nanotechnology. Today, these products are being sold abroad and 25 percent go to Europe. As planned, the plant will be launched within two years.

According to Alexander Yaroshenko — Head of the Industrial Park’s Administration, the geographical representation is also expanding. “We used to have resident companies from eight countries, while now we are expanding our area, including resident companies from Europe. Switzerland is joining our Park with two businesses and Estonia is running a joint project with Be-

larus and Lithuania,” he said, adding that the guiding principle of the Park — ‘Investors from All Countries Welcome’ — is being translated into reality.

According to Mr. Yaroshenko’s estimates, the number of resident companies will reach at least 85 in the next few years. At least 30 companies will launch their products by the end of 2020. There are plans to commission 10 production facilities this year.

The agreements signed during the forum will contribute to the overall growth of the Park. “These are fundamental agreements on digital transformation of the Silk Road,” commented the Administration’s Head. Among them is the joint

investment agreement signed as part of the *Iskra* (Sparkle) programme run by the Centre for Research and Innovation at the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park, as well as a memorandum outlining concerted efforts to build the Great Stone International Terminal, a memorandum of understanding in the financial sector and a confidentiality arrangement between Gansu Provincial Highway Aviation Tourism Investment Group Co Ltd and Belinvestbank.

Experts say that the Park is an international platform for high-technology production in leading fields of activity. The Park offers unprecedented advantages to resident companies.



Hu Zheng

Each bit to know its place



A cryptocurrency exchange has been launched in Belarus — selling shares in Apple, Facebook and even state bonds for virtual money

By Sofia Kolesova

Exchange Ripple for Ethereum

Cryptocurrency (or crypt) is a virtual digital coin. It is not minted by banks but produced (mined) by computers from around the world with the help of a special programme.

No one can hold the crypt in their hands but, at the same time, this money is quite real. It’s not yet possible to buy bread with it in an ordinary store but you can already order a taxi and pay for air tickets at some places, buy office equipment, diamonds, games and even pay for education (for example, at the Cyprus University of Nicosia and the American King’s College). Although some in the industry don’t like to admit it, this virtual money is also used to buy drugs.

Where is it possible to get the crypt? So far, salaries are not paid in it. The best solution is a cryptocurrency exchange, where users can buy Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Litecoin and other digital money for ordinary Dollars, Euros or even Roubles, also selling them or exchanging one cryptocurrency for another. There are over 500 cryptocurrency exchanges in the world and the largest of them are Binance, Bitmex, Bitfinex, Kraken, Bitstamp, Bittrex, HitBTC, Poloniex and Huobi.

Crypt does not come alone

In May, the first crypto-exchange in the history of Belarus — Currency.com — opened its virtual doors to everyone, after testing. It was set up by the Gutsierievs’ fund, Larnabel Ventures, and VP Capital, by Belarusian businessman, Victor Prokopenya.

“At existing crypto-exchang-



es, investors have to exchange Bitcoin for real money to invest in stocks, stock indexes, gold or oil,” explains the Director for Development at Currency.com — Dmitry Ogievich. “In turn, at Currency.com, the crypt can buy securities in different companies — including Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, etc. — or bonds.”

The beta (test) version of the exchange was launched in January. Mr. Ogievich recalls that they planned to give access to the exchange to hundreds of users, for testing. However, in the first two weeks, the queue for registration was already over 100,000 accounts. Then the whole team, including the developers and management, helped the support service to deal with the influx. Most users came from the CIS, mainly Russians from all around the country, from Moscow to Novosibirsk.

It is easy to register at the crypto exchange by visiting the Currency.com site or downloading the mobile app for

smartphone, register, then get access to trade.

The monthly trading volume has already exceeded \$26m and the company plans to achieve revenue of \$70m by late 2019. This is possibly due to exchange commissions (from 0.025 percent).

The crypto exchange is one element of Aleksandr Lukashenko’s ‘digital’ decree. It came into force last year and encourages the creation of conditions for the introduction of modern blockchain technologies in the Belarus economy and the development of digital technologies.

Who are you, Mr. Nakamoto?

The first and most popular digital coin — Bitcoins (international BTC code) — is called ‘e-gold’. About a thousand people on the planet own over a half of this wealth.

This currency appeared in 2009. It was invented by someone under the pseudonym of Satoshi Nakamoto. Nothing is

known about him. This could be either one person (not necessarily a man) or a group of people. Nakamoto never spoke to anyone in person or by phone but sent messages by e-mail or on forums. Nothing has been heard of him since 2011.

The Bitcoin exchange rate is volatile: in April-May, it was trading in the range of 5-8 thousand Dollars. At the end of 2017, its peak reached 20 thousand Dollars but then fell. According to the BTC creator — Satoshi Nakamoto, it is technically impossible to get more than 21m Bitcoins. This is built into the computer programme and will be achieved by 2140.

One must be careful when buying cryptocurrency, as there is always the possibility of transferring real money for Bitcoins and getting nothing in return, while also losing the virtual currency (i.e. losing the password from a Bitcoin wallet). As recently seen in the media, when an Englishman accidentally threw out a hard

drive on which almost 8,000 Bitcoins were stored.

There is no guarantee that the genius, Satoshi Nakamoto, will not appear and destroy the entire mining system along with Bitcoin wallets, so that no real traces of the virtual finance will remain. It would then be impossible to prove to someone that you were once a cryptocurrency billionaire.

Happiness to everyone and for free

Eduard Tunkevichus, an expert in international Cryptolife.world cryptocurrency network:

Crypto exchanges have risks. They may close and not return the funds to users. This happened in 2014 with the largest Bitcoin exchange — Mt.gox. In addition, Russian users may be blocked by foreign exchanges due to sanctions. It is difficult, even impossible, to recoup funds after blocking. A stock exchange can be hacked, and cryptocurrency could be stolen.

Cryptocurrency, in most cases, is still quite exotic. In some ways, it is convenient. Such currencies are not controlled by the state and funds cannot be blocked by banks. There are no fees for transfers, and everything is completely anonymous.

Could cryptocurrency sideline ordinary money? It’s unlikely to happen soon. However, the fact that it will become the currency of the future can be taken as a given. Such giants as Samsung are already beginning to implement payment systems using cryptocurrencies on their smartphones. In future, cryptocurrency may be replaced by a ‘cashless’ society. It will be a happy day when everyone has money free of charge. But this is never a certainty...



Globally topical theme

The state urban planning policy in Belarus is geared towards the development of smart and green cities

By Oleg Bogomazov

Much work is being done to improve the relevant legislation. The statement was made by the Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus — Boleoslav Pirshchuk — during the roundtable session on Theory and Practice of Green Urban Planning in the Lower Chamber of the Belarusian Parliament.

The interest in green urban planning is on the rise around the world. Close attention is also being paid to the matter in Belarus. Due to urbanization, the pressure on cities is rising. It is necessary to pool our efforts to preserve natural resources as much as possible. “It is important to study and borrow positive international experience, engage civil society and public

organisations,” he said.

In turn, the UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus — Aleksandra Solovieva — noted that Belarus demonstrates leadership in the region in work on reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The relevant strategies and programmes are being developed at national and regional levels. Ms. Solovieva said, “The assistance the UNDP provides to the Government with the sustainable development of cities includes integral solutions, which combine measures to promote energy effectiveness, the use of sources of renewable energy, waste management, and other things. At the same time, these initiatives help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are ready to continue supporting joint steps towards green urban planning.”



The experience of developing green urban planning by Belarusian towns and cities was presented during the roundtable session as well

as the experience of implementing energy-effective measures. Taking part in the meeting were members of the Parliament, representatives

of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry, the Architecture and Construction Ministry, and others.

Natural killer of deadly bacteria

A schoolgirl from Minsk has discovered how to defeat Staphylococcus aureus



Liza Shevtsova could hardly imagine she would invent a super-drug

By Kristina Khilko

Stop the pest

This insidious microorganism can cause various diseases: from mild skin infections to deadlier ones such as pneumonia, meningitis or sepsis. According to experts, bacteria take more lives than HIV. One in five people can't withstand an attack of Staphylococcus aureus, resistant to antibiotics. It seems they are ubiquitous and can adapt to anything, it seems that everything humanity can throw at it is never enough.

However, not everyone gives up. Liza Shevtsova, a 16-year-old schoolgirl from Minsk, has created a miracle drug that could be a breakthrough in microbiology. To be more correct, she's discov-

ered it accidentally. “I was engaged in a scientific study of the properties of buckwheat,” she recalled. “I decided to test the sensitivity of bacteria to its extracts. Guided by curiosity, I placed raw oak acorn, milk thistle and wood from the Amur maackia tree into a Petri dish seeded with bacteria.”

The test showed that extract of maackia killed all the bacteria. Liza hurried to tell her supervisor about her discovery. The riddle that baffled hundreds of specialists was solved by a high school student!

“Plant seeds contain a unique protein — lectin — which recognises even cancer cells. If these proteins attach to toxin molecules, it will hit the target — the defective cells,” explains Oleg Darashkevich,

who heads the laboratory of Nano- and biotechnology at the Republican Centre of Innovation and Technical Creativity. “This tree has many useful properties, but the fact that the extract of its wood suppresses bacteria is a really great discovery and Liza was the one to discover it.”

Hurricane prompts experiment

The Amur maackia is well known in folk medicine. Decoction of the bark is used as an analgesic and the seeds and leaves are used to make tinctures for the treatment of tumours. The timber is valued for cabinetry and is used in the production of furniture, plywood, and wooden parts for long-lasting tools.

This type of timber is very expensive as it's imported. In Belarus, the tree grows only in the capital's Botanical Garden. In the bad weather, however, a hurricane knocked one of the six maackia trees over and the wood was given to the laboratory for the young researchers to study.

“It took us a year to dry out the tree and we then made an extract from its sawdust. Our sample is enough to get 200-300 millilitres of extract and cure a dozen people of infectious diseases. An extract is a mixture of components, not all of them have the necessary properties. Specific active substances are required to ensure the results are more convincing. We are working on this next,” said Liza.

The schoolgirl has already tested this natural elixir against a dangerous strain of aggressive infections. “So amazing! Maackia has suppressed all bacteria, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Streptococcus and Staphylococcus aureus against which virtually all the hospitals around the world are struggling,” Liza said, unable to hide her emotions.

Investors welcome!

Liza has been interested in research since childhood. While her peers were playing with dolls, the schoolgirl was reading books about microscopic creatures. Her classmates laughed at her and called her ‘a nerd’. However, Liza is now a class star. Her parents are doctors and support their

daughter's hobby. “Liza's discovery is sensational. However, there is still a lot of work ahead — including biological tests using mice. Sadly, to continue serious studies, an investor is needed,” explains Oleg Darashkevich.

To carry out the test at NAS' institutions, around \$10,000 is required. If these prove positive, it will be possible to obtain a patent and prepare a pilot batch of the drug. According to Dr. Darashkevich, this stage will require \$200,000 but there is no investor as yet.

The head of the laboratory is proud of his pupils: 126 students of the Centre have become candidates of sciences and nine of them have a doctor's degree. Many work at the world's leading laboratories. Mr. Darashkevich believes that Liza Shevtsova will make many more discoveries. Last year, she presented her project at the *Smart Patent '18* fair of innovative ideas, speaking with leading scientists from the Academy of Sciences.

The young student already speaks confidently of her future profession, “I will apply to the Medical University.” The holidays are in full swing and Liza plans to relax, sleep and gain strength on the eve of her last year at school. “I will not give up my research. Cleaning the extract is a long and unpredictable process. The result may come tomorrow, or in a year. Patience is the key. What if I manage to change the world for the better?” she smiles.

Through art to peace

By Arina Novikova

People's Artiste of Ukraine and Ingushetia, Taisia Povaliy, has been honoured with a special award of the President of Belarus 'Through Art to Peace and Understanding'. The Head of State, Aleksandr Lukashenko, presented the award to the singer during the official opening ceremony of the 28th *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* International Festival of Arts.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that *Slavianski Bazaar*, which has raised an entire generation during the 28 years of its existence, has started many good traditions. One of them is

to honour the wonderful artists who contribute by their art to the strengthening of friendship among peoples.

"This year, we present the special award 'Through Art to Peace and Understanding' to the outstanding singer and good friend of not only Belarus but also Russia — People's Artiste of Ukraine, Taisia Povaliy. Her story is special: she won the Grand Prix of the *Vitebsk* Song Contest on this stage. Today, a star with her name was deservedly unveiled on the Square of Stars at our festival," said the President.

The Head of State expressed the wish that Taisia Povaliy's

artistic path will become an example for everyone who takes their first steps in the world of music, including Belarus' representative, Ksenia Galetskaya, who won the Grand Prix of the *Vitebsk-2019* International Junior Song Contest. The young singer also received her award from the President.

Taisia Povaliy admitted that the special award from the President of Belarus was very important for her. "The fact that I received it in Belarus is also very important for me because everything is being done here for the sake of peace, friendship and understanding between peoples," stressed the singer.



Taisia Povaliy

Grand Prix has remained at home

By Svetlana Yemelyanova

Belarusian representative Ksenia Galetskaya wins Grand Prix and Lira special prize at the Vitebsk-2019 International Junior Song Contest at the Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk Festival

The names of the winners were announced at the final gala-concert, with first prize going to Anzhela Albertyan of Armenia. Second prize was shared by Ukrainian Artur and Anastasia Barbă of Moldova while third was also shared by two entrants: a representative of Georgia, Annushka, and an entrant from Russia, Kira Gogoladze.

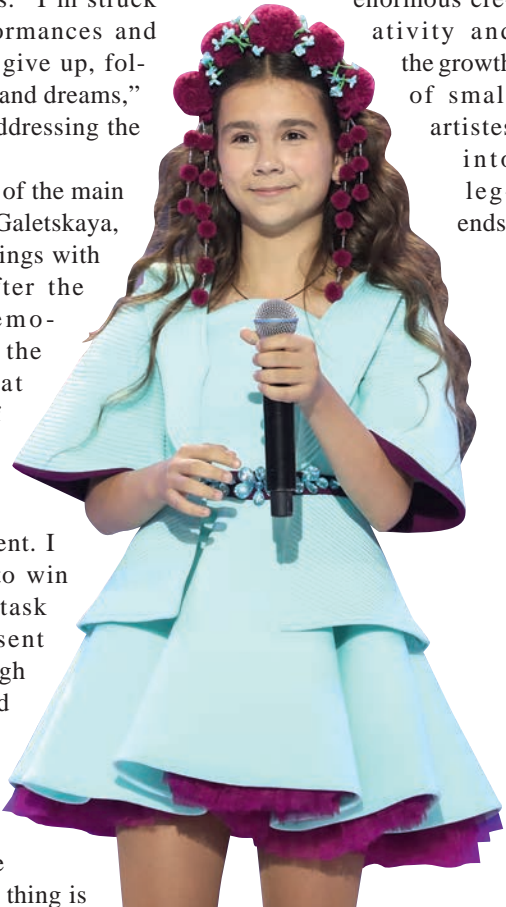
Singer Bosson (Sweden), who chaired the international junior song contest jury, thanked all the organisers and young participants for their tremendous professionalism. Addressing the contestants, he stressed that they are all winners. "I'm struck by your performances and voices. Never give up, follow your heart and dreams," said Bosson, addressing the young artists.

The winner of the main award, Ksenia Galetskaya, shared her feelings with journalists after the awards ceremony. "Winning the Grand Prix at the *Slavianski Bazaar* is my biggest and most important achievement. I really hoped to win but my main task was to represent Belarus at a high level," said Ksenia Galetskaya. Her recipe for victory is simple. "The most important thing is

to love what you are doing," said the young artiste, adding that the trip to the *Slavianski Bazaar* is a huge adventure for her which she will remember forever.

Ksenia Galetskaya also thanked the whole team of the Spamash production centre, her family, fans and everyone who supported her during the competition.

Television producer, musician and director of the *Star Factory* and *In a Loud Voice* projects and owner of *TEFI* and *Ovation* awards, Lina Arifulina, commented on the organisation of the contest to which she always pays special attention, being a production director. Speaking about her impressions from the *Slavianski Bazaar*, the producer pointed out that it's a legendary forum and the participation of children is a wonderful lesson from a professional point of view. The atmosphere of the festival facilitates enormous creativity and the growth of small artistes into legends.



A new chapter is just beginning



By Aleksandr Pimenov

Familiar flags of the festival and hosts — who over many years have become as close as friends — welcomed people in the three languages of the founding countries to the 6,000-seat amphitheatre in Vitebsk and the even more numerous television audience for several evenings in a row

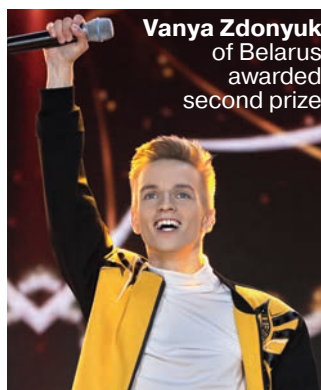
As always in July, the *Slavianski Bazaar* is anticipated by many countries. Like holidays that unite families, this tradition unites entire nations through the power of art, and makes declarations of love for their homeland more heartfelt.

'The place where you were born' is the concept of the gala concert, a dedication to the homeland, family and human values, as well as to the continuity of generations. The power of the pure polyphonic tone of the Festival Choir of the St. Elisabeth Convent helped the public to feel this better than a thousand words. The mirror of modern art reflects the centuries of history of the once common Homeland and old songs performed by such famous ensembles as *Samotsvety* and *Ariel* remind us of it. Our common tragic and heroic history and the memory of the Great Patriotic War bind the people firmly and infinitely together. 74 years after the Victory, the immortal *May Waltz* performed by young singers from different countries briefly returned the veterans, who gave

The future of the *Slavianski Bazaar*, the trio of hosts, the rising stars of the digital generation from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine — Angelina Lomako, Rutger Garecht and Artem Vengerovich — were eagerly and warmly welcomed by the audience. Both beginners and loyal friends of the festival, stars from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and other countries: Aleksandr Panayotov, Alena Lanskaya, Ruslan Alekhno and Tatiana Bulanova, Valery Leontiev, Varvara, Emin, Stas Mikhailov,



Adilkhan Makin of Kazakhstan wins Grand Prix of the 28th Vitebsk Song Contest 2019 at the Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk



Vanya Zdonyuk of Belarus awarded second prize

us our present peaceful sky, to their younger days. Homeland is where our parents are. In childhood, it is sometimes difficult to respond to maternal tenderness without being embarrassed, to say the words of love which are so dear to our parents. So that we don't regret that we didn't have enough time, didn't say enough, didn't embrace enough, didn't give enough love, let's do it now. This is the message of the duets of generations — Varvara and young Angelina Lomako, Anatoly Yarmolenko and his grandson Svyatoslav, Yadviga Poplavskaya and Anastasia Tikhonovich.

Alessandro Safina, Bosson, gave their art with love, replacing each other on the stage. And while some are already familiar with the warm welcome of the Vitebsk public, others, such as the producer and pianist and winner of two Grammy awards, Marlow Rosado (USA), discovered the special hospitality of this hall for the first time. The dedication to Michel Legrand — the song *I'll Wait for You* from the film *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* — was a strikingly lyrical note. Many years ago, the maestro brought Tamara Gverdtsiteli to the stage of the *Slavianski Bazaar*, but they did not have a chance to meet under the large umbrella of the summer amphitheatre again. This time, the artiste was accompanied by Konstantin Moskvich. The immortal classics are another key to the festival audience's heart, in the loyalty to their favourite hits, high-quality music and the endless romance which this year marks the 28th anniversary. And the new chapter is just beginning.



New buildings added to World Heritage List

The United Nations World Heritage Committee has selected eight buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright to be added to the list of World Heritage Sites

The American architect was born in Wisconsin in 1867 and his work includes the celebrated Fallingwater house and the Guggenheim Museum.

Fallingwater was built over a waterfall between 1936 and 1939 for the wealthy Kaufmann

family. Today, it is used as a museum operated by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Director Emerita of Fallingwater Lynda Waggoner led the campaign for World Heritage Status.

“This was such a stunning building, a tour de force,” says Waggoner. “It re-establishes him. He appears on the cover of Time magazine in 1938, this man who is thought to be dead by some, with Fallingwater in the background, and it just

captured the imagination of the world.”

Wright scholar John Lobell recalls the architect’s words, saying, “Wright said, ‘a great architect must be an interpreter of his time, his day, his age’...Wright set himself two goals: to define or even create the 20th century and to redefine what we are as human beings.”

Lloyd Wright pioneered the use of concrete in buildings. Perhaps the scope of this

technique is most evident in his final work, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. The brash concrete swirls of the building were criticised by many on its completion. The museum is now, however, one of the most photographed buildings in New York.

Lloyd did not live to see the completion of the Guggenheim, dying six months before the building was completed in 1959 at the age of 91..

I-React to save lives

Natural disasters are now more frequent than ever. The threat humanity faces continues to grow in increasingly unpredictable ways.

This year there has been a spike in wildfires across Europe — 480 occurred in the first 3 months of 2019. Late last year there was a surge in floods with thousands having to be evacuated across the continent.

In Europe alone, natural disasters have caused close to 7 million casualties and nearly €113 billion of damage just in the last 10 years.

In response to these growing challenges, a pan-European team have developed a multi-platform I-React app that can help in responding to natural disasters.

I-React gives civil protection officers the information they need to respond to a natural disaster as quickly as possible. It collects data from a wide range of sources and puts it in one place to offer a full picture of what is going on. The app aggregates data from satellites and weather forecasts as well as information on the ground from users of the app, social media and drones.

This means that anyone with a smartphone can send photos and information on the platform to help civil protection respond to an emergency situation.

I-React allows its users to gather and send data in different ways during an emergency situation. Smartphones can send photos of what is happening on the ground — but the app connects to smart glasses as well.



Malta to relocate 65 migrants from Alan Kurdi rescue ship

Dozens of migrants aboard a German-operated rescue boat have been allowed to disembark in Malta, authorities have said

The 65 migrants, who were aboard the Alan Kurdi rescue ship, are now awaiting relocation to other EU member states.

In a series of tweets, Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the group were met by an army vessel in the country’s waters, where they changed boats and were taken to shore.

“All rescued persons on board will be immediately relocated to other EU member states,” Muscat wrote. He added, “None of the said immigrants will remain in Malta as this case was not under the responsibility of the Maltese authorities.”

Three people aboard the boat who needed medical treatment after collapsing in the heat were evacuated immediately.

In a further tweet, Muscat said another 58 migrants were rescued in a separate operation by the country’s armed forces.

Half of those rescued in the Maltese operation would be relocated to other EU member states ‘as a sign of recognition to the goodwill of the Malta government’, he said.

The Alan Kurdi rescue boat — named after a Syrian toddler who drowned in the Mediterranean Sea — was originally en route to Italy, but changed course for Malta after being blocked from docking. Other rescue boats that defied the docking ban over the weekend were later impounded by Italian authorities.

Unexpected flooding turns deadly in north-eastern Spain

Residents of the Navarre towns of Tafalla, Olite and Puello couldn’t believe their eyes when a sudden and gigantic downpour burst the banks of the local Cidacos River, flooding streets and local shopping centres as well as dragging cars through the streets

Firefighters in northern Spain found the body of a driver whose car was swept away by flash floods which forced the closure of roads and disrupted trains.

Torrential rain night damaged cars, garages, basements, attics, stores, roads and factories and interrupted railway services, the regional government said in a statement. Video images showed cars floating in water, or piled up in the streets.

The man’s body was found in the early morning hours in the town of Ezprogui in the Navarre region, the government statement said.

The mayor of the nearby town of Tafalla, where a river overflowed its banks, said there had been no warning. “Nature fired water in cannon shots,” Jesus Arribieta noted. “If it had been forecast, a situation where we see the river rising, we could have warned locals in the are-



as adjoining the river to move their cars, and there could have been less damage. But it happened in the blink of an eye.”

According to the government statement, the Cidacos River surged from a depth of 11 centimetres to over four metres in just a few hours in some spots after Navarra received four times as much rain as had been forecast.

Six secondary roads remained closed in Navarre because of the damage caused, police said.

In Pamplona, the capital of Navarre, the downpour caused officials to suspend a bullfight on Monday evening that was part of the city’s famous San Fermin festival.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Interesting story about time and oneself

Works by Belarusian painters who celebrate their anniversaries this year go on display as part of the exhibition, held in the National Art Museum



By Veniamin Mikheev

Group exhibitions of this kind, as part of the *Our Collections* project, have already become a tradition, having been organised since 2008. This is the 11th event, showcasing around a hundred pictorial, graphical, sculptural and decorative-and-applied works by more than sixty artists.

An anniversary is a reason to remember both the outstanding and the not-so-famous masters and to see their aesthetic values and historically educational works which have often not been seen for many years, except for museum employees, and which will once again return to the storerooms after the exposition. Painters whose works are presented had or have various level of talent. However, each of them was speaking about time and

about themselves, showing their own world outlook and having their own preferences in art and life.

The exhibition comprises a few pre-Soviet works, primarily depicting the period of the 1950-1980s: 'classical' or 'textbook' Soviet and late-Soviet art. Every participant of the exhibition will be familiar to those keen on this kind of domestic pictorial art.

The anniversary as a reason is primarily a formality, but, nevertheless, in this case, it makes it possible to get works by half-remembered masters out of storerooms, while also presenting the creative activity of more famous artists' art more widely. This way the permanent exhibition is being completed and promoted.

Once these art works were chosen for the museum during exhibitions and in art studios;

but then they ended up in the repository, outside the artistic life for many years. Obviously, the museum is unable to exhibit everything it boasts in its collections, because exhibition areas are always limited. However, the display of art works which have spent dozens of years in storerooms seems to be a kind of restoration of justice.

The creativity of a whole range of Belarusian painters is fully demonstrated in the museum's collection, and this supports personal mini-exhibitions within the course of the whole exhibition. Sometimes the museum displays the artist's only work, moving from exhibition to exhibition, but it is presented in different ways in various contexts.

The time frame of the exhibition is about 100 years, from the early 20th century to the turn of the 21st century. Like archae-

ologists, we can find a way into the time, seeing features of various periods of history and art in the works of different eras, as in the archaeological 'cultural layers' or soil profiles.

Each socio-political paradigm inevitably affects modern culture in general and individual creativity in particular. At the same time, art is a kind of parallel to life, which exists according to its own rules, associated with one or another epoch,

but which often opposes it. Although, it sometimes happens that artists coordinate their art — freely or unwittingly — relying on public tastes or ideological attitudes and demands, following them or opposing his art to them. After all, each artist embodies their vision of the world, humanity and nature. And this can be easily seen when viewing the works of *The Stream of Time* exhibition at the National Art Museum.

Visiting a Belarusian fairy tale

By Anna Popova

Film based on Lyudmila Rublevskaya's series of novels — *Adventures of Prantish Vyrvich* — being shot

Costumes, carriages, swords

The new film is a one hundred percent Belarusian product. All the actors are from Belarus and the script was written by Valentin Zaluzhny. The film director is Aleksandr Anisimov. Writer Lyudmila Rublevskaya recalls that the casting aroused no questions: it was enough to see that Georgy Petrenko applied for the role of Prantish. He was just the person it needed: a mischievous young gentleman who escaped from Minsk Jesuit College in search of adventures.

"I didn't really believe a project like this could happen. After all, the scale is almost the same as for *The Game of Thrones*," laughs the writer. "In the book, I describe the dungeons of Polotsk and the journey through them is like a computer quest. However, my skepticism lessened when I learned that the studio had made a tank on a steam engine following the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci. The vehicles can move, emit steam and shoot!"

The film, about the adventures of Prantish, is a real challenge for the crew. No films have been made so far in Belarus about the last years of the Rzech Pospolita — apart from the *Anastasia Slutskaya* movie. However, the scale is quite different.

"The project is complex and requires a special approach and work with consultants. We've consulted scientists from the National Academy of Sciences' History Institute. Even the film crew had to improve their knowledge of history to immerse themselves in the process," says the second director, Anna Borozna. "Lyudmila Rublevskaya tells us about the historical characters who act in the book, and also about the fictional heroes."



The film is well-polished: Belarusfilm has a long and strong tradition of movie making about the war, so there are no problems with props, costumes and machinery from those times. However, creativity was needed to recreate the 18th century.

"We've sewn all the costumes for *Adventures*. In addition, we also made some forged swords, carriages, and a turtle according to da Vinci's sketches," she said.

Castles lit at night

The historical action has been shot all over the country, at Mir, Nesvizh, Lida and Golshany castles. Little-known old buildings were discovered: for example, a beautiful Baroque church in the town of Volno.

The film crew traveled through almost the entire Grod-

no Region. They went to Polotsk in the hope of finding the underground tunnels described in the books devoted to Prantish Vyrvich. Eventually, it was decided to shoot them in Bobruisk fortress which has wonderful vaulted corridors.

"In Lida, we worked at the Ieronim Radziwill theatre. The ballet troupe was performed by students of the Minsk Choreographic School. A senior lecturer of the Opera and Choreography Department at the Belarusian Academy of Music, Uran Azimov, prepared a minuet especially for the film, to the music of Ferrari and Monteverdi. Just imagine night, candles, dancers in opulent suits and powdered wigs in the halls of the palace. Everyone has their mouths open! Of course, the novelty is slightly faded by the forty crew,

but still looks awesome!" — smiles Ms. Rublevskaya.

The writer explains: in the film, she wanted to show a little-known Belarus — with castles, wandering knights, court theatres and taverns as Vladimir Korotkevich wrote about a romantic country. Belarus' ancient culture is also represented; it embraces not just usual folklore but also the songs of minstrels and real ballads.

Shooting is coming to an end and, in late 2019, the premiere is scheduled. Why is the genre of a historical novel regaining its popularity? "This is something that can't but attract viewers: beautiful romantic stories from the past," explains Ms. Borozna. "The audience gets tired of modern stories, while in our case a fairy-tale is being brought to life."

COMING SOON

Kupala Night

Without exaggeration, it's the major project currently being worked on in Belarus. The film about the life of Belarusian poet Yanka Kupala, will be screened in 2020: as both a full version and a four-part TV movie. Post-production is in full swing and, by September, it's likely to be finished. Shooting took place not only in Belarus, but also in Russia and Lithuania. Mainly Belarusian actors are involved but the main actor — Nikolay Shestak — is Latvian with Belarusian roots. Director Vladimir Yankovsky fought for every shot and we await a masterpiece!

Saboteur's Fate

Dmitry Astrakhan has been working on a new project since spring. It's based on the true story of partisan, Fiodor Krylovich. In 1943, he committed one of the greatest acts of sabotage of the time when he destroyed four enemy brigades with ammunition and equipment at Osipovich station. Pavel Mogilin, from Borisov, put the story down on paper. The film features such actors as Andrey Smolyakov, Aleksey Surensky, Aleksandr Semchev, Victor Vasiliev and Vitaly Novikov.

Illusions

Not only full-length projects but also series are being prepared for the premiere. Shooting of the first Belarusian sitcom has recently begun: 16 episodes will tell the story of young actors who will go to any lengths to save the student theater from closing. The authors of the project are director Ivan Pavlov and screenwriter Andrey Kurs.

Belarusfilm's movies at cinema festival in China

A delegation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belarus — led by Counsellor Luo Zhanhui — visits Belarusfilm National Film Studio to meet its General Director Vladimir Karachevsky and discuss possible participation of Belarusian movies in Chinese film festivals

By Aleksandr Pimenov

"In recent years, we have established co-operation with China in the field of cinematography, and our relationship has grown from diplomatic relations into the ties of friendship and business. Two movies made by our studio — *Tum Pabi Dum* by Vyacheslav Nikiforov and *Footprints on the Water* by Aleksandr Anisimov — took part in the 27th China Golden Rooster & Hundred Flowers Film Festival in the city of Foshan. We were also invited to participate this year," Vladimir Karachevsky noted.

Mr. Karachevsky spoke about co-operation with the Belarusfilm's

partner — Amy International Company. "We have jointly organised Chinese Cinema Days in Minsk and established relations with many Chinese companies and organisations. Now we are in talks with two companies on a project to shoot a joint movie and are also discussing participation in the Hainan Island and the Shanghai International Film Festivals," he noted.

The guests were taken on a guided tour around the film-making pavilions, introduced to the rich history of the studio and shown a trailer of the *Kupala* national project. "We were impressed by the Belarusian Film Studio. We hope our co-operation will continue to develop," said Counsellor Luo Zhanhui.



During the shootings of *Kupala* film



Reaching the finish

By Svetlana Savelieva

Conventional MAZ, driven by Sergey Vyazovich, successfully performs at the Silk Way Rally

Below is the description of one of the Belarusian MAZ vehicle's winning stages. During the second stage the racers were competing on the 212km-long highway which passed through precarious rocky areas. At one of the bends the Russian, Sergey Uspensky's vehicle overturned. The leader of the Belarusian team, Sergey Vyazovich, had the best time of 2 hours 29 minutes, thus preserving his ranking in the general classification. His closest rival, Andrey Karginov from KAMAZ team, came 7 minutes behind.

"The route was very difficult. We were driving 'on the edge of fear' but didn't cross the line. The road was mainly dry and narrow, and we had to slow down so as not to damage the vehicle," said Sergey.

Then the crew of the MAZ-SPORTauto team, driven by Sergey Vyazovich, also finished first during the fourth stage of the Silk Way Rally. The participants of the race covered the 477km-long distance, with the special route of 470km. All three of the first places in the special stage were taken by Belarusian teams, with Sergey Vyazovich claiming his third victory since the start of the race, significantly reinforcing his leadership. Meanwhile,

MAZ-SPORTauto driver, Sergey Vyazovich, also won the sixth stage of the Silk Way Rally: a 408km-long special stage running through the wide roads of the steppes. Fast sections allowed the drivers to show their skill, enabling almost all the vehicles to drive the route at a fast pace. First place was taken by Vyazovich, who covered the distance inside 4 hours 23 minutes.

In the general classification, Belarusians retained their leadership with a handicap of 16 minutes. Conventional MAZ, driven by Sergey Vyazovich, defeated three Russian KAMAZ vehicles and the Renault drives by the Dutchman, Martin Van Den Brink.

It was reported that in late June, the MAZ-SPORTauto team set off for the international Silk Way Rally. Before the competition, MAZ sport trucks took part in the road show in several Russian cities.

The rally started in Irkutsk and the competitors finish in Chinese Dunhuang, with racers driving through the Mongolian steppes, Chinese flatlands and dunes in the Gobi Desert. The route extends over 5,000km, with half being special stages.

Belarus has sent three crew. The race is a test and evaluation for the Belarusian team ahead of the Dakar Rally Raid. They will hone their skills, testing both the trucks and their racing techniques.

Among the strongest athletes from 22 countries

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Olga Silkina of Belarus wins Belarus Open 2019, an international pentathlon tournament in preparation for the Olympic Games in Tokyo

The competition took place in the sports complex of the Belarusian State University of Physical Culture in Minsk and the Ratomka Republican Centre for Olympic Training of Equestrian Sports and Horse Breeding.

Olga Silkina finished first in fencing, and in total, the Belarusian sportswoman received 1,328 points, followed by Gintarė Venčkauskaitė of Lithuania and Italian Irene Prampolini. The medals were awarded by the Belarus' Sports and Tourism Minister, Sergey Kovalchuk.



In the men's tournament, first place for golf went to the famous Hungarian pentathlete, Bence Demeter, who scored 1,476 points. The silver medal was claimed by Zhang Linbin of China while bronze was won by Czech David Kindl. Pavel Tikhonov was the highest scoring Belarusian and came fifth in the final ranking with 1,449 points.

The Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus, the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Belarusian Federation of Modern Pentathlon public association were the organisers of the tournament for the 2020 Olympic Games, which brought together the strongest athletes from 22 countries.



Vault wins silver

Yegor Sharankov wins silver in the vault at the Summer Universiade in Naples

By Arina Novikova

The judges awarded the vault by the Belarusian gymnast with 14.350 points. Gold went to Korean, Hansol Kim, and bronze was won by Brazilian, Luis Porto.

It is the second award at the student event for the Belarusian national team. Earlier,

Belarusian swimmer, Grigory Pekarsky, won a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly.

About 8,000 athletes from 170 countries took part in the Summer Universiade. In total, 222 sets of medals were played for. At the last Summer Universiade in Taipei, Belarusian athletes won 9 awards: three gold, four silver and two bronze.

New record — in 15 years

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Anastasia Vaskevich updates national record for 200m butterfly in Belarus' Swimming Open Cup held in Brest

The new record is now 2 minutes, 14.73 seconds. The previous record belongs to Anna Kopachenya (2 minutes, 15.20 seconds), of 2004. Among the winners of the Belarus' Cup are the strongest swimmers of the national team: Ilya Shimanovich, Yevgeny Tsurkin, Nikita Tsmysy and Konstantin Kurochkin. The qualifying competition for the Tokyo Olympics gathered around three hundred athletes from Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Latvia.

Stable results are encouraging



Belarusian athlete Daria Borisevich is placed second in 800m race at representative International Poznan Athletics Grand Prix

The sportswoman covered two laps of the stadium in 2 minutes, 02.13 seconds. An experienced Cuban runner — Rose Mary Almanza — finished first with 2 minutes, 01.77 seconds, while Jemma Reekie from the UK came third in 2 minutes, 02.19 seconds. World champion in the 800m race in 2015, Belarusian Marina Arzamasova was fourth: 2 minutes, 03.02 seconds.

In hammer throwing, the world's best result of the season was demonstrated by Poland's Wojciech Nowicki — 81m, 74cm, while his compatriot — Pawel Fajde — was placed second: 79m, 37cm. Zakhar Makhrosenko, from Belarus, was third: 72m, 97cm.

The leading Belarusian athletes continue to prepare for the Europe-USA match which will be held at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium on September 9th-10th and the World Championship in Doha (September 27th — October 6th).

Record of the week



Vitebsk has hosted *Thousand Kisses on the Bridge* event

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th July. *We Were Bringing This Day Closer as Much as Possible*
Until 11th August. *Fantasy Land*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

11 Sovetskaya Street
Until 2nd August. *Killed Strongmen of Belarusian Land*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 4th August. *Sport is High Art*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

47 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 1st September. *Kazimir Malevich and 21st Century*

VILNIUS GALLERY

55 Kalinovsky Street
Until 10th August. *Yakub Kolas and Vilno*

TROITSKY SUBURBS

7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 2nd August. *Live Singing Birds*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th July. *Marc Chagall*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street
Until 31st July. *Sport in Writer's Life*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 31st August. *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*
Until 15th September. *Lady's Tricks*
Until 15th September. *European Martial Arts. From Volcano's Smithy to Mars' Arts*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY

12 K. Marx Street
Until 1st September. *Dangerous Beauty*

DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street
Until 15th September. *Festival of Sand Sculptures*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 27th October. *Belarusian Diamond in Crown of Palladium Orthodox Icons*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Season*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 31st August. *An Artist and the City*

THEATRES

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
18.07. *Twelfth Night*
20.07. *He and She*
21.07. *Pygmalion*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
18.07. *Midnight Robbery*
19.07. *In Search of True Self*
20, 22 and 23.07. *#13*
24.07. *Pygmalion*
25.07. *Nobody Promised an Easy Life*

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
18.07. *People of the Marshes*
19.07. *Inspector*
20.07. *Musical Night at Kupala Theatre*
21.07. *Black Lady of Nesvzh*
22.07. *Jeweller's Jubilee / Shabany*
23.07. *Pinsk Gentry*
24.07. *Tolerance*
25.07. *School of Taxpayers*

MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
18.07. *Cherry Orchid*
19.07. *Wedding at Malinovka*
21.07. *Merry Widow*
22.07. *Comedy*
23.07. *Jane Eyre*
24.07. *Tristan and Isolde*
25.07. *Titanic*

CONCERTS AND PARTIES

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
20.07. *Classics at the Town Hall: State Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Republic of Belarus*

DUDUTKI

Ptich village
20-21.07. *Our Grunewald-2019 Festival*

DUBROVSKOE WATER RESERVOIR

19-20.07. *SHIMKO Gathers Friends*

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
19.07. *1980-1990s Disco*
19.07. *Korol i Shut (The King and The Jester) tribute show*
20.07. *1990 and 2000s Disco*
21.07. *1990s Disco*
25.07. *IC3PEAK*

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolutsionnaya Street
18.07. *Lepesok & Tempo Bay*
19.07. *Double C / Inomarki*
20.07. *TNT Rock Club Birthday*
21.07. *Punk Rock Party. Tlushch & 4200*
24.07. *Big Daddy Blues*
25.07. *Artefact*

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
18.07. *Lyalya Razmakhova*