

# Minsk to host Ice Hockey World Championship in four years → 11

Belarus and Latvia have won the right to host the 2021 Ice Hockey World Championship, with group round and quarterfinal matches being held in Minsk and Riga, while the semi-finals and medal meetings are hosted by the Belarusian capital



INTERNATIONAL

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## Under the sign 'Night of Museums'

Dozens of museums in Belarus joined the international campaign last weekend, offering a diverse night programme



## More residents registered

Last year, for the first time in nearly twenty-five years, a natural increase was recorded in the population

By Olga Savitskaya

The number of Belarusians is growing. As of January 1st, 2016, there were 9,498,364 people living in the country; one year on, the figure is 9,504,704. The rural population is falling and the number of city residents is growing, as the National Statistical Committee confirms. These trends, focusing on regions, districts, cities and villages, give much food for thought.

Speaking of the regions, Minsk leads, with almost two million residents, and growing by 15,000 annually. At the moment, over 1,974,000 people live in the capital. In addition, 13,000 more citizens have been registered in Gomel, partly due to the village of Kostyukovka being added to the city's territory (in early 2016, it was home to 9,900 residents). Brest and Grodno



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

### POPULATION IN CITIES

City	2016	2017	%
Gomel	521 542	535 229	2.64
Brest	340 141	343 985	1.13
Grodno	365 610	368 710	0.84
Minsk	1 959 781	7 974 819	0.76
Mogilev	378 077	380 440	0.62
Vitebsk	368 754	369 933	0.36

have risen by at least 3,000 people, while Mogilev is now inhabited by an extra 2,000 residents, and 1,500 new residents have joined Vitebsk.

The country's largest cities

lead, as is expected, with Minsk and Gomel being followed by Mogilev (380,000), Vitebsk (369,000) and Grodno (368,000). Meanwhile, Minsk's satellite-towns are

all demonstrating a rise along the demographic curve. Some have increased seriously, while others have demonstrated a slight rise. For example, Dzerzhinsk, Zaslavl and Logoisk have increased in size by over 200 people since last year, while Fanipol has risen by 700 residents. Molodechno's population has also increased, as has that of Stolin, Gorki, Dobrush, Oshmyany, Luninets, Myadel, Kalinkovichi and Skidel. Ostrovets, owing to the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant, has grown quickly, from 9,500 in early 2016 to over 10,200.

Of all districts in the region, Ostrovets boasts the most favour-

able situation for employment, with seventeen vacancies for each person officially registered as unemployed. The Slonim District Employment Service has taken advantage of the situation, inviting representatives of Belenergostroy to a recent job fair, to chat about working conditions, and encourage interest in application. Around twenty-five people out of a hundred invited to interview have received jobs in Ostrovets.

Irina Talchuk, the Chair of the Ostrovets District Council of Deputies, comments, "Our town is young and dynamically developing. New people are coming here to settle and raise families. Not long ago, 267 young professionals — teachers, doctors, workers of agriculture and forestry, policemen and rescuers — were employed in the town. Many companies and organisations are ready to assist with hostels for their workers. A new gymnasium and kindergarten for 190 children have also opened."

Sadly, some districts in Belarus are declining in size, such as the Rossony District, which is down to 9,351 residents, from 9,517 a year ago. The Krasnopolie District has lost almost the same number, now having 9,520 residents, and the Dribin District has 9,871 people, against 10,100 in 2016. All have a high percentage of rural residents. In the Dribin District, there are almost twice the number of villagers to urban citizens. Most are elderly. Meanwhile, the Rossony District Executive Committee states that its birth rate is steadily increasing.

## Forestalling and prevention

By Yevgeny Kononov

**I'm not a football fan — being mostly attracted to hockey. However, I've often heard of fans who come to the stadium and behave aggressively, breaking both the law and the basic rules of behaviour. They stop respectable people from enjoying the game. In the future, these so-called fans could be prohibited from entering stadiums or other sports facilities: the House of Representatives has approved at the first reading, amendments to legislation for the protection of public order and public safety during competitions and sports events.**

"The Code of Administrative Offences has introduced a new type of administrative

penalty: the ban on entering sports facilities on days when they host sports events and competitions," the Deputy Interior Minister, Nikolay Melchenko, explained. "The ban is set exclusively by the court, for a period of three months to three years."

The 'banned list' will include those who have behaved improperly during sporting events. The list of offenses is impressive and includes 33 articles from the Code. These proposed measures are not new in the world of sport. In some countries, they have been in force since the 1970s. The Deputy Minister named France and the United Kingdom as examples; there, 'criminal' fans are not allowed to visit stadiums for five years. Russia has recently introduced similar restrictions — bans remain in force for seven years. In addition, neighbouring coun-



Fans in safety

tries have developed the idea of a 'fan passport' for the upcoming FIFA World Cup. MPs propose to consider the introduction of such a document in Belarus as well.

In the meantime, information on problematic fans is to be placed on the Interior Ministry's website, making it available to all. Deputy Alexander Bogdanovich explained that the new law infringes nobody. "However, we should pro-

tect law-abiding fans — who love sports and support their teams — from misbehaviour, aggression, manifestation of extremism and other provocative actions," he said.

According to the Interior Ministry, there are about 130 people already registered as 'negative' fans; most of them live in Minsk and the Minsk Region. The figure is not large but forestalling poor behaviour is always appreciated.

## Honoured to stand on the podium

By Olga Pasiyak

**Belarusian students are once again amongst the best at the International Contest for International Law in Washington. At the 'Olympic Games' for future lawyers, held since 1957, the team of the International Relations Faculty of the Belarusian State University won the 'Demonstrative Performances' category.**

This year, the competition gathered students from over 90 countries. The tasks have traditionally represented a game model of the UN International Court of Justice, while the topic for improvised litigation was the equitable use of water resources, the right to water and responsibility for its violation. Speakers also lectured on the protection of cultural values.

The BSU was represented

by third-year student Lilit Yeritsyan and fourth-year students Margarita Zmachinskaya, Yelizaveta Chekanova and Darya Bogdan. In its winning category, the team beat competitors from 17 countries, including the Sorbonne, the University of Verona and Kiev University (named after T. Shevchenko). Darya Bogdan also celebrated a personal victory, being recognised as the best speaker in the 'Demonstrative Performances' section. The girls were trained by the experienced Yelena Konnova — a senior lecturer at the Department of International Law at the Belarusian State University.

Last year, the team from BSU's International Relations Faculty also celebrated victory. The students developed, in English, tactical methods of protection and accusations on the topic of cyberspace crime.

## Friends with high mutual regard

### President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, presents Order of Friendship of Peoples to President of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolić, at Palace of Independence

By Vasily Kharitonov

The state award has been bestowed for a significant contribution to strengthening peace, friendly relations and co-operation between Belarus and Serbia. During the meeting in Minsk, attended by the Serbian President on a working visit, Alexander Lukashenko and Tomislav Nikolić discussed the state of Belarusian-Serbian relations, as well as the implementation of projects and results of collaboration over the last few years. The presidents also shared opinions on the political agenda and other acute issues.

So far, the President of Belarus has been to Serbia four times.

Serbians highly appreciate the goodwill and support provided by Minsk, to Belgrade, and to the whole world in the late 1990s. Mr. Nikolić said that his nation well remembers the visit of Alexander Lukashenko at the time when Yugoslavia was bombed by NATO aircraft. He underlined, "This gesture, performed by you [Mr. Lukashenko] was a gesture on behalf of the whole Belarusian nation."

Belarus and Serbia have been long co-operating within international organisations, providing assistance to each other. Moreover, in recent years, interaction between Belarusian and Serbian regions has intensified. Fifteen Belarusian towns, including all regional centres, have established twin-town relations with Serbian towns.

From 2009-2015, trade turnover between our two countries increased 4.7-fold, to exceed \$250 million. From January-March 2017, bilateral trade reached \$54.5 million, up 25.6 percent on the same period of 2016. Belarusian exports to Serbia more than doubled.



Alexander Lukashenko congratulates Tomislav Nikolić on the award

Several enterprises using Serbian capital have been registered in Belarus, while assembly facilities for Belarusian tractors and buses are operating in Serbia. New joint industrial co-operation projects are being considered and Belarus continues its co-operation with Serbian partners as part of 'Mayak Minsk' and 'Minsk-Mir Experimental Multi-functional Complex' projects.

The tenure of Tomislav Nikolić ends on May 31st, when the president-elect, Aleksandar Vučić, will take over. This should open a new page in the development

of good relations between Minsk and Belgrade. Mr. Nikolić plans to continue work in this direction.

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Mr. Lukashenko notes, "I met with Serbian president-elect Aleksandar Vučić in Beijing and noticed that the foundation we'd laid to restore

friendly relations between the Orthodox nations of Belarus and Serbia has been strengthening. I'm saying this because I see that the president-elect is also committed to this policy. I think that Tomislav will be a great goodwill ambassador for the Serbian and Belarusian peoples and will help strengthen our friendship. I strongly hope for this."

The guest responded, "We've known Aleksandar Vučić for twenty-five years. He conducts the same policy, so nothing will change in our relations. We've agreed with him, and with the President of Russia

and the President of China, that I'll take the role of co-ordinating co-operation with the Russian Federation and China. My role may be the same regarding Belarus... Our relations have reached such a level that they won't ever worsen."

Minsk-Belgrade relations have deep roots, a confident future and clear horizons.

On April 2nd, Serbia hosted the presidential election, won by Aleksandar Vučić, the current prime minister and leader of the Serbian Progressive Party. The inauguration ceremony is scheduled for May 31st, 2017. The tenure of Tomislav Nikolić, who did not run for a second term, will end the same day.

Mr. Lukashenko emphasises that he appreciates the position of Mr. Nikolić in relation to Belarus. "This position is as follows: before the election as president, Tomislav Nikolić came to Belarus. He openly, honestly, and sincerely supported our country, and took a resolute position in favour of the protection of the interests of the Belarusian people," notes the President of Belarus. "We must co-operate with presidents. It doesn't matter if we like each other or not; we must take existing circumstances into account. As a person, before being elected, Tomislav Nikolić had a special attitude towards our country."

Mr. Lukashenko asked Mr. Nikolić not to stand aside from relations between Belarus and Serbia, but to keep them in sight, visiting Belarus more often and giving recommendations. "I think that Tomislav will be a great goodwill ambassador for the Serbian and Belarusian peoples and will help strengthen our friendship. I strongly hope for this," summed up the Belarusian Head of State.

## Bilateral potential to be fully maximised

By Alexander Pimenov

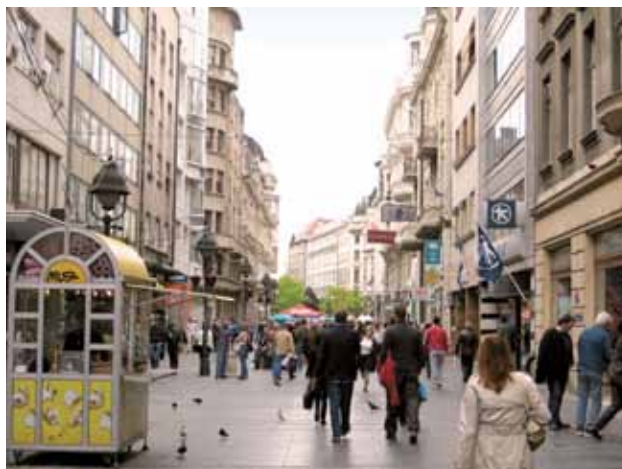
### Fourth session of Belarusian-Serbian working group on co-operation in agriculture and food held in Belgrade

The two sides exchanged information on trade in agricultural and food products between Serbia and Belarus. In particular, the Belarusian representatives expressed a readiness to export potato, dairy and flour products to Serbia. The parties also agreed to intensify co-operation in veterinary and phytosanitary activities.

Moreover, an agreement was reached to continue the

production of seeds of Belarusian varieties in Serbia. Belarus reaffirmed interest in producing parental varieties of corn, Alfalfa, sugar beet, sunflower, garlic and pumpkin in Serbia. The working group recommended that the parties work out every possible option and discuss further prospects for mutually beneficial co-operation with research organisations on the matter. The Belarusian delegation invited its Serbian counterparts to visit the *Belagro-2017* exhibition which is due to be held in Minsk in June.

The parties agreed on the



On Belgrade's streets

need to maximise the potential to boost trade in animal products that are subject to veterinary control; to step up collaboration between the

corresponding veterinary services of the two countries with a view to familiarisation with the system of issuing certificates of safety for

Belarusian animal products bound for export to Serbia; as well as with the rules for transporting products of vegetable and animal origin to and through Belarus via the authorised border crossing points.

In the phytosanitary area, the two parties were unanimous in agreement on the need to develop interaction between competent phytosanitary services of the two countries through the exchange of information. This will be with the view of using the best mechanisms of revealing and preventing the falsification of phytosanitary certificates

in the import of vegetable products to the market of Belarus and the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Belarusian agricultural delegation visited the fields of the Serbian seed-production farm Smedex Co. The company has already launched a project for multiplying Belarusian Alfalfa and sugar beet on the request of Belarusian agricultural companies. Belarusian agrarians also visited the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops (Novi Sad) with which Belarus liaises on the selection and seed production of corn, sunflower, and permanent grasses.

## Old homes better than two new

### Minsk is upgrading three hundred panel houses this year

By German Moskalenko

#### Roof mansards

Minsk has its share of old houses perceived as eyesores, just as they in Moscow. 'Khrushchevka' buildings are found in the city centre, taking up a lot of space and failing to provide desirable accommodation. In the 1990s, Belarusian experts offered two ways forward for old residential areas: demolition or reconstruction. The first was too costly, being estimated at forty percent of the cost of building new houses. The second envisaged the addition of one or two floors, replacing utility lines and involving architectural re-planning.

Accordingly, in the late 1990s, Minsk rebuilt no more than ten such blocks, adding larger rooms, creating recessed balconies, and adding such features as rubbish chutes and rood mansards.

#### Clothes for old walls

People still joke about how tiny 'Khrushchevka' flats were. However, this form of housing accommodated an entire generation of Soviet citizens. In Minsk, of almost 2,500 five-storied buildings, more than 1,300 need repair. The situation is less drastic than it is in Moscow, however, since our construction began later, in the 1960s. The city has very few of the first wave thin-walled panel buildings.

Recently, suggestions were put forward, again, to demolish this part of our Soviet heritage. Nevertheless,



VITALY GIL

though this housing was considered as 'temporary', it's capable of lasting for 125 years, making repair a viable option, according to Belzhilproekt Institute, which has prepared modernisation plans.

Belzhilproekt tells us

that roofs can be replaced, alongside water and sewerage pipes, and electricity cables, while entrance halls can be renovated and insulation improved, with outer walls given a special, insulating layer. However, additional building of mansards

is considered unprofitable.

Another programme of major repair for Minsk 'Khrushchevka' buildings has been developed at the Institute for the period up to 2020, with an estimated cost per square metre of 30,500 Russian Roubles.

"Design estimate documentation on major repairs will be ready soon, with works carried out on 118 facilities," says Vitaly Smirnov, the Director General of Minsk City Housing and Communal Services. This year, we plan to repair 296 houses."

In February, Minsk City Council deputies approved a list of events under the state programme *Comfortable Housing and Favourable Environments*, which aims to raise major repairs on a third of properties: from 695,000 square metres to one million annually. Demolishing of 'Khrushchevka' buildings, in Minsk and across other Belarusian cities, is liable to take place only two or three decades ahead.

#### ACCORDING TO THE LAW

### Exchanging metres for plots of land

Islands of old housing are being demolished in Minsk. According to the Housing Code of Belarus, owners receive, in exchange, an apartment or indemnity payment, at the rate reflecting the value of the demolished home. If a new apartment costs less than the old, owners receive the difference but no repayment is necessary where the case is opposite.

New apartments should cover an area of at least the same floor footprint as the demolished home, with a minimum of 15 square metres per family member. At the same time, local authorities can offer private homeowners an apartment in a new residential district, using the secondary housing fund, or a plot of land on which to build, in any number of locations.

#### PERSONAL OPINION

**Oksana Gaiduk, the Deputy Chair of the Standing Commission on Housing Policy and Construction, of the National Assembly of Belarus, and a member of the Parliamentary Assembly on Budget and Finance:**

We need to demolish dilapidated housing, as it's impossible for modern people to live in such buildings. Moreover, the cost of services is much higher than in modern homes. In the Belarusian Parliament, I represent the Moskovsky District of the capital, which has large volumes of private housing. Old houses are being demolished and residents relocated. Some are unhappy about it. Not because of the fact of demolition but because they're dissatisfied with the alternative they're being offered. However, we're working on this problem. There's no programme on demolition planned for 'Khrushchevka' buildings in Minsk, as all are considered to still be liveable in, though they are included in the major repair programme.

#### HERITAGE

## Factories are no longer located on city outskirts

Some buildings in Minsk are in worse condition, but the authorities have no plans to destroy them. After the war, large plants making tractors and automobiles launched in Minsk, with housing mushrooming around them, including private sector housing of two and three-stories.

Such factories were originally on the outskirts but, fifty years later, the tractor plant, for example, is almost in the capital's centre and most of the nearby homes are dilapidated. Repairs would be very expensive, but these buildings are no longer of an acceptable standard, so the decision is obvious. They need



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

Housing development near Minsk Tractor Works

to be demolished, with modern, high-rise buildings constructed on the same site. It's the most logical answer financially. However, it's

argued that these buildings have historic significance, being part of the capital's cultural heritage.

The chief architect of Minsk-

grado, Alexander Akentiev, explains, "The tractor district is a unique architectural site from the post-war period, based on quarter

planning. However, reconstruction of such houses involves significant financial expense."

The city centre has several such areas, and their fate is yet to be decided. Minsk residents have defended the Osmolovka suburb, where Minsk's automobile and tractor plants are located. There are even tours to this district for fans of architecture, and a petition has been raised to protest against demolition. Meanwhile, in other districts of the city, such as around Novovilenskaya Street, older buildings are being systematically demolished, and modern homes are taking their place.

# Medicine for health

The development of modern, convenient and effective forms of medicine will determine the progress of Belarusian pharmaceuticals. Plans also include the further development of targeted medicines and the production of import-substituting generic drugs.

By Olga Kosyakova

Last year, the Belarusian pharmaceutical market exceeded \$630m, with the share of locally produced medicines standing at over 50 percent. Overall, more than 4,500 medicines are registered in the country. Tatiana Tumelya — the Head of the Department of Organisation of Production and Long-Term Development in the Pharmaceutical Industry Department at the Ministry of Health — outlined the focus of the industry, “The production of generic drugs — equal in quality and efficiency to the original medicines — is an important area for development. Our own products are more moderately priced, as they reduce

the country’s dependence on imports. In the next five years, we will focus on the development of modern and effective medicines in solid dosage forms with modified release, as well as in convenient packaging in cartridges and pre-filled syringes. In addition,

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we will produce drugs for targeted, or molecular-targeted, therapy.”

In 2016, 116 new domestically produced medicines were registered in the country. “We are working in two di-

rections,” Ms. Tumelya comments. “The first is connected with the localisation of production of transnational companies. At the initial stage, we organise the packing of foreign medicines domestically — including original preparations. We then develop full cycle production of our own medicines, using both our own and imported substances.”

Last year, the country faced a serious problem with hepatitis C drugs. Foreign companies offered new drugs in solid form.

They are effective and well accepted by patients but extremely expensive, at \$16,000 per package. It was difficult to provide patients with treatment at such rates. Specialists found a way out, as Yelena

Kalinichenko, Deputy Director for Scientific and Innovative Work at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences, explains, “We organised the re-packaging of an Egyptian company’s drug. It will be packed and controlled by us. However, we are interested in full cycle production, to enable us to track all stages independently. Specialists at a Belarusian company have proposed the development of a technology to produce a drug against hepatitis from purchased ingredients. Tests were carried out and positive results obtained on the efficacy and safety of the drug. Documents for the registration of our own preparation are being prepared. In addition, we will work to produce combined modern medicines against hepatitis C this year.”

According to the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology and Med-

ical Radiology, 45,000 new cancer patients were registered in 2016. Each year, their number rises by 3 percent and the entire world is in search of new drugs against various forms of cancer.

“It is important to provide as many patients as possible with modern effective medicines, because state medicine is at the expense of taxpayers,” says Ms. Kalinichenko. “We produce antitumor drugs — including those produced domestically.” This approach makes it possible to save state funds and patients’ money, while still receiving modern treatment.

The modern market now offers a domestic generic drug for treatment of lung cancer. One bottle of the original chemotherapy drug cost \$2,600, with 5-7 bottles needed for a single course. At present, Belarusian pharmacists make both a chemical and a ready-made dosage

form; the medicine is half the cost of the imported original. It is being registered in Russia and Kazakhstan and costs of treatment are expected to reduce even further.

Modern pharmaceutical development is also focusing on targeted therapy drugs. This newest development is being successfully applied in oncology practice. Target drugs affect the tumour itself, without affecting healthy cells. Leukaemia is well treated at present while liver and kidney cancer is more difficult to cure. Specialists are developing a new medicine for neoplasm in these organs. “The chemical and the finished dosage form are being registered now,” said Ms. Kalinichenko. “This treatment will be cheaper than the original. Some patients don’t believe that a cheap domestic drug can be as effective as an overseas one, but this is certainly the case.”



TATIANA STOLYAROVA

Medicine producing section at Belmedpreparaty enterprise

# What robots can do

Belarus’ first large specialised exhibition of robotechnics, Internet of things (IoT) and innovation technology, *Roboticon*, takes place in Minsk

By Yulia Vasilishina

The organisers of the event gathered in one venue, household, industrial and educational robots while also showing the opportunities for unmanned aerials and 3D printing. Robotic tournaments were held, in addition to a competition for start-up companies, master classes for children and adults and *HARD-2017* conference, attended by experts from the CIS, Europe and the USA.

“Everything began last year when, in May, we suggested the Minsk Palace of Children and Youth organise a forum of robotechnics, *Roboticon*. The idea received lots of support and in one day, with practically no advertising, the exhibition and competitions were attended by a thousand people. It was a great success. We saw that the interest of the wider public is growing and decided to continue with the project. During preparation, it became clear that a

large venue was needed to accommodate all those who wish to take part, so the Football Manege was chosen. Robotechnics in our country is ready for such a large-scale exhibition,” said Alexey Vetryakov, head of the project.

*Roboticon* was aimed at demonstrating this point. The forum was conventionally divided into several parts. *EXPO* is an exhibition with developments from leading world and domestic producers of robots,



ARTUR PRUPAS

At *Roboticon-2017* exhibition

drones and 3D printing technology. *Start-up space* is where start-ups in the sphere of robotechnics are assessed and receive assistance from experts, while *Education* is a venue for tournaments, reports and

practical classes on robot assembly and programming. Finally, the *HARD-2017* conference saw representatives of the IoT-industry and robotechnics discussing the latest trends.



# Change of some rules for airline passengers

Our specialists are attentively analysing the consequences of shifting air flights from Minsk to international sectors of Russian airports. The Russian side has introduced border control for aircraft and passengers travelling to and from Belarus.

By Alexander Nesterov

Belavia Airline and Minsk National Airport have recently reported that the scheme of passenger handling doesn't change in our country. Those who fly to Russia through Minsk airport need to present their ID and a migration card, filled in upon the arrival in Belarus.

Meanwhile, passengers travelling to Russia via Minsk's airport

need only to present their ID and immigration card, as usual, while citizens of Belarus and the Russian Federation should present ID and a boarding pass confirming arrival or departure, with citizens checked at a specially dedicated corridor.

Moscow airports have warned passengers in advance about the innovation. From Sheremetyevo, Aeroflot flights to Minsk leave from Terminal D, while passengers arrive

at Terminal F from the Belarusian capital. The sector now has booths 'for citizens of the Union State coming from the Republic of Belarus'.

Terminals have information signs to show specially allocated corridors for citizens of Russia and Belarus. Importantly, no stamp is required in travellers' passports. Meanwhile, representatives of other countries, and those without citizenship, pass through standard

border control.

Domodedovo (where Belavia sends its planes) has one terminal, while those going to Belarus now use not the right but the left wing of the complex.

Social networks and forums are already featuring the responses of first passengers. As they report, everything is fine, since the dedicated windows for passport control prevent over-long queues.

# Place for excursions and master classes

By Olga Korneeva

**Belarus' first museum of ice-cream, entitled White Pole, opens in Minsk**

The ice-cream museum has opened in the Galleria Minsk trade centre. It's in an area equal to four tennis courts, housing amusements and exhibits. All visitors to the museum will be able to sit in a replica of an ice-cream café, opened in Paris in 1860, to see what the world's biggest ice cream looked like, and find themselves in a factory which produced ice-cream of the same name (Bely Polus — White Pole) as well as tasting the product.

Such museums exist in many



At White Pole Museum

cities of the world, such as in New York and Dublin, enjoying popularity among local residents and tourists. An ice-cream museum

has opened in Los Angeles in recent days. Curator of Minsk's ice-cream museum, Olga Tishkevich, noted that using foreign

experience, its founders tried not to lose our national identity. The work to set up the museum was conducted with historians, technologist and artists. Special attention is paid to the educational part of the museum, where more than 20 zones tell visitors about the history, tastes and evolution of the iced delicacy. Visitors will be able to see a separate stand for Belarusian ice-cream, as well as amusements that will explain everything about taste, composition and production.

According to the organisers, the museum of ice-cream will become a place for excursions, as well as for master classes, educational lectures and parties.

## Books on wheels

By Tatiana Kondratieva

**Unusual cycling library opened in Grodno Region's Skidel**

Such libraries can be seen in many countries of the world. These are special boxes or baskets which are fixed on a bicycle trailer. In warm weather this bicycle can easily get to remote villages or city parks to give books to all those who want them. Deputy Director for Library Work at Grodno District Cultural and Information Centre, Anna Simonenko, tells us about their first experience, "We purchased a special three-wheeled bicycle, equipped with baskets for books. It will go initially to veterans, invalids and pensioners who are unable to independently visit a library. From now on, books will become nearer and more available for this category of citizens. In total, the *Book Bike* project has been developed to promote literature in society and to involve young people in the reading process."

## Bird's rights for Stonechat

By Dmitry Umpirovich

**Even the most experienced ornithologists didn't expect the Siberian Stonechat would ever be seen in Belarus**

Few might imagine that this rare bird — which nests near Arkhangelsk and in Western Siberia and spends the winter in India or Thailand — would be discovered in our country. However, the fact is indisputable as Polesie's photographer Andrey Shevchik captured a photo of the bird in the Nenach floodplain.

Representatives of APB BirdLife in Belarus state that, until recently, they've seen only two chat type birds: whinchat and stonechat. The latter began nesting 16 years ago in Western Polesie.

"As regards the Siberian Stonechat, it was once — 17 years ago — seen in Lithuania. Again in May of 2015 and October of 2016 it was seen in Poland. Its migration routes are far away from our country so its presence here is probably accidental. Some birds have risky adventures which — though accidentally — help them find new suitable areas for settlement. A typical example was that of two Belarusian cuckoos — which our organisation was tracking online — who returned to the homeland from South Africa not by their usual route through Egypt but through Spain," explained the APB BirdLife Belarus Director, Alexander Vinchevsky. The Belarusian Commission on Ornithological Fauna is now expected to officially confirm the amateur ornithologist's discovery. Meanwhile, 329 species of birds are registered in Belarus, while others — including the Siberian Stonechat — are on the waiting list.

# Rogachev originates from word 'rog', meaning horn

City in the Gomel Region founded more than seven hundred years ago on beautiful hill, where the River Dnieper meets the River Drut



STANISLAV GALKOVSKY

Stone on Zamkovaya Hill

By Violetta Dralyuk

## Visiting Milan Princess

It was 15,000 years ago when people first arrived on the bank of the River Dnieper. The city's layers of history remain intact beneath the earth, making Rogachev a 'library' of antiquities. There is even talk of a national archaeological park. The largest find so far is the Vishchin treasures, dating from the 12th century, featuring rare grivnas-ingots from Kiev, Novgorod and Lithuania, as well as silver decorations.

In the 16th century, Rogachev became the property of Bona Sforza, a Milanese princess, who became Queen Consort of Poland, Grand Duchess Consort of Lithuania, and the second wife of Polish King Sigismund I the Old.

An Italianate palace once stood on Zamkovaya Hill, on the bank of the River Dnieper. It no longer stands, but today's city plan began with the streets which Bona Sforza designed.

## Looking into the Lake together with Vasnetsov's 'Alyonushka'

Such Belarusian authors as Vladimir Korotkevich and Mikhas Lynkov, as well as playwright Andrey Makaenok, were born in the city. Meanwhile, the Russian Vasnetsov brothers once stayed on the Rogachev estate, belonging to the writer Vladimir Kign-Dedlov, in the 19th century. It's believed that painted the famous *Alyonushka* canvas was painted from a vantage point on the banks of Lake Fedorovskoye.

One of best graphic artists of the 20th century, Anatoly Kaplan, was born there too. Often com-



VLADIMIR SHLAPAK

Festivities during Belarusian Written Language Day, in Rogachev



DMITRY IVCHENKO



VLADIMIR SHLAPAK

Near the town's symbol

pared to Marc Chagall, he loved to explore the theme of his hometown. Chagall painted Vitebsk, while Kaplan portrayed Rogachev, though they lived in cultural capitals (one in Paris and the other in Leningrad).

The Museum of National Glory of Rogachev has examples of his works. In recent years, international art experts have gathered in the city to attend seminars on Kaplan.



DMITRY IVCHENKO

## Amulets in shape of dolls

Near the city is our only 'Belarusian doll' museum, located in the village of Strenki. It observes all the traditions of our ancestors, including the making of doll talismans.

For centuries, new wives would place a talisman in the shape of a doll in their dowry chest, to bring good fortune to their marriage. A 'Vezunchik' charm was of-

ten placed over the door, to attract good luck and contain it within the home. Meanwhile, a 'Pelenashka' talisman was hidden away from prying eyes, to encourage the coming of babies; these were full-breasted, as would be needed for nursing an infant.

Amulets were woven and plaited, and were created without faces, so that malicious forces wouldn't recognise their owners. Visitors



SERGEY LOZYUK

Monument to condensed milk

to the museum can learn to make them with their own hands.

## Legendary condensed milk

The entrance to Rogachev is crowned with the famous blue and white condensed milk can monument, recognised across the USSR.

The local dairy and canning plant still exports to dozens of nations worldwide. During the lean years, making caramel from condensed milk was a treat for every family. Even today, visitors can hardly leave without buying a can of the local delicacy.

The local dairy plant also produces the tastiest Belarusian cheese, 'Parmesan 'Bravo'', following a recipe from the times of Princess Bona Sforza.

## Life-giving water

Near the city, in a wonderful pine forest on the bank of the River Dnieper, is the largest Belarusian sanatorium, Pridneprovsky, which is famous far beyond our borders. Vouchers for this Belarusian health resort, famous for its Lake Svyatoye mud and its waters, sell out long in advance. Its mineral springs and therapeutic muds are thought to rejuvenate the skin, treat joints, calm nerves and energise the body.

Rogachev landscapes are full of beautiful forests and meadows, for exploration on foot or by road. It is a land of poets and soldiers, romanticists and people of strong spirit. It is rich in legends and tales, proverbs and sayings, interesting names and local stories, each defining the history, culture and traditions of this magical place.

Rogachev invites us to experience these joys for ourselves, to drink in its spiritual energy, and to discover something new.

# ECB's journey out of stimulus is still unclear

European Central Bank policymakers are preparing to dial back their extraordinary stimulus measures if the economy continues to improve, but that course of action is not yet certain

Inflation and economic growth in the Eurozone have rebounded, but the bloc's central bankers have yet to be convinced that this recovery would continue if their 2.3 trillion Euros (\$2.55 trillion) money printing programme and ultra-low rates are taken away.

Such caution underpinned the ECB's decision to keep its policy unchanged at its April meeting and was confirmed by comments by rate setters Benoit Coeure, Jens Weidmann and Vitas Vasiliauskas.

This suggests policymakers are unlikely to make major changes when they meet again on June 8th, opting instead for a small nod to the improved growth outlook.

Still, Coeure, an Executive Board member seen as a close ally of president Mario Draghi, said the ECB should not wait too long to take away its monetary support once it is satisfied that Eurozone's inflation has reached its target of almost 2 percent in a durable way.

"Too much gradualism in monetary policy bears the risk of larger market adjustments when the decision is eventually taken," Coeure said. But he may face



some resistance on a still overwhelmingly cautious Governing Council, where the governors of the Eurozone's 19 national central banks sit alongside the six members of the Executive Board.

"After a long period of very accommodative monetary conditions, even small and incremental changes in communication could have strong signalling effects when interpreted as heralding a change

in the monetary policy stance," the ECB said. Analysts expect no major change on June 8th beyond a slight tweak in the policy message to reflect an improvement in the economic outlook.



## Self-driving cars can reshape the future

**As self-driving cars hit the road, real estate development may take new direction**

The futuristic vision offered by automated vehicles — the freedom to be active during your commute instead of wasting away behind the wheel while stuck in traffic — isn't quite as utopian a scenario when you run it past cautious and concerned city planners. According to Don Elliott, a zoning consultant and Director at Clarion Associates in Denver, the idea of empty cars congesting

city streets and mobile offices zipping around main roads can become downright dystopian.

"I've seen the blood run out of people's faces," he says when talking about the impact of automated vehicles on transportation, land use, and real estate. "For years, planners have been fighting for a 1 or 2 percent change in transportation mode [getting more people to use transit or bike instead of drive]. With this technology, everything goes out the window. It's a nightmare."

## Oil rises ahead of OPEC, key producers pledging cuts

**Oil prices rose in a volatile session on growing signs that key oil producers will adhere to production cuts at forthcoming OPEC meeting amidst a persistent global glut**

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producers including Russia pledged to cut output by almost 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in the first half of 2016, a deal likely to be extended until the end of March 2018.

Leaders from OPEC and other producers meet in Vienna on May 25th to decide on output policy. The group is expected to prolong its agreement to limit production for up to nine months.



A surplus of US supply has led to large volumes of crude being exported from the United States to northern Asia, undermining OPEC-led efforts to tighten the market.

Shipping data shows that US crude exports to Asia have soared from a handful of tankers a quarter throughout 2015 and 2016 to 10 tankers in the first quarter of 2017 and that figure is expected to rise.

## EU fines Facebook 110 million Euros over WhatsApp deal

**European Union antitrust regulators fined Facebook 110 million Euros (\$122 million) for giving misleading information during a vetting of its deal to acquire messaging service WhatsApp in 2014**

Calling it a 'proportionate and deterrent fine', the European Commission, which acts as the EU's competition watchdog, said Facebook had said it could not automatically match user accounts on its namesake platform and WhatsApp but two years later launched a service that did exactly that.

Facebook said in a statement the errors made in its 2014 filings were not intentional and that the Commission had confirmed they had not affected the outcome of the merger review.

## Coastal flooding 'could double within next 13 years'

**Just a two inch rise in sea level, the least worst case scenario predicted by experts, will lead to twice as many floods in many parts of the world as early as 2030, say scientists**

The findings follow warnings that millions living near Britain's coast are likely to be hit with the most vulnerable areas including South Wales, north-west Scotland, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, East Anglia and the Thames estuary.

In the UK, flooding already causes £1bn of damage every year on average, but the risks will rise yet further as climate change leads to more intense rainfall.

## UK wage growth falls behind inflation

**British pay growth lagged inflation for the first time in two-and-a-half years in early 2017, underscoring the growing Brexit squeeze facing many households**

Excluding bonuses, earnings rose by 2.1 percent year-on-year, the weakest increase since July 2016 and below expectations for a 2.2 percent rise. That meant pay, adjusted for inflation, fell by 0.2 percent in the first three months of the year, the first fall since the third quarter of 2014. While wage growth is weak, there are other signs of continued strength.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



## Bright meetings in land of famous forefathers

Exhibition of works from collection of Maciej Mikołaj Radziwiłł, *Radziwiłłs: Fates of the Country and the Family*, at National Art Museum of Belarus, is landmark event for national culture, with picturesque and graphic portraits, miniatures, medals, and artistic fabrics on display for first time to wider public

By Veniamin Mikheev

The project showcases a gallery of famous representatives of our shared history: Barbara Radziwiłł, the Queen of Poland; her father Jerzy Radziwiłł, known as the Lithuanian Hercules; Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł 'Sierotka', the founder of Nesvizh residence; his brother Jerzy, the Cardinal and Bishop of Krakow; Katarzyna Sobieska, the sister of the King of Poland, Jan III Sobieski; Michal Kazimierz Radziwiłł 'Rybeńko', the founder of Slutsk sash manufacturing; and Karol Stanislaw Radziwiłł 'Panie Kochanku', known for his freedom-loving lifestyle and independent nature, as a member of the nobility of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Undoubtedly, the collection is priceless, including some unique, single-copy portraits, such as that of Maria Cecilia Sieniawska (born Radziwiłł), Antonina Aniela Radziwiłł (born Miączyńska) and Teofilia Magdalena Brzostowska (born Radziwiłł).

The exhibition features portraits by famous European artists: Italian Marcello Bacciarelli, who worked at the Court of Stanislaw August Poniatowski; Austrian Franz Xaver Lampi, the son of famous Johann Baptist Lampi the Elder; and engravings by Flemish master Dominicus Custos, who worked at the Court of Rudolph II, in Prague.

Portraits of the Radziwiłł dukes from the collection of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus are included, stored at Nesvizh Castle until 1939. Moreover, the National Library has kindly donated rare black-letter books and a photo album of the Radziwiłłs, dedicated to hunting. In addition, there are documents dealing with the nationalisation of Nesvizh in the early 20th century, provided by the National Archives of Belarus. These significantly supplement the exhibition.

The exhibition is proving to be one of the most popular, having drawn crowds continually since its opening. Never before have so many Radziwiłł portraits been gathered in one place. Mr. Maciej Radziwiłł could spend hours talking about each of the ninety-nine treasures he inherited, found among collectors



Genealogical tree, featuring twenty generations of Radziwiłłs



or bought at auction. Visitors to the museum have been able to listen at leisure, with many approaching to congratulate and thank him. The exhibition halls have hardly had room house everyone. Of course, the Radziwiłł's history is intertwined with that of the country.

One evening was dedicated to a lecture on the various artworks, with the Art Museum hall full to the brim with enthusiasts. Maciej Radziwiłł began by talking about the most precious canvas.

"*Hunting in Nesvizh*, painted by Julian Falat, decorated my childhood dining room. In the winter of 1886, the son of the German emperor, the

future Wilhelm II, arrived in Nesvizh, to stay with the Radziwiłłs, his relatives. The hunt was organised especially for him and various interesting personalities feature in the picture. Of course, the crown prince is in the centre and Anthony Wilhelm Radziwiłł — the Ordinate of Nesvizh — is close by. To the right is my great-great-grandfather Maciej Radziwiłł, who lived in Polonechka, but served as an administrator of the Nesvizh Ordination. Falat himself, who was a friend of Maciej, is also depicted. I knew these paintings as a child, and this is one of my favourites."

Maciej Radziwiłł's family had

difficulty in storing the canvases they saved in the 1930s and 1940s. After the war, his grandmother lived in a small flat and donated over 160 portraits of the first Radziwiłł dukes to Polish museums: copies of 16th century originals, made two centuries later for each Radziwiłł residence. Sadly, only a few dozen remain and are now on display at the Minsk museum, including exalted images of Barbara Radziwiłł, and others found by Maciej Radziwiłł all over Europe. There are also some works from the National Art Museum archives, brought up from the storage rooms and returned from foreign touring exhibitions.

By the end of the year, Maciej Radziwiłł hopes to implement a joint project with the museum, to bring together all Radziwiłł portraits from across Belarus, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and elsewhere, to feature in an illustrated album. It has almost been completed in virtual form, and the Director General of the National Art Museum, Vladimir Prokoptsov, is eager to see a copy in print.

"When we finish building the museum quarter, we'll bring all the Radziwiłł portraits here, and will allow the collection to tour abroad," he explains.

*Radziwiłłs: Fates of the Country and the Family* will move to Gomel's Rumyantsev and Paskevich Palace after its time in Minsk, and will then travel to Polish Biala Podlaska. Meanwhile, Maciej is already preparing for his next visit to Belarus, since the Radziwiłłs plan to conduct their next session in Nesvizh.

Maciej Radziwiłł failed to attend the opening of the exhibition in Minsk, being busy restoring the gallery of his forefathers and helping build and reconstruct railroads. He is considering opening his own business in Belarus, being known already as a consultant on the revival of historical monuments and as a generous patron of arts. Part of his collection has been on show at Nesvizh Castle and the Duke has donated several family artefacts to the Museum-Reserve in Nesvizh. Moreover, a family tree showing twenty generations of Radziwiłłs is to supplement the 'Radziwiłłiana' (an electronic version of the Radziwiłłs' lineage) at the National Art Museum, donated by Maciej Radziwiłł.

Returning to the exhibition, we may say that *Radziwiłłs: the Fate of the Country and the Family* demonstrates the importance of the historical memory of the Belarusian people. It's hard to name another family which has played such a significant role in the history of the country. The achievements of the Radziwiłłs cannot be overestimated, and they continue the tradition of charity and peacemaking. The exhibition emphasises our common historical past and aims to strengthen the cultural ties of Belarus with Ukrainians, Lithuanians, and Poles.

# Oksana Kirilyuk: 'If you want freshness, I will forge it for you'

Belarus' only female blacksmith lives in Molodechno, transforming metal into flowers for the past decade, and defying the idea of pursuits 'suitable' for girls

By Tatiana Mysova

## Shaping her own fortune

Oksana Kirilyuk spends a lot of time at her hearth, but not stirring a cooking pot. Instead, she manipulates heavy pieces of metal at her Bear's Corner workshop. From sunrise to sunset, her hammer knocks the anvil.

Where most girls dream of becoming an actress, wanting to sing and dance on stage, or of meeting their own 'handsome prince' as in fairy tales, Oksana has always had different aspirations. In kindergarten, she dreamt of a ship with scarlet sails; later, she decided that she'd like to be a marine navigator, and studied books on shipbuilding. She planned to enter the Kaliningrad Higher Maritime School, but then found an interest in foreign languages. She taught herself German, deciding to translate scientific literature. After much thought, she entered the Institute of Management and graduated from the Department of International Economic Relations.

However, as she admits, 'I had money but lacked job satisfaction'.

She had always loved to dance and, eventually, set up a ballroom dancing school, called Cascade, in Molodechno. Oksana still works at the Palace of Culture. She also established a horse riding school. "I devoted around two years to this sport, studying horses," she tells us. However, she began to feel that the animals experienced 'real torture' in being ridden, so gave up. Her own horses, Golubika, Geraldika, Govardi and Geteborg, remain with her.

## Show behind glass

Naturally, horses needed stabling and new 'shoes', which can be expensive. This led Oksana to train as a welder and, while passing an internship at the train depot, she went to the forge.

There, she realised that working with fire, water,

iron or wood presented amazing opportunities to express herself creatively.

Oksana continues to build her own smithery, with a glass wall, so she can watch her horses outside. "I love seeing them walk close to me while I'm working," she admits. The word 'smith' applies to men only in the Russian language but female hands can also create miracles. Over the past decade, Oksana has made hundreds of unique sculptures, as well as stairs, fences, arches, chandeliers, flowers and interior items. "This is definitely a hard job. However, it's a false assumption to assert that only men can be blacksmiths. The profession is hard on women and men alike, as it's an aggressive environment. The fire dries out your skin and it's hard on your eyesight, while your spine is affected by lifting heavy lumps of metal. Nevertheless, my job brings me pleasure," she notes.

## Metal should breathe

Oksana's business card reads: 'If you want freshness, I will forge it for you'. She tells us, "The wind is my favourite element. Iron should breathe. I can't explain this feeling but it makes me con-



PAVELCHUIKO

## Oksana Kirilyuk in her blacksmith's workshop

tinuously change the shape of what I'm making." Oksana's next plan is to create a sculpture park. She notes, "Figures should have meaning — each different, depending on the angle, and inspired by the

style of Lewis Carroll, with their own mythology and legends." Oksana's first collection — entitled 'Skone' — is full of the spirit of ancient Sweden, while her second will be devoted to the sea.

## Best books for Polish readers

By Olga Korneeva

### Guests at 8th Warsaw Book Fair view innovations of Belarusian book printing

During the trade fair, the national stand hosted 'Books of the Republic of Belarus', dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. The stand was visited by the Director General of the Warsaw Book Fair, Jacek Oryl, and the President of the Book Publishers Association, Rafal Czapski. Besides showcasing the best books of 2016-2017, state publishing houses' editions were on display — from Mastatskaya Litaratura, Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia, Belarus, Zvyazda Publishing House and Narodnaya Asveta. Volumes are dedicated to Francysk Skaryna and his landmark jubilee. Collections of Belarusian books were also donated to the Cultural Centre of Belarus in Poland.

## All colours of lilac

By Natalia Tyshekevich

### Week of Lilac opens in Central Botanical Garden of National Academy of Sciences

The Central Botanical Garden boasts the country's biggest lilac collection, as launched in 1933, with over 200 varieties — a tenth of the world's assortment. The majority of the collection, recognised as being part of our national heritage, comprises classical varieties of the French selection of the Lemoine family. Developments by Russian and Ukrainian selectionists are also widely represented, in addition to those from Holland, Germany, the Baltic States, Canada and the USA.

# Place where intriguing plots unfold

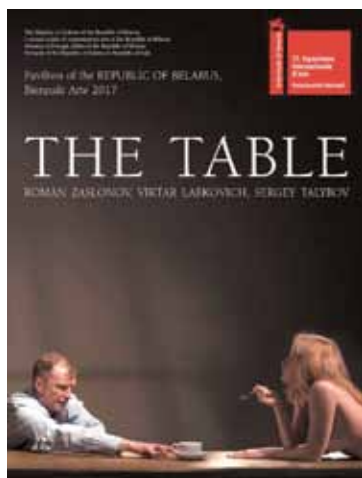
By Alexander Pimenov

## Belarus is represented by the art-project *Stol* (Table) at the 57th international art exhibition in Venice

The project by the famous Belarusian painter Roman Zaslouov debuted at the La Biennale di Venice, Italy. The co-authors are producer Victor Lobkovich and movie director Sergey Talybov. The art project *Stol* is a 32-minute video featuring more than 20 short scenes that occur one after the other with a table in

the background as the key unchanging object. The table is envisaged as a stage where dramatic, comic and philosophical plots unfold. It also acts as the key witness and even actor in each scene. Instead of simply watching developments from afar, viewers are invited to share the table with characters in the video.

The subtle performance by Belarusian actors, painters, and even members of the public, who are in no way connected with the art world, adds vivid individuality and a philosophical ring to the *Stol* pro-



ject, in addition to a wide range of emotions from subtle self-irony to tragic elements. The concept and its implementation follow theme of the 57th international art exhibition in Venice — *Viva arte viva*. Once the biennale is over, Roman Zaslouov's project will go on display at the National Centre of Contemporary Art in Belarus. The Venice project was preceded by a competition for the creation of a concept piece for the pavilion, with 18 applications received. The jury selected Mr. Zaslouov's idea for the forum. 2017 is

the fourth year that representatives of modern Belarusian art have taken part in the international art exhibition in Venice. The national pavilion has been organised by the Belarusian Culture Ministry and the National Centre of Contemporary Art with the assistance of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Belarus in Italy.

The 57th international art exhibition in Venice, one of the world's most prominent forums dedicated to modern art, will continue until late November 2017.

# Minsk to host IIHF World Championship in 4 years

Belarus and Latvia have won the right to host the 2021 Ice Hockey World Championship, with group round and quarterfinal matches being held in Minsk and Riga, while the semi-finals and medal meetings are hosted by the Belarusian capital

By Alexey Grishin

During the first round of voting, at the Congress of the International Ice Hockey Federation, in Cologne, the Belarusian-Latvian application received fifty-four points and the Finns just one point less.

Under the rules of the IIHF, the single transferable vote is not enough; accordingly, a second



Belarusians pass the baton of hockey hospitality

round was held, during which Minsk and Riga won by a margin of three votes (55 to the Finns' 52). The Hyatt Regency Cologne Hotel was the 'secret' venue hosting voting for the world event in 2021.

In Belarus, tournament matches will be hosted at Minsk-Arena (seating 15,086), while Latvia's Arena Riga (seating 10,300) will

welcome spectators. The IIHF plans to hold the 2021 Ice Hockey World Championship from May 7th-23rd.

Sports fans will enjoy a visa-free regime — as during the 2014 World Championship, hosted by Minsk-Arena and Chizhovka-Arena, when an attendance record was set: matches were visited by 643,435 people (an average of 10,064 per

match). The Latvian capital also has successful experience, having hosted the World Championship in 2006.

Coming hosts of the World Championships are, in 2018, Denmark (Copenhagen, Herning), in 2019 — Slovakia (Bratislava, Kosice), and in 2020 — Switzerland (Zurich, Lausanne).

## Boxing gently but firmly

Elections to boxing federations always inspire debate, comprising men unused to compromise. A long stay at the helm of the most courageous federation indicates its quality. Not long ago, former Belarusian boxing legend Dmitry Tikhomolov was re-elected for another term, with some disputes, but unanimously. It was decided that the lack of long-awaited medals at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro could hardly serve as a reason for revolution.

Boxers don't grow like mushrooms in the woods, and giants of this sport come around rarely. Reporting on his achievements, Mr. Tikhomolov spoke of the School Boxing System being introduced nationwide. He listed the names of coaches who've managed to provide the national team with talented young boxers, and related the number of medals won, promising to focus on training of referees and coaches. Sooner or later, Belarusian boxers will reach the Olympic pedestal. Young Dmitry Asanov and Vladislav Smyaglikov are promising hopes for the future, with Vladislav being a true surprise of 2017. He began his training at a paid group and then boxed for an Italian club in the World Series of Boxing. Another dozen boxers have also pleasantly



Belarusian boxer Ivan Baranchik (right)

surprised us at Belarus' recent Qualifying Championship.

Mr. Tikhomolov speaks of these successes with natural pride, assuring us that Belarusian boxing is

progressing along the correct path. "We've worked quite successfully over the last four years and only lacked a medal at the Rio Olympics. After the Games, we developed and

adopted a new training concept for the next cycle. Among other things, this envisages a thorough attitude to potential candidates for the national team. Each sportsman who manages to demonstrate their sporting ability has the chance to join. We'll notice each talented boxer and will guide and train them until they're winning international competitions," he says.

The European Championship — which starts on June 12th — will be the next test for the Belarusian team. It will follow an extensive international training camp; sportsmen from five countries — all European boxing leaders — will join our Belarusian boxers.

The Belarusian Boxing Federation hasn't given up on the idea of establishing its own club within the World Series of Boxing.

## National record set in US Atlanta

By Alexey Grishin

**Swimmer Pavel Sankovich sets new national record in 50m backstroke, covering the distance in 24.81 seconds**

He has beaten his previous record set two years ago. The current record was set by Sankovich at the Arena-Pro Swim Series competition in Atlanta, USA. The tournament is a qualification for the FINA World Aquatics Championship due to take place in Budapest from July 16th-30th. The Belarusian record, set by Pavel Sankovich over the non-Olympic distance of 50m backstroke, is ranked fifth in the world for the current season.

## Worthy performance at domestic tournament

By Semen Bondarev

**Belarusian sambo wrestlers earn 20 awards at European Championship in Minsk**

Yuri Rybak has won the title of European sambo champion on the final day of the tournament, beating Aslan Kambiev of Russia in the over 100kg weight category. Silver went to another Belarusian, Timofey Yemelyanov, who lost to Uali Kurzhev of Russia in the finals, in the under 82kg weight category. Among the women, Kristina Kazanoy (56kg) failed to defeat Anastasia Valova of Russia, finishing second, while Belarusian Anzhela Zhilinskaya, was placed third.

In the combat sambo, the Belarusians claimed two medals at the domestic European Championship, with Vladimir Sutotsky winning silver in the under 90kg category, followed by Ilya Bubnov (68kg), who came third. Belarusian sambo wrestlers earned six medals (one gold, three silver and two bronze) on the final day of the competition alone. Gold medals had previously gone to Alexander Koksha (68kg) and Tatiana Matsko (64kg, with fourteen medals for our Belarusian sambo wrestlers (2, 2, 10) within the first two days. In total, our Belarusian athletes claimed twenty awards (3, 5, 12) at the European Championship in Minsk.

In combat sambo, the Russians claimed nine gold medals, followed by the Ukrainians with four silver and one bronze and the Belarusians (two silver and four bronze medals).

In the women's sport sambo, the Belarusian squad finished third (one gold, two silver and four bronze). There were twenty-seven sets of medals, across nine weight categories for the men and women, and nine weight categories in the combat sambo nomination.

## Contest of the week



Entrants of *Queen Spring* contest enjoy photo session in Minsk's Loshitsa Park

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> May. Forgotten fairy-tales  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Great Rembrandt

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> June. From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. Field of Flowers

#### BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> May. Aviation of Great Patriotic War Partisans

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibition of wax figures: Miraculous Travel Until 15<sup>th</sup> June. Bells Until 10<sup>th</sup> August (Labyrinth Gallery). Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man

#### HOUSE OF PICTURES

89 / 3 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. Scents of Life — 2. Sense and Feelings

#### BELARUSIAN STATE CIRCUS

32 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
26-28, 31.05. Fantastic Stories

#### YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Y. Kupala Street  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> June. Host of Belarusian Song

#### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> September. Miraculous World of Butterflies

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> May. Our Cosmos  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> May. Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

#### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> July. White Pole Museum of Ice-Cream

#### VLADISLAV GOLUBOK'S PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. Song of Northern Gods

#### HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> May. 80+ photo exhibition

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
25.05. Carmen 26.05. Giselle, ou les Wilis  
29.05. The Fountain of Bakhchisaray; Sky Swallows 30.05. Cavalleria Rusticana 31.05. The Fountain of Bakhchisaray 01.06. Macbeth

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
26.05. Yunona and Avos 27.05. Dubrovsky  
28.05. Adventures of Kay and Gerda (Snow Queen); Jane Eyre  
29.05. Gypsy Baron 30.05. Mary Poppins 31.05. Swan Lake 01.06. Once in Chicago

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
25.05. Evening 26.05. Black Lady of Nesvizh 27.05. Art 28.05. Paulinka; Two Souls 30.05. School of Taxpayers 01.06. Office

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street  
25.05. Old-fashioned Comedy  
30.05. Shabany 31.05. Love as Militarism  
01.06. Woyzeck

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
25.05. Lady for Day 26.05. Pesnyar  
27.05. Mysterious Visit 28.05. Viva Commedia! 30.05. Testosterone  
31.05. Intimidate Apostle

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
26-27.05. Wolves and Sheep 28.05, 01.06. Abduction of Yelena 30-31.05. Pygmalion

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
25.05. If No Tomorrow 26.05. Androgin Era  
27.05. Golden Heart  
29.05. Three Giselles  
30.05. Pelican  
31.05. Career of Doctor Raus

#### BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
27-28, 30-31.05. Doctor Aibolit

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
25.05. Interview with Witches  
27.05. Wash'em Clean  
28.05. Cat in Boots