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INTERNATIONAL

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Darya Titova

The Trikoza family — mother Yulia, Yekaterina, Aleksandr, father Vladislav, Tatiana and their pets

## A strong family is a strong state

Mother's Day in Belarus has been celebrated on October 14th since 1996, Father's Day — on October 21st (established in 2022). The country now has the opportunity to hold a parent week from October 14th to October 21st. The role of these holidays is extremely important in the ideology of the country, they are a kind of way to strengthen traditional family values, moral principles, and establish a more sincere, open, cordial connection between children and parents.

The implementation of events dedicated to the topics of motherhood and childhood, responsible fatherhood and strengthening the institution of the family during this period contributes to the further preservation of traditional family values, and increases the significance of the family policy pursued by the state.



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# ‘Do not worry, everything will be all right’

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, took part in an informal summit of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The meeting was held at the Konstantinovsky Palace in St. Petersburg. The event discussed the prospects for economic co-operation, current issues on the international agenda and measures to resolve conflicts in the region.



Aleksandr Lukashenko arrived at the summit in a Russian AURUS car, which attracted the attention of journalists waiting at the entrance to the palace. They immediately approached the Belarusian leader with questions. The day before, Russian President Vladimir Putin celebrated his anniversary. Therefore, the Heads of State did not come to St. Petersburg empty-handed. For example, a large pyramid of melons and fruits, located on the territory of the Konstantinovsky Palace, appeared thanks to the Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon. The journalists asked what gift the Belarusian leader had prepared for the hero of the day. It turned out that the present was not only expensive, but also meaningful. “A tractor... The one that I use, which is a

BELARUS tractor. The best one. A hand-built one, more precisely — a certificate for the BELARUS 1523.3 tractor for Vladimir Putin,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “To President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin on the occasion of the jubilee,” the certificate reads. According to the Belarusian leader, he will also offer his Russian colleague a mounted device — a seeder.

**“We will sow grain, maybe something else. It is multi-purpose. We will grow food, so that [Poland President Andrzej] Duda, [Poland Prime Minister Mateusz] Morawiecki, Europe would not starve and would not steal bread from Ukraine, but bring it to poor countries,” continued Aleksandr Lukashenko.**

Representatives of the press asked another question: what way does the Belarusian leader see from the current international situation.

Aleksandr Lukashenko retorted, “Why do we have to seek a way out of some international situation? We should not be the ones to seek a way out. We did not get stuck in it and do not intend to recover from it with some effort. They should be the ones to look [for an exit] from this international situation.”

The President pointed out that the reporters did not have all the information about what is going on, “They have been looking for a way out for a long time already.”

The security of western borders of the Union State of Belarus and Russia amid the tense in

ternational situation was another question.

**“You have heard their recent statements about sharing nuclear weapons with Poland. We will think it over. We have already discussed it, but we will think again how to respond. Do not worry, everything will be all right,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.**

As the President of Russia welcomed participants of the meeting, he remarked that they represent countries, which are the closest friends and allies of Russia due to a huge number of circumstances and historical reasons.

As it was emphasised, the current summit in St. Petersburg is a good opportunity to compare notes before the annual a full-fledged session of the CIS Heads

of State Council coming next week in Astana.

It was also noted that economic co-operation between the CIS countries is expanding. Last year Russia’s trade with the CIS states increased by over 30 percent to \$96 billion in 2021 and by another 7 percent in the first half of 2022.

**“More vigorous transition to national currencies in mutual transactions between the CIS states will allow amplifying such positive trends.**

Actually we’ve been doing it for many years already,” stressed Vladimir Putin.

The Head of the Russian State noted with satisfaction that Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev had suggested setting up an international organisation for the sake of supporting and promoting the Russian language under the aegis of the Commonwealth of Independent States, “We are very grateful to President Tokayev for it. I think it is important for everyone because Russian is undoubtedly a language of interstate communication... Including bearing in mind that the year 2023 has been declared the Year of Russian language as an interethnic language in the Commonwealth of Independent States.”

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, communicated in one-on-one format for about an hour after an informal summit in St. Petersburg.

## The President introduced a ban on price increases in Belarus

“The Council of Ministers and the National Bank should have responded to such high inflation with tough measures to restrain prices. Rising prices negate all our efforts to raise wages and pensions. The task number one is to ensure 7-8 percent inflation next year,” emphasised the President.

There are objective factors that influence the price growth. Due to the thoughtless sanctions imposed by Western countries, the usual pattern of world trade has been disrupted, the Head of State said. As a result, inflation rates are hitting records all over the world.

**“That means that rising prices and high inflation are not an invention of Belarus. The whole world is going crazy with this inflation. The growth of food prices in the United States has become the biggest one since 1979. The European Union set a record for the entire period of the single European currency (January 1st, 1999). In Estonia, annual inflation exceeds 25 percent; and it is above 20 percent in Latvia and Lithuania,” Aleksandr Lukashenko reported and named a number of examples.**

The Head of State pointed to the facts of unreasonable increase in prices for imported goods, as well as by manufacturers of domestic products.

“For some reason, importing companies continue hedging exchange rate risks by inflating prices, although the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble is stable. Responsibility for the reasonableness of

import prices should be introduced, and a control system should be established,” Aleksandr Lukashenko highlighted.

The Head of State also mentioned some businessmen, “First, they raised the prices because of the increased exchange rate, and when our currency strengthened, they ‘forgot’ for some reason to lower the prices. Speculators easily profit from disruptions in the supply chain. The State Control Committee has been reporting facts when apples, onions, beets and cabbage, grown by our agricultural enterprises, are bought from mediators with a 300 percent markup!

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that in such a manageable compact country as Belarus, the power vertical is absolutely capable of restoring order and ensuring a fair treatment of people by the state and supporting and helping those who need it.

At the same time, the President harshly warned “We do not have and will not have a shortage of goods. I promise this to people.”

Following the meeting, the President announced his decision: from October 6th any increase in prices is prohibited. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained, “Prices are exorbitant today. They hit the ceiling. Prices cannot be raised anywhere. There is no need for that. Yet there may be exceptions. These exceptions are under the control of the minister and the governors.”

The President also emphasised that he is not afraid of criticism for these decisions, because the most important thing is to pursue a fair policy.

### The President of Belarus signed Directive No. 10 ‘On banning price rises’ following a government meeting held on October 6th

The document was adopted in order to immediately and firmly respond to the current situation in the consumer market. In order to protect the interests of citizens and organisations of the Republic of Belarus, to prevent further price growth, establish an effective system of price control and saturate the domestic consumer market with goods the directive imposes a ban on price increases and obligations to unconditionally saturate the domestic market with goods and services.

To develop measures to regulate prices, a working group headed by Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly Natalya Kochanova was created. The working group has been tasked with drawing up a list of proposals on measures to improve price regulation and submit it to the Council of Ministers within ten days.

Before October 20th, 2022, the government shall approve and implement a price regulation system on the basis of the proposals submitted by the working group.

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### The government of Belarus has introduced a moratorium on increasing prices and tariffs in the domestic market

The corresponding resolution was signed by Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko following a meeting with the President.

According to the document, legal entities of all forms of ownership and individual entrepreneurs engaged in the production (import) and (or) sale of goods on the domestic market or providing services on the territory of Belarus will not be able to raise prices for all goods (both food and non-food) and services from October 6th, 2022. Decisions to raise prices will be made by the republican bodies of state administration, state organisations subordinate to the government, regional executive committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee, but only in case of economic expediency.

The Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade Ministry, other republican government bodies, state organisations subordinate to the Council of Ministers, regional executive committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee have been instructed to control the saturation of the market with goods (services). And also given the authority to suspend the operation of facilities, the validity of special permits (licenses) in case of violation of the requirements of the government decree.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



# ‘There should be no war on the territory of Belarus!’

The President of Belarus has convened a meeting on the country’s security issues. This event was a continuation of a conversation started at the Strategic Control Centre of the Defence Ministry last week.

“When we were in the Strategic Control Centre of the Defence Ministry, you and I agreed that we would get together and once again discuss your proposals concerning the sphere of our security. We have to determine what else needs to be done in order to bolster the security of our country taking into account the rapidly changing situation,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President stated that the situation around Belarus remains tense, “An opinion that the Belarusian army will be directly involved in the special military operation in Ukraine’s territory is being cultivated in the West. Influenced by these leaks, the military political leadership of the North Atlantic Alliance and a number of European countries are already openly considering options for a possible aggression against our country, including a nuclear strike.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this is not something new for Belarus, and the Belarusian leader warned about the possibility of such a development of events for a long time,

**“Their goal is not to get us to fight on Russia’s side in Ukraine or, god forbid, carry out a nuclear strike and the rest. It is not the key target. The key target (it has remained the same since days of old) is to get us involved in the war while dealing with Russia and Belarus at the same time.”**

The President said that the day before, the Belarusian side had been warned through unofficial channels about strikes against Belarus from the territory of Ukraine, “It was stated: ‘They said that it would be the Crimean Bridge 2’. This information was immediately brought to my attention. My answer was simple: ‘Tell the President of Ukraine and other insane people, if they are still there, that the Crimean Bridge will be just the thin end of the wedge to them, if only they touch a single meter of our territory with their dirty hands.’”

According to the Head of State, today Ukraine is not just contemplating, but planning strikes on the territory of Belarus.

“Of course, the Ukrainians absolutely do not need this. Well, why would they need to open a second front on our southern border which is their northern border? This is madness from the point of view of the military. Nevertheless, the process has begun. They are being pushed by their patrons to unleash a war against Belarus in order to draw us in it and deal with Russia and Belarus at a time,” Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced.

Both countries have been aware of it for a long time. Moreover, the Belarusian Head of State has repeatedly warned his fellow citizens and the world community about these plans.

The President stressed that the recent events related to the Crimean Bridge suggest a significant increase in the level of terrorist threat. He also pointed out that Poland is ‘simply shivering’ while asking Americans to immediately bring and deploy nuclear weapons in Poland. Including from nuclear arsenals in Germany.

The United States of America and European Union countries say they are

going to legalise the Belarusian self-exiled opposition.

“As a political force. They want to substantially increase support for destructive elements, deteriorate the situation at the western border right up to organising the second front,” the President emphasised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded those present about what he said at the beginning of Russia’s special operation in Ukraine. Back then he said Belarus would not allow anyone to shoot Russians in the back. The situation along the western border was referred to.

“It was a figure of speech. But back then I saw that the western direction was

**“Without whipping up tensions, I would like you to understand: if you want peace, you have to prepare for war. Always. All your life... we, the military, must have plans to counter all sorts of scoundrels who are trying to drag us into a fight. We must not let them drag us into a war. This is our main task. There should be no war on the territory of Belarus. We, the military, must take all measures to prevent it,” said the Head of State.**

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that he had a one-on-one meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg after the informal CIS summit.

The President said that he instructed the Ministry of Defence and the State Security Committee to work out a possible set of measures to control the situation and respond to it.

“But once again I warn you: we will adequately respond to any opponent. We have been preparing for this for decades. If necessary, we will answer,” declared the Head of State.

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko paid special attention to the role of intelligence, responsible military and civilians, who should not miss anything in the development of the situation, “We must know everything that happens near our borders.”



the most dangerous one. If we had uncovered it, we would be standing on the brink of a war today. But we left army units over there. Moreover, we’ve reinforced the western flank,” explained the President.

The Head of State described all the ongoing events as a logical continuation of the pressure on Belarus. Everything began with an attempt to organise a colour revolution and a blitzkrieg in 2020. When those failed, they launched the second stage — economic choking and information pressure. However, it has failed to produce the desired results.

“What is left then? Using force to resolve the problem. They want to destabilise the situation in the country through acts of sabotage, provocations. It is what they plan. If things work out, they intend to start combat operations afterwards,” noted the Belarusian leader.

This is why the training of militants recruited from ranks of Belarusian radicals has begun in Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine. They are supposed to carry out acts of sabotage, terrorist attacks, and organise a military mutiny in Belarus. It is becoming an immediate threat.

“Taking into account the desire of the Polish government to rattle even nuclear weapons, it is not simply a threat anymore. It is a danger for the defensive ability of our country,” the Head of State stressed.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that several days ago the KGB was instructed to take the necessary counterterrorism measures. Belarus does not threaten anyone and does not want war, but in the current conditions we simply forced to keep the gunpowder dry and adequately respond to emerging threats. Not only independently, but also within the framework of allied agreements with Russia.

“Given the worsening of the situation on the western borders of the Union State, we agreed to deploy a regional group of forces of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. This complies with our documents. It says that if the threat level reaches the level as it is now, we begin to use the Union State group of forces. The basis (I have always said this) of this group is the army, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus. I must inform you that the formation of this group has begun. It’s been going on for, I think, two days. I gave an order to start forming this group,” the Belarusian leader said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted that Russia cannot deal with another conflict now. “You know they have enough problems. Therefore, we should not expect a large number of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. But it will be more than one thousand people. Please get ready to host these people soon and accommodate them where necessary, according to our plan. Without going over the top, keeping things calm,” said the President.

The Head of State gave advice to his fellow Belarusians on what to do in the current situation, “I would like to repeat that everyone should continue doing their job... The current situation is not so bad that we need to start acting immediately. Our military will demonstrate at this point their determination to defend their country. Then none of scoundrels will dare to muscle in here... Today, the state secretary [of the Security Council] and I have agreed that we will conduct a large-scale nationwide information campaign, with a focus on large enterprises. This campaign will be administrated at the highest level.”

At the meeting, the President also addressed the topic of economic and social security, which are no less important for the stable development of society and the country. Particular attention is paid to issues of fairness, whether in pricing or in the distribution of social benefits.

**“The main goal of the meeting on prices and similar meetings is to remove the points of tension and discontent of people. We see from sociological surveys that rising prices and inflation in the country are already trending in second place [of people’s concerns]. The concept of justice is at the heart of our policy. We will continue to adhere to it,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.**

The Head of State touched upon the topic of rising prices, which was discussed in detail last week with the participation of representatives of the economic bloc of the government.

“I want you to understand. Some have started lamenting and moaning, especially those from abroad... The main thing is not the ban on price growth. It is not. Please read the directive. The main thing is to develop a pricing control system. Before this system is there (it’s only a few days), prices should not rise indeed,” explained Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President noted that these days, MPs, trade unions, the State Control Committee and everyone, who has been tasked with this mission, have been monitoring the execution of the President’s instruction to ban price increases. Criminal cases have been opened into all these cases.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by





By Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei

# Sanctions adventurism

**Futile are attempts by the US and the EU to isolate and restrain Belarus or to change its policy through sanctions**

Sanctions ‘spree’, which, unfortunately, has not only remained ‘topical’ in the United States and in a number of states of the collective West, but, on the contrary, is rapidly gaining momentum, leads to severe humanitarian consequences, compounds negative processes on the tracks of bilateral and multilateral interstate interaction. For almost two years now, ‘sanctions’ is the main word used in the political discourse in the West when they discuss Belarus.

international peace and security, justice, and to create opportunities for all countries and peoples of the planet to live freely and develop freely. In the context of today, this initiative is as relevant as ever.

*It is an appeal for the entire world to comprehend and accept the fact that we are all different, it is crucial to respect the choices of other peoples, regardless of their size and global clout; while the imposition, especially violent, of profoundly alien models of development is futile, as evidenced by numerous sad examples of modern history.*

*August 2020 created the deepest crisis of trust in Belarus’ relations with the Western countries and threw our co-operation many years back. The sanctions conveyor against our country fuelled by the European bureaucracy has aggravated this situation and shown their true intentions.*

## We have where to go

European capitals continue to live in a parallel world. Contributes to it exclusive communication with partners of their convenience — the runaway opponents of the Belarusian authorities who are not just non-constructive, but, for the most part, extremely radical. Western politicians are ready to believe in the absurdity that the Belarusians themselves beg for sanctions, want to live worse, have problems with payments, etc. Meanwhile, according to the recent opinion polls, the overwhelming majority of Belarusians — over 70 percent of respondents — perceive the sanctions of the collective West against Belarus and Russia negatively or rather negatively.

Years under Western sanctions have only hardened our fledgling state. The Belarusian economy acquired invaluable experience of how to work and develop in crisis conditions, rely on its own strength, establish partnerships with other regions of the world, and value true friends.

The situation in which Belarus finds itself today is, on the one hand, a serious challenge, a kind of endurance test. On the other hand, it is a chance and a new opportunity to revisit our approaches to foreign economic activity in order to find new ‘points of growth’ contributing to greater resilience of the national economy, as well as to carefully assess the prospects of interaction with partners and allies in the military-political sphere, which is directly related to the protection of the country’s sovereignty.

*We are actively searching for new niches and areas to expand the geography of the Belarusian exports, primarily in the East. We have where to go... Futile are attempts by the U.S. and the EU to isolate and restrain Belarus or to change its policy through sanctions.*

According to Western experts, sanctions against Russia only from 2014 to February 2022 cost Europe more than €100 billion. And the enormous damage of the sanctions imposed after the start of the Russia’s special operation in Ukraine, which backfire against their initiators, including the United States, is hard to assess in full. Belarus is a much smaller economy, but the sanctions measures against us also have their toll, which European businesses are already paying in millions of euros and dollars of broken contracts and lost profits. Have the good people advocating the sanctions calculated these damages to businesses and economies of their countries? I think it is unlikely, because it will have no effect whatsoever on those in ‘warm offices’ who directly make such decisions. However, I very much want to believe that our partners’ common sense will prevail. It is impossible to achieve a positive result, using destructive methods and techniques, as barbaric as during colonial times.

Belarus, in its turn, remains a predictable and responsible partner, open to mutually respectful dialogue, constructive and mutually beneficial co-operation with all foreign countries, which are ready for it and sincerely interested in it.

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## Rounds of sanctions

It was back in 1997 when the Republic of Belarus first encountered restrictive measures of the Western countries... Just think: even back then the EU was trying, very straightforwardly, to pressure our country so that our development would suit them and not the Belarusians.

*Since then, almost every election campaign in Belarus has been accompanied by a new round of sanctions pressure from the collective West, renewal or introduction of new restrictive measures — under the guise of non-compliance with some standards.*

Although, it would seem, what do Western countries have to do with elections in other sovereign states? It is worth recalling that the first sanctions were imposed practically under the conditions of world hegemony of the United States, which, together with its European partners, tried to ‘measure everyone with one stick’ imposing ‘liberal democracy’.

Belarus, which is on the geopolitical rift, has learned it the hard way. Every state has legitimate foreign interests and tries to protect them. The only question is: ‘how?’.

*And the stand of the Republic of Belarus has not wavered for many years. Legitimate interests must be defended by legitimate means, in observance of the principles of international law, the UN Charter, but not by the directly opposite means: pressure, coercion, information attacks, fomenting ‘colour revolutions’ or illegal change of governments.*

## Respect the choices of other peoples

The merits of democracy are undeniable and universally recognised. However, Western countries should long have admitted that democracy is multifaceted, it is not a patent or a privilege of a few, it does not exist in just one ‘right’ shape, especially not when imposed from outside. In each case, this is the result of the historical development of a particular people, with respect for its traditions, culture, way of life, political, social and economic realities and other factors.

*‘Revolutions’, even ‘democratic’ ones, do much more harm than good, and do not stand comparison with the gradual evolution of society, during which a deep understanding is formed in it, a ‘cultural archetype’ is created, if you like, that a person, a citizen, along with rights has also duties, and with each of his or her actions must bear responsibility for his or her people and country, for his or her state.*

More than 15 years ago, the President of Belarus launched an initiative at the UN summit in September 2005 to recognise the diversity of ways for the progressive development of the world’s countries as one of the principles of international relations. It was included in the World Summit Outcome Document and is in line with the goals enshrined in the UN Charter to ensure

## Sanctions without effect

Unfortunately, Western countries have not yet been ready to forego unilateral restrictive or coercive measures, despite their obvious negative consequences for the populations of the affected countries — and even for their own citizens and businesses. History knows not a single example when unilateral sanctions, embargoes or blockades achieved the ‘desired’ goal, while the detriment for the everyday people is obvious. Sanctions have become a foreign policy mechanism against those states that are not ready to live and work according to Western models and recipes, to act in line with the interests of Washington and Brussels and, in contrast, pursue their own path of development.

*According to Western experts, over the past five years, the U.S. government has imposed an unprecedented number of sanctions, purportedly related to human rights violations and corruption (an average of 230 rounds per calendar year).*

Most of these measures, carried out in parallel with the support of the so-called beleaguered opposition, are aimed at undermining the economy of the targeted country, impoverishing the population, and overthrowing the current government. The most telling examples are Syria, where a bloody military conflict has been going on for about 10 years; Venezuela, which is in a prolonged humanitarian crisis; and, perhaps most strikingly, the decades-long economic blockade of Cuba by the United States.

Currently, this strategy of the West is most aggressively and extensively implemented against Russia. Belarus is also in the crosshairs of the Western countries. While the U.S. administration, with the active support of the UK and Canada, is using economic sanctions as part of its broader ‘maximum pressure’ campaign on rogue states, the European Union has already all but switched to the same model in its foreign policy.

## Example of powerlessness

The Republic of Belarus became an example of the powerlessness of sanctions. It is indicative that the Republic of Belarus achieved the greatest progress in democratic transformations precisely when the sanctions were lifted or suspended, when business interaction, people-to-people contacts and humanitarian co-operation were developing.

We had a civilised, even if not simple, dialogue with Western experts and politicians. All that helped to set in motion public processes, launch the necessary initiatives to improve the state administration, develop partner relations of the state with the business and civil society, and ultimately worked to promote human rights and the country’s progress toward that same democracy, and helped expand fruitful contacts with partners both in the West and in the East.

*Regrettably, all that was destroyed overnight: the failed attempt of the ‘colour revolution’ in*



# Uninvited guest

At the moment when Russian President Vladimir Putin was signing agreements on the admission of Donbass, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions into the Russian Federation, his Ukrainian counterpart also decided to use pen and paper, conceding extreme irresponsibility. This, of course, is about Ukraine's resonant bid to join NATO on an accelerated basis. "De facto, we have already completed our path to NATO. We are taking our decisive step by signing Ukraine's application for accelerated accession to NATO," Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after the signing. Why was this openly provocative step taken, which carries great risks for world security? There are two opposing opinions on this matter: some experts called it a desire to interrupt the loud information background that was negative for Ukraine, while others consider it part of the programme agreed with NATO to escalate the conflict and bring it to a fundamentally different level.

By Anton Popov

## Destructive dream

The choice of the time of signing the application was not made by chance. Despite the success of the Armed Forces of Ukraine near Krasny Liman, the loss of four regions at once with a population of about 6 million people seriously hit the morale of Ukrainian society.

*However, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg set priorities in the evening: although the doors of the organisation are open, the alliance is not a party to the conflict and cannot immediately accept Ukraine — a consensus must be reached among 30 current members. And this, by the way, is not so simple. Just remember how long the Swedes and Finns have been marking time on this issue.*

The White House spoke even more clearly. They literally stated the following: 'Now is not the time for the process of Ukraine's admission to NATO.' Categorically, end of story.

## 'Friends of Ukraine club'

It would seem that the issue can be closed: they do not want to see a belligerent country in NATO right now. However, we are talking about the fact that they are not going to give up the idea of someday accepting Ukraine into the North Atlantic Alliance without giving an unequivocal positive or negative answer. Like, continue to fight with Russia, but for now we will support you with weapons and money.

*It should be noted that this position is very thorough: NATO, as a geopolitical adversary of the Russian Federation, is trying to weaken both its economy and the Armed Forces, while not directly entering into a conflict threatening nuclear war. The ambiguous statements coming from the alliance's headquarters act as a kind of carrot on a string, which motivates Ukrainians to continue resistance.*

Ten member countries of the alliance (that is, exactly one third of the total)

made statements of support for the decisions of the NATO summit in Bucharest in 2008 regarding the future accession of Ukraine by Sunday evening, on the basis of which the corresponding application was signed. The 'Friends of Ukraine club' includes Romania, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia,

## Ukraine has officially applied for NATO — but do they want to see them there?



sentative of the Federal Republic of Germany on the North Atlantic Council Rüdiger König said: the alliance does not bear any obligations of assistance to Ukraine. Secondly, the vast majority of supporters are in Central and Eastern Europe. The only exception is Canada, among whose political elites, however, pro-Ukrainian sentiments are strong: Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Chrystia Freeland has Ukrainian roots.

Thirdly, the Baltic countries and Poland have repeatedly demonstrated the complete control of their actions by the American leadership. Knowing the hypocrisy of the United States and its allies, who violated the fundamental promise given to Russia not to move east, it can be assumed that there is a group of 'hawks' in the leadership of the North Atlanticists who are ready to respond positively to the application and drag the alliance into a catastrophic confrontation with unpredictable consequences.

## What if...

*At the moment, NATO is not ready to enter the Russian-Ukrainian confrontation with all its might — this is a fact. However, the main trend of the current conflict is that it develops according to the principle of a spiral, with each new round erasing the conventions and limitations of the previous stage and expanding the Overton window to use more and more new means of inflicting damage on the enemy.*

Who else in the spring would have thought that sabotage on the most important gas transportation artery — the branches of the Nord Streams — would be possible? But the explosions of September 26th convinced the world of the possibility and, most importantly, the impunity of terrorist attacks on infrastructure facilities.

If the doors to NATO are nevertheless opened for Ukraine, then Article 5 of the organisation's charter document, which implies the collective defence of all countries of the alliance, will also have to be used in relation to it. That is, after the formalities are settled, the military contingents of the alliance must immediately move to protect the attacked member. And this, in turn, will inevitably lead to a nuclear conflict between Russia and the NATO bloc. The North Atlanticists do not want such a development of events. This is especially true for Hungary, which even calls for the lifting of sanctions against the Russian Federation, not to mention any military confrontation with it, and Turkey, which is striving to develop stable relations with Moscow.

With each new tranche of aid, with the next group of instructors arriving in Ukraine, the alliance is increasingly drawn into the conflict. However, armed confrontation is still a red line for Stoltenberg and his colleagues. Which, as declared, NATO does not intend to cross.

Modern American imperialism, which underlies the principles of managing the North Atlantic Alliance, is the highest point in the development of capitalism. This is another additional reason why (at least until the end of the current conflict) Ukraine is extremely far from NATO membership. It is much more profitable — both in purely commercial and military terms — to arm and train Ukrainians, concluding contracts along the way to replace the Soviet equipment sent to Ukraine, than to directly take part in the war.



ACTUAL

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Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, as well as Canada, which announced this earlier than others, just a couple of hours after signing the application in Kiev.

If we look closely at this list, we can easily see a few interesting things. Firstly, there are no NATO giants like Germany or Great Britain — moreover, Permanent Repre-



# Made in Belarus means high quality

Bright fashion show, rich business programme — BelTexIndustry 2022 exhibition was held in Minsk

The leading Belarusian exhibition project BelTexIndustry 2022 for the 46th time has become a place of attraction for manufacturers and suppliers of domestic and foreign brands of clothing, footwear, textiles, accessories, equipment, components and other areas of light industry from Turkey, Russia and, of course, Belarus. Despite the difficult times in today's realities, the organisers manage to maintain not only the status of the main fashion podium, but also a serious business platform for light industry professionals from year to year. 2022 is no exception. This year the exhibition brought together over 50 exhibitors, pleased with a bright fashion show and a rich business programme filled with topical subjects.

Opening the international exhibition-fair BelTexIndustry, Head of the Belarusian light industry concern Bellegprom Tatyana Lugina emphasised that the light industry is one of the main sectors of the national economic complex of Belarus. This year, all representatives of the industrial sector received a new

Belarusian Minister of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade (MART) Aleksei Bogdanov appreciated the work of the industry. He noted that our main task today is to conquer new markets and the hearts of customers by promoting high-quality Belarusian products, "According to the Food Security Doc-



breath of energy and revealed themselves in a special way both in the economy of our country and in foreign markets.

She stressed that this year all assortment positions of Bellegprom enterprises are in demand on the domestic and foreign markets — from underwear knitwear to outerwear. And any demand necessarily stimulates new developments, production and sales, "The Russian regions are interested in co-operation not only in the service sector, mechanical engineering, microelectronics, medicine of our country, but also in light industry. We have developed a new interaction with a large number of regions. These are not only traditional markets — Smolensk, St. Petersburg, Moscow, but there is interaction with the territory beyond the Urals, southern Russia. This suggests that our products are in demand, that citizens prefer Belarusian quality goods."

trine, which speaks generally about the security of the state, we must reach the share of Belarusian products of all kinds in the country by 85 percent by 2030. And we tried to gather the maximum number of trade organisations at this exhibition site in order to show the beauty of our country's light industry goods. We will strive to ensure that the goods that our country is famous for are on the first shelves of stores. Today is a time of opportunity in conquering new markets, as well as opportunities in advancing to foreign destinations."

### Turkish fabrics, Belarusian quality and Russian exclusive

The entire range of modern industry solutions was presented by companies from several foreign countries at once. High-quality textiles, which are known and appreciated all over the world for their naturalness and environmental friendliness, were presented in Minsk



by nine enterprises from Turkey at once: Ozsar Tekstil, Altun Textile, Has Orme, Ersat Tekstil and others.

Well-known manufacturers from Russia announced their participation in the Belarusian exhibition. Thus, the current trends of the new season were demonstrated by the Slavianka garment factory (Pskov) and Dragonfly, the manufacturer of high-tech clothing for active and extreme recreation.

By tradition, the enterprises of the Bellegprom concern presented their latest developments at the exhibition: exclusive eco-furs of Belfa OJSC, knitwear

One of the main highlights of the 2022 exhibition is the participation of the Rodnae-Modnae project. According to the organisers, the main goal of this unique project is to show the originality of the Belarusian design idea and its practical implementation.

A fashion show was also held, where each of the collections literally opened the pages of Belarusian history and modern days. In addition, it was possible to get acquainted with the work of masters of decorative and applied arts of Belarus within the framework of the 'Malyavan-ka. The Roots of Unique Art' exposition.



from the Kupalinka, Svitanak, Polesie, Bobruisktrikotazh enterprises, shoes for children and adults from the Luch, Otiko and Chevlyar manufacturers. Mogotex, Gronitex, the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association, known under the brand name Blakit, and many others were interested in textiles, yarn and thread.

### Fashion shows

To be in the trend of the latest novelties of the Autumn 2022/2023 season or to know in advance which business suits and dresses will be especially relevant in the new academic year 2023/2024, it was worth stopping by the fashion shows that adorned the bright exhibition days.

### Business programme

In addition to bright fashion shows, the exhibition pleased with a rich business programme. The 'Light industry in modern conditions. Projects, incentives, co-operation' panel discussion is among the current topics. A meeting at the round table was held with Belarusian designer Anastasia Falkovich, who shared the nuances of preparing a competent specialist and other relevant topics.

Representatives of trade networks of the CIS countries, manufacturers and suppliers of light industry goods took part in a series of blitz negotiations with commercial services of trade networks of Belarus and Russia.



# Fibre of opportunities

Orsha Linen Mill completes the implementation of several large investment projects at once

**For more than a decade, Orsha Linen Mill has been undergoing a massive modernisation. The upgrade comes with state support in several stages. During this time, the volume of investments has already amounted to more than than Br156m. The mill also invests significant funds at the expense of its own resources. The changes are visible to all stakeholders: consumers, business partners and the team.**

By Anton Popov

## Zero waste

In mid-October, a new boiler house will be put into operation at the enterprise. The object, built in a year on a free site, will work on the remnants of flax fibre. The mill mastered the production of fuel briquettes from industrial waste long ago. But if earlier they sold it to the population, now they decided to use it for their own needs. According to Orsha, the project will bring not only economic benefits, but also strengthen the image of the enterprise in the minds of foreign partners.

“With the launch of the boiler plant, the mill turns into waste-free production. We sell everything that we produce, and we dispose of what cannot be sold, receiving our own gigacalories to replace thermal energy from the local heating plant. We get the effect in several directions at once: we reduce the costs of core activities and improve our image in the minds of partners who have green energy in trend. For us, this is an important point — more than 75 percent of the linen mill’s products are ex-

ported. Deliveries go to 43 countries, now we are actively developing the markets of far-arc countries,” Deputy Director General Sergei Sidin notes.

Marina Murashko, who has been working as a flax equipment operator for almost 16 years, says that the company is changing every year,

*“Indeed, the mill was once grey and dull. But now, the organisation and working conditions have improved significantly thanks to modern equipment, many processes have been automated. We have a large team, and everyone sees the result of the work of the enterprise — in terms of a stable salary, a social package, which was provided in full even in difficult times. Events in the world are unpredictable, and the fact that peace and order is maintained in Belarus thanks to the leadership of the country is very important for each of us now.”*

## Something to be proud of

Another investment project that the company is currently focused on is the

## Director General of Orsha Linen Mill Vladimir Nesterenko,

*“The modernisation process must be continuous. This is the main condition that allows us to be at the top of the technological chain, meet the global trend and successfully compete in foreign markets. Plans for the next five to ten years are related to the replacement of equipment, the introduction of new technological chains, the development of our brands Linen from Belarus, VILINI and branded trade. Now, when every day we have to face various kinds of restrictions, any business must rely on fundamental things — investments, legal protection and a raw material base. This approach allows us to bring new demanded products to the market and become more competitive. And this is a clear proof of the fact that the company is developing steadily and has the potential of production and technological capacity.”*

*“Therefore, we should grow our own flax so that we will not have to purchase. This industry should become at least two times more efficient within three years. We can do it.”*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko said while inspecting Orsha Linen Mill on November 30th, 2018**

reconstruction of a former factory of art products. It was handed over to Orsha Linen Mill by the decision of the President in 2021 with a clear task to preserve traditional production.

Now the factory is completing construction and installation work. Of the 5.1 million rubles that are planned to be invested, 2.3 million have been spent. At the beginning of next year, one of the most modern sewing production facilities in Belarus will be launched here. More than 100 new jobs will appear. Also, part of the seamstresses from the main flow will be transferred to work here. Among them is a young specialist Anastasia Shametko. The girl works on the enterprise since August 1st, “I came here in the footsteps of my mother — she works as a seamstress at a linen mill. She always spoke highly of working conditions, wages, and the team. I like sewing, so I had no doubts about the choice of profession and place of work. In addition, to continue the family dynasty at an enterprise whose products are known far beyond the borders of our country is something to be proud of. I seem to have settled in quickly at the mill after two months, I feel confident and ready to try my hand at a new sewing production. I would like to develop, and there, I am sure, will be such an opportunity.”

## Innovative technologies

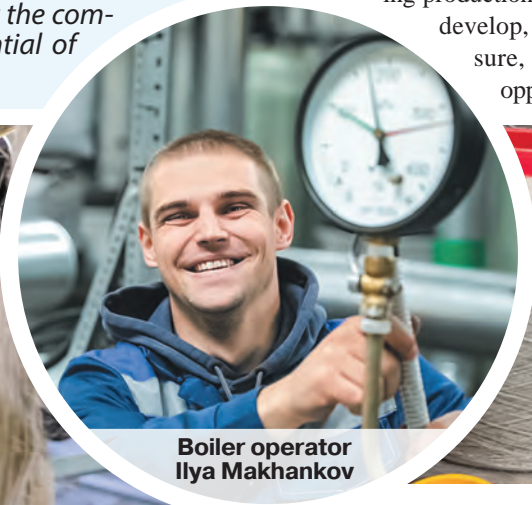
The area for bleaching cottonised fibre is an example of a well-thought-out strategy for the work of a linen mill. The project was implemented at their own expense and launched at the end of 2021. They searched for contractors themselves, developed an innovative bleaching technology. The initial raw material is short flax fibre, the processing and use of which has long been a headache for the entire flax industry in Belarus. Orsha Linen Mill was used to produce technical fabrics. But from year to year, the demand for it was declining, which threatened to reduce the entire division with a staff of almost 600 employees.

“The establishment of the production of cottonised fibre and its bleaching opened a window of promising opportunities. The fibre can be used in the medical industry as an alternative to cotton, which is constantly growing in price, for the production of cotton pads, swabs, and diapers. We will also be able to receive yarn for the production of blankets and bed linen,” Deputy Director General Sergei Sidin believes.

The project proved its relevance in a short period of time: the linen mill increased the volume of short fibre processing by 30 percent using the cottonisation method. Most of it is now used for yarn for the production of the final product, while other Belarusian producers mainly offer fibre for export as a semi-finished product.



Tape equipment operator Daria Sakovets



Boiler operator Ilya Makhankov



Weigher Aleksandr Saifudinov





# In deep minus

The US national debt has surpassed \$31 trillion for the first time amid higher interest rates, raising concerns about fiscal sustainability

The total public debt outstanding reached \$31.1 trillion, including \$24.3 trillion in debt held by the public and \$6.8 trillion in intergovernmental holdings, said the US Treasury Department's daily treasury statement released last week.

"This is a new record no one should be proud of," said Maya MacGuineas, the President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, noting that it was only five years ago that the United States marked \$20 trillion in gross debt.

Just roughly eight months ago, the total public debt outstanding exceeded \$30 trillion, hitting a fiscal milestone.

"In the past 18 months, we've witnessed inflation rise to a 40-year high, interest rates climbing in part to combat this inflation, and several budget-bust-

ing pieces of legislation and executive actions," said MacGuineas.

"While much of that new borrowing was necessary to combat COVID-19, we are now past the most severe challenges of the pandemic, and it is time to budget responsibly — yet we are still borrowing," she said. "We are addicted to debt."

MacGuineas noted that in 2022 alone, the US Congress and President Joe Biden have approved a combined \$1.9 trillion in new borrowing, and Biden has approved \$4.9 trillion in new deficits since taking office.

In an article published, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation noted that \$31 trillion is more than the value of the economies of China, Japan, Germany and Britain combined, and amounts to

\$236,000 of debt per household in the United States.

"The coronavirus pandemic rapidly accelerated our fiscal challenges, but we were already on an unsustainable path, with structural drivers that existed long before the pandemic," the foundation said. "America's high and rising debt matters because it threatens our economic future."

MacGuineas also argued that for decades, US lawmakers have chosen to 'pass politically easy policies' rather than face the challenges of true governing. That debt path would also push up borrowing costs for the private sector, which would result in lower business investment and slow the growth of economic output over time.

## Chinese diplomat points to toxic US role in Asia

China has urged the UN Security Council to deliberate on finding a solution for the Korean peninsula issue. Meanwhile, Beijing criticised the US for holding military drills.

Chinese Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Geng Shuang reaffirmed China's stance on dialogue and consultation regarding the differences between North and South Korea, at UN Council meeting. Criticising the recent strengthening of the US military alliance in the Asia-Pacific region, Geng stated that China had taken notice of North Korea's recent missile launches followed by the joint military drills orchestrated by the United States and other countries in the region.

The Chinese Ambassador further stated that America's actions in the region heightened the risk of military confrontation. Further accusing the US of practicing double standards on the nuclear issue, Geng iterated that the situation on the peninsula inevitably becomes tense. China thereby accused the US of poisoning the regional security environment, reported *Global Times*.



Last week, the US and South Korean military fired 4 surface-to-surface missiles into the sea in response to North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile over Japan.



## Cost-of-living crisis in UK

Three-hour long planned blackouts could hit UK this winter to save National Grid from collapse, warns electricity grid body

The first planned blackouts in decades might hit parts of the country this winter if power plants cannot get enough gas to keep running, the body that oversees Britain's electricity grid has warned.

Households are being encouraged to help avoid blackouts, 'save money and back Britain' by using more energy during off-peak times.

In what it called an 'unlikely' scenario, the National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) said that households and businesses might face planned three-hour outages to ensure that the grid does not collapse.

It is the most dire of three possible scenarios that the ESO laid out for how Britain's electricity grid might cope with

the worst global energy crisis for decades.

In the other two scenarios, the operator hopes that by paying people to charge their electric cars at off-peak times and firing up backup coal plants it can offset the risk of blackouts.

People are being encouraged to sign up with their electricity supplier to a scheme which will give them money back on their bills to shift their use of power away from times of high demand to help prevent blackouts.

Without the scheme, there might be days when it was cold and still — creating high demand and low levels of wind power — when there would be a potential need to interrupt supply to some customers for limited periods, National Grid ESO's winter outlook said.

## Dealing a blow to USA

OPEC+ agreed steep oil production cuts, curbing supply in an already tight market, causing one of its biggest clashes with the West as the US administration called the surprise decision short-sighted

OPEC's de-facto leader Saudi Arabia said the cut of 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of output — equal to 2 percent of global supply — was necessary to respond to rising interest rates in the West and a weaker global economy.

The kingdom rebuffed criticism it was colluding with Russia, which is included in the OPEC+ group, to drive prices higher and said the West was often driven by 'wealth arrogance' when criticising the group.

The White House said President Joe Biden would continue to assess whether to release further strategic oil stocks to lower prices.

"The President is disappointed by the short-sighted decision by OPEC+ to cut production quotas while the global economy is dealing with the continued negative impact

of [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's invasion of Ukraine," the White House said.

Biden faces low approval ratings ahead of mid-term elections due to soaring inflation and has called on Saudi Arabia, a long-term US ally, to help lower prices.

US officials have said part of the reason Washington wants lower oil prices is to deprive Moscow of oil revenue. Biden travelled to Riyadh this year but failed to secure any firm co-operation commitments on energy. Relations have been further strained as Saudi Arabia has not condemned Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

Speaking at a news conference, OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al Ghais defended the group's decision to impose a deep output cut, saying OPEC+ was seeking to provide 'security [and] stability to the energy markets'.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# He paints a portrait of Belarus

Artist Victor Barabantsev — about creativity, travel and love for his native country

**He studied with folk artists Gavriil Vashchenko and Vladimir Stelmashonok. He travelled with an easel all over the country, and almost half of the globe with exhibitions. If to collect all the paintings of the Honoured Art Worker of Belarus Victor Barabantsev, one can make the most detailed portrait of our Motherland. The author passed his every stroke and every flake through a heart filled with sincere love for his native land, interest in the historical past of Belarus and the cultural traditions of our people.**



By Dmitry Boyarchuk

## From one hero of the day to another

Victor Barabantsev turns 75. He has been living and working in Minsk for a long time, but the artist was born and raised in Gomel. Therefore, it is no coincidence that he presents his anniversary exhibition at the museum of the Palace and Park Ensemble in Grodno. The title of the exposition is based on the words of the author himself: 'Feel the Motherland in your soul'. The hero of the day not only accepted congratulations, but also came to his hometown with a gift. However, it was also for the anniversary — Gomel turned 880.

Victor Barabantsev says with a smile, "Of course, I am a little younger than my hometown. I want to donate 30 of my works to the Museum of the History of Gomel City. Here is the Chernobyl cycle, and landscapes with views of Pripyat River and Sozh River. Let them be stored on their native land in a permanent exhibition. Well, I'll fill it up as best I can."

## The path of the artist

Victor Barabantsev is not just an outstanding artist, but also an interesting storyteller. Each painting has its own story. However, the very question of the reasons that prompted him to take up painting, at first really confuses the author. But suddenly he remembers an episode from childhood, "I had a picture hanging over my bed with a fabulous winter landscape and a path leading into the forest. I later found out that my uncle painted it. He was a sailor, but he painted pictures just for passion. Well, in the fifth grade I already consciously took up drawing, I even bought a self-instruction manual in Gomel."

Victor Barabantsev graduated from the Minsk State Art College in 1968, and from the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute in 1978. Soon came appreciation. He has many awards: for example, in 2001 he became a laureate of the Presidential Prize for Spiritual Revival, in 2010 he was awarded the Francysk Skaryna Medal. But it was not for their sake that the author travelled around Belarus for so many years. He watched, listened, absorbed, so that later he could share the soul of the native land with his descendants.

## 'Jesus Christ, it looks like it's alive!'

Continuing the traditions of the Belarusian realistic school of painting, Victor found himself in chamber painting filled with metaphors and symbols and became known for his detailed landscapes. Each picture stands out not only for its plot, but also for its depth, format, and space. The artist admires nature, singing its beauty. His portraits are also lyrical and warm. Heroes sometimes literally ask for a canvas. Barabantsev recalls,

*"I was walking through the village of Krasnoozernoye in the Smorgon District, when a simple village peasant was sitting on a bench. He was picturesque, with his face red from sunburn. He called me and asked: 'Could you paint me?' I agreed and began to paint a portrait right there. While I was working, he called his wife to show her his portrait. She began to lament: 'Jesus Christ, it looks like it's alive!'"*

By the way, this picture is still in the collection of the author.

## Portrait of a teacher and an unexpected meeting

The artist paints only from nature. Before portraying a person, he studies him for more than one year. Alexey Dudarev, Ivan Misko, Olga Ipatova, Nil Gilevich, Valentin Elizariyev posed for the master. There is also a portrait of his teacher — Gavriil Vashchenko.

"Gavriil Kharitonovich agreed easily, although he had just left the hospital. Summer, heat — and he is in a sheepskin coat. The portrait was painted in his studio for an hour and a half a day, so as not to tire

## From England to China

Ancient cities, historically significant places, churches and monasteries regularly find their embodiment on the canvases of the master. Victor Barabantsev also takes part in the painting of Belarusian churches. He created complex multi-colour frescoes on the scenes of the Holy Scriptures on the walls in the church of the village of Lebedevo in the Molodechno Region, labour-intensive, professionally made mo-

more difficult. In the evening, I came to bed more dead than alive."

## The strength of the native land

The author admits that it is more comfortable to travel around Belarus. Native places fill the soul of the artist with their unique energy, allowing to create for hours in nature, forgetting about fatigue, heat, cold and other hindrances, which at once become insignificant even at the age



Tata Kaverina



too much. He came once, twice and third. I didn't show him the work. Finally, he could not stand it and asked how long I would torture him. He asked me to show what I managed to paint, and said: 'Victor, the first commandment of an artist is to stop in time. Enough, the portrait is ready,'" tells Barabantsev.

The artist offered the Vashchenko Art Gallery in Gomel to purchase the work, but so far it is kept by the author.

The seeking soul of Barabantsev also led him to the Zhirovischi Monastery.

"I felt ill after the Chernobyl accident. I lived with the monks for ten days. During this time, I was healed, cleansed. I have the portrait of one novice at that time as a keepsake. I was looking for a couple of days to approach him. He went to his cell, and I met him. We talked, it turned out that he was the son of the famous Belarusian sculptor Andrei Bembel. That's how interesting fate brought us together. Now he is already a monk, so he has a different name, a church one," the artist recalls.

saics in the Joy of All Who Sorrow and Mary Magdalene churches of Minsk, as well as in the House of Mercy. The artist is also in demand outside of Belarus. There is his mosaic panel in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Polish Bialystok.

**The works of Victor Barabantsev are kept in the leading museums of the country. A lot of the painter's works are also found outside of Belarus: in private collections in England, Belgium, Cyprus, Poland, Sweden, Holland, and the USA. Now the Gomel museum has joined the list.**

There is also a series of works devoted to travel. One can see sea and city landscapes with views of Provence and Madrid, Barcelona and Jerusalem. A trip to China was a true test, "I wanted to look at the Great Wall of China four years ago. I travelled by roundabout paths over stones, climbed a rope ladder. It was 36 degrees; it was really hot. So, I spent the whole day there. It's hard, but you don't feel time at work. Going down was even



Spring on the Isloch River

of 75. The master admits that the creation of one picture can take both several weeks and several years. But the portrait of his native land has not yet been completed. More and more colours, details, images are added to it. Thus, Belarus looks at its children from Barabantsev's paintings, telling its story through landscapes and portraits, church domes and blue lakes.

**"I see Belarus as open, kind and hospitable country. In my paintings, it is filled with the feelings of the people living here. Love for your home, respect for work, care for loved ones, joys and sorrows. It is filled with the ability to preserve its culture and traditions, to honour its history. And most importantly — beauty, which can not be found anywhere else," explains the artist.**



# Keepers of traditions

Folk crafts are an important part of historical memory

**The Gantsevichi District, located among the Polesie swamps and forests, has always been famous for its original craftsmen. How do they pass on experience and knowledge to young people?**

By Gennady Poplavsky

## Woven towels are on trend

In December, the regional House of Crafts will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its establishment. All this time, the institution provides good opportunities for the development of creative abilities of residents of the district of all ages: from children to pensioners. Today there are five associations in which more than six dozen participants are involved, including more than 20 children. In addition, organisational and methodological work with the craftsmen of the district is carried out by the Bagach folk club of masters of folk art.

Now this unique club unites 25 masters. At the same time, four of them were awarded the title of People's Master of Belarus. Feonia Krysyuk was the first to receive it. Following are the weavers Nina Kazak and Ulyana Vinnik. And in December 2018 — potter Vitaly Shepelevich.

The creativity of local talents has long received well-deserved recognition from both the jury and ordinary connoisseurs of originality. As one of the examples, the Director notes the fact that the Gantsevichi House of Crafts received several diplomas of the 1st degree in various thematic competitions at the 31st edition of the International Arts Festival Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk.

"It was very pleasant that the work of our masters were very much appreciated. Men's shirts, women's and children's dresses, original bags, woven towels and rugs made in Gantsevichi were very popular at the fair held within the framework of the festival. They were bought up with pleasure by the participants and guests of the Slavianski Bazaar," says Director of the House of Crafts Alla Zanko.

## Wedding attributes

Among the woven products presented in Vitebsk were the works of Ulyana Vinnik. Natural linen towels and clothes, which the 77-year-old crafts-



Folk master Ulyana Vinnik



Potter Vitaly Shepelevich



woman weaves on an old loom at her home in the village of Borki, in fact, are real artistic masterpieces and are represented in a number of museums and private collections.

"I took my first weaving lessons from my mother Anna Semyonovna at the age of six, and at the age of 12 I was already weaving with my 'krosny' [weaving loom in Belarusian]. In those days, this was a common occupation in the countryside, so I continued to weave with the 'krosny' of my mother-in-law when I got married as a 17-year-old girl in the neighbouring village of Borki. Then, in the 1960s, we mainly wove towels, bedspreads and other things that adorned the modest peasant life. At the same time, towels with ornaments were especially popular — they were an indispensable attribute of

all weddings. I still remember that people paid two or three rubles for such a towel," explains Ulyana Vinnik.

However, the skill of the girl was highly appreciated

not only by fellow villagers, but also by specialists. According to the memoirs of Ulyana Petrovna, her husband Aleksandr Demyanovich, who was a cultural worker, once sent

her towels to an exhibition in Brest in 1966. Soon the organisers replied that they wanted to purchase them for the permanent exhibition. And for many decades now, these and other works of the craftswoman have been kept in Brest in the regional museum of local lore and the museum of folk art at the regional social and cultural centre.

"Now people really like natural things that are made using old technologies. And this is good. After all, there was a time when homespun towels and clothes were considered 'countrylike', from which one need to get rid of. And this, in my opinion, is the same as to renounce the memory of the ancestors, and even from oneself. Therefore, we must try to ensure that our folk crafts and crafts do not disappear with the departure of the old masters, but pass on to the younger generation. I once taught my daughters to weave, and now I pass on professional secrets to my granddaughters — Dasha, Katya and Varya. So, looking at the enthusiasm with which they master it, I am sure that they will definitely continue my thing someday," says Ulyana Vinnik.



They are always ready for fire and water, they have steel nerves and iron muscles, kind souls and brave hearts. Everything they do is always conscientious and all the way, because they don't know how to do anything else. And they actually can't. The men's team of Belarus once again became the winner of the World Championship in fire-rescue sport, which ended in Samarkand. In addition, the women's team of Belarus won the silver medal.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, congratulated members of the national team of the Emergencies Ministry on a brilliant performance:

*"Your triumphant victories once again demonstrated to the world the highest professionalism of Belarusian rescuers and the inviolability of the traditions that Belarusian sports are famous for. I thank the coaching staff and all the specialists who brought up real champions, in honour of which the Belarusian flag was raised over the sky of Uzbekistan,"* the message of greetings reads.

The Head of State wished the members of the national team good health, well-being and energy, not to stop there, to strive for new victories and high awards for the glory of the Motherland — the Republic of Belarus.

Four days of hot, literally and figuratively, struggle under the scorching sun of Samarkand turned out to be rich in emotions and victories. The championship was attended by 11 men's teams (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Iran) and five women's (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkey) — elite of rescue athletes,



# Professionalism, courage and pride

## The team of Belarus in fire-rescue sport knows no equal in the world again

time champion in this event, no one can beat a Belarusian firefighter since 2019. Nikita is an engineer of the communications and warning department of the Fire Rescue Squad of the Mogilev Regional Department of the Emergencies Ministry. In January, he was awarded the honorary title of Honoured Master of Sports of the Republic of Belarus, receiving the badge personally from the hands of Aleksandr Lukashenko.

est step of the podium, which resulted in a genuine and total superiority over competitors. In football, in such cases they say: 'one-sided game' or 'lopsided victory'. As a natural result, the men's team of Belarus took the first team place and won the title of eight-time world champions! The women's team also showed itself in all its glory, becoming the second.

But that's not all. In the biathlon standings, Nikita Ukolov again became the best — this is the third personal gold of Samarkand for the leader of the Belarusian team! For girls, gold in this discipline also goes to Belarus — it was won by Natalya Pasha.

We have a long tradition of successful performance in firefighting. Back in the 1970s, Belarusian rescuers successfully

made to create the International Sports Federation of Firefighters and Rescuers. Belarus became part of it in the same year. The first ever World Championship was held in Moscow in September 2002, with teams from 21 countries taking part. Among them was the national team of Belarus, which confidently took the first place in the team competition and forever inscribed its name in history. Two years later, the competition came to Minsk, and our athletes defended the title of the strongest on the planet at the National Olympic Stadium Dinamo.

Since then, Belarusian rescuers have always played the leading roles. The men's team of Belarus also became the first in the team event and won the relay



true pros, for whom, it seems, nothing is impossible and there are no obstacles to achieving the goal. What a crazy competition! This is doubly pleasant to realise that ordinary Belarusian guys not only did not flinch, but once again did not know no equal in the world again, confidently winning all the exercises included in the championship programme!

The country must know its heroes, and therefore we applaud together. Nikita Ukolov confidently excelled in climbing the assault ladder to the fourth floor of the training tower. From now on, he is a three-

As you can see, honour to whom honour is due! By the way, another Belarusian (also Honoured Master of Sports of the Republic of Belarus and multiple world champion) Yevgeny Rabtsevich climbed to the third step of the podium in this discipline.

Similar success (first and third places) was achieved by our athletes in overcoming the 100-metre obstacle course: Nikita Ukolov again finished with the best time, and Ilya Naumov became the bronze medallist. In addition, in the 4x100 metres relay and combat deployment, our rescue athletes also found themselves on the high-



competed at the level of USSR championships and won international awards. In 1998, fire and rescue sports finally took a professional sovereign footing in the country, when the Belarusian Fire Rescue Sport Federation was established. Thus, in September 2001, an official decision was

for the first time in 13 years at the 2021 World Championships in Karaganda. This year, as we see, they performed even more confidently, leaving no shadow of doubt in their complete superiority over their rivals. We can say it again: professionalism, courage and pride!

# They never give up

Following the results of seven competitive days, representatives of our team won 64 medals, including 25 gold ones. Most of the gold medals (18) were won by swimmers. Ihar Boki became the six-time champion of the We Are

Together. Sports games. Grigory Zudilov rose to the highest step of the podium four times, Dmitry Solei three times. Aleksandra Kozlova clinched two gold medals, Yegor Shchelkanov, Aleksei Talai and Anastasia Zudilova one

gold each. Dmitry Bortashevich became a two-time champion, fencers Andrei Pranevich, Kristina Feklistova and Anastasia Kostyuchkova, as well as Yelizaveta Petrenko and Veronika Grasyuk (both track and field athletes)

**The International Summer Paralympic Games We Are Together. Sports ended in Sochi with the participation of Belarusian athletes who won 25 gold medals.**

won one gold medal each. The Belarusian team also took 19 silver and 20 bronze medals. All in all, the competitions brought together about 1,200 athletes in 9 summer sports: athletics, swimming, table tennis,

archery, taekwondo, wheelchair fencing, football, draughts and chess. Teams from Belarus, Russia, Armenia, Germany, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mali, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Eritrea took part in the competition.





Ol'sana Kljuchik

## Photo of the week

Mushroom season has started in Belarus

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On October 14th, 1843,** Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* was performed for the first time. On this day, the premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* play based

on Shakespeare's comedy took place in Potsdam. The music for the performance was written by the 34-year-old composer Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, who was simply called Felix Mendelssohn by his contemporaries. It was on this day that the Wedding March was performed for the first time in the play, which, perhaps, is familiar to all brides and grooms.



**On October 15th, 1880,** a celebration was held in honour of the completion of the construction of the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter in Cologne.

The construction of one of the greatest cathedrals in the world — Cologne Cathedral — lasted more than 600 years.

**On October 15th, 1967,** the grand opening of the *To the Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad* monument-ensemble on Mamayev Kurgan — the largest and most majestic memorial complex dedicated to the victory of Soviet troops in the Great Patriotic War took place. Mamayev Kurgan became known to



**October 16th** is World Bread Day. The holiday was established in 2006 at the initiative of the International Union of Bakers and Confectioners. The choice of date is due to the fact that on October 16th, 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations was created, which dealt with problems in the development of agriculture and its production. By the way, another holiday is timed to the same event — World Food Day.



**On October 16th, 2002,** a solemn ceremony was held to open the new Library of Alexandria in Egypt — the successor to the largest library of the Hellenistic period.



It was created on the initiative of UNESCO, the government of Egypt and a number of European and Arab countries.

the whole world as the arena of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War, and where its radical turn took place.



**October 16th** is World Anaesthesia Day. On October 16th, 1846, American physician William T.G. Morton

performed the first operation under ether anaesthesia. Now anaesthesiology is singled out as a separate branch of medicine, which inalienably accompanies not only surgery, but also psychiatry, narcology, and other areas of medicine.

**October 18th** is International Necktie Day. This accessory of men's and women's wardrobe has its own history. It is generally accepted that it came into fashion thanks to the French king Louis XIII, under whom neckties entered everyday life as an element of fashion.



**October 20th** is International Chefs Day. The date was established at the initiative of the World Association of Chefs Societies in 2004. The profession of a chef is one of the most sought after in the world and one of the oldest. The first recipes



written on paper appeared in Babylon, Ancient Egypt and Ancient China, as well as in the countries of the Arab East.

**On October 20th, 1947,** Alexander Ostrovsky's play *Truth Is Good, but Happiness Is Better* opened a regional drama theatre in Grodno, created on the basis of the Bobruisk Regional Russian Drama Theatre transferred to Grodno. The high theatrical culture and artistic traditions of the theatre were laid by the founder of the group, a major theatrical figure, Honoured Artist of the BSSR Nikolai Kovyazin, who led the theatre until 1950.



**October 20th** is International Day of the Air Traffic Controller — a professional holiday of air traffic controllers and workers involved in air traffic control. These specialists must control and ensure the safe and orderly movement of aircraft on the ground and in the air in order to prevent their collision, and in special situations — to provide the crew of the aircraft with the necessary assistance.

