

15,000
genetic
passports issued
in Belarus



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Shenyang Finance
Museum presents
collection of Chinese
money in Minsk



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Vegetable which a whole festival is devoted to

Ivye tomato — grown by hundreds of families — has long been renowned outside the Grodno Region: it enjoys popularity among Belarusians and is exported abroad. Ivye residents call their city ‘the tomato capital’ and have even devoted a whole festival to the vegetable.



Voting to be made accessible

Electoral process in Belarus is taking place in a stable political environment, said the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission — Lidia Yermoshina

By Alexey Fedosov

At BelTA's press centre, the official pointed to the good timing of the parliamentary elections. "I believe the electoral process is taking place in a stable political environment," said Ms. Yermoshina.

Describing the Belarusian electoral system in general, she noted that candidates'

campaigns are partially subsidised by the state. For example, candidates are entitled to free airtime and space in state-run media.

Ms. Yermoshina pointed out that there is no party list voting in Belarus. "Therefore, it is impossible to hide behind a popular brand, everyone should stand out," she noted, adding that she

sees nothing that would distinguish the current election campaign from the previous ones. However, there are some new features.

"A mobile app will be launched soon. It is designed to determine the location of a polling station and the number of the constituency. This will be of great help for signature collectors," said Ms. Yermoshina.

This year, the election organisers are working hard to improve accessibility to elections for people with disabilities. For example, all TV channels will provide subtitles for candidates' speeches. Furthermore, special places will be allocated at polling stations to make it easier for people with disabilities to cast their votes. "These will be either special,



wider voting booths or places with low desks or tables," said the official.

Information resource could drastically change the tourism-related situation



scratch or based on one of the available tourist resources, in the shortest possible time.

During the meeting, it was noted that the active promotion of tourism opportunities for the country is already yielding results. The presentation of Belarusian stands at exhibitions has resulted in an increase of exports of tourist services to each country by 10-15 percent. Thanks to this work, it has become possible to diversify the exports of tourist services: previously, Russia was the main market but, recently, the share of tourists from other countries is growing.

Proper use of tourism potential can bring tangible economic benefits. In 2018, exports of tourism services totalled some \$230m — 14 percent more than in 2017. The growth in exports of tourist services continues this year.

The session took place in Novogrudok, which is among the most developed areas in the country with regards to tourism. Participants of the meeting visited the castles in Lyubcha and Novogrudok, also attending the Museum of Jewish Resistance and the Adam Mickiewicz House-Museum.

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarus needs a powerful information resource to present the country's tourist potential to foreigners

At a session of the Interdepartmental Expert and Co-or-

dination Council on Tourism under the Council of Ministers, Belarus' Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko stressed that a growth in tourism is impossible without the presentation and promotion of the country's opportunities. To

achieve this, all necessary resources are required. "Tourists should be able to get all the necessary information online: such as the schedule of public transport, the opening hours of museums, the description of tourist sites, events and routes.

All these should be on a single powerful resource representing the country. Information should be presented in as many languages as possible," Mr. Petrishenko said, instructing staff to work on the possibility of creating such a portal from

Experiments likely to prove efficient

Belarusian customs service spends as little as five minutes on processing export shipments

By Natalia Yemelyanova

The experiment by Belarusian customs on remote export processing began this April, involving 90 Belarusian economic entities: exporters of Brest, Grodno and Minsk regions, operating based on Mogilev customs.

The essence of the experiment is that the registration of declarations for goods is carried out by Mogilev customs officers at the departmental point of customs clearance, while customs control in respect of these goods is carried out in a different re-

gion's customs. Up to now, more than 8 thousand export declarations have been issued and the average shipment time for each batch of goods is no more than five minutes.

"The use of remote shipment of goods allows more efficient use of resources, redistributing the volume of processed goods from more loaded structural units to less loaded. It also helps reduce both the time and financial costs of business entities," noted the State Customs Committee's representatives.



Regions have their own potential for growth

The President paid a working visit to Kostyukovich District of Mogilev Region

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The main theme of the President's visit to Kostyukovich was summarising the development of seven south-eastern regions of the Mogilev area. He drew special attention to the fact that this was a historic event for the region — both in form and content. It could have been held at the Palace of Independence or at the Government offices but going to the site always produces the best effect.

Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded those attending how decisions on the development of the region were made four years ago. He admitted that he was full of doubts regarding the correctness and timeliness of the decisions taken.

“Four years ago, I was tormented by this question. At the time I wasn't absolutely convinced that we would begin to solve the problems of this region globally. However, I proceeded from the fact that we still need to pull the area up to the appropriate level. I instructed the region to develop this programme and implement it as it sees fit. In turn, the decree has been signed aiming to support you. I'm rendering assistance. However, I'll be demanding,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

Up to now, there remain no doubts about the need for the rapid development of the south-eastern regions. However, strong controls over the implementation of each project will continue to come from the highest level. The President stressed, “I believe



that it is time to get a return from these areas. They should not feel outcast. People here must live well and be proud that they live in Slavgorod, Kostyukovich or Khotimsk.”

Mr. Lukashenko clearly placed emphasis on the fact that the region needs solid enterprises that can work stably and for long periods. This involves the confidence of people in the future, and relevant market products. Large enterprises (including private and state ownership) ensure

employment of the population and bring benefit to the country. These must be focused on and should not be destroyed.

“Let's work on a large scale,” the President urged. “These might be a complex for beef and a complex for pork, if there is demand on the market. You are already experts in fish and let's investigate the issue in relation to the whole region. We are ready to support these facilities. The main issue is the sales market and payback. In

this case, there's no need to come to me: go to a bank and you'll receive credit — knowing that you will pay it back.”

At the end of the meeting, the President set a clear task for its participants: to promptly update the development programme for the region. At the same time, it's important to see the prospect for at least five years ahead; this refers to road construction, industry and agriculture.

The heads of the region and members of the Government

were instructed to consider where specific projects will be located, also analysing sales markets and calculating the necessary volume of labour forces and specialists. When everything is clarified, the social sphere should be studied in more detail. In the meantime, the main message is to prepare a document, the implementation of which would bring money to the region. The local authorities' aim in this case is to deal with all objects in a business-like manner.

To work and live a worthwhile life

By Vladimir Velikhov

Communication with local residents has long been a tradition of the President's working trips around the country. His direct dialogue with people is always lively, straightforward and sincere. Residents of Kostyukovich warmly welcomed the President and talked about day-to-day life. Aleksandr Lukashenko once again emphasised that the programme of the region's development would be updated to ensure that people work and receive a decent salary.

The Head of State addressed those present, “I'm determined for you to live better. Everything depends on us. Modern life is so madly organised. It rushes by like an express train. If you lag behind, then you'll get trampled; nobody will look whether you are at the back. We can't let that happen. If you work, then me, the Government and all those in the country will give you a helping hand if you want it. I am sure that the vast majority of people in Kostyukovi-



chi and other regions want to live and raise children.”

His warm words were greeted with gifts. A lady presented her own books to Mr. Lukashenko, while many people

thanked the President for coming and for his insistence on high standards. “Thank you so much for coming and special thanks for what you demand. If there is no insistence on high standards, then it will

not be our Belarus,” a man said. “People could get offended,” Mr. Lukashenko retorted, adding with a smile, “I'm kidding.” “Let them take offense. There are not so many such people,” the man replied. “Moreover, we are a single peaceful republic without conflict and battles. We live and work calmly.”

The conversation was joined by a man who introduced himself as a pensioner from Russia's Primorye. He observed, Belarusians live worthwhile lives. “Your pensioners live better than we do!” said the man.

It's nice to hear such words. Actually, the recipe for a comfortable life is simple. Mr. Lukashenko reminded everyone about the responsibility people hold for the future of their city and region, about the inadmissibility of corruption, theft and laxity. If there is no discipline and organisation, no problems can be solved. The locals agreed with all the arguments and gave the President warm applause and wishes of good health on his departure.

Memorandum sees great plans for future

By Svetlana Savelieva

Belarus and the Republic of Korea intend to develop joint relations in land administration

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the heads of the National Cadastral Agency at the State Property Committee of Belarus and LX Corporation of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of the Republic of Korea. The document was signed as part of the *Smart GEO Expo 2019* which took place recently in Seoul. The mem-



Smart GEO Expo 2019

7-9 August, 2019
Seoul, Republic of Korea

orandum confirms both parties' agreement to promote co-operation, to exchange strategies and technologies in the field of cadastre and land administration, develop innovative technologies and provide support for the building and analysis of spatial information. Further areas where co-operation could take place will be identified in the future.



The memorandum provides a basis for consultations, meetings and workshops, as well as joint research, the exchange of human resources and provision of geodetic

instruments and computer equipment.

LX Corporation is a state organisation which contributes to property rights' protection for Koreans and has

helped to develop the cadastre system since its establishment in 1977. The company provides accurate surveying services and various cadastral spatial data services.

Positive market response

Bobruiskagromash intends to ship agricultural machines as well as spare parts worth about \$500,000 to Kenya



By Olga Korneeva

The relevant agreement of intent was signed during the International Food, Hospital-

ity Business and Agriculture Expo — *FoodAgro 2019* — in Nairobi in early August. Bobruiskagromash presented its products during the expo,

BelTA has learned.

Visitors were most interested in Bobruiskagromash's tillage machines, trailers and semi-trailers for tractors, forage-harvesting machines (mowers, rakes, and balers). Afrtrade DMCC, Bobruiskagromash's official dealership in Kenya, arranged negotiations with potential buyers.

The company staff noted, "Participation in the expo and in business meetings allowed the Belarusian company to evaluate the real interest of African business circles in co-operation and sketch out further ways of advancing bilateral relations."

FoodAgro is a part of Eastern Africa's largest exhibition event — Kenya International Trade Exhibition (KITE). The Belarusian exposition was arranged by the National Marketing Centre of the Foreign Ministry.



Belarus to build a concrete processing plant and a fish-breeding farm in Kenya

By Natalia Yemelyanova

The total budget of these investment projects will exceed \$100m. The news was announced at the Belarusian Embassy in Kenya, following the Belarusian-Kenyan Business Forum.

The projects will be implemented as part of Kenya's *Big Four Strategic Plan* which includes food and nutrition security, universal healthcare, affordable housing and manufacturing. An agreement was also signed to ship motor and tractor equipment to Kenya to the total sum of \$20m, followed by the

opening of a plant in Kenya to assemble up to 5,000 Belarusian tractors per year.

The Belarusian-Kenyan Business Forum was held in Nairobi. The Belarusian delegation was led by the Deputy Chairman of the Board of the National Bank, Sergey Kalechits, and Kenya was represented by the leadership of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Foreign Ministry, commercial companies, finance and credit institutes. The participants discussed promising areas in which to advance trade and economic co-operation between the two countries.

Plans rely on opportunities

Intentions announced to expand co-operation with China's Greenland Group



By Alexey Fedosov

The Consul General of Belarus in Shanghai, Valery Matsel, met with General Manager of the Greenland Group, Xue Yingze, to discuss ways to enhance interaction. The parties tackled the implementation of agreements signed at the meeting between Belarus' First

Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandr Turchin, and the Chairman and President of Greenland Group, Zhang Yuliang.

Valery Matsel and Xue Yingze devoted special attention to the implementation of the contract which envisages the supplies of Belarusian food products with a high added value — worth \$600m

— to China, and the establishment of co-operation in tourism. Greenland Group's project to build the Shanghai Hotel in Minsk was also on the agenda. Other issues included launching direct flights between Minsk and Shanghai, setting up a pavilion featuring Belarusian goods, and opening a restaurant of Belaru-



sian cuisine in Shanghai. The Greenland Group intends to discuss these projects further with a Belarusian delegation

during the second *China International Import Expo* due to take place in Shanghai on November 5th-10th.



Forest is man-made wealth of the country

Aleksandr Lukashenko instructed the development of a programme to increase the turnover of low-quality wood products. The order was given by the President during his visit to Starye Dorogi experimental forestry.

By Vasily Kharitonov

The intention is to be able to process the entire wood resource within the next three years. The focus is on wood which cannot be used for other needs, except for the manufacture of chips and fuel pellets. This is cost-effective both in terms of increasing the use of local fuel resources and as an export component. The demand for fuel pellets abroad is quite high.

As reported by the Forestry Minister, Vitaly Drozhzha, there is a positive trend in terms of increasing the number of forests. At the same time, Belarus was affected by the problem of parts of the forest being destroyed by the bark beetle. "This year, the situation is getting better. As of now, there are half as many affected plantations," the Minister said.

With regard to the development of processing low-quality commercial wood, the country is currently working on the construction and modernisation of waste-free wood processing plants in various regions of Belarus. A programme for the construction of six pellet plants is already being implemented. They solve the problem of using low-quality wood and will be put into operation in the first half of next year. The volume of production of fuel pellets in the near future will be at least doubled. "These are almost 100 percent export-oriented products with high added value," said Mr. Drozhzha.

Mr. Lukashenko also familiarised himself with the work of Starye Dorogi's experimental forestry. The President was shown local products ranging from birch juice, berries, mushrooms



Production workshop at Starye Dorogi experimental forestry

and honey, to fuel pellets and lumber. The forestry is also engaged in growing tree seedlings and ornamental plants for landscaping. The President pointed out the importance of this, especially given that 2020 will be the last year in the three-year period of the Year of Small Homeland. "That's what we need. The forest is sacred," said the Head of State.

The President tasted the honey collected in the forestry. He was also presented with a box of local honey in honeycombs. Mr. Lukashenko said that he regularly uses the product. "I always have honey on my table," he noted.

In addition, the President visited the wood processing plant and learnt about the technological processes involved.

In line with the *Belarusian Forest* state programme for 2016-2020, the most important targets for the industry organisations are forest cover, timber harvesting and energy saving. Every year, all indicators of the programme are being realised. Over the past 5 years, the positive dynamics of the forest stock of the country has been achieved. The forest area and the total stock of wood have increased. The main quantitative and qualitative indicators of forests have improved. The country has also

established an effective management structure for forest fire protection. The quality of forest management shows almost one hundred percent availability of certified forests under international and European certification systems, which is one of the best results in Europe.

Last year, the Forestry Ministry's organisations exported forest products totalling almost \$150m, to more than 25 countries. Woodworking activity is an important component of the forestry economy. At the moment, the Forestry Ministry has about a hundred wood processing facilities. Sales of wood products are increasing annually.

Clear goals set National pavilion in Chengdu to introduce Belarusian produce to Chinese market and further strengthen business partnerships between the two countries

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

The Belarusian national pavilion in China's Chengdu will not only help increase trade, but also bring together business partners in both countries. This was stated by Zhang Yi, the Director General of the Chinese meat trade and investment company Great Silk Road, as part of the ONT TV Channel broadcasting.

The Belarusian national pavilion is scheduled to open this November in Chengdu in the Sichuan Province (in the free economic zone). Nearby are the two largest markets in Western China and the railway station, where trains

from Belarus arrive. Since the Chinese associate Belarus with Mir Castle, it was chosen as the basis for the design of the pavilion.

It will be a permanent exhibition venue for Belarusian enterprises and will also host business forums. "I know about 7,000 Chinese companies are waiting for Belarusian business," the official said. "When our consumers, for example, see milk from Australia on the shelf, they know that it has come from a country with beautiful nature and rich flora and fauna. They then buy this milk, associating the product with the country. Not all the Chinese people



At an exhibition in China

know what kind of country Belarus is and what beautiful nature you have. Therefore, they don't assume the product to be of high quality. We want to learn more about your country through its history, culture and nature. I will tell you a secret, we want to invite women from Belarus to Chengdu, to represent the products of your country. Believe me, when Chinese girls see Belarusian women, they will want to be as beau-

tiful and positive. They will definitely choose to buy your products."

It is expected that, in the first year of the pavilion's operation, trade turnover will reach \$5m and will increase to \$20m within a year. After another year, the figure is set to rise to \$60m. These are modest figures for the Chinese market, the official notes, but China is a strategic market for Belarus. These are our main goals to move forward.



Take your passport please: it is genetic

15,000 genetic passports issued in Belarus

By Vladimir Khromov

A genetic passport is a person's genetic identity card. Genes greatly determine not only our looks and abilities, but also our health. Therefore, it is crucial to establish whether a person will develop certain diseases in later life. If these diseases also depend on lifestyle factors, a person can take measures to prevent them. This can act as a guide for further action.

Recently, the 15,000th genetic passport has been presented to a 37-year-old Minsker, Yekaterina Astakhova, at the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The passport contains her complete genome sequence.

Genetic passports for citizens of Belarus and other countries have been issued by the National Centre for Genome Biotechnology of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences since 2010. The Centre carries out genetic tests to determine the risk of developing certain diseases, like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, osteoporosis and metabolic syndromes. The most com-



At the National Academy of Sciences' human genetics laboratory

mon reason for doing a genetic test is to find out causes of miscarriage. A great number of genetic passports have been issued to women suffering from pregnancy loss. A genetic analysis in this case allows identifying individual access

to certain drugs. Genetic tests are also done to assess athletic performance characteristics. It is an important tool used in talent selection for sport. More than 500 athletes representing 30 national Olympic teams have already been tested in

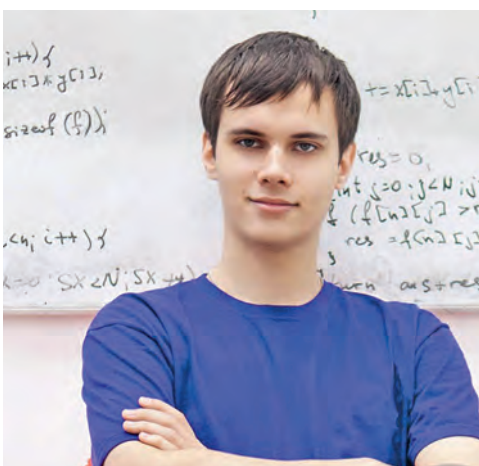
Belarus and a DNA databank of elite athletes has been created. Genetic passports are issued for both professional and new athletes. Genetic testing can also predict athletic performance in children and help identify their potential to excel

in a particular sport.

The National Centre for Genome Biotechnology of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology is the only one in the CIS that has international accreditation in the field of genetic analysis.

Gennady Korotkevich continues to take the lead

Gomel-born postgraduate student of the University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics in St. Petersburg, Gennady Korotkevich, wins *Google Code Jam* international programming competition in San Francisco



By Olga Korneeva

The talented programmer has earned the title of winner of the prestigious contest for the sixth time. The university noted that no other entrant of the competition has managed to break this record so far.

Google Code Jam has been held annually since 2003 and is viewed as one of the most pop-

ular mass programming championships. Every year, it brings together more than 50,000 programmers from all over the world with only the top 25 qualifying for the finals. The tournament consists of a range of algorithmic tasks and within a fixed period of time all entrants must present two different solutions for each of the tasks, using one of the programming languages.

Earning 143 points, the Belarusian secured his position in the rating, being ahead of Makoto Soejima of Japan and student from MIT Andrew He (both having 121 points) by 22 places.

Gennady Korotkevich completed the gymnasium in Gomel and boasts many victories at international programming competitions, including *Google Code Jam*, *Yandex. Algorithm*, *VK Cup*, *Russia Code Cup* and the *Facebook Hacker Cup*.

To understand the truth

Belarusian archaeologists continue to explore ancient settlements from the Palaeolithic era



By Vladimir Velikhov

At a recent press conference, Vadim Lakiza — the Deputy Director for Research at the History Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus — said that there are several different focus areas in Belarusian archaeology, in accordance with different historical periods. "We investigate a wide range of archaeological monuments from the Palaeolithic era," he said, adding, "In particular, works were conducted in Novoselki in the Gomel Region's Vetka District and interesting artefacts — confirming that this monument belongs to the upper Palaeolithic era — were unearthed. In turn, a study in the Ivanovo District of the Brest Region showed that the settlement of the territory of Belarus occurred much earlier than was previously thought."

It is assumed that the arte-

facts could be up to 250,000 years old. Last year, a conference brought together representatives of 16 countries. "Foreign experts looked at these artefacts. It was important for us that they confirmed our hypothesis. The work is underway and this is only the beginning of the research. In the future, we plan to expand the excavations to find new artefacts and obtain new sources of information," Mr. Lakiza said.

The archaeologists' finds are analysed and used as material for scientific research. In particular, in the first half of 2019, the second edition of the two-volume *Slavs on the Territory of Belarus in the Pre-State Period* book was published. It presents new archaeological sites of the early Slavs (from the 4th century) found in the southern part of Belarus and describes the Slavic settlements of the late

4th-5th century and 6th-early 7th century. Special attention is paid to the significant archaeological monument from that period near the village of Kordon in the Shumilino District of the Vitebsk Region, which has been studied since 2016.

"Until now, it was thought that the Slavs began to develop the territory of Belarus only in the late 9th century, with the Balts accounting for a major proportion of the population. We now know this is not true. The interaction of the Slavs with the local population began earlier. It was then, in the era of the Great Migration of Peoples (4th-7th century), that the backbone of the Eastern Slavs was created," said the Head of the Centre of Archaeology and Ancient History of Belarus at the NAS' History Institute, Olga Levko.



Region presents itself

By Aleksandr Pimenov

Braslav representative office to open in Beijing

According to the Chairman of the Braslav District Executive Committee, Aleksandr Bodanin, this July, Chinese-European Culture Sinjang JSC signed an agreement of intent for co-operation in the field of education, economy, tourism and investment activities with the district administration. “To now, the Chinese side has provided an office for the Braslav representative office in Beijing. It’s expected to begin

work in October,” said Mr. Bodanin.

Also, by October 1st, a website will be developed with information about the Braslav District, its tourist potential, investment proposals, proposed land plots and other relevant information about this area of Belarus. This information is now being translated into Chinese by employees of the partner organisation.

Earlier, in accordance with the agreement, Braslav was visited by a group of Chinese teachers who taught local students the basics of their language and calligraphy. The Chinese

language is not yet being taught at city and district schools but, in view of the great interest shown by young people in the proposed classes, the local authorities may consider the possibility in the future.

Speaking of the first results of co-operation, Mr. Bodanin emphasised its great practical nature. “In the future, our co-operation will seriously promote the tourism and economic potential of the Braslav District in China,” he believes.

The city’s tourist attractiveness is evidenced by an annual increase in

tourists. In 2018, twenty-six thousand tourists visited local hotels, wellness organisations and homesteads (a 116 percent rise on 2017); around 6,000 of them were foreigners. More than 20,000 guests are annually attracted as part of festival tourism.

“The development of the tourism sector will entail not only an interest in the organisation of business activities in our area but also an increase in the retail trade, public catering, exports of services, employment and tax revenues into the budget,” concluded Mr. Bodanin.

Chinese culture covered in book series

Belarusian Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House presents the *Chinese Architecture* book, the fourth in the *Exploring the Chinese Civilisation* series

By Oleg Bogomazov

In recent years, Chinese literature has been one of the areas of interest for the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House. The framework of co-operation in publishing between the two countries was laid out in the memorandum of co-operation between the Belarusian Information Ministry and China’s State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television as part of the project to translate and publish Chinese and Belarusian classical literary works for the period of 2015-2020. The document was signed on the fringe of the 22nd Minsk International Book Fair in 2015 where China was a special guest.

Exploring the Chinese Civilisation is one of the major projects of recent years. It is being implemented in co-operation with the Chinese

office of the Belarusian National Confederation of Entrepreneurship. The series touches on many aspects of Chinese culture. It describes the Chinese writing system, calligraphy, music, art, literature, theatre, traditional remedies, applied arts, wushu, the lunar calendar, myths, achievements

in science and technology and other fundamental topics which reflect the continuity of the tradition.

The books — *Chinese Music*, *Chinese Myths and Legends*, and *Chinese Literature* — were released previously. All in all, the book series will comprise eight volumes.



Measures influence attractiveness

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Expansion of the visa-free territory to have a positive impact on business development and job creation

The Grodno Region is an attractive region for foreign visitors. New routes and offers for tourists are continuously developing. The expansion of visa-free regions will have a positive impact on the development of the tourism industry.

A recent decree on the uniting of the Grodno and Brest visa-free zones into a single visa-free zone was signed, and new areas added. Organised tourist groups will be able to move without visas throughout the western regions. The pro-

visions of the decree will take effect in November 2019.

“The flow of visa-free tourists has increased since the beginning of the year, for example, we have been visited by over 75,000 people,” explains the Deputy Chairman of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Victor Liskovich. “The Grodno District and the city of Grodno are open to them now. It is also important that, over two and a half years of visa-free travel, more than a thousand new jobs have been created in the regional centre and its suburbs. Hotels, hostels, cafes, restaurants and other hospitality facilities are being built, and small and medium-sized businesses are involved in this process.”



Google job search service draws antitrust complaint

Google appears to be in the firing line again for anti-competitive behaviour in Europe. The European Union is being urged to investigate the US tech giant's jobs search tool.

Google's fast-growing tool for searching job listings has been a boon for employers and job boards starving for candidates, but several rival job-finding services contend anti-competitive behaviour has fuelled

its rise and cost them users and profits. In a letter to be sent to the European Union Competition Commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, 23 job search websites in Europe called on her to temporarily order Google to stop playing unfairly while she investigates.

Similar to worldwide leader Indeed and other search services familiar to job seekers, Google's tool links to postings aggregated from many employers. It lets candidates filter, save

and get alerts about openings, though they must go elsewhere to apply.

Alphabet Inc's Google places a large widget for the 2-year-old tool at the top of results for searches such as 'call centre jobs' in most of the world.

Some rivals allege that positioning is illegal because Google is using its dominance to attract users to its specialised search offering without the traditional marketing investments they have to make.

Other job technology firms say Google has restored industry innovation and competition.

The tensions expose a new front in the battle between Google and online publishers reliant on search traffic, just as EU and US antitrust regulators heed calls to scrutinise tech giants including Google. Google so far over the last decade has withstood similar accusations from companies in local business and travel search.

Tesla motors make classic Ferrari cars go faster



Around the world, a cottage industry is growing in converting classic cars into electric vehicles

Small firms are buying up old Nissan and Tesla parts and bolting them into Ferraris, Porsches and BMWs, making them cleaner, easier to maintain and even quicker.

The basic process differs little from firm to firm: take out the engine and fuel tank and replace them with a battery pack and motor, often connecting the motor to the old gear box. They try to change as little as possible so that the process is reversible.

"Buyers have never asked for their car to be put back to petrol," says Richard Morgan, who owns Electric Classic Cars in Newtown, Wales. "I'm talking as an ex-petrolhead," he says. "From a massive petrolhead's point of view,

electric cars are better in every way." However, he adds, "If you'd said that to me five years ago I'd have laughed."

Mr. Morgan, whose more exotic conversions include a Ferrari 308, says his interest started a few years ago in his days racing classic cars. His team used an Oset electric bike to ferry about parts and snacks. "I was always amazed by that little thing. How much power was in this little motor the size of your fist," he said. The man decided to apply that power to cars, making it a full-time job three years ago. He uses a mix of new and recovered parts.

The Ferrari will now go from 0-60mph in 3.5 seconds in good conditions, halving its petrol-driven time. Its owner can worry less about tune-ups and break-downs. The car could do it in 2.7 seconds, but this was toned down as the rest of the car wasn't strong enough to handle it.

This car-first view is shared by San Diego-based EV West founder Michael Bream, considered one of the early movers of today's conversion scene. He says, while many people will want to go electric for the cleaner air, 'our job is to save the car'.



African entrepreneurs encouraged to unlock their continent's potential

Young African entrepreneurs are being urged to see private investment as the key to unlocking their continent's potential

That was the message at the recent Tony Elumelu entrepreneurship forum in Abuja, Nigeria — which brought together thousands of would-be entrepreneurs and potential investors.

"People now know that what happens in Africa doesn't stay in Africa," Mr. Elumelu said. "What happens in Africa can happen in other places. That is why I say that poverty anywhere is a threat to all of us everywhere. So the more we come together to provide solutions, to increase prosperity and make sure our young ones

are engaged, the better for the world."

During exchanges with budding young CEOs, invited national leaders praised the initiative — and pledged to create the conditions for entrepreneurial success.

"We must have the capacity to feed our continent and that means developing agricultural entrepreneurship — especially with young people in mind," said the President of Senegal, Macky Sall. "Because if agriculture is modernised, we'll have hundreds of millions of young people who could be entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, prospering and developing businesses."

Candidates can apply for non-refundable seed capital of

New Jerusalem finds are evidence of Babylonian siege

Archaeologists excavating on Mount Zion in Jerusalem have uncovered evidence of the Babylonian conquest of the city, appearing to confirm a Biblical account of its destruction

Academics from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte made significant finds, including ash deposits, arrowheads and broken pieces of pots and lamps. The most surprising discovery, however, was an item of jewellery, which appears to be a tassel or earring with a bell-shaped upper portion.

Shimon Gibson, the co-Director of the University's *Mount Zion* archaeological project, said that the recovery of the rare piece of jewellery is the first time that archaeologists have uncovered signs of the 'elites', appearing to confirm Biblical descriptions of Jerusalem's wealth prior to the conquest in 587-586 BC.

Mr. Gibson said jewellery is a rare find at conflict sites as warriors would normally loot it and melt it down. It is a 'clear indication of the wealth of the inhabitants of the city at the time of the siege', he said.

The historian added that while the items in isolation do not provide conclusive evidence of the Babylonian attack, the unique mix of artefacts leads researchers to believe they have uncovered direct evidence of the conquest.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Money tells us about the times



Shenyang Finance Museum presents collection of Chinese money in Minsk



By Veniamin Mikheev

The *Ancient Money of East: Silver and Paper* exhibition, organised together with the Shenyang Finance Museum of China, is held at the National Historical Museum of Belarus, featuring exact copies of the Chinese currency, silver bars and banknotes from the Tang dynasty (7th-10th century) to the end of the Qing dynasty's ruling and the early 20th century. In addition, on display are originals from modern coin collections and banknotes from China which demonstrate the preservation of the traditions of the ancient masters.

The exhibition in Minsk introduces features of China's traditional financial system, including the silver bars used in the Chinese economy and explains how the paper money, which once surprised Marco Polo, was introduced and developed. Visitors discover little-known details of the history of the ancient civilisation and can also see the modern money of the People's Republic of China.

The Historical Museum presents exact copies of the world's first mass-produced money, as

well as silver bars which were in circulation in feudal China. The museum hall showcases the financial system of the East from the 7th century to the end of Imperial China and the modern age. The exhibition begins with the Tang dynasty, when silver became the main currency, it was used as a means of payment for thousands of years until the fall of the Qing dynasty. It was possible to buy a house in Beijing for a half of a silver ingot.

Paper money was Eastern civilisation's innovation. In old China, two denominations of banknotes were used, 'Wen' which was smaller and 'Guan', larger. The banknotes are radically different from modern money and feature only hieroglyphic inscriptions. The formats also differ, for example, the world's largest banknote, 'Tongxing Baochao' is 33x22 centimetres. Forms for the casting of ingots and plates for banknote printing were key to the process of money making. As originals, the exhibition showcases medallions, medals and silver plates, these are modern 'products' of the Shenyang Mint which is one of the oldest in China.



Exhibition proves interesting to Chinese guests



Replicas of the Tang and Qing dynasties' means of payment are as close as possible to the originals, featuring signs of wear and patina on the metal. Copies of the money have been created by the Shenyang Museum for exhibition projects, as Chinese law prohibits money from being taken out of



the country. The insurance cost of the Minsk exhibition is 800,000 Yuans (\$100,000).

The Shenyang Finance Museum is located in the capital of the Liaoning Province, the city of Shenyang. It is one of the largest and most popular finance-related museums in China, keeping a unique collection of over 6,000 coins,



banknotes and ingots used in China from ancient times to the present day.

Last year, the museum signed a co-operation agreement with the National Historical Museum of Belarus. Both parties are now working on a new joint project, in 2020, when part of the Belarusian museum's numismatic collection will travel to the Shenyang Finance Museum.

New plans for the future

About 8,000 foreign nationals attended the International Festival of Arts — *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* — this year as part of the available visa-free access programme

By Vladislav Khmelevsky

The Director of the forum, Gleb Lapitsky, announced at a press conference that the festival featured more than 150 events, attended by over 300,000 people. "We sold a total of 72,000 tickets, 10 percent more than last year. We really appreciated the visa-free access programme.

About 8,000 foreigners took advantage of it. Last year, we sold around 50 tickets in Latvia and, this year, the figure approached 1,300 tickets thanks to a new ticket sales platform. This holds great promise. We are already negotiating with Estonia and Lithuania for access to their online sales markets," Mr. Lapitsky said.

Analysing the statistics of the festival, the Directorate plans to cut down on the number of events in the Summer Amphitheatre. Last year, there were 18 events, this year's programme included 16. Mr. Lapitsky believes the optimum would be 12 to 14.

"This year, the Vitebsk Concert Hall proved its worth, as all



its concerts were sold out. Not every performer loves large-scale venues, some prefer a 1,000-seat hall," said the official.

The jazz programme will be expanded next year due

to its increasing popularity among the audience. "We expect feedback from the public, which will make it much easier for us to plan ahead," Mr. Lapitsky concluded.

CULTURE

The Minsk Times
Thursday
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2019

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Beauty should be respected



By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition presents paintings created over the past decade, during the artists' participation in global open-air workshops. These include landscapes of Belarus, Russia, Norway, Finland, Israel, Montenegro and Spain. A part of the exhibition space is devoted to portraits of famous cultural figures. In total, more than fifty pieces are on show.

The exhibition is entitled *The Touch* since its creators believe beau-

After Pavel Sapotko recently took up the position of the National Historical Museum's Director, the museum has presented many exhibitions. At present, it is showcasing *The Touch* exhibition of paintings by Belarusian artists Victor Barabantsev and Leonid Gomonov.

ty should not be treated harshly. The show encourages people to appreciate beauty, to preserve peace and nature. "One of my works is also entitled *The Touch*. As here, waves are gently touching the shore. Similarly, people touch nature with their eyes, and the viewer touches our works. It is a gentle approach to everything that should be present in our lives. The exhibition is truly positive and distracts us from negative aspects of our lives," Leonid Gomonov said.

Victor Barabantsev presents around thirty paintings at the exhibition. These are mainly portraits and landscapes, as well as several complex still life images created over

the past decade. "This year, I painted Gomel paintings, as this is my homeland," the author says. "Our exhibition is mixed, as landscapes always look better when are accompanied by portraits."

The show includes interesting works created during travels, open air workshops and creative journeys.

"Last year, our archives were replenished with some works by Victor Barabantsev which will be presented in the museum's new building; due to begin construction next year," said Mr. Sapotko. "The museum co-operates with many graphic artists and sculptors, and we are happy with each of their exhibitions."

THE MT REFERENCE

Victor Barabantsev is an Honoured Artist of Belarus. He was born in 1947 in Gomel and graduated from the Minsk Art School. He later studied at the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute (now known as the Belarusian State Academy of Arts).

Leonid Gomonov was born in 1953 in Slavgorod, Mogilev. In 1974, he graduated from Minsk's Glebov Art School and, in 1991, the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute. He is a corresponding member of the International Academy of Culture and Arts (Moscow).

Crafts which have their roots deep in the past



Craftswoman Gulnara Kachan's *For Luck, For Destiny: Traditional Folk Dolls. An Illustrated Master Class* book has recently been released by the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House, as part of the exciting *Folk Master's Encyclopaedia* series

By Aleksandr Pimenov

The book by Gulnara Kachan is the second edition of the series dedicated to the manufacture of traditional folk dolls. It includes step-by-step illustrated projects. The book will arouse interest among both beginners and experienced craftsmen. "Folk dolls are folk wisdom, the invaluable experience of generations of our ancestors; they carry great educational power, honed by millennia. The pro-

cess of making a doll is a real cure for the soul. Craftswomen put a piece of themselves, their souls, their thoughts, aspirations and hopes into these items. A person reveals himself creatively, with their inner world being filled with new positive energy," explained the author of the book, folk artist, and member of the Belarusian Union of Masters, Gulnara Kachan.

Ceremonial and toy dolls were an important part of the life of our ancestors. Only

women could make them and always with good thoughts, clean hands and minds. Each of the dolls was intended for a specific life event, for example, a successful marriage or to attract wealth. The tradition of making such dolls, once lost in Belarus, is being revived today.

The book presents a small collection of dolls, collected thanks to the knowledge and skills of various masters from Belarus and neighbouring countries. "In my collection there is a doll made from

threads, as described by a resident of the town of Gorki, in the Mogilev Region," the author noted. "Another doll was shown to me by a woman from St. Petersburg. Her grandmother Sofia Kolykhnevich, born in 1890, was a Belarusian. She and her husband were forced to avoid starvation by leaving for Siberia during the Stolypin agrarian reforms, when the village of Penzino was founded. They preserved the Belarusian language and traditions, including the making

of dolls. It was grandma Sofia who passed down the knowledge of traditional dolls to her granddaughter."

The crafts of these folk artists have their roots deep in the past. Thanks to the *Folk Master's Encyclopaedia* series of the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House, founded in 2017, readers can learn about the most interesting folk crafts, plunge into the atmosphere in which our ancestors lived, and continue Belarusian traditions.

It's time to break from tradition

By Yuri Makarenko

BATE to play against Astana for a place in the group stage of the Europa League

In the 3rd qualifying round, our champions defeated Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 2:1 and 0:0. In turn, Astana defeated the modest Maltese Valletta team, 5:1 and 4:0.

It should be noted that the midfielder of the Belarusian national team, Ivan Mayevsky, played a key role in the team from Kazakhstan. Furthermore, in the past, the paths of BATE and Astana have crossed in the European Cup, though badly for Belarus. Three years ago, our 'yellow and blue' team was defeated by Kazakhs following two matches in the decisive round of the qualification for the Europa League, 0:2 and 2:2.

In addition, Belarusian fans will definitely remember the fiasco BATE experienced in the second qualifying round in the Champions League (2013/2014). The team from Borisov unexpectedly lost twice to Shakhter from Karaganda with the same score of



BATE vs Sarajevo football match

0:1 and, as a result, the European Cup season ended early. During the second half of the away match, Sergey Krivets failed to score a penalty and towards the end, when BATE went all-in, the rivals scored and took the victory.

BATE has opened their European Cup in the Champions League, defeat-

ing Polish Piast (1:1 and 2:1) but losing to Norwegian Rosenborg (2:1 and 0:2). A difficult victory was later achieved after the two matches against Sarajevo. Belarus was also represented by Minsk's Dinamo, Vitebsk and Shakhtyor in the Europa League-2019/20. The Minsk and Vitebsk teams were out of the com-

petition in the first qualification round, finishing behind Latvian Liepaja (1:1, 1:2) and Finnish KuPS (0:2, 1:1). The team from Soligorsk defeated Maltese Hibernians (1:0 and 1:0) and Danish Esbjerg (2:0 and 0:0) but couldn't cope with the pressure when playing Italian Torino (0:5 and 1:1).

Performing well and pleasing fans

Belarusian graces take silver and bronze medals at the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup round held in Minsk



Performance of Belarusian gymnasts

By Arina Novikova

Our gymnasts have never suffered from a lack of attention, but the 2nd European Games brought them even greater popularity. Unsurprisingly, the Gymnastics Palace, which hosted the final round of the World Cup, had a full house. In individual exercises, our country was represented twice, by the leader of the national team, Yekaterina Galkina, and her junior team colleague, Anastasia Sa-

los. In the group exercises, the two-time champions of the 2nd European Games, Arina Tsitsilina, Anna Shvaiba, Karina Yermolenko, Anna Gaidukevich and Anastasia Rybakova, performed. Arina Sushchinskaya also joined the team.

The competitions were not easy. Despite her seemingly perfect performance with the hoop, Yekaterina Galkina was very close to winning a medal, but earned 21,100 points and was only placed 5th, finishing behind Israeli Linoy Ashram (23,500), Russian Arina Averina (23,450) and Dina Averina (23,100). Anastasia Salos was placed 8th, with 19,700 points.

Galkina then performed her routine with the ball. Yekaterina has a long history with this object and began her performance at the Games with it. Unfortunately, nerves and excitement took their toll leading to her making two serious mistakes in the first few seconds of the performance, while she couldn't then make it into the top three, she again took 5th place (22,400 points). Medals went to Dina Averina (23,600), Arina Averina (23,200) and Linoy Ashram (22,900).

As for the ribbon exercise, only Anastasia Salos took part, taking 8th place in the rankings with a total score of 16,850. Dina Averina (22,150) was placed first, followed by her sister Arina (21,850) and Italian Milena Baldasari (21,600).

In the group exercises at the World Cup, our gymnasts were placed 5th (in the exercise with five balls). Meanwhile, their performance with four clubs and three hoops were positive and the judges gave them 28,450 points, to take second place. The Bulgarians (28,600) finished first and the Ukrainians (28,100) were third.

Furthermore, last Saturday, there were competitions on all apparatus where our group team won bronze, losing to teams from Russia and Bulgaria. Unfortunately, in the individual exercises, Yekaterina Galkina and Anastasia Salos failed to secure a medal, occupying the 7th and 8th places respectively.

THE MT REFERENCE

Gymnasts from Russia, Italy, Israel, Bulgaria, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Japan compete for medals at the prestigious tournament, alongside our gymnasts

Plan already in place

By Irina Sergeeva

Belarus' national ice hockey team to play at three international tournaments in the new season during preparation for 2020 World Championship in the elite division



In the first international break of the club season, from November 4th-10th, 2019, Belarusian hockey players will go to Latvia and play matches of the Four Nations Tournament, featuring the hosts, as well as squads from Slovenia and France.

A month later, our athletes will play in Hungary at competitions which, alongside the hosts, will also see the teams of the Republic of Korea, Japan, Italy and Norway. It's planned that the event will be held from December 12th-15th.

During the February international break, the national squad of Belarus will take part in the traditional tournament, the Kaufland Cup, in Slovakia. The preliminary dates for the event are February 6th-9th, 2020. Another team to compete against the Belarusians and Slovaks is still to be determined.

These international tournaments aim to prepare for the IIHF World Championships due to take place from May 8th-24th 2020, in Switzerland. The national ice hockey team of Belarus will play with the squads of Canada, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Denmark and Great Britain in the preliminary round in Group A.

Exposition of the week



Minsk hosts artistic exhibition following the nationwide *Triennial of Young Artists* contest

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 1st September. *Minsk and Sport. A Time Travel*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th September. *Prospective*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 14th September. *Sport is High Art*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

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

VANKOVICH HOUSE

33A Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 12th September. *Poetry of Silver*

TROITSKY SUBURB

7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 12th October. *Best Toys from USSR*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

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

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 26th August. *Fairy Enchanting World*
Until 15th September. *Vasil Bykov: Stipples of Life*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 31st August. *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*
Until 15th September. *Ladies Tricks*
Until 15th September. *European Martial Arts: from Vulcan's Forge to the Arts of Mars*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 1st September. *Life with Cold Blood*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 22nd September. *Pictures of the Elusory World*

CAT MUSEUM

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

DREAMLAND

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

THEATRES, CONCERTS AND PARTIES

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
27.08. *Hot Mothers*
28.08. *Edip*
29.08. *Bridal Shower*

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
26.08. *House Upside Down*
27.08. *Oscar*
29.08. *House Upside Down 2*

MODERN ART THEATRE (SUMMER PALACE)

4 Vosikovy Lane
23 and 28.08. *Seagull*

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
25.08. *Love of Three, or Easter on New Year*
28.08. *Comedy*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
24.08. *In Open Sea*

BELARUSIAN STATE PHILHARMONICS

50 Nezavisimosti Avenue
27.08. *At the Setting of Summer: Tatiana Starchenko (piano forte)*

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
22.08. *Chopin and Music of 20th-21st Century: Summer Musical Nights at Upper Town*
24.08. *Days of National Cultures. Days of Culture of Georgia (Tbilisoba)*
26.08. *Animal Carnival. Minsk-Classic Orchestra*
27.08. *Ennio Morricone & Nino Rota*

DINAMO STADIUM

8/4 Kirov Street
24.08. *Max Korzh*

STANDUP COMEDY HALL

45 Kuibyshev Street
26.08. *Stand Up: Open Microphone*
28.08. *Battle of Stories*

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
23.08. *1980s-1990s Disco*
24.08. *1990s-2000s Disco*
25.08. *1990s Disco*

COYOTE

117A Nezavisimosti Avenue
29.08. *Retro Party*

ZAIR AZGUR MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

8 Zair Azgur Street
22.08. *MorkvoTsvet / .K (tochka K)*