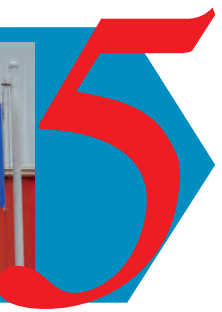




Minsk officially visited by the President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa

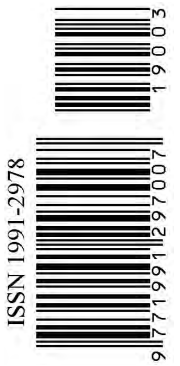


It's the right course to take and should not be amended



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So as not to be on the sidelines of the event it is necessary to purchase tickets in advance



Belarus is preparing for 2nd European Games 2019, being held from June 21st-30th, with tickets having gone on sale in early December. We look at how well protected they are against forgery.

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When pragmatism surely coincides with mutual benefit



Visit of the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó, lays the foundations for new relations between Minsk and Budapest

By Vasily Kharitonov

This is his fourth visit to our country, and it appears to be the most productive. Such a conclusion can be made from the content of the meeting between the Hungarian guest and the President. From the very first minutes of the conversation, Alexander Lukashenko made it clear that our country is ready to develop trade-economic co-operation with Hungary across all areas.

“We have a trade turnover totalling \$180-200m. However, let’s be honest, it’s a strange figure, considering our potential and the fact that once our economies were integrated. This is only the beginning. We’re ready to promote trade-economic collaboration across all areas.” Hungary is a country which, though being a member of the European Union, has its own point of view on many issues of the international agenda and boldly and confidently defends it in all European structures. There was a time when Budapest took an active and principal position regarding the necessity of the complete abolition of EU sanctions towards Belarus. Hungary doesn’t hold with double standards in EU policy and is against excessive politicisation of co-operation with Belarus by Brussels.” Of course, Alexander Lukashenko couldn’t leave this unnoticed and expressed gratitude to the Hungarian side for its contribution to the normalisation of relations between Belarus and the European Union, “We are aware of this and we greatly appreciate it. This is one



Wreath from the Minister on the Pobedy Monument in Minsk

of the key cornerstones of our relations.”

However, Hungary advocates pragmatism in foreign policy because of simple truths and Mr. Szijjártó viewed it necessary to voice this, “Hungary is a country in Central Europe which has learnt its lessons in history. We know that it’s much better for us, living in Central Europe, when co-operation exists between the West and the East. We say this not because this is interesting to Russia or to the United States of America. We say this because it is in the national interest of the Hungarian people... Therefore, we’re working to enable Belarus to closely co-operate with the European Union. And the number of those who support such approaches within the EU is rising.”

Such a coincidence of interests and goals at political level enables us to develop trade-economic relations between the two states. Moreover,

Mr. Lukashenko noted that it’s necessary to consider Belarus’ membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, our good relations with China and participation in the *Belt and Road* initiative.

“We’re ready to represent your interests,” said the President, addressing the Hungarian Minister. “At the same time, we hope that you, as a member of the European Union, which is independent and has its own position, will support us. The interconnection of these interests will give greater trade-economic dynamics between the two countries.”

Joint projects are possible practically in all areas. For example, Hungary has been always known for its food industry and pharmaceuticals, so it’s necessary to develop collaboration in these industries. The Hungarians, however, have not managed to preserve all their well-known brands. We all remember the famous Hungarian

Ikarus buses, most of which were exported, including to the USSR. When the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance was liquidated and the Soviet Union collapsed, the enterprise was left without its markets and ceased mass production of buses. Now, Hungary wants to revive it and Mr. Lukashenko promised his support, “You rightly want to restore the production of Ikarus buses, which I greatly admired. We’re ready to offer you our support practically free of charge, because we have experience in the construction of similar vehicles. We’ll be glad for you to use our knowledge.”

Péter Szijjártó told journalists that, after this meeting, an agreement on the mutual protection of investments was signed, which opens new opportunities for representatives of business circles of the two states. There are plans to set up a joint production of railway carriages in Hungary,

“In summary, 19 two-storey trains are to be manufactured. This will be the first time in the history of Hungarian Railways. The first sample will appear by the end of the year.” Furthermore, Belarus and Hungary will begin a joint venture to process maize in Mogilev. One more area of mutual interest includes collaboration in the sphere of nuclear power engineering.

P.S. Belarus’ Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei also met Péter Szijjártó to discuss a wide range of issues of Belarusian-Hungarian relations in an atmosphere of open and constructive dialogue. According to Mr. Makei, one of the key areas of bilateral interaction is trade-economic collaboration. Such areas as machine building, pharmaceuticals, the food industry, construction and tourism are also determined as priorities. “In general, Belarusian-Hungarian contacts across various industries are characterised by high intensity. During the current negotiations we’ve discussed acute issues of the international and European agenda, as well as the state and prospects for bilateral relationships, noted Mr. Makei.

P.P.S. On meeting Péter Szijjártó, Prime Minister Sergei Rumas said that he hopes that the Hungarian PM, Viktor Orbán, will visit Belarus in 2019. “The Government of Belarus attaches great importance to relations with Hungary in all areas, but we view the economy as the basis for our interaction. I believe that it’s high time to enhance our level of co-operation. We agreed in October, during the meeting with the Prime Minister of Hungary, that he would visit Belarus in February.”

Positive dialogue should continue

Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria, Karin Kneissl, pays working visit to Belarus



Minsk hosts ceremony of official opening of the new office of the Austrian Embassy to Belarus

By Konstantin Bakun

After the negotiations, the Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Makei, underlined that bilateral relations between our states are at the highest level. “We consider this visit as a continuation of the positive dialogue between our states. Today, Austria holds a leading position as one of the leading investment partners of Belarus and plays an important role in modernising a whole

range of economic branches of our country. We’ve also discussed prospects for bilateral collaboration, issues of the development of Belarus-EU relations and interaction of our country with Austria in various international organisations. Our views on the development of the situation primarily coincide.”

According to Mr. Makei, the two countries proceed from the necessity to reduce confrontation and strengthen stability in the region and in the world.

In turn, Karin Kneissl underlined that she’d had a constructive and efficient dialogue with the Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. According to her, Belarus and Austria have enjoyed friendly relations for many years. Furthermore, she announced the visit of the Federal Chancellor of Austria, Sebastian Kurz, that is to take place this year. It’s expected that Mr. Kurz will take part in the opening of the monument to the Austrian victims of the Trostenets death camp.

Big openings for work on the African continent

Belarus tries to reach a strategic level of collaboration with Zimbabwe

By Vladimir Mikhailov

Belarus is trying to gradually reach a strategic level of co-operation with Zimbabwe and sees great potential in developing bilateral relations, notes the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, during his negotiations with the President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa.

The President expressed confidence that the visit of Emmerson Mnangagwa will give impetus to the development of bilateral relations. “You’ve determined the path of your country’s development, announcing to the world community that Zimbabwe is open for business. We believe that such an approach will have a positive influence on Belarusian-Zimbabwean joint projects,” said the Belarusian leader.

Contact between Belarus and Zimbabwe has significantly increased and experienced positive development since 2015. Mr. Mnangagwa’s personal supervisory control facilitated the supplies of BelAZ quarry machinery to the country. Now, Belarusian exports to Zimbabwe primarily rely on potash fertilisers and spare parts for automobile machinery, while Belarus imports mineral raw materials, as well as some citrus fruit and vegetables.

Alexander Lukashenko is confident that Zimbabwe has all the necessary ingredients for fast economic growth, while Belarus is still interested in the supplies of its cargo, bus and quarry machinery to the Zimbabwean market, as well as other equipment for the mining industry, tractors and food products. The readiness to discuss the prospects for Belarusian participation in joint projects in agriculture, construction, power engineering,



Warm meeting between the two presidents sets the tone for negotiations

geological exploration and the extraction of mineral resources was mentioned. Furthermore, in 2018, several contracts worth many millions of US Dollars were signed to export Belarusian techniques to Zimbabwe, with financial support from the Development Bank of Belarus and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. It’s expected that, after final approval, supplies will be launched in line with this document.

According to the President of Belarus, the construction of dairy and meat facilities in Zimbabwe, alongside the growing and processing of vegetables, could become a significant contribution to reinforcing bilateral relations. Areas of collaboration in the transport sphere have also been deter-

mined. The project refers to the development of transport infrastructure of Zimbabwe and the establishment of a transport and logistics centre there.

A unique landscape and natural resources, minerals and other raw materials, as well as the recreational resources of Zimbabwe also represent wide opportunities for interaction between the two states, therefore the participation of Belarusian companies in building hydropower facilities, turn-key electric stations using solar batteries, geological exploration and the development of mineral deposits is a promising avenue.

Mr. Lukashenko noted the development of interaction in the humanitarian sphere, with agreements reached about

inter-university exchange, as well as higher and post-graduate education in Belarus by the Zimbabweans. In turn, leading healthcare organisations of Belarus can offer high-tech medical assistance to the citizens of Zimbabwe.

The Head of State believes that the creation of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic Co-operation could stimulate the implementation of the plans. He noted that for quick and qualitative work on investment and joint projects, direct contacts are necessary, alongside well-established communications between the ministries, organisations and companies. “It’s necessary to pay maximum attention to proposals which

arrive from both sides. Only in this way will we be able to achieve the desired result,” said the President.

During the extended negotiations, Emmerson Mnangagwa asserted that the major goal for Zimbabwe in its interaction with Belarus is to develop economic relations. “We have wonderful political relations which we can continue strengthening and consolidating. However, it’s even more important to work on issues of economic collaboration.”

Mr. Mnangagwa stated that Zimbabwe has developed under sanction conditions for more than twenty years. Now, the leadership of the country must develop socio-economic programmes to improve the life of citizens and show that the government is working to solve current problems. “Yes, Zimbabwe has undeveloped resources in the spheres of agriculture and the extraction industry. However, we lack money and skills to master them,” said the President of Zimbabwe. “For this we need the assistance and help of our friends, such as the Republic of Belarus.”

In turn, Mr. Lukashenko called the Minsk talks with the President of Zimbabwe fruitful. “There were many topics for a substantive dialogue and agreements have been reached. The most important thing is that we’ve agreed with the President that by the time of my visit to Zimbabwe, we will have prepared a range of concrete contracts that the two states will be able to implement this year. Soon, we expect considerable progress in bilateral trade, as well as in co-operation in the sphere of private business, industry and agriculture, alongside the extraction of mineral resources and education.”

Through friendship and respect

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarus has always been a reliable friend of Turkey and remains committed to this policy, noted the President as he met the Turkish National Defence Minister, Hulusi Akar

Alexander Lukashenko reminded that Belarus and Turkey have always been reliable friends and partners, “We’ve always tried to act in ways beneficial to Turkey. And you should know that we will remain committed to this policy in the economy, trade and military-technical co-operation. I’m pleased to meet a man, who, to a large extent,



Hulusi Akar

shapes the domestic policy and the foreign policy of Turkey in response to the situation evolving in your region.”

The President said that Belarus closely follows actions of the Turkish army and highly regards the effectiveness and planned nature of actions of the Turkish armed forces, “We understand things are difficult for you. You feel huge pressure from very powerful countries. But I think that the people of Turkey are courageous people and, in these conditions, they will be able to handle the problems which exist not only inside Turkey, but are also forced upon the country from the outside.”

Mr. Lukashenko asked to convey his kindest greetings to the Turkish leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and expressed

hope that Turkey will be able to overcome all hardships and will reach a new stage of development despite difficulties.

In turn, Hulusi Akar conveyed greetings from the Turkish President to Mr. Lukashenko, “The President of the Republic of Turkey looks forward to your visit in the near future.”

Belarusian-Turkish military-technical collaboration boasts more than twenty years of history. At present, a range of promising projects is being developed, with one of these tackling Belarusian satellite technologies. Minsk’s Peleng Plant has already sent proposals to create target equipment for space apparatuses for



Ankara today

the remote sensing of the Earth. Belarus and Turkey maintain close contacts at various levels, including at the highest point. Alexander Lukashenko has been to Turkey four times as part of his work at the major summits. November 2016 saw an official visit of the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to Belarus. Mutual trade turnover in recent years has been steadily nearing \$1bn, with more than 300 enterprises with Turkish capital operating in our country.

Responsible mission — to make peace between the nations



President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, confirms his position on the necessity for a speedy settlement of the conflict in Ukraine. He commented on the issue as he met the Ukrainian politician and state figure, Viktor Medvedchuk.

By Vladimir Velikhov

“This feud (I cannot call it otherwise) must be stopped. Brotherly republics... We are giving a gift to our enemies and opponents with our own hands,” noted the Head of State.

Alexander Lukashenko pointed out that it’s important for him to listen to Viktor Medvedchuk’s views on many issues, especially on the events in Ukraine. “It’s important not only because I’m personally concerned about what is going on there, but also because this is our dear Ukraine. I served in the army there, I have visited the country many times, and I never hide the fact that my ancestors are from there, between Chernigov and Kiev,” said the Belarusian leader. “When the conflict started, according to our estimates, the inflow of people from Ukraine reached 150,000. We gave them the same conditions as our Belarusian people enjoy. Although it was not easy. Thank God, everything was fine. Some people went back home, some travel back and forth, while others have

settled here. The events in Ukraine have had negative repercussions for us too. I always say this publicly.”

The Head of State said he is aware of Viktor Medvedchuk’s opinion on the normalisation of relations between Russia and Ukraine. “You know about the political developments that are taking shape right now. This information is important for Belarus from the point of view of our further actions. You should keep me informed about the situation,” said the President.

In turn, Viktor Medvedchuk offered his thanks for the opportunity to meet with the President and for the kind words about Ukraine. “Indeed, our country is facing many problems. And I want to emphasise your personal role and that of Belarus in the peaceful settlement of the situation in Donbass. Belarus hosted negotiations; the world-famous Minsk Agreements were signed here. Unfortunately, they are not yet fulfilled, but these are the only agreements that offer a plan for peaceful settlement in Donbass. All the sides involved realise that peace can

be established only on the terms formalised in Minsk,” explained the politician.

He added that he has been taking part in the negotiation process since 2014, and often comes to Minsk for this reason. “For many Ukrainians longing for peace in Donbass, Minsk is not only a place where brotherly and friendly Belarusians live, it also gave us hope for the ultimate peaceful settlement,” he added.

The Ukrainian politician emphasised Belarus’ important role in settling the conflict in Donbass. Asked whether those involved in the conflict hear the position of the Belarusian side, including their readiness to take an active part in the peaceful process, alongside providing the negotiating venue (which has been voiced many times), Mr. Medvedchuk responded, “This position is heard in Moscow, Kiev, Donetsk, Lugansk... The role of the President of Belarus is very important both for Russia and for Ukraine. Especially for Ukraine to settle the conflict which currently exists in the east.”

Mr. Medvedchuk supported Mr. Lukashenko’s point of view that the three

Slavonic nations should agree between themselves. “Considering that the Belarusian nation has no part in this conflict, it can be given the role of intermediary, the role of the nation which can make peace between Ukraine and Russia. It’s a very important function and, in my opinion, the greatest necessity for Ukraine as a state and for the Ukrainian people,” he emphasised.

The politician said that, during the meeting with the Belarusian Head of State, a range of issues has been discussed tackling the establishment of co-operation which could take place in the sphere of peaceful settlement. He also paid attention to the fact that, according to sociological research held in Ukraine in the last year or two, the President of Belarus boasts the highest authority among the heads of the foreign states. “He is supported by 52 percent of Ukrainian citizens. Second place is occupied by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel while the US President Donald Trump has 16-18 percent,” noted Mr. Medvedchuk.

Promoting a truly positive beginning Belarus obviously keen to develop economic co-operation with France



By Alexey Fedosov

When appointing Igor Fisenko as new Belarusian Ambassador to this country, Alexander Lukashenko was speaking about the expansion of contacts with France. “I wouldn’t say that our co-operation with France is at the highest level. But still Pavel Latushko [former Belarusian Ambassador to France] did a good job there. Co-operation in certain areas of the economy has picked up, with economy being a prior-

ity for us,” noted the President.

Mr. Lukashenko asked whether the new ambassador would be able to further collaboration between the two countries. In response, Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei described Igor Fisenko as a diplomat who worked abroad, being a very professional and thorough person. As an example, the Minister cited the successful results of his work in post as the Head of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. “I’m convinced that he will be able to further promote the positive things started by Mr. Latushko,” added the Minister.

Speaking about trade-economic interaction with France, Mr. Makei noted that Pavel Latushko helped establish contacts with a number of companies that promote Belarusian machinery to the markets of African countries, with which France has good relations. Other forms of economic co-operation are also developing, as is interregional interaction and ties with the diaspora.

A deep understanding



By Vladimir Khromov

Country ready for good neighbourly relations with Lithuania without politicisation

Alexander Lukashenko stressed the readiness of the Belarusian side to build good neighbourly relations with Lithuania. He noted this when appointing Valery Baranovsky as the new Belarusian Ambassador to Lithuania. “It is up to Lithuania. If they want to co-operate with us, if they want to build good neighbourly relations, we are open to it. If they don’t, we have other options. Our main trade-economic collaboration is directed primarily to the south, southwest, and southeast,” said the Belarusian leader.

Mr. Lukashenko mentioned that it’s necessary to build logistics all the way to Odessa, “The port of Odessa is open to us. As for the western direction, we maintain

good relations with Latvia. If Lithuania wants to build on this, it should depoliticise issues and forget demands concerning the nuclear power plant.”

The President emphasised the fact that the Belarusian nuclear power station will be built regardless,

because the country needs it. “If Lithuania wants the project to benefit them too, let’s take care of the plant together. We didn’t complain when they were having problems with their nuclear power station. I don’t think the Lithuanian nation supports what politicians do over there now. Our nuclear power plant is no danger for Lithuania. We have been damaged by the Chernobyl catastrophe. Don’t we understand that a nuclear power plant has to be safe?” he said.

In general, he spoke in favour of building relations. “They are our neighbours. We cannot choose them. The fact that we live together is God’s will. I think Valery Baranovsky understands perfectly well what should be done and how our relations should be shaped,” said the President. “Everything should be done in a transparent manner without giving in,” he added.



It's the right course to take and should not be amended

Alexander Lukashenko congratulates diplomats of the country on the one hundredth anniversary of the Belarusian diplomatic service and expresses his views on acute issues of foreign policy

By Vasily Kharitonov

The meeting with the President at the Independence Palace, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Belarusian diplomatic service, was attended by many past foreign ministers to independent Belarus. The conversation tackled the past, present and future of the country, as well as its place and role in the world.

Alexander Lukashenko outlined the unanimous conclusions from the discussion, "Belarus is starting to play a greater role in the international arena. I don't see any reason to change our foreign policy priorities in any way. Our circle of foreign partners and allies has expanded, promising markets have opened. Of course, we would like to do it a bit faster but it's a start. Belarusian diplomacy has reached a brand-new level. The most complicated regional and global issues are being discussed at the negotiating platform in Minsk."

Manipulations in policy always lead to problems

At present, the problem of Belarusian-Russian interaction is currently at the forefront, so it's logical that the President began the conversation with it, "In recent times, you've heard that Vladimir Putin and I are being blamed for conducting the wrong course in external policy. Our brother-Russians, and further on in the East, say that we're too pro-west. On the contrary, in the West we're being criticised for excessive inclination towards the Russian Federation."

Such contradictions are not new, and Mr. Lukashenko has had to publicly explain on many occasions that there can't be a

strict choice of whom Belarus will be allied with. The country is pursuing a multi-vector policy, and this is all. Russia is the closest country both historically and politically, as well as having the closest integration ties.

"They won't succeed in dividing us: Belarusians and Russians. I have already said once that we're also Russians. It's impossible to pit us against each other. A Belarusian is a Russian with a quality mark. I said this more than twenty years ago."

The President points to the extreme danger of similar manipulations and their unpredictable consequences, Mr. Lukashenko warned everyone, "Sometimes I ask myself and today will say publicly: is Ukraine not enough for someone in Russia? Is it necessary to create a problem out of a clear sky? If you cannot compensate our losses from this tax manoeuvre, so be it! We won't take away your goods."

The President noted that the whole Belarusian-Russian contractual legal framework, in which the diplomats invited to the discussion also took part, was adopted provided that equal conditions for all entities and rights of citizens of the two states are ensured.

Only based on the principle of equality

Another current topic of discussion is the development of integration processes. The Russian leadership has connected the issue of the degree of integration with the settlement of economic disagreements. They haven't yet made any detailed specifications nor has the information space 'calmed down', being filled with various versions of what has been

said. Meanwhile, the President comprehensively determined Minsk's position, saying, "A union or alliance? That's a good idea! But this decision should be made by the people, not us. We aren't opposed to the principle. When someone starts to tell me about unity, they usually begin

DIRECT SPEECH

"Belarus is starting to play a greater role in the international arena. Our circle of foreign partners and allies has expanded, promising markets have opened. Belarusian diplomacy has reached a brand-new level. The most complicated regional and global issues are being discussed at the negotiating platform in Minsk."

talking about a common currency... We aren't against this, but it should be single currency that isn't the currency of the Central Bank of Russia. It doesn't matter where the emission centre is situated: in Kazan, or Moscow, or Smolensk, or Minsk. It should be established on equal conditions. If you use the European Union as an example, let it be based on EU principles. The most important thing is that conditions and approaches should be equal."

It's desirable to apply the same approaches used during the formation of other common institutes. However, the President notes that it's necessary to

take the best experience rather than simply impose a model in a single-minded fashion.

"You want to unify tax and customs policy? I agree. Let's take the best and make it in the best tradition. If something is better in Belarus, then let's take this. If the Russians can suggest better, then let's take from them."

The President believes that there is no critical moment in current Belarusian-Russian relations. It's more likely that a subjective factor is playing its role, "Some new opinions have appeared and even some of those who are long serving, are putting pressure on their own President Putin."

Minsk's logic in peaceful initiative is apparent

The President believes that since independence, the country has achieved considerable success in the international arena, with the most complicated regional and global issues being discussed at the negotiating platform in Minsk. One of the most current is the conflict in Ukraine, as Minsk is extremely keen to normalise the situation in our brotherly neighbouring state.

According to the President, if decisive measures are not taken to improve the situation, the consequences may be even worse. Furthermore, the East and the West should take joint action. Mr. Lukashenko underlined the fact that the Ukrainian issue is constantly being raised during international meetings, including as part of the Minsk session of the Munich Security Conference last year. Everyone speaks in favour of peace, but this hasn't led to any corresponding action so far.

"I meet Americans and Europeans and they say that they want peace in Ukraine and order in Europe. I tell them: at least let's come together as part of the OSCE and discuss the problem. No... Everyone has their own goals. Let's reach a 'Helsinki-2' agreement. It's suggested in Europe that there's no need to initiate this process, that it will be impossible or isn't needed. This is the position of Europe, though Angela Merkel and others, the former president of France, and probably the current leader, understand that there is a disaster waiting to happen. Poland and Hungary are already involved in the problem. It will only get worse. When the conflict began, the Poles called me and asked for advice. I responded that if they would like to know the 'dictator's' plan we can suggest it. But we won't discuss it by telephone and I directed the plan to them. I told them that if they wouldn't accept this plan then I will be thinking that they don't need normalisation of the situation in Ukraine. They didn't accept the proposal and now refuse to meet our eye..."

Mr. Lukashenko points out that today, there are many who would like to line their pockets in Ukraine and this is an alarming tendency, while the logic of Minsk's peaceful initiative is more than apparent, "It's a fire that is rampaging and it's unknown how it will end, but it mustn't spread to Belarus, therefore we need to be extremely careful, cautious and not allow the internal destabilisation in the country to affect us in any way. It's likely that most of our population and even most of the opposition will understand this."

Launch of online polyclinic access

The Ministry of Health knows that it's vital to keep abreast of the latest technologies and treatments, having launched a pilot project early this year to digitise ambulance records, making them viewable online

By Kristina Glushko

Victor Sidorenko, who heads the Programme and Information Provision Sector at the Health Ministry, notes that the current project is the largest in the history of healthcare. He explains, "We primarily plan to launch integrated medical treatment records for newborns, which then continue throughout a person's life. Data on adult patients will be gradually moved into electronic format and be made available online, via the polyclinic's website. The project will



Patients can still request hard copies of medical records

undoubtedly enhance our country's rating in the world index of IT services."

To ensure everything works smoothly, it's necessary to prepare. In particular, we'll be teaching pensioners how to access their personal health records online. We've drawn on experience from Estonia, which took a decade to encourage people to move onto the new system. Sometimes, people can be resistant to change, but the advantages are clear.

"Every patient will be able to promptly receive access to information on their health," comments Mr. Sidorenko. "No doctor's appointment is needed. Meanwhile, doctors can view a patient's entire medical history easily, helping avoid mistakes during treatment. Certainly, the system will significantly reduce the burden on polyclinics and resulting queues. We should see the quality of medical services improve and life expectancy rise, while the mortality rate falls."

Any patient can request a hard copy of their records and will be able to re-

strict medical staff access to those records. However, in cases of emergency, doctors will be able to override those restrictions.

Mr. Sidorenko adds, "People living with chronic disease will be able to see the results of various tests being conducted, including ultrasound investigations, while doctors will be able to offer information in simplified form, so patients can understand everything. Where patients need further clarification, they can make an appointment with a doctor."

The innovations will be trialled across medical institutions in the Grodno and Minsk regions, with most work completed by 2022, giving patients access to their medical history via personal online accounts.

The Health Ministry is also working on a system of identifying medical images for initial analysis, to save doctors' time and aid diagnosis. The software should faultlessly read results of EEG, MRT and CT tests.

Learning from foreign colleagues



By Olga Korneeva

First hybrid cardiac surgery conducted in Belarus

Belarus' first hybrid cardiac surgery has been conducted upon a Minsker born in 1955. The patient suffered ischemic cardiomyopathy after a previous myocardial infarction resulted in a ventricular aneurysm, affecting cardiac efficiency.

The operation saw a cardio-surgeon working on the open heart at the same time as an intervention cardiologist manipulated vessels. According to the head of the cardiac surgery laboratory of the Cardiology Republican Scientific and Practical Centre, Doctor of Medical Sciences, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Prof. Yuri Ostrovsky, the combination minimis-

es surgical trauma. The procedure allows patients the possibility of several years of life, giving them time to await a donor heart. Many don't need a new heart at all, having recovered from their surgery.

Hybrid operations require particular conditions, being performed in special operating theatres. The first such surgery was conducted in Belarus in a specially prepared X-ray operation room but a new surgical and intensive care unit is planned at the Cardiology Republican Scientific and Practical Centre, boasting two hybrid operation rooms.

A US team has arrived to train Belarusian specialists in the new techniques, while famous cardio-surgeons from such countries as Spain, Germany and Italy have been observing, for their own benefit. "Such surgeries are rare, with only about 120 conducted so far in the USA, and perhaps slightly more in Europe. The fact that foreign colleagues are arriving shows their belief in our Centre specialists. Believe me, we speak the same surgical language," underlines Mr. Ostrovsky.

'Bookbinding' volumes are flying

By Lyudmila Ivanova



How will 26th Minsk International Book Fair surprise its guests?

Book lovers are eagerly anticipating the 26th Minsk International Book Fair that takes place from February 6th-10th. Deputy Information Minister of Belarus, Igor Buzovsky, told a press conference about its major features, saying, "The organisers new message is, 'More Than Books'. At present, new formats are needed to promote goods, so we'll be discussing the blogosphere, work with social networks and crowd-funding."

This year will also have the magic of figures: the exhibition will occupy more than 3,000sq.m, housing over 300 exhibitors from over 30 countries of the world. The United States of America is an honorary guest. Other venues will also hold various events in the libraries and cafes of the city, while Minsk's Memorial Church of All Saints will host a discussion about the role of books in our spiritual and moral upbringing.

Director General of the Makbel LLC, Dmitry Makarov, assured the audience that this year expects a record number of visitors — at least 60,000, with entrance remaining free of charge.

Many surprises are also being prepared, for example, the central stand of the Information Ministry will be demonstrating the *In Search of Lost Values* project with rare books, newspapers and a collection of unique ancient postcards from the collection of the famous collector and historian, Vladimir Lihododov, as well as an original of the *Small Travelling Book*, released by Francysk Skaryna in 1522. It will even be possible to turn the pages of the rare volume in electronic form. Everyone will be able to take part in an interactive project, dedicated to the 75th anniversary of liberation of Belarus: to create a 'peace tank' composition made from books. Editions collected in this way will be donated to children and medical institutions.

"Many people say that the paper book has lost its importance. However, this is not so, and we'll prove it," Mr. Buzovsky assured the journalists.

New York, Beijing, Dubai and onwards

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Leisure opportunities in Belarus being presented at twelve international tourist exhibitions

In January, the country's tourism potential will be presented at Madrid's *Fitur*, and at the New York Times Travel Show, in New York. Belarusian travel companies will take part in the *Tourest* exhibition in Tallinn in February, as well as *ITB* in Berlin, and *MITT* in Moscow, in March.

April will also be a busy month for the travel industry, with the Belarusian stand being shown in Beijing, Baku, Minsk (*Leisure-2019*), and Dubai. In autumn, Belarus is to participate in expositions in Minsk (*TourBusiness-2019*), alongside those in Warsaw and London.

In each case, Belarus will have a unified national stand.

Weather for tomorrow

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Everyone wants to know exactly what the weather will be tomorrow in a certain location. This is possible! The meteorological and areological complex — Minsk (launched on the outskirts of the Belarusian capital) — is now providing such information. Our reporter has visited the site to learn more.

The first object which drew my attention was a device in the form of a cube; producing a series of nightingale-like trills. It appeared that this is the latest automatic weather station for local observation of changes in the atmosphere.

“Every 10 minutes, it informs us about what is happening at a height of about one kilometre,” says a specialist at the site. “It also indicates wind direction and strength, humidity, air pressure and temperature. All this is necessary for operational weather forecasting in the city.”

Nearby there is a meteorological site for monitoring weather events such as rainfall and the direction of movement of air masses. However, these seemingly ordinary devices are equipped with ultramodern features. “The equipment operates in automatic mode, transmitting information to the specialists’ computers,” explains the site’s owner — Svetlana Bokhan. “It can also be used for educational

visits for schoolchildren and students.”

Recently, an air research probe was launched. It was based in a surprisingly small garage-sized room, and prompted the Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Mikhail Rusy, to joke at the launch ceremony, “Who wants a Christmas bauble?” A few minutes later, a milky white latex balloon, with a suspended foam box containing a variety of devices, cheerfully rose up and, after a minute or two, disappeared into the greyish winter clouds. We observed its flight on the monitors at the meteorological centre. The first report followed: “The height is 2 thousand metres, the estimated flight altitude up to 30km, the observation radius up to 300km”.

Then there was data on the direction and speed of the air masses, their temperature and humidity and air pressure. They are received throughout the flight, which can last for a couple of hours, until the probe bursts. It transmits valuable information for weather forecasting, but the data is not cheap, so the probe is now launched only once a day. Over time, there will be two launches, or more. At present, the Minsk weather centre provides daily information to Belarusian weather forecasters, as well as those from neighbouring states and the World Meteorological Organisation, 24 hours a day. The level of radiation pollution



Preparation for the launch of the weather balloon

in the environment is also carefully controlled here. As soon as the highways are covered with

anti-ice material with salt content, for example — which, like granite, creates a natural back-

ground radiation — the reaction of the sensitive devices was quick to follow.

“The need to improve weather forecasting has long been discussed. The President has ordered an improvement in the area and funds have been allocated,” comments Belarus’ Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Andrey Khudyk. “So, in 2018, seven automated weather stations were built and, by 2021, there will be at least 60 of them in the country. This will ensure timely provision to the economy and population with the most complete meteorological information, including adverse weather events. The accuracy of forecasts, which is already at 97-98 percent, will increase.”

Almost simultaneously with the Minsk meteorological complex, the Doppler weather locator in Vitebsk was put into operation. It can probe atmospheric phenomena, including 50-70km deep into neighbouring territories.

Furthermore, Belarusians and our guests will surely appreciate the innovation developed by Minsk’s Geoinformation Systems: an original mobile app — Weather in the Pocket. It provides the owners of iPhones with information about the weather, hydrological, areological and radiation-ecological situation in the settlements of Belarus. This will include the data transmitted by the Minsk weather centre.

ADVICE FROM DR. ZHUKOVA

Winter depression is passing

When winter comes, some people develop a state of previously uncharacteristic low mood characterised by irritability, hypersensitivity, dwelling on details, forgetfulness and tearfulness. How can we deal with this?

G. Yemelyanova, Pinsk

This is a state of so-called winter depression — a long decline in mood, extreme weakness, fatigue and distraction in the winter. Both biological and psychosocial factors can lead to the development of seasonal disorders. Biological causes include a sharp change in weather conditions, the reduction of daylight hours, oxygen starvation, temperature changes and the seasonal exacerbation of colds.

Most people are prone to seasonal affective disorder between the ages of 20-59, with the greatest number of cases registered among those aged 20-39. Women complain of winter depression about twice as often as men. Usually such statistics are explained by female sensitivity and emotional variability. Along with sexual and age characteristics, we must not forget that seasonal depression will be most



affected by the inhabitants of the Northern latitudes — countries where winter lasts for a long time. The risk group includes single people who particularly experience an acute state of anguish and dissatisfaction with life.

Physiological symptoms of winter depression are obvious changes in appetite, lack or decrease of sexual desire, loss of energy, increased fatigue in previously inherent human loads, a constant feeling of weakness, a noticeable decline in strength, the desire for seclusion.

It is necessary to understand that, for reliable confirmation of the ‘winter depression’ diagnosis, the specified symptoms or part of them must last for two

or more weeks. The main social consequence of this condition is a significant decrease in the quality of human life. Family and friends are lost, problems and troubles at work can arise. Isolation naturally leads to the loss of social contacts in areas that previously brought joy to the individual. Depression can lead to suicidal behaviour, social exclusion, addiction, work or school problems.

The main method of treatment of winter depression is light therapy, because the reason for it is a lack of light. However, the light must be very bright. For comparison, even on a cloudy day, the level of illumination on the street is ten times higher than the illumination in the room.

The course of light therapy lasts on average up to two weeks. During the sessions, a patient can write, read, communicate by phone, engage in any other activity but with a single condition: the retina should get light. Bright light will overwhelmingly act on the release of sleep hormones, thereby increasing the production of the hormone of happiness — serotonin.

Studies have revealed that, on the third day of treatment, there is a positive effect. By the end of the course of treatment for winter depression, a person feels cheerful and energetic again. Experts recommend the use of light therapy as a preventive procedure during the winter season, when lack of sunlight is an issue.

There are also other ways to treat winter depression — such as:

- walk daily, especially on frosty and sunny days;
- do exercises daily;
- monitor the diet, which should be fortified and balanced;
- sleep enough but never oversleep, keep to a daily routine;
- to make it easier to wake up in the morning, it is recommended to place a lamp in the bedroom

which will simulate the dawn. Such lamps are equipped with a timer and, 30 minutes before the alarm, the device starts ‘lighting up’. The brain starts receiving light signals, and the body prepares to wake up;

- surround yourself with bright things and objects, avoid dark tones in the wardrobe;
- to find something for the soul — a hobby that will distract from sad thoughts, lying on the couch and indulging in large quantities of food.

Do not be afraid to seek medical help: with the participation of a good specialist (psychotherapist) to work with depression in the winter, using psychological methods and special techniques to eliminate or reduce the severity of emotional problems.

Be attentive to your psychological health, never be afraid to admit your weakness. Consult a specialist when necessary. It is important to understand that, like any disease, winter depression must be treated. With timely and proper treatment, a favourable outcome is guaranteed.

By Tatiana Zhukova, doctor of the highest category, Candidate of Medical Sciences



UK Parliament rejects Theresa May's Brexit

The British Parliament voted overwhelmingly to reject a Brexit deal British PM Theresa May struck with EU leaders, plunging UK into uncertainty

British MPs have voted down Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit divorce deal by a crushing margin, triggering political upheaval that could lead to a disorderly exit from the European Union or even to a reversal of the 2016 decision to leave.

MPs voted 432 to 202 to defeat the proposal, the worst

parliamentary defeat for a government in recent British history. The landslide vote was pure humiliation for a British leader who has spent the past two years trying to sell her vision of Brexit to a sceptical public, and her failure raised serious questions about how — and if — Britain will leave the EU as promised on March 29th.

Hardcore Brexiters, such as former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, cheered the result as increasing the chances of Britain leaving the European Union with no deal and no compromises — or with a much, much better deal than May or EU leaders say is realistic. At the same time, those who want to see a second referendum on

Brexit, and who want to stay in the union, think May's loss gets them closer to their goal.

The political turmoil heightened fears among European leaders that Britain will crash out of the bloc in a chaotic, no-deal departure that would have harsh economic and humanitarian consequences on both sides of the English Channel.

“The risk of a disorderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom has increased with this vote,” European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in a statement. “While we do not want this to happen, the European Commission will continue its contingency work to help ensure the EU is fully prepared.”

In the House of Commons, May stood almost alone, flashing defiance and frustration, as many in her own party abandoned their leader.

Historians had to go as far back as the Victorian age to find a comparable party split and parliamentary defeat — to Prime Minister William Gladstone's support for Irish home rule in 1886, which cut the Liberal Party in two.

“The events in Parliament are really quite remarkable,” said University of Cambridge political historian Luke Blaxill. “This doesn't happen.” Meaning, usually British parties fight with one another in Parliament — but members don't tear their own parties apart.

Jeremy Corbyn, the opposition Labour Party leader, called the loss ‘historic’ and said May's routine of ‘delay and denial’ had led to disaster. “She cannot seriously believe after two years of failure she is capable of negotiating a good deal,” Corbyn said.

Afterward, leaders of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which props up May's minority government, announced that they would support the Prime Minister, thereby making her ouster unlikely.

German economy has slammed hard on the brakes

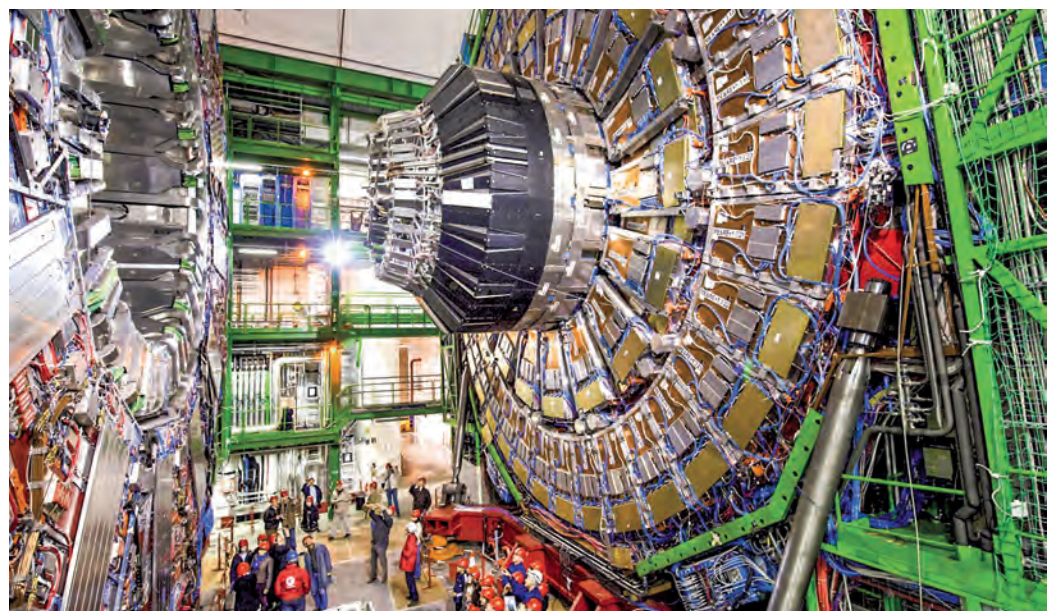
Germany may have dodged a recession but its economic performance in 2018 was still the weakest in five years, adding to evidence that trade tensions and a sharp slowdown in China are hampering global growth

turmoil in emerging markets, a temporary spike in oil prices, uncertainty over Brexit and a sharp economic slowdown in China all contributed to the weakness.

Some of the country's leading companies have suffered. Carmakers such as Volkswagen have been hurt by weaker sales in China, and they've struggled to certify some new models under new EU emissions tests. Volkswagen delivered a record 10.8 million cars around the world in 2018, but slumping sales in China at the end of the year limited annual growth in the key market to just 0.5 percent. German growth was weakest in the second half of 2018, and especially the third quarter, when the economy contracted 0.2 percent.

Official data for the final three months of the year is not yet available, but German statistics officials said that the economy likely returned to growth during the fourth quarter to dodge a recession. Yet Schmieding said the malaise is likely to continue in 2019.

The German economy grew 1.5 percent in 2018, according to preliminary government data. That's a sharp drop from the 2.2 percent expansion in 2017, and the slowest annual rate since the European debt crisis. The Euro slumped nearly 0.4 percent to \$1.14 after the GDP data was released. Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg, said the German economy has been hit by ‘a series of shocks’. Trade tensions,



CERN planning to build a much larger particle collider

CERN has published its ideas for a £20bn successor to the Large Hadron Collider, given the working name of Future Circular Collider (FCC)

The Geneva-based European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) is proposing an accelerator that is almost four times longer and ten times more powerful. The aim is to have the FCC hunting for new subatomic particles by 2050.

Critics say that the money could be better spent on other research areas such as combating

climate change. But CERN's Director-General, Prof. Fabiola Gianotti described the proposal as ‘a remarkable accomplishment’. “It shows the tremendous potential of the FCC to improve our knowledge of fundamental physics and to advance many technologies with a broad impact on society,” she said.

CERN's plans have been submitted in a conceptual design report. These will be considered by an international panel of particle physicists, along with other submissions, as they draw up a

new European strategy for particle physics for publication in 2020.

Prof. Jon Butterworth of University College, London, is among those drawing up the strategy. He told that, although he was keeping an open mind, he was particularly attracted to CERN's proposal. It entails gradually building up to a 100km ring that is almost ten times more powerful than the LHC.

“This programme is very ambitious, very exciting and would be my plan A,” he said.





Chronicles of life and of the country converge

One of the exhibitions at the National Art Museum is dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the birth of Honoured Figure of Arts of the BSSR, graphical painter and book illustrator, Lyudvig Asetsky, who started his creative journey in the 1960s during the time of the Soviet Union and finished it in the 21st century, in the years of independent Belarus



By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition showcases over 40 original and printed graphic works primarily from the collection of the National Art Museum of Belarus. It is supplemented with 13 illustrated books by the master from the archives of the National Art Museum's library, the Belarusian State Archive-Museum of Literature and Art and the artist's family, as well as photos, documents and awards from the author. The documentary film by Alexander Domoratsky from the series *The Light of a Distant Star* describes the life and creative path of Lyudvig Asetsky through the eyes of his family, friends and colleagues, and is also on show at the event.

Lyudvig Asetsky belongs to the constellation of Belarusian artists formed in the dynamic 1960s, marked by the rise in the development of the Belarusian

graphic school and inspired by the search for new content and plastic solutions in Belarusian visual arts in general. The artist is famous for his works in the field of easel graphics and book illustration, where he proved himself as a master with his individual vision, method and style.

In his works, Asetsky created a chronicle of the country, reflecting significant events in the life of the republic, and appeared as a chronicler of the life of his fellow countrymen, capturing the everyday life of Soviet people. The main form of artistic representation is a series of graphic works — diverse in style, form, technique and themes. These include revolutionary events (the series of linocuts *October Days in Belarus*), working days (the lithographs *Zhodino* and etchings *Daily Life of the Navy*), and urban views and landscapes of the native land (a series of coloured

lithographs *Memory* and dry-point series *The Native Lands*), alongside man-made disasters (dry-point series *Chernobyl Sector*), and philosophical reflections (dry-point series *Closure of the Circle*).

Undoubtedly, the dramatic series about the heroism of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War (series of lithographs *Underground of Minsk* and *Liberation*, dry-point series *Ballad of the Fight at the Lavy*) have become the great creative achievement of the artist.

Lyudvig Asetsky's creativity towards this eternal topic is proven by the fact that, if the art of the early post-war decades was characterised by the aspiration to reflect a concrete episode of the war with maximum lasting effect, in the 1960s, painters were trying to create a generalised emotional work. In the 1970-1980s, the war, including in Asetsky's pic-

tures, was more and more often depicted through the prism of time or history, with eyewitnesses and evidence of the past being shown against a modern background.

An important part of the artistic heritage of Lyudvig Asetsky is his illustrations for the works of famous Belarusian writers and poets. In them, the artist sought to reveal the narrative content and to convey its main ideas in a figurative emotional form. The graphic works he created are characterised

by the harmony of the images, fonts, headpieces and covers.

The unique and creative artist, Lyudvig Asetsky, lived a rich and interesting life. The power of his talent was combined with his exceptional efficiency and demanding nature of his work. The artist tirelessly sought and found flexible solutions that make the image memorable and invariably evoke an emotional reaction. All these are felt when one gets to know the works displayed at the current exhibition in the museum.

Eye-catching images from the author

Beginning of the path

Three-dimensional hologram, UF-coating and barcode: tickets for 2nd European Games 2019 are well protected

By Kristina Glushko

Belarus is preparing for the main sporting event of 2019, being held from June 21st-30th, with tickets having gone on sale in early December. We look at how well protected they are against forgery.

ARENA



How to buy tickets

Anyone wishing to attend the sports competitions, or the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, can buy tickets via the official operator, Ticketpro JSC's website: www.minsk2019.ticketpro.by.

Stands waiting

The 2nd European Games venues are offering 380,000 seats, with the potential for accommodating 535,000.

The most popular tickets, so far, have been for athletics events, as well as rhythmic gymnastics and road cycling. There are 120 events in total, and many tickets have been sold for the opening and closing ceremonies. Foreign guests are likely to buy 20 percent of all tickets.

The organisers are promising a VIP hospitality area for certain ticket-holders, with tickets being sold in three 'waves'. The first went on sale on December 1st, 2018, with the second releasing this March — offering approximately 30-40 percent of tickets. The 'third wave' releases in May, with all remaining tickets expected to be sold. On June 25th, the most intense competition day will be held, with eighteen sessions planned.



Accessibility for persons with disabilities

Specially allocated seats in the stands are set aside for people with disabilities, ensuring ease of access.



Design

The ticket design envisages several degrees of protection, including a three-dimensional hologram in the middle (featuring a tree with sports). Each ticket has UF-coating and an individual barcode, and displays all necessary information: the name, place, date and time of the competition, as well as the tribune, sector, row and seat numbers, the ticket price, order series, and session number. Tickets also bear the logo and slogan of the Games.

Individual bar-code

UF-covering

3D hologram



Logotype

Sport discipline

Date and time of competition

Venue of competition



Seat

Ticket price

Games' slogan

Prices

Prices vary from 2 Euros to Br50 (or 20 Euros) for foreign guests, according to the popularity of the sport, the level of competition, the location and capacity of the sports facility, the day and time of the event, and the location of the seat (category A, B or C).

Tickets for the opening ceremony are costing Br150-300, depending on the category of seat, while those for the closing ceremony are a little cheaper,

at Br70-150. Children under the age of seven may enter free of charge if accompanied by an adult.

Both ceremonies will begin at 8pm, held at Minsk's Dinamo National Olympic Stadium — on June 21st and 30th respectively. There will be light and projection shows, using virtual reality technology and much more. The highlight will be the parade of athletes, attended by competitors from fifty European countries.

Visa-free regime



Twenty-five states currently enjoy a visa-free regime. In addition, from June 10th to July 10th, citizens of seventy-four countries will be able to cross the border into Belarus through any checkpoint — via the airport, railway or road — without a visa. To take advantage of the freedom of travel, visitors will need to show a valid ticket for an event, or for the opening or closing ceremony, as well as showing their passport and a medical insurance policy covering at least 10,000 Euros of treatment, valid in Belarus for the entire period of stay. The latter can also be purchased at border crossing points. Each visitor should also be able to prove access to at least 20 Euros of funds for each day of stay in the country.



Olympic champion Anton Kushnir jumps

In the run-up to big freestyle jump

How freestyle athletes approach the new season

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Head coach of the national team, Nikolay Kozeko, tells us about new disciplines in the winter sport which traditionally brings medals for Belarusians.

“This year we’ll have many important sporting events,” said Mr. Kozeko. “These include the World Championship, the Universiade, the World Junior Championship and the World Cup stages, one of which will take place this February in Raubichi. There will be many competitions where we need to maintain our high reputation. This season will give the answers to questions of how strong our new generation is, and what ambitions we may have for the next Olympic Games. Of course, we won’t ignore our honoured athletes but are also working hard on reserves. There are positive improvements in this respect: finally, we have normal conditions for the initial preparation of athletes. Previously, our groups trained in various places but now they are gathered at one venue, since the

department for preparation was opened close to our centre. So, from this year, work is being done to create a fully-fledged freestyle centre where athletes will be prepared from scratch up to the highest level.”

The fans have got used to the fact that our athletes are among the world leaders in individual jumps. What is our squad able to do in the team jumps which have recently been included in the Olympic programme?

This year, team jumps will be represented in the programme during two stages of the World Cup and the World Championship. Our team has been preparing for this type of competition at all tournaments where they were represented. We didn’t simply take part but also won prizes. I think our sportsmen are serious rivals to all freestylers in the team jumps.

The International Ski Federation supported your initiative to develop synchro jumps. When will spectators be able to see freestyle athletes in this type of programme?

The rules of the competition are currently being developed, with the issues of refereeing being considered. These will be approved at the spring session of the International Ski Federation, after which, synchro jumps will be included in the register of competitions. At present, all the burden on dealing with promoting this type of programme lies on us. During the training camp in Finland, we did our first training sessions in synchro jumps and all the foreign athletes enjoyed the idea. So, I think that in the course of time it will also find a place as part of the World Championships, the World Cup stages and, I hope, the Olympic Games.

P.S. Anton Kushnir was placed eighth at the FIS Freestyle World Cup first stage in American Lake Placid. The Sochi-2014 Olympic champion was not perfect in his landing, for which the judges significantly reduced his points. The next big start for the Belarusian aerials will be the World Championships that take place in the US Deer Valley from February 5th-7th.

There will be only stars



By Denis Komarov

In early September 2019, Minsk will host a unique athletics event at Dinamo Stadium, in which the athletics teams of Europe and the United States will meet for the first time. Taking place shortly before the World Cup launches in Qatar, the event will be truly interesting.

The Head of the European Athletics Federation, Svein Arne Hansen, is a frequent guest in Minsk. Last summer, he commented upon the athletics event in Belarus and hoped for a continuation, saying, “I think, in the future, such matches will be held every two years. Americans are going to host the next meeting. It is possible that, in 2023, the strongest athletes of the USA and Eu-

rope will gather in Minsk again.”

In 2024, according to Mr. Hansen, Minsk has every chance of hosting the European Athletics Championships, with a fully-fledged, established programme. The application is already being prepared and the upcoming match is likely to become the best advertising. “This year, the European Championship will be the major athletics event on the continent, as the World Championship is being hosted by Doha. It should see a lot of attention, and gather the best athletes,” he added.

Without star athletes, the lion’s share of the appeal is lost; the competition programme depends on them greatly. The Chairman of the Belarusian Athletics Federation, Vadim Devyatovsky, explains, “It was only recently that the Americans signed the relevant contract but, at last, all bureaucratic aspects have been resolved. The four strongest athletes from each side will take part in each event (in accordance with results shown during the season), running from 100m to 3,000m.”

Everything envisaged for the Games

By Svetlana Savelieva



Athletes living in the Village of Athletes during the 2nd European Games will be able to receive necessary medicines for free

At the Republican training seminar, entitled *Issues of Medical and Anti-doping Provision of the 2nd European Games*, Belarus’ First Deputy Health Minister, Dmitry Pinevich, said that for the first time, the work of separate polyclinics will be set up at sporting facilities and in the athletes’ accommodation. Athletes in the Olympic Village will be able to receive the necessary medicines for free.

In turn, the Director of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate, Georgy Katulin, noted that medicines and anti-doping is one of the major functional areas in the preparation for the 2nd European Games. “Independent observers of the World Anti-Doping Agency will be working and living in the Olympic Village. All this is being done in order to be in the thick of things and to perform anti-doping control,” he said.

It’s planned that one in four athletes will be checked for doping and the number of tests will exceed 1,000. From June 21st-30th, Minsk will be hosting the 2nd European Games, bringing together more than 4,000 athletes from 50 countries. 199 sets of medals will be competed for across 15 sports. Competitions in nine sports will be qualifiers for the 32nd Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Instructors from Japan to teach karate to wrestlers from various countries

International training-qualification camps in Kyokushin-Kan Karate takes place in Gomel on January 24th-27th



Athletes aged 10 years and older (with no restriction on the upper limit) can take part in the event. During the four days, experienced and titled specialists will be explaining the tactics of match conduct. Training sessions in basic techniques will be held under the guidance of instructors from Japan — Taku Yokozawa and Kotaro Yamashita, while three-time world champion, Anzhelika Sabayeva, will share the secrets of special and battle training. Athletes from Belarus, the CIS and non-CIS states — world and European champions and winners of various tournaments — will also participate. “This can be called a landmark event. Interest in it has already been shown by karate wrestlers from all regions of Belarus, as well as from Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Poland, the Baltic States, Pakistan and Sri Lanka,” notes the Gomel Centre of Martial Arts.

SPORT



Contest of the week

Dancers from 15 countries were competing at the 34th International Ballroom Dancing Championships, *Vitebsk Snowflake*

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 27th January. *Chronicles of Life. Annals of the Country*
Until 3rd February. *Contemporaries of the 20th Century: Centenary of the Belarusian Portrait*
Until 1st March. *Collection of Singer Lidia Ruslanova*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 3rd February. *Lyubcha Land. People and Time*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale massacre*
Until 1st February. *Shop with Cites*
Until 15th March. *Manifest of Republic*
Until 7th April. *Fantasy Land*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 26th January. *Winter Mood*

VILNIUS GALLERY

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

GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 27th January. *We Are Coming to You, Belarus*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 3rd February. *Iza Zaslounova and Leonid Galperin*
Until 3rd February. *Art project of Gleb Otchik and Vasily Zenko: Frames of Time*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st January. *Somewhere to the West of Minsk: Daily Life of Western Belarus*
Until 18th February. *Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso*

TROITSKY SUBURB

7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 3rd March. *Birds in Winter*
Until 7th April. *Insects and More*

NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 28th February. *Dangerous Beauty*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
24.01. Don Pasquale
25.01. Vytautas
26.01. Figaro's Wedding
27 and 30.01. Swan Lake
29.01. Queen of Spades
30.01. Concert of Sergey Rachmaninoff's Romances
31.01. La Traviata

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
24.01. OblomOFF
25.01. Woe from Wit
26.01. Circle of Love
27.01. Divers
29.01. Viva Commedia!
30.01. Lady for a Day
31.01. Taming of the Shrew

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
24.01. Battlefield
25.01. Pygmalion
26.01. Robbery at Midnight
27, 29 and 30.01. Mixed Feelings
31.01. Aisedora. Dance of Love

BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street
25.01. Romeo and Juliet

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
24 and 25.01. Harvest
26 and 27.01. Kolyady Night
27.01. Elza's Land
27 and 31.01. Government Inspector
29 and 30.01. Kupala Night Dream

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
24.01. This Is All She
25.01. Portrait
26.01. Concrete
27.01. Hunting for Self
29.01. Belarus. Didactics
30.01. Ticket for Best Train
31.01. Quiet Whisper of Leaving Steps

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
24.01. It's Not Invented by Us
25.01. Bankrupt
26.01. Synopsis
27.01. Playing Happy Family
29.01. Sasha, Take Garbage Out
30.01. Lesson of Love / Hotel of Two Worlds
31.01. Zhmurik / Bigamist

YOUNG SPECTATORS' THEATRE

26 Engels Street
24.01. Doctor Not Upon One's Own Will
25.01. Belarusian Vaudevilles
31.01. Romeo and Juliet