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The first National Unity Museum in Belarus has been visited by thousands of people in three years. In the photo: Tikhon Khoroshko — a law class student at Sergei Gritsevets secondary school No. 1 in Baranovichi — at the National Unity Museum

Act of historical justice

On September 17th, Belarusians celebrated National Unity Day for the fourth time. This national holiday was established in our country by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus dated June 7th, 2021. The date of September 17th, 1939, marks the restoration of historical justice towards the Byelorussian people, who were divided against their will in 1921 under the terms of the Riga peace treaty. The holiday is timed to coincide with the beginning of the Red Army's liberation campaign in Western Byelorussia in 1939, as a result of which the Byelorussian people gained their national and state unity. The major driver that ensured the reunification of the western and eastern parts of our territory was the desire of Byelorussians to live with dignity in a single strong state. National Unity Day is based on the ideas of love for the Motherland, justice, humanism, preservation of historical heritage, family values, strengthening the national identity and statehood that unite all Belarusians. → 6-7



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Idea of national unity permeates the entire history of Belarus

The Head of State, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has met with representatives of various nationalities living in Belarus

The President noted that there is no talk of a titular nation in Belarusian society and the experience of dividing people into citizens and non-citizens based on nationality is alien to Belarusians, unlike in some neighbouring countries. “The idea of national unity permeates our entire history. For centuries, people fleeing religious wars, civil strife, and persecution have found shelter in Belarus. In times of hardship, they united with the local population, rebuffed the enemy, triumphed, and jointly built their Belarusian happiness,” stressed the Head of State.

Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that it was no coincidence that the current meeting was taking place on the eve of the youngest, yet very significant state holiday — National Unity Day. “Maintaining interethnic peace is one of the priorities of our state policy, and we take pride in this. The Constitution of our country guarantees foreign citizens and stateless persons the same rights and freedoms as those enjoyed by citizens of Belarus,” emphasised the President.

The Head of State highlighted that representatives of 156 nationalities work, create families, and raise children in peace and harmony in Belarus, in the spirit of good neighbourliness.

The President reminded that over 600 years ago, Jews came to the territory of modern Belarus. Persecuted in various parts of the world, they found the opportunity to live freely and peacefully here. “Up until the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, their population was second only to the native one. Needless to say, the Belarusian land became the cradle for three presidents of the State of Israel: Zalman Shazar, Chaim Weizmann, Shimon Peres,” Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out.

At the same time as the Jews, Tatars came to the Belarusian land. “These are unique people: brave, fair, with a fight-



Everyone who lives in Belarus celebrates Victory Day and Independence Day together, thus preserving the memory of representatives of all nationalities who helped Belarusians liberate and then restore towns and villages destroyed by German fascists, as noted by Aleksandr Lukashenko. This memory is immortalised in the names of cities’ streets and avenues, while Belarusian parks, squares, and educational institutions are named after the heroes. “We are absolutely open and will remain open to all who come to us with pure intentions and peace. It is difficult for Belarusians to understand what drives the European elites in their desire to fence themselves off and rebuild the ‘iron curtain’ — and they constantly reproached us for this during the Soviet times,” underlined the Head of State.

“Re-alising that the West’s approach is a path to nowhere, we take natural and clear steps in response, although unexpected for some. In contrast to the West, we open our borders and reach out to the peoples of Europe directly. Fortunately, they hear us.” The President thanked representatives of various nationalities living in our country for the patriotism they demonstrate, “I am absolutely convinced that you, just like all Belarusians — the native population — value and love our land, your land.”

ing spirit. They came to us in peace, at the invitation of local princes, to help defend our lands. By beating their swords into ploughshares, Tatars made a significant contribution to the development of the material and spiritual culture of Belarus. At present, the town of Iyve — one of the centres of their compact residence — rightfully boasts its achievements in the economic and spiritual spheres,” the President underscored.

According to the Head of State, representatives of the Azerbaijani people are also successfully settling down in Belarus. Wrestler Kamandar Madzhidov,

judoka Natik Bagirov, and many others have glorified the country with the Olympic and world achievements. “The Armenian diaspora occupies an important place in our country. Suffice it to say that one of the first leaders of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic was an Armenian, Aleksandr Myasnikov (Miasnikian). Multinational Dagestan is represented in Belarus by 17 nationalities. We have given the opportunity to start a new, peaceful life to the citizens of Afghanistan and Palestine, where armed confrontation and bloodshed have persisted for many years. There are countless examples of peo-

ple from all corners of the world finding their second homeland in our country,” stated the Belarusian leader.

The President added, *“Sometimes it seems that peoples who come to Belarus leave mutual strife, reproaches, and grudges at the border checkpoints — as we say in Belarus, ‘at the doorstep’.* How else can one explain that Arabs and Jews, Azerbaijanis and Armenians, Georgians and Abkhazians find a common language, and live in peace and harmony here? This is because all of you have become ours — Belarusians.”

Belarusians and Ukrainians: we are different, but we are united



Vladislav Kadira

The meeting would not have been complete without the participation of representatives from our fraternal Ukraine. Vladislav Kadira, a historian, Chairman of the Belarusian Public Association of Ukrainians Vatra, stressed that the two nations had travelled a long historical path and our unity cannot be destroyed, “How can anyone justify the insidious intentions, stretch barbed wire between the hearts of Belarusians and Ukrainians, who are connected by centuries of history, linguistic kinship, and the memory of the Great Patriotic War? We call on all world governments to cease conflicts, to prevent the cultivation of ideas of hatred towards humanity, and to stop the persecution of people based on language, racial affiliation, or national identity.”

The Ukrainian theme is close to the Belarusian leader, considering the

President’s Ukrainian roots. The Head of State has always been an active mediator between Ukraine and Russia to ensure normal relations between them, “What is happening in Ukraine is sad. You know the reason. You must agree that there should have been more effort to resolve this issue peacefully. We live next door; we have always helped each other, bought energy resources at lower prices. The leadership of Ukraine — Leonid Kravchuk — was one of the initiators of the collapse of the USSR. I witnessed that. What need was there to destroy the country?”

The President also reminded about the Minsk agreements, which, as later suggested in the West, were intended to deceive Russia. However, the Belarusian leader does not believe this, noting that “everyone expected that the issue would be resolved” and it has become ‘fashionable’ only now to say otherwise, while at that time the participants came to the negotiations with serious intentions.

“We agreed on peace, yet Ukrainians did not fulfil the agreements. Zelensky inherited power with huge problems. It was his duty to resolve them — he had promised he would. In contrast, he let the situation degenerate to a war,” the Head of State recounted.

West’s hypocrisy, relations with the Armenian leadership, Poland’s aggressive policy, and the Ukrainian issue



Georgy Yegiazaryan

During a meeting with the President, the participants expressed their gratitude to the Belarusian leader for his honest and open policy, and for maintaining peace and interethnic harmony in the country during such a challenging period

Georgy Yegiazaryan, Chairman of the Minsk City Armenian Cultural and Educational Society Hayastan, who also chairs the Advisory Interethnic Council under the Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs, thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko for the attention the state pays to the development of national cultures and the preservation of interethnic peace and harmony. Georgy Yegiazaryan

noted that he has been living in Belarus for 45 years, “We are treated here not based on our nationality or religious beliefs, but according to our business, professional, and, most importantly, human qualities.” The chairman invited the Head of State to attend the Republican Festival of Cultures in Grodno. In 2026, it will mark its 15th jubilee edition. “I am immersed in this festival. I once initiated and created it. I just thought that I must definitely attend this festival. You have accurately guessed my thoughts,” replied the President. The President promised to consider the proposal put forward by Georgy Yegiazaryan to name one of the streets in Minsk — in the year of the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory — in honour of the legendary commander, Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan Bagramyan, who led the 1st Baltic Front during Operation Bagration aimed to liberate Belarus from German fascist invaders. “As for great Bagramyan, we need to consider this question in the near future. This is a great man for us,” assured Aleksandr Lukashenko.

West’s hidden hand

One of the topics was the policy of the current leadership in Armenia, which over the past few years has repeatedly made disparaging remarks about its allies in the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has set certain conditions and ignored summits, then threatened to withdraw from the CSTO, claiming it does not fulfil its obligations. In February 2024, Pashinyan went so far as to announce that Armenia was suspending its participation in CSTO activities. He has also frequently criticised Belarus for its friendship and co-operation with Azerbaijan. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has become a stumbling block in this regard while the President of Belarus has repeatedly called for a diplomatic resolution to the issue.

Incidentally, the Azerbaijani authorities have also made considerable efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the problem. However, all of this has only provoked a nervous reaction from the Armenian side that has made ambiguous and counterproductive statements regarding Belarus. Nikol Pashinyan declared that he would no longer visit Minsk and would not let other official representatives of his country do so. In addition, Armenia has taken a course towards reducing co-operation in integration formats and announced its intention to hold a referendum on joining the European Union.

It is clear that behind all Armenia’s démarches, the West’s ears are sticking out, eager to detach Armenia from the CSTO and draw it into its sphere of influence. And Yerevan is blindly going on a leash of the USA and its allies. This position causes concern for Georgy Yegiazaryan, who does not hide his worries about the current policy of the Armenian leadership, “I understand: one can turn to the West, to the European

Union, but should not spoil relations with its friends. Belarus and Russia are not alien countries. Politicians should find common ground; people can always find it. We should restore our friendly relations. The West is simply pitting us against each other, trying to destroy Armenia’s relationships with its friends.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that he advocates for maintaining good relations with Armenia and that Belarus bears no blame for the deterioration of relations with the Armenian leadership, “It would be good if we had good relations with Armenia as before, despite all the shortcomings and nuances. Believe me, there is no our fault in this situation. Today, it is already clear to everyone why the current Armenian leadership has pursued such a policy. They made the decision to hold a referendum on joining the EU in Armenia. It started long time ago. I warned Nikol Vovayevich [Pashinyan], when he had just become Prime Minister, that this should not be done. The first tirades against Belarus came from the Armenian authorities — although aimed at us, the target was Russia. Both Putin and I understood it perfectly well. Upon our mutual agreement, we decided not to escalate relations so that the Armenian people would not think we were against them. Therefore, we did not react in any way. Today it is clear — before he [Nikol Pashinyan] joins the EU, Europeans will demand something from him and the Armenian leadership in return. The USA is behind Europeans. Nothing is done in the West today without the USA’s approval. That is why they have put Armenia under pressure. Just look at the recent past — it all started the same way in Ukraine.”

The Belarusian leader repeatedly urged not to make hasty or rash actions, and not to lose the achievements



reached in co-operation with traditional partners, “You have one bird in your hands, so why chasing after two birds in the bush now. Let this bird remain in your hands. Do not lose this friendship, this brotherhood. This means a single market in the economy and mutual assistance. Do not lose this, because if you lose it, you may not gain anything in another place. Do you think anyone is waiting for Armenia? No one is waiting for us, Armenia, or Ukraine anywhere. Everyone is busy with their own issues. They want to solve their problems at the expense of others. There is absolutely no Belarus’ fault in worsened relations with Armenian authorities. Armenians are very smart people, and they will not tolerate abnormal policies that do not correspond to the mentality of the Armenian people. They will figure it out where their happiness is in the near future.”



‘I am doing everything to end the war in the region’

The Head of State suggests setting aside disputes about who is right and who is wrong. In response to Zelensky’s accusations of helping Russia, the President explained,

“Yes, we are helping Russia. It is our ally. Fifty countries of the world are helping Ukraine while only Belarus is helping Russia because we are legally obliged to do it.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded that Ukraine had imposed sanctions against Belarus even before Western countries did so. It closed its airspace to Belarusian civil aircraft for far-fetched reasons, seized several thousand Belarusian railcars with mineral fertilisers, arrested 75 Belarusian semi-trucks, and ‘killed and cut up into pieces three people’, after which Belarus had to conduct an operation to retrieve the bodies.

The President is convinced that all this was done at the behest of the USA, which wanted to ignite a major fire in the region, “They failed to bend us in 2020. NATO troops were not brought here. What could they do next? They saw that we would not yield — in case of a colour revolution or whatever, we will defend the country. All of this was aimed against Russia. This is why we acted very carefully. But Ukrainians got ahead of themselves — upon command from Americans, they began to escalate relations with us expecting that I would also be dragged into the war. They would be happy now if Belarus had joined this war. Quite the opposite, I am currently doing as much as I possibly can to end it.”

According to the Head of State, all countries have seen what the USA is all about with its currency, and what goals it pursues, “The world is so unstable now that neither you nor I can predict what will happen tomorrow. Therefore, we need to calm down.”

TOWARDS A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has held a meeting with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Akbar Ahmadian

Welcoming the guest at the Palace of Independence, Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked him for the visit and noted, “Your visit is important also because — by the will of fate, all comes from Allah, as you say — we are now in the same boat and absolutely do not regret it.” The President clarified, “Our opponents are trying to lie away our reputation in the media. We understand this, we are experienced people. There is an information confrontation, maybe even with elements of information wars. Nevertheless, we still

manage to cope with sanctions and other pressure.” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the tense situation in the regions where Belarus and Iran are located, “At a time of acute military and political situation in the Middle East, near the borders of Belarus, in this European region — and you are seriously involved in the conflict — we do not just need consultations, we need joint actions with your country. We are moving towards a multipolar world. It will be a very hard path. Fortunately, Iran and other countries

understand this well.” The President stated, “In this difficult situation of confrontation, security issues come to the fore.” Addressing the guest, the Head of State stressed, “I think you will agree that security will be effective only if the economy is functioning well, if trade and economic relations between the countries are solid and dynamically developing. We see a steady increase in trade between our states, and the most important task for us is to prevent a slowdown in trade and economic relations since they are the foundation of our interaction.” The Head of State emphasised that Belarus waits for the Iranian President to visit the country, “If you decide on the visit of the Iranian President to Belarus, we need to get prepared very seriously for this visit in all areas: in the economy, trade and

economic relations, in the issues of security and military-technical co-operation. As I understand it, there are no closed topics between us. I want you to understand that Belarus has always been a reliable partner of Iran, and we are ready to go our way with dignity.” After the meeting with President Aleksandr Lukashenko, Ali Akbar Ahmadian shared some impressions with journalists, “Iran and Belarus have always been friends, our relations are already close to allied ones. During the meeting, your President stressed the need to continue and enhance co-operation. We saw his serious intention to actively develop our relationship. We are confident that our relations with Belarus will rise to a higher level in the future.”

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‘Working with people is a top priority’

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has held a meeting on topical domestic political issues and preparations for the political campaigns. The event was attended by the heads of the houses of Parliament, the Head of the Belarus President Administration, the State Secretary of the Security Council, as well as the chairmen of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the State Security Committee (KGB).

“Autumn is the time to sum up the results and build a strategy for the coming year. Therefore, our most important task is to finish this year properly and start the next year. The results of the presidential elections will largely depend on this,” the Head of State said. “Working with people is a top priority in the activities of all heads — in regions, local power vertical, and central bodies.”

The President drew special attention to the approaches in working with the population that officials must adhere to, “People need to be listened to, people need to be talked to, and people need to receive proper responses to the questions they pose to us.”

First of all, Aleksandr Lukashenko asked the participants of the meeting what issues were the most pressing at the moment, and then enquired about the effectiveness of work with public appeals.

In Belarus, the work with citizens’ appeals is built on a systemic level and is absolutely accessible to anyone, as stated by Aleksandr Lukashenko. The President reminded those present that in 2022, a large seminar was held on updating the forms and methods of working with the population, with Directive No. 2 finalised and set forth in a new version. Parliamentarians actively work in the regions, communicating with the population and helping people solve specific issues. The Belarus President Administration applies new, outside-the-box approaches. “However, we must keep in mind that the most important issue is work and wages,” the Head of State emphasised. Speaking about the upcoming presidential elections in Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko underscored, “These elections should complete the formation of a renewed political system of our state.”

According to the President, a lot has already been done in this regard. Thus, the Belarusian People’s Congress has received a new constitutional status in the country’s political system, and the main approaches to its activities have been defined. “Still, a lot will have to be done before the presidential elections and during them,” the Head of State remarked. The most essential task highlighted by the Belarusian leader is the preparation for the upcoming new five-year plan,



“Elections is common thing — we have held them more than once, and we will hold these ones, as well. What is really important is that we must prepare for the next five-year period, which will begin in 2026. Therefore, I think we need to hold the next Belarusian People’s Congress at the beginning of next year. We must present the strategy for the five-year period to the people and determine the major directions of our development.”

The President noted that the current meeting was the first in a series of events related to the future electoral campaign, and aimed to discuss the main outlines of the upcoming work. “I would like to discuss these issues with you and outline, in general terms, concrete steps for the preparation and holding of the main events — the Belarusian People’s Congress and the presidential elections,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “There is one question that I am not going to evade since the internet and the media keep speculating about it every day. There has been a stream of all kinds of insinuations and hype around this question, especially in recent weeks. This refers to the date of the upcoming presidential elections. Either Americans or our fugitives have even scheduled the elections and already announced the voting day, developing a bunch of conspiracy theories about this...

According to the Constitution, the next elections of the President of Belarus must be held no later than July 20th [2025] — so this is the deadline by which we must hold the elections. It is necessary to be very mindful when determining the voting day and the period which will get the electoral burden, since labour resources will have to be refocused to the commissions that we will create. It is necessary to ensure that nothing disrupts the usual rhythm of life in our country,” the Belarusian leader stressed.

The President warned that it would not be easy, as opponents were already trying to shake up the situation. “They will pour new information flows of dirt. We see perfectly well and control everything that is happening around us — both outside our country and inside. I just want to advise them, as always: if they want to make a political upheaval in the country and participate in the presidential elections, prove their case or whatever, then they need to come and take part in the presidential elections — without street demonstrations, weapons, or sanctions. They need to come and explain to people why they ‘care’ so much about Belarus, why they are fighting against it and why they are planning an armed invasion of the territory of Belarus,” the Head of State commented on the opponents.

Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out that Belarus has a large number of such facts, and it is necessary to reveal them to people.

The President also drew attention to the fact that opponents abroad are constantly asking for money from various structures to uphold their activities, and those are ready to allocate such funds — but only for specific purposes, “They keep on asking for money from the [US] Department of State, from Poles, and others in the European Union. When asked why they need it, they respond that they will use it to attack Belarus in the media. So they get an answer: ‘You already did that. There will be no money for this. Only armed actions on the territory of Belarus will be paid for’.”

The President spoke about the reasons for pardoning several dozen convicts, whom opponents considered to be political prisoners. The Head of State recalled that he had recently twice made decisions, which were publicly reported, to pardon several dozen so-called political prisoners. “They [fugitives] should be happy. They could have thanked me at the very least. But no, they are concerned with proving to themselves and those abroad that they have made a huge contribution and ‘forced the dictator’ to make such decisions,” the President noted. “First of all, no one can force me — it is out of the question. I have never made decisions at anyone’s behest or under pressure.”

As for pardoning specific people, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that those were his own decisions taken for various reasons. “Some of the convicts were seriously ill. Well, things happen in life. Some of them do not pose any danger now. Why keep them in prison and feed them at public expense? We have released them. They are under the full control of law enforcement agencies,” the Belarusian leader shared the details.

The President stated that instead of being grateful, the opponents abroad are not happy about this scenario. “Why aren’t they happy? This is because Americans and others reproach them for having failed to make their contribution. After all, no contribution — no money,” Aleksandr Lukashenko concluded.

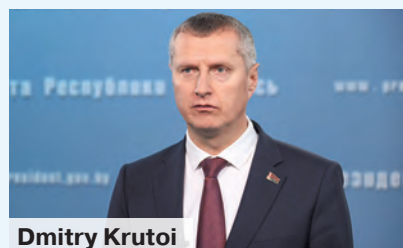
Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Dmitry Krutoi, Head of the Belarus President Administration, has shared with journalists the details of the meeting with the President

“The President has asked which topics are the most acute and concerning for our society. As you can see, our fugitive opposition, one way or another, comes up daily with an endless number of fakes related to various areas. We take it calmly,” noted Dmitry Krutoi. “Traditionally, people are concerned not about global political issues, but about specific everyday household and social problems related to the place where they live.”

The Head of the Belarus President Administration reported that about 30 percent of all citizens’ appeals are still related to housing and communal services. A large proportion of them relate to road construction and repair. The Head of State has once again

emphasised the great importance of the topic of employment and wages for people. However, the fugitives are trying to present the situation as if an ‘economic bubble’ associated with an outstripping rate of wage growth is observed in Belarus. Dmitry Krutoi has remarked that the unemployment rate in our country is now at a minimum level, with certain segments of the economy requiring more workers. There is nothing unusual about an increase in income — the growth is in accordance with the forecast parameters within the framework of the medium-term development programme for the country until 2025, as specified by the President Administration Head. “Despite the sanctions pressure — almost half of



Dmitry Krutoi

the sectors of the Belarusian economy are under various types of sanctions — we are fulfilling all forecast parameters.” By the way, these indicators will become the basis for the formation of the programme of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2026-2030.

Developing a domestic electric vehicle is a crucial task

Up to 400 kilometres driving range and maximum localisation — how work is progressing on the creation of the Belarusian electric vehicle

By Vladislav Sychevich

Finding its niche

All colours of the rainbow, a design reminiscent of space ships, and a driving range of over a thousand kilometres — today, China dictates the global trends in the electric vehicle market. According to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), the local automotive industry exported 1.54 million electric vehicles in 2023, earning \$34 billion. Various estimates suggest that the volume of the Chinese electric vehicle market is estimated at \$305.57 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach a staggering \$674.27 billion by 2029. This all indicates that the future lies with this mode of transport. The trends are clear, which is why Belarus has decided to create its own electric vehicle. The first prototype was developed by the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences back in 2017. However, for various reasons, it was deemed not to be the most successful. Since then, researchers and manufacturers have been actively working to create a vehicle that would meet consumer demands for price and quality. The most popular car among Belarusians — the BelGee X50 crossover — has been selected as the basis.

“The choice is not random,” noted Aleksandr Belevich, Deputy General Director for Highly Automated Electric Transport at the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering. “Firstly, BelGee has purchased the licence for this vehicle, and they have the right to make structural changes, including installing an electric motor. Moreover, the crossover as a class is the most popular model. It has a raised ground clearance, which allows ‘stealing’ some space for the battery. This is because the body of a petrol engine vehicle is not designed for battery installation. We are refining it. Consequently, the ground clearance will be slightly reduced.”

There was no time for scientists and manufacturers to hesitate. The Head of State set a clear deadline — within a year, it is required not only to develop a domestic electric car but also to launch it into production. “To date, design documentation for all key components and powertrain has been developed and sent to enterprises for manufacturing. The first prototypes for testing are expected soon. We produced the first prototype in our institute, and now the task for serial production plants is to manufacture all components for the pilot industrial batch and carry out the final assembly at BelGee

According to data from the Belarusian Automobile Association (BAA), total sales of new passenger and light commercial vehicles in July this year reached 4,763 units, marking a record high for the last three years. Furthermore, July 2024 sales exceeded those of July 2023 by more than 2.5 times. Experts have also noted a nearly tenfold increase in electric vehicle sales — 1,261 electric cars over the past seven months. While car enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting the Belarusian electric vehicle to hit the market, the developers have stated that the wait won't be much longer.



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“Your task is to achieve serial production of electric vehicles by January 1st, 2025.”

During a visit to the Belarusian-Chinese joint venture BelGee CJSC, on January 19th, 2024

Aleksandr Kushner



as the manufacturing enterprise in order to refine all production technologies. So, work on the practical implementation of the project has effectively begun,” reported the deputy general director of the institute.

Localisation is key

The working name of the Belarusian electric vehicle is BelGee eX50. At the first stage, five absolutely identical prototypes will be produced for series testing. This is a kind of pilot industrial batch that will undergo all tests next year while preliminary tests are scheduled for this year. “Of course, on a global scale, this is a drop in the ocean. Typically, a pilot batch is produced in volumes of several dozen or hundred units. Nevertheless, we believe that this will be sufficient for manufacturers to assess their costs. After all, one of the problematic issues is the final cost of the product,” clarified Aleksandr Belevich.

“The electric car will have quite a lot of Belarusian components — according to experts' estimates, more than 60 percent.”

The interlocutor revealed, “The entire powertrain and battery will be Belarusian. Obviously, the cells will be Chinese. The traction electric motor is also domestically produced, as is the power electronics. The component base is purchased, but its cost makes less than 50 percent of the inverter cost. The assembly of printed circuit boards, programming, and algorithms are all Belarusian. The vehicle control system is also home-produced. The body is welded in Belarus, and the painting is done here, as well. The degree of localisation is very high, higher than that of the classic BelGee X50.”

Car owners are undoubtedly interested in the technical aspect in addition to the price. The total weight of the vehicle will be just over two tonnes, with a maximum speed currently limited to 140

km/h. On the plus side, the driving range according to the New European Driving Cycle (NEDC) will be over 300 kilometres. “The battery will have the same capacity as that of Chinese manufacturers for similar-class vehicles,” Aleksandr Belevich unveiled. “The range during comfortable and dynamic driving will be about 300-350 kilometres. We use lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries, as they are the most reliable and fire safe.”

Experts do not rule out future modifications of the Belarusian electric car with more powerful batteries — technical capabilities for this exist. However, the price will certainly be higher, in which case marketing considerations will come into play.

Price of the issue

When discussing the competitive price of the car, the degree of localisation undoubtedly plays a primary role. However, the production volume is of significant importance, too — a competitive price cannot be achieved with small volumes. At the same time, launching a large series immediately is not feasible as the market remains unclear. Therefore, the question is still open while the developers are planning to submit a request for government support. This is a global practice. “Currently, there is a tax exemption on the import of electric vehicles. This has contributed to their popularity, and the market is actively growing,” stated the deputy general director of the institute. “If the VAT, which is 20 percent, along with a number of other taxes is abolished to protect domestic producers, while import duties are reinstated, as has been done in Russia, the price will immediately become competitive. Again, if there is a guaranteed order from government agencies for a thousand cars per year, then the manufacturer has a reason to invest in equipment, and a viable series can emerge. According to various calculations, the ideal volume for creating a competitive price is around 10,000 cars per year. Therefore, a series is needed.”

WORD FROM THE MANUFACTURER

Gennady Svidersky, Director of BelGee CJSC,



“The idea of creating a Belarusian electric vehicle appeared after acquiring a licence that provided access to specific documentation. The chassis will be manufactured on the assembly line of the BelGee production facility using the electric vehicle documentation developed by the National Academy of Sciences. After obtaining industrial prototypes at the end of the year, we will be able to discuss the commercial and technical prospects for the development of this direction. One thing is already clear — this is an important step in mastering the competencies in the design and production of passenger cars. Testing of pilot batches of the domestic electric vehicle is planned for December. We will produce this batch, and in January we will conduct the tests. At that point, technical and commercial conclusions will be provided regarding the possibility of serial production.”



As a result of the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921, almost half of the ethnic Byelorussian territory was forcibly incorporated into the Polish state. While the 1920s – 1930s marked a period of rapid economic growth for the BSSR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), for Western Byelorussia, it was a time of regression in almost every sphere. Why did such a drastic divergence in the development of one nation occur?

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"We understand that, in fact, there are no new challenges. There are no unexpected twists or turns in history. There are forgotten old lessons and threats. Yet, there is also a protection — centuries-old experience that has taught us to be together in both happy and difficult times."

From a speech at the patriotic forum *We are Belarusians!* dedicated to National Unity Day, on September 17th, 2023

By Vyacheslav Danilovich, deputy of the House of Representatives, Doctor of Historical Sciences

Aggressive bloc

The construction of a socialist society in the USSR caused immense concern among the ruling elites of the leading capitalist powers, headed by the USA and the UK, since a real alternative to capitalism was strengthening.



Let us analyse what predetermined the reunification of Byelorussian lands

Boundaries of truth

It is for this reason that the authorities of the so-called countries of Western democracy made the decision to destroy the Soviet Union through military means. To this end, they nurtured Nazi Germany, which spent approximately \$40 billion in preparation for the Second World War. A significant portion of those funds was obtained from the financial and industrial structures of the USA, the UK, and France.

Their rulers did not shy away from betraying the interests of their allies, the fate of Czechoslovakia being a striking example in this regard. Moreover, Germany, Italy, and Japan were allowed to form an aggressive bloc that directed its efforts towards a military solution to the political problems existing within the global community.

Naturally, under such geopolitical conditions, the USSR's initiatives to establish a system of collective security on the European continent found no understanding or support from the UK, France, or Poland, which aimed to achieve their own security at the expense of the Soviet state by directing the aggression of Nazi Germany and its satellites eastward. Incidentally, in 1933, Poland became the second state — after the Vatican — to officially recognise the Nazi Reich, thus providing it with support on a global level.

Strategic choice

Berlin's belligerent stance was influenced by a number of foreign policy factors. This was significantly facilitated by the Anglo-German and Franco-German declarations, which provided Hitler with complete freedom of action regarding the countries of Eastern Europe. Addressing the German high military command on August 22nd, 1939, the Führer stated, "Colonel General von Brauchitsch has promised me to bring the war against Poland to a close within a few weeks. Had he reported to me that he needs two years, or even only one year, I should not have given the command to march."

The initiative to conclude the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty belonged to Berlin. Thus, on August 20th, Adolf Hitler sent a telegram to Joseph Stalin proposing a non-aggression pact and suggested that Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop come to discuss this.

In the existing circumstances, the USSR had no choice but to accept Germany's offer to sign a non-aggression treaty in order to delay military confrontation with the Nazi Reich. Joachim von Ribbentrop arrived in Moscow on August 23rd.

At the same time, neither the treaty nor the accompanying protocol contained articles on military co-operation between

UNDER THE WEISS CODE NAME
In early April 1939, Adolf Hitler ordered the development of a strategic plan for the invasion of Poland under the *Weiss* code name. According to this plan, the beginning of military actions was scheduled for August–September of the same year. On April 28th, Germany annulled the non-aggression pact with Poland. The Commander-in-Chief of the German Army, General Walther von Brauchitsch, signed a directive to launch an attack on Poland on June 15th.

the parties, nor bound them to engage in hostilities against third countries or to provide assistance should one of them become involved in a military conflict.

It is worth noting that Britain and France openly delayed in concluding an anti-German agreement with the Soviet Union, while simultaneously encouraging Berlin's Eastern European ambitions. Suffice it to recall the Munich Agreement of 1938. Furthermore, there was a secret German-Polish agreement regarding the division of Czechoslovakia, according to which Warsaw took over Teschen Region.

ANTI-SOVIET PROJECT
The erroneous assessments of the situation prompted Warsaw to take thoughtless actions. It seems that Poland should have been interested in international guarantees for its borders. In contrast, it focused its policy on preventing the strengthening of Soviet influence in Europe, reacting negatively to the USSR's entry into the League of Nations and the signing of mutual assistance treaties with France and Czechoslovakia. At the same time, Germany's actions, which violated the peace Treaty of Versailles, elicited no negative response from our neighbour.

GETTING BACK OUR ETHNIC TERRITORIES

Excessive self-confidence and a programmed intent to implement the idea of global domination by the German nation drove Adolf Hitler to sign the directive for an attack on Poland on August 31st, 1939. On the night of August 31st to September 1st, German intelligence services staged a provocative operation known as *Himmler*. Nazi German SS men and prisoners from concentration camps, dressed in Polish uniforms, 'captured' a radio station in the German town of Gleiwitz (now Polish Gliwice) and proceeded to broadcast anti-German propaganda with a call in Polish to unite and strike Germans. In the morning of September 1st, Germany attacked Poland.

Fascist forces occupied most of Poland by September 16th and reached the Curzon Line — the approximate border dividing the settlements of Poles on one side, and Byelorussians and Ukrainians on the other. The Polish government fled to Romania on September 16th and then to Great Britain. By the second half of September, the Polish army as an organised entity no longer existed — about 66,000 soldiers were killed, approximately 134,000 were wounded, and nearly 420,000 soldiers and officers were taken prisoner by the Germans.

Despite Berlin's attempts to drag Soviet armed forces into military actions, the leadership of the USSR adhered to a different policy. Thus, Moscow made it clear that its main priorities were not hostilities but the return of ethnic territories inhabited by Byelorussians and Ukrainians.

Only after Hitler's troops crossed the Curzon Line and the Polish government fled to Romania did the Red Army's liberation campaign in Western Byelorussia and Western Ukraine begin on September 17th. The USSR did not declare war on Poland, and this fact is significant. Official Warsaw noted that there was no state of war with the Soviet Union. Therefore, Poland's Commander-in-Chief Marshal Edward Ryzd-Śmigły emphasised in his order to the troops on September 17th, "Do not engage the Soviets in military actions... Units towards whose formations the Soviets have approached should negotiate with them with the aim of the exit of the garrisons into Romania or Hungary."

Thus, the pre-war geopolitical crisis, caused by the actions of the then collective West led by the Anglo-Saxons, escalated by efforts of Nazi Germany into the Second World War — the most extensive and bloody conflict in human history.

The German-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty was a consequence of events in the pre-war period. Byelorussians and Ukrainians managed to reunite in national states. The two years gained before the start of the war, and the expansion of borders to the west allowed the USSR to bolster its defensive capabilities and avoid an even greater catastrophe at the beginning of the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War, thus becoming the guarantee of the Great Victory over Nazi Germany and its allies.

Enduring Belarus: yesterday, today and well into the future

Belarus is developing while pursuing social consolidation

By Viktor Vatył, Doctor of Political Sciences, Chairman of the Belarusian Society of Political Scientists

The ideology of the Belarusian state envisages a number of worldview values that set the reference points for our activity. They encompass the highest values that ultimately affect the development of strategic goals and the implementation of sustainable development programmes for the country. The date of September 17th, 1939, is significant for us in this context.

Focus of attention

Amidst the growing global geopolitical instability and regional international tension, the need to protect and strengthen the foundations of sovereignty and national security comes to the forefront of state-building. One of the essential facets of our national idea can be formulated as follows: Belarus has a centuries-long history that will continue well into the future!

The Head of State has repeatedly emphasised this paramount, value-based worldview principle in his strategic and operational activities — the presence of sovereign and prosperous Belarus in the modern global community must be consistently supported with due care for its territory and population, relying on strong authority and productive governance.

This is where the factor of national unity manifests itself. September 17th serves as a symbolic focal point, capturing the substantial layer of memory about our historical past, presenting mechanisms for maintaining national consolidation, outlining paths to social well-being, ensuring political stability, and enhancing the country's international prestige.

Historical justice

The inclusion of the western Byelorussian lands into the BSSR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) in 1939 became a symbol of historical justice. This holds enduring value for us. The slogan 'There is only Poland — it is only for Poles' was the leitmotif behind the political actions of the Polish authorities who followed their geopolitical ambitions during the interwar period. As a result, Byelorussians faced

various forms of discrimination, from socio-economic to national and religious.

The decline in living standards for the overwhelming majority of peasants and workers in Western Byelorussia led to the emergence and strengthening of the national liberation movement. A fundamental desire — to be called humans and to remain Byelorussians — arose from the depths of the people's spirit.

The programmes of all Byelorussian political parties and public movements featured the reunification of our people as the major goal. The concluding act ensuring the reunification process was the liberation campaign by the Red Army.

In October – November 1939, the Declaration of Entry and the law *On the Incorporation of Western Byelorussia into the BSSR* were adopted by the authorised representatives. This is how historical justice was legitimised, a fundamental historical goal — the restoration of territorial integrity — was achieved, and the Byelorussian people was united as a whole.

The reunification enabled Byelorussians to mount serious resistance to the German fascist invasion and our country to take its rightful place in the post-war world order following the defeat of Nazi Germany.

National consolidation

Our unity contains a valuable national code. We can determine our territorial borders. National consolidation allows bringing everyone together and showing what society and the state cherish about the past, what they strive for in the future, and how they contribute to unlocking the full potential of the nation. After all, no country may exist without a committed and cohesive people.

During the interwar period, the Polish authorities, realising the significance of the national factor, did everything in their internal policy to quickly and permanently Polish Western Byelorussians, to deprive them of their national memory and

obliterate Byelorussian cultural heritage. The most visible and tangible denationalisation of Byelorussians occurred in education and enlightenment.

By the decision of the Polish government, teachers came from Poland, the vast majority of whom were Polish by birth. Thus, out of 275 teachers in the primary schools of Grodno District, only eight were Byelorussians. They were faced with a choice — either to accept Catholicism and teach in Polish, or to lose their jobs and be left without means of existence.

The events of September 1939, fortunately, interrupted the course of those absurd actions. We managed to avoid the Polishisation of a large part of the population and to preserve our nationhood.

Byelorussian-language periodicals appeared in all provincial cities and district centres. The interests of national minorities residing in the western territories were also taken into account. By 1941, there had been established 987 Polish schools, 173 Russian, 168 Jewish, 63 Lithuanian, and 43 Ukrainian ones there.

What was achieved during that short-term period became a powerful foundation for the post-war socio-cultural and national-ethnic development of the region and the country as a whole.

Strong authority

The reunification of Western Byelorussia with the BSSR revealed another facet of national unity as the highest value of our country — the presence of strong authority. Its significance in the unifying process manifested in two directions as the effectiveness at all levels of state administration and the patriotic support of authoritative decisions.

The effectiveness and patriotism of our authority have manifested in full at all stages of the post-war history. During the times of Soviet construction, authoritative management actions contributed to the country's emergence at the forefront of industrial society.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"We have reinstated the lost tradition of celebrating the liberation of the western Belarusian lands not only as a tribute to this epochal event. Without this event, it would have been difficult to speak about the Victory, let alone independence. This is a response to new attempts by the West to divide the Belarusian people and tear the country to shreds. This is an instruction for future generations of Belarusians to remember historical lessons."

From a speech at the patriotic forum *This is OUR History!* on September 17th, 2022

The attainment of independence marked a new phase in creating our modern statehood. The institution of presidency occupies a central place in this process. Its 30-year history has convinced us that this institution has taken on the functions of forming a system of state sovereignty and the foundations of national consolidation in society under new, post-Soviet conditions.

The President of Belarus — Aleksandr Lukashenko — has become the epicentre of the collective and unifying work in the country. His will, energy, commitment, and skilled strategy and tactics have contributed to Belarus taking up contemporary, post-industrial positions and facilitated the smooth integration of the country into the emerging configuration of a multipolar world, asserting national consensus and cohesion within society.

FACT

By the 1938–1939 academic year, there were no Byelorussian schools left in Western Byelorussia. This was also Warsaw's position regarding Byelorussian organisations engaged in cultural and educational activities — by 1939, most of them had been closed or expelled. The essence of the entire educational policy was that the Polish authorities of that time did everything to deprive Byelorussians of national identity and turn them into an impersonal resource for solving their geopolitical plans.

TO THE POINT

Almost two years before the war, the necessary national-political and cultural potential was created in the western region — theatres were opened, and higher and secondary educational institutions were established. Teaching in schools largely began to be conducted in the Byelorussian language, with intensified efforts to eliminate illiteracy.



In 2024 alone, Belorusneft plans to extract no less than 1 million 920 thousand tonnes of black gold. This figure has been steadily increasing each year, and the development of new oil fields is one of the top priorities. Seismic explorers help determine whether oil is present in a given area. The work is currently underway in the Maisko-Makeevsko-Dneprovskaya area. Covering 1,256 square kilometres and spanning three districts, this large-scale project is unprecedented in the history of the exploration company. The oil workers have high hopes for this land.



More precise than a tomograph

The area of 1,256 square kilometres: how research is progressing at the largest site in the history of domestic seismic exploration

By Olga Valchenko

'Everyone must leave the danger zone'

Not far from the seismic exploration camp, there are several settlements. Locals say they have already got used to the web of orange seismic cables, although initially, they were apprehensive about this activity. The system of interaction with people is well-established, as noted by Aleksandr Kostyukhin, the head of seismic exploration team No. 2, "As we approach a settlement, the senior team leaders in the camp relay information about upcoming work through the village council chairpersons, who in turn inform the residents, including in village chat groups. This means we no longer need to visit each person on every street, as we did many years ago."

The seismic exploration camp looks like a town, with living trailers equipped with sleeping berths, a sauna and showers, and a dining hall providing three meals a day. If a team works at a remote location, food is delivered directly to the site.

On this site, 10-12 teams of four people each work daily. The process is fine-tuned to the smallest detail and as regular as clockwork. A drilling rig and a tanker truck arrive at the designated point. Water is supplied to the mud sump in such a way that the drill easily penetrates the ground. After the drilling mast has been raised on the rig, and a five-metre rod has been attached, the drilling process begins. A total of four rods will be needed — the team requires a borehole 19 metres deep.

When the hole in the ground is ready, Igor Lasitsa, the fourth-class explosives specialist, comes into play. His mission is the most dangerous and responsible — placing the charge. A long whistle signal sounds, indicating that

everyone must leave the danger zone. There should be no one within a 50-metre radius. While the area in the field is well visible, it is crucial to be as vigilant as possible in the forest, where teams also work, to ensure that no outsiders enter the specified radius.

The explosion itself is remote-controlled. The impulse travels up to 10 kilometres deep, reflecting off target horizons, layers, and potential oil traps. Upon returning to the surface, it is registered by a vast number of sensors located there, which will ultimately help

create a three-dimensional image of the Earth's interior. A total of 112,000 wells will be needed, which means that teams will have to drill wells 50 metres apart 112,000 times before they gain invaluable information for further work. "3D seismic surveying can be compared to a sophisticated tomographic scanner used in medicine," clarified Andrei Lozovoy, the head of the field seismic surveying department. "The results of our work yield a volumetric image of the rock.

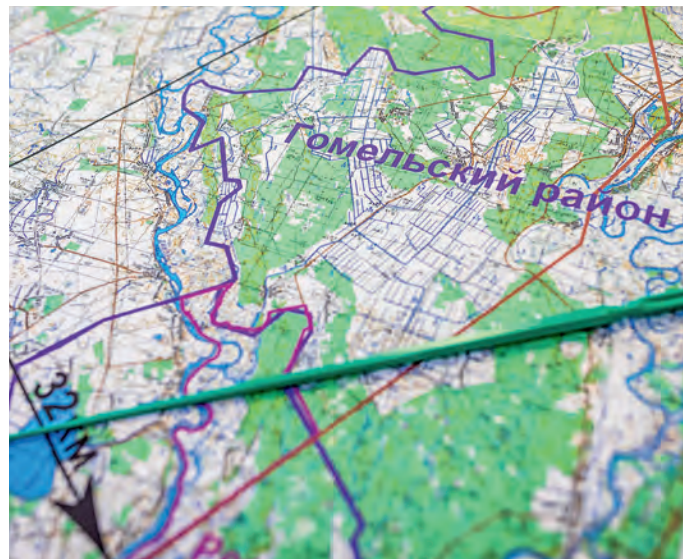
In comparison, 2D seismic surveying, which we conducted ten years ago, provides far less information."

Faster by three years

The work is now in full swing at the Maisko-Makeevsko-Dneprovskaya area — the largest project in the history of domestic seismic exploration. It covers an area of 1,256 square kilometres and spans the territories of Gomel, Loyev, and Rechitsa districts. It is far from being the easiest site, characterised by complex surface conditions



Ivan Yarivanovich



that pose certain challenges for geophysicists. These include floodplain areas of the Dnieper and the Sozh rivers, as well as swampy territories. However, the modern technologies used will help accelerate the project by at least three years. The research is expected to be completed in 2025.

"The uniqueness of this project lies in the fact that we are carrying out both field and in-office studies simultaneously," recounted Piotr Povzhik, Deputy General Director of Belorusneft for geology. "In other words, by the time we complete the overall work, we will already be planning the construction of the first exploratory wells on the left bank of the Dnieper. We will begin constructing the first wells directly in this area at the beginning of 2026."

Saving time means saving money. By the way, the Maisko-Makeevsko-Dneprovskaya area has long been on the radar of the oil workers, but the main obstacle to its study was the lack of effective practices.

New knowledge and advanced technologies today allow carrying out what was previously considered impossible.

The specialists have every reason to believe that these lands will replenish the enterprise's geological base in the coming years.



Ivan Yarivanovich

The Democratic presidential nominee for 2024, Kamala Harris, has recently unveiled her programme — for the first time in the history of the United States, it provides for government regulation of food prices, as well as a number of other non-market measures. This is far from the only example from Western realities. The Belarusian experience of state management of the economy is currently in demand in many countries.

Prices kept under control

By Valery Bainev, Doctor of Economics

Financial footprint

Nowadays, many unbiased observers note the increased chaotic socio-economic processes in most countries. Along with that, experienced managers know that there are no uncontrollable processes in society. It often happens that a certain event — let's say, a colour revolution — looks like a spontaneous, accidental, self-generated action. However, in reality it turns out that it has its own administrator, hence a beneficiary. It is no coincidence that one of the characters in the Russian cult film *Voroshilov Sharpshooter* expertly stated: Every crime leaves a financial footprint.

The essence of many currently existing global problems is that after the Second World War, the United States and its Western accomplices managed to construct a monetary mechanism, unique in its sophistication, to exploit the rest of the world. It became a 'worthy' replacement for the former colonial system based on the crude, undisguised robbery of colonies.

However, in recent years, this mechanism, which had been functioning properly for decades, has begun to rapidly lose its effectiveness, much to the chagrin of its creators. Therefore, Western moneybags have an urgent need to arrange chaos across the entire planet under their control, to the point of igniting the flames of a third world war. This is done in order to distract humanity from the process of putting a new, even more technological Western yoke on its neck — this time a monetary digital one.

In pursuit of the seigniorage

In the Middle Ages, large feudal lords (seigniors), who had the right to mint metal currency, gained significant unearned income due to the fact that the total costs of minting a coin, taking into account the metal value, turned out to be considerably lower than its purchasing power at par. Seigniors appropriated the difference, which is referred to as 'seigniorage' in economics. In fact, it was a hidden tax that the wealthy levied on their slaves at that time.

As money transitioned to paper, seigniorage grew enormously. Thus, today it is well known to many that the production cost of a hundred-dollar banknote is only 17 cents. This means that every holder of a hundred-dollar banknote has unwittingly donated 99.83 honestly earned dollars to the United States.

Interestingly, the profitability of this American 'printing business' is nearly 60,000 percent! This is tens, hundreds and thousands of times higher than the efficiency of trade in drugs, weapons and alcohol, respectively.

Exporting inflation

As is known, there is no crime that deep-pocketed people would not commit for the sake of exorbitant profit. Following the 2008 crisis, colossal money emissions into the global economy, estimated in trillions of dollars and euros, which Western tricksters cunningly refer to as quantitative easing, have become commonplace. The overflow of the global economy with commodity-free banknotes

Why non-market methods of economic regulation are widely used around the world



has inevitably led to the depreciation of dollars and euros, once honestly earned by people and countries, which is tantamount to a disguised form of theft. Consequently, experts estimate that between 2000 and 2023 alone, dollar savings depreciated nearly twofold. The unrestrained issuance of dollars and euros should lead to acceleration in the inflation rate in Western countries. However, prices there are growing far more slowly than would be expected, due to large-scale quantitative easing.

The fact is that the United States and its closest associates impose a tight monetary policy on peripheral states, thereby exporting their inflation to these countries. This mechanism is extremely simple — the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is under the control of the United States, routinely requires local central banks to compress the money supply and raise the key rate. This results in an increase in the cost of loans. Businesses incorporate the increased cost into the prices of their products. As a result, the populations of peripheral countries are faced with an endless increase in prices, paying the West the above mentioned seigniorage out of their pockets.

This is the operating principle behind the dollar-leveraged exploitation mechanism devised by Washington. It is worth noting that seigniorage revenue in economics is referred to as an inflation tax.

Common practice

Some Western politicians use an expressive stigma in relation to Belarus referring to it as 'the last island of socialism in Europe'. This is likely because President Aleksandr Lukashenko did not allow the 'much-respected Western partners' to plunge

our economy into disastrous chaos or seize Belarusian enterprises and our native land for candy wrappers. The Belarusian leader, in general, is focused on the national interests of Belarusians, including on the prevention of rampant inflation in the country, which means protecting Belarusians from paying taxes to 'Western seigniors'.

In this regard, it is worth recalling the commotion that liberal economists raised after the Head of State had signed Directive No. 10 *On Inadmissibility of Price Rise* in 2022. Time has shown that this anti-inflationary measure has fully justified itself, just like many other 'anti-market initiatives' implemented in Belarus.

Firstly, thanks to the aforementioned directive, price growth in Belarus, which accelerated to 15 percent in 2022, decreased during the year to become one of the lowest in the world. Last year, it was as low as five percent, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Secondly, government price regulation is a common practice in countries with so-called market economies.

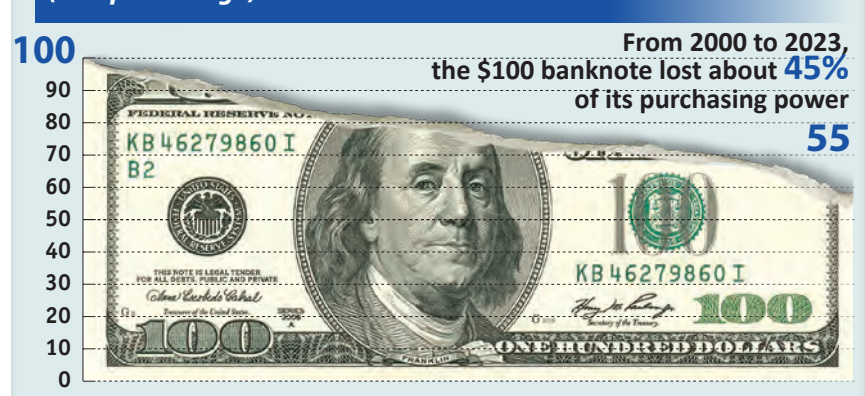
It is known that in Austria and Spain about 10 percent of prices are directly regulated by the state. In France, this proportion reaches 20 percent. In Finland, the government plans and controls prices for food, grain, energy, and alcoholic beverages. Similar rules are applied in Sweden.

At the same time, alongside direct price regulation, many EU countries also employ indirect tools to combat inflation based on subsidies, grants-in-aid, tax incentives, and so on.

Finally, thirdly, today even the United States with its 'super-market' economy no longer relies solely on income from the export of inflation (seigniorage), and at the level of one of the presidential candidates, is also concerned with the implementation of administrative measures to curb price increases. For this initiative, Kamala Harris has been branded a 'communist' by her opponent Donald Trump. Thus, the United States has a genuine chance of becoming a 'global stronghold of communism' in the near future.

All this proves that Belarus, amidst the current chaos-ridden world, should be guided by its national interests, regardless of the circumstances, and continue to work calmly, persistently moving towards the constructive goals it has set.

Depreciation of 100 US dollars from 2000 to 2023 (as a percentage)



Trees enjoy great care and attention

We have learnt how they maintain a unique botanical collection in the Gomel Park

The Gomel Palace and Park Ensemble is one of the major attractions in Belarus — its unique landscape has inspired artists and drawn tourists for many years, while its staff have accumulated valuable experience in caring for rare and precious green spaces over the years

By Dmitry Boyarchuk

Rainbows over lawns

The Gomel Park extends along both banks of the Sozh River, but the 17.5 hectares on the left bank are recognised as a natural monument. Svetlana Prishchepova, Deputy General Director for Landscaping and Maintenance, introduced a rich collection of plants, “The botanical component of the park includes around 3,600 trees and more than 3,000 shrubs, each assigned an inventory number. The engineer in charge of the park and garden complex registers diseases, flowering dates, and even every branch broken off by the wind in a special database.”

The park’s maintenance involves mowing the lawns, removing foliage, and managing an automatic irrigation system. If timed correctly, visitors can admire hundreds of fountains springing up from the grass and small rainbows forming over the lawns and flowerbeds. Svetlana Mikhailovna [Prishchepova] added, “This system has become a salvation during the current heatwave. Our two watering machines simply would not be able to cope with the entire amount of work.”

Caring for the park is the responsibility of 25 employees from a dedicated landscaping department, all trained to carry out a comprehensive range of necessary tasks. In summer, student teams join to assist. The special machinery fleet is also replenished — in addition to watering machines, there are tractors, blowers, and manual and wheeled lawn mowers.

Climbers do a good job

In the Gomel Park, mulberries and black pines thrive peacefully alongside birch and maple trees. In contrast, species like the Japanese larch, magnolia, Manchurian walnut, and Weymouth pine are rarely found in ordinary city parks. According to Svetlana Mikhailovna,

“We must preserve this unique corner of nature, which is home to about 90 species of trees. Many of these date back to the time when the Rumyantsev and the Paskevich families resided here. In total, we have more than 150 old-timers, including two magnificent oak trees that have stood for over two centuries.”

But is it easy for these rare trees to grow in an unusual climate? The park staff assured that the old trees had already adapted. However, diseases happen occasionally, just like in humans. Svetlana Prishchepova explained, “Trees can even have cancer; therefore, we regularly examine our charges. Technologies do not stand still, and we can now detect internal rot using a scanner.”

Surprisingly, the park is nearly free of the ubiquitous mistletoe infestation. This parasitic shrub plagues the crowns of trees throughout Gomel but seems to vanish immediately behind the park’s fence. Is there a secret? Svetlana Mikhailovna debunked the assumption,

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The history of the Gomel Palace and Park Ensemble spans an impressive 247 years. Back in 1777, Count Rumyantsev began the construction of the palace and the formation of the surrounding landscape based on the already existing park. The large-scale park development commenced in 1845 under the estate’s new owner — Ivan Fyodorovich Paskevich. At that time, the park was rightfully considered as one of the best in Europe. One of the oaks was even personally brought by the prince from Paris.

“The only effective method for combating mistletoe is to physically remove it from the branches. Our trees reach almost 40 metres high; that is why we engage tower climbers to eliminate every sprout. This service is not cheap, so I urge every resident of the country to cut mistletoe from the trees at least on their plots of land while a simple stepladder is enough to reach it.”

High culture park

When discussing the maintenance of the park, it is worth noting the behaviour of tourists. Numerous signs remind that it is forbidden to walk dogs, step on the lawns and ride bicycles. Just in the course of our conversation, a lady with her dog passed by. Svetlana Prishchepova commented, “This visitor is leading the dog on a leash and, hopefully, has cleaned up after it. However, there are some visitors who let their pets roam freely in the park. Squirrels live here, and dogs often start chasing them. In general, the park has seen an improvement in visitor etiquette in recent years. Nowadays, it is rare to see tourists trying to break, disrupt or damage anything.”

Respectable couple

During our conversation with the Deputy General Director for Landscaping and Maintenance, we stopped near two gorgeous ash trees, the age of which was evidenced by the impressive height and thickness of the trunks. It is noteworthy that one tree was male and the other was female — quite a married couple! Recently, information signs were installed nearby, but the path to them ran directly across the lawn. Our guide sighed, “We did not consider this aspect in advance. As a result, people have already trampled a clear path to the information signs. Perhaps we will arrange a wooden flooring here.”

These venerable ash trees are a national treasure. Their seed material is stored in the Central Botanical Garden of Belarus’ National Academy of Sciences. One of the giants has a crown preservation system made of cables. There is no such thing in any other park in our country. The innovative idea was spotted in the royal gardens of Russia. Other living natural monuments will soon receive similar protection, as well.

The collection of trees is replenished with new seedlings every year. Planting material used to be purchased abroad, but Belarusian nurseries have now mastered the art of growing a wide variety of plants.

Saying goodbye, we complimented the park’s flowerbeds. Svetlana Prishchepova promised to pass on our praise to the landscape architect who came up with sophisticated flower patterns. By spring, approximately 100,000 bulbous plants alone will contribute to the floral diversity of the Gomel Palace and Park Ensemble. Not even sanctions will hinder this plan. Belarusian tulips take root in the park even better than their Dutch counterparts.



Noisy, bright and crowded

A large-scale sports festival — Olympic Day — was held on the venue near the Sports Palace on Minsk City Day and featured over 20 sports and entertainment locations. Hundreds of boys and girls with their parents and friends came to participate in various activities and have fun.

By Irina Lukashik

President of Belarus' National Olympic Committee **Viktor Lukashenko** congratulated Minsk residents on Minsk City Day and launched the Olympic Day in Minsk, "Children together with their parents can visit our sports grounds and watch all kinds of sports represented there. If someone has not yet decided on a sports direction, there they can choose what they like. It may be today that someone will take the first step towards their future Olympic heights."

Minister of Sports and Tourism **Sergei Kovalchuk** noted that over the past 30 years, a great number of state-of-the-art sports facilities appeared in the country, for which we should be grateful to our state, "Thanks to the availability of these facilities, we were able to hold two multimedia events in the country. The 2nd European Games, the 2nd CIS Games, as well as the match between the teams of Europe and the USA in track-and-field athletics were held. All this is thanks to the presence of such infrastructure. I am sure that the construction of a national football stadium and a world-class swimming pool will give a new impetus to the development of these sports and attract hundreds of thousands children to these sports. It is great that so many initiatives are being implemented in our country today for people and a healthy lifestyle, which is the policy of our state."

The playground at the Sports Palace was crowded. Participants from three to 14 years old had an opportunity to try themselves in judo, wrestling, football, basketball, tennis, archery, boxing, row-



BELTA



The Statsevich family

ing and many other sports — in total, the Olympic Quest included 32 disciplines. Darina Zhurova, 9 years old, and Milana Zhurova, 6 years old, tried each of them. Together with their mother Natalya, the girls did not waste time, "Last year, we also participated in sports locations and won wireless headphones. Today's Olympic Day has impressed us even more with a variety of activities. This is a good chance for kids to test themselves, and maybe even fall in love with some kind of sport. My daughters really liked rowing — they did not want to leave those simulators. I think now, they will have another hobby in addition to dancing and drawing."

For completing challenges, young participants received stamps corresponding to the result shown: gold, silver or bronze. At the end of the quest, the largest number of stamps of the same colour corresponded to a certain prize — a smartwatch for the first places, a Bluetooth speaker for the second, a powerbank for the third. 12-year-old Ar-

tyom, along with friends Makar and Nikita, were not left without prizes. The boys won smartwatches and Bluetooth speakers, "We are volleyball players and play in the Minsk national team. We have played several games on the volleyball court, played football, and even shot bows! It is a cool day! Our parents did not believe at first when we came to them with gifts. We really liked it, cool prizes and fun activities — we love Olympic Day for that."

More people take part in the holiday every year. The organisers do not lag behind the trends and come up with new entertainments to attract children to sports. In addition to exciting sports challenges, children were pleased with masterclasses from top Belarusian athletes and an intellectual tournament. This time, Olympic champions and prize-winners of the Olympic Games in Paris took part in the Olympic Day. Champion of the Paris Olympics Ivan Litvinovich and prize-winners Vyaleta Bardzilouskaya,

Yauheni Zalaty and Yauheni Tsikhantsou started the holiday and then moved to their sports locations to conduct masterclasses. Belarusian football legend Aleksandr Hleb, outstanding handball player and Belarusian Tennis Federation Chairman Sergei Rutenko also took part in the event. Everyone was able to approach them, chat, ask questions and take a photo. Daniil Lipsky, a striker of Dinamo Minsk HC, visited one of the largest locations organised by the Belarusian Hockey Federation together with Dinamo Minsk.

Viktoria and Aleksei Statsevich came from Lithuania to attend Minsk City Day. The woman shared her impressions, "We had a great time! This is the third time we celebrate the City Day with Minsk residents and every year we are impressed by the scale — we have not seen anything like that in Lithuania. There are definitely a lot of activities for children here. Our son Maksim started asking about Olympic Day a few months ago. Even at the age of four, he found a lot of activities for himself here. We also introduce our younger son, Dominik, to sports. Sports locations are very popular with people. The queues are huge, but children want to try everything. There is no time to be bored here. My sons also like live performances, and your fireworks are just super!"

Belarus' national beach soccer team has become third in Europe, yet dreams of being first remain

By Sergei Kanashits

In the last four tournaments of the Euro Beach Soccer League Superfinal, the Belarusian national beach soccer team did not make it to the podium only once. In 2021, it secured silver, while last year it landed third. This time, the wards of Nicolas Alvarado went to Alghero, Italy, for gold and did not hide their championship ambitions. On the beaches of Sardinia, our guys showed a very solid game, at times nothing short of phenomenal. They did not reach the dream just a little bit again — the Belarusian players are coming back home with their heads held high, bronze awards and a slight sadness.

Having performed brilliantly at the group stage and rolled over all the rivals like a steamroller — Switzerland, Moldova and France were rolled into the sand one by one — our team was to meet with opponents from Estonia in Friday's quarter-finals. In their group, the Estonians were just middling and played their viscous, molasses-like style of beach soccer typical of them. At the preliminary stage, they took third place in their quartet, with only

Striving upward



Yegor Gordetsky rushing to the Spaniards' gates

one victory over the Germans in a penalty shootout. The Belarusian national team approached the intended meeting with three confident victories in three matches and the intimidating statistics of attacking actions — more than two dozen goals scored for every taste! — which made our team a clear favourite. It is now difficult to say how a fair fight would have finished and how many balls would have ended up in the gates of the slow Estonians, because when the Belarusians arrived at the stadi-

um, they did not find their rivals there — there were no Estonians. Were they late? Did they get lost? Had they forgotten? Of course not. They just decided to kill two birds with one stone — earn political whistles for themselves and save their reputation. It turned out to be rather ridiculous. Such a clumsy démarche caused bemusement among all participants of the Superfinal, although it should be admitted that the 0:3 forfeit defeat in the final standings looked like a pretty decent outcome for Estonia.

It may be the case that it was the lack of game practice in the first round of the playoffs that affected our team. In the semifinals, the tournament track brought the wards of Nicolas Alvarado together with the Portuguese — the most decorated team of the Old World. The Portuguese team was especially good and more inspired than ever at this championship. The Belarusians could still beat them if they had played to their strengths. Alas, the only day when the ball completely disobeyed our guys was the semifinal match against Portugal. "I think we played a terrible match, we made very simple mistakes. The Portuguese game was not a championship game, but, nevertheless, we could not match even that game," Nicolas Alvarado gave his harsh summary after the match, promising to conduct an error analysis and work on mistakes before the match for third place. He did not waste his words — the following day the Belarusian team delivered a stellar performance and dealt a crushing defeat to the Spaniards — 6:1!

Thus, Belarus' national beach soccer team has won the bronze medal of the Euro Beach Soccer League Superfinal and become the fourth at the February World Cup this year, which is a very decent result. Meanwhile, the gold hunt can be postponed until next season. We can wait.



Yegor Yermilavskiy

Photo of the week

A beautiful girl, an athlete, a tractor driver: Aleksandra Maskaleychik — a young specialist, 18-year-old tractor driver at Begomlskoye OJSC — dreams of mastering various types of machinery and getting an engineering speciality in the future

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

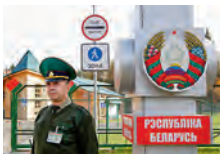
On September 20th, 1944, Grodno Region was established in Belarus. This region specialises in the production of chemical, food, woodworking, and pulp and paper products, light industry, certain types of mechanical engineering products, and construction materials. In 1994, Grodno Region was awarded a Certificate of Honour by the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.



September 20th, 1519 marks the beginning of the first circumnavigation of the globe by Ferdinand Magellan's expedition, which

proved the Earth's spherical shape and the existence of a single world ocean. The historic journey was completed in September 1522. A strait and two star clusters — the Large Magellanic Cloud and the Small Magellanic Cloud — are named after Magellan.

September 20th celebrates Customs Officer's Day in the Republic of Belarus. Being a landlocked country bordered by five states has historically contributed to the development



and strengthening of customs rules and regulations in Belarus. The Belarusian Customs Service plays a vital role in protecting the country's economic interests.

September 21st is International Surgeon Day. Surgery is one of the most difficult and responsible professions, requiring continuous development, deep professional knowledge and skills, the ability to work in a team and quickly make the right decisions in critical situations.



September 22nd is known as World Car-Free Day, held in order to promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport. The main motto of the day is *City as a Space for People, Space for Life*. The problem of an excessive number of cars has become a global concern.

September 22nd is World Rhinoceros Day, aimed to draw people's attention to the problem of extinction of this endangered species. Poaching has pushed the rhino to the brink of extinction, due to traditional beliefs regarding the healing properties of its horn.



On September 23rd, 2008, the first commercial version of the Android operating system was released. Initially created for smartphones, Android has since been adapted for a wide range of devices, including tablets, fitness trackers, watches, e-books, game consoles, laptops, smartbooks, netbooks, and televisions. In recent years, Android has developed support for automotive media systems, and continues to hold the palm among the operating systems for mobile devices.



— one of the founders of hemotransfusion and paediatric intensive care. Blood, known since ancient times for its medicinal properties, serves as a crucial component of the body's internal environment, performing essential functions to ensure the organism's life-sustaining activity.

On September 25th, 2014, the Oginsky Princes' estate in Zalesie of Smorgon District was opened after restoration. The estate is a monument of manor and park architecture of the 19th century. It was built by the



renowned diplomat, public figure, composer, Mikhail Oginsky — the author of the famous polonaise. After the renovation, the estate has housed a museum and cultural centre. The museum contains 13 halls, many of which are music-focused. The local greenhouse features plant species exotic for Belarus.

September 26th, 1849 is the date of birth of Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936) — a Russian scientist, physiologist, creator of the theory of higher nervous activity and the largest school of physiologists, the first Russian Nobel Prize winner. He is known for dividing the whole set of physiological reflexes into conditioned and unconditioned.



On September 24th, 1999, a statue of Sherlock Holmes — a literary character created by talented English writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle — was unveiled on Baker Street in London. His novels devoted to the adventures of Sherlock

Holmes, a famous London private investigator, are rightly considered classics of the detective genre. According to the Guinness Book of Records, Sherlock Holmes is the 'most portrayed movie character' in the world.

September 25th, 1818 marks the date of the world's first successful human-to-human blood transfusion, performed by Dr James Blundell (1790-1878)

