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INTERNATIONAL

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Dynasty of teachers from Minsk's secondary school No. 209: Kulitskaya Lyudmila, Drozhdzha Olga, Kulitsky Gennady

## The great mission of teachers

Teacher's Day is traditionally celebrated in Belarus on the first Sunday of October. Today, the teacher is the main wealth of our society, its spiritual strength. The work of a teacher with the younger generation is of great importance for the successful development of the country. Much attention in the country is paid to supporting the education system, creating comfortable conditions for teachers to work and their professional growth. This year, two events — *Teacher of the Year of the Republic of Belarus 2023* and the Republican Festival *Pedagogical Debut* — have become the main competitive platforms for pedagogical excellence on a national scale. The finalists of the competitions were awarded on the eve of Teacher's Day.

**The Head of State, Aleksandr Lukashenko, traditionally congratulated** all workers in the education sector of the Republic of Belarus on Teacher's Day. "The future of Belarus is in your hands. By encouraging young people to develop a passion for knowledge, cultivating respect for traditional values, promoting an interest in the history of their native land and pride in the country's achievements, teachers create and strengthen the foundations of statehood," the congratulation says.

The President thanked the teachers for their dedication, love for children, and example of a wise attitude towards life.



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# Belarus has many friendly partners around the world

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has received credentials from ambassadors of 11 foreign countries: Kazakhstan, Hungary, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Uganda, Cambodia, the Philippines, Jordan and Colombia

The Head of State welcomed the diplomats on the beautiful, friendly and hospitable Belarusian soil, "I hope that your diplomatic work will bring our nations closer and help build truly friendly interstate relations."

The President emphasised that the ambassadors are embarking on their mission in a very difficult period,

*"Today a new structure of international relations is emerging and it is steadily moving towards multipolarity. This process is irreversible, no matter how much someone would like it otherwise. We are witnessing the rise of what I see as a more fair and reasonable model of interaction between all nations, and not only privileged states, on the principles of respect and partnership."*

Following the established tradition, the President briefly commented on the state of Belarus' interaction with the countries represented by the diplomats.

Communicating with diplomats, the President emphasised that Belarus, which has experienced many upheavals, has well learned the lessons of history.

*"Our main task is to prevent a new world war. Minsk consistently pursues a very responsible foreign policy. Never in history have we extended our*

*jurisdiction beyond national borders. We are committed to an open and peaceful policy. Yet, not all Western democracies like this. Having realised their impotence, they resort to sanctions,"* Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

Addressing diplomats, the President emphasised that the countries they represent have repeatedly experienced the effects of illegal restrictive measures from the West. The same as Belarus.

"Therefore, we have consistently and persistently opposed any illegal restrictive measures that harm not so much us as the whole world," Aleksandr Lukashenko explained.

According to him, sanctions against Belarusian potash fertilisers, agricultural products and equipment have seriously undermined the global food security, affected yields and food prices, while millions of people in the world are starving.

*"I am sure that it is in our common interest to speak even louder about this problem and jointly seek the abolition of restrictions on trade, especially on vital commodities. Moreover, the answers to these challenges have already been found,"* the Belarusian leader said. *"Now new settlement systems in national currencies are being actively formed, logistics is being rebuilt. These things are discussed in the SCO and BRICS. Everyone is tired of constantly waiting for mercy from overseas."*

The President emphasised that Belarusians, despite all the difficulties and barriers created by the West, have not turned away from their path of development. The Belarusian economy is confidently back on the growth track.

Belarus is open to all people of good will. The country has waived visas for citizens of many countries, Aleksandr Lukashenko continued. In the current situation, the development of trusting and stable relations with friendly partners abroad is of particular importance for Belarus.

"There are a lot of such partners around the world. You are evidence of this," the Belarusian leader said addressing the ambassadors.



Aleksandr Lukashenko with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary to Belarus Zita Ilona Bencsik



## On Kazakhstan

Aleksandr Lukashenko called Kazakhstan a fraternal state, a strategic partner and ally, "We have common history, robust trade and humanitarian ties. No topic is off limits for discussion due to friendly relations between the two Heads of State. We will be happy to see President Kassym-Jomart Kemelevich Tokayev in Belarus this year to discuss a wide range of topics on the bilateral and international agendas."



## On Hungary

"Hungary is a long-standing and reliable friend of Belarus. Our relations have passed the test of time and are based on pragmatism and mutual respect," Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. The President highlighted Budapest's proposals and initiatives on security and confidence-building measures in Europe, "We are ready to continue the dialogue with Hungary in order to de-escalate tensions in the region by resolving controversial issues through peace talks."

## ON AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The President noted that a rather big group of ambassadors from African countries was present at the ceremony. He said, "We view this as an eloquent demonstration of the mutual interest in each other."

Aleksandr Lukashenko assured that diplomats from these countries can always count on equal and mutually beneficial co-operation for all parties here in Belarus, "You are always welcome here. We believe in your continent and have high hopes for it."



## On Egypt

Addressing the ambassador of Egypt, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he was sincerely glad to see in Minsk the ambassador of the country that is one of Belarus' key partners in North Africa, "We maintain good personal contacts with President el-Sisi, we run joint economic projects. We look forward to continuing our common developments in the markets of other African countries, as well as to more active work in the space of the Eurasian Economic Union."



## On Zimbabwe

Welcoming Zimbabwe's first ambassador to Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that co-operation with Harare is a poster child for Minsk's interaction with African countries, "Together with President Mnangagwa, we have set very ambitious goals for the coming years. I am sure that the ambassador will make every effort to fully implement the agreements we have reached."



## On Equatorial Guinea

Speaking about co-operation with Equatorial Guinea, the Belarusian Head of State recalled the recent visit of the President of this country to Minsk, "Our candid conversation confirmed that African states intend to stop being used solely as sources of raw materials, and to industrialise their economies. We will lend a helping hand to you in your efforts."



## On Angola

Belarus and Angola have a long history of relations, the President noted. He also outlined significant potential for growing bilateral trade and confirmed Belarus' interest in intensifying a political dialogue, co-operation in economy and other areas.



## On Uganda

Aleksandr Lukashenko named Uganda one of Belarus' promising partners in Africa. "We could significantly increase trade, interact more actively in agriculture, healthcare, education, and personnel training. We are ready to supply our equipment and quality products. I am confident that the new ambassador will get actively involved in promoting co-operation in these and many other areas."



## On Cambodia

"While strengthening multifaceted co-operation with all countries of the world, Belarus continues to explore co-operation opportunities with countries of the East," the President noted.

According to him, one of Belarus' priority partners in Southeast Asia is the Kingdom of Cambodia: "We believe that everything is in place to step up co-operation in manufacturing, agriculture, and infrastructure upgrade."



## On the Philippines

"Despite the distance, we view the Republic of the Philippines as an important partner for our country," said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He noted Belarus' readiness to co-operate with Manila in food security and is willing to share its expertise and knowledge in creating agro-industrial holding companies that can both grow and process agricultural products.



## On Jordan

The President emphasised Belarus' interest in establishing more partnerships in the Middle East. In this regard, he highlighted Jordan's well-deserved international authority and an important peacekeeping role in the region. "Belarus shares your approaches. I strongly believe that our countries are able to step up their interaction in politics, economy, education, science, culture, tourism and other fields. This will benefit both states," the Head of State said.



## On Colombia

Aleksandr Lukashenko called Colombia an important partner of Belarus in Latin America. Colombia is currently pursuing a more balanced and independent policy in international affairs. "Minsk and Bogotá are on the same page regarding illegitimate restrictions and the assessment of global developments. This opens up new opportunities to intensify dialogue at all levels, grow trade and expand interaction in other areas," the Head of State is convinced.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by





# A billion is not the limit

## The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with Governor of Russia's Leningrad Region Aleksandr Drozdenko

The Head of State recalled that during the previous meeting with the head of the region, the goal was outlined — to reach the coveted billion in trade.

***“To achieve this, year-on-year supply volumes will have to grow by about a fifth — 20 percent. I believe that the task is feasible in the current situation, and we will definitely not limit ourselves to a billion. This is a provisional guideline. In one of your speeches, you said that the traditional advantages of Leningrad Region bordering on the European Union have become risk factors since 2022. But this situation has been very beneficial to us and actually to Russia too. We will now rely more on ourselves and think how we move forward,” the Belarusian leader emphasised.***

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko mentioned the recent telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin during which they discussed two major projects, namely joint production and maintenance of aircraft and the construction of a second railway line from Belarus to St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region.

According to the President of Belarus, they are scheduled to meet in Kyrgyzstan in mid-October (the CIS summit will be held in Bishkek) where they plan to discuss these projects in more detail.

***“We discussed the joint production of small-capacity aircraft that are in great demand in the Russian Federation. According to the President of Russia, such aircraft can be operated from large airports and remote villages and regions, especially since they can land on the ground,” Aleksandr Lukashenko explained.***

Belarus has the necessary skill sets in this field, so the President of Russia proposed to make these aircraft together with the Belarusian side, as well as to expand the production of individual components for the IL-96 aircraft and to service them in Belarus.

“We can do this. Yet, this is a very big chunk of work,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The other project that the two leaders discussed was the construction of a second railway line from Belarus to St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region that will be used to transport large volumes of cargo to Russian ports from where cargo will be shipped to various parts of the world.

“You understand that this is very important for us. We are engaged in port infrastructure development there. But the railway is our bottleneck,” the Belarusian leader noted.

According to the President, these projects have already been discussed with Russian government agencies; a package of necessary documents and materials has been prepared and will be handed over to the Russian Head of State.

In his opinion, Leningraders, with the support of Belarusians, are successfully coping with this problem. The pace of economic development is convincing proof of this.

“With your help, we have redirected logistics and our manufacturers again have the opportunity to trade

in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. We will step up our efforts on this front. For many Western politicians, it was a real revelation that the world is much wider than their narrow ideas about it. They decided to act in the Russian way: get into the fight and then see what will come out of it. It turned out that if you are not Russian, this way will not work for you,” the President assured.

Thanks to industrial co-operation, Belarus and Russia managed to make the most effective use of each other's strengths to achieve technological sovereignty, the President said.

“This will enable us not only to respond to any pressure attempts by the West but also create a new, healthy competitive environment within our Union State,” Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced.

He gave a simple example: despite the powerful development of the agricultural industries both in Belarus and Leningrad Region, the parties do not compete but successfully find areas where they can support each other.

***“Our strengths are production of farm machines and units, grain drying complexes, equipment for feed mills, food products, seeds and much more, and these are our strong suits” the President continued.***

Belarus is actively sharing its best practices with farmers of Leningrad Region, including in the field of veterinary medicine where the parties are taking first steps to develop co-operation.

Of interest to Belarus is Leningrad Region's expertise in livestock breeding, the production of valuable fish species, and the technology of operating greenhouse complexes.

“In turn, farmers from Leningrad Region may benefit from our experience in cultivating winter barley and rapeseed. I also propose to thrash out plans to increase supplies of Belarusian agricultural machinery, including using regional subsidies, as well as equipment for the processing industry,” the Belarusian leader added.

The President noted the continuation of co-operation in the development of transport infrastructure as an important factor. Belarusian enterprises are actively participating in the construction of the Vysotsky Grain Terminal in Vyborg District, which will have the storage capacity of 210,000 tonnes of grain (the terminal's design capacity is 4 million tonnes per year).



### Aleksandr Drozdenko, Governor of Leningrad Region,

***“The meeting was very emotional, very sincere and sound. I went out and asked my guys, members of the delegation: ‘Well, are you inspired?’ They say: ‘We are charged for successful work for at least several years in the future! We are doomed, in a good way, to co-operate... It was no coincidence that our current visit began with a visit to the Khatyn Memorial Complex. I thanked Aleksandr Grigorievich for creating a new, very interesting museum. You walk through these halls and come out mentally shocked, with tears in your eyes, you understand what genocide is, what fascism is and why war is terrible. It is terrible because civilians, old people, children, and women are dying. And this attitude of Belarus towards its memory, the memory of generations, evokes great respect.”***

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



# Towards major election campaigns

Constituencies for the election of deputies of the House of Representatives have been formed in Belarus

**A single voting day in Belarus is coming up on February 25th, 2024, when deputies of Parliament and local councils will be elected. Then we will have elections of the Belarusian People's Congress. Preparations for important election campaigns are in full swing.**

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

*"The country is gearing up for major election campaigns and the ideological component is of paramount importance. Please, think who will represent you in the parliament, the Belarusian People's Congress... Pick up worthy patriotic people, professionals. Support them in the parliamentary elections and the elections to the Belarusian People's Congress. I am not hiding anything, and you have nothing to hide either. But these should be professionals, decent people. Everything should be done so that people will support the candidates we back. We have enough smart, talented people."*

**When considering personnel issues on September 25th, 2023**

**Elections of deputies are held on a SINGLE VOTING DAY — the last Sunday of February.**

~**12.6 THOUSAND DEPUTIES** of all levels will be elected on a single voting day. **A PROHIBITION** has been established on taking the issued ballot outside the voting premises, as well as taking photos and videos of a completed ballot. A damaged ballot paper can only be replaced **ONCE**.

Voting stations **WILL NOT BE ESTABLISHED** abroad.

In the 2020 Presidential elections, 21,230 voters or 0.3 percent took part in voting abroad. The average turnout in the elections was 75 percent.

It is **PROHIBITED** to make donations to the election funds of persons nominated as candidates for the President of the Republic of Belarus, for deputies, on the part of foreign states and organisations, foreign citizens and stateless persons, as well as international organisations.

**ACCREDITATION** of national observers is carried out before the start of early voting.

**A BAN** is introduced on the nomination as delegates of the Supreme Council, members of the Council of the Republic, deputies of persons who have citizenship (nationality) of a foreign state, representing the rights to benefits and advantages in connection with political, religious views or nationality.

Citizens in respect of whom there is **a court conviction that has entered into legal force CANNOT** be nominated as **CANDIDATES** for the President of the Republic of Belarus, for deputies of the House of Representatives, or members of the Council of the Republic. Citizens who have **an unexpunged or outstanding criminal record CANNOT** be nominated as **CANDIDATES** for deputies of local Councils of Deputies or delegates of BPC.

Citizens declared incompetent by a court and persons held by court verdict in detention facilities **DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO ELECT OR BE ELECTED.**

In Minsk, voters will receive **2 BALLOTS**: for the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives and the Minsk City Council of Deputies. In regional centres, district centres — **3 BALLOTS** each: for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives, regional council, city council or district council.

Voters living in rural areas — **4 BALLOTS** each: for elections to the House of Representatives, regional council, district council, village or town council.

The quantitative composition of the commission, the method of nomination and the contact details of the commission (address and telephone number) will be indicated in the printed media, in the message about the formation of the election commission without the personal data of the commission members.



By Maksim Osipov

## Fast facts

**During a conversation with reporters, Chairman of the Central Election Commission Igor Karpenko noted important aspects of the upcoming election campaign. In particular, it was:**

### ON VOTING BY CITIZENS ABROAD

"In accordance with the new electoral legislation, we are not setting up polling stations abroad. However, this does not infringe on the rights of citizens who have gone abroad for one reason or another. They can come to the country and during the early voting period from Tuesday to Saturday or on the single voting day — February 25th, 2024 — fulfil their civic duty: come to the polling stations and vote."

### ON INFORMATION SECURITY

"The website of the Central Election Commission is currently undergoing a complete modernisation. In the near future, you will see it in a new format. In addition, we are working on issues of increasing its throughput: we see that the websites of government agencies are often subject to external attacks that can destroy an unprepared website. Moreover, we are well aware that all the messengers that we have on social networks managed by external managers outside the country can be disabled, blocked, etc. Therefore, we will direct everyone to the fact that the first and most reliable information of the Central Election Commission will be posted on the CEC website."

### ON INVITING FOREIGN OBSERVERS

"This matter is being considered by those entities who can invite foreign observers. Besides the Central Election Commission, these are the President of the Republic of Belarus, both houses of parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But for now, it's too early to talk about sending an invitation, at least an official one, because we need to wait for the decree of the Head of State that is to be released in mid-November and will give a start to the election campaign. I'd like to note that when we were in Uzbekistan to monitor the presidential election, I took part in the meeting of the Advisory Council of Heads of Election Bodies of CIS member states. At this meeting I invited my counterparts from the CIS countries to come here and take part in observing the elections on the single voting day."

### ON THE EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE CEC

"The Central Commission regularly holds meetings with students of the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President, and seminars in the regions for representatives of organisational, personnel

and ideological services who are directly involved in preparations for the elections. The specifics of organising a single voting day and elections of delegates to the Belarusian People's Congress are discussed during meetings in work collectives and educational institutions, and explanations are given on television and in the print media. Since the beginning of this year, about 50 such events have been held in the regions. The CEC also held seminars for media representatives, where more than 40 representatives of republican and regional print media and television and radio companies were trained."

### ON MEDIA OPENNESS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

"We intend to actively work with the press; traditionally, there will be a multi-channel direct telephone line. It is also planned to create the Elections 2024 Information Centre in the Small Hall of the Palace of the Republic."







Today, virtual reality technologies, although hesitantly, are increasingly coming into our lives. According to world experts, the realisation of their potential is still at an early stage, and developers are only discovering the trends of the future. At the same time, we can already say that marketing and education form the most popular areas for the use of VR technologies. A Belarusian company, a resident of the Hi-Tech Park, which successfully creates VR projects for domestic companies in the real sector, is engaged in two of these areas at once.

HTP resident successfully creates VR training simulators for the domestic industrial sector

# New reality



By Ilya Kryzhevich

## In-depth learning process

Convey information, educate and impress. It is with these priorities that the Mind Games company, a resident of the Hi-Tech Park, has been approaching the implementation of its projects for more than five years. Developers are creating virtual reality training systems that make it possible to train specialists for many industries in our country, including mechanical engineering, the oil refining complex, and agriculture. Technical Director Aleksandr Verbol does not hide the fact that the company today has collected some of the most advanced competencies for the development of such systems, “We are very proficient in virtual, projection and augmented reality technologies, and also have the necessary skill-sets in microelectronics and instrument making. In addition to software, we can create almost any mechanism necessary for virtual immersion in the learning process. This allows us to develop effective training systems for training professional personnel.”

Speaking about clients, Aleksandr Verbol explained that, for example, the Industry Ministry has training centres within its subordinate enterprises, for which virtual simulators are created.

## Full immersion

Aleksandr Verbol noted that VR simulators are currently the most advanced technology for training, which provides full immersion in production conditions, “We try to make the learning process itself as close to reality as possible. The designer qualitatively recreates a three-dimensional model of the car and the necessary conditions; through virtual glasses you are immersed in the process. In addition to this, we also offer the development of hardware, in particular weight and size mock-ups of real instruments or control panels. Or we can modulate various weather conditions — rain, wind — in a limited space. This allows you to use different human senses: vision, hearing, touch, spatial sensations.”

*In virtual reality we try to simulate everything down to the centimetre, which helps develop muscle and spatial memory. To achieve this, we co-operate with the design departments of manufacturers.*

According to the interlocutor, the developers adhere to very high standards of realism. However, the main emphasis is on methodology. To do this, when creating a simulator, it is necessary to immerse in all the specific moments of the work of the specific specialist for whom the project is being done. Therefore, at all stages, real experts are involved to test the simulators.

What is the main advantage of such developments for customers? VR simulators can significantly reduce resource costs for training personnel by placing the entire process in virtual reality.

“A very illustrative example: starting and shutting down a BelAZ weighing 80 tonnes costs a lot. In the cabin simulator you can practice this as many times as you like without huge expenses. But after training, a person really understands what



For example, energy, mining, chemical industry,” Technical Director noted.

## From museums to stands

In addition to virtual training systems, the company also pays a lot of attention to the development of interactive projects. Separately, Aleksandr Verbol highlighted the museum of the Khatyn Memorial Complex, where the developers were busy filling it with interactive and visual materials.

The Educational Centre for Life Safety of the Emergencies

Ministry also deserves special attention, Director shared, “We have been implementing the Emergencies Ministry programme to create children’s training centres for five years. We have already completed work on projects of a national scale. For example, the centre on Olesheva Street in Minsk allows schoolchildren,

during an excursion, to interactively receive information on how to behave in case of danger. At the same time,

practical life-saving skills are developed. For example, there is a room with smoke and light and sound effects, from which you need to get out.”

Developers are also involved in the creation of marketing projects: they help domestic manufacturers in the real sector adequately present their products. Thus, during the recent INNOPROM exhibition in Yekaterinburg, the company created a virtual reality stand for one of the machine-building holdings, showing the features of the operation and design of equipment.

## Perspectives on the outer circuit

Speaking about the development of the company, Aleksandr Verbol emphasised that the conditions provided by the Hi-Tech Park are quite favourable, “HTP also helps us with advice on legal aspects.”

He also noted that developers are now implementing projects mainly for the domestic market, but there is already demand on the outer circuit, “There are a lot of requests now from the Russian and Kazakhstan markets. We plan to expand in the future, because we have gained unique experience in creating a complex product, for which demand is increasing every year.”



needs to be done on the machine: the necessary skills are developed. In addition, you can work immersion in a dangerous environment without consequences: in the process of work there are moments where other people may suffer due to a lack of specialist skills. This applies to many industries with a high hazard class.





**A teacher from Klichev, Artyom Anisimov, runs the Young Patriot patriotic club, which is growing into a regional-scale project**



The special forces uniform on the head of the military-patriotic club of Klichev school No. 2, Artyom Anisimov, acts like a magnet on boys and girls. When the guys from Young Patriot go to their classes in red berets, reminiscent of maroon ones, the schoolchildren see them off with an enthusiastic look. Artyom Anisimov shares his personal observation of the effect the club had in the city, "We were able to interest not only children, but also their parents. We hold the same sports events for the whole family. The military registration and enlistment office, for example, began to help us with drill training, and the police department is generally going to take us under its wing. This means that we are doing a very important thing that unites us all."

# Purpose-made lessons

## All students are gifted

The training programme for today is air gun shooting, boxing and drill training. The guys all have one dream — to reach the finals of the national military-patriotic game Orlyonok. Last year they became the strongest team in their district.

Left hook, right hook — the club leader is competently watching the sparring of ninth-graders Violetta Zenovich and Nikita Prorvich. Artyom Anisimov is a candidate master of sports in Thai boxing. He comes from the village of Dmitrievka. He admits that from personal experience he knows perfectly well how the attraction of the very teacher who is able to determine your path in life works, "When I was in high school, a physical education teacher came to our rural school. I remember being surprised that a physical education teacher could be so young. And even then I decided that I wanted to get an education, return to my district and interest the children so that they would not wander around the street and grow up to be good people."

Artyom Anisimov considers all his students gifted, "Violetta did weightlifting with us. And she gave all physical education teachers a head start in disassembling and assembling a Kalashnikov assault rifle at a regional event, her result was 12 seconds."

Violetta herself, it seems, is not a fan of bragging. The girl admits that she would also like to become a physical education teacher. Tenth-grader Nikita Khrapko, like Violetta, was among the first to enrol in the military-patriotic school club. The guy intends to enter the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs following the example of his cousins,

*"I want to protect my fellow citizens in the future. Artyom Yuryevich tells us about serving in the army in special forces. Have you seen his 'For Dedicated Service' badge? Of course, he is an example for us!"*

Tenth-grader Nikolai Rzhivitsky does not plan, like many guys from the Young Patriot club, to connect his life with either the police or the army. He is interested in cybersecurity, but believes that good physical shape makes a man beautiful, regardless of profession, "We have horizontal bars, barbells, and exercise machines. I already bench press 50 kilogrammes. We often go to various rallies of patriotic clubs and see the level of training of our peers,

there is a lot of competition. Therefore, we all decided that for the next Orlyonok game we will prepare in such a way that the Kovalyovites will be known throughout the country."

## Live tutorial

At the entrance to the school yard there is a monument to Hero of the Soviet Union Filipp Kovalev. The school bears his name. He commanded a group of demolitionists and took part in the partisan movement. The Klichev District is a unique page in the annals of the Great Patriotic War. It was a partisan region; there were 18 thousand partisans on its territory. The legendary special squad Slavny was stationed in the local forests — special forces of the war years, known for successful operations behind enemy lines. Two years ago, after a large-scale reconstruction, the Usakino Memorial Complex of Partisan Glory was opened, where tourists come and historical reconstructions are carried out.

Therefore, for local schoolchildren, their home region is like a living textbook of patriotic education.

"Artyom Yuryevich, let's go on a hike in the Usakino forests! Over the weekend we had a bike ride, and the class went to the Broken Hut monument. There are so many routes for our club, and you don't have to go far. The volunteer team also has enough addresses: what a good concert it turned out to be in a nursing home," Karina Adakimchik suggests during the discussion of the club's immediate plans.

Karina collected information about her great-grandfather, who was awarded the For Courage medal for the school project Hero's Desk. In the office where the Young Patriots classes take place, in the near future each desk will become personalised. This will be a page dedicated to the hero of the Great Patriotic War with his biography and photographs, printed directly on the surface of the desks.

## Ranks will be replenished

Today there are 20 guys in the Young Patriot club, but ranks will be replenished in the near future. After almost the entire fifth grade spent a shift at the Young Patriot summer school camp, all the students wanted to join the club. They even had to rewrite the charter, the head of the club says, "Previously, the age limit was 14 years old, but parents began to bring first-graders here. I'm already thinking that we need to open a junior group; people are even applying from a neighbouring school. Our school also intends to become a resource centre for other educational institutions in the region to exchange experiences in patriotic education."

You can understand the guys' enthusiasm: I must admit, I wanted to test my strength in putting on a gas mask, shooting a pistol and driving radio-controlled tanks.

"It was teachers and I who pooled our money to buy several toy combat vehicles. We drew tank tracks on paper, during breaks we organise battles on each floor and choose winners.

So the children have no time to sit on their phones or rush through the corridors," Artyom Anisimov reveals pedagogical secrets.

When the kids left, the teacher admitted that the children were asking to go on a hike, not just to bake potatoes over a fire, "We became very friendly, they trust me and, probably, want to discuss some of their problems and ask for advice in an environment conducive to communication. My friends sometimes say that modern teenagers are not interested in anything, and I rush to convince them: 'Indeed, I work with children — they are even more capable than you and me!'"

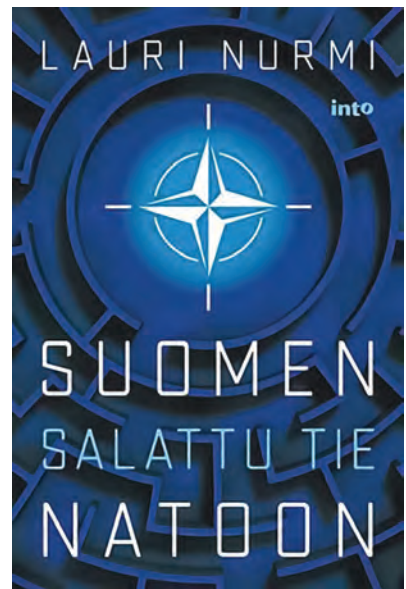




# They got what they fought for

How the Americans and the British persistently led Europe to war

The special military operation is far from over. Just like the Ukrainian crisis in general. As they develop, more and more new facts and evidence appear that shed light on the events that led to such a denouement. Just recently, interesting information came from Finland. Although not only from there.



By Ph.D. in History Vadim Gigin

## 'Alcohol diplomacy'

Journalist Lauri Nurmi lives in Finland. He works for the *Iltalehti* (Evening Newspaper) publication, which is published in Helsinki. This man is well-known and even authoritative in his homeland, enjoying the reputation of an expert on the Finnish political backstage. In his publications, people are looking for insights and sensible analytics. And so Lauri Nurmi published the *Finland's Secret Path to NATO* book. It was published in Finnish, but immediately certain fragments began to be translated into a variety of languages. There is too much interesting information regarding Western policy towards Russia and Eastern Europe.

*It is striking how poorly even Finnish politicians know their great neighbour,*

*and often simply have the most primitive and stereotypical ideas. Former Foreign Minister Timo Soini said that the ruling circles in Helsinki seriously relied on 'alcohol diplomacy'. They wanted to appease the Russian leadership by regularly presenting gifts in the form of Finnish vodka.*

## Danger always looks bigger through the eyes of fear

Another interesting story testifies to the complete misunderstanding of Russian partners and the distrust with which they were met. In October 2017, a conference dedicated to security issues in the Baltic Sea region was held on the territory of the Russian embassy in Helsinki. First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Vladimir Titov arrived there. Having met Timo Soini, he congratulated

him on the birthday of his daughter, who turned 18 years old. It would seem an elegant form of diplomatic politeness, a pleasant sign of attention. However, the Finnish minister took this as a threat! They say that the evil Russians are watching him and know everything about his family. What else can they do?

In November 2021, at the UN Climate Change Conference, which was held in Glasgow, Scotland, Joe Biden notified the Finnish President that a war was coming between Russia and Ukraine. It is important to emphasise here that at that time there were intensive consultations between Moscow and Washington. In October, US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland urgently flew to Moscow. An open armed conflict could still be stopped. Negotiations took place daily.

*On December 15th, the Russian Foreign Ministry conveyed to Assistant Secretary of State Karen Donfried its proposals on possible security guarantees. Nevertheless, judging by the testimony of Finnish politicians, by that time the American leadership had decided everything: there would be war.*

## Secrets of the Finnish court

Data from the *Finland's Secret Path to NATO* book coincides with information coming from other countries. Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gariashvili has repeatedly spoken about this. Among other things, he noted, "We had information about this, I personally received it from our colleagues and partners. When did Saakashvili arrive in Georgia? October 1st [2021]. Saakashvili was sent in an organised manner, the main goal was to stage a coup here and include the country in the war at the right time. We have no doubt about it today."

*So the Americans and the British persistently led Europe towards war, creating a corresponding atmosphere of mistrust and anxiety. They not only avoided any attempts*

*to seek peace, but also deliberately increased the degree of escalation.*

Sauli Niinistö admitted without any embarrassment that the Russian vector of Finnish foreign policy was under complete control of the United States, "Every time it was known that I would talk to Putin, I also contacted Biden."

The decision on Finland's upcoming entry into NATO was also made in Washington even before the start of the special military operation and was communicated to official Helsinki circularly. On January 18th, 2022, Biden instructed the Finnish President to inform Putin about this.

*That is, the issue of the country joining the North Atlantic Alliance was decided behind the backs of the Finnish people.*

Lauri Nurmi's book is an amazing collection of information that shows that Finland is virtually devoid of any subjectivity and sovereignty in its foreign and defence policy. The political leadership of Finland lives in a world of far-fetched fears and complexes, and shows surprising uncertainty and inconsistency in its actions.

*It is safe to say: if the states of the European Union behaved more responsibly and independently, in accordance with their national interests, and not on orders from Washington, peace would now reign on the continent.*

## Stirring up war hysteria

No less interesting is how Finland reacted to the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine. The Russian army was starting the special military operation, and the Finns, meanwhile, were preparing for the war to come to them. Although no strike groups of the Russian Armed Forces were created on the northwestern borders. On February 27th, the Committee on Security and Foreign Policy met under the chairmanship of the President. To understand the situation and the mood that prevailed there, let's see the quote from Lauri Nurmi's book, "The seriousness of the moment is indicated by the fact that one of the scenarios was considered an attempt by Russia to create a frozen conflict in Finland. Military sources report this. The Russian landing force could try, for example, to capture Ivalo Airport. As a last resort, Russia could threaten to use tactical nuclear weapons

if Finland launched a counter-attack. Creating a frozen conflict could prevent Finland from joining NATO, since the defence alliance does not accept warring countries into its ranks."

*The escalation of the military threat had reached such proportions that state institutions were preparing to transfer their activities to underground premises. City mayors took measures in case of bombing. They even expected a missile strike on administrative buildings in Helsinki.*

It is now completely obvious that even then, in the first months, the USA and Great Britain knew perfectly well that no such threat existed, but they continued to feed the Finns, like their other satellites, with fake 'intelligence information'. Moreover, it all was made for the sake of one goal — promoting Anti-Russian sentiment, creating a climate of military hysteria to strengthen its position in Europe.

## Learnings and conclusions

Less than two years have passed since the start of the special military operation, and the picture of the unfolding of the largest military-political crisis since World War II is becoming increasingly clear.

*For at least several months, the United States and Great Britain were working towards drawing Russia into hostilities. They hoped to inflict a comprehensive military, political and economic defeat on their competitor in a short time, that is, before the end of 2022, and then switch to another front — against China. Europe was assigned the role of an obedient satellite, devoid of any will.*

These conclusions are important not only from a historical point of view, but also when planning future actions. What is the point of taking into account the position of those states that do not make independent decisions and are trailing behind the world hegemon? The question is rather rhetorical. Although, of course, both Russia and Belarus are open to dialogue with everyone. What can we do that we have such neighbours and potential partners? We have no choice. However, citizens of Finland must draw conclusions: who do they choose and who will they entrust with the fate of their country.





On September 22nd, 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka was invited to a meeting of the Canadian Parliament on the occasion of Vladimir Zelensky's visit, whom Speaker of the House of Commons Anthony Rota introduced as 'a Ukrainian-Canadian veteran from the Second World War who fought for Ukrainian independence against the Russian'. The speaker also called Hunka a Ukrainian and Canadian hero.

All those present, including Trudeau and Zelensky and his wife, greeted the SS man with standing ovation several times. A scandal erupted when it became clear that 'against Russians' Hunka fought as part of the 14th Grenadier Volunteer Division of the SS Galicia troops, which not only opposed the Red Army, but also stained itself with atrocities against Jews, Poles, Belarusians and Slovaks.

Rota stated that it was he who invited Hunka to the Parliament. According to him, 'additional information' about Hunka became known to him only later. He apologised and said that no one else knew who was supposed to be honoured.

Although a post by Teresa Hunka, the granddaughter of a Nazi, posted on social networks on the same day, signed 'Granny is waiting in the reception room for Trudeau and Zelensky', and accompanied by a corresponding photograph, says otherwise.

The incident in the Canadian Parliament caused a wide resonance in the world. Honouring the SS man caused outrage in Belarus and Russia, he was condemned by the UN and the Israeli anti-fascist movement, Poland demanded an apology from Ottawa. The Speaker of the House of Commons, Anthony Rota, took responsibility for inviting Hunka to the Parliament and resigned. Trudeau did not apologise, but called on 'to fight back against Russian propaganda and disinformation'. Zelensky has still not commented on the situation.

"The Prime Minister is responsible for the biggest diplomatic embarrassment in Canadian history. In addition, what did he do with this responsibility? He hid in his cottage for three days instead of coming to the House of Commons and taking responsibility," said Canadian opposition leader Pierre Poilievre.

As a result, Trudeau still had to issue an official apology. At the same time, he stated that the appearance of an SS man in the Parliament offended not only Jews and Poles, but also the LGBT community and people with disabilities, who were persecuted by the Nazis.

**The scandal with the invitation to the Canadian Parliament of the 98-year-old Ukrainian SS man Yaroslav Hunka continues. A man whose division directly and in practice carried out the genocide of Jews, Belarusians, Poles, and Russians during the Second World War. Just recently, deputies gave him a standing ovation. The speaker even called him a Ukrainian and Canadian hero and thanked him for his service. He was greeted by Ukrainian President Zelensky.**



## Yesterday they applauded, today they put him down

The Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs called for an international legal and moral assessment of the invitation of a Nazi to the Canadian Parliament.

*"In Belarus, where every third resident died during the World War II, they are outraged and deeply offended by the footage honouring the veteran of the SS Galicia division in the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament. We are convinced that such a cynical attitude towards the memory of thousands of innocent victims of Nazism is not a random incident, as the organisers of this show are now trying to present it as."*

*This is a kind of quintessence of many years of consistent policy of the authorities of Canada and a number of countries of the collective West of concealing and whitewashing Nazi criminals, deliberately conniving with attempts to rewrite history.*

*Against this background, it is not surprising that all requests from Minsk to the Canadian authorities for assistance in the investigation of the criminal case into the genocide of the population of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period remain unanswered...*

*We demand that international and public organisations, associations and foundations in memory of the victims of the World War II give a proper legal and moral assessment of this incident. We are waiting for an official apology from the Canadian leadership," the comment says.*

The German Ambassador to Ottawa Sabine Sparwasser was also present at the honouring of Yaroslav Hunka in the Canadian Parliament, which was confirmed by the representative of the German Foreign Ministry Sebastian Fischer, calling the incident itself unacceptable. According to him, no one was informed in advance about the presence of Yaroslav Hunka, and the ambassador was also not aware of the Ukrainian's involvement in the SS troops.

In response to the journalist's remark that the Speaker of the House of Commons Anthony Rota clearly announced that Hunka 'fought during the World War II against the Russians and the Soviet army' and the ambassador could not help but hear this,

Fischer said that in those days 'there were a variety of factions'.

The Polish Ambassador in Ottawa, Witold Dzielski, insists on bringing to justice Yaroslav Hunka, a Nazi from Ukraine, who served in the ranks of the 1st Ukrainian SS Division Galicia during the World War II. Dzielski voiced this statement to the CTV channel.

Polish Minister of Education Przemyslaw Czarnek wrote on the social network X that he had taken measures aimed at extraditing Yaroslav Hunka to Poland. "In view of the scandalous events in the Canadian Parliament related to the honouring of a member of the criminal Nazi formation SS Galicia in the presence of President Zelensky, I have taken measures for the possible extradition of this person to Poland," Czarnek wrote.

**The incident with a standing ovation for the veteran of the SS Division Galicia proves that Vladimir Zelensky openly supports Nazism, says the head of the French Patriots party, Florian Philippot.**

"What a disgrace! In the Canadian Parliament there is a standing ovation and thunderous applause from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Vladimir Zelensky in honour of the Ukrainian Nazi veteran who served in the SS!" he wrote on the social network X.

"The Zelensky regime continues to glorify notorious 'heroes' and has not purged the Ukrainian army of neo-Nazis. And we support this?!" the politician was indignant.

Russia drew attention to the complete lack of reaction to the scandal in the Canadian Parliament from the Western members of the UN Security Council — the USA, Great Britain and France.

"It is, of course, a scandal that the Western community, the Western MP's of the UN Security Council, did not react in any way to this blatant fact of supporting neo-Nazism. And the refusal to officially condemn the honouring of the veteran of the SS Division Galicia by the 'great' powers is a shameful phenomenon that exposes them," said the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova.

The diplomat noted that the Canadian authorities are the ideologists of support for Bandera, they are in the vanguard of those who falsify the history of the World War II.

On September 26th, the State Duma of Russia adopted a statement in which it demanded a trial on the fact of honouring the Ukrainian SS soldier.

## The project of a united Europe without borders is cracking



## EU members step up border controls and introduce emergency measures

to accommodate them and provide school places.

More than 220,000 people have applied for asylum in Germany in the period from January to August this year. In 2022, about 240,000 people applied for asylum. Those numbers are still a far cry from 2015-16 when more than one million migrants applied for asylum in Germany.

Some experts say smugglers only exist because there is a lack of safe and legal routes for individuals from certain to claim asylum or enter the EU. Even obtaining a visa to visit the bloc can be a problematic process, with large costs, lengthy delays and a high chance of rejection.

Austria also carries out border checks on its border with Slovenia and has reportedly announced it will introduce

emergency controls on its border with Italy. Italian Transport Minister Matteo Salvini, said that 'Vienna's decision to reinforce controls on vehicles coming from Italy is a slap in the face of the European solidarity'.

Meanwhile, Poland will also introduce checks on vehicles crossing the border from Slovakia, the country's PM Morawiecki said, in measures to stem the flow of immigrants. Meanwhile, Slovakia has been struggling with a surge in illegal migrants. The number of illegal migrants detained in Slovakia has increased nine-fold from a year ago to more than 27,000 so far this year, according to the country's interior ministry.

All countries are members of the EU's passport-free Schengen area but the emergency measures mean the return of border checks.

Germany announced it will increase police patrols along 'smuggling routes' on its border with Poland and the Czech Republic in an effort to prevent more migrants from entering the country

The announcement came a day after police raids in Germany found more than 100 Syrian citizens inside apartments searched in connection with a smuggling ring.

German Finance Minister Christian

Lindner wrote on Twitter that his ministry would support the increased border control with additional customs officers.

Many migrants from countries like Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere have been trying to get to Germany to apply for asylum.

Cities and communities across Europe's largest state have sounded the alarm about the rising number of arrivals, saying they are running out of space

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# Walls of shame

The Western world is gripped by construction hysteria

The construction of cyclopean structures separating the 'blooming garden' from the 'jungle' is a long-standing tradition in the West. It all started, as usual, in antiquity, when the ancient Romans, who became the ancestors of modern Western civilisation, fenced themselves off with huge ramparts from lands inhabited by barbarians. This is how the Trajan's Wall in Romania and Moldova and Hadrian's Wall in Britain, which are still preserved, arose.

Centuries passed, the dark ages sank into oblivion, modern times became history, and two world wars died down. It would seem that in the 21st century, there should be no place for prejudice, and border walls should be forgotten like a nightmare. However, recently in the West they suddenly decided that it would be nice to remember the past and once again plunge into the bad old atmosphere of mistrust and hostility. All kinds of border barriers became a symbol of this process.



**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

"If we talk about migrants, we didn't create this wave. They [the European Union] refused to cooperate with us — to build these centres, finance them, and so on. And sanctions were imposed against us. Then I say: well, are you insane? You imposed sanctions against me, but I will protect you from migrants? Well, catch them there. Merkel invited them there at one time. They remember this. We are absolutely not to blame for this wave of migrants. It would have been smaller through Belarus if there had not been a war in Ukraine. They also went to Europe, through Ukraine, for a lot of money, when there was no war. Now this window remains [through Belarus]. We don't take bribes from them. Nevertheless, we will not fight for Europe and tear our clothes. Due to the policies they are pursuing."

Answering questions from reporters during a visit to BSU on August 25th, 2023

## Amazing hypocrisy

It has been well said that a bad example is contagious. Especially if you are a small but very proud Baltic republic, and next door is a neighbour like Poland. Therefore, the authorities of Lithuania and Latvia could not resist the bad idea of isolating themselves from Belarus with a fence, higher and with barbed wire.

Of course, there was a funny thing: in Latvia, the money allocated for the fence from the state budget was successfully stolen. True, the supplier was immediately caught, and at the same time, apparently, handed over his accomplices from the leadership of the State Supply Agency — a criminal case was also opened against them at the beginning of the year.

Fun is fun, but even with the adventures the Balts managed to complete their walls. True, they do not look as grandiose as the work of construction 'art' of Polish engineers, but they do their dirty work regularly: since the beginning of the fence fever, 25 animals have died from Lithuanian thorn alone, which is more than half of all unfortunate animals killed on the border with EU.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the concept of the Iron Curtain seemed to disappear from the political lexicon forever. However, history repeats itself, but this time those who accused the USSR of fencing off the world are now themselves building walls and stretching hundreds of kilometres of prickly concertina wire.

*Tellingly, these same people, without any hesitation, conduct courtly conversations about climate change and dramatically wring their hands about the destruction of the earth's biodiversity.*

The construction of fences on the EU borders will certainly affect the state of nature in the region. Restoring animal migration routes, plant diversity, and eradicating invasive species will take many years, even after the walls fall. This is how the hypocrisy of the West is once again manifested, which with one hand campaigns for saving nature, and with the other, mercilessly destroys it.

By Anton Popov

## Fence obsession

*Before the wall fever spread to Europe, it swept through the shining city on the hill. There, the newest history of fence construction was launched by the unforgettable Donald Trump. One of the pillars of the Republican candidate's election campaign was the construction of a large-scale fence on the border with Mexico.*

This is not to say that the US-Mexico border was completely unprotected: a series of operations to combat illegal migration began back in 1993. However, it was Trump who took the fight against South American illegal immigrants to a new level. True, the grandiose undertaking did not yield much benefit. The businessman served only one term as President, Democrats in the Senate under the leadership of Nancy Pelosi cut off funding for the project in 2019, and Biden, who replaced Trump, is interested in attracting illegal immigrants to the country as a cheap labour force and a promising 'donkey' electorate.

While Republicans and Democrats figure out which of them is right, simultaneously competing on the absurdity of border projects, nature remains the absolute loser. Any barrier, as is known even from a school biology course, negatively affects the life of all species of plants and animals in the region. Along the US-Mexico border along the Rio Grande River, where the wall was built to last, the typical

plant communities that before the barbarian invasion were famous for the biodiversity of North America have changed. Huge areas of saguaro cactus have been irretrievably destroyed. The migration routes of animals such as cougars, mule deer, ground cuckoos, snakes, lizards and frogs were cut off.

## Border vandalism

However, if in the United States the problem at least exists, although fighting it by building walls seems a little strange, then the European construction boom of recent years causes only confusion.

*Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and now Finland are erecting ridiculous structures on their borders that do not pose a particular threat to illegal immigrants, but irreparably destroy the ecological balance that has developed over thousands of years in the biosphere of the affected regions.*

The most famous wall today, of course, is the infamous Polish fence in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. PiS functionaries call it the defence of Poland from Middle Eastern refugees, whom Aleksandr Lukashenko almost personally brings to the border and orders them to storm the borders of the next Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The only catch is that the law on the construction of state border barriers was adopted back in October 2021, and the crisis at the Bruzgi checkpoint occurred in November of the same year. Either the Polish authorities had

the gift of foresight, or the attack on fence building was planned in advance and directed not against refugees, but against Belarus itself.

*Belarusian scientists have identified several factors by which it will be possible to understand the damage caused by the fence. These include fragmentation of forests in the area where the fence was built, mechanical damage to the forest stand, invasion of alien plant species, disruption of the hydrological balance of the area, as well as degradation of plant communities and wildlife.*

As you can see, the negative impact of the Polish 'masterpiece' of architectural thought is complex. Some of its consequences are already visible. Perhaps the most striking example is animals that die on barbed wire fences.

*Another negative factor that remains in the shadow of the death of numerous animals is the massive invasion of invasive species into the Pushcha ecosystem.*

The militarisation of the region, the import of construction equipment from all over the country, the appearance in the forest of people unfamiliar with the rules of behaviour in such natural areas naturally lead to the import of seeds of alien plants. Hundreds of people, many of whom have never been to the Pushcha before, are irrevocably destroying a thousand-year-old heritage. And since the protected forest acts as a single organism, negative trends also affect this side of the border.

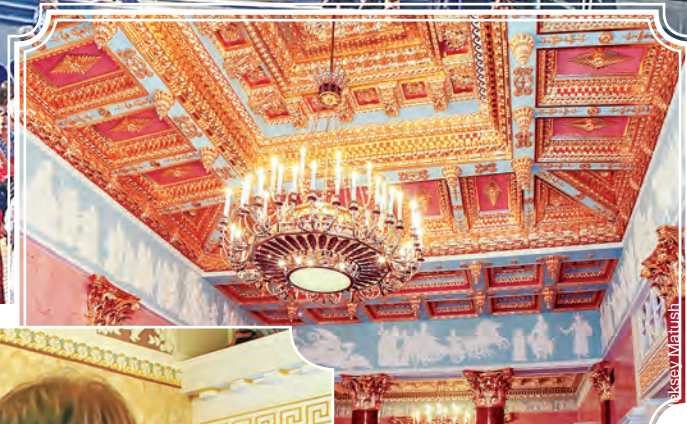




A ball in the palace, five thousand visitors and an open-air opera — the 200th anniversary of the Bulgakov Palace was celebrated in Zhilichi



Origin of a tradition



By Yelena Kukshinskaya

At the end of September, the *Verasneuski Fest* was held for the first time in the agricultural town of Zhilichi, Mogilev Region. The incredibly beautiful palace and park complex became the centre of attraction. The palace, the construction of which began by order of the Bobruisk District marshal Ignatius Bulgak, is a monument of classicism architecture of the 18th-19th centuries. But once upon a time the former owner built it as a country estate for his family, not suspecting that in a few centuries numerous tourists would come here.

Since 2009, restoration work began in the palace. The first stage of restoration was completed in 2011; the outbuildings of the palace and park complex housed a children's art school, a museum and a library. And in May of this year, the palace opened after restoration. Zhilichi promises to become a popular tourist destination.

Numerous excursion buses and cars filled all the streets on the day of the festival. We've definitely never seen so many tourists here in one day. Until now, many of the guests admitted that they did not know that this place was a real architectural pearl. The invitation to the 200th anniversary of the Bulgakov Palace became a good advertising campaign — the influx of guests was huge.

Guides lead us through the halls and introduce us to the history of the architectural monument. Construction of the palace began in 1823. According to legend, Ignatius Bulgak 'saw' how simi-



lar buildings were being built in France, when he reached Paris with the Russian army in the War of 1812. Columns, pilasters, balconies, antique furniture, paintings — tourists



happily took selfies in the luxurious interiors. In the halls, artistic parquet with its individual design, stoves and fireplaces have been recreated. The main design highlight is the wooden carved ceilings. Each one is a work of art. The restorers plan to return the palace and greenhouse back to the palace. The palace survived two world wars and changed owners more than once. But it resisted and survived.

Director of the Zhilichi Historical Museum Complex Vladislav Kulakevich emphasises that thanks to the state's attention to the topic of preserving historical and cultural heritage, tourist attraction to architectural monuments and other attractions is growing, "Finding our roots and studying them is a topic that will always be interesting. For many years we have observed a stable dynamics of growth in museum attendance. Of course, the completion of restoration

work only boosted the tourism potential. Over eight months, 27 thousand tourists visited our museum. On the day of the festival, more than five thousand visitors passed through the museum alone, and how many came to the festival remains to be counted. We were even somewhat unprepared for such a number of guests, but it was a pleasant surprise. Such festivals need to be held, because leisure is a natural human need, and here you can relax and touch history. Our state is making great efforts to revive the historical and cultural heritage."

On this day, guests of the festival were able to visit branches of museums in the Mogilev Region: each presented a small exhibition with historical characters in order to attract people to them, and at the same time exchange experiences with colleagues.

The historical ambience at the festival was created by reenactors. And in the hall where the ball was given, the pairs of the amateur historical ballroom dance group *Minskaya Zorka* and other guests helped to feel the appropriate atmosphere. They asked to take a photo with them and asked where they could learn to dance.

"We are often invited to such events, we perform historical and everyday dances: polonaise, waltz, country dance. We create the costumes ourselves. For example, my outfit is in the empire style, created in the likeness of the dress that Natasha Rostova wore at the first ball," one of the *Minskaya Zorka* participants Natalya says.

Addressing the guests of the festival, Culture Minister Anatoly Markevich noted that in Belarus great attention is paid to the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, "In this place, the colossal interest on the part of numerous tourists in our history and cultural heritage is especially acute. Together we carried out a huge amount of work to restore the palace and park complex, focusing on the original drawings and sketches. Representatives of the scientific community and restorers collected this historical highlight bit by bit. The result is worthy."

In the courtyard of the palace there was an open-air concert venue. The festive concert program *Znayomimsya Sa Spadchynai* with the participation of the honoured group of the Republic of Belarus Mogilev City Chapel, soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus and the Mogilev Regional Philharmonic, folk and exemplary creative groups of the Mogilev Region is one of the most vivid pages of the guests' memories of the festival. The artists were rewarded with a standing ovation, and the auditorium was sold out.

Guests who came to Zhilichi for the first time unanimously stated: you definitely need to come back here to leisurely walk around the palace halls and the ancient park. And the museum promises: *Verasneuski Fest* will become a good tradition.



# Star parents of Belarusian sports

Storks do not sleep or idle, storks work like bees, recently paying especially close attention to Belarusian sports: there are more orders for new additions to the family in this community than ever before. Last week, happiness came to the star biathlon couple: Dzinara Smolskaya and Anton Smolsky became mother and father — the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic champion gave birth to her first child in the Minsk maternity hospital.



Anton Smolsky and Dzinara Smolskaya



Vanessa Kaladzinskaya

By Sergei Kanashits

## Fate shoots straight

Bam-bang and to the point! Last season, as it turned out, Dzinara and Anton ran quickly and shot accurately not only at the shooting range. Both in the Commonwealth Cup and in the Russian Championship, in every race in which they took part, they were the main favorites and achieved a considerable number of victories. The main thing happened outside sports battles — grow up big and healthy! We also wish Dzinara a speedy return to racing; the fans are looking forward to new great achievements.

As well as from two other mothers — Hanna Sola and Iryna Leshchanka, who, having shot almost a doublet (they gave birth in December last year with a difference of several days), managed not only to famously return to the training process, but also to take part in competitions — they took part at the recent summer national championship in Raubichi. Both Mira Sola and Alicia Leshchanka often spent the summer with their parents at training camps, inspiring them to work hard and achieve new sporting feats. By the way! The second daughter was born last July into the family of multiple Olympic champions Darya Domracheva and Ole Einar Bjoerndalen. Mira, like her older sister Ksenia, was born not somewhere in foreign hospitals, but in an ordinary Minsk maternity hospital.

## They fought and found

From the recent World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade, two-time world champion and bronze medalist of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Vanessa Kaladzinskaya



Yegor and Darya Sharangovich

returned with silver and a ticket to the 2024 Games in Paris. Last summer, another very significant event happened in the life of the leader of the Belarusian national team — the birth of a son! What's important is that it's already the second time! The elder Savely was glad that now he had a friend and brother Yelisei. However, mom is no stranger to it — just a few months later she was already working hard in training and, as we see, not in vain. All that remains is to wish Vanessa one more medal in Paris, and then you can go on a campaign to have many children!

Maternal status also helped our titled sambo wrestlers in sports. Sviatlana Tsimashenka and Anzhela Zhilinskaya have similar stories — they achieved all their major victories after they became mothers. Tsimashenka is a four-time world champion, Zhilinskaya is a world and European champion, winner of the 2nd European Games in Minsk. “Milana is now seven years old, she went to school, Sofia turned two in August. By the way, returning to sports was much more difficult after the birth of my second daughter. While pregnant, I got



Hanna Sola

sick with Covid and spent three weeks in the hospital! I was terribly worried about how the disease would affect the child's health. Thanks to the doctors, everything worked out. Sometimes I take girls with me to trainings and training camps. They like it,” says Anzhela.

Well, I'm going to become a father!

Recently, the lively ranks of hockey knights were replenished — two Belarusian forwards Yegor Sharangovich and Aliaksei Protas, who are preparing to start the new season in the NHL clubs Calgary Flames and Washington Capitals, respectively, have acquired successors. Christian Sharangovich was born in mid-December last year in New Jersey, but spent the entire summer with his dad and mom in Belarus. The happy family breathed in their native air, was filled with bright energy and recently headed overseas again — the new season brings new sporting hopes. The Protas couple were also vacationing in their homeland with their little Alice. “I was in seventh heaven. It's just an indescribable feeling of becoming a father. How have I changed? I hope that for the better! I try to help my wife take care of my daughter as much as I can. For example, I spent all my free time between matches in the playoffs only at home. During the holidays, it was, of course, simpler: in Vitebsk, grandparents are always nearby, who happily babysat their granddaughter,” Aliaksei did not hide his emotions.

## ARENA

### Four Belarusian swimmers received neutral status to compete at international competitions

The strongest Belarusian swimmers received neutral status: world record holder in the 100-metre short course breaststroke Ilya Shymanovich, as well as the leaders of the women's national team, who have repeatedly climbed to the podium of major international competitions — Anastasiya Shkur dai, Alina Zmushko and Anastasia Kuleshova. In addition, coach Andrei Lipnitsky was included in the list of those admitted.



In September, the International Swimming Federation (World Aquatics) announced the return of Belarusian and Russian athletes to competitions under the auspices of the organisation, subject to a number of conditions, including participation under a neutral flag and only at individu-

al distances, as well as a ban on communicating with the media during tournaments.

### Belarusians will be able to compete at the Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024

They will perform in a neutral individual status. This decision was made on September 29th at the General Assembly of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in Manama (Bahrain).

Oleg Shepel, Chairman of the Paralympic Committee of Belarus, who took part in the as-

sembly, also said that now Belarusians will be able to compete in all tournaments under the auspices of the IPC. Unfortunately, the Belarus Paralympic Committee has not yet been reinstated as a full member of the IPC. Oleg Shepel noted that Belarusians still have the right to appeal on this issue to



the independent appeal tribunal of the International Paralympic Committee and the German court, since the headquarters of the IPC is located in Bonn. The head of the committee also emphasised that Belarusians have never violated sports laws and strictly follow all accepted rules.

The International Paralympic Committee has allowed Russians to take part in the 2024 Summer Paralympics as neutral athletes.

The 17th Summer Paralympic Games will be held in the French capital from August 28th to September 8th, 2024.





BELTA

## Photo of the week

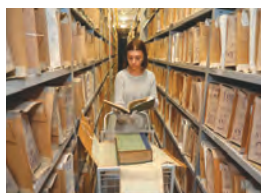
The autumn harvest festival *Bagach* took place at the Yanka Kupala Memorial Reserve *Vyazyinka*

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**October 6th** is World Smile Day. The world owes the fact that this wonderful holiday exists to the artist Harvey Ball. In 1963, he came up with a business card for the insurance company State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America — what now all Internet users broadly call a ‘smiley’ — a smiling yellow face. The success of this ‘business card’ exceeded all expectations.

**October 6th** is World Habitat Day — an international holiday designed to attract humanity’s attention to the problem of preserving the habitat of the fauna of planet Earth. This holiday was established in 1979 as part of the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. There are practically no places left on Earth where no man has gone before.



**October 6th** is Archivist Day in the Republic of Belarus, established in honour of the anniversary of the founding of

the first centralised state archive on the territory of the modern Republic of Belarus — the Vitebsk Central Archive of Ancient Act Books, which began its work in 1863. It is thanks to the work of archivists that the country’s historical documentary heritage is safe and sound.

**On October 6th, 1977**, the first flight of the Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter took place. The fighter differs from foreign (even modern) analogues by outstanding manoeuvrability in a unique range of speeds and altitudes, an effective weapon system for highly manoeuvrable air combat, a powerful frame structure and ease of maintenance. Mikoyan MiG-29 and its subsequent modifications are successfully operated by the Russian Armed Forces, and are also in service with other countries.



**On October 7th, 1788**, Ivan Nosovich (1788-1877) was born, a Belarusian linguist-lexicographer, folklorist, ethnographer. He travelled extensively throughout Belarus and collected rich lexical,

phraseological, folklore and ethnographic material. He is the author of the first historical dictionary of the Belarusian language *Alphabetical Index of Ancient Belarusian Words...*, *Dictionary of the Belarusian Dialect*.

**October 8th** is Cultural Workers’ Day in the Republic of Belarus. More than 65 thousand Belarusians are involved in this professional holiday — actors and poets, writers and artists, musicians, workers of museums and exhibition halls, leaders of creative groups. Over the centuries-old history, the Belarusian people have created a rich, unique cultural heritage.



**On October 8th, 1945**, American Percy Spencer patented a microwave oven. Heating of food in a microwave oven does not occur from the surface, but through most of the volume, since radio waves penetrate quite deeply into almost all food products. This significantly reduces cooking time. Currently, the microwave oven is one of the most popular household electrical appliances.



**October 9th** is World Post Day. It is held by decision of the 14th Congress of the Universal Postal Union, held in 1957, on the day of the creation in 1874 of the Universal Postal Union. Regular postal service was organised on the territory of Belarus in 1667.



**October 9th** is the day of the defeat of Nazi troops by Soviet troops in the Battle of the Caucasus, which lasted from July 25th, 1942 to October 9th, 1943. The main result of the Battle was the expulsion of Nazi troops from the Caucasus and, as a consequence, the elimination of the threat of losing the largest base of energy and food resources and the prevention of Turkey’s possible entry into the war on the side of Nazi Germany.



**On October 11th, 1978**, the Yanka Kupala Memorial Reserve Levki was founded. It is located on the banks of the Dnieper River. It includes part of the forest and a branch of the Yanka Kupala Literary Museum Levki, the restored building of the poet’s dacha (it was burned during the Great Patriotic War), a garage, a driver’s house, a hotel and other outbuildings.