

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, paid an official visit to Ukraine on July 20th-21st, negotiating with the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, in tête-à-tête and extended formats → 3



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Maestro Alexander Anisimov conducts at the *Classics at the Town Hall* concert in Minsk

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Good optimisation, operational efficiency and results of unity

By Vladimir Velikhov

Alexander Lukashenko meets Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court, Valentin Sukalo, to discuss performance of national court system after merging of general and economic courts, in addition to issues of further optimisation and ways to improve law enforcement practice

The President asked Mr. Sukalo, "I wonder whether dangerous trends

in the economy are emerging or are established?" Mr. Sukalo explained that the merged court system has been working for the past three years, with all main issues settled, primarily dealing with uniform law enforcement and court proceedings. "The three-year period has demonstrated that we've adapted. The present court system is stable, rational and manageable, from an organisational point of view," he commented.

Positive changes are evident as

far as accurate and timely justice in general courts and economic courts is concerned. A set of measures has been sketched out, to allow the court system to faster restore violated rights of citizens. Measures are being taken to reduce the number of cases where litigation is postponed, suspended or rescheduled. "We'll do everything we can to see lawsuits, particularly civil ones, completed within two court sessions, at most," Mr. Sukalo notes.

Structural optimisation of the Belarusian court system was also discussed during the meeting. The Supreme Court and regional courts will be optimised. As a result, only high-ranking courts will be optimised, while preserving judicial manpower and the quality of justice. The Head of State approved these approaches. According to Mr. Sukalo, the court system is ready to operate under new conditions, after optimisation. "We've presented the entire legal



Valentin Sukalo

base for approval. If the documents are approved, we'll start working under new conditions from August 1st: the date set by the Head of State," the official said.

Ways to improve the efficiency of the bankruptcy system were also discussed, with the matter to be revised at a later date.

Development and gender equality

By Alexander Pimenov

Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Republic and National Co-ordinator for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Marianna Shchetkina, participates in High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN headquarters in New York

Ms. Shchetkina gave a presentation on measures taken by the country to implement a new agenda for development. In particular, she noted the establishment of the position of national co-ordinator for Sustainable Development Goals achievement by the President of Belarus, as well as the creation of the National Council for Sustainable Development, at the management level of relevant government bodies and regions of the country.

The representative of Belarus stressed the country's intention to implement the SDGs via parliamentary sittings and national consultations, with the participation of a wide range of partners, including civil society. She explained, "Belarus has presented its approach to the implementation of SDGs in the national report at this forum and is interested in the implementation of best practices of other countries and regions in the framework of the Agenda 2030. International assistance is important in achieving SDGs. The UN is designed to serve as a focal point for such assistance. Ambitious goals can only be achieved through integration

and competent co-ordination of efforts."

The head of the Belarusian delegation drew attention to the problems of middle-income countries, saying that the achievement of SDGs is impossible without solving them. "As a country with an average level of income, Belarus is in favour of more co-ordinated support in the field of assistance to these countries," she added. Ms. Shchetkina suggested adopting a specific UN action



Marianna Shchetkina

plan to work with middle-income countries, following the example of similar plans for other categories of developing countries. She believes that we must develop methods of encouraging increased income per capita.

The importance of regional structures as a connecting link in global and national level activities was stressed and the UN Economic Commission for Europe could be used to discuss co-operation by the region's integration associations.

Ms. Shchetkina gave an interview to UN Radio, stating that implementing the Agenda 2030 and achieving

the Sustainable Development Goals are global tasks which can only be realised via constructive co-operation, integration and collaboration of all states.

As Head of the Belarusian Union of Women, Ms. Shchetkina stressed that Belarus pays much attention to women's employment (one of the UN SDGs). "Attention is being paid to developing female entrepreneurship. Not only the Government oversees this problem but the Belarusian Union of Women, under my guidance. We attract foreign women's associations for this work," she explained.

The UN has praised Belarus' active position in promoting gender equality, as stressed during Ms. Shchetkina's meeting with the Assistant UN Secretary-General, the UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri. Ms. Shchetkina spoke about

Belarus' efforts to promote gender equality and stated that one of the priorities of the Belarusian Government is to ensure the employment of women. This is viewed as a main condition for their economic well-being and independence.

The Belarusian representative also met the UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner. Ms. Shchetkina thanked the UNDP for joint economic and environmental projects, as well as its work in promoting effective management, supporting people and offering assistance to Belarus in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.



Lessons at MSLU Confucius Institute

Chinese Language Department to open at MSLU

By Vladimir Khromov

Minsk State Linguistic University (MSLU) will open Chinese Language and Culture Department in new academic year, after the first term

The department is designed to enrol nearly 300 students. "We have long been preparing for this. We already have the lecturers and teaching staff for it. Today the Chinese language is taught in three different departments of the university. Thus they will be combined into one," notes MSLU Rector Natalia Baranova. "The department will have two chairs: theory and practice of the Chinese language, as well as speech studies and professional communication in Chinese."

The new department will train teachers, translators

and specialists in intercultural communication in foreign economic relations, public relations and international tourism. Moreover, an information and analytical direction will be also developed, enabling students to learn to prepare portals and websites in the Chinese language.

Moreover, there are plans to set up research laboratories and centres at the department. "In the next five years, we are planning to set up a language lab of translation proficiency, the centre of language support for websites and the centre of the Belarusian-Chinese comparative cultural linguistics and ethnography," adds the Rector.

According to Ms. Baranova, setting up the new department is related to the need to improve the quality of foreign language

skills of various categories of professionals. The country needs highly-qualified Chinese language teachers in the system of general secondary education and in the system of higher education and vocational education. "Belarus is expanding contacts with China in economy, art, culture, and tourism, so there will be the demand for interpreters and translators," she asserts.

"The students will receive high-quality education. For this purpose we will co-operate with the East China Normal University in Shanghai and foreign language universities in Beijing and Tianjin. They will help us with teaching staff while we grow as a young scientific and methodological school of the Chinese language," resumes Ms. Baranova.

Neighbouring countries see prospects in friendly relations

By Vasily Kharitonov

In the business dimension, Alexander Lukashenko and Petro Poroshenko have agreed to aim for a revived annual trade turnover of \$8 billion (double the current figure). Judging by the intensity of contacts at the Belarusian-Ukrainian Business Forum, which took place in Kiev simultaneously with the meeting of the presidents, the target is feasible.

Our heads of state have signed contracts exceeding \$45 million. Economic issues were high on the agenda during the meeting between Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Poroshenko, with the President of Belarus noting, "Belarus and Ukraine are interested in expanding exports, and developing industrial co-operation, while launching joint projects to modernise road transport infrastructure and introduce innovative technologies. In the past, Belarusian-Ukrainian annual trade reached nearly \$8 billion and we have every possibility to raise our volumes. The co-chairmen of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission have assured us that we can reach this level within two years, or even surpass it."

Meanwhile, Minsk and Kiev are keen to develop production co-operation, jointly manufacturing goods for sale on international markets. Mr. Lukashenko emphasises that thousands of goods could be made this way. Last year, more than 2,500 Belarusian tractors were assembled in Ukraine, at joint manufacturing facilities, in addition to around 180 harvesters, 500 lifts and other equipment which the neighbouring country needs. The President of Belarus summed up, "These are good results but they're much lower than those we're aiming for. I believe the current meeting will bring new impetus to our economic interaction."

Minsk also wishes to develop co-operation between the regions. Kiev has supported the idea of conducting the first inter-regional forum in Gomel, while Ukraine will host a similar event next time.

As far as political results are concerned, the atmosphere of communication was significant, with our presidents sending a clear signal



REUTERS

WORD-FOR-WORD:

Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus

"In the past, Belarusian-Ukrainian annual trade reached nearly \$8 billion and we have every possibility to raise our volumes. The co-chairmen of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission have assured us that we can reach this level within two years, or even surpass it." Meanwhile, Minsk and Kiev are keen to develop production co-operation, jointly manufacturing goods for sale on international markets.

that our countries are strong partners, as well as good and reliable friends. President Poroshenko spoke about Ukraine's foreign policy, saying, "I'm convinced that the development of close relations with neighbouring states, primarily with Belarus, remains a key priority for us."

The presidents tackled the topic of crisis in south-east Ukraine while discussing the situation in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions. Mr. Lukashenko underlined, "First of all, we're delivering humanitarian aid to these regions. I asked Petro Poroshenko about it. We'd like to work there without mediators and using the shortest route possible. I suggested that we should do this together if our interests match and these humanitarian convoys coincide. They are our peo-

ple, with nothing dividing us. I thank the president and his colleagues, who've agreed to this step. We're capable of helping our people in distress."

Minsk will continue to facilitate in every possible way the peaceful settlement of the conflict. The President of Belarus guarantees this, saying, "You should understand that I've never set a goal to 'run ahead of the locomotive'. I'll continue to do only what I'm asked by the two presidents [V. Putin and P. Poroshenko]. Everything the two presidents ask me to do, we, Belarusians, will do. We don't aspire to glory. What kind of glory are you talking about when people are dying?! You, Ukrainians, should know that you have near and dear people in your life, who live a bit to the north, but are no different from you. If you're having a

Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine

"As of today, the Minsk Agreements included in international documents and diplomacy textbooks are the only document on de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine," underlined Mr. Poroshenko. He said that Alexander Lukashenko has assured him that the territory of friendly Belarus will never be used for aggressive action against Ukraine and the Belarusian-Ukrainian border will never become a frontier of war.

hard time, we'll always help with what we can."

Mr. Lukashenko underlined the close and friendly character of relations between the nations of Belarus and Ukraine. "We, the Russians, and the Ukrainians are the core of civilisation on this part of the European continent," noted the Head of State. He added that, before the negotiations, he'd visited Holodomor Museum, where the guide told him about the relations of Belarusians towards Ukrainian residents in those hard years. Ukrainians went to Belarus and Belarusians shared what they had with them. "This is the call of ancestors telling us that we should help each other and that we should always be together. This is most vital; even more than the contracts signed by us. This is the basis of our relations," stressed the

Belarusian Head of State.

Following his negotiations with the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, in Kiev, President Poroshenko praised the Minsk Agreements for their unique position in de-escalating conflict in Ukraine. The Ukrainian leader thanked Belarus for its support, in word and deed, and for its efforts to promote good working conditions for negotiations in Minsk. "As of today, the Minsk Agreements included in international documents and diplomacy textbooks are the only document on de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine," underlined Mr. Poroshenko.

He said that Alexander Lukashenko has assured him that the territory of friendly Belarus will never be used for aggressive action against Ukraine and the Belarusian-Ukrainian border will never

become a frontier of war. Speaking about cross-border co-operation, the President of Ukraine pointed to the need to finish border demarcation, remarking that both sides have conducted substantive negotiations on a range of topical issues of bilateral and multilateral interaction.

Economic collaboration was in the spotlight, with the desire for increased bilateral trade as the focus. "We see solid and real prospects for growth," added Mr. Poroshenko. He highlighted that Belarus and Ukraine intend to engage their potential to co-manufacture products for export to third-country markets. We have reached an agreement on specific measures to promote co-operation in the energy industry, and the Ukrainian President views co-operation in the transport sector, including river transport, as promising.

Advancing relations with Belarus is one of the most important priorities for Ukraine, noted President Poroshenko, during expanded-format negotiations with the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko. In his words, it's vital to fully realise the potential of Belarus-Ukraine co-operation. Mr. Poroshenko also noted the productive nature of the previous meeting of the two heads of state, in April 2017. Agreements reached at that time are now being consistently and successfully implemented.

"As you've said already, the number of contracts signed during today's business forum alone has made our visit worthwhile. This is why, although our friendship cannot be measured with money, it's vital for our countries to see concrete results via mutually beneficial co-operation," noted the President of Ukraine. He suggested moving forward promptly to sketch out a fundamental roadmap for advancing bilateral interaction across the board, and to set relevant goals. Mr. Poroshenko addressed Mr. Lukashenko, saying that the President of Belarus is always a welcome guest. "Ukraine knows you as a statesman who is intent on achieving the most effective and concrete results," emphasised the President of Ukraine.

NatiVita's significant plans

International NatiVita high-tech scientific-industrial complex launched in Vitebsk Region's Beshenkovichi

By Alexey Fedosov

The modern, high-tech complex is designed and built with assistance from the European Union and the CIS, its special isolation technologies ensuring a high level of quality, and safety of personnel and the environment.

Aimed at producing drugs in tablet, capsule and liquid form, with full-cycle production meeting European GMP standards, the pharmaceutical company is focused on innovative drugs for the treatment of cancer. It's home to Belarus' only laboratory producing cytotoxic drugs in solid form, with use of insulators from Italian Nicomac company.

Interestingly, before production launched, NatiVita registered and sold its medicines in Belarus. Weighing and packaging was conducted at Belarusian Akadempharm but, in the future, production will move to Beshenkovichi. The company has registered thirteen products, with twenty planned by late 2017.

The company's ambitious plans are not limited to the mastering of

the Belarusian market. In 2017, the enterprise is to launch registration of medicinal products in the EU: agreements have been signed with Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Iraq and Syria.

Nativita exports to fifteen countries and produces treatment drugs, including for cancer. "We have a joint project with Russian company Biocad and I think we'll soon be producing drugs effective in treating lung cancer, multiple myeloma and some other malignant diseases," comments Belarus' Health Minister, Valery Malashko.

Among the company's strategic avenues of work is the development of innovative treatments, to radically change approaches to curing cancer, working in co-operation with leading research centres in Slovakia, Cuba, India and elsewhere. "We have unique innovative technologies which allow us to produce not just generic drugs or those with new technological formulas, but our own developments," Mr. Malashko adds.

NatiVita is now the centre of a pharmacological cluster uniting St. Petersburg enterprises and the Vitebsk State Medical University.



At NatiVita production

It's focused not only on production of drugs but on staff training, development of unique formulas and their implementation.

The Minister is confident that the innovative pharmaceutical facility will become a flagship of the country. According to 2016 results, NatiVita joined the top five companies in the hospital market, occupying first position in the oncology segment of hospital sales. The market launch of the company's three bio-analogues last year, through tender, enabled the country to save over \$10 million.



NatiVita complex in Beshenkovichi

Mirror-export effect

Belarus' international successes stir talk and influence global perceptions, boosting its reputation, politically and economically, with exports skyrocketing

By Maxim Osipov

The National Statistical Committee and the National Bank agree that, from January-May, exports of goods and services increased by 20.6 percent (against the same period of 2016). Meanwhile, imports rose by just 15.7 percent over the same period.

Among the most striking examples are exports from the Belarusian Steel Works, which rose by 137.2 percent in the first half of 2017: worth nearly half a billion Dollars. Over the same period, the Belarusian Automobile Works doubled its exports, with sales of BelAZ trucks to Kazakhstan growing by 330.7 percent, and those to Ukraine by 706.3 percent.

A breakthrough in the tricky North American region has been observed, with the Chargé d'Affaires of Belarus to the United States of



America, Pavel Shidlovsky, commenting, "Our bilateral co-operation is growing, regarding exports and imports. The beginning of 2017 was characterised by rapid growth of exports of Belarusian products. Though figures aren't large as yet for exports of goods, from January-May, we generated \$80 million: 2.5 times more than

last year. As for services, we sold successfully to the United States, mainly in IT, by High-Tech Park residents. We should reach \$0.5 billion in exports of services alone by late 2017.

BSU Professor Boris Panshin sees nothing surprising, commenting, "We're seeing a recovery from the global recession,

with a series of infrastructure projects launched, which have inspired demand for machinery. Secondly, the Russian economy is stabilising, so local businessmen and farmers are seeking out new equipment. Belarus and its produce are benefiting from the trend. Thirdly, we've never stopped our pace of production or our activities to seek out customers on foreign markets. This has enabled us to appear 'on hand' for the global economic community. Undoubtedly, Belarus' participation in the international arena, within various forums and organisations, has played a positive role. When people abroad see that Belarus is involved in peace-making processes, they view us positively. Efforts to create a positive image for our country, as a reliable and worthy partner, have resulted in an export breakthrough."

Normalisation is progressing steadily

By Vladimir Velikhov

Belarus aims to increase export of services to United States of America, to \$500 million by late 2017

The Charge d'Affaires of Belarus to the USA, Pavel Shidlovsky, notes that Belarus-USA co-operation is on the rise, including exports and imports, with Belarusian exports demonstrating significant growth in early 2017. "The figures are small for now. As far as merchandise is concerned, from January-May, we sold goods worth \$80 million — 2.5 times more than in the same period of 2016. Speaking of Belarusian services, these do well in the USA: primarily IT services rendered by companies residing in the High-Tech

Park. We aim to raise exports of services to \$500 million by the end of the year," says Mr. Shidlovsky.

According to the diplomat, Belarus-USA relations have been improving in recent years. No breakthroughs

have been secured, but the restoration process proceeds steadily. "We expect

that, taking into account improved political relations, we'll enjoy broader opportunities for organising Belarusian exports, especially for exporting more Belarusian products to the American market. We're trying to work as hard as possible, including selling products from the petrochemical industry, wood-working industry and Belgospishcheprom Concern," added the diplomat.



Stem cell research & growth: innovative technology in focus

Stem cell growth: under the microscope

By Taisia Azanovich

It seems that stem cells can do anything — from treating burns and venous ulcers, to periodontal diseases or corneal damage. At present, the Republican Scientific and Medical Centre for Cell Technologies, at the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering, part of the National Academy of Sciences, is in the preparatory stages of growing unique cells for a thousand patients annually. It has also created a bank to store cells. Our reporter visited the establishment to see how this valuable biomaterial is being grown.

Under sterile conditions

“Remove your clothes, and put on the medical uniform and shoes,” instructs junior researcher Irina Vasilevich, adding, “This is the first stage: you’ll be passing through several zones of sterilisation.”

These complex preparations are essential. In a few minutes’ time, I’ll be allowed into the production department: a sacred place, where medical specialists undertake the vital work of cultivating mesenchymal stem cells, for later use in treatments or to be frozen. Modern doctors can use a patient’s own stem cells, to treat sores (some of which may have failed to heal for years).

Of course, it’s not easy to grow cells: regulations for servicing the department, and stipulations regarding its cleaning and disinfection, alone, cover several weighty files. Stem cells are primarily being grown for use in transplant operations so the most stringent conditions of sterility are vital.

Taking this into



consideration,

Ms. Vasilevich carefully cleans my microphone and the camera with antiseptic.

Doors open and I enter the first zone of sterilisation, which is separated from the second by a low bench. Irina tells me to put on another pair of booties. Once one leg is ready, I should step over the



At the stem cell laboratory of National Academy of Sciences

bench, the second leg being allowed into the new zone only after the second bootie is on my foot. I also don a mask and a cap and my hands are carefully disinfected. The next sterilisation zone is situated behind a closed door.

There are still more precautions: Ms. Vasilevich gives me a protective suit with a hood, gloves and cloth boots. It’s not easy to put these all on quickly without practice. I approach the mirror and see that I look like a character from a futuristic film. The mirror isn’t there for vanity, but to check that all body areas are covered. No hair or neck can be exposed.

The production department resembles a spacecraft, comprising several sections, each separated by a door. High-level security means it’s only possible to move through the doors after scanning a card: then the door quietly opens.

I feel more than ever as if I’m a character in a futuristic film, but senior researcher Sergey Pinchuk goes on to say something that astounds me even further. “Mesenchymal stem cells are derived from the patient’s fatty tissues. As you can see, we receive them in a special container. The primary cell culture is sent to the produc-



Sergey Pinchuk opens cryo-storage

tion block, with manipulations conducted in a laminar flow hood. Its ventilation system removes all bacteria, so they can’t fall on biological materials. Cells then begin multiplying. Microbiological control is the next step: if the material is clean, growth is conducted in another box.”

The latter has four incubators, allowing large amounts of biomaterial to be grown. To this end, stem cells are placed in special bottles filled with pink liquid. The incubators foster ideal conditions for the proliferation of cells: ‘resort conditions’. About 4 million stem cells are grown, monthly, from 2-3 grams of fatty tissue. Cells from younger patients tend to divide at a faster rate, while the elderly have around ten times fewer stem cells. Accordingly, those donated by older people or by those suffering from certain diseases have a much slower rate of division.

Stem cells: life-saving properties

Examining the strange, pink liquid, it’s difficult to believe that this is a salvation for many people.



Treatment of venous ulcers is just one of the unique abilities of stem cells. Many more discoveries lie ahead. Mr. Pinchuk explains, “This year, we’ve launched several projects. We plan to develop methods where stem cells may be used to treat severe burns, pressure sores, periodontal disease, corneal dam-

age and even stress-related urinary incontinence in women.”

After treatment, it’s possible to freeze stem cells, for future use. Anyone can contact the Centre, to store their biomaterial — in case of future medical needs. Collecting biomaterial and cryo-freezing costs from Br150, while cryo-storage costs Br70 a year. Cells are kept in a special cryo-storage bank.

Mr. Pinchuk uses his card to open the access system, saying, “Stem cells are stored here. They can be frozen in two modes: under a temperature of minus 85, for six months, or, at minus 150 degrees, for years.”

I watch as he puts on heavy rubber gloves (necessary to lower his arm into the cryo-storage, which is like a large refrigerator). All stem cells are stored in containers, each numbered and encrypted, with cryo-protectants added, to protect against the damaging effects of freezing. At present, the bank keeps an incredible 1.5 billion mesenchymal stem cells.

The wider medical community informs us that stem cells can be used to make drugs for cardiology, endocrinology, hepatology, surgery and traumatology. Even the modern use of stem cells in traumatology is impressive: injuries which had previously seemed incapable of healing can now be healed. Belarusian scientists are not simply watching from the sidelines; they’re participating in stem cell research and development, exploring the possibilities of this unique biomaterial, and making new discoveries.

Gates in Trostenets: between life and death

During the war, one of Europe's largest death camps — Trostenets — was situated near Minsk

By Kristina Khilko

Two years ago, modest obelisks were added to the 10-metre-high bronze Gates of Memory, featuring figurines of emaciated prisoners, literally imprinted on the camp gates. The monument's author — sculptor Konstantin Kostyuchenko — tells us the history of its creation.

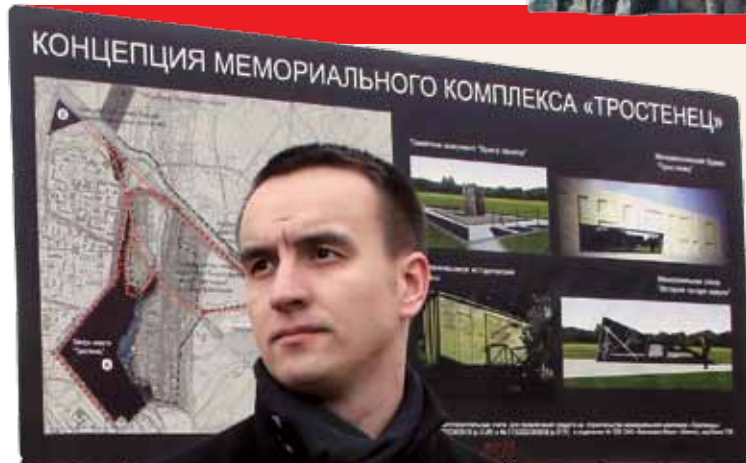
The gates are a symbol of the transition. It was unfortunately easy to get into Trostenets, but only a few ever managed to escape the death camp. The monument is a tribute to the victims of concentration camps. It depicts people who experienced inhumane suffering. I'd like the sculpture to make people stop just for a moment and reflect on the tragedy of war. The sculpture has no pedestal or steps. I refused them intentionally to ensure everyone can touch the gates, go through them and feel the fear and hopelessness that prevailed here during those years.

Your monument is the tallest bronze sculpture in Belarus. What was the most difficult part of creating it?

Many people advised me to make the gates half the size they are, but I insisted on the 10-metre version. The sculpture reflects the scale of the tragedy; otherwise, it would have been lost in a large open space. It took my colleagues and me three months to sculpt the monument from clay in extreme winter conditions. We had to use heat guns to ensure the clay wasn't frozen. We used 32 tonnes of clay and almost the same amount of bronze to make the four-storey-high piece.

How was the image we see now born?

I began making sketches in 2007, in preparation for the work: I re-read military books, studied archival documents and visited other memorials. My project was chosen out of 20 works seven years ago, in



Konstantin Kostyuchenko

the open Republican competition.

Who were your teachers?

After graduating from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts, I worked at artistic workshops of painting, drawing and sculpture headed by People's Artist Mikhail Savitsky. I learnt much from the legendary sculptor Lev Gumilevsky. When deciding to enter in the competition, I was told I was too young for the challenge but I was confident in myself. While creating the images, I was assisted by memories of Mikhail Savitsky. The author of the famous paintings — 'Partisan Madonna' — went through the horrors of concentration camps in Düsseldorf, Buchenwald and Dachau. I often heard that my work was viewed as gloomy and frightening, but I don't think all art should be beautiful, especially this piece, as



MT REFERENCE:

Konstantin Kostyuchenko is a sculptor and assistant professor at the Belarusian State Academy of Arts' Sculpture Department.

He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence and has won prestigious international and national awards and honours in the field of sculpture. He is a laureate of the Belarusian President's Special Award for his Gates of Memory Monument at the Trostenets Memorial Complex. Mr. Kostyuchenko is co-author of the bust to the composer Stanislaw Moniuszko; it was erected in the musician's native town of Cherven. The sculptor represented Belarus at the Venice Biennale in 2011. His works are exhibited in the national museums of modern art and kept in private collections in France, Belgium, Austria and Italy.

the monument stands in a place literally covered in blood, and my sculpture screams this. Alongside the main architect of the project, Anna Aksenova, we decided not to make any unnecessary additions. There are simple slabs of granite in front of the monument and a lawn nearby. Why should we disturb the remains of people buried in the mass grave on this huge field?

Did any of your family members take part in the war?

My both grandfathers fought against the enemy on the front-line. They are dead now but I know that they would wish their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren never to experience

the nightmare of the war years. My paternal grandfather saw my war memorial. The gates impressed him; he said he was proud of me.

Place of sorrow and pain

Trostenets is among the largest death camps in Europe, ranked fourth in the number of victims after Auschwitz, Majdanek and Treblinka. Here, the fascists killed over 200,000 people from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia and France. The Trostenets Memorial Complex embraces several places where people were killed: the village of Trostenets (where the prisoners lived), Shashkovka (burnt down) and Blagovshchina (where people were shot). The erection of the memorial complex on the site of the tragedy was conducted under the patronage of Alexander Lukashenko.



Go to the electronic medical office

By Alexey Fedosov

In the future, every Belarusian patient will have their own electronic medical record

The Head of the Main Department of Organisation of Medical Care at Belarus' Health Ministry — Yelena Bogdan — informs us that, "The technology of an e-prescription — which is now being introduced in the country — will form the basis for a unified health information system. Each patient will enjoy their own personal medical office and an e-card." According to the official, many polyclinics — including some outside Minsk — are already using electronic health records which enable doctors to consult patients remotely and establish a more effective dialogue.

The electronic prescription technology was launched in Belarus in the second half of 2015.

Ivan returns from the war

By Olga Kislyak

Remains of twenty-four Red Army soldiers unearthed in the Bykhov District, by 52nd search battalion of Defence Ministry. Over the course of a week, specialists have been digging on 1941-1943 battlefield sites, discovering not only two commemorative medals but a number of bodies. The Head of the Vikkru Mogilev Regional Search Club, Nikolay Borisenko, notes that one medal cannot be read but the other bears the name of Ivan Shutov, who was born on December 15th, 1921, in Shevchenko, in the Zaporozhie Region's Kuibyshev District.

Ivan, aged just 20 years, failed to return to his mother, and she had no information on his place of burial. In 1941, she received a message stating that her Vanya was missing. Although she is no longer living, Russian specialists have helped locate her niece, who will be invited to visit the Bykhov District.

Soldier Ivan and his comrades-in-arms are to be solemnly reburied in a mass grave.

MT REFERENCE:

In the Bykhov District, there are sixty-nine military mass graves, seventy-eight memorials and a memorial of military glory (on Ludchitsa Hill, where around 8,500 soldiers are buried, with the names of 272 known).

BelAZ uniting hearts

Newlyweds in the town of Zhodino celebrate wedding on board of one of world's biggest heavy duty dump trucks

By Tatiana Borisova

‘Now a kiss!’ the guests were shouting. However, the bride and groom could hardly hear them, so high up were they, upon the huge vehicle. Residents of Zhodino are used to the unusual: wheels taller than a man, trucks as big as a house, and performances by stuntmen who come to take advantage of the size of these amazing vehicles. However, this was the first time that a heavy-duty dump truck, in the near 70-year history of BelAZ, has been used to celebrate nuptials.

‘We like the idea that our joint life begins with such a surprise,’ note newlyweds Artem and Kristina Talashko. ‘We’re convinced that many of our friends will want to emulate our experience.’

Why didn’t they get married at an ordinary civil registry office? Everything is simple. They both work at the Belarusian Automobile Works (BelAZ) as engineers in the chief technology department. It seemed a great idea to celebrate their



wedding on a 360-tonne heavy-duty dump truck.

The new husband and wife met at the factory. ‘I was still a student and needed assistance in preparing for exams, so my friends advised me to consult a young engineer from BelAZ, which was Artem,’ recalls Kristina. ‘After university, I found my way to Zhodino and Artem

took me under his wing at work. Our colleagues joke that he ‘raised’ a bride for himself.’

Actually, many families work at the factory, forming ‘labour dynasties’; traditions are cherished there.

‘So, we now have another popular place for conducting marriages in Zhodino,’ notes Marina Kukhto, the Head of the Civil Reg-

istry Office at the Zhodino City Executive Committee.

‘There’s already a tradition

to propose with a ring on board a multi-tonne heavy-duty dump truck.’

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT THE FACTORY?

- See the world’s biggest heavy-duty dump truck, with a load capacity of 450 tonnes, registered in the Guinness Book of Records;
- Drive a 130-tonne vehicle along the test track, receiving a certificate (this is one of the most popular activities);
- Meet BelAZ’s Father Frost during New Year celebrations;
- On St. Valentine’s Day, propose marriage on board a heavy-duty dump truck and, then, conduct your wedding ceremony here.

Who eats Moon cheese?

By Ksenia Yevgenich

Minsk Planetarium finishes work on first full-dome cartoon dedicated to space

The trailer for the cartoon was presented at the 11th International Full-Dome Festival, held at the Zeiss Planetarium in German Jena.

The animated cartoon is entitled *Mice and the Moon* and targets junior pupils. According to Alexander Mikulich, who heads a laboratory at the planetarium, the idea originated from a lack of such educational films for youngsters.

‘Mice Pip and Skrip were keen to learn who eats the ‘moon cheese’, shining in the sky. Robot-astronomers helped them learn the answer. The mice saw lots of craters in the telescope and learnt much about the Moon. This fairytale cartoon is for curious children, telling them about scientific facts in an easy and cheerful manner,’ he notes.

The animation lasts around fifteen minutes and is designed to be shown in a spherical cinema, projected onto a 360 degree dome.

Deer — a noble cause

Inna Gorbatenko

Forestries breeding red deer are sprouting up in the country like mushrooms. Recently, a farm launched in the Vitebsk Region’s Gorodok District, with 120 deer being initially brought from Lithuania, aged 3 to 7 years. Soon, red deer will also be bred in the Brest Region’s Gantsevichi District, with the local forestry winning the tender for the purchase of hoofed creatures, in line with Belarusian Forest state programme.

‘We’ll be creating the population of red deer almost from scratch,’ Gantsevichi forestry explains. ‘Belarus has been awarded 36,000 Roubles for a new forestry programme, running until 2020, to breed red deer, with fifteen arriving before the end of this year, mostly young in age.’

Red deer will be settled near the village of Novye Ogarevichi, with special open-air cages constructed for them, which previously housed wild boar. They’ll stay for about a year before being



released into the wild.

A similar farm has been running successfully for several years, near the village of Babiy Les, in the Smolevichi District. The director of the Smolevichi society of hunters and fishermen, Maxim Morozevich, tells us, ‘We aim to create a natural population within the next 3-4 years, releasing about two hundred deer. The economic benefits of hunting are obvious, especially as the wild boar population has declined significantly. Deer will fill the niche, being released at intervals, to allow

hunting to continue, maintaining the population.’

Alongside Gantsevichi, Pinsk and Drogichin have also won the tender for the purchase of red deer. Brest Region forests currently house about five thousand deer, and the area can support at least 5,400.

They began to settle deer in the 1950s, with more than 1,500 red deer released into reserves and wildlife sanctuaries since then.

Reprints of the past

By Yelena Alexeeva

Stylised model of ancient printing press, made of pine and metal, by students at Polotsk children’s art school

The unusual machine is a ‘desk’ variant, just 0.8m in height, explains school director Natalia Antimonova, with quarter ratio proportions. To produce the most accurate reproduction of a press from the time of the first printers, Francysk Skaryna and Johannes Gutenberg, the students began by studying engravings and historical documents. They created various sketches, before choosing the best plan. Teacher Dmitry Svyatsky (who personally crafted the tool) has organised his students in similar ventures before, working with the city’s theatre society, making historical costumes and various reproduction uniforms and armour.



During celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing, the stylised model of the press will go on show, allowing the public to see how the first books were printed, and to try their hand at making a small composition, via special workshops.

The Acting Head of the Department of Ideological Work, Culture and Youth Affairs, at Polotsk District Executive Committee, Yelena Astapova, believes the idea to be among the most important within the *Polotsk Printing House* project, and for the Day of Belarusian Written Language.

Poland's president to veto controversial laws amid numerous protests

Andrzej Duda says he will block proposed legislation that would have put supreme court under control of ruling party

Poland's president has said he will veto controversial judicial reforms that have sparked days of nationwide street protests and prompted the EU to threaten unprecedented sanctions.

"I have decided to send back to parliament — in which case to veto — the law on the supreme court, as well as the law on the National Council of the Judiciary," Andrzej Duda said in a televised announcement.

"The law would not strengthen the sense of justice in society," he added, explaining that his decision came after lengthy consultations with legal experts. "These laws must be amended," he said.

The reforms proposed by the ruling Law and Justice party (PiS) would have increased political control over Poland's judiciary. They triggered an angry response from critics, who accused PiS of trying to curtail the independence of the courts.



Duda's declaration marks the first time that he has publicly split with Jarosław Kaczyński, the head of PiS.

Some commentators are scepti-

cal whether his apparent assertion of authority is authentic, or merely an attempt to quell the protests; cynics believe Duda will propose amendments that do little to ad-

dress the main concerns about the legislation.

But Duda insisted that political interference in the judiciary should not be up for discussion.

Tour operators say US to ban citizens from travel to North Korea

Two tourist agencies that operate tours to North Korea said the US government will soon ban its citizens from travelling to the North Korea

Koryo Tours said the ban would be announced on July 27th and would go into effect 30 days later. It did not say how long the ban would last. Another tour operator, Young Pioneer Tours, said in a Twitter message that it had also been informed of the ban, citing the same date.

Tepco spots possible nuclear fuel debris at another Fukushima reactor

Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco), the operator of Japan's wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, may have found nuclear fuel debris below the damaged No. 3 reactor, one of three that had meltdowns in the 2011 disaster

Tepco detected black-coloured material that dangled like icicles that could be nuclear debris near the bottom of the reactor's pressure vessel that contained the fuel rods. Finding the highly radioactive melted fuel rods may pave the way for Tepco to develop methods to remove the melted fuel. Tepco launched its first attempt to probe the inside of the No. 3 reactor using a submersible robot.

Gas explosion rips through China restaurant

Two people have been killed and 55 others injured as an explosion ripped through a busy restaurant in the Chinese city of Hangzhou

Authorities believe the explosions were caused by gas cylinders.

Fire engulfed the shop sending plumes of smoke into the air. Windows were blown out and the street was littered with debris. Passengers on a nearby bus were also caught in the blast. Those injured were taken to hospital, 12 are said to be in a serious condition. Firefighters were quick to respond and have since put out the blaze. An investigation is already underway.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Saudi Arabian foreign minister to Qatar: 'enough is enough'

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir sent a stern warning to Qatar, only a day after the Saudi Ambassador to the UN appeared to reduce the demands from 13 to six

Speaking after a meeting with his Belgian counterpart in Brussels, Adel Al-Jubeir said, "We came to the conclusion that enough is enough. If Qatar wants to be part of the Gulf, it has to act like it. And stop engaging with this mischief. If not, we are prepared to wait for

long time. We are not in a hurry. But we can not go back to the way they were".

He added that 'the Qataris know exactly what's required from them, they have to respond to it. That's where we are'.

The current crisis began in June, as Saudi Arabia and allies such as Egypt withdrew ambassadors and imposed trade bans over allegations of Qatari support for terrorism. Qatar has not yet responded to the demands.

Dali's body exhumed for DNA tests to settle a paternity claim

Forensic scientists have exhumed from the embalmed body of Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dali to try to settle a paternity claim

Samples were taken from the artist's teeth, bones and nails in a four-hour operation, officials said.

Maria Pilar Abel, a tarot card reader who was born in 1956 in the northern Spanish town of Figueras — Dali's home town and the place he is buried — claims her mother had an affair with the painter and has been trying to prove she is his daughter for years.

If she is proved right, she could assume part of the Dalí's estate, currently owned by the Spanish state. Her action is against the Spanish state, to which Dalí left his estate.

Last month a Madrid judge ordered the exhumation to settle the claim but it may take weeks before the results of the DNA tests are



known.

Dali died in 1989, aged 84 and his remains are interred in a crypt under the stage of the domed Theatre-Museum in Figueras, which houses some of his art works and paintings he collected. The exhumation went ahead despite the objections of the local authorities and the foundation carrying Dalí's name, both of which claimed that not enough notice had been given ahead of the exhumation.

Jubilee gathering diverse palette of various authors

Group exhibitions have become a tradition at the National Art Museum which, this year, hosts its eleventh such show

By Veniamin Mikheev

The current show features around eighty paintings and sculptures, by over fifty artists, whose creativity is connected with Belarusian art. Most developed their artistry while living abroad — such as Mikhail Pashkevich (who lived in the USA). However, others arrived in Belarus from other regions, including Boris Kazakov, who was born in Balakhna, on the Volga River. The jubilee is an exceptional occasion, allowing us to remember artists from other periods, each individual in style and in their preoccupations, as well as in the degree to which they gained recognition.

It's almost impossible to predict how popular a new exhibition will be. This one is full of contrasts, showing even how the work of a single artist can change over the decades. The show demonstrates the creativity of various masters, with their contrasting approaches as the focus, from 1930 to 2014.

Since the late 1950s, art has evolved from that designed for public spaces, and addressing social concepts, to more intimate pieces, reflecting individual lives. Earlier works include pieces devoted to the theme of labour (by A. Shibnev, M.



Works at the exhibition brightly reflect the spirit of time



Evening at the Pronya River by Zaitsev, 1954

Monoszon and V. Urodnich), war (sculptural compositions by F. Zilbert, V. Zankovich, E. Astafiev and A. Botvinenok), peace (A. Bochkarev and V. Solokhin) and the liberation movement. In this respect, Z. Pavlovsky's *Patrice Lumumba: Congo's National Hero* is exemplary, being created in reaction to the political murder. The tragedy took place a year after the 'year of Africa', when seventeen African countries gained their independence. That move was sincerely welcomed by 'all progressive humankind' — including the Soviet people.

Paintings by M. Seshchuk and V. Gerasimov are at the opposite 'pole', showing the artists themselves, their worldview and personal events. This group includes an abstract painting by I. Kashkurevich (*Colour Surface*), continuing Kazimir Malevich's preoccupation with combining colour and shape to create mood. Landscapes and portraits portray emotions and states of mind, using impressions drawn from nature.

The degree of art's 'usefulness' is traditionally determined by its spirit-

firming the value of what was native to them.

Some artists in the current exhibition have a single work on show. Others have several dozen. There are pictures by I. Grodnikov, A. Soroka, M. Zaborov, S. Kuklin, B. Lazarevich, E. Belogurov, I. Serzhanina, Y. Baranovskaya, K. Andrukovich and V. Ruskevich. Some are taken from works permanently on show, housed in the new building of the museum: works by S. Selikhanov, A. Tychina, Y. Zaitsev, A. Shibnev, A. Barkhatkov, A. Baranovsky, B. Kazakov, E. Astafiev, A. Kuznetsov, G. Buralkin, K. Selikhanov and V. Pantelev.

The show offers us the diverse palette of Belarusian artists, united in the celebration of their common artistic legacy.

Documentary photo enables us to see history

By Vladimir Mikhailov

National Historical Museum showcases *Castle on the Frontline. Towards the 100th Anniversary of the Destruction of Krevo Castle in the First World War. 1915-1917 Photos from Vladimir Bogdanov's Collection*

The castle in the Smorgon District's Krevo is one of the most ancient fortifications in Belarus, having been built in the early 14th century. It

has witnessed power struggles many times over its seven centuries of existence, often coming under siege.

Krevo Castle is primarily known for its role in national events. In 1382, Great Duke Kęstutis was suffocated in the tower's dungeons, at the order of his nephew, Jogaila. The future great duke, Vytautas, was saved and, in 1385, the famous Krevo Unia was signed there, uniting the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland. This launched the European royal Jagiel-

lonian dynasty. However, the castle was many times attacked by rebellious dukes, Moscow voivodes and Perekop Tatars. The medieval fortification saw its last battle one century ago, on July 21st, 1917, when its ancient walls were tumbled into ruin by 20th century artillery. It saw intensive action during the First World War, although this part of its history is yet to be thoroughly studied. The armies of the Russian and German empires fought around the castle for two and

a half years — from September 1915 until February 1918. It was often in the frontline, being included in the German line of defence.

The Germans seized Krevo Castle in ruinous but still battle-worthy condition and, during the war years, significantly reinforced it. Russian military units stationed near Krevo called Gediminas Castle the 'key to the German defence' at that time.

The exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of these events

showcases many photos from Vladimir Bogdanov's collection. Most are from personal albums of WWI participants and have never been on show before. They trace the history of the castle's destruction, showing it from unknown angles, which makes for interesting comparison with the current condition.

Undoubtedly, the exhibition will be interesting to historians, architects, local historians, and the general public.

Listen, this is truly great

Summer open-air concerts near Minsk Town Hall have become a tradition, with singing, dancing, drumming and trumpets. The opening of the new season of *Classics in the Town Hall* has created a marvel, with record audience numbers.

By Irina Ovsepyan

As in 2016, maestro Alexander Anisimov and the State Academic Symphony Orchestra opened the season. Drumming was followed by an overture from *The Thieving Magpie* by Rossini. Truly, the People's Artiste is great at preparing a programme to captivate audiences. His baton is inspirational.

"The State Academic Symphony Orchestra is turning ninety this year," reminds the founder of the Equilibrium Arts Agency, engaged in organ-



Classics in the Town Hall concert

ising the open-air show, Inga Bukhvalova. "This is the first symphony orchestra in Belarus and among the first in the former Soviet Union. It's our pride! Moreover, maestro Anisimov is also celebrating a jubilee this year, so we cannot ignore this double celebration. Our soloists include Oksana Volkova, Russian Irina Krikunova and Lithuanian tenor Kristian Benedikt, singing favourite opera arias, duets and tercets. During rehearsals, something incredible happened in the square. People were listening, forgetting everything."

This new season sees eight music nights planned, featuring Belarusian and foreign musicians. Many guests from abroad have Belarusian roots and love to return for such



events, performing alongside regional groups.

"This year, we've managed to lure Grodno Capella to the capital, with whom we've co-operated on other projects," explains Ms. Bukhvalova. "Conductor Vladimir

Bormotov is a very talented musician, and we decided to present this wonderful team to Minsk. We also expect the I, CULTURE Orchestra (ICO) — an international youth orchestra of ninety young people from Poland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Geor-



YURI MOZOLEVSKY

Oksana Volkova sings

gia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. They'll be performing for the first time in our country; it's viewed as an honour to join this group. Maestro Andrey Boreiko will conduct, having performed at many famous concert halls. We're happy to achieve an agreement with these guys to play in our *Classics in the Town Hall*."

Classical music lovers will be flocking to the Town Hall, which rivals Minsk-Arena in terms of hosting major events. Several thousand people attending a classical concert is a phenomenon for Belarus and to see them gathered a full hour before a concert, with the audience standing shoulder to shoulder, speaks for itself. While some may feel intimidated by the Philharmonic or the Opera Theatre, the informal atmosphere of an open-air event appeals to everyone, especially with balloons and ice cream cones in their hands. Young and old gathered near the Town Hall: older gentlemen with canes, serious mothers with children, bearded hipsters and girls with brightly coloured hair — all united in their love of music.

Along the Milky Way of artists Zarfin and Soutine

By Yuliana Leonovich

Ulei Arts Centre in Smilovichi is inspiring example of public-private partnership

A year ago, Belgazprombank — a connoisseur and admirer of academic painting (famous in business circles) — took under its auspice the local children's pictorial studio. The project was entitled Ulei (Beehive) — similar to the famous Paris art environment — and became a space for children without restriction in creative technique or artistic genre.

The training method was developed by specialists from the National Art Museum, with Belgazprombank facilitating tours and master classes. The results are impressive, with twenty-eight watercolour and cold batik works now permanently on display at Minsk's Palace of Arts.

Victor Babariko, the Chairman of Belgazprombank's Board, notes that mature and professional artists can also exhibit their pieces. He tells us, "When we took on this project,



At Ulei Arts Centre in Smilovichi

we understood the responsibility; these youngsters will glorify our country in future. It's symbolic that the Ulei Art Project originated in Smilovichi: the homeland of Chaim Soutine and Schraga Zarfin. Today's young talents in Smilovichi have the opportunity to follow in those footsteps. If you enter the second floor of the Arts Palace, the Art-Belarus

Gallery, you'll see that these pieces encompass all life."

The results of the first year of training at the Ulei Arts Centre present twelve young artists, aged 8-14 years. Over this time, children have earned seventeen international diplomas and the same number at Republican contests, alongside twenty-seven diplomas at regional level.

800 editions are presented to Iraq

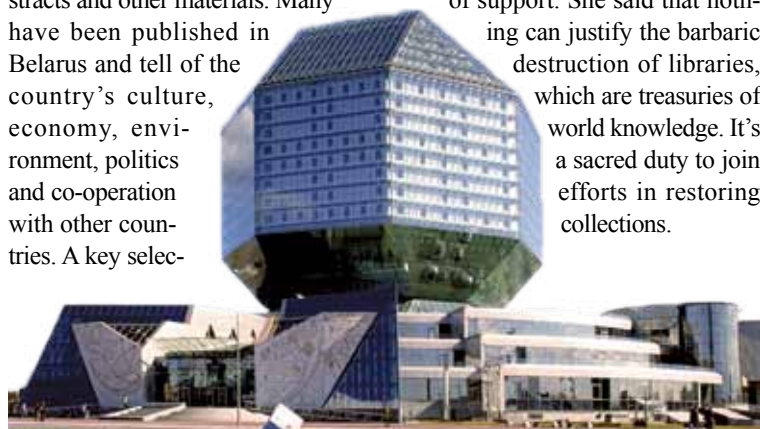
By Sergey Bogomazov

National Library of Belarus donates collection of books to Embassy of Iraq as part of ceremony during international campaign to collect books for Iraqi libraries

The collection includes books on humanities, textbooks, books with articles presented at scientific conferences, collections of research papers, reference books, industrial catalogues, publications, thesis abstracts and other materials. Many have been published in Belarus and tell of the country's culture, economy, environment, politics and co-operation with other countries. A key selec-

tion criterion was the presence of an abstract or fragment in English. A representative of the Embassy of Iraq in Belarus said that terrorists have ruined many libraries and burnt many books. As a result, the country has to restore its buildings and collections. The largest libraries in the world are providing considerable assistance with this effort.

Tatiana Kuzminich, the Deputy Director for Information Resources of Belarus' National Library, addressed the Iraqi side with words of support. She said that nothing can justify the barbaric destruction of libraries, which are treasuries of world knowledge. It's a sacred duty to join efforts in restoring collections.



First gold won for the squad

Yevgeny Korolek wins gold at 2017 UEC Junior and Under-23 European Track Championships, in Portugal

By Igor Svitov

In the scratch (15km mass start), Yevgeny came first — ahead of Dane Nicklas Larsen and Russia's Maxim Piskunov, bringing the first award to the Belarusian team at the continental championship in Portugal. Yevgeny Korolek — also performing for the Minsk cycling team — is well-known as a strong track cyclist. In early July, he won the Minsk Grand Prix, passing along Pobediteley Avenue and finishing near the Sports Palace.



BELTA

Youth prove their mettle

By Yevgeny Starostin

Belarusian track-and-field athletes claim three awards within single day at Junior Athletics U-20 European Championship, in Italian Grosseto

Maxim Nedosekov performed brilliantly in the jumping sector, earning gold with a perfect result — 2.33m — a record for Belarus and the best result of the season in the



Violetta Skvartsova's triumph

world for this age category.

In 3,000m steeplechase Tatiana Shabanova clinched silver, showing

the result of 10 minutes 03.32 seconds — a new national record among juniors. Meanwhile, gold went to German Lisa Oed while bronze was earned by Gülnaz Uskun of Turkey.

Previously Belarusian athletes have earned two more medals: Violetta Skvartsova became a European champion in hop skip and jump while Alexander Shimanovich won silver in hammer throwing.

Winning fourth tournament

Belarusian Yegor Gerasimov wins President's Cup in Astana with a prize fund of \$125,000

The first set of the final match, against Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan (ranked 118th in the ATP rankings) was won by Yegor Gerasimov (ranked 160th) in the tough-

est struggle, via a tie-break — 7:6 (11:9). The second game was won by Kukushkin — 6:4. In the third, decisive, set Gerasimov achieved success — 6:4.

On the way to the finals in Astana, Yegor Gerasimov defeated Kazakh Andrey Golubev (6:1, 6:1),

Turkish Cem İlkel (6:2, 6:3), Russian Yevgeny Donskoy (7:6, 4:6, 6:3) and Aldin Šetkić of Bosnia and Herzegovina (6:3, 6:2). Before victory in Astana, Yegor Gerasimov, 24, claimed three tournaments this season: in Uzbek Bukhara and Karshi, and in French St. Brieuc.

Performing better away than at home

FC BATE Borisov progresses to UEFA Champions League third qualifying round, by beating Yerevan Alashkert on aggregate score: after home match (1:1), Alexander Yermakovich's trainees secure a 3:1 win in Yerevan

Despite the hot weather, the match in Yerevan began at a good pace. Both teams

moved to attack, with the hosts opening the score in the 18th minute, thanks to Serbian Alashkert striker Uros Nenadovich, foiling BATE goalkeeper Denis Scherbitsky. BATE's Mikhail Gordeichuk equalised five minutes later, shooting from 25 metres away, and scored again in the 35th minute, to goalkeeper Arsen Beglaryan's dismay.

The 2:1 lead was main-

tained by Borisov in the second half, with no other goal scored until the 78th minute, when Maxim Volodko received a pass from Mirko Ivanic and scored a third goal, removing all question of the winner. In the 3rd qualifying round of the main continental tournament, Belarus' champions will compete against the best Czech team — Prague's Slavia.

Success in home championship

By Nikolay Overyanov

Anastasia Prokopenko wins Modern Pentathlon European Championship

On July 22nd, the women's finals of the Modern Pentathlon European Championship in Minsk finished with a victory of Anastasia Prokopenko. She was followed by Sarolta Kovács of Hungary and İlke Özyüksel of Turkey.

Anastasia Prokopenko was 19th in the qualification but was ahead of her rivals in the finals. The athlete received 1,350 points across five types of competitive programme (261 for swimming, 238 for fencing, 279 for riding, 572 for combined event — run and shoot) while Sarolta Kovács earned 1,336 points and İlke Özyüksel had 1,133 points.

Two more Belarusians performed in the personal finals: Olga Silkina finished



Anastasia Prokopenko

10th with 1,296 points while Tatiana Khaldoba came 27th (1,245 points).

Belarus' women's national team was ranked third in the team standings, earning 3,891 points. The tournament was won by the Italians (3,963 points) while silver went to the Hungarians (3,909). Previously Belarusian Yekaterina Orel and Tatiana Khaldoba earned bronze in women's relay race.

Optimistic beginning

Belarusian sportsmen claim three medals on first day of European Judo Cup in Minsk

Belarusian judoka Darya Skrypnik (weight category 52kg) has taken gold after defeating Larisa-Alexandra Florian of Romania.

Belarusian Daniela Kazanoy (63kg), in the fight for third place, managed a perfect throw to defeat Poland's Karolina Talach, guaranteeing herself bronze. Among the men, Dmitry Minkov of Belarus (66kg) earned bronze by beating Andranik Kurdyan of Russia via ippon.

The European Judo Cup in Minsk finished last Sunday, with around 400 athletes from 52 countries taking part. The competitions in Minsk were a test of power before the major start of the season — the World Judo Championship, due to take place in Budapest from August 28th to September 3rd.

One squad through and the other knocked out

By Sergey Bogomazov

Two Belarusian football clubs hold home matches for Europa League's second qualifying round

Dinamo Minsk has been first to finish its match, at Minsk's Traktor Stadium, under Sergey Gurenko, against Macedonian Rabotnicki (from Skopje). In the 21st minute, Minsk captain Alexander Noyok took a ball in the penalty area and made a superb strike into the near corner, opening the score.

By halftime, Dinamo had enjoyed several good chances to score but failed each time. In the second half, Macedonia went on the attack, obliging Dinamo to defend fiercely. Goalkeeper Andrey Klimovich and his team managed to keep their rivals at bay, with



Dinamo pulls away

Nino Galovich scoring in the 70th minute (after a corner pass); 15 minutes later, Anton Saroka took the score to 3:0.

Meanwhile, the return match in Skopje ended with a score of 1:1.

In the 3rd qualifying round, Dinamo Minsk will play against Cyprus AEK,

which has already defeated Irish Cork City.

Dinamo Brest has failed to reach the 3rd qualifying round of the Europa League, twice being defeated by Austrian Altach. After the guest draw of 1:1, Brest failed to make use of all its opportunities to score.

Medals on short water

By Oleg Nikiforov

Oksana Petrushenko wins silver at 23rd Summer Deaflympics in Turkish Samsun

The swimmer from Belarus has won 200m backstroke with a result of 2 minutes 35.90 seconds. The athlete from Gomel took her first champion title on the 50m backstroke distance (33.48 seconds) and now

Oksana boasts 16 gold medals over the time of her participation in the Deaflympic Games.

In the 4x100 relay team Oksana Petrushenko, Yekaterina Yeremtsova, Anna Kuzmich and Anastasia Filipchik clinched silver and before this they also finished second in the 4x100 medley.

At the competitions in Samsun Belarus is repre-

sented by 42 athletes. In total, representatives of more than 100 countries take part in the Deaflympics-2017, competing across 21 sport varieties, with 16 of these individual and 5 team sports. The closing ceremony will take place on July 30th.

At the previous Deaflympics, held in Sofia in 2013, Belarusian athletes earned 27 medals (12 gold, 11 silver and 4 bronze).

Festival of the week



Veronika Dobrovolskaya, a young participant of the Cherry Festival in the Vitebsk Region's Glubokoe

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 10th August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*
Until 20th August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Story* educational programme

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 31st July. *Artistic Images of Native Land* Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9th September. *The Artist and the City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Pictorial Art*

VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybtskaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 30th July. *On the Other Side: Unknown Photos from the USSR Occupied Territory and Soviet-German Frontline (1941-1945)*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 11th September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 6th August. *Path of Weapon: from Blade to Sort Rifle*

YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 8th August. *Since Ancient Times: Kupalle*

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 1st September. *Made in USSR*

CAT MUSEM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 31st August. *Summer of Cat Platoshka*

THEATRES

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
27.07. *Bridegrooms* 28.07. *Gala-concert* devoted to season closing

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
26 and 27.07. *Night in Hotel*

TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue
01.08. *TheatreHD: Salomea*

CONCERTS

SVOBODY SQUARE

29.07. *Classics in the Town Hall*

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
01.08. *Organ Music Night: Valery Shmat*
02.08. *Light Summer Music*

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street
27.07. *Babantsuika*
28.07. *Splin and Agata Kristi tribute concert* 29.07. *TNT Rock Club's 5th birthday* 30.07. *Boot Led Zeppelin*

YEVGENY VLADIMIROV'S JAZZ CLUB

1 Oktyabrskaya Square
27.07. *Adriano Trindadi & Jazz Quartet: Jazz from Rio*

NTSI IN NEKRASOV STREET

3 Nekrasov Street
27.07. *Belarusian Sea dance performance*

HOUSE OF LITERARY MEN

5 Frunze Street
03.08. *Dwarf Nose*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
27 and 28.07. *Night of A. Chekhov's Miniatures*

CHESHIR

13 Vera Khoruzhaya Street
27.07. *Sergey Lysenko [Vladimir Vysotsky's memory day]*
28.07. *Pit Pavlov*

BOROVAYA AERODROME

Borovaya village
29 and 30.07. *#ProNebo Festival of Aviation Sport*

RATOMKA

Ratomka village
29.07. *MARS Fest*

PRIME HALL

65 Pobediteley Avenue
28.07. *Anacondaz*
30.07. *Boris Grebenshchikov and Akvarium band*